2016 Manhattan Institute President’s Update
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*Former Trustee
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With the results of the 2016 election, America enters a new era.

The best way to support the next president and the incoming class of congressmen, governors, mayors, and state and local legislators is to provide them with ideas that can respond to the frustration, alienation, and despair clearly—and correctly—felt by so many citizens. Elections do not alter MI’s fundamental mission of providing reasoned, fact-based analysis and educating both policymakers and the general public. They do, however, inform our strategy of how we seek to move the climate of opinion and drive reform.

Let’s start with Washington, D.C., where we anticipate having a new set of opportunities to promote national-policy change. The new administration will mean a shakeup within the federal bureaucracy. We can anticipate new appointments to the federal judiciary, including the U.S. Supreme Court. Congress will have to work with the administration to forge a governing agenda. Amid this sea change in leadership, policymakers will be in search of new ideas.

The same goes for officials at the state and local levels. Reformist leaders continue to rise up in cities and states across the country. Fresh off electoral victories, governors and mayors will want and need ideas on how to better their locales: what they can do to advance improvements in areas such as education, public safety, infrastructure, transit, and business regulation.

Moreover, we cannot neglect the urgent need to reinvigorate civil society. Even with new leaders in office, there are limits to what government—at any level—can hope to accomplish, especially with respect to deep-seated social ills.

In short, MI recognizes that change can, and must, come from many different sources. Sound public policies at all levels of government, strong families, and healthy social norms that help prepare and enable individuals to succeed, will all be necessary to unlock the promise of America.

“Sound public policies at all levels of government, strong families, and healthy social norms... will all be necessary to unlock the promise of America.”
To move the needle on all of these fronts, MI has grown (and, as stewards of philanthropic funds entrusted to us, we have done so carefully). We have added to our roster of scholars and have made a number of strategic additions to the staff responsible for ensuring that our ideas reach an ever-wider audience of citizens and officeholders. To publicize our research and policy journalism, we have activated new distribution channels, even as we have worked to maintain our edge in traditional media—whether op-eds, books, television, or radio.

MI’s agenda, which encompasses a range of domestic issue areas, reflects a core vision and set of goals—with opportunity for all Americans chief among them. The fact that many Americans feel their opportunities are limited should come as no surprise to those who are familiar with our research, analysis, and commentary. Minority citizens who have been stuck in cycles of intergenerational poverty, working-class communities that have struggled with the effects of deindustrialization and cultural breakdown, and millennials who are saddled with student debt and unable to find jobs—all have good reason to want better.

Strong economic growth is a prerequisite for broad-based prosperity and opportunity, and you can expect MI to call for policies that remove impediments to entrepreneurship, business expansion, and investment. This starts with a national energy-policy agenda that unleashes the economic potential of America’s domestic assets and ensures access to affordable, reliable, and abundant electricity for businesses and consumers. In this regard, we have made a tangible difference. For the past five years, senior fellow Mark Mills has argued that the revolution in oil and gas drilling techniques, as well as the energy abundance that they have unlocked, made it time to reverse the decades-old ban on such energy exports. In December 2015, Congress showed that it was listening, voting to lift the 40-year ban on U.S. domestic crude oil exports. There remain, however, far too many other anachronistic policies, enacted on the false premise that America and the world are running out of energy. Such policies are barriers to realizing the improved standard of living that our energy abundance can provide. MI will work to clear these barriers away. Also, expect us to build on our efforts in shaping debate over the appropriate role of renewable energy forms. Apocalyptic fears about climate change have led many policymakers to adopt aggressive plans to transition to sources such as solar and wind—but as Robert Bryce and Oren Cass argue, these policies, such as renewable mandates at the state level and the EPA’s Clean Power Plan, will be of minimal benefit to the planet, while imposing devastating costs on the economy and consumers, especially on people of modest means.
Our energy team at MI is a great example of how we choose to approach policymaking and persuasion. Those who write for us about energy policy bring a diversity of perspectives. They include a top labor economist, a seasoned reporter and author, a former business management consultant, a physicist and development engineer, and a lawyer and mechanical engineer. Not a day goes by without an MI fellow advocating for sound energy policy on the radio or in newspapers, or without citations or mentions of their work shaping national thinking on this issue.

Clear laws and regulations, along with consistent enforcement, are prerequisites for business growth and investment. MI’s legal-policy shop, led by James Copland, is dedicated to exposing actors who would take advantage of the legal system for personal gain; and to promoting reforms that uphold the rule of law. MI’s report series *Trial Lawyers, Inc.* will continue to expose the economic consequences of excessive litigiousness; Proxy Monitor will keep shining light on activists who seek to curtail the democratic process by covertly advancing their social and economic agendas through shareholder votes; and our Overcriminalizing America project is working to rein in laws and prosecutorial practices, at the state and federal levels, that misapply criminal laws to matters that are better dealt with via civil proceedings—or are not wrongdoings at all.

To spur our economy, we believe that we must not only beat back policies that stand in the way of growth but also propose ideas that can encourage entrepreneurship and draw Americans back into the workforce. These include lowering corporate taxes and reforming entitlements so that the young will not, as senior fellow Diana Furchtgott-Roth and her colleague Jared Meyer have put it, be “disinherited.” Furchtgott-Roth, who heads our economic policy division, e21, champions these and other reforms. She will provide rapid-response analysis of the policy proposals being debated nationally. MI’s Shadow Open Market Committee (SOMC), composed of top academic economists who follow and comment on the actions of the...
Federal Reserve, will challenge the Fed to make clear how and why it is crafting monetary policy. And Meyer will continue to shape the national conversation about the sharing economy and its potential to drive innovation and job growth—if ill-conceived regulation is not permitted to stifle it.

A national opportunity agenda must involve reform of the U.S. health-care system, from entitlement programs—Medicare, Medicaid, and the Affordable Care Act (ACA)—to drug and device innovation. As MI scholars publicly predicted, the ACA has led to dramatic increases in premium costs for many consumers. That so many Americans are choosing not to purchase so-called affordable health-care plans, even if they must pay a penalty for not doing so, reflects the limited choices that the ACA permits. MI’s health-care team, led by senior fellow Paul Howard, will seize the opportunity afforded by the recent election to champion reforms that rely on competition—not more regulation—to drive down costs, while finding more cost-effective ways of expanding access for the needy and vulnerable.

Many diseases that we confront today, whether cancers or multiple sclerosis, require precision treatments, tailored to an individual’s biochemistry—treatments that medical science is now making possible. But the FDA’s protocols for testing and approving new drugs and devices date back to a time when doctors were combating diseases by treating us all alike. The need for reform in this area is urgent; everyone will be a patient someday. Over the past several years, MI’s Project FDA has sought to streamline and modernize the FDA’s approval process for new and innovative treatments. In 2013, senior fellow Peter Huber’s book The Cure in the Code: How 20th Century Law Is Undermining 21st Century Medicine explained how the FDA’s one-size-fits-all system was built before we understood that complex diseases affect and grow inside each human body differently. July 2015 marked an important milestone in this area: the U.S. House of Representatives passed bipartisan legislation that included many reforms that Huber and other Project FDA contributors have proposed. The U.S. Senate is considering several pieces of legislation that include similar reforms. We have reasons to be optimistic that at least some elements of what we have fought for will become law, if not during the lame-duck session, then during the next Congress. Furthermore, with leadership from Paul Howard and our newest health-care senior fellow, former U.S. senator Tom Coburn, M.D., we are confident that more progress in this space is not far away. The results of these policy changes are game changers, potentially accelerating drug development by many lifesaving years.

Reforming the nation’s health-care system has ramifications for other domestic concerns, such as poverty. As senior fellow Oren Cass demonstrates, inefficient spending on the Medicaid health-care program does too little to help the poor in whose
name it has grown. Reforming Medicaid, in his view, should be part of a broader reform to the federal safety net and how we seek to ameliorate poverty. Cass, in his analysis of federal poverty programs, makes clear that many include perverse incentives and discourage people from beneficial behaviors, such as marriage and work, which would help them move up from dependency. In 2017, look for MI to beat the drum for reforming the safety net, with an approach that centers on the importance of getting people back to work.

While working to influence debate over federal policy, we continue, as we always have, to direct scholarly attention to what happens at the state and local levels. It is here that overextended public pension funds risk robbing the local citizenry of a range of services—from good education to clean streets—as spending is directed to retirees. Public pension reform is an issue that many officials would prefer not to touch, and one that can be hard to explain. But the effects of rising pension costs on a city’s ability to sustain core services will be felt increasingly in the coming years. Given the importance of pension reform to the financial and economic well-being of cities and states, it remains one of our top policy priorities. This is why MI has assembled a team with extensive knowledge of both public finance and the political influence of the public sector: senior fellows Daniel DiSalvo, Stephen Eide, Steven Malanga, Josh McGee, and E. J. McMahon. Our strategy is to educate citizens about how this issue affects them personally, particularly through highlighting the “crowd-out” effect of continued increases in benefit costs: fewer resources available to fund core public services and to invest in long-deferred infrastructure projects. Given how politically charged this issue is, we have found that focusing on the math and on the prospect of declining services is the best way to move the conversation forward.

Any discussion of opportunity must reckon with the difficult subject of race—and how that factors into policy discussions about issues such as policing and education. Police officers who break the law, or fail to follow
protocols in dealing with confrontations, must be held accountable. We cannot, however, abide a false story about ubiquitous racism in American law enforcement. The more traction that this canard gets—and the more sway it has with elected leaders—the harder it will be for law enforcement to do its job: to protect the vulnerable citizens who need the police the most. Given the misinformation that pervades the public discourse, MI senior fellow Heather Mac Donald’s 2016 book, *The War on Cops*, a *New York Times* and Amazon bestseller, could not have been timelier. This summer, during the days surrounding the heart-wrenching assassination of five Dallas police officers, Mac Donald’s book provided a much-needed corrective to the half-truths about race and policing being promoted by some activists and their allies in public office. In his endorsement of the book, Thomas Sowell put it this way: “This is a book that can save lives.” We hope that is true. What should be at the heart of the national story are the 7,000 black Americans who are murdered each year. Without active American law enforcement, that number will only continue to rise (according to the FBI, homicides were up nearly 11 percent last year).

Closing the achievement gap between urban and suburban students is a goal that lies at the heart of MI’s education agenda. Failing public schools not only deprive kids of opportunities to develop and exercise their talents but harm the overall U.S. economy, which is ever more dependent on human capital. MI has been especially active in the debate over charter schools, refuting unsubstantiated claims made by teachers’ unions and some public officials. This fall, as Massachusetts was considering allowing more charter schools, one of our newest senior fellows, Max Eden, authored a study debunking opponents’ main assertion: that the growth of the charter sector would deprive traditional schools of financial resources. Nor is our focus limited to K–12 education. This fall, we also expanded the size and scope of MI’s education team through the addition of Beth Akers. A specialist in higher education, Akers will focus on America’s federal student-loan policies, developing ideas on how to make college a worthwhile investment—and offering constructive plans about the right way to deliver aid to the disadvantaged.

Higher education, beyond preparing individuals for the workforce, has a critical role to play in the formation of future civic leaders. At America’s top business schools, MI is providing a context for an open discussion about big ideas that may otherwise not get a hearing. MI’s Adam Smith Society, now in its sixth year, has chapters at 27 MBA programs and a membership of more than 6,000 students and alums. Through the Society, we seek to introduce discussion and debate about public–policy issues and the moral underpinnings of the free-enterprise system. At the same time, we are challenging today’s students—tomorrow’s industry leaders—to think about their future civic responsibility. When capitalism is
under fire, lamentably, the business community often is the last to rise in its defense. We expect much more from our members when they become entrepreneurs and CEOs. Not only will they have had the benefit of speakers and courses, but they will enjoy the support of a community that appreciates the virtues, as well as the complexities, of freedom, competition, the rule of law, and all the other pillars of an opportunity society. This was a small idea just a few years ago. Seeing these energetic, dedicated young people gives me hope for America’s future.

We would be fooling ourselves, however, to believe that policy reforms, whether in the safety net, entitlements, education, or criminal justice, alone can resolve the difficult conditions in which many Americans find themselves. Policy reform matters a lot—but culture matters, too. This is a theme often found in MI’s City Journal, especially in the writings of contributors such as Mac Donald and Kay Hymowitz. It is also a major theme of the work of senior fellow Jason Riley, who authors a regular column in the Wall Street Journal and has been crisscrossing the country delivering lectures on college campuses, often about race relations. His nonconformist views led him to be “disinvited” from a scheduled speaking engagement at Virginia Tech earlier this year—and then reinvited after the story made national news. Riley will not shy away from voicing hard truths about race and poverty in America and the ways in which liberal social policies have, ironically, undermined black upward mobility.

City Journal represents an essential tool in MI’s work of turning intellect into influence. We do not expect to change minds simply through white papers, as compelling or as conclusive as the research findings may be. We know that people need to understand why and how ideas matter through storytelling. Telling stories, made vivid through shoe-leather reporting, is what City Journal does best. And I’m happy to report that MI’s City Journal, fresh
off its 25th anniversary, is looking at a record year for readership. The magazine’s redesigned website, city-journal.org, is projected to surpass 7.2 million page views, a 27 percent increase over 2015. This has been the result, in part, of an increased emphasis on article distribution through multiple social media channels—something that you can expect to see even more of in 2017, as part of MI’s enhanced distribution efforts.

You may notice that this year’s President’s Update has a different structure from years past. Rather than go into our customary depth about our issue areas, I thought it made more sense to provide concise descriptions of 2016’s efforts and spend more time on the opportunities that we will have next year—which also happens to be MI’s 40th anniversary. Of course, if you would like to have a fuller account of our recent work on any of the aforementioned issues, from the economy to legal policy to education, give us a call or see the next few pages for highlights.

We cannot be sure what 2017 will bring. But given the changes in Washington and the reformist leadership in place in many states, we anticipate having opportunities to encourage meaningful change in many of the aforementioned areas. To take advantage of these opportunities, we depend on your support. Please help MI start its 40th year off strong. I wish you and your family a happy holiday season.

Sincerely,

Lawrence Mone
ARGENTINA
MI organized a delegation—including former New York Police Department commissioner Ray Kelly, Bryant Park Business Improvement District president Daniel Biederman, and MI senior fellow Judith Miller—to meet with the highest-ranking public-safety officials in Argentina.

CALIFORNIA
Former Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice spoke at an event sponsored by MI’s Adam Smith Society chapter at the Stanford Graduate School of Business on June 1. Rice treated students to a wide-ranging, off-the-record conversation.

Surrounding public debate over Proposition 61, a measure that would cap the price that state government agencies pay for prescription drugs, on September 14, senior fellow Paul Howard traveled to San Francisco to meet with reporters, producers, and editorial boards. Every major newspaper in the state has echoed Howard’s analysis on why Prop. 61 would be bad for medical innovation—and on Nov. 8, voters rejected the proposition.

CHICAGO
Practitioners and policymakers attended a private dinner in Chicago on April 12 that MI hosted to discuss James Copland and Steven Malanga’s paper on reforming public pension board governance.

In response to the rise in violent crime in Chicago, Heather MacDonald was invited to speak before two audiences of leading Chicagoans on October 24 about the need for proactive policing. Guests totaled about 150; her remarks were followed by roundtable conversations with Illinois law-enforcement officials.

NEW YORK
MI held 143 events in New York in 2016—with approximately one-third geared toward next-gen audiences (under 40). Notable speakers included Governor Charlie Baker of Massachusetts, constitutional law scholar Randy Barnett, Timothy Cardinal Dolan, and historian Andrew Roberts.

TEXAS
City Journal launched its “Texas Rising” issue with a media dinner in Austin on September 15. Together with some of the area’s leading journalists, Brian Anderson, Robert Bryce, Josh McGee, and Aaron Renn discussed the success of many of the state’s public policies and what Texas needs to do to maintain its edge.

WASHINGTON, D.C.
Former U.S. senator Tom Coburn, MI’s newest health-care senior fellow, spoke on drug pricing and medical innovation at a dinner for Washington, D.C. journalists and reporters on April 27.
WE HAD EVENTS IN 6 COUNTRIES OUTSIDE THE UNITED STATES

ARGENTINA | CANADA | CZECH REPUBLIC | ENGLAND | ISRAEL | MEXICO
MI’s Project FDA has sought to streamline and modernize the FDA’s approval process for new and innovative treatments.
One day, each of us will be a patient in need. When that day comes, the cost and quality of the treatments available to us will hinge on decisions that the incoming administration and Congress will make; they have vowed to revamp the nation’s health-care system, especially the Affordable Care Act (Obamacare). To influence those decisions—regarding policies affecting access to quality care, as well as drug and device innovation—MI is educating the general public about the urgency of these issues; developing practicable reform ideas; convening doctors, patient advocates, scientists, and policy experts; and dialoguing with key policymakers. Paul Howard is heading our efforts to explain how greater competition and choice can help lower costs—driven up for many consumers by the Affordable Care Act—and improve access to quality care. With the addition of former U.S. senator Tom Coburn as a senior fellow, MI’s Project FDA, which advocates for policies that embrace the promise of medical innovation, looks to have an even greater public voice in 2017.

MI health-care fellows are working to bring policymakers on both sides of the aisle behind our ideas; as part of these efforts, we met earlier this year with Vice President Joseph Biden to discuss how our agenda can advance the Cancer Moonshot initiative to accelerate the discovery of cures.

On Election Day, California voters rejected Proposition 61, which would have imposed price controls on prescription drugs. Before the public voted, the editorial boards of the following newspapers in California echoed Paul Howard’s arguments about the problems with price controls (see Howard’s September issue brief, “Higher Prices, Fewer Choices: Why California’s Prop. 61 Will Not Bring Drug-Price Relief,” and his new book, coauthored with Peter Huber, Unlocking Precision Medicine: Ventura County Star, Orange County Register, San Diego Union-Tribune, Los Angeles Times, San Francisco Chronicle, San Jose Mercury News, and Sacramento Bee.

In an October Intelligence Squared debate on the reasons behind rising health-care costs, Paul Howard and his partner, Lori Reilly, bested Ezekiel Emanuel of the University of Pennsylvania and Neera Tanden of the Center for American Progress. Howard and Reilly brought an initially skeptical audience to the realization that competition, not regulation, is the cure for America’s health-care woes.

MI’s Project FDA helped lay the intellectual groundwork for policies contained in the 21st-Century Cures Act, which are intended to make the review and approval process for new drugs more efficient. This legislation passed the U.S. House of Representatives in 2015; there is a good chance that the Senate will act on legislation containing some of the same provisions before year-end.
To spur our economy, we believe that we must not only beat back policies that stand in the way of growth but also propose ideas that can encourage entrepreneurship and draw Americans back into the workforce.
Free markets and a culture that affirms personal responsibility are essential foundations of an opportunity society, and at MI, we work to advance both. MI’s Washington, D.C.–based policy division, e21 (Economic Policies for the 21st Century), led by Diana Furchtgott-Roth, publishes rapid-response analyses related to laws and regulations, educating policymakers and citizens as to how they affect the climate for entrepreneurship and job growth. The incoming administration has pledged to roll back years of regulations—and we will continue to provide timely analysis about how best to do so. On the cultural side of the equation, we highlight the importance of character traits that can empower people, especially those living below the poverty line. Through books, conferences, a constant presence in the media, and lectures on college and university campuses, MI fellows like Jason Riley are working to renew the public’s appreciation for the role of culture in enabling economic mobility, and fellows like Oren Cass are advocating reforms to the safety net so that it no longer actively discourages virtuous behavior and choices, such as commitment to family and work.

Diana Furchtgott-Roth and Jared Meyer received the Atlas Network’s 2016 Sir Antony Fisher International Memorial Award for their book Disinherited: How Washington Is Betraying America’s Young (Encounter Books).

Furchtgott-Roth has appeared on PBS, BBC, CNN, MSNBC, and NPR, among other networks.

Meyer gave 41 lectures in 14 states and 3 countries, including 29 that were on college campuses or given to students.


Riley gave lectures at 14 college campuses: Carnegie Mellon, Harvard, Dayton Law School, James Madison University, Ashland University, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Columbia University Law School, Michigan State University, Florida Southern College, Maryville University, Robert Morris University, Westchester Community College, Fairleigh Dickinson University, and Bowdoin College.

Franklin Foer of Slate named Oren Cass as one of several policy entrepreneurs “with greatest cachet on the right.”
Proxy Monitor will keep shining light on activists who seek to curtail the democratic process by covertly advancing their social and economic agendas through shareholder votes.
There is an ever-growing thicket of regulations and laws that weaken the American economy, threatening its vibrancy and compounding the economic degeneration of the past eight years. Actions taken by administrative agencies, legislative bodies, and prosecutors at both the federal and state levels are at the core of this problem; a host of actors outside government—lesser known to the public, but no less invidious in terms of their economic effects—make matters worse. With new leadership in the White House and Congress, there will be new opportunities for reform in the legal realm. For years, MI’s legal-policy team has exposed the counterproductive and, at times, corrupt actions of the rent-seeking trial lawyers, politically ambitious prosecutors, overzealous regulators, and others who are stifling America’s growth potential by misusing the legal system—at the state and federal level. Our team focuses its efforts on the areas of civil justice, criminal law, and corporate governance.

In late 2015, Michigan adopted reforms recommended by a joint MI–Mackinac Center study on overcriminalization in the state (to date, besides Michigan, MI has analyzed the criminal codes of North Carolina, South Carolina, and Minnesota).

James Copland testified before the U.S. House Committee on Financial Services Subcommittee on Capital Markets and Government-Sponsored Enterprises about the problems with policy-oriented shareholder activism.

After the federal Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB) signaled that it would override recent U.S. Supreme Court decisions affirming arbitration agreements in the financial sector, Copland responded with a Wall Street Journal op-ed, “Why the Trial Bar and Its Friends Detest Arbitration.”

Stay tuned for MI’s forthcoming Trial Lawyers, Inc. report, which will shed light on the plaintiffs’ bar and its war on arbitration. If successful, trial lawyers could reverse the nationwide gains that tort reformers have made in lowering the economic costs associated with the lawsuit industry.
Our energy team is a great example of how we choose to approach policymaking and persuasion.
Harnessing the potential of technological innovation is at the core of MI’s agenda on energy and environmental policy. MI’s energy scholars promote policy ideas that will enable the United States to reap the full economic and geopolitical benefits of our domestic energy abundance (a long-standing focus of Mark Mills). Increasing America’s dependence on renewable sources can sound appealing (and may be possible someday); but as Robert Bryce and Oren Cass explain, many specific proposals to transition to these sources, such as renewable mandates, would impose heavy costs on consumers and businesses, with minimal benefit, if any, to the environment. To meet domestic energy needs while advancing environmental goals, we believe that America must tap, above all else, the “bottomless well” of human ingenuity.

In December 2015, Congress repealed the 40-year-old ban on domestic crude oil exports—a reform for which Mark Mills had been advocating for years.


Robert Bryce remains the go-to expert on the dangers that wind turbines pose to wildlife; see his May 2016 Wall Street Journal op-ed, “An Ill Wind: Open Season on Bald Eagles.”

In April 2016, Oren Cass testified before the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

So far in 2016, MI fellows have authored more than 65 op-eds and given 91 TV and radio interviews on energy and environmental policy, with 723 earned media mentions.

Reality Check:
Fracking, Not Solar Power, Is Reducing U.S. Carbon-Dioxide Emissions

Renewable-energy technologies have achieved impressive gains in recent years; in particular, solar-panel costs have fallen dramatically. As a result, both wind and solar power now find a variety of applications where they make economic sense, sometimes even without a generous federal subsidy. They appear poised for continued progress and increasing deployment in years to come.

However, the growth in electricity generation from these sources looks impressive only in percentage terms. Solar power contributed only 18 billion kilowatt-hours (kWh) to the 3,936 billion kWh generated by the U.S. electricity sector last year. As a result, the country’s massive investment in the technology has made virtually no dent in total emissions of carbon-dioxide—and will not make a significant dent for the foreseeable future.

Conversely, the extraordinary technological progress that produced America’s natural gas boom has sent natural gas prices plummeting and has driven a substantial shift from coal to natural gas as the fuel generating U.S. electricity. Burning natural gas emits only about half as much carbon-dioxide as burning coal (and even smaller fractions of harmful air pollutants), so its increased use at the expense of coal reduces emissions. Fracking, the technique despised by environmentalists for extracting natural gas from shale, is reducing carbon-dioxide emissions much faster than renewable energy can.
We cannot abide a false story about ubiquitous racism in American law enforcement. The more traction that this canard gets, the harder it will be for law enforcement to do its job.
POLICING

The dramatic decline in violent crime beginning in the early 1990s, driven in part by the revolution in proactive policing, has saved thousands of lives—primarily young men of color living in America’s inner cities (MI senior fellow George Kelling is among the foremost minds behind this revolution). But over the past two years, a series of tragic incidents involving confrontations between police officers and suspects has led to an onslaught of anti-cop rhetoric, with allegations of systemic racism in police departments across the country. In this context, MI, as always, is committed to an honest public debate about these issues—grounded in facts and unblinking with respect to the oft-charged subject of race relations. Thomas W. Smith Fellow Heather Mac Donald, author of this year’s The War on Cops, a New York Times and Amazon bestseller, has a national, widely cited voice on the critical issue of public safety, focusing America’s attention on the vital role that proactive policing, applied properly, has had in saving lives.

Heather Mac Donald’s The War on Cops was a New York Times bestseller, with more than 40,000 copies sold to date.

Since June, Mac Donald has been interviewed, and her book mentioned, more than 375 times on TV and radio.

According to Thomas Sowell, “If you have heard the rhetoric on all sides of the issues involving the police, and would like some facts to put that rhetoric to the test, there is no better source than The War on Cops…. This is a book that can save lives.”

In September, MI featured Mac Donald at a salon dinner for Chicago-area journalists and reporters, where they discussed her lead piece in the Summer 2016 issue of City Journal, “Chicago on the Brink,” about how the retreat from proactive policing has led to a rise in violent crime in the Windy City.
“Closing the achievement gap between urban and suburban students is a goal that lies at the heart of MI’s education agenda.”
To succeed in the economy of the twenty-first century, workers across America will have to be better educated, more skilled, and more flexible than ever before. For years, MI’s scholars have shown how we can help close achievement gaps—particularly in poorer communities and neighborhoods—through reforms that fall under the rubrics of choice, accountability, and transparency. We are constantly debunking the myths put forward by defenders of the status quo, such as teachers’ unions; we stand firm for education reforms that work best for kids.

Former Florida governor Jeb Bush headlined an MI education-policy symposium in New York and spoke to the urgency of reforms that can foster greater choice, competition, and accountability in America’s schools.

Marcus Winters testified before the New York State Senate’s education committee about the need for greater transparency and accountability in New York City’s public schools.

SchoolGrades.org, MI’s school-rating site, now reaches millions of parents, teachers, and scholars through a partnership with GreatSchools.org, helping users to find little-known, high-performing schools—especially those with underprivileged student populations.

This fall, as Massachusetts considered allowing more charter schools to open, Max Eden published a report to debunk teachers’ unions’ main opposing argument, that raising the charter cap would take money away from other public schools; the report was cited in dozens of articles and editorials, including in the Boston Globe and the Boston Herald, and by Massachusetts governor Charlie Baker himself.

MI education-policy director Charles Sahm became a standing columnist for U.S. News & World Report.
MI’s task is to help citizens, and the city’s leadership, distinguish good ideas from the bad ones.
NEW YORK CITY

Gotham is MI’s home—and a powerful example for the nation of the difference that good (and bad) urban-policy ideas can make. Broken Windows policing, welfare-to-work, and school choice (notably, charter schools) are among many ideas that proved effective in New York before being adopted by other cities and states. New York presently faces a range of policy challenges, and under the current administration, there are signs that the city is at risk of forfeiting some of the gains made over the past few decades. Given New York’s importance in its own right, and as an example to the nation, MI is working hard to educate the public about the policies that have helped drive the recent urban renaissance, as well as to develop ideas to help meet pressing issues, from the limited supply of housing to the persistence of intergenerational poverty in some neighborhoods to the need to improve transportation infrastructure.

MI sponsored a roundtable discussion about the future of the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey. Roundtable attendees, including the agency’s leadership, academics, journalists, and policy experts, considered potential reforms, including public-private partnerships, which can help reconstitute and reform PANY/NJ to better serve the region. Reforming the Port Authority has also been an ongoing focus of MI’s City Journal, which published four feature-length pieces on the subject in 2016.

Another MI roundtable focused on how to bring market pricing to New York’s parking system, enhance parking availability, bring in revenue, and boost various neighborhoods’ economic prospects. De Blasio administration officials who attended said that the city was exploring such options and that the discussion at the roundtable had helped shape their thinking.

Since 2015, MI has sent out a regular e-mail blast, The BEAT, providing New Yorkers with the facts on issues from charter schools to homelessness to housing policy. Subscribership to The BEAT has increased by 215 percent on social media and by 53 percent on e-mail.

Findings from MI’s “Poverty and Progress” report series, benchmarking the de Blasio administration’s success in achieving its stated goal of bettering the lives of disadvantaged New Yorkers, have appeared in editorials in the New York Post, in news stories in the New York Daily News, Crain’s New York Business, City & State, and Gotham Gazette, and in segments on NY1, News 12, PIX 11, City & State TV, and BRIC TV.
Given the importance of pension reform to the financial and economic well-being of cities and states, it remains one of our top policy priorities.
In cities and states across America, legacy costs of retired public employees are consuming greater portions of the budget, “crowding out” spending on services to meet current needs, from cops on the beat to teachers in the classroom. As believers in limited, effective government, we at MI champion reforming the terms of public employment. To that end, we have assembled a team of scholars on this issue second to none, which includes Daniel DiSalvo, Stephen Eide, Steven Malanga, Josh McGee, and E. J. McMahon. Our agenda involves alerting citizens to the political dynamics that have driven the rise in unaffordable benefits: the way in which influential public-sector unions often negotiate their contracts with the same politicians whom they have helped get elected. MI fellows advocate reforms that can provide retirement security for public workers (retirees in some locales may see their future pensions slashed dramatically unless reforms take place) and enable cities and states to avoid having to cut public services.

Howard Husock authored a study analyzing Detroit’s “Grand Bargain,” in which major philanthropies supplied millions in capital to help backfill the city’s vast unfunded pension liabilities in exchange for concessions from public labor. He evaluated which aspects of the bargain could be implemented in Chicago and other distressed postindustrial cities, with his findings appearing in the Chronicle of Philanthropy and Crain’s Chicago Business, among other outlets.

In March, MI held a private salon dinner in Chicago that brought together policymakers, philanthropists, and investment experts to discuss the feasibility of implementing reforms recommended in MI’s study “Safeguarding Public-Pension Systems: A Governance-Based Approach,” by James Copland and Steven Malanga.

This fall, MI published a national analysis, by Josh McGee, of the effects of rising teacher pension costs on resources available to meet current educational needs, “Feeling the Squeeze: Pension Costs Are Crowding Out Education Spending,” which drew national media attention via Bond Buyer, Barron’s, Governing magazine, Bloomberg, and Reuters.
MI’s vision of urban life—safe, orderly, entrepreneurial, and culturally vibrant—is the overarching theme of our quarterly magazine, *City Journal*. 
Through street-level reporting, our writers tell the story of what public policies and social norms do for America’s great cities, for good and for ill. We introduce readers to the cops who put Broken Windows policing into practice—and the residents whose streets are safer as a result; the governors and mayors who are trying to right their states’ and cities’ fiscal ships in the face of scary public-employee pension math; the immigrant communities that are rising up through hard work and strong families; and start-up companies that are setting up shop in formerly blighted areas and revitalizing neighborhoods. And because, as one writer puts it, there is never enough beauty and never enough truth, we report on the difference that civil society and philanthropy make in enhancing urban life.
America’s heritage of liberty and prosperity owes much to innovators and entrepreneurs; those who imagined new products, took risks, and embraced the freedom to create and build. Historically, captains of industry have not only driven the growth of the economy, but they have also been among the foremost advocates of the free-enterprise system, publicly expounding the broader societal benefits of the market economy. The purpose of MI’s Adam Smith Society is to cultivate a generation of CEOs, financiers, and entrepreneurs who will continue in this tradition, promoting public appreciation for the free-enterprise system through their professional example, philanthropy, public voice, and community leadership. To that end, for the past six years we have been setting up chapters of the Adam Smith Society at top business schools across the country, through which we bring to campus scholars, journalists, and business leaders to speak on the moral foundations of capitalism and discuss and debate public-policy issues. Members, upon graduation from business school, become part of the Adam Smith Society professional network. As they grow in their careers, the professional network will provide members with ongoing education and a community of fellow market-minded professionals who feel a civic responsibility to advocate for the principles of a free society.

“\textit{At America’s top business schools, MI is providing a context for an open discussion about big ideas that may otherwise not get a hearing.}”
MEMBERSHIP BY THE NUMBERS

Campus Chapters
- Brandeis
- UC-Berkeley (Haas)
- Carnegie Mellon (Tepper)
- Chicago (Booth)
- Colorado Springs
- Columbia
- Cornell (Johnson)
- Dartmouth (Tuck)
- Duke (Fuqua)
- Georgetown (McDonough)
- Harvard
- Michigan (Ross)
- MIT (Sloan)
- Northwestern (Kellogg)
- NYU (Stern)
- Penn (Wharton)
- Rice (Jones)
- SMU
- Stanford
- Texas (McCombs)
- UCLA (Anderson)
- UNC (Kenan-Flagler)
- Vanderbilt (Owen)
- Virginia (Darden)
- Wake Forest
- Washington Univ. St. Louis (Olin)
- Yale

Professional Chapters
- Austin
- Boston
- Chicago
- Houston
- New York City
- San Francisco
Young professionals in cities are often on the lookout for opportunities to connect with people having similar interests. For those who care about public policy and want to have conversations about issues that matter, this can be a challenge. This is where MI's Young Leaders Circle comes in. A membership organization for metropolitan-area professionals in their twenties and thirties, the Young Leaders Circle hosts monthly lectures, featuring experts on an array of policy issues and plenty of time for networking. Like the Adam Smith Society, the Young Leaders Circle is a piece of MI’s efforts to cultivate a network of future influential who are passionate about seeing good ideas put to work.
“YLC is made up of bright, thoughtful young people—an incredible group that is intellectually curious, unafraid to engage in vigorous debate, and committed to civility and respect. In short, the members of YLC embody the best of what we can hope for in terms of America’s public-policy future.”

- ALAN DERSHOWITZ

For years, MI has had a long-standing interest in promoting greater intellectual pluralism on our nation’s campuses, introducing students to perspectives on public policy, economics, limited government, and culture that they might not otherwise encounter. With support from the Thomas W. Smith Foundation and Isko Family Foundation, MI has been sending its fellows to give lectures on college campuses across the country. As a result of this effort, thousands of undergrads have had the opportunity to hear, many for the first time, arguments about the principles of economic choice and individual responsibility.
1. ALEXANDER HAMILTON AWARD DINNER
The Alexander Hamilton Award was created to honor those individuals helping to foster the revitalization of our nation’s cities. We chose to name the award after Hamilton because, like the Manhattan Institute, he was a fervent proponent of commerce and civic life. Throughout the years, we have expanded the scope of our prize to celebrate leaders on local as well as state and national levels who have—whether in public policy, culture, or philanthropy—made remarkable things happen. The 2016 Alexander Hamilton Awards were presented to Harvey Silverglade, civil liberties litigator, author and cofounder of Foundation for Individual Rights in Education (FIRE), and Bruce Kovner, founder of CAM Capital, and chair, board of trustees, the Juilliard School.

2. HAYEK LECTURE
The Hayek Lecture is delivered by the recipient of the Hayek Prize, which honors the book published within the past two years that best reflects Hayek’s vision of economic and individual liberty. The Hayek Prize, with its $50,000 award, is among the world’s most generous book prizes. It was conceived and funded by Manhattan Institute trustee Thomas W. Smith to recognize the influence of F. A. Hayek and to encourage other scholars to follow his example. The winner of the Hayek Prize is chosen from among the nominations by a selection committee of distinguished economists, journalists, and scholars. Past winners include William Easterly, for The White Man’s Burden; John Taylor, for First Principles; and, most recently, Philip Hamburger, for his work Is Administrative Law Unlawful?

3. WRISTON LECTURE
In 1987, the Manhattan Institute initiated a lecture series in honor of Walter B. Wriston: banker, author, government advisor, and member of the Manhattan Institute’s board of trustees. The Wriston Lecture has since been delivered annually in New York City, with honorees drawn from the worlds of government, the academy, religion, business, and the arts. In establishing the lecture, the trustees of the Manhattan Institute—who serve as the selection committee—have sought to inform and enrich intellectual debate surrounding the great public issues of our day and to recognize individuals whose ideas or accomplishments have left a mark on their world. The 2016 Wriston Lecture was delivered by Andrew Roberts, fellow of the Royal Society of Literature and visiting professor at the Department of War Studies, King’s College, London.

4. SOCIAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP AWARDS
Each year since 2001, the Institute, in conjunction with a committee of distinguished scholars, practitioners, and foundation leaders, selects up to five individuals who have originated and effectively steered a nonprofit organization providing direct services to those in need as winners of the Richard Cornuelle Award for Social Entrepreneurship. In keeping with the social entrepreneurship program’s emphasis on the vitality of American civil society, the award is aimed at those with original ideas brought to fruition with predominantly private support, rather than in response to government grant programs. In addition, the Institute annually presents the William E. Simon Prize for Lifetime Achievement in Social Entrepreneurship. This year’s winner was Chris Anderson, curator of TED, a nonprofit global media initiative devoted to “ideas worth spreading.”

5. WILLIAM E. SIMON LECTURE
Annually, since 2007, the Manhattan Institute has sponsored the William E. Simon Lecture on philanthropy and social entrepreneurship. This lecture series seeks to provide a framework—historical and current, scholarly and personal—for understanding trends in American charity and charitable enterprises. The 2016 lecture was delivered by Emmett D. Carson, CEO of the Silicon Valley Community Foundation.

6. JAMES Q. WILSON LECTURE
For 15 years, James Q. Wilson, who died in 2012, delivered an annual lecture for the Manhattan Institute. To continue to honor Wilson’s legacy, the Manhattan Institute has inaugurated an annual lecture series on urban affairs bearing his name. Through this series, we intend to give prominence to new ideas that, like those developed by Wilson, can improve the quality of life in New York and cities across America. The third annual James Q. Wilson Lecture on Urban Affairs was delivered by MI senior fellow and Harvard University economics professor Edward Glaeser.

7. ADAM SMITH SOCIETY NATIONAL MEETING
Every year, the Adam Smith Society holds its national meeting in New York. This conference brings together MBA student and alumni members from across the country for an intense weekend of education and networking. Past national meetings have featured keynote addresses by prominent executives such as Whole Foods CEO John Mackey, former Hewlett-Packard CEO Carly Fiorina, and Amicus Therapeutics CEO John Crowley, in addition to industry-focused breakout sessions that pair scholars and practitioners, and panels on topics such as the morality of capitalism and how the media portrays business. The national meeting provides an invaluable context in which members can get to know one another, begin lifelong connections, and develop a spirit of camaraderie.
Turning Food Deserts into Oases: Why NY’s Public Housing Should Encourage Commercial Development
by Howard Husock
Report 23, October 25, 2016

Are Skilled Trades Doomed to Decline?
by Mark P. Mills
Issues 2016, October 20, 2016

Feeling the Squeeze: Pension Costs Are Crowding Out Education Spending
by Josh B. McGee
Report 22, October 18, 2016

This Land Was Your Land: A Closer Look at 80 by 50
by Robert Bryce
Report 21, October 12, 2016

A Report on Corporate Governance and Shareholder Activism
by James R. Copland, Margaret M. O’Keefe
Proxy Monitor Report, September 27, 2016

Will Free Tuition Increase the Number of College Graduates?
by Max Eden
Issues 2016, September 22, 2016

Lifting the Massachusetts Cap on Charter Schools: Pro and Con
by Max Eden
Issue Brief 55, September 21, 2016

Higher Prices, Fewer Choices: Why California’s Prop. 61 Will Not Bring Drug-Price Relief
by Paul Howard
Issue Brief 54, September 20, 2016

Supportive Housing and the Mentally Ill Homeless
by Stephen Eide
Report 20, September 15, 2016

Poverty After Welfare Reform
by Scott Winship
Report 19, August 22, 2016

Class Actions and the Economics of Internal Dispute Resolution and Financial Fee Forgiveness
by Jason Scott Johnston
Preliminary Report, August 19, 2016

Reforming the U.S. Youth Minimum Wage
by Preston Cooper
Report 18, August 9, 2016

Is a $15 Federal Minimum Wage Appropriate?
by Oren Cass
Issues 2016, July 28, 2016

The Lessons of Long-Term Privatizations: Why Chicago Got It Wrong and Indiana Got It Right
by Aaron M. Renn
Report 17, July 7, 2016

Does America Incarcerate Too Many Nonviolent Criminals?
by Heather Mac Donald
Issues 2016, June 6, 2016

Political Spending and Lobbying
by James R. Copland, Margaret M. O’Keefe
Proxy Monitor Finding, June 30, 2016

Exposed: How America’s Electric Grids Are Becoming Greener, Smarter—and More Vulnerable
by Mark P. Mills
Report 16, June 30, 2016

Environmental Issues
by James R. Copland, Margaret M. O’Keefe
Proxy Monitor Finding, June 28, 2016

Is America’s Safety Net Shrinking?
by Oren Cass
Issues 2016, June 28, 2016

Has Obamacare Been Good for the Economy?
by Casey B. Mulligan
Issues 2016, June 27, 2016

Proxy Access
by James R. Copland, Margaret M. O’Keefe
Proxy Monitor Finding, June 23, 2016

by Alex Armlovich
Issue Brief 53, June 23, 2016

Better Pay, Fairer Pensions III: The Impact of Cash-Balance Pensions on Teacher Retention and Quality
by Josh B. McGee, Marcus A. Winters
Report 15, June 22, 2016

Was Welfare Reform a Success?
by Scott Winship
Issues 2016, June 21, 2016

Missing Benefits, Hidden Costs: The Cloudy Numbers in the EPA’s Proposed Clean Power Plan
by Jonathan A. Lesser
Report 13, June 16, 2016

Justice Out of the Shadows: Federal Deferred Prosecution Agreements and the Political Order
by James R. Copland, Rafael Mangual
Report 14, June 15, 2016

Is There a Student Debt Crisis?
by Max Eden
Issues 2016, June 9, 2016

Chicago Crowd-Out: How Rising Pension Costs Harm Current Teachers—and Students
by Josh B. McGee
Issue Brief 52, May 25, 2016

Grading Schools Promotes Accountability and Improvement: Evidence from NYC, 2013–15
by Marcus A. Winters
Issue Brief 51, May 24, 2016

A Farewell to Reform: NYC’s Education-Accountability System
by Marcus A. Winters
Issue Brief 50, May 24, 2016

Over-Medicaid-ed: How Medicaid Distorts and Dilutes America’s Safety Net
by Oren Cass
Report 12, May 19, 2016
The Manhattan Institute annually publishes numerous full-length research reports on topics related to key issue areas. This body of work—authored by our resident fellows, associated scholars, and outside experts—has shaped the thinking of policymakers, thought leaders, the media, and the general public.

Are Billionaires Buying Elections?
by Daniel DiSalvo
Issues 2016, May 19, 2016

What Happens to an Economy When Forced to Use Renewable Energy?
by Robert Bryce

The Pension Grand Bargain: A New Reform Model for Cities
by Howard Husock

Precision Oncology in the Era of Health Care Reform
by Paul Howard
Report 10, April 28, 2016

Who Pays the Bill for the Obama Climate Agenda?
by Oren Cass
Issues 2016, April 21, 2016

Will Obamacare Lead to Universal Coverage?
by Yevgeniy Feyman
Issues 2016, April 6, 2016

The Push for Proxy Access Continues
by James R. Copland
Proxy Monitor Finding, April 14, 2016

Guaranteed Volatility: Pension Costs and State and Local Staffing Levels
by Stephen Eide
Report 9, April 12, 2016

Are Women Paid Less than Men?
by Diana Furchtgott-Roth
Issues 2016, April 6, 2016

The OPEB Off-Ramp: How to Phase Out State and Local Governments’ Retiree Health Care Costs
by Daniel DiSalvo, Stephen Eide
Report 8, March 31, 2016

Inviable—or Not: The Legal Status of Retiree Medical Benefits for State and Local Employees
by Amy B. Monahan
Report 7, March 31, 2016

The New CTE: New York City as Laboratory for America
by Tamar Jacoby, Shaun M. Dougherty
Report 6, March 30, 2016

Energy Policies and Electricity Prices: Cautionary Tales from the European Union
by Robert Bryce
Report 5, March 24, 2016

Keeping Score: How New York Can Encourage Value-Based Health Care Competition
by Paul Howard, Yevgeniy Feyman

Out-of-Pocket Caps: The Wrong Way to Tackle High Drug Prices
by Yevgeniy Feyman
Issue Brief 49, March 10, 2016

Are All the Economic Gains Going to the Top 1 Percent?
by Scott Winship
Issues 2016, March 10, 2016

Safeguarding Public-Pension Systems: A Governance-Based Approach
by James R. Copland, Steven Malanga
Report 3, March 9, 2016

Wasted: How to Fix America’s Sewers
by Aaron M. Renn
Report 2, February 25, 2016

Overcriminalizing the North Star State: A Primer and Possible Reforms for Minnesota
by James R. Copland, Rafael Mangual
Issue Brief 48, February 23, 2016

by Alex Armlovich
Issue Brief 47, February 17, 2016

Expanding America’s Petroleum Power: Geopolitics in the Third Oil Era
by Mark P. Mills
Report 1, February 11, 2016

Only One-Third of College Enrollees End Up in Jobs Requiring College Degrees
by Preston Cooper
The War on Cops
How the New Attack on Law and Order Makes Everyone Less Safe
by Heather Mac Donald
Encounter Books, June 2016

Violent crime has been rising sharply in many American cities after two decades of decline. Homicides jumped nearly 17% in 2015 in the largest 50 cities, the biggest one-year increase since 1993. The reason is what MI senior fellow Heather Mac Donald first identified nationally as the “Ferguson effect”: following the uproar after the 2014 police shooting of Michael Brown in Ferguson, Missouri, officers have been backing off of proactive policing, and criminals are becoming emboldened. The War on Cops gives a powerful voice to the many residents of high-crime neighborhoods who continue to want proactive policing.

Unlocking Precision Medicine
by Paul Howard, Peter W. Huber
Encounter Books, October 2016

New medicines in the pipeline can extend lives, save money, and stop disease before symptoms appear—if we don’t discourage their innovators and investors by trying to lower drug prices artificially. In Unlocking Precision Medicine, MI senior fellows Paul Howard and Peter Huber explore the environment necessary for creation of these health-care game changers and explain how the marketplace can make such medicines more affordable.

Uber-Positive
Why Americans Love the Sharing Economy
by Jared Meyer
Encounter Books, May 2016

Entire industries are being transformed, consumers have more power than ever, and people are finding new ways to earn a living—even in today’s slow-growth economy. These improvements stem from the rise of the so-called sharing economy. Yet such innovation is in danger of being suppressed, explains MI fellow Jared Meyer in Uber-Positive, as governments shelter existing businesses at the expense of nimble start-ups—all under the guise of promoting consumer safety.

Retooling Metropolis
How Social Media, Markets, and Regulatory Innovation Can Make America’s Cities More Livable
by Michael Luca, Donald Shoup, Aaron M. Renn, Alex Armlovich, Jeffrey B. Liebman, Hanna Azemati
Manhattan Institute, September 2016

The experiences that today’s urbanites have with technology, from the iPhone to Uber, set a high service-delivery bar that citizens expect government to meet. Meanwhile, problems of success, such as uneven economic advancement and soaring rents in many cities, pose challenges to future urban growth. Retooling Metropolis, which includes essays by MI’s Aaron Renn and Alex Armlovich, offers practical, novel solutions for a new generation of urban leaders.
WEBSITE STATISTICS

Manhattan Institute’s web sessions, unique users, and pageviews increased 30%.

City Journal broke its record with over 93K daily pageviews on October 10, 2016.

The Beat’s website users and pageviews more than doubled and its e-mail subscribership increased 53%.

SOCIAL MEDIA STATISTICS

482% increase in social traffic

Website traffic driven by social media channels (e.g., Twitter, Facebook) to MI’s website increased more than any other acquisition source.

450% increase in MI’s Facebook-post engagement.

WEBSITE DEVICE USAGE

87% increase in mobile traffic

The number of combined users visiting Manhattan Institute, City Journal, and The Beat websites from a mobile device increased 87%.

PODCAST LISTENERSHIP

3,500 downloads per month

In its first year, City Journal’s “10 Blocks” podcast averaged over 3,500 downloads per month from its iTunes channel.

10 BLOCKS PODCAST FEEDBACK

Nerd Paradise
by Phillip Paige on May 04, 2016
RATING ⭐⭐⭐⭐⭐
Outstanding interviews and guests. I usually have to pause and take notes!

Thank You
by KVD176 on April 23, 2016
RATING ⭐⭐⭐⭐⭐
Excellent podcast, dives into the real issues and gives the appropriate backstory for historical context. I look forward to listening as soon as the notification goes off. Great work guys, keep it going!

Great guests, great hosts
by NYRonin on Feb 28, 2016
RATING ⭐⭐⭐⭐⭐
City Journal is one of the most under-rated political journals I’ve ever seen. It seems most political shows are simply giving a blow-by-blow of petty politics but City Journal gets into the dirty plumbing of urban affairs and economics.

ISSUES 2016

MI’s “Issues 2016” series cuts through the clutter to highlight research and analysis on the major policy issues from this year’s election cycle.

MI’s special “Issues 2016” webpage ranked on pages 1 and 2 of Google during the election.
MANHATTAN INSTITUTE EXPERTS

- ALEX ARMLOVICH, Fellow
- MICHAEL KNOX BERAN, Contributing Editor, City Journal
- CLAIRE BERLINSKI, Contributing Editor, City Journal
- ROBERT BRYCE, Senior Fellow
- OREN CASS, Senior Fellow
- DR. TOM COBURN, Senior Fellow
- PRESTON COOPER, Fellow
- JAMES R. COPLAND, Senior Fellow, Director, Legal Policy
- DANIEL DISALVO, Senior Fellow
- STEPHEN EIDE, Senior Fellow
- RICHARD A. EPSTEIN, Visiting Scholar
- DR. ANDREW VON ESCHENBACH, Project FDA Advisor
- THEODORE DALRYMPLE, Contributing Editor, City Journal

- BRIAN C. ANDERSON, Editor, City Journal
- CHARLES W. CALOMIRIS, Adjunct Fellow
- DANIEL DISALVO, Senior Fellow
- DR. ANDREW VON ESCHENBACH, Project FDA Advisor
- RICHARD A. EPSTEIN, Visiting Scholar
Beth Akers is a senior fellow at the Manhattan Institute. Before joining MI, she was a fellow in the Brookings Institution’s Center on Children and Families. Akers previously held the position of staff economist with the President's Council of Economic Advisors, where she worked on federal student lending policy as well as other education and labor issues. She is an expert on the economics of education, with a focus on higher-education policy. She is the coauthor of Game of Loans: The Rhetoric and Reality of Student Debt. Akers received a B.S. in mathematics and economics from SUNY Albany and a Ph.D. in economics from Columbia University.

Max Eden is a senior fellow at the Manhattan Institute. Before joining MI, he was program manager of the education-policy studies department at the American Enterprise Institute. Eden’s research interests include early education, school choice, and higher-education reform. He was coeditor, with Frederick M. Hess, of An Education Agenda for 2016: Conservative Solutions for Expanding Opportunity (2015). Eden’s work has appeared in scholarly and popular outlets, such as the Journal of School Choice, Encyclopedia of Education Economics and Finance, Washington Post, U.S. News & World Report, National Review, Claremont Review of Books, and The Weekly Standard. He holds a B.A. in history from Yale University.

Tara-Marie Lynch joins MI as director of marketing, bringing with her years of experience in measurable digital marketing success. Lynch will be developing, implementing, and managing multichannel (online and offline) marketing strategies to extend the reach of our fellows’ policy research and ideas. In addition, she will identify and expand key audiences through brand-building and engagement-driven initiatives. Lynch has dabbled in political and economic policy research herself, publishing three academic theses as a summa cum laude, triple-degree graduate of Binghamton University. We are pleased to welcome her to our growing team.
In 2017, MI will mark its 40th year of “turning intellect into influence,” and remains committed as ever to this mission. In the year ahead, we anticipate many opportunities to promote our ideas and encourage reform across a range of public-policy areas. There will be a host of celebratory events and projects. Please stay tuned.
Why Invest in MI?
An investment in the Manhattan Institute is a demonstration of belief in the intellectual and moral ideals that our scholars advance: economic choice, individual liberty, the rule of law, free markets, and responsible government. Your contribution also represents a uniquely American approach to social engagement, in which private citizens, foundations, and organizations direct their resources to the causes of their choosing. MI’s trustees, scholars, and staff deeply value this trust, your contribution, and the confidence that it signifies. With your support, MI’s scholars are putting forward fresh ideas about public policies that can help Americans live healthier, more productive, and more fulfilling lives. When you give to MI, your generosity turns intellect into influence.

Traditional Support
To donate to MI via check, wire, or stock transfer, please call us at 212-599-7000 or e-mail support@manhattan-institute.org.

Give Online
To submit a gift of any amount via MI’s website, visit us at www.manhattan-institute.org/support.

Planned Giving
Please consider making a planned gift to the Manhattan Institute. Such gifts can include bequests by will or living trust, charitable trusts, a designation in a retirement plan, charitable gift annuities, or a designation in a life-insurance policy. For more information, please visit our website at www.manhattan-institute.org and download the printer-friendly information sheet on our sponsorship page or contact the MI sponsorship office at 212-599-7000.

Young Leaders Circle
The Young Leaders Circle (YLC) welcomes members (membership fee is $250/year) who are in their twenties and thirties to ten evening cocktail parties per year. These events feature guest speakers on a variety of public-policy topics. Donors under 40 who give at the $1,000 level are invited to join the Young Leaders Advisory Committee, which, in addition to the monthly YLC events, holds two private events with Manhattan Institute trustees and fellows. We are proud to report that our program is growing by leaps and bounds. If you know anyone under 40 who might be interested in membership, contact us at ylc@manhattan-institute.org or 212-599-7000.

Adam Smith Society
If you are an MBA student or business school graduate—or know someone who is—and would like to become part of the national Adam Smith Society network, please contact us at adamsmith@manhattan-institute.org or 212-599-7000.

Lawrence Mone, President
Vanessa C. Mendoza, Executive Vice President
Brian Anderson, Editor, City Journal
Michael Barreiro, Vice President, Operations
Leigh Harrington, Vice President, Communications & Marketing
Howard Husock, Vice President, Research & Publications
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Manhattan Institute is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. Contributions are tax-deductible to the fullest extent of the law.
About the Manhattan Institute

The mission of the Manhattan Institute is to develop and disseminate new ideas that foster greater economic choice and individual responsibility.

The Manhattan Institute for Policy Research is a leading voice of free-market ideas, shaping political culture since our founding in 1977. Ideas that have changed the United States for the better—welfare reform, tort reform, proactive policing, and supply-side tax policies, among others—are the heart of MI’s legacy.

While continuing with what is tried and true, we are constantly developing new ways of advancing our message in the battle of ideas.

MI Policy Research

The Manhattan Institute recruits experts in a range of domestic-policy areas. Fellows write reports and books; convene conferences; testify at government hearings; and publicize their research and ideas through public speaking and constant media engagement, including op-eds, TV and radio appearances, and blogging.

MI’s Work on the Ground

To show the efficacy of putting policy prescriptions into practice, MI will often collaborate with cities and public officials. Following the 9/11 terrorist attacks, at the NYPD’s request we launched a policy division to advise the police on the development of a counterterrorism strategy. In Newark, New Jersey, the Institute partnered with Mayor Cory Booker to implement a new approach to prisoner reentry, based on the principle of connecting ex-offenders with paid work immediately upon release. And in 2012–13, MI experts were embedded in the Detroit Police Department, helping the Motor City implement Broken Windows policing (a long-standing focus of the Institute) in order to get a handle on the city’s crime problem.

MI’s Quarterly Magazine, City Journal

In 1990, the Institute founded its magazine, City Journal, as an intellectual and journalistic response to New York’s downward spiral and to the illness of the American city generally. Called “arguably America’s best magazine” by economist Thomas Sowell and “the great Fool Killer in the arena of urban policy” by novelist Tom Wolfe, City Journal has articulated and promoted ideas that have driven the urban renaissance of recent decades. According to former New York mayor Rudolph Giuliani, “If there was a charge of plagiarism for political programs, I’d probably be in a lot of trouble, because I think we plagiarized most of them, if not all of them, from the pages of City Journal and the thinking and analysis of the Manhattan Institute.”

MI’s Book Program

MI books have a habit of sparking national conversation and reframing the public debate. An early example was Charles Murray’s Losing Ground (1984), which demonstrated empirically that open-ended welfare benefits incentivize self-destructive behavior among the poor and which helped pave the way for landmark federal welfare reform in 1996. The Bottomless Well (2005), by Peter Huber and Mark Mills, was referred to by Bill Gates as “the only book I’ve seen that really explains energy, its history, and what it will be like going forward.” Zappos CEO Tony Hsieh has cited Triumph of the City (2011), by Edward Glaeser, as a key influence in his urban experiment to revitalize downtown Las Vegas. And George Gilder has called Huber’s The Cure in the Code (2013) the “most important policy book of the decade.”

MI and the Next Generation

As the perpetuation of the American experiment depends on the next generation, the Institute has developed initiatives to influence the intellectual formation of tomorrow’s leaders, such as the Adam Smith Society, based at business school campuses. In the wake of the financial crisis and in response to the charged rhetoric in the air about capitalism, MI started this new program, modeling it after the Federalist Society at law schools. With a growing number of chapters at MBA programs nationwide and alumni chapters springing up in major cities, the Adam Smith Society is preparing the CEOs, financiers, and entrepreneurs of tomorrow to be intelligent, engaged participants in the debate over the future of the free-enterprise system.