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## Capitol Matters e-newsletter from Matthew Hallisey Government Affairs

1 message

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# Capitol Matters

*Public Policy News and Information for Your Business or Organization*

Fall 2018



A periodic newsletter for clients and friends of [Matthew Hallisey Government Affairs](#)



## Election analysis: Several offices in play as voters head to polls

With less than two weeks until election day, the open Governor's seat in Connecticut "remains in play", according to the independent, nonpartisan [Cook Political Report](#). A new poll from Sacred Heart University's [Institute for Public Policy](#) shows the Democratic candidate, Ned Lamont, carrying a slim lead over Republican challenger Bob Stefanowski, with unaffiliated respondents preferring Stefanowski over Lamont. The Cook Political report also has ratings and summaries of the 2018 U.S. [House](#) and [Senate](#) races. Republicans have 42 open House seats, the largest number since at least 1930, according to Vital Statistics on Congress. Eight of the open seats are in districts Hillary Clinton carried in the 2016 presidential election. Of 23 similar open seats in elections since 1992, the president's party has failed to win any, according to [Inside Elections with Nathan Gonzalez](#), citing the Cook Political Report. The National Conference of State Legislatures [StateVote 2018](#) contains key information about the 2018 state legislative elections and statewide ballot measures.

## Personal service.

### Labor Department attorney explains marijuana in the workplace

Connecticut's medical marijuana statute may be the best law in the nation related to the drug because it was drafted very carefully and strikes the right balance between employer and employee interests, according to Stephen Lattanzio, attorney, office of program policy in the state Department of Labor. "There is a big difference between medical marijuana and recreational marijuana," he explained in an [interview on WTIC-AM 1080](#) in advance of a [workshop](#) last week. Medical (palliative use) marijuana is not permitted on the job or in the workplace in Connecticut. [\[More\]](#)

### Transportation lockboxes don't always lead to road improvements

In November, voters in Connecticut will have an opportunity to ensure that revenue for transportation is dedicated to infrastructure. If the [proposed constitutional amendment](#) is approved, as expected, the state will join a growing number of states that have added so-called 'lockbox' amendments to their state constitutions to safeguard infrastructure funding. However, according to [Governing](#) magazine, the amendments “have historically been less successful in persuading lawmakers to raise more money later to address long-term infrastructure needs.”

## Access to decision makers.

### What homeowners need to know about crumbling concrete foundations

Many homes in northeastern Connecticut have significant structural problems with residential concrete foundations. Investigators concluded that the deterioration of the concrete foundations was caused by the presence of pyrrhotite in the concrete mixture used to pour the foundations. As a foundation deteriorates, it often causes irreversible damage. The most effective remediation is to replace the existing foundation with a new one that does not contain pyrrhotite, according to the [Connecticut Foundation Solutions Indemnity Company, Inc.](#), or CFSIC, a captive insurance agency formed by the legislature last year to help homeowners pay for replacing their foundations. [\[More\]](#)

### Connecticut drops in rankings as indebtedness increases

In an annual report from Truth in Accounting, [Financial State of the States](#), a comprehensive analysis of the fiscal health of all 50 states based on fiscal year 2017 annual financial reports, Connecticut dropped from no. 48 to 49 as money needed to pay bills increased to nearly \$6.2 billion. That bumped up the state's taxpayer burden to \$53,400. The sharp decline in the state's financial condition corresponds to changes in how its unfunded pension debt is calculated.

New Connecticut laws affecting business and jobs

## Results.

### Brief news and information for your business or organization

What happens if you win [Mega Millions' \\$1.6 billion jackpot](#)? An [attorney recommends](#) signing the ticket first.

Amazon's [Wage Increase Adds Pressure for Employers](#) to Boost Pay  
 Study finds [motor vehicle accidents rise](#) in states that have legalized recreational marijuana  
 Connecticut Insurance Commissioner [approves acquisition of Aetna](#) by CVS  
 Speaker creates [commission to study consolidating state's tourism advertising](#) efforts  
 Federal government issues [guidance to allow states to offer less-comprehensive health plans](#) and still qualify for federal subsidies  
 SEC [issues report](#) cautioning that public companies should consider cyber threats when implementing internal accounting controls

[\[click here\]](#) for more]




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