

RICE UNIVERSITY'S
BAKER INSTITUTE
FOR PUBLIC POLICY

News, Research and Events

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2020 Election Webinar Series

The 2020 presidential election between President Donald Trump and former Vice President Joe Biden is less than two weeks away. Experts agree that the stakes of this election are monumental, and the outcome could significantly impact the American health care system, the trajectory of economic recovery from the pandemic, our diplomatic relationships with other countries and more. To help make sense of it all, the Baker Institute is hosting a series of webinars highlighting some of the most critical policy issues relevant to the 2020 election.

The series kicked off in early September with a webinar on the future relationship between the [U.S. and Mexico](#). Since then, experts from a variety of backgrounds have discussed a wide range of issues — including the need for [criminal justice reform](#), the challenges facing policymakers in the [Middle East](#) and the questions surrounding the transition to a [clean energy future](#). Other issues in the series include what kind of [economic policies](#) each candidate supports and how they will address [health disparities](#) in underserved communities.

Beyond the policies of Trump and Biden, there are many questions about state and local races. Political analysts from the Baker Institute and elsewhere have offered their insights on the [most competitive contests in Texas](#) and the ongoing battle between Democrats and Republicans for control over the Texas House of Representatives — the outcome of which will determine whether Texas Democrats have a meaningful role in the 2021 redistricting process. One week before Election Day, analysts will also discuss the [current standing of each presidential candidate](#) in the final countdown to November 3.

To learn more and see a full list of webinars in the series, please [click here](#).

“An ‘autumn reset’ promoting the use of masks, contact tracing and social distancing could still save 100,000 lives. This must be our highest national priority.”

Peter Hotez, Fellow in Disease and Poverty,
in an op-ed for [Scientific American](#)



Tax Policies for a Mobile Workforce

Six months ago, stay-at-home orders began in an effort to slow the spread of COVID-19. Those who could settled into new work-from-home arrangements. Although some workplaces have since reopened with new health and safety protocols in place, many people continue to work remotely and some may be doing so indefinitely. What does this mean for workers and employers when it comes to tax and other compliance issues?

Public finance fellow [Joyce Beebe](#) tackles this question in a recent issue brief on the tax implications of an increasingly mobile workforce. In this brief, Beebe considers what happens from a tax-perspective when an individual lives in one state but works in another. She also explores how employees can receive reimbursement for home office expenses and what options exist for paid family leave and paid sick leave during and after the pandemic.

Although the pandemic has generated new tax questions for employers and employees alike, Beebe predicts that remote work is here to stay and that the discussion about how to design tax policies for the growing number of remote workers is just starting. To learn more, read the full [issue brief](#) on the Baker Institute website.

Upcoming Events

2020 Election Series — Policy, movements and the social determinants of health. At this webinar, panelists explore how decisions by local, state and federal policymakers have impacted communities and underrepresented populations during the 2020 election cycle. **October 26 | 3:00 pm**

Webinar — The U.S.-Mexico relationship: A conversation with the Honorable Christopher Landau. United States Ambassador to Mexico **Christopher Landau** offers his views on the important relationship between the U.S. and Mexico and a pathway to a prosperous, productive future. **October 28 | 11:00 am**

Visit our [events page](#) for a complete list.

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Rice University, MS-40, P.O. Box 1892, Houston, TX 77251-189214