

COGEL NEWS

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Campaign Finance	1
Freedom of Information	1
Elections	2
Lobbying	2-3
Ethics	3

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Recent News

- *Campaign Finance*

UNITED STATES—A *New York Times* article reports on its joint poll with CBS News that finds a majority of Americans favor an overhaul of campaign finance. The article includes great graphics and other supporting information. *Journalist's Resource* also has an article about the poll.

UNITED STATES—A report in the *Roll Call* political column states that Democrats are frustrated because the AFL-CIO and some public sector unions are withholding campaign contributions over the proposed Trade Promotion Authority to negotiate the Trans-Pacific Partnership.

ONTARIO—A *Globe and Mail* article reports that Ontario's Premier Kathleen Wynne is proposing electoral law reforms including moving the province's fixed election date to the spring, increasing the number of seats in the legislature, and bringing in rules on third-party advertising during campaigns.

MONTANA—The *Billings Gazette* reports that a three-judge panel from the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals has ruled in a Montana case that states may cap political donors' campaign contributions only if they can show that those limits are preventing corruption or the appearance of corruption.

- *Freedom of Information*

CALIFORNIA—The *Los Angeles Times* reports that the California Senate has approved a bill that would require law enforcement in California to obtain a search warrant or wiretap order before searching a person's smartphone, laptop, or other electronic device and before accessing information stored on remote servers.

QUÉBEC—The *Montreal Gazette* reports that Québec Liberal House leader Jean-Marc Fournier has released a private letter sent to him by Québecor media group complaining about its name being raised too much during National Assembly question period.

If your agency, law firm, or organization is not a COGEL member, please consider joining. COGEL membership gives you immediate access to your professional counterparts throughout the U.S. and Canada, including an amazing annual conference, this year in Boston from December 6 through 9. Get more information [here](#).

If there's action in your jurisdiction, and you want your COGEL colleagues to know about it, please send a link to [John Schaaf](#) or [Jennifer Hardin](#), who compile the COGEL News.

- *Elections*

UNITED STATES—The *New York Times* reports on lawsuits filed in Ohio, Wisconsin, and other states challenging rules on voters.

UNITED STATES—An article in *LA Times* details how local politicians use presidential hopefuls in early voting states.

UNITED STATES—In an opinion piece in the *New York Times*, Arthur C. Brooks writes that political hate is a “demand-driven phenomenon.”

ALBERTA—An article in the *Calgary Herald* describes an historic swearing in ceremony.

OHIO—In an opinion piece in the *Cleveland Plain Dealer*, Frank LaRose posits that online voter registration in Ohio would be convenient and secure.

PENNSYLVANIA—*LeHigh Valley Live* reports that the Pennsylvania state representatives approved a bill that would reduce the size of the state’s House of Representatives and Senate.

VERMONT—The *Burlington Free Press* reports that Vermont’s Governor Peter Shumlin has signed a bill allowing the state’s residents to register to vote at any polling place on Election Day starting in 2017.

- *Lobbying*

WASHINGTON, D.C.—An article in *Roll Call* reports that former Speaker Dennis Hastert’s lobbying firm has been rocked by his indictment.

WASHINGTON, D.C.—A report in *Roll Call* states that outside groups are waging wars to target members of Congress on the Export-Import Bank issue.

ALASKA—An article in the *Peninsula Clarion* states that the Juneau office of the Alaska Public Offices Commission, which is responsible for holding the state’s 135 lobbyists financially accountable, will be left with a skeletal staff after its two full-time staff positions were eliminated in budget cuts.

CALIFORNIA—The *LA Times* describes a bill proposed by law students to close a lucrative Capitol lobbying loophole.

GEORGIA—An *11Alive* story describes secret meetings between legislators and corporate lobbyists at a Georgia resort.



COGEL offers its thanks, on behalf of the membership, to State and Federal Communications for the many services it provides to COGEL. Included among those is “News You Can Use,” a valuable compilation of ethics and campaign finance news, which is made available to all COGEL members on the COGEL Web site.

- *Lobbying (Continued)*

MISSOURI—*Governing* reports on Billionaire Rex Sinquefeld and his crusade to control Missouri politics, which sheds light on the power and limits of money in contemporary American politics.

NEW JERSEY—*NJ Spotlight* describes a report by New Jersey's Election Law Enforcement Commission which takes a new approach, totaling the number of official contacts lobbyists made regarding bills, rather than merely the amount of money lobbyists spent.

NEW YORK—*New York Magazine* reports on statements by an Albany lobbyist who says that lobbyists are misunderstood.

- *Ethics*

CANADA—The *Ottawa Sun* reports that the Senate Speaker and another senator have paid back expenses that have been disputed by the auditor general in a report released this month. In other coverage of the auditor general's report:

- An article in the *Globe and Mail* describes the kinds of expenses taken by senators; and
- The *Ottawa Citizen* reports on Ottawa-area Senator Colin Kenny, who says that the auditor general's accusations are unfair.

CANADA—An article in the *Ottawa Citizen* says that the questions of the Crown's lawyer suggest that the trial of suspended Senator Mike Duffy is a snapshot of how the whole Senate operated.

QUÉBEC—The *Montreal Gazette* reports that former Montreal Mayor Michael Applebaum will stand trial on 14 charges of fraud, breach of trust, and conspiracy.

ARIZONA—An article on *AZ Central* reports that there were extensive communications between the state's top utility regulator, the Arizona Public Service Co., and a non-profit that spent heavily on campaigns for two new regulators in 2014.

CALIFORNIA—A *Santa Cruz Sentinel* article reports that the California Senate has okayed scaled down travel bills.

OREGON—*Oregon Live* reports that the House of Representatives has unanimously passed Governor Kate Brown's plan to remake the Oregon ethics panel.

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