

NATIONAL MUNICIPAL RESEARCH, INC.

# Munis in Cyberspace

(Everything you ever wanted to know about state and local government information on the Internet)

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## State & Local Government Sites

### STATE & LOCAL GOVERNMENT ON THE NET

The State and Local Government on the Net Directory provides convenient one-stop access to the websites of thousands of state agencies and city and county governments. Only pages that are controlled and managed by state and local government agencies are included. View all the websites in a given state -- from a state's home page or governor's site all the way down to the sites of the smallest counties or townships with a presence on the Web. Access quick lists of the websites of state government constitutional officers, state legislatures, state judiciaries and departments across all states.

<http://www.statelocalgov.net/>

### STATELINE.ORG

Stateline.org is a non-partisan, non-profit online news publication sponsored by Pew Center on the States. It compiles a news report each weekday linking to the day's top news in the 50 state capitols, along with news stories and analysis by its staff of professional journalists.

<http://www.stateline.org>

### THE NELSON A. ROCKEFELLER INSTITUTE OF GOVERNMENT

The Nelson A. Rockefeller Institute of Government conducts studies and special projects to assist government and enhance the capacity of states and localities to meet critical challenges. Through its conferences, research and publications, the Institute works with the best experts and top officials at all levels of government to forge creative solutions to public problems. The work of the Institute focuses on the role of state governments in the American federal system.

<http://www.rockinst.org/>

### MUNICIPAL GATEWAY

Sponsored by the Municipal Analysts Group of New York (MAGNY), this is a comprehensive site for anything you might want to research about state and local government finance. Sections are organized by specific topic such as "education", "health care", etc.

[http://magny.org/muni\\_gateway.shtml](http://magny.org/muni_gateway.shtml)

### MUNINETGUIDE

This is another comprehensive collection of state and local government sites. Sites may be accessed through an interactive map of the U.S.

<http://www.muninetguide.com>

## CALIFORNIA BUDGET PROGRAM

The California Budget Project (CBP) serves as a resource to the media, policymakers, and state and local constituency groups seeking accurate information and analysis of a range of state policy issues.

[www.cbp.org](http://www.cbp.org)

## STATENET

State Net delivers vital data, legislative intelligence and in-depth reporting for people who care about the actions of government. State Net monitors every bill in the 50 states, District of Columbia and Congress and every state agency regulation. It provides fast and accurate information to the government relations' community.

<http://www.statenet.com/>

## CITYCONNECTIONS

City Connections provides a gateway for visitors seeking information about municipalities in the states of New York, New Jersey and Pennsylvania. In addition, the City Connections gateway provides a valuable collection of resource links to web sites for elected officials and municipal employees.

<http://www.cityconnections.com/>

## ROUGH AND TUMBLE

A daily snapshot of California public policy and politics

<http://www.rtumble.com>

## BIZJOURNALS

**Bizjournals** is the new media division of American City Business Journals, the nation's largest publisher of metropolitan business newspapers. Characterized among the "Best of the Web" by Forbes magazine, it contains more than 1.25 million business news articles published since 1996.

<http://www.bizjournals.com/>

## CENTER ON BUDGET AND POLICY PRIORITIES

The Center is a think tank focused on federal and state fiscal policies mainly on programs that affect low and moderate income families and individuals. State-based studies of taxation, revenues and program reductions.

<http://www.cbpp.org/about/>

## State and Local Government Associations

### THE NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF STATE LEGISLATURES

NCSL is a bipartisan organization that serves the legislators and staffs of the nation's 50 states, its commonwealths and territories. NCSL is an effective and respected advocate for the interests of state governments before Congress and federal agencies.

<http://www.ncsl.org/>

### NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF STATE BUDGET OFFICERS

This is where one can locate the *Fiscal Survey of the States* executive summary. The survey is done in conjunction with the National Governors Association. The site's federal update provides useful current information about what's likely to affect the states out of Washington.

<http://www.nasbo.org/>

### NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF STATE CHIEF INFORMATION OFFICER (NASCIO)

This web site has a good list of some less well-known state, local and federal government associations located under "Resources and Tools", "Related Links"

[www.nascio.org](http://www.nascio.org)

### NATIONAL LEAGUE OF CITIES

The National League of Cities is the oldest and largest national organization representing municipal governments throughout the United States. The NLC serves as a national resource to and an advocate for the more than 18,000 cities, villages, and towns it represents.

<http://www.nlc.org/home/>

### MUNISOURCE

If you navigate through the "Services" section of this website you can find international government associations. Alternatively, you can search for a less well known municipality or municipal trade group through this site.

<http://www.munisource.org/database.html>

## Federal Sites

### WHITE HOUSE

This is where one can find White House publications, press releases, briefings on economic policy, environmental policy, foreign affairs, employment, healthcare, etc., speeches by the President.

<http://www.whitehouse.gov/>

### GOVSPOT.COM

GovSpot.com is a non-partisan government information portal designed to simplify the search for the best and most relevant government information online.

<http://www.govspot.com/>

### CONGRESS

Everything about Congress can be found at these two sites. First, the official site. The second is a non-partisan organization providing information for navigating congress.

<http://thomas.loc.gov>

<http://www.congress.org/congressorg/home/>

### LEGAL INFORMATION INSTITUTE - (CORNELL LAW SCHOOL)

The LII offers all opinions of the United States Supreme Court handed down since 1992, together with over 600 earlier decisions selected for their historic importance, over a decade of opinions of the New York Court of Appeals, and the full United States Code.

<http://straylight.law.cornell.edu/supct/>

### FEDSTATS

**FedStats** is an easy to use site with the full range of official statistical information available to the public from the Federal Government. One can use its powerful linking and searching capabilities to track economic and population trends, education, health care costs, aviation safety, foreign trade, energy use, farm production, and more. Access official statistics collected and published by more than 100 Federal agencies without having to know in advance which agency produces them.

<http://www.fedstats.gov/>

### FEDWORLD.GOV

**FedWorld** was established by The National Technical Information Services (NTIS), an agency of the US Department of Commerce, to serve as the online locator service for federal government information. This service assists agencies and the public in electronically locating Federal Government information housed both within the NTIS repository and outside of NTIS.

<http://www.fedworld.gov/>

## FIRSTGOV.GOV

FirstGov is another federal government search engine that is more consumer oriented than FedWorld, but has thousands of links to web pages—from the federal government, local and tribal governments to foreign nations around the world.

<http://www.firstgov.gov/>

## *Electoral Information*

### INITIATIVES AND REFERENDA

This site details the various initiatives and referenda among the states as well as providing historical information about trends and voter results.

<http://www.iandrinstitute.org/>

### THE CALIFORNIA VOTER FOUNDATION

This is an excellent source for information about California electoral politics, gubernatorial, legislative and voter-initiated.

<http://www.calvoter.org/>

### LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

Basic voter information as well as ballot items

<http://www.lwv.org>

### STATESIDE ASSOCIATES

Stateside Associates is a lobbying firm that handles state legislative and political issues. While they are mainly a private consulting group and their website is directed to marketing to clients, the site does contain useful information about state officials, legislative calendars.

<http://www.stateside.com/>

## *Demographics*

### U.S. CENSUS BUREAU

<http://www.census.gov/>

## Economics

### NATIONAL BUREAU OF ECONOMIC RESEARCH

National Bureau of Economic Research is a private, nonprofit, nonpartisan research organization dedicated to promoting a greater understanding of how the economy works. The NBER is the nation's leading non-profit economic research organization.

<http://www.nber.org/>

### FEDERAL RESERVE BANK

<http://www.federalreserve.gov/>

### BUREAU OF ECONOMIC ANALYSIS

The BEA is part of the US Department of Commerce and it prepares national, regional and international economic accounts that look at income, gross product wealth etc. They are best known for the Survey of Current Business, which can be located at

<http://www.bea.gov/>

### BROOKINGS INSTITUTION

The Brookings Institution, one of Washington's oldest think tanks, is an independent, nonpartisan organization devoted to research, analysis, and public education with an emphasis on economics, foreign policy, governance, and metropolitan policy.

<http://www.brookings.edu/>

### BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS

The **Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS)** is the principal fact-finding agency for the Federal Government in the broad field of labor economics and statistics.

<http://www.bls.gov/>

### ECONOMIC RESEARCH SERVICE, DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

The Economic Research Service (ERS) is the main source of economic information and research from the U.S. Department of Agriculture. If you have interest in or need for information related to rural America or agricultural production, ERS's timely research and analysis covers the farm, rural, and food sectors.

<http://www.ers.usda.gov>



## SPECIAL TOPICS

### Bankruptcy

#### NEW GENERATION RESEARCH

NGR is the publisher of various leading bankruptcy and distressed securities research publications. The five publications available on their site are *The Turnaround Letter*, *Distressed Company Alert*, *Bankruptcy Yearbook and Almanac*, *The Bankruptcy DataSource* and *BankruptcyData.Com*.

<http://www.turnarounds.com/>

#### INTERNET BANKRUPTCY LIBRARY

The IBL is divided into six subject areas relating to large-scale business restructurings.

<http://bankrupt.com/>

### Cities

#### THE URBAN INSTITUTE

A non-partisan think tank on economic and social policy issues affecting the cities

<http://www.urban.org/>

### Criminal Justice

#### BUREAU OF JUSTICE STATISTICS

Collects, analyzes, publishes, and disseminates information on crime, criminal offenders, victims of crime, and the operation of justice systems at all levels of government. The first link is for statistics; the second the Department of Justice main page.

<http://www.ojp.gov/bjs/>

<http://www.usdoj.gov/>

### Education

#### NATIONAL CENTER FOR EDUCATION STATISTICS

NCES is the primary federal entity for collecting and analyzing data that are related to education in the United States and other nations. NCES collects and reports information on the academic performance of the nation's students as well as the literacy level of the adult population.

<http://nces.ed.gov/>

## Environment

### NATIONAL LIBRARY FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

This is a private, not-for-profit organization that seeks to “improve the scientific basis for environmental decision-making”. There is a useful link for Congressional Research Service (government based) reports.

<http://www.ncseonline.org/NLE/>

### AMERICAN WATERWORKS ASSOCIATION

The American Water Works Association (AWWA) is an international nonprofit scientific and educational society dedicated to the improvement of drinking water quality and supply. AWWA is the authoritative resource for knowledge, information, and advocacy to improve the quality and supply of drinking water and wastewater systems in North America and beyond.

<http://www.awwa.org/>

## Health Care

### CENTERS FOR MEDICARE & MEDICAID SERVICES

This is a U.S. government site with technical information about healthcare programs.

<http://www.cms.hhs.gov/default.asp>

### AMERICAN HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION

The American Hospital Association (AHA) is the national organization that represents and serves all types of hospitals, health care networks, and their patients and communities. Close to 5,000 hospitals, health care systems, networks, other providers of care and 37,000 individual members come together to form the AHA.

<http://www.aha.org/>

## Housing

### JOINT CENTER FOR HOUSING STUDIES AT HARVARD

In their own words: “The Joint Center analyzes the dynamic relationships between housing markets and economic, demographic, and social trends, providing leaders in government, business, and the non-profit sector with the knowledge needed to develop effective policies and strategies.” An excellent site.

<http://www.jchs.harvard.edu/>

## **THE CENTER FOR RESPONSIBLE LENDING**

The Center for Responsible Lending is a nonprofit, nonpartisan research and policy organization dedicated to protecting homeownership and family wealth by working to eliminate abusive financial practices.

<http://www.responsiblelending.org/>

## **MORTGAGE BANKERS ASSOCIATION**

The MBA publishes research and papers as well as statistical analysis, including particularly useful information regarding the sub prime problems and the housing crunch.

<http://www.mbaa.org/>

## **REALTYTRAC**

RealtyTrac is a comprehensive overview of the real estate market that includes foreclosure data down to the zip code level.

<http://www.realtytrac.com/>

## **CALCULATED RISK**

This is a favorite blogspot that covers up-to-the minute news on the economy, with particular emphasis on housing and mortgage related issues. There are also extensive links to other economic sites and blogs. There is a particular focus on some of the links on Southern California especially Orange County.

<http://calculatedrisk.blogspot.com/>

## **Technology**

### **GOVERNMENT TECHNOLOGY**

News on technology adoption by state and local government

<http://www.govtech.net/>

## **Weather & Disasters**

### **FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY (FEMA)**

The Federal Emergency Management Agency - a former independent agency that became part of the new Department of Homeland Security in March 2003 - is tasked with responding to, planning for, recovering from and mitigating against disasters.

<http://www.fema.gov/index.shtm>

## NATIONAL MUNICIPAL RESEARCH, INC.

### THE NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION (NOAA)

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) conducts research and gathers data about the global oceans, atmosphere, space, and sun.

<http://www.noaa.gov>

Through the [Coastal Storms Program](#), staff from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration worked with officials in Brevard and Volusia Counties, Florida, to create map-based tools to determine vulnerability to coastal storms. The maps are detailed and easy to use to determine natural hazard risks in these particular communities. NOAA has plans to expand the program to other communities.

### THE NATIONAL MAP VIEWER

*The National Map* is the product of a consortium of Federal, State, and local partners who provide geospatial data to enhance America's ability to access, integrate, and apply geospatial data at global, national, and local scales.

<http://nationalmap.gov/index.html>

<http://nmviewogc.cr.usgs.gov/viewer.htm>

### UNITED STATES GEOLOGY SURVEY (USGS)

As an unbiased, multi-disciplinary science organization that focuses on biology, geography, geology, geospatial information, and water, the USGS is dedicated to the timely, relevant, and impartial study of the landscape, natural resources, and the natural hazards that threaten us.

<http://www.usgs.gov/>

## TOOLS OF THE TRADE

### Municipal Codes

#### MUNICIPAL CODE CORPORATION

Municipal Code Corporation is the leader in the ordinance codification industry. Contained on this website are Codes for more than 1,100 local governments

<http://www.municode.com/index.asp>

### State Statutes & Documents

#### PRAIRIENET

Another rich resource of state and local statutes and administrative codes

<http://www.whpgs.org/f.htm>

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## **Street Stuff & Corporate Research**

### **EDGAR.GOV**

EDGAR is the storage database for the Securities and Exchange Commission. If you are looking for filings by publicly traded companies, this site will have them.

<http://www.sec.gov/edgar.shtml>

### **U.S. NATIONAL ARCHIVES & RECORDS ADMINISTRATION**

The nation's attic of documents organized by topic

<http://www.archives.gov/>

## **Official Statements**

### **EMMA**

Official site of the Municipal Securities Rulemaking Board (MSRB) and their vastly improved database of official statements, disclosures and trading information.

<http://www.emma.msrb.org/>

### **ELECTRONIC MUNICIPAL STATISTICS (EMUNI)**

EMUNI provides documents, news, developments and financial information relating to the U.S. municipal bond market.

<http://www.emuni.com/>

### **I-DEAL PROSPECTUS**

I-Deal Prospectus automates electronic delivery of both preliminary and final prospectuses by distributing these documents directly to investors. This service is provided to lead and co-managers of new issues and dramatically cuts printing and mailing costs while providing investors with electronic prospectuses that are more timely and useful.

[www.i-dealprospectus.com](http://www.i-dealprospectus.com)

### **IMAGEMASTERS-MUNIOS**

MuniOS is a leading financial printer specializing in electronic and hard copy Official Statements.

<http://www.munios.com/>

### **ONLINEMUNI.COM**

<http://www.onlinemunis.com>