

COGEL NEWS

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

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

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COGEL News is compiled
 and edited by [John Schaaf](#)
 and [Jennifer Hardin](#),
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Recent News

● *Campaign Finance*

UNITED STATES—A [New York Times](#) article reports that the Federal Election Commission Chair Ann M. Ravel says that the FEC will not be able to curb abuse in the 2016 election.

UNITED STATES—This [Governing](#) article reports that the Supreme Court has ruled that states can restrict judges from personally asking for campaign contributions.

UNITED STATES—The [LA Times](#) reports that Supreme Court Justice Anthony M. Kennedy denied an emergency appeal from the Virginia-based Center for Competitive Politics, which has refused to reveal, to California’s Attorney General, its list of donors.

MINNESOTA—According to a [Minnesota Public Radio](#) blog report, Governor Mark Dayton has said he will veto a budget bill if it includes the house-passed repeal of the state’s political contribution and public subsidy program.

● *Elections*

UNITED STATES—The [Washington Post](#) blog reports on a [Ballotpedia study](#) that concludes that fewer state legislative elections were hotly contested between Democrats and Republicans in 2014 than at any time in the last 40 years.

ALABAMA—From [Politico](#), a first-person article by former Alabama Supreme Court Chief Justice Sue Bell Cobb about fundraising for judicial elections.

ALBERTA—The [National Post](#) reported that the Canadian Taxpayers Federation says that outgoing Alberta premier Jim Prentice should cover the cost of a byelection in his riding because he is the one who is making it necessary.

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- *Elections (Continued)*

FLORIDA—The *Miami Herald* reports that Governor Rick Scott has signed a new online voter registration law.

KANSAS—The *Topeka Capital-Journal* reports that a Kansas House committee has pushed forward legislation to give Kansas's Secretary of State the power to prosecute election fraud.

NEW HAMPSHIRE—The *New Hampshire Union Leader* reports that the state's Supreme Court has struck down a law requiring that individuals be state residents, rather than just domiciled in the state, in order to vote.

OHIO—The *Columbus Dispatch* reports that a federal lawsuit has been filed challenging Ohio voting laws enacted by Ohio's Republican-dominated legislature and Republican Governor. The suit contends that the laws were designed to suppress the votes of traditional Democratic constituencies such as black, Latino, and young voters.

ONTARIO—The *National Post* reports that the Ontario auditor general is opposing proposed changes to the law that regulates government advertising.

TEXAS—An article in the *Texas Tribune* reports that a federal appellate judge has questioned why the Texas Legislature has not addressed concerns that its four-year-old voter law discriminated against minority voters.

VERMONT—The *Burlington Free Press* reports that the Vermont House has approved Election Day voter registration for eligible Vermonters.

WISCONSIN—Wisconsin Public Radio has reported that the Wisconsin Government Accountability Board is backing online voter registration in the state.

- *Freedom of Information*

CANADA—In this *National Post* article, the Canadian Information Commissioner Suzanne Legault says that the Conservative government is setting a "perilous precedent" by retroactively revising Canada's access-to-information law.

ALBERTA—The *National Post* reports that there will be a joint investigation by the Alberta Privacy Commissioner and Public Interest Commissioner into an alleged improper destruction of documents at the Alberta legislature.

FLORIDA—The *Miami Herald* reports that a California judge has ordered Google to turn over data on Florida Governor Rick Scott's private Gmail account.

KANSAS—In an article in the *Wichita Eagle*, Kansas Governor Sam Brownback says he has been using private e-mail since he was in the Senate.

SOUTH DAKOTA—The *Argus Leader* is reporting that Governor Dennis Daugaard's administration has refused to release the license applications submitted by payday and title loan companies. The Director of the South Dakota Division of Banking has stated that the applications are not public documents.

"You've got to balance the reasonable privacy rights of people who run for office ... with the public's right to know information about how their government's run. I think those two competing concerns aren't something you can resolve in a week."

- Jeff King,
Kansas Senate
Vice President
Wichita Eagle

- *Ethics*

CANADA—The *National Post* continues to cover the corruption trial of suspended Canadian Senator Mike Duffy.

MISSOURI—From the *Kansas City Star*, Missouri House Speaker John Diehl has resigned from office after the Star revealed that Diehl had exchanged sexually suggestive texts with a 19-year-old legislative intern.

NEW YORK—The *New York Daily News* reports that New York’s Senate Majority Leader Dean Skelos has resigned amid a federal corruption scandal and is replaced with Senator John Flanagan.

WISCONSIN—*Governing* reports that Republican lawmakers in Wisconsin are attacking the state’s Government Accountability Board for engaging in partisan investigations.

- *Lobbying*

UNITED STATES—The *Washington Post* reports that industry influence is expanding in the states.

FLORIDA—*Governing* reports that Florida Governor Rick Scott may be the biggest critic and biggest beneficiary of the hospital industry.

“The [Wisconsin] Government Accountability Board (GAB) was quickly embraced by reform-minded groups as the gold standard in political watchdogging. “No other state,” concluded an article in the UC Irvine Law Review, “has a chief election administration authority with the same degree of insulation from partisan politics.”

- *Governing*



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.