

state performance. Lieske's measure does the better job, suggesting that the new measure—which, unlike Elazar's, can at least theoretically be updated with new census data—better captures cultural differences that make a difference to state politics and policy.

- **Berry, William D., Richard C. Fording, Evan J. Ringquist, Russell L. Hanson, and Carl E. Klarner.** “Measuring Citizen and Government Ideology in the U.S. States: A Re-appraisal.” *State Politics & Policy Quarterly* 10 (2010): 117–135.

One of the most important differences among states lies in the general political attitudes or orientations of the states' citizens. Scholars consider it critical to tap into those state-level attitudes for many reasons. For example, if we do not know the political orientations and attitudes of citizens, we have no means of assessing whether state lawmakers actually reflect and represent the wishes of their constituents. State-level measures of ideology are incredibly hard to construct. The central problem is that no comparable state-level scientific polls are done in all 50 states at the same time. One way to get around this problem is to infer state preferences by looking at the ideologies and policy preferences of the candidates who win congressional elections. This study employs these kinds of data to create a measure of state ideology that is found to do a good job of explaining differences in various policies, from social welfare to incarceration rates.

- **Carsey, Thomas M., and Jeffrey J. Harden.** “New Measures of Partisanship, Ideology, and Policy Mood in the American States.” *State Politics & Policy Quarterly* 10 (2010): 136–156.

This article takes an alternate approach to tackling the same measurement problem Berry et al. (2010) address in the study summarized above. Rather than inferring from lawmaker characteristics, however, Carsey and Harden put together measures of state partisan identification, ideology, and policy mood using data from a series of polls taken in congressional election years from 2000 through 2006. The resulting measures are found to be good estimates of state-level differences on these dimensions.

- **Álvarez-Díaz, Ángel, Lucas González, and Benjamin Radcliff.** “The Politics of Happiness: On the Political Determinants of Quality of Life in the American States.” *Journal of Politics* 72 (2010): 894–905.

This is a study of the differences that influence perhaps the most important difference, asking, What political differences influence the quality of life of citizens? The authors examine the ideology and partisanship of state governments and the policies these governments pursue, seeking to correlate them with measures of citizen satisfaction. Some may find the results surprising. States with more generous social welfare policies and more economic regulation—in other words, states that more closely resemble the social democratic countries of northern Europe—tend to have happier citizens who are more satisfied with their quality of life.

- **Pacheco, Julianna.** “Measuring and Evaluating Changes in State Opinion Across Eight Issues.” *American Politics Research* (2014). doi:10.1177/1532673X14524819.

The basic question Pacheco is asking is whether differences noted in some of the studies just described are stable or whether they change. What she finds is that state ideology is pretty stable. State partisanship, on the other hand, changes a bit over time. State-level attitudes on some specific issues—such as the death penalty and preferences on education and welfare spending—can change quite a bit over time. These findings have some interesting implications. They suggest that some policy preferences or political attitudes are rooted in deeply stable aspects of the state political system; an obvious candidate for the source of such stable orientations is political culture. Other preferences or attitudes, though, are just as clearly rooted in current events, national trends, or other aspects of politics that likely fall outside of political culture. While political culture almost certainly is a difference that makes a difference, it is just as clearly not the only difference that matters.