5-3-2013

Game Change: What Have We Learned? Pt. 1

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Game Change: What Have We Learned?

How Brookings Mountain West and The Lincy Institute are Reframing Policy in Southern Nevada

May 3, 2013
Welcome!
Who We Are, What We Do, Where Are We Going

Brookings Mountain West is a partnership between UNLV and the Washington, D.C.-based Brookings Institution.
Goals and Objectives

Create high-quality, independent, impactful programs, publications, and activities that address issues of critical importance to greater Las Vegas and the Intermountain West region.

Serve as a platform to bring ideas and expertise together and facilitate local, metropolitan, and state discussions about the West’s future.

Enhance local, regional, and state research and public policy discussions.
Mountain Megas: America's Newest Metropolitan Places and a Federal Partnership to Help Them Prosper

http://www.brookings.edu/reports/2008/0720_mountainmegas_sarzynski.aspx
Mountain Megas: America's Newest Metropolitan Places and a Federal Partnership to Help Them Prosper
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Recent topics include immigration reform, the federal deficit, housing policy, state budgets, foreign policy, alternative energy, and the economic development of Las Vegas.
Brookings Mountain West in the Headlines

“Forum brings together lawmakers, local government officials to prioritize legislative issues,”
*Las Vegas Sun*, September 10, 2013

“Brookings Mountain West Names UNLV as a Model for Energy Work.”
*Rebel Yell*, September 20, 2010

“Why Nevada falls short on federal funding,”
*Las Vegas Sun*, March 17, 2013

“High-speed rail just not for tourists. At summit, experts makes the case for Las Vegas as an international business hub,”
*VegasInc*, December 17, 2012

“Look at Economic Development Produces Road Map for Diversification,”

The Debate on the State’s Economy Has Skirted the Issues for Too Long,”
*Las Vegas Sun*, November 20, 2011
Publications

*Brookings Mountain West issues print and electronic publications on public policy issues in the Intermountain West.*

http://brookingsmtnwest.unlv.edu/publications
Mountain Monitor: Tracking Economic Recession and Recovery in the Intermountain West’s Metropolitan Areas
Structurally Unbalanced:
Cyclical and Structural Deficits in California and the Intermountain West

By Matthew Murray with Sue Clark-Johnson, Mark Muro, and Jennifer Vey

Though the Great Recession may be officially over, economic recovery is slow and tentative, particularly in California and much of the Intermountain West. Among other challenges, the protracted downturn in these states has exposed and exacerbated a huge public-sector fiscal crisis—with disconcerting implications for citizens and states' long-term economic health.

This brief takes a careful look at the fiscal situation in Arizona, California, Colorado, and Nevada, examining both their serious cyclical budget shortfalls—those resulting from the recession and its aftermath—as well as the critical longer-term structural imbalances between revenues and expenditures that have developed in Arizona, California, and, to a lesser extent, Nevada. Along these lines, the study uses a unique methodology to estimate the size of the states' structural deficits (as in Colorado, the surplus) and the mix of forces, particularly the policy choices, that created them. After that, the authors highlight the dramatic impacts these states' fiscal challenges, and government responses to them, are having on service delivery as well as local governments. The brief suggests some of the states' policy makers must take to close their budget gaps over the short and longer term.

First, it urges better policymaking and prudential leaders to broaden, balance, and diversify their revenue bases while looking to ensure a long-term balance of taxing and spending. And second, the report recommends that the states improve the information sharing and budgeting processes through which fiscal problems are understood—as they may be overacted.

I. Introduction

Nationwide, the Great Recession is technically over. Real gross domestic product (GDP) is expanding, modest job growth has begun, and housing prices are stabilizing. A halting and tentative economic recovery is underway.

And yet, it is not well, and especially not in California and the Mountain states. Three years after the collapse of a massive housing bubble, the deepening economic downturn in memory has exposed and exacerbated a massive public-sector fiscal crisis that is affecting all of the region's states, albeit in varied ways.

To be sure, the crisis in public budgets is not the only problem Western states face. In Arizona, California, Colorado, and Nevada, employment levels remain fully 2 million jobs below their pre-recession peak. But it is now the state budget crisis that promises to bring the most painful next round of dislocations to the fore.
The Intermountain West region, including Arizona, Colorado, Idaho, Nevada, New Mexico, and Utah, is the new swing region in American politics.
Nevada 2.0: New Economies for a Sustainable Future
Left to right: Lt. Governor Brian Krolicki, and Speaker, Nevada Senate, Steven Horsford, serve as panelists at Nevada 2.0.
Unify, Regionalize, Diversify:
An Economic Development Agenda for Nevada 2011

The four most exciting words you used to hear in Las Vegas:

- I won the jackpot!

The four most exciting words you'll hear in Las Vegas today:

- I found a job!
Grant Award: $3,488,000
GOAL

To provide UNLV undergraduate students with a unique educational experience, the opportunity to explore the world around them through a series of courses taught by UNLV faculty and Brookings Institution colleagues.

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A series of six courses, including a capstone course, taught by UNLV faculty and Brookings scholars.
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AB 499: Economic Development
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SB 391: Community Colleges Governance
SB 173: Knowledge Fund
Southern Nevada Caucus: Provide data and information for assembly and senate members
Future Projects

• The Southwest Triangle: The Las Vegas-Los Angeles-Phoenix Connection
• Las Vegas: America’s Next Global City (monograph)
• Global Cities Initiative (Brookings): in Las Vegas (2014)
• Tri-State (Nevada-Arizona-Utah) Collaborations
• UNLV Faculty Fellowships and Student Internships at Brookings
1987 AND BEYOND: A FUTURE LOOK TO DOWNTOWN LAS VEGAS

A MASTER DEVELOPMENT PLAN OF THE CITY OF LAS VEGAS
Freemont East District Downtown Las Vegas
Questions and Answers