

Journal of Public and Nonprofit Affairs

Introduction to the Issue

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The publication of this issue marks a new era for the *Journal of Public and Nonprofit Affairs* as we move towards publishing three issues each year. The ability to expand the number of issues we publish would not be possible without the interest from readers, the submission of quality research from authors, and the willingness of reviewers to provide feedback on those submitted manuscripts. For all of your help and support, thank you.

In this issue we have published four research articles that span the range of public affairs. In the first piece, Lee and Clerkin (2017) looks at why nonprofit organizations adopt outcome measures. Using a survey of 263 human service nonprofits, they find that nonprofits are more likely to adopt measures when they are more risk-taking, influences by institutional pressures, and have more human resource and political capabilities. Bland's (2017) article looks at the process side of network effectiveness, focusing on process-related divergence at the street level. Using a sample of social welfare networks in Virginia, Bland shows that participation in a network may result in a sense-making challenge for street-level participants. This allows for the conclusion that those at the managerial and street levels must ensure a collective or shared understanding of how their networks should operate.

Taylor, Faulk, and Schaal (2017) look at the effectiveness of state policies to change local government structures by considering the successes and failures of Indiana's Government Modernization Act. Although public support overwhelmingly backed town-township consolidation, city-county consolidation was defeated. Using a comparative case study, Taylor et al. find that greater demographic diversity and the potential for large shifts in costs from urban to rural customers stimulated opposition to consolidations. In the final research article, Feng and Neely (2017) considers the use of going concern opinions in local governments. The opinions indicate an auditors doubt about a governments ability to continue operation and that they are most often cited for deficiency in funds and losses or declines in revenue. They also find evidence that going concern disclosures improve after the enactment of GASB No. 56.

We are also proud to publish our second survey article, *Research of the Effects of Limitations on Taxes and Expenditures*, by Stallmann, Maher, Deller, and Park (2017). In the piece, Stallmann et al. review the literature on TELs at both the state and local level to provide of their theoretical, operational, and empirical contexts. By providing an overview of the state of the field, the work provides a foundation of understanding for academics conducting research on tax issues and practitioners engaged in the policy process. The culmination of the piece is the establishment of a research agenda for future work being conducted on TELs.

In our section "Current Issues in Practice", we provide a piece from Semeah, Campbell, Cowper, and Peet (2017) on barriers to health care access for veterans. The efforts of the Department of Veterans Affairs to end veteran homeless have been met with some success, but it has also produced safety concerns when providing home-based services. Included in these concerns are threats of violence towards health care workers. In their study, Semeah et al. Discuss how these concerns act as a barrier to services and hinder access to optimal patient outcomes. They find that 70% of home-based service providers have been exposed to violence and aggression, allowing them to conclude that we need to study how to overcome the barriers that are created by this treatment as we move towards eradicating veteran homelessness.

We are also pleased to offer two book reviews. Stutts (2017) provides a review *Philanthropy in Democratic Societies: History, Institutions, Values* by Rob Reich, Chiara Corelli, and Lucy Bernholz. In her review, Stutts notes that the intent of the book is to expand the discussion on philanthropy, allowing it to cross disciplinary lines, and that the text would serve well as an introductory resource for those looking to improve their understanding of philanthropic studies. In the second review of this issue, Vonasek (2017) looks at Shayne Kavanagh and Daniel William's recent text, *Informed Decision-Making through Forecasting: A Practitioner's Guide to a Government Revenue Analysis*. The book serves as a guide or "how to" book on budgeting, to which Vonasek concludes that it is essential reading for both academics and practitioners engaged in the budgetary process.

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