

## International Visitor Leadership Program Background material

### GENERAL INFORMATION ABOUT THE U.S.

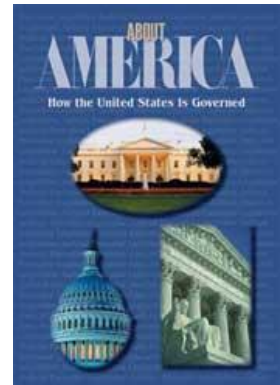
#### ABOUT AMERICA – HOW THE UNITED STATES IS GOVERNED

Bureau of International Information Programs/U.S. Department of State, posted October 2005

This joint publication of the State Department's Bureau of International Information Programs and Braddock Communications presents a comprehensive yet easy-to-read overview of the various levels of and institutions related to government in the U.S. "How the United States Is Governed" describes how federal, state, and local governments are elected, how they operate, and how the executive, legislative, and judicial branches of government relate under the U.S. constitutional system. It also highlights how nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) and other institutions allow Americans to influence and shape government policy. This publication contains a glossary and a list of useful Web sites.

**Full Text:**

[http://www.america.gov/publications/books/us\\_governed.html](http://www.america.gov/publications/books/us_governed.html)

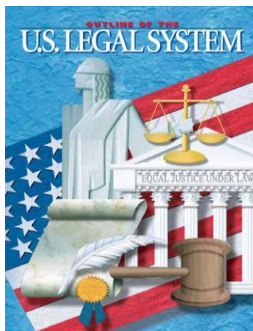


#### OUTLINE OF THE U.S. GOVERNMENT

Bureau of International Information Programs/U.S. Department of State, posted September 2000

What makes U.S. government uniquely American... its Constitution, the separation of powers, the concept of "checks and balances," the decentralized roles of state and local governments, and a citizenry with wide opportunity to be part of it all.

**Full Text:** <http://www.america.gov/publications/books/outline-us-government.html>



#### OUTLINE OF THE U.S. LEGAL SYSTEM

Bureau of International Information Programs/U.S. Department of State, posted December 2004

This Outline covers the history and organization of the federal and state judicial systems; the criminal and civil court processes; the background, qualifications, and selection of federal judges; the role of other participants (lawyers, defendants, interest groups) in the judicial process; and the implementation and impact of judicial policies.

**Full Text:** <http://www.america.gov/publications/books/outline-of-us-legal-system.html>

## RECENT MATERIAL ON PHILANTHROPY

### TAX ISSUES RELATING TO CHARITABLE CONTRIBUTIONS AND ORGANIZATIONS

CRS Report for Congress

Congressional Research Service/ Library of Congress, December 4, 2009

The value of tax benefits for charitable contributions and organizations is estimated to be around \$100 billion per year. About half of this cost arises from the deductions for charitable contributions, and about half from exemptions of earnings of non-profits.

While revisions to the treatment of charitable contributions and tax-exempt organizations that receive contributions have been made in the past few years, several issues may be considered in future legislation. ...

**see attachment**

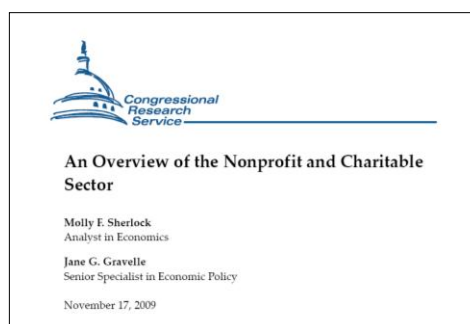
### AN OVERVIEW OF THE NONPROFIT AND CHARITABLE SECTOR

CRS Report for Congress

Congressional Research Service/ Library of Congress, November 17, 2009

A number of policy issues have direct or indirect consequences for the nonprofit and charitable sector, including the establishment of a social innovation initiative, changes in the tax treatment of charitable donations, responses to the economic downturn, and health care reform. The nonprofit and charitable sector represents a significant portion of the U.S. economy. The sector is also highly diverse. Having a greater understanding of the nonprofit and charitable sector as a whole may help policymakers evaluate proposals that may impact the sector. ...

**Full Report:** <http://www.fas.org/sgp/crs/misc/R40919.pdf>



### THE INDEX OF GLOBAL PHILANTHROPY AND REMITTANCES 2009

The Center for Global Prosperity/ Hudson Institute, April 2009

The annual *Index of Global Philanthropy and Remittances* details the sources and magnitude of private giving to the developing world. The Index reframes the discussion about the roles of public and private sectors in foreign aid by showing that the full scale of a country's generosity is measured not just by government aid, but by private giving as well. These private financial flows—including philanthropy and volunteerism from foundations, charities, corporations, universities, and churches as well as remittances—constitute the majority of the developed world's economic engagement with developing nations.

**Full Report:**

<http://www.hudson.org/files/documents/Index%20of%20Global%20Philanthropy%20and%20Remittances%202009.pdf>

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:**

[http://www.hudson.org/files/documents/2009\\_Index\\_Executive\\_Summary\\_FNL.pdf](http://www.hudson.org/files/documents/2009_Index_Executive_Summary_FNL.pdf)



## USEFUL LINKS

- Internal Revenue Service  
<http://www.irs.gov/irs/index.html>
  - Tax Information for Charities & Other Non-Profits  
<http://www.irs.gov/charities/index.html>
- U.S. Census Bureau  
<http://www.census.gov>
  - *The 2010 Statistical Abstract - The National Data Book*  
"Social Insurance & Human Services: Philanthropy, Nonprofit Organizations, Volunteering"  
[http://www.census.gov/compendia/statab/cats/social\\_insurance\\_human\\_services/philanthropy\\_nonprofit\\_organizations\\_volunteering.html](http://www.census.gov/compendia/statab/cats/social_insurance_human_services/philanthropy_nonprofit_organizations_volunteering.html)
- Giving Institute – GivingUSA Foundation  
<http://www.givinginstitute.org/index.htm>
  - Resource Library  
<http://www.givinginstitute.org/resourcelibrary/>
- National Committee for Responsive Philanthropy  
<http://www.ncrp.org/>
  - Publications  
<http://www.ncrp.org/publications>
- National Council of Nonprofits  
<http://www.councilofnonprofits.org/>
- Foundation Center  
<http://foundationcenter.org/>
- Council on Foundations  
<http://www.cof.org/>
- *The Chronicle of Philanthropy*  
<http://philanthropy.com/section/Home/172>
- *Philanthropy Journal*  
<http://www.philanthropyjournal.org/>
- District of Columbia  
<http://www.dc.gov>
  - Official Tourism Site of Washington, D.C.  
<http://washington.org/>
    - Experience DC  
<http://washington.org/visiting/experience-dc>
    - Events Calendar  
<http://washington.org/calendar>
  - Cultural Tourism DC  
<http://www.culturaltourismdc.org/>
    - Historic Neighborhoods  
<http://www.culturaltourismdc.org/homepage2549/index.htm>
- Website of City and County of San Francisco

<http://www.sfgov.org/>

- Official Visitors Site for San Francisco  
<http://www.onlyinsanfrancisco.com/>

- Official Website of the City of Tulsa

<http://www.cityoftulsa.org/>

- Tulsa Convention & Visitors Bureau  
<http://visittulsa.com/index.asp>

- Official Website of the City of Indianapolis and Marion County, Indiana

<http://www.indy.gov/Pages/Home.aspx>

- Indianapolis Convention & Visitors Association  
<http://visitindy.com/>

- Official New York City website

<http://www.nyc.gov>

- New York City Official Tourism Bureau website  
<http://nycgo.com/>