



November 2024 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.

- Received the Steven D. Gold Award at the Annual Conference of the National Tax Association in Detroit. The award “honors individuals who have made significant contributions to state and local fiscal policy and have demonstrated a capacity to cross the boundaries between academic research and public policy making.”
- With Martin Holmer, is developing tax microdata weighted to reflect individual Congressional Districts and states, for input to Tax-Calculator and related policy analysis tools, under a project for the Policy Simulation Library Foundation.
- Continued work on forecasting and analysis of tax issues for a major transportation public authority.
- Continued work with the Society of Actuaries on how structure and parameterization of economic scenario generators can alter assessment of funding risks for pension plans.
- Continued a project examining how rural school districts with declining enrollment are affected by legacy costs such as pension funding and debt service.

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.

- Received the Richard J. Musgrave Prize for best paper in the *National Tax Journal*
- Received a Referee of the Year award from the *National Tax Journal*
- Elected to the National Tax Association Board of Directors
- Presented research using large language models to estimate the elasticity of taxable income (joint work with Max Ghenis) at the National Tax Association Annual Meetings in Detroit.
- Presented on how regulation and taxes affect the South Carolina labor market as part of an Economic Policy and Innovation Center event at the University of South Carolina

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 interactive](#) comparing personal impacts of presidential candidates' tax proposals.
- [Presented PolicyEngine's microdata enhancement](#) at the National Tax Association meeting.
- [Presented PolicyEngine's benefit cliff analytics](#) at the Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management annual conference.
- [Delivered seminar on PolicyEngine](#) at Northwestern University.
- [Conducted analysis](#) using LLMs to produce economic forecasts conditional on the presidential winner.

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.

- Produced new tax-benefit function estimates based on microdata as part of a project to make insights from the Euromod microsimulation model usable by macroeconomists.
- Began a new study into the welfare impacts of the global minimum corporate tax.