



News, Research and Events

Nov. 17, 2021



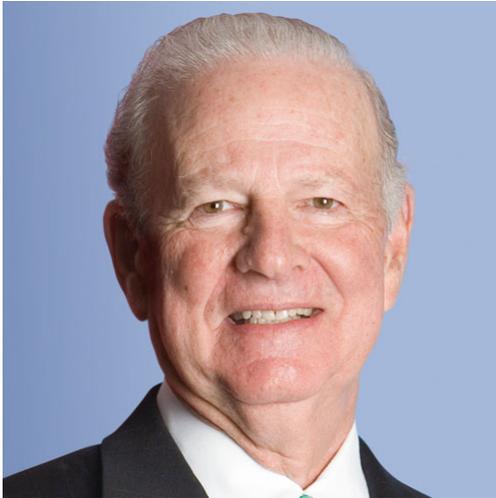
Manageable K-12 education funding shortfalls should not be an impediment to energy transition

Funding for Texas K-12 education relies heavily on the state energy sector — particularly its fossil fuel industry. But as Texas shifts away from fossil fuels toward low-carbon and renewable energy, the state will need to make up the education funding shortfall.

According to new [research](#) by the [Center for Public Finance's Jorge Barro, John Diamond](#) and [Richard Evans](#), these sources of education funding are predicted to decrease by between \$13 billion and \$120 billion over the next 30 years. Although this reduction seems significant, write the authors, it's actually very manageable and should not be an impediment to the energy transition. Modest policy changes — such as a sales tax expansion, marijuana legalization and taxation, or gambling and gaming revenue — could replace the projected shortfall.

For more on how the energy transition will impact K-12 funding in Texas, read the full research paper [here](#).

Honors and Accolades



Secretary Baker receives Bush Foundation award

Former Secretary of State [James A. Baker, III](#), received the George H.W. Bush Award for Excellence in Public Service during a recent ceremony at Texas A&M University's Annenberg Presidential Center. The award recognizes an individual or group's dedication to public service at the local, state, national or international level. "It is a real honor for me to receive this award named after one of the greatest leaders of our lifetime," said Secretary Baker. Read more about the award and the event commemorating the secretary's distinguished career at [KRHD 25 News](#) and [The Battalion](#).



Zoghbi awarded world's largest neuroscience prize

The Baker Institute congratulates [Huda Zoghbi](#) — the director of the Jan and Dan Duncan Neurological Research Institute at Texas Children's Hospital and Baylor College of Medicine, and a Baker Institute board member — on becoming a co-recipient of the world's largest neuroscience award, known as the "Brain Prize." Dr. Zoghbi was awarded the prize for her role in discovering a gene mutation that causes Rett syndrome and for establishing the importance of epigenetic regulation in both brain development and the maintenance of normal adult brain function. Read more about this honor [here](#).

"Our veterans struggle with some very significant issues ... but the VA Central Office ... has really improved health care quality for veterans — including access, timeliness and prevention of disease, as well as accommodating their mental health needs."

[Rola El-Serag, M.D., L.E.](#) and Virginia Simmons Senior Fellow in Health Policy and Director of the Center for Health & Biosciences, on Houston Public Media's [Town Square with Ernie Manouse](#)

Latest research



COVID-19 and the Value of Safe Transport. How has the pandemic affected your commute? The [Center for Energy Studies'](#) [Kenneth B. Medlock](#), [Ted Temzelides](#) and [Elsie Hung](#) studied links between demographics, disease spread and decreased use of public transportation. Read their research in [Scientific Reports](#).



The Debate over Digital Ad Taxes. A new source of revenue — taxes on digital advertising — is gaining momentum at the state level. An [issue brief](#) by public finance fellow [Joyce Beebe](#) reviews the case for and against digital ad taxes, and trends to look out for as developments unfold.



The Huge Risk Facing Latin American Oil Companies. The future of the oil industry in Latin America is in jeopardy, writes [Franciso Monaldi](#), the director of the [Latin American Energy Program](#), and his co-author [Luisa Palacios](#). As the global energy transition advances, countries throughout the region must adapt to a net-zero world — or be left behind. Read more in [Americas Quarterly](#).

Upcoming events

Davoudi Emerging Leaders Lecture Series: A Conversation with Howard R. Hughes Provost Reginald DesRoches. At this virtual event, exclusive to members of the Roundtable Young Professionals (RYP), [Reginald DesRoches](#) — Rice University's next president, the current provost and a Baker Institute Rice faculty scholar — explores the Baker Institute's integral role at the university. Become a [member of the RYP](#) to enjoy this and other exclusive events! **Nov. 19 | 8:30 a.m. CST**

Webinar — Decarbonizing Steel Production: Challenges and Opportunities. [Alexander Fleischanderl](#), head of Eco Solutions at Primetals Technologies, and Center for Energy Studies senior director [Kenneth B. Medlock](#) examine opportunities to decarbonize the steel industry — which currently ranks as one of the top three producers of carbon dioxide. **Nov. 30 | 10:00 a.m. CST**

Get Involved with the Baker Institute

Become a member of the [Baker Institute Roundtable](#) and [Roundtable Young Professionals](#). Contact [our development office](#) for more information on how you can join the conversation on the relevant issues and ideas that shape our world, or text **BAKER** to **243725** to donate today!



[Unsubscribe](#) | [Privacy policy](#)

Copyright © 2021 Baker Institute for Public Policy
Rice University, MS-40, P.O. Box 1892, Houston, TX 77251-1892