



## April 2025 Newsletter

*This is a monthly newsletter of updates from OpenRG Experts.*

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Don Boyd

*Don is Co-Director of the State and Local Government Finance Project at Rockefeller College, SUNY Albany, and a consultant, Open Source Policy Center.*

- Submitted report to the Society of Actuaries on how model choice and parameter estimates for economic scenario generators can alter assessment of funding risks for pension plans.
  - Developed a synthetic database on firms, establishments, employment, and payroll by county, industry, ownership type, and firm payroll size for a major transportation public authority.
  - Continued work with colleague Gang Chen on a web-based policy analysis model for public pension plans.
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Jason DeBacker

*Jason is an Associate Professor of economics at the University of South Carolina and a core maintainer of the open source models [Cost-of-Capital-Calculator](#), [Tax-Calculator](#), and [OG-USA](#), which model business taxes and macroeconomic effects of tax policy, respectively.*

- Interviewed for the [Moore Impact Podcast](#) on tax policy.
- Contributed to new releases of OG-Core and OG-USA, updating tax function estimation to make it more efficient and robust.
- Completed a draft of a new paper with Richard W. Evans and Marcelo LaFluer on the economic costs of the withdrawal of US assistance for healthcare in South Africa.

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Max Ghenis

*Max is co-founder of PolicyEngine and a core maintainer of their open source projects, including the [policyengine-us](#) tax-benefit microsimulation model.*

- [Launched SALternative](#), a PolicyEngine tool that calculates how the alternative minimum tax would create an effective SALT cap when TCJA expires, and simulates various SALT/AMT policy scenarios.
- Presented research on integrating survey and administrative microdata with machine learning at the Society for Government Economists conference.

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Jonathan Pycroft

*Jon is an economic modeler and public finance economist based in Seville, Spain. He has experience building and working with computable general equilibrium models, overlapping generations models, and microsimulation models of tax and pension policies in Europe and Africa.*

- Paper on the welfare impact of the Global Minimum Corporate Tax was accepted for the Annual Congress of the International Institute of Public Finance (IIPF) in Nairobi, Kenya.