

Popular Government

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ON THE COVER

Unlike most private employers, public employers may not freely test their employees for drugs. The courts have established rules that public employers must follow.

COVER ARTICLE

4 **Safety versus Privacy: When May a Public Employer Require a Drug Test?**

Diane M. Juffras

Drug testing of public employees is considered a search under the Fourth Amendment and therefore must meet certain requirements aimed at protecting people's privacy. What are these requirements, and when do they apply?

FEATURE ARTICLES

17 **Paying Up Front for Disposal of Special Wastes**

Jeff Hughes

To address public health and environmental problems posed by disposal of large appliances and scrap tires, North Carolina has introduced an innovative funding method—one that also may work with old computers, TVs, and other electronic goods.

24 **Achieving More Independence in Government Audits**

Charles K. Coe and Martha K. Rodgers

Audit committees help ensure the independence of contract and in-house auditors, whose role is to monitor the financial health of an organization. Such committees are little used in North Carolina government, however. This article explains why and discusses situations in which local governments should consider creating an audit committee.

29 **Program Evaluation in Local Governments: Building Consensus through Collaboration**

Maureen Berner and Matt Bronson

"Participatory evaluation," an alternative to traditional approaches to evaluation, changes the nature of the activity from a process with potential conflict to an opportunity for program improvement and partnership.

FROM THE MPA PROGRAM

35 **Ensuring Communication: Providing Translation and Interpretation Services**

Catherine Dyksterhouse Foca

North Carolina's cities and towns must serve many people with limited English proficiency, especially Latinos. At the same time, they face tighter budgets. How can they meet residents' needs while not stretching limited resources too far?

DEPARTMENTS

2 **NC Journal**

Study of Juvenile Representation in Delinquency Proceedings Under Way • New Law Expands State Authority to Act in Event of Bioterrorism • School Receives Grant to Promote Partnerships in Community Improvement

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