



## January 2023 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.*

- Conducted teaching and discussion session on public pension funding and policy issues, for fiscal journalists around the country. Session conducted through the Ravitch Fiscal Reporting program at the Craig Newmark Graduate School of Journalism at the City University of New York.
- Continued consulting work for a major public authority on revenue issues.
- Continued work on budgetary issues related to housing and homelessness for a public sector client and a nonprofit client.
- Began project for the Society of Actuaries to examine risks associated with choice of model structure and model parameterization in economic scenario generators. The focus is on how these choices affect assessment of pension funding and solvency risks in pension models used to inform investment decisionmaking.
- Began a short-term part-time professor-in-residence position in the New York State Assembly Intern Program, teaching about issues related to government structure and policymaking in New York.

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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.*

- Submitted a proposal to the US Census for Census Research Data Center Access
- Published an [article on business tax reform in Tennessee](#) with Richard Evans
- Presented to the Gamecock Economic Society, “Exploring the tax code through open source software”
- Attended the American Economic Association Annual Meetings in New Orleans

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Max Ghenis

*Max is President of the UBI Center, co-founder of PolicyEngine, and a core maintainer of the open source [microdf](#) project.*

- Fully released PolicyEngine US with a new interface ([blog post](#), [15-second video](#)). Presented at PSL Demo Days ([recording](#)).
- Submitted proposal to conduct a feasibility study on a basic income guarantee in Maine.

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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.*

- Worked on a prototype model with idiosyncratic labor risk.
- Began expanding the Cortax corporate tax macro model to multiple sectors.