



The 2026 Governors'

State of the State Addresses

A Running Recap of the 2026 Governors'
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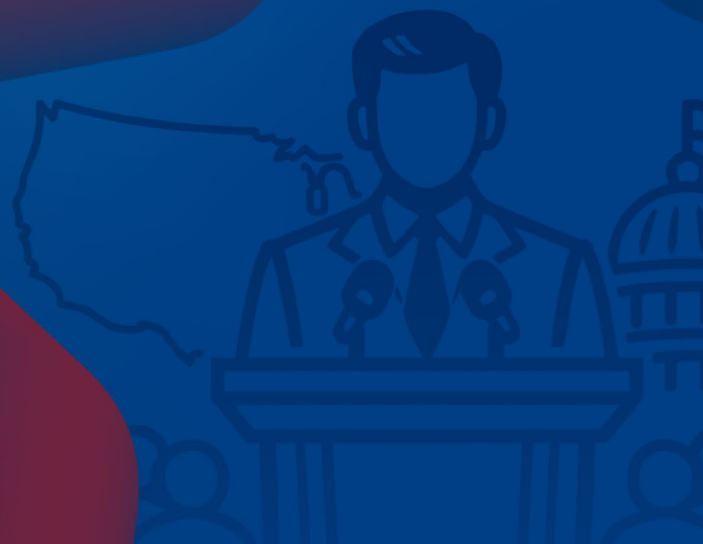


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We want to make sure you're getting the most accurate picture possible. In some instances, we have pulled language directly from the public text of the speeches to ensure no context was lost in translation.

ALABAMA

Governor Kay Ivey (R) – January 13

[Full Speech Text](#)

Economic Development

- Ivey highlighted that the state has created over 100,000 jobs since she took office in April 2017.
- Announced that the Space Command Headquarters will be located in Alabama.

Education

- Ivey overviewed the success of his Strong Start, Strong Finish education initiative. The initiative has improved the state's rankings in math and reading, expanded access to pre-k, and increased the college and career readiness rate. It has also created and strengthened specialty schools.
- Proposed an additional \$50 million dollars for K-12 safety efforts.
- Endorsed a bill that would create a temporary teaching certificate pathway for qualified veterans.
- Highlighted his support for school choice and proposed increasing funding for the CHOOSE Act to \$250 million.
- Ivey's Education Trust Fund proposal includes a two percent pay increase for teachers.
- Highlighted the success of his Turnaround Schools initiative in accelerating growth in the most challenged classrooms.

Environmental

- Encouraged the passage of legislation that will establish a statewide resilience plan to better prepare the state for both natural and manmade disasters.
- Announced the creation of a statewide flood notification system that will officially launch in Summer 2026. Asked the legislature to continue funding this notification system moving forward.

Government Operations

- Proposed a two percent pay raise for all state employees.

Healthcare

- Announced that the state received more than \$203 million in first-year funding from the Rural Health Transformation Program.
- Called for the passage of legislation aimed at boosting rural healthcare delivery.

Public Safety

- One of Ivey's main priorities is public safety. Called upon the legislature to pass a bill that cracks down on repeat criminal offenders.

Technology

- Endorsed a bill that will limit screen time for children ages five years old and younger in publicly funded early learning centers.
- Highlighted that the state's investments in broadband connectivity led the state to go from near-bottom rankings to 24th in the nation in broadband access.

Economic Development

- Highlighted six straight years of job growth and wages growing faster than the national average.
- Mentioned that the Alaska Industrial Development and Export Authority just posted its second year in a row of record net income and is leading the way on some of the biggest resource development projects in state history.

Education

- Highlighted the success of the READS act.
- Hopes to increase access to public charter schools for all students, create an open enrollment system, address teacher retention with incentive payments, and make targeted investments with accountability-based reforms.

Energy

- Highlighted first-of-its-kind MOU with the Federal Permitting Council to streamline project permitting under the FAST-41 program.
- Celebrated the Trump Administration's steps to increase oil and gas production including offshore, reopening millions of acres in the NPR-A, finalizing plans to open ANWR, and promoting Alaska LNG on the international stage.
- Mentioned his administration's success in securing funding from North Slope producers to finish permitting for the Alaska LNG Project.
- "We've set up the State of Alaska to welcome advanced nuclear power, carbon capture and storage technologies, data centers, and emerging energy sources such as tidal and sustainable aviation fuels."
- Touted reform and upgrade of the major power transmission system on the Railbelt and expansion of the Bradley Lake hydro project through the Dixon Diversion.
- Mentioned the Alaska Affordable Energy Fund and the potential for hundreds of millions of dollars to flow into rural energy projects.

Healthcare

- Highlighted new \$272 million per year for the next five years to transform health care system.
- Addressed the success and expansion of the Alaska Psychiatric Institute.

Housing

- Highlighted the work of the Alaska Housing Finance Corporation to address affordability and availability.
- "Through legislation we sponsored in 2024, AHFC is now able to offer lower down payments and rebates on new construction of energy efficient homes."
- Discussed prioritized rural workforce housing for teachers, health care workers, and law enforcement.
- Mentioned plans to introduce initiative creating a partnership between the State, the Alaska Housing Finance Corporation, and willing municipalities aimed at increasing the housing supply.

Technology

- Alaska is on track to be one of the first states to handle most of its business in the cloud.
- "With data centers, fiber connectivity, and our strategic location, I believe in a future where Alaska could be a global hub for information just as it is for transportation and logistics."

Transportation

- Highlighted record-setting \$183 million in federal highway funds for transportation infrastructure improvements.
- Mentioned the addition of five new cargo carriers in Anchorage over the past five years.
- Touted port infrastructure projects in Kotzebue and Nome in preparation for expanded Arctic shipping and for national security interests.

ARIZONA

Governor Katie Hobbs (D) – January 12

[Full Speech Text](#)

Anti-Administration

- Hobbs referenced the One Big Beautiful Bill focusing on the cuts to Medicaid and food assistance and the increased national debt.
- Expressed her dissatisfaction with FEMA in failing to provide emergency funding following extreme flooding in the towns of Globe and Miami.
- Criticized the federal government for their negligence in protecting the southern border, causing Arizona to rack up over \$700 million in border security expenses over the last five years. Hobbs indicated that the state expects the federal government to repay these costs.

Data Centers

- Asked data centers to pay their fair share for their water use. If data centers were to pay one cent for every one gallon of water they use, the state could make a multi-million-dollar deposit into the Colorado River Protection fund each year.
- Executive budget calls to eliminate the \$38 million Data Center Tax Exemption.

Economic Development

- Named affordability as her top priority.
- Supports tax cuts for the middle class and will sign a package that increases standard deductions and cuts taxes on overtime pay on tips.
- Addressed the Reactivation of the Greater Arizona Development Authority expanded opportunities to build infrastructure for rural communities.

Education

- Plans to strengthen public education by bringing greater oversight to the Empowerment Scholarship Account (ESA) Program.
- Hobbs calls to renew Proposition 123 without the addition of constitutional protections to the ESA entitlement program.

Environmental

- Launching a new Active Management Area for La Paz County to continue efforts to crack down on out-of-state special interests to protect local groundwater supplies.
- To supercharge conservation efforts and continue building a sustainable and growing economy, Hobbs' Executive Budget will include thirty million dollars for a new Colorado River Protection Fund.

Government Reform

- Hobbs's executive budget will include a new Arizona Capacity and Efficiency Initiative. The goal of this initiative is to streamline, consolidate, and cut costs to government.

Healthcare

- Addressed her initiative to cancel medical debt led to \$642 million worth of medical debt to be erased for nearly half a million people without adding any additional costs to the state government.
- Vowed to continue efforts to prevent dangerous drugs, including fentanyl and other illicit substances, from entering the state.

Housing

- Launching a new Housing Acceleration Fund to build more affordable housing at a faster rate. The fund leverages public and private dollars to unlock lower cost financing and multiply the affordable homes built. The initiative will begin with an initial \$2.5 million investment.
- Proposed the creation of the Arizona Affordability Fund to help families pay their utility bills, weatherize their homes to lower energy costs, and build more affordable housing units.
- Suggested a nightly fee of \$3.50 on short-term rental stays to help increase the Arizona Affordability Fund.

CALIFORNIA

Governor Gavin Newsom (D) – January 8

[Full Speech Text](#)

Anti-Administration

- “The administration’s mini-dramas and vapid day trading, all with real-world consequences, none more striking than the Big Beautiful Bill. That bill is putting 1.8 million Californians at risk of losing their health insurance, and 2 million facing premium increases. Cuts to food aid — poised to impact 375,000 Californians.”
- And for what? All to benefit the top 10% of this country — people who already own two-thirds of the household wealth. Plutarch was right when he warned us 2,000 years ago that this imbalance of the rich and the poor “is the oldest and most fatal ailment of all republics.”

Artificial Intelligence

- Newsom referenced the work last year on landmark legislation to create the nation’s first rules for responsible, ethical, and safe use of AI, regulations that provide guardrails that balance risk and opportunity.
- Called the bill a consensus effort and a template for the nation.

Economic Development

- The governor’s office unveiled the state’s first economic development blueprint last year with over 10,000 people participating in the development.

Education

- Newsom’s budget proposal will contain the most significant investments in public education in California history.
- Continued investment in school meals.

Energy

- Referenced high energy bills as a component of the affordability crisis.

Healthcare

- Cited the need to lower health care costs.
- California is launching its own generic drug label and launched insulin at \$11 a pen.
- Trumpeted the state’s overhauled mental health system.
- On July 1 of this year, California will implement the second phase of Proposition 1 by redirecting over \$1 billion in annual mental health funding to housing and treatment for people living on the streets.

Housing

- Last year Newsom signed 61 housing reform bills.
- Wants to work with the legislature to reduce the cost of construction by utilizing new building methods and technology.

Technology

- Referenced the successful passage of bills during the 2025 session including banning cellphones in schools, age verification, parental control, and chatbot safety.

COLORADO

Governor Jared Polis (D) – January 15

[Full Speech Text](#)

Anti-Administration

- “Big Government is in our wallets, our doctor’s offices, in our homes, bullying businesses of all sizes.”
- Referenced negative impacts of HR 1, including state budget cuts and slashing of Medicaid and SNAP, with states tariff taxes driving up costs for Coloradans.

Education

- Touted that the average teacher pay is up over \$13,000 dollars per year.
- Celebrated that 98% of kindergarteners take advantage of free-full day kindergarten.
- Referenced his role in the National Governors Association (NGA) as the Chair, supporting the Initiative: Let’s Get Ready: Educating All Americans for Success.

Environmental

- Reconfirmed that by 2030, more than 70% of Colorado’s electricity will come from wind and solar.
- Called for permitting across the state to be clear, fast, and consistent.
- Implementing the visionary Colorado Water Plan and directing over \$127 million in new funding to support local water projects.

Healthcare

- Called on the federal government to take on action for a solution to healthcare affordability.

Housing

- Polis highlighted several initiatives that Colorado has implemented for housing, including the construction of 10,000 new homes through proposition 123. The state also launched the innovative housing hub to make it easier to apply for affordable rental housing tax credits.
- Plans to bring down homeowners insurance rates, through steps such as making hail resistant roofs more affordable and reducing fire risks.

Pharmaceuticals

- Critical of the insurance and pharmaceutical industries
- “When it comes to health care, special interests like big hospitals, big pharma, big insurance and Pharmacy Benefit Managers, are the umpires and have way too much influence to call the pitches the way they like.”

Taxation

- Highlighted that the state worked to close corporate tax loopholes during special session.
- Hopes to reduce the state’s income tax rate.

Transportation

- Re-paved 2,500 miles of roads in the past five years.
- Increased the number of electric vehicles from 18,000 in 2019 to 204,000 in 2026.
- Wants to make it more affordable to get an electric vehicle by directing savings to lower-cost electric vehicles.

Technology

- Identified Colorado’s position as a leading state for artificial intelligence.

DELAWARE

Governor Matt Meyer (D) – January 22

[Full Speech Text](#)

Economic Development

- Highlighted expanded mission of the Delaware Prosperity Partnership.
- Mentioned the strengthened EDGE grant program to help Delaware small businesses.
- Highlighted federal small business funding put to work.

Education

- Nearly \$50 million investment in early childhood education in the next year.
- Mentioned widespread use of Literacy Screeners and the adoption of The Science of Reading.
- Promoted the revamped Your Voice, Your Choice program putting funds directly in teachers' hands.
- Highlighted \$8.7 million grant to improve evidence-based literacy in grades four through eight.
- Advocated for a fair funding formula that directs resources based on students' actual needs.

Energy

- Called on the Public Service Commission to stop approving any Delmarva rate hikes.
- Highlighted US Wind, a 1.7-gigawatt project.
- Called for safe, modern nuclear energy.

Government Reform

- Praised efforts within Unemployment Insurance Office and DNREC.

Healthcare

- Highlighted the development of 15 transformative healthcare programs and application for federal rural health transformation funding.
- Mentioned that the federal government sent preliminary notice that the state will, over the next five years, receive more funding than any other competitive grant in state history.
- "That opportunity allows us to pursue Delaware's first medical school, training physicians to serve state-wide, expand training for nurses and physicians' assistants and bring care directly into homes through telehealth, Food is Medicine, and community health programs."
- Called for expanding scope of practice and reforming Certificate of Need.
- Acknowledged the expansion of mobile health units.

Housing

- Announced that the state is streamlining permitting, digitizing approvals, and working with counties and municipalities to make Delaware the most efficient state in the nation to build affordable housing.
- Highlighted work done to implement zoning reforms to enable increased housing production.

FLORIDA

Governor Ron DeSantis (R) – January 13

[Full Speech Video](#)

Artificial Intelligence

- Believes AI threatens to upend key parts of the economy, with consumers footing the bill of expensive data centers.
- He also references the usage of chatbots, and the potential danger they pose to children.

Budget

- Touted improvements to Florida's budget, including tripling Florida's Rainy Day Fund.
- Emphasized limited government and fiscal responsibility.

Education

- Highlighted the high school graduation rate at 92.2%, the highest graduation rate in the state's history
- Renewed emphasis on civics education

Economic Development

- Plans to expand SNAP matching programs and increase affordable child care support for working parents.
- Will support construction apprenticeships tied directly to affordable housing projects.
- Creating public-private workforce pathways in healthcare, energy, and education sectors.

Education

- Expanded pre-school access statewide.
- Launched Sun Bucks to provide summer food benefits to eligible children statewide.

Environment

- Passed the nation's first "Green Fee" — the largest dedicated source of revenue to fund climate action and environmental protection in Hawai'i state history, and the first of its kind in the country.
- Will continue to expand wildfire prevention and preparedness.

Healthcare

- Including \$16.5 million in the proposed 2026 budget to cover the cost of the enhanced ACA tax credits.
- Will improve healthcare access and affordability by expanding the HELP initiative to hundreds more providers across the state.
- Recently announced the state won nearly \$190 million in federal funds for fiscal year 2027, as part of the Rural Health Transformation Program.

Housing

- Highlighted the signing of emergency housing proclamations to cut red tape and move projects faster.
- Over the next decade, more than 20,000 additional homes are planned on state lands.
- Vowed to deliver at least another 10,000 new homes by bringing more short-term rentals back into the housing market.
- Touted the largest investment in reducing homelessness in Hawai'i state history, and building more housing units for the homeless than any previous administration.
- Providing provide \$10.8 million to strengthen Family Assessment Centers and Housing First programs, rapid re-housing, outreach, and civil legal services.
- Committed to delivering another 1,200 interim housing units.

KENTUCKY

Governor Andy Beshear (D) – January 7

[Full Speech Text](#)

Anti-Administration

- Highlighted national tariff and trade policy that is impacting the national economy and slowing or pausing projects.
- Emphasized the impact of the federal budget bill on the state: “It could close 35 rural hospitals, fire 20,000 health-care workers, and eliminate coverage for 200,000 Kentuckians... It also cuts nursing scholarships at a time where a shortage threatens the quality of care our families receive.”

Economic Development

- Highlighted that the state has invested more than \$10.5 billion and created nearly 9,600 jobs in the last year alone.
- Announced that Kentucky secured another top 5 ranking for economic development for the fifth year in a row.
- Proposed budget includes \$70 million for site development to create build-ready, job-ready cities.
- Called for a \$25 million rural economic development fund to bring jobs to these areas.
- Due to the federal government’s cuts to the SNAP program, Beshear’s proposed budget calls for \$50 million to assist food banks.

Education

- Asked for funding for a reentry campus at the Kentucky Community and Technical College System to assist in lowering recidivism rates.
- Proposed budget calls for \$159 million for mandatory raises for educators, seeking to increase take-home pay by nearly 7%.
- Proposed budget adds \$560 million to teachers’ retirement funds.
- Asked members of the General Assembly to pass universal pre-k.

Energy

- Beshear’s proposed budget includes a \$75 million fund to assist residents in paying their utility bills.

Healthcare

- Beshear highlighted his administration’s success in expanding access to healthcare. Specifically highlighted the opening of the Pikeville Medical Center’s (PMC) new children’s hospital and its Appalachian Valley Autism Center that serves over 100,000 children covering 23 Eastern Kentucky counties.

Housing

- Announced his largest affordable housing investment in state history with \$223 million going toward 953 rental units.
- Proposed a \$150 million investment in the state’s Affordable Housing Trust Fund.

Medicaid

- Proposed budget fully funds Medicaid. It provides \$100 million to lower the cost of coverage on kynect (Kentucky benefits program), expands the number of Michelle P. Waiver slots for families of children with special needs, includes \$25 million for nursing student loan forgiveness, and creates a \$125 million rural hospital fund.

Transportation

- Highlighted that construction on the final stretch of the Mountain Parkway began in 2025.

INDIANA

Governor Mike Braun (R) – January 14

[Full Speech Text](#)

Data Centers

- “AI is going to be key to the jobs of the future, but data centers can’t stick Hoosiers with the power bill. Companies that want big power in Indiana should pay their own way.”

Economic Development

- Identified affordability as his top priority
- Pointed to recent gains in wages alongside reductions in the cost of attracting and retaining employers
- Voiced support for legislation aimed at making homeownership more accessible
- Expressed support for initiatives to expand the affordability and availability of childcare, noting interest in a collaborative model in which businesses also contribute.
- Announced he has been all over the state breaking ground on new projects creating thousands of new high wage jobs.

Education

- Supports for tuition freeze at public universities.
- Announced the implementation of universal school choice, effective this fall.
- Trumpeted improvements in starting salaries for teachers across the state.
- Reaffirmed a commitment to protecting and advancing parental rights within educational settings.

Energy

- Stated that utility rates are too high and appointed a new advocate to hold the line.
- Expressed support for legislation to hold investor-owned utility companies accountable to provide affordable energy before they can increase their profit margin.

Government Operations

- The majority of Indiana state agencies operated with 10% cuts this year.

Healthcare

- Announced legislation to keep Hoosiers out of medical debt. “We need creative solutions to make health care affordable and protect families from predatory collections.”
- Highlighted \$465 million in Medicare and Medicaid savings this year.

Tax

- Pointed out historic property tax cut.

Technology

- Supports limiting cellphone use in schools and give parents veto power over their kids and social media: “That’s a decision for you to make as parents, not Big Tech.”

Economic Development

- Announced that the state attracted over \$20 billion in new capital investment since 2024.

Education

- Highlighted focus on evidence-based literacy and math instruction, strengthened accountability, and expanded work-based learning.
- Touted the largest raise for teachers in state history.
- Discussed expanded educational options and universally available Education Savings Accounts.
- Announced a new initiative granting Iowa greater control over federal education funding.
- Announced a bill to ensure per-pupil funding truly follows the student, and ensure that public charter school students have access to concurrent enrollment classes and extracurricular activities.

Government Reform

- Referenced that the state has aligned agencies, eliminated 21 cabinet departments, and cut over 4,000 regulations.
- Stated that Iowa is working with some of the biggest names in tech to modernize state systems, drive efficiencies, and improve services.
- “We’re partnering with Amazon Web Services to consolidate more than 50 state call centers into a single, smarter system that will use AI to get Iowans the help they need — faster, simpler, and at a lower cost. And through a new partnership with Google Public Sector, we’re building a modern, intuitive, and fully compliant Comprehensive Child Welfare system.”

Healthcare

- Discussed a recent award for the state’s plan to strengthen rural health care.
- Highlighted investments in cancer prevention, screening, and treatment.
- Discussed the Healthy Hometowns Initiative to develop cancer care hubs, expand the Centers of Excellence program model to include cardiovascular care and mental health, and create local care teams to provide primary care and chronic disease management.

Tax

- Highlighted a number of tax reform measures put in place by her administration.
- Announced a property tax bill that will cap overall revenue growth for local governments.
- Mentioned a proposal that freezes property tax bills for Iowans age 65 and up whose homes are valued at \$350,000 or less.
- Announced a tax-deductible savings account for first-time homebuyers.
- Discussed plans to modernize the beginning-farmer tax credit.

Economic Development

- Kelly highlighted her administration's success in securing the bid to move the Kansas City Chief's stadium to Kansas, creating thousands of new jobs and sparking increased economic activity.
- New businesses have invested over \$30 billion and created over 80,000 new jobs in the state.

Education

- Citing the federal government's cuts to special education funding, Kelly's proposed budget includes increased investments in special education.
- Proposed allowing students who receive reduced price meals to move entirely to free meals, highlighting that the cost of groceries is creating increased economic strain on families.

Environmental

- Called upon the newly established Water Task Force to lay out a comprehensive long-term strategy and identify a dedicated funding source to help address the state's water crisis.

Government Reform

- Created the Office of Early Childhood to provide parents, providers, and businesses with a single point of contact for all things related to early childhood.

Healthcare

- Mental health is one of Kelly's priorities this legislative session, indicating the need to increase access to treatment, invest more in crisis response, and expand the behavioral health workforce.
- Kelly supports and will sign a bill banning cell phone use during the school day, highlighting the impact of smartphones and social media on children's mental health.

Technology

- Addressed the creation of the Office of Rural Prosperity to address the unique economic needs of rural communities. Through this office, Kelly's administration invested millions in high-speed internet, connecting over 117,000 homes and businesses with these services.

Anti-Administration

- Highlighted Trump administration’s cuts to healthcare through the Big Beautiful Bill. The state is estimated to lose \$5 billion in health care funds over the next ten years.

Economic Development

- Mills highlighted that state has seen an increase in 16,200 private sector jobs over her seven years in office.
- Mentioned that Maine’s unemployment rate has been below four percent for nearly four years.
- Mills’ Maine Jobs and Recovery Plan has enrolled more than 20,000 people in job training programs since its implementation.
- Proposed sending eligible residents (an estimated 725,000 people) a \$300 Affordability Relief check to offset some of the costs of goods and groceries. Funding for the relief checks will be drawn from the state’s Rainy Day Fund that currently stands at the legal maximum of more than one billion dollars.

Education

- Mills called to make the free community college program permanent in the state. Last year, the legislature agreed to continue it through the class of 2025.
- Proposed supplemental budget contains an additional \$46 million to maintain the state’s commitment to pay 55 percent of the costs of education and prevent property tax increases.
- To improve math and reading skills, the Maine Department of Education created the Maine State Reading and Math Action Plans to bring more evidence-based instruction, educator training, and academic partnerships to the classroom.
- Highlighted support for banning cell phones in the classroom.

Energy

- Called to diversify the state’s energy sources by bringing in more clean energy to offset natural gas.
- Announced that administration will make rebates for high efficiency water heaters and heat pumps available.

Healthcare

- Proposed supplemental budget includes a one-time appropriation of \$2.25 million in General Funds to replace federal cuts to Planned Parenthood and Maine Family Planning’s primary care services.
- Announced that the state received \$190 million through the Rural Health Transformation Program.
- Mills called upon the federal government to address the current healthcare crisis, highlighting that “nothing short of universal health care is acceptable.”

Housing

- Announced a \$70 million “American Dream” proposal to further expand housing. The proposal will result in 825 new homes across Maine.
- Proposed two new pilot programs, backed by \$17.5 million in one-time funding from the Rainy Day Fund and administered by MaineHousing to build 530 new homes and apartments for middle class families.
- Called to increase investments in existing housing programs, through a one-time investment of \$52.5 million from the Rain Day Fund, which will in turn trigger at least \$15 million in Federal matching funds.

Tax

- Highlighted Maine’s various tax credit programs including the Earned Income Tax Credit, the Dependent Exemption Tax Credit, the Student Loan Tax Credit, and the Property Tax Fairness Credit.

Transportation

- Under Mill’s administration, nearly 200 bridges have been repaired and nearly 8,000 miles of road have been repaved.

Anti-Administration

- Criticized the Trump Administration blaming the tariff policy for driving up cost of living.

Consumer Protection

- Called upon the legislature to introduce legislation that makes it easier for to cancel subscriptions to streaming services and apps.

Economic Development

- Proposed budget includes increased funding for local food banks.
- Highlighted that the state cut 25% of regulations on small businesses to help lower their costs.
- Announced that the state plans to have 100,000 apprentices over the next 10 years to increase the workforce across various trades, nursing, early education, and technology.

Education

- Mentioned that the state is ahead of their goal in securing Universal Pre-K funding in every Gateway City.
- Announced a new goal of enrolling 100,000 students in Early College within 10 years.
- Highlighted that the state is ranked number one in the Nation's Report Card in every single category.
- Mentioned that the state has added over 20,000 childcare seats.

Energy

- Mental health is one of Kelly's priorities this legislative session, indicating the need to increase access to treatment, invest Stated that she will oppose any big rate hike that utilities ask for.
- Healey filed energy affordability legislation that seeks to increase power supply, drive down costs, and save a projected \$13 billion.
- Energy supply strategy involves an "all of the above" approach which includes using wind, solar, hydro, gas, and nuclear to power homes and businesses.
- Announced the launch of a new hydroelectric line that is projected to lower bills by \$50 million.
- Healey stated that the state will go after more solar, more transmission, and more battery storage to further build the state's energy supply.
- Proposed requiring utilities to buy energy at the lowest price.
- Cutting residents' electric bills by 25% and gas bills by 10% in February and March 2026.

Healthcare

- Healey highlighted that last year her administration capped what insurance companies can charge people in deductibles and copays.
- Proposed eliminating prior authorization meaning that residents will no longer need insurance companies to sign off on treatment.
- Called to ban medical debt from being reported to credit agencies.
- Announced the creation of a Health Care Affordability Working Group to bring leaders across all sectors to work and decrease healthcare costs.

Housing

- Healey's housing strategy prioritizes building more houses at a faster rate. She highlighted her administration's success in decreasing the environmental approval process down to 30 days as opposed to over year.
- Due to COVID leading to more remote work, more cities have empty offices. As a result, her housing strategy looks to use empty and unused property such as former courthouses, hospitals, and state offices and turning them into housing.
- Announced the expansion of the program that gives families \$25,000 towards a down payment.

Technology

- Proposed new parental consent and age verification requirements on social media platforms.

Transportation

- Announced an \$8 billion plan to improve the transportation system. This includes accelerating bridge construction.

MISSOURI

Governor Mike Kehoe (R) – January 13

[Full Speech Text](#)

Artificial Intelligence

- Announced his signing of an executive order to reinforce Missouri’s commitment to safely and effectively use AI in state government operations
- Stated that Missouri is open for AI and open for business.

Budget

- Kehoe’s proposed budget cuts more than \$600 million.
- Stated that the current budget has a historic imbalance.
- Economic Development
- Named economic development as a top priority for the administration

Energy

- Strongly committed to nuclear power.
- Kehoe called on the legislature to pass Senator Cierpiot and Representative Hurlbert’s update to Missouri’s Renewable Energy Standard (SB 838)
- Addressed his executive order establishing the Advanced Nuclear Energy Task Force to promote nuclear energy deployment in Missouri.
- Supports adding guardrails around industrial solar developments.

Taxes

- Working to phase-out and eliminate Missouri’s individual income tax. He called on members of the legislature to pass a joint resolution placing the proposal before voters.

DEI

- Pillen’s proposed budget includes language that eliminates DEI and Critical Race Theory (CRT) from Nebraska’s higher education system.

Education

- Secured an agreement with the University of Nebraska that allows every Nebraska student who scores a 33 or better on their ACT to get a full scholarship, with housing included, to the university.
- Called for the unicameral to repeal a current law that prevents schools from suspending kindergarten through second grade students from their schools.

Energy

- Called upon the unicameral to pass a bill that will remove government red tape for large power users, such as artificial intelligence, aviation fuel, and bioeconomy plants, to allow them to build their own power plant and sell excess electricity onto the grid.

Government Reform

- Pillen highlighted his administration’s success in decreasing the size of government and cutting costs while still improving outcomes.

Healthcare

- Announced that the state received over \$218 million from the Rural Health Transformation program.

Tax

- Announced his Grow the Goodlife Incentive which provides a 10% tax credit for a decade to businesses who experience growth due to bringing in new, highly paid employees to the state.
- Pillen’s proposed budget calls for a decrease in government spending in order to deliver tax relief to residents. He plans to accomplish this through running government like a business to eliminate and merge duplicative or costly parts of government.

Technology

- Called for the passage of an agriculture data privacy bill that ensures the state’s farmers and livestock producers maintain ownership over their data.

Tort Reform

- Highlighted support for a series of tort reform bills that aim to protect the state’s workforce from “frivolous” lawsuits.

NEW JERSEY

Governor Phil Murphy (D) – January 13

[Full Speech Text](#)

Anti-Administration

- “When President Trump has tried to attack our communities and our families, we have always fought back. We have taken them to court. And more often than not: We have won.”

Artificial Intelligence

- Maintained that New Jersey is a leader in AI
- Discussed partnership with Princeton and University to launch the New Jersey AI Hub, alongside New Jersey’s very own AI hyperscaler, Coreweave.
- Mentioned that public sector workers are trained to use secure AI platforms.
- Observed that his administration has used AI to shore up the state’s safety net.
- Stated that New Jersey has led the nation in addressing the risks of AI and other emerging technologies, highlighting the Deepfakes law passed last April.

Economic Development

- Discussed law nearly doubling the minimum wage and successes in job creation and small business support.
- Highlighted the Louisa Carman Medical Debt Relief Act which helped eliminate over a billion dollars in medical debt for almost 800,000 New Jerseyans.
- Announced the launch of 12 Strategic Innovation Centers.
- Discussed measures addressing the affordability crisis including increasing property tax relief, lowering the costs of essentials like health care, housing, and higher education, and creating new economic opportunities for workers and entrepreneurs.

Education

- Mentioned the increase in funding for K-12 schools to their highest levels in history.
- Touted signed legislation establishing a bell-to-bell ban on cell phones in K-12 schools.
- Children’s Online Safety
- Mentioned that Governor-Elect Mikie Sherrill has also identified children’s online safety as a major priority.

Government Operations

- Highlighted nine consecutive credit rating upgrades in just three years after a generation of downgrades.

Tax

- Mentioned the state’s new millionaire’s tax and property tax relief measures.

Transportation

- Discussed plans to improve reliability and replace outdated buses and rail cars in NJ TRANSIT’s fleet.

NEW YORK

Governor Kathy Hochul (D) – January 13

Anti-Administration

- “This moment carries real threats from Donald Trump and his enablers in Congress. Driving up costs on everything from groceries to farm equipment through these reckless tariffs. Killing major infrastructure projects that put union members to work. Tearing nursing immigrant mothers from their babies and calling it public safety.”
- Critical of Donald Trump’s actions on preventing offshore wind projects.

Artificial Intelligence

- Discussed disabling AI chatbots that can cause mental health problems.
- Wants to strengthen existing laws to prohibit deepfakes that impersonate political candidates.

Data Centers

- Hochul maintained that data centers are vital for an innovative future, but says they “guzzle up tremendous amounts of energy and leave ratepayers footing the bill.”

Energy

- Identifies energy costs as a major component of the affordability crisis, plans to streamline utility assistance to help homeowners make energy efficient upgrades.
- Announced the launch of a nuclear workforce development program and set a goal of building five gigawatts of nuclear power.

Government Reform

- Pledged to eliminate “outdated and onerous” regulations and leverage cutting-edge technology to make government work better.

Healthcare

- Vowed to protect affordable healthcare and vaccines.

Housing

- Highlighted state efforts to strengthen tenant protections and fund shovel-ready projects, as well as protect rent-regulated housing.
- Invest an additional \$250 million for affordable housing and \$100 million to scale innovative, manufactured housing that lowers costs and speeds construction.
- Launching the ‘Let Them Build’ Agenda, a series of reforms to build housing and other infrastructure projects.

Technology

- Hochul says the state has “taken on Big Tech” and passed nation-leading laws, with a focus on algorithms and children’s safety.
- Highlighted the state’s bell-to-bell phone ban in schools.
- Called for blocking location-sharing.
- Directly addressed doing more to cut off access to online sports gambling for children.
- Supports enacting new requirements to protect social media users under 18.

NORTH DAKOTA

Governor Kelly Armstrong (R) – January 21

[Full Speech Text](#)

Healthcare

- Declared the main focus of the legislative session to address the \$199 million in federal funds awarded for the first year of North Dakota's Rural Health Transformation Program.
- Referenced "Make North Dakota Healthy Again."
- Called for expanding local access to essential health services through telehealth, transportation, virtual medical rooms, and mobile clinics for hard-to-reach populations.
- Wants to keep health care workers in rural North Dakota with training, support, and retention grants.

Anti-Administration

- McKee criticized the Trump Administration’s tariff policies stating they have led to increased prices on groceries and household goods.

Economic Development

- Proposed budget calls for \$600 million in bond proposals to help build infrastructure across the state for businesses, higher education, K-12, and housing.
- He proposes a \$115 million economic development bond to expand maritime and defense infrastructure at Quonset, invest in the 195 District and life sciences, grow ocean-tech industry, and develop more construction-ready sites that attract advanced manufacturers and create jobs.

Education

- Recommended making the Hope Scholarship permanent for all qualifying students, no matter their income.
- His proposed budget calls for a \$215 million higher education bond to support new and upgraded facilities at the three state schools (University of Rhode Island, Rhode Island College, and Community College of Rhode Island), with the goal of modernizing campuses and preparing students for employment.
- His proposed budget would establish the first dedicated Career and Technical Education (CTE) bond of \$50 million to upgrade CTE classrooms.

Energy

- McKee highlighted high energy costs and his plans to reduce consumers’ energy bills. In December 2025, the Public Utilities Commission provided \$21 million in cuts to consumers’ energy bills.
- McKee’s proposed budget will reduce the current 25% of consumers’ energy bills that come from state programs and taxes. His proposed budget will provide over \$1 billion in energy relief over the next five years.

Healthcare

- Proposed budget sets enforceable caps on health insurance costs and penalizes any company that fails to comply.
- Called for investing \$9.5 million to establish the state’s first Marketplace Affordability program to combat the impact of rising health care costs in the federal marketplace.
- Highlighted plans to use recently secured \$156 million in federal funding to transform healthcare in 18 communities in Rhode Island, including expanding primary care and behavioral health, increasing support for opioid overdose prevention and recovery, and strengthening the health workforce.

Housing

- To increase housing supply and lower the costs, McKee proposed a \$120 million housing bond. \$25 million of this bond will be dedicated to increasing homeownership.
- Plans to launch a separate \$20 million homeownership program aimed at producing of hundreds of low-cost homes.

Medicaid

- Proposed \$10 million in state and federal funds to increase support for hospitals as they see more patients without coverage.

Tax

- McKee’s proposed budget expands the dependent deduction to create the state’s first permanent Child Tax Credit.
- Proposed state budget eliminates the state tax on Social Security.

Transportation

- Proposed budget rolls back the gas tax increase from the previous year.
- Proposed budget includes additional engineering oversight at the Rhode Island Department of Transportation to review inspection reports.
- Highlighted that the state secure \$220 million in federal funding to rebuild the Washington Bridge.

SOUTH CAROLINA

Governor Henry McMaster (R) – January 28

[Full Speech Video](#)

Economic Development

- Highlighted over \$9.1 billion in new capital investment and many new jobs, rural and urban.

Education

- Touted continued improvement in teacher salaries.
- Highlighted success of statewide expansion of 4-K – 30% increase and urged General Assembly to offer universal full-day 4-K for all children regardless of household income.
- Highlighted increase in SROs throughout the state.
- Called for expanded scholarship eligibility.
- Celebrated seven years of frozen college tuition for in-state students and unprecedented levels of need-based financial aid for Pell-grant eligible, in-state students.
- Highlighted scholarships provided to cover tuition at technical colleges.
- Named South Carolina's technical college system the best in the world and said it is getting better every day.
- Advocated for systemic review of state's higher education institutions to make sure South Carolina is prepared for future workforce needs.

Energy

- Highlighted work of the Power SC Working Group and the SC Nexus Consortium to win designation as one of the US Department of Commerce's twelve regional Technology and Innovation Hubs.
- Stated that South Carolina will lead the nuclear renaissance, and that it has both the experience and infrastructure to do so.

Environment

- Highlighted funds and attention dedicated to identifying properties for conservation, preservation, and flood mitigation.
- Mentioned creation of Floodwater Commission and Office of Resilience to address flooding and environmental protection projects.
- Addressed Water SC Working Group tasked with assessing groundwater.
- Highlighted preservation of almost 400,000 acres in less than ten years, including the state's largest conservation easement in history.
- Highlighted work of local governments in conservation and urged all counties to join the effort.

Government Reform

- Called for judicial reform to make selection more transparent and accountable, including gubernatorial appointment of all judges, with advice and consent of State Senate.
- Called for summary court system reform.
- Proposed that magistrate judges be compensated by the state, and be required to be attorneys.

Healthcare

- Highlighted review of state's behavioral health funding and delivery system and subsequent work done within state government to address shortcomings.

Taxation

- Called for continued tax cuts.
- McMaster has proposed cutting the personal income tax rate as much as possible.
- Proponent of eliminating personal income tax.

Transportation

- Highlighted progress in transportation infrastructure and the active projects throughout the state.
- Wants to see additional investment in new surplus money to keep projects moving.
- Called for assessment of state infrastructure and government services to keep up with population growth.
- Highlighted that the state secure \$220 million in federal funding to rebuild the Washington Bridge.

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SOUTH DAKOTA

Governor Larry Rhoden (R) – January 13

[Full Speech Text](#)

Economic Development

- Announced legislation to set up a State Apprenticeship Agency.
- Discussed plans to prioritize value-added ag.
- Announced that national security is South Dakota's next big industry and will be the major focus of his economic development efforts.

Education

- Discussed Science of Reading initiative bringing phonics back into classrooms
- Highlighted changes to reading and math standards and the recently implemented social studies reforms from the Noem-Rhoden Administration.
- Highlighted Teacher Apprenticeship Pathway to address teacher shortages, and teacher pay reforms.
- Focused on the school choice program beginning in 2027.
- Mentioned the continued prioritization of career and technical education (CTE).
- Department of Education will be bringing a bill to give school boards more flexibility to find alternative settings for students from "tough circumstances."

Healthcare

- Emphasized need for rural healthcare access; mentioned \$189 million in federal funding for the Rural Health Transformation Plan which includes stronger workforce.

Privacy

- Plans to bring forward bills to protect personal information of law enforcement, judges, legislators, and statewide officials by removing it from public voter files.

Taxation

- Cited the need for more work on reducing property taxes, proposing to give counties the option to cut owner-occupied property taxes by replacing the county's share of property taxes with a half-cent sales tax.
- Plans to host property tax town halls throughout the state.

Technology

- Discussed GRIT task force which recommends expanding the SecureSD program at Dakota State University.
- New technology development for value-added ag and bioprocessing, and new industrial development parks.

UTAH

Governor Spencer Cox (R) – January 26

[Full Speech Text](#)

Education

- Called for reforms to increase literacy rates.
- “A society that cannot read cannot reason together, and when reasoning breaks down, power rushes in to fill the void.”

Healthcare

- Highlighted that the state is expanding treatment, recovery, and pathways back to stability for people struggling with substance use issues.

Housing

- Acknowledged the need to increase the supply of housing by reform zoning, streamline permitting, support infrastructure, and encourage innovation.
- “Our mission is to make Utah the worst place in the country to camp on the street — and the best place to get help.”

Technology

- “We cannot preserve agency, virtue, and happiness if we outsource the moral formation of our children to algorithms designed for addiction.”
- Called for a bell-to-bell phone ban in schools across Utah.

VERMONT

Governor Phil Scott (R) – January 7

[Full Speech Text](#)

Education

- Scott used most of the address to focus on public education reform, in particular the implementation and his expectations of next steps for ACT 73 which expanded pre-K, increased equity, expanded CTE, and increased teacher salaries.
- Strongly encouraged the legislature to consolidate the state's 119 school districts into much larger entities and stated that he "will not sign a budget or an education bill or a tax bill that deviates from Act 73..."
- Addressed anticipated school closures due to ACT 73 stating that "Instead of this slow, torturous, and unmanaged process, let's move forward with Act 73, so we can manage change thoughtfully, strategically, and with students' best interests at the forefront."

Tax

- This year's spending package will be funded without new taxes.
- Asked the legislature to provide property tax relief.

VIRGINIA

Governor Abigail Spanberger (D) – January 17

[Full Speech Text](#)

Anti-Administration

- Referenced “recklessness” coming out of Washington

Housing

- Vowed to cut red tape, increase housing supply, and help communities keep housing affordable.
- Economic Development
- Planned investments in the apprenticeships and job training sectors.

Energy

- Spanberger’s administration will work to lower energy costs by producing more energy and by ensuring that high energy users pay their fair share.

Healthcare

- Promises to protect healthcare access, crack down on high drug prices, and address medical debt.

Data Centers

- Recalled the passage of a microgrid access law to attract data centers to West Virginia. Morrisey stated that this is likely to become the biggest economic driver in state's history.

Economic Development

- Announced more than \$4.5 billion in new private sector investment and a projected increase of 4200 new jobs.
- Called to further improve the infrastructure that businesses need to expand in the state.
- Highlighted the Workforce and Readiness and Opportunities Act, and the need to continue encouraging microcredentialing and making portable benefits available for the independent workforce.

Education

- Hopes to increase funding for higher education institutions.
- Announced a School within a School program for at-risk students. Looking to use immersive project-based learning that focuses on STEM and real-world skills.
- Highlighted truancy diversion initiatives to address chronic absenteeism by assisting children before they enter the child welfare system.
- Announced that the state is prepaying the HOPE Scholarship for FY 2026 through the state's \$128 million budget surplus.

Energy

- Morrisey projected that energy infrastructure is going to increase energy supply from the current 16 gigawatts to over 50 gigawatts by 2050. Announced that the state will prioritize reliable baseline power through coal, natural gas, and nuclear energy.
- In the four months since announcing the 50 by 50 program, the state has secured more than \$4.2 billion in new energy investments.

Environmental

- Highlighted the need for continued investment in water and sewer. In 2025, the state invested \$74 million into water and sewer. Emphasized that clean water and functional infrastructure lift standard of living.
- Launching a pilot initiative entitled Century. The program will modernize how the state detects flood risks and warns the public. It involves expanding sensors in key areas to help build predictive models. Morrisey requested \$10 million from the legislature to fund this pilot program.

Government Operations

- Proposed the establishment of the Bring Them Home Fund, with an initial investment of \$6 million, to bring back foster children sent to out-of-state facilities by rehabilitating existing state facilities and improving the child welfare system.
- Called for a 3% pay raise for all state workers.
- Asked the legislature for \$20 million to improve state parks in order to spark tourism growth.

Government Reform

- One of Morrisey's key priorities is fiscal responsibility and repurposing government.
- Seeks to continue cutting government red tape to increase economic development.
- Focused on the legislature's success in passing universal licensing reciprocity in 2025, allowing qualifying individuals to work upon moving to West Virginia.
- Emphasized the need to accelerate military personnel ability to enter the workforce.

Healthcare

- Morrisey highlighted that the state was awarded \$199 million from the federal government to improve healthcare outcomes. Over the five years of the program, it will lead to \$1 billion in healthcare investment.
- Asked the legislature to support rural Healthcare Transformation by advancing legislative initiatives with the goal of “Making West Virginia Healthy Again.”
- Announced that Public Employee Insurance Agency (PEIA) premiums are going to be limited to 3%.

Tax

- Asked the state legislature to pass a 10% income tax cut.
- Requested the legislature to conform the permanent tax changes signed into law by the federal budget bill (HR 1).

Technology

- Announced that West Virginia secured \$546 million in new broadband investments from the Trump administration to assist in increasing access to high-speed internet.
- Wants to expand digital literacy to better use technology and support K-12 institutions.

Transportation

- Asked the legislature to invest \$100 million to supplement road and bridge repair work.



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