

Greetings Southern Municipal Finance Society Members:

We hope this educational update finds you all well in 2021! In this issue we gathered a group of interesting reads, podcasts and data reports for a few quick reads on hot topics across our southern states and the municipal industry.

In 2020 the SMFS board turned its focus on updating the by-laws and updating our website to make the network stronger and add more valuable to you; the members. We look forward to returning to in person visits with all of you soon. In the meantime, please check out our recently updated website: [Southern Municipal Finance Society](https://smfs.memberclicks.net/)

In this issue of educational highlights, we focused on current topics that have affected us in the first quarter of 2021 and what will shape the municipal market going forward.

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| **Topic** | **Source** |
| **Environmental -Climate Risk**  **(Riskybusiness.org)** | [Southeast Report](https://riskybusiness.org/report/come-heat-and-high-water-climate-risk-in-the-southeastern-u-s-and-texas/)  [Come Heat and High Water: Climate Risk in the Southeastern U.S. and Texas](https://riskybusiness.org/report/come-heat-and-high-water-climate-risk-in-the-southeastern-u-s-and-texas/) |
| This report identifies the economic risks posed by a changing climate across 11 states in the Southeast, and Texas. The report also highlights the risks to manufacturing, a key driver of recent economic growth in this region. |
| **Texas Power Outage**  **(Commerce Street)** | Podcast: [Power crisis from Texas winter storm could lead to years of economic impact](https://commercestreet.podbean.com/e/power-crisis-from-texas-winter-storm-could-lead-to-years-economic-impact/) |
| A podcast on the economic impact of the Texas power outages |
| **Healthcare in 2021**  **(AAMC)** | [Podcast: A Look Ahead: AAMC 2021 Advocacy and Policy Priorities](https://www.aamc.org/news-insights/podcast-look-ahead-aamc-2021-advocacy-and-policy-priorities) |
| The pandemic has left serious challenges in its wake for the academic medicine community to address. From health equity to provider relief, teaching hospitals and medical schools are creating new strategies to improve the health of people everywhere. And as congressional lawmakers continue their work on Capitol Hill, the academic medicine community is looking for ways to educate policymakers about the issues that will help their institutions continue to serve their patients and communities. |
| **Social Justice Practice in**  **Local Governments**  **(ABA)** | [Local governments aim to improve racial equity and social justice](https://www.americanbar.org/news/abanews/aba-news-archives/2021/02/local-governments-aim-to-improve-racial-equity-and-social-justic/) |
| The death of George Floyd in Minneapolis last summer at the hands of a police officer brought America’s longstanding issues with racial justice into the spotlight and prompted nationwide protests by millions of people. But efforts to address inequities have been happening at the local level long before last summer or even the start of the Black Lives Matter movement. |
| **Pandemic Analysis**  **(Dallas Fed)** | [COVID-19 Slammed into Texas, Leaving Long-Lasting Impacts](https://www.dallasfed.org/research/swe/2021/swe2101/swe2101b?utm_source=cvent&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=sweQ12021) |
| The economic road from the COVID-19 recession in Texas will likely feature a steeper, more rapid climb than the usual gradual rise associated with most recoveries. Some structural changes that the pandemic wrought will take longer to resolve, including those that will make work from home a longer-term occupational reality for some. |
| **Just for Fun**  **(SoFi Blog)** | [US Customers Can Now Purchase Teslas With Bitcoin](https://www.sofi.com/blog/us-customers-can-now-purchase-teslas-bitcoin/) |
| Does electric generating bitcoin outdo the environmental impact of Tesla’s electric cars? You decide… |

We hope you enjoyed the information. Please reach out if you have more educational topics that you would like to hear more about.

Stay well,

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