

COGEL NEWS

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Recent News

- *General*

UNITED STATES—The Center for Public Integrity has issued its 2015 State Integrity Investigation, a data-driven assessment of state government.

- *Campaign Finance*

UNITED STATES—This *New York Times* article explains that almost half of all the money so far raised to support presidential candidates comes from just 158 families.

MAINE—From the *Portland Press Herald*, an article that Maine voters approved an expansion to the state’s Clean Election Act that provide more taxpayer funding for publicly financed candidates.

WASHINGTON—The *Seattle Times* reports that voters in Seattle have approved an initiative on “democracy vouchers” to fund elections. The intent of the initiative is to remove big money from local politics.

- *Ethics*

UNITED STATES—This column in *Governing.com* discusses why it’s important for voters to know lawmakers’ day jobs.

TEXAS—The *Texas Tribune* reports that Texas Attorney General Paxton is recusing himself from some professional duties while fighting an indictment on securities fraud charges.

WISCONSIN—This *Milwaukee Journal-Sentinel* opinion discusses the state assembly’s attack on the nonpartisan Government Accountability Board, and urges citizens to fight the bill.

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.

- *Freedom of Information*

UNITED STATES—An article on [CNN.com](#) reports that the FBI and Secret Service are investigating allegations that non-government personal accounts associated with the CIA Director and other officials were hacked.

UNITED STATES— A study in [Journalist's Resource](#) examines whether body cameras affect the way police interact with the public.

PENNSYLVANIA—According to the [Daily Item](#), a state senator is pushing for a two-year moratorium on government use of drones to develop regulations on the technology and guard against privacy infringement.



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.

- *Elections*

ALABAMA—From [AL.com](#), the state of Alabama plans to close offices issuing driver's licenses in 28 counties, raising concerns that poor, mostly minority citizen will not have convenient access to driver's licenses complicating their ability to provide state issued identification for voting.

CALIFORNIA—The [San Jose Mercury News](#) reports that the California Supreme Court will be considering whether the Legislature has the authority to put nonbinding advisory measures on the ballot.

CALIFORNIA—The [New York Times](#) reports that a new California law will automatically register drivers to vote. And in a related article, [Governing](#) examines which states could adopt automatic voter registration next.

INDIANA—The [Indianapolis Star](#) reports that a federal judge has barred Indiana from enforcing a new law that prohibits voters from taking selfies of their election ballots and sharing the photos on social media.

MONTANA—The [Billings Gazette](#) reports that the Montana Secretary of State is directing counties with American Indian reservations to work with tribal governments to establish satellite election offices.

OKLAHOMA—[News9.com](#) reports that Oklahoma will soon allow online voter registration.

SURVEY OPPORTUNITY—At the COGEL Conference next month, one of the breakout sessions will focus on stretching ever dwindling public resources. If you have a few minutes, and something to share about your agency's money-saving efforts, please complete [this survey](#). Your war stories, victories, and flops are all welcome!

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