



WAYNE STATE  
Law School

# Enhancing Legislative Oversight in California

California Legislature Oversight Training Workshop

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Levin Center at Wayne Law

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# Levin Center at Wayne State University Law School



U.S. Sen. Carl Levin

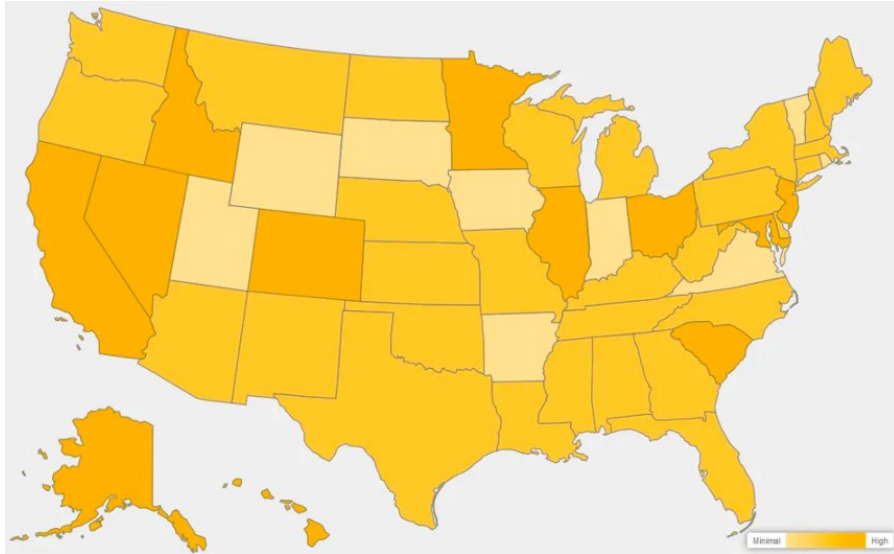


Wayne State Law School

- Oversight Workshops for Congress & State Legislatures
- Oversight Resources (videos, testimony, webinars, etc.)
- State Oversight List-Serve: [Benjamin.Eikey@wayne.edu](mailto:Benjamin.Eikey@wayne.edu)
- Research & Reports (50 state, contract, etc.)
- Conferences & Events

# The State of Oversight in U.S.

## 50-state study by WSU Center for Urban Studies (2019)

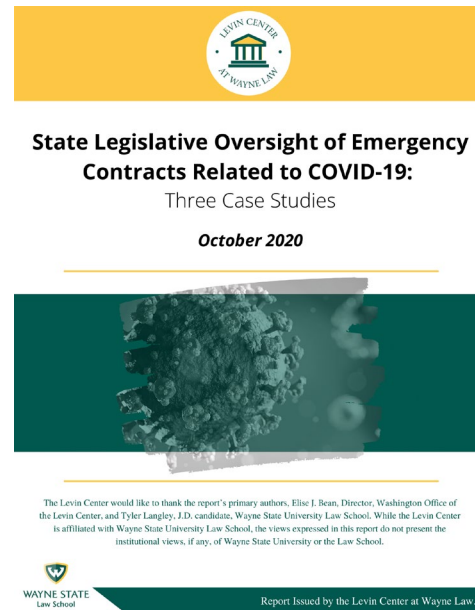


<https://levin-center.org/state-lawmakers/oversight-in-the-50-states/>

## California's Results

- Overall Institutional Capacity for Oversight: **High**
- Overall Use of Institutional Capacity for Oversight: **High**

# Levin Center Reports and Portraits in Oversight





# Constitutional Basis of Legislative Investigations

“A legislative body cannot legislate wisely or effectively in the absence of information.” --McGrain v. Daugherty (1927)

“It is the proper duty of a representative body to look diligently into every affair of government .... It is meant to be the eyes and the voice, and to embody the wisdom and will of its constituents.” --Trump v. Mazars (2020)

Investigations help produce informed decisions on:

- Legislation
- Program operation
- Spending
- Procurements

# Your Super Powers



- Legislator phone calls and emails are returned.
- Legislator questions trigger research, reflection, reconsideration, change.
- Oversight can have as much impact as legislation.
  - Examples to share?

# Recommendations

- Joint oversight committee with a balance of party membership.
- Annual, bipartisan priority-setting oversight vision
  - Questions, report, hearing, agreed-on plan, follow up
- Appropriations mechanisms to ensure compliance with audit recommendations.
- Bipartisan process for hearing design
- Contract oversight
  - Initial contract language, detail data required from contractor to agencies and the public.
  - Include price of oversight within initial contract.
  - Assign contract oversight to a committee, or several.
  - Focus on high risk, pricey, large contracts.



# Levin Center Workshops



Pennsylvania Oversight Committee



CSG West Annual Meeting



NCOIL Summer Meeting



# Investigation Scenario



- Look up “CaliAirParts email 2-7-2022” and read the message.
- Initial thoughts?
- Structure using four phases of an investigation

# Questions?



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# Thank you California Legislature!

For more information, contact:

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