



October 2021 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.

- Completed preliminary analysis of pension costs of the Bay Area Rapid Transit (BART) system, with colleagues Gang Chen and Yimeng Yin.
- Report on state-by-state impacts of repealing the cap on State and Local Tax (SALT) deductions, co-authored with Matt Jensen, was published in *State Tax Notes*.
- Participated in a panel at the annual meeting of the Conference of Consulting Actuaries on the impact of a sustained low-interest-rate environment on retirement plans and retirement security.
- Completed a foundation-funded draft report on options for deeply distressed pension plans, and policies to help avoid deep distress.
- Prepared draft consulting report analyzing wage and benefit compensation of California correctional officers.
- Conducted consulting analyses in support of a federal proposal to impose a climate-damage compensation tax on fossil fuel producers.

Max Ghenis

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

- Launched [PolicyEngine UK](#), which lets anyone reform the tax and benefit system and see the impact on the UK and their own household.
- Launched the [UBI Poll Tracker](#), a dashboard visualizing over 1,300 data points from over 50 polls about basic income around the world.
- Joined the board of [USBIG](#), which brings together UBI researchers for the annual North American Basic Income Guarantee Congress.
- Co-authored a [report](#) on the Child Tax Credit and fertility.

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.

- Began work on the update of the Cortax model, which is used to simulate international corporate tax policies.
- Finalised the manuscript for submission of the paper "Taxing income or consumption: macroeconomic and distributional effects for Italy".
- Collaborated with the European Commission on the modelling of the global minimum corporate tax (OECD Pillar Two).

Weifeng Zhong

Weifeng is a Senior Research Fellow at the Mercatus Center at George Mason University. Weifeng is a core maintainer of the open-source [PCI-China](#), [PCI-Crackdown](#), and [PCI-Outbreak](#) models.

- The PCI-China's [2021 Q2 update](#) was released, shedding light on China's post-COVID policy priorities and its military aggressions.
- Published essay "The China Challenge: The West Struggles To Respond To Beijing's Forced-Labor Camps" in [Discourse](#).
- Published op-ed "Why the U.S. Should Relax about the China-Taliban Romance" in [The Hill](#).

- Published op-ed "Only U.S. Clarity Can Prevent a Chinese Invasion of Taiwan" in [Washington Examiner](#).