

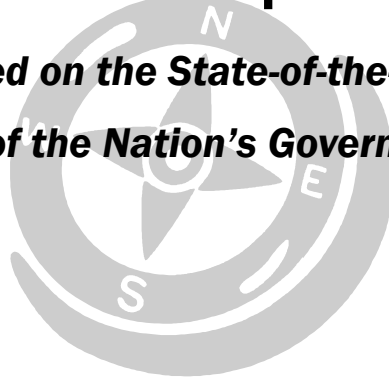
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The Governors Speak — 2005

***A Report Based on the State-of-the-State Addresses
of the Nation's Governors***



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Introduction

IN THEIR 2005 STATE-OF-THE-STATE ADDRESSES, governors from across the country and in the nation's territories* highlighted improved economic conditions and budgetary outlook, and the opportunities presented thereby for making progress in such long-standing areas of challenge as high school reform, high-wage job growth, health care costs, and natural resource planning.

Based on the governors' addresses, the economies in the vast majority of states appear to be turning around, and the recovery seems to be spreading. Likewise, the budget picture in most states appears to be improving. In 2003, the words *fiscal crisis* were distributed throughout the governors' addresses. Last year, many leaders described improving economic conditions, but were still speaking in a *deficit* mode in terms of state budgets. This year, while many governors are still grappling with state budget deficits, state revenues appear to have picked up to the point where several governors are making modest use of the word *surplus*.

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* Included in this analysis are speeches delivered from January 1, 2005, to March 7, 2005, by the governors of 49 states and 2 United States territories (American Samoa and Guam). Louisiana's governor did not deliver a state-of-the-state address during this time period. For additional information, see source information at the end of this report.

In light of these more brisk economic times, and having suffered through the difficult political, economic, and social choices of lean budget years, many governors used their state-of-the-state addresses to prompt their states to strike out in new and more ambitious directions. As **Georgia Gov. Sonny Perdue** said, “Having passed through the storm, it is time to take our bearings and chart our course anew.” To be sure, many states continue to face structural budget deficits in the upcoming year. Even those governors with projected state surpluses face difficult budgetary decisions. As the speeches make clear, however, more governors this year are enduring the choices of moderate opportunity rather than outright fiscal crisis; they are describing opportunities for renewed energy and commitment in light of improved economic conditions.

“Having passed through the storm,” said Georgia Gov. Sonny Perdue, “it is time to take our bearings and chart our course anew.”

High School Reform. For example, many more governors appear to be actively pursuing high school reform efforts this year than in previous years. In their 2004 addresses, 5 governors described education initiatives focused on high schools; in 2005, 26 governors did so. The reform proposals included strengthening the high school curriculum; keeping high school seniors more engaged in school through dual enrollment in college; collaborative efforts with middle schools to prepare students better for high school; collaborative efforts with community colleges and universities in workforce development; the creation of small, focused schools within schools; the linking of high school graduation requirements to college readiness standards; and many other efforts. **Virginia Gov. Mark Warner**, as Chairman of the National Governors Association (NGA), has launched a yearlong national initiative called “Redesigning the American High School” to provide traction nationwide for the most effective reform efforts within the states. The 2005 National Education Summit on High Schools, co-sponsored by NGA, focused on high school reform.

The following areas of emphasis also stand out from the governor's 2005 speeches:

- ⊕ **Economic Development.** Governors not only emphasized job growth, but a particular kind of job growth. Even more than in previous years, governors in their 2005 addresses were enthusiastic about promoting workforce education and attracting high-paying jobs to their states *now*.
- ⊕ **Education.** More governors discussed school finance reform than mentioned educational accountability. Also, in calling attention to increases in test scores in their states, governors emphasized ongoing efforts to improve education rather than across-the-board reforms.
- ⊕ **Health Care.** The discussion of health care costs and reform has remained at the top of many state agendas. As in previous years, there appeared to be no single or broad approach to the challenges states face as they seek to expand health care delivery while keeping down costs.
- ⊕ **Energy and the Environment.** Compared with previous years, more governors appeared to be adopting the language of land-use planning, environmental planning, open space conservation, and other forms of smart or sustainable growth.
- ⊕ **Homeland Security.** This year, governors mentioned initiatives in homeland security less frequently than in 2003 and 2004. Almost all governors paused in their speeches to honor the sacrifices of National Guardsmen, the armed forces and military families.

More governors discussed school finance reform than mentioned educational accountability.

Governors vary widely in how they approach their state-of-the-state, state-of-the-commonwealth, state-of-the-territory, and inaugural addresses. Some deliver long orations detailing a wide range of initiatives; others use the occasion to speak briefly about general priorities; still others immerse their audiences in the specific politics and

negotiations of the moment. A governor might have launched a groundbreaking initiative in an area, but due to the circumstances of the speech or the political needs of the occasion, she might not mention it. Another governor might have accomplished little in a particular arena, yet he might emphasize it in order to garner support for the efforts of a task force or other deliberative body whose recommendations are not yet completed.

Because of these differences, state-of-the-state addresses cannot be expected to provide comprehensive summaries of the policy initiatives in individual states. Across the country, however, these speeches do provide a snapshot of the pressing issues facing governors. Taken together, and particularly in comparison with previous years, these speeches can provide a litmus test of the issues that are emerging, the overall challenges that governors are encountering, and the policy directions they are selecting. State-of-the-state addresses illuminate the trends that are surfacing and the priorities that are rising to the top of state agendas.

State Economic and Budget Picture

The prevailing message of governors' state-of-the-state, state-of-the-commonwealth, state-of-the-territory, and inaugural addresses for 2005 was the improved economy — and improved state revenues as well.

In their 2003 state-of-the-state addresses, many governors described stark economic conditions in their states and lamented the persistent downturn in the national economy. That year, about 80 percent of governors described severe budget crises facing their states. They depicted these crises in the following ways:

- ⊕ “...the worst fiscal crisis since World War II...”
- ⊕ “...a budget shortfall of historic proportions...”
- ⊕ “...the largest budget deficit in the state’s history...times two or three...”
- ⊕ “...most severe fiscal crisis in modern history...”

In 2003, **Texas Gov. Rick Perry** was the only governor who described a state budget surplus, albeit a slim one, in his state-of-the-state address.

In 2004, 71 percent of governors (32) said that economic conditions in their state were improving. Yet with projected state revenues lagging well behind projected outlays, most governors were also still firmly locked in the grips of projected deficits: 69 percent of governors (31) said they were still in crisis mode or facing very difficult choices as they sought to cut spending levels. Many governors also discussed uneven economic recovery in their states, particularly in rural areas. In 2004, four governors — **Colorado Gov. Bill Owens**, **North Dakota Gov. John Hoeven**, **Vermont Gov. James H. Douglas** and **Wyoming Gov. Dave Freudenthal** — referred to state surpluses or robust revenue growth.

In their 2005 state-of-the-state addresses, governors were more upbeat about the economic recovery, its impact on residents, and its effects on the state budget: 82 percent (42) portrayed the state economy as improving. For example, **Massachusetts Gov. Mitt Romney** proclaimed, “Massachusetts is back,” and **Wisconsin Gov. Jim Doyle** said, “Wisconsin is on the move.” Many governors described increasing employment rates, and decreasing unemployment rates.

In terms of the overall budget picture for their state or territory, 35 percent of governors (18) said they were working within a budget projected to be either in balance or with a surplus — a significant increase from 2004. On the other hand, 25 governors emphasized the very difficult budget choices that their states or territories faced, and 8 governors pointed to long-term structural budget deficits that needed to be addressed.

Partly in light of the difficult budget choices that remain, and partly due to the improved economic conditions, many governors appeared to be using their 2005 state-of-the-state

Many governors appeared to be using their 2005 state-of-the-state addresses to mobilize resources for new initiatives.

addresses to mobilize resources for new initiatives, or otherwise prompt their states to take on ambitious areas of reform. For example, **Oklahoma Gov. Brad Henry** said, “This is no time for timid dreams.” **South Carolina Gov. Mark Sanford** said, “The question of the night is not can we survive, but how do we thrive?”

Education

In seeking to help their states thrive, every governor discussed the importance of education. As in past years, many governors emphasized the role of education in advancing economic development, improving workforce training, and helping residents succeed in finding high-paying and fulfilling work. One area of difference from previous years, however, was the importance that governors placed on high school reform.

High School Reform: Many more governors are actively pursuing high school reform efforts this year than in previous years. In their 2004 addresses, 5 governors (11 percent of those who delivered state-of-the-state speeches) described education initiatives focused on high schools; in 2005, 26 governors (51 percent) did so.

- ☉ **Graduation Rates:** 27 percent of governors (14) discussed efforts to increase high school graduation rates. These initiatives included: developing individual graduation plans for at-risk students, providing tutors for those who failed the graduation test, or otherwise strengthening remedial programs; collaborative efforts with middle schools to prepare students better for high school; providing end-of-course exams; and engaging parents in the education of their children. **Virginia Gov. Mark Warner** described an initiative to develop principal-training programs to improve leadership on school campuses.
- ☉ **Curriculum:** 22 percent of governors (11) highlighted proposals or action taken to

Ohio Gov. Bob Taft proposed to align high school graduation requirements with college-readiness standards.

strengthen the high school curriculum and increase the numbers of students taking a pre-collegiate curriculum. For example, **Ohio Gov. Bob Taft** proposed to align high school graduation requirements with college-readiness standards.

- ⊕ **Senior Year:** 18 percent of governors (9) emphasized their work to invigorate the 12th grade year through dual enrollment programs with community colleges and four-year institutions. For example, **Oklahoma Gov. Brad Henry** described a proposal to pay for college tuition costs for high school seniors.
- ⊕ **Small Schools:** 12 percent (6) addressed proposals to increase high school opportunities, through creating small schools within schools (5 states) or through creating virtual high schools to increase access to Advanced Placement and other courses (**Georgia Gov. Sonny Perdue**).
- ⊕ **Graduation Exams:** 8 percent (4) described efforts to implement or improve high school graduation exams. For example, **Michigan Gov. Jennifer Granholm** proposed replacing the high school assessment exam with one that doubles as a college admissions test.

Educational Accountability. In 2003, 20 governors described efforts to increase accountability in the schools and hold the course on school reform. In 2004, half that many (10) discussed efforts to maintain or increase accountability in the schools — similar to the number of governors (12) who did so in 2005. In fact, this year the emphasis appears to have shifted somewhat to include progress made in the schools. In 2005, 12 governors discussed the need to hold schools more accountable, but a larger number (15) praised the schools for increases in test scores and other performance measures. Also, rather than calling for widespread educational reform across the board, most governors described

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initiatives in discrete areas, such as high school reform, teacher training and compensation, and early childhood education.

Finance Reform. In 2005, one of the more popular reform topics for the schools focused not on education but on finance and management. Thirty-seven percent of governors (19) emphasized the need for broad fiscal reform. For instance, governors called for reforming or simplifying the education finance system, improving the efficiency of schools, cutting down on administrative costs, creating greater fiscal transparency for school districts, and reforming the pension system.

Teachers. As in 2004, the most commonly cited efforts to improve educational programs involved teacher quality and/or teacher compensation, with 67 percent of governors (34) describing efforts in this area this year. The primary areas of focus were:

- ⊕ **Teacher Training:** 35 percent of governors (18) addressed issues relating to teacher training and development. These efforts included establishing master teacher and other mentoring programs in the schools, improving the certification system, hiring math and reading specialists, and establishing alternative certification programs.
- ⊕ **Merit Pay:** 29 percent (15) called for plans to develop merit-based compensation systems for teachers or incentives to attract teachers to high-need fields or low-achieving schools.
- ⊕ **Teacher Compensation:** 27 percent (14) proposed to increase teacher salaries.

Other K-12 Improvements. Governors also addressed the following school improvement areas:

- ⊕ **Early Childhood Education:** 43 percent of governors (22) supported or proposed programs to enhance early childhood education through improved or expanded preschool programs, a rating system for child care providers, and

expanded access to full-day kindergarten. Many governors were supportive of regular and ongoing increases in the percentage of children who have access to preschool, but there does not yet appear to be a groundswell of support for universal preschool (primarily because of lack of funding).

- ☉ **Charter Schools:** 29 percent of governors (15) supported efforts to promote and expand charter schools or other options for increasing school choice.
- ☉ **Reading/Literacy:** 27 percent (14) described programs to improve reading skills, primarily for young children.
- ☉ **Parental Involvement:** 14 percent (7) described initiatives to increase the level of parental involvement in their children’s education, including training programs for parents of young children, incentives for getting parents into the classroom, and mandatory parental preparation courses in failing schools.

Two governors, **New Mexico Gov. Bill Richardson** and **West Virginia Gov. Joe Manchin III**, called for an education system that is “seamless” from start to finish.

Higher Education. Even more than in past years, governors in 2005 emphasized the key role of higher education in the prosperity of their states and of their residents. In 2004, 71 percent of governors described plans to support or improve higher education; in 2005, 80 percent (41) did so. Compared with 2004, there was a significant increase this year in the number of governors who emphasized the importance of increasing access to higher education. There was also a jump in the number of governors calling for increased accountability of the postsecondary enterprise, particularly in terms of graduation rates.

- ☉ **Access and Affordability:** In 2005, 59 percent of governors (30) discussed a wide range of plans to increase access to college, including need-based scholarship programs, tuition assistance for the National Guard, and funding increases to allow for larger student enrollments. In comparison, 33 percent of governors addressed the issue of access and affordability of colleges and universities last year.

- ⊕ **Research and Business Partnerships:** 33 percent (17) described initiatives to promote university research and business partnerships to improve economic conditions and employment prospects in the states, particularly in relation to attracting employers who can offer high-paying jobs. This percentage represents a decrease from about 44 percent of governors who addressed this issue in 2004.
- ⊕ **Accountability of Higher Education:** 18 percent of governors (9) called for or outlined plans for greater accountability in higher education, including performing top-to-bottom reviews, tying funding to completion rates, improving performance in teacher training, and developing standards of performance generally. Very few governors called for greater accountability for colleges and universities last year, though several did raise concerns about the affordability of higher education.

Taxes

Even more so than last year, the vast majority of governors spoke out against any increase in taxes in 2005. In 2004, 78 percent of governors mentioned taxes or tax reform; in 2005, 86 percent of governors (44) did so. In 2005:

- ⊕ **Tax Reductions or No New Taxes:** 73 percent of governors (37) described tax reductions they had implemented, proposed new tax reductions, or said they opposed any tax increases. Last year, 56 percent of governors highlighted their opposition to tax increases or described tax reduction plans.
- ⊕ **Tax Increases and Reductions:** 10 percent (5) proposed tax increases coupled with tax reductions as part of overall tax reforms.
- ⊕ **Tax Increases:** Two governors proposed to increase cigarette taxes in order to reduce smoking and help pay for health care costs.

Of the 33 governors who identified tax reductions: 9 favored some form of reduction of business taxes to spur economic activity; 7 favored some form of tax reduction for individuals; and 17 proposed tax reductions for both businesses and individuals.

Tax credits to spur job growth were the most popular form of tax relief for businesses. Of the 26 governors who identified tax reductions for businesses, 11 described proposals to promote job growth. These proposals included tax credits for each new job created above a specified base salary, tax credits for small businesses, and rural jobs tax credits. In addition, seven governors highlighted proposals to provide tax incentives for research and development, including tax credits to businesses that partner with universities and tax credits for high-tech businesses. Three governors described plans to provide tax relief for manufacturers.

For those governors who discussed tax relief for individuals, income tax reductions were the most popular initiatives. Of the 24 governors who described plans to reduce taxes for individuals, 13 highlighted efforts to reduce income taxes. These included five governors who focused the reductions on low-income or working families and two who proposed tax credits to help families pay for college tuition. Eight governors highlighted their efforts to reduce or eliminate state property taxes. Five governors described plans to provide a “back-to-school” sales tax holiday.

Overall reform and modernization of state tax codes appears to have about the same amount of traction this year as last year. In 2005, 14 governors described tax code reforms, modernization, or simplification, compared with 10 who did so last year.

Economic Development

As in 2004, governors this year emphasized the need for job growth, particularly in high-paying jobs. Last year, many governors emphasized “new” forms of economic development — in particular, private/public/university partnerships that could transform the state economy in areas such as biotechnology, biomedicine, nanotechnology, ethanol

and biodiesel production, and other high-tech industries. In their 2005 addresses, governors were again overwhelmingly in support of this kind of long-term development. But there was also an increased emphasis on education and training for workers, and short-term tax and business development incentives, many directed to small business and existing industries, for those companies that are offering new jobs *now*.

In 2005, 92 percent of governors (47) described their plans for economic development:

- ⊙ **Research and High-Tech:** 67 percent of governors (34) described initiatives focusing on promoting “new economy” business advancements related to research and high-tech fields. These often included partnerships between business and universities and ranged from medical research to development of ethanol and biodiesel capabilities.
- ⊙ **Education and Training:** 55 percent (28) described workforce training or other educational opportunities that were important in improving the state economy, an increase of about a third over last year. Initiatives in this area included efforts to streamline and overhaul government efforts, involve community colleges and high schools more effectively, build vocational centers in underserved areas, develop rapid-response training in high-need fields, expand class offerings in English as a Second Language, create a statewide biomanufacturing job-training network, and offer expanded opportunities in computer training.
- ⊙ **Traditional Industries and Infrastructure:** 53 percent (27) described efforts to revitalize traditional industries and infrastructure. These efforts included investment in highways and transportation corridors, development of advanced manufacturing capabilities and industrial parks, assistance to farmers and rural areas, and development of clean coal plants. **Guam Gov. Felix Camacho** and **American Samoa Gov. Togiola Tulafono** both emphasized infrastructure development and capital improvement projects.

- ⊕ **High-Paying Jobs Now:** 43 percent (22) described initiatives to attract job growth in high-paying fields immediately. These included proposals to promote job growth through tax credits, small business development, and other means. In some cases, the tax credits kicked in only if the jobs were above an established income level.
- ⊕ **Importance of Natural Resources and the Environment:** 43 percent (22) described the importance of natural resources, environmental planning, or alternative fuel or energy development as critical for a strong economy. Twelve governors described plans to promote alternative fuel or energy as important for economic development, including ethanol and biodiesel production and distribution, and a few mentions of wind and solar power. Nine governors highlighted environmental and land-use planning as necessary for attracting businesses, tourists, and prospective residents.
- ⊕ **Effects of Global Economy:** 35 percent of governors (18) described economic development initiatives specifically related to the global marketplace — either because the global economy was forcing the state to transform its business plans or because the state sought new international trade opportunities.

Many governors described the economic development initiatives in the areas above as being closely related and interconnected. To succeed in a highly competitive global economy, many governors suggested, each state must support traditional and new economic opportunities, while recognizing, valuing, building upon, and sustaining its human and natural resources.

Finally, this year 13 governors highlighted efforts to pass worker's compensation reform due to the costs of the current worker's compensation system for businesses (compared with 7 governors who mentioned this last year). Tort reform was discussed by 9 governors — up from 4 last year.

Health Care

Medical costs continue to weigh heavily on state resources, business growth, and family pocketbooks. Last year, governors placed health care costs front-and-center when they described the economic difficulties facing the state. This year, the discussion of health care costs and reform remained at the top of many state agendas. Forty-eight governors (94 percent) discussed health care issues. The most commonly cited issues involved the high costs of health care and the pressing need for health care reform, with 67 percent of governors (34) discussing these challenges. In the improved economic climate of 2005, the discussion of health care was somewhat more subdued than last year. **Kansas Gov. Kathleen Sebelius**, for example, referred to health care delivery and costs as “the quiet crisis” for her state. However, many governors described Medicaid and its costs as being unsustainable. For example, **Tennessee Gov. Phil Bredesen** called his state’s rising TennCare costs “a full-blown and very dangerous crisis.”

As in previous years, there appeared to be no single or broad approach to the challenges of health care delivery and costs. In this year’s addresses, many governors urged federal action to improve health care access and bring down costs, while at the same time forging forward with their own plans in several areas.

Tennessee Gov. Phil Bredesen called his state’s rising TennCare costs “a full-blown and very dangerous crisis.”

- 🌐 **Children’s Programs:** 49 percent of governors (25) proposed or supported initiatives related to children’s health, including immunization, health plan coverage, psychiatric care, breakfast programs, and physical education programs in elementary schools, and newborn screening programs.
- 🌐 **Prescription Drugs:** 45 percent (23) discussed initiatives to lower the costs of prescription drugs, through state purchasing, discount cards for seniors, purchasing from Canada, and the like.

- ⊕ **Medicaid:** 41 percent (21) discussed issues related to Medicaid coverage, including unsustainable costs, increases and decreases in benefits, increases in coverage, and efforts to lower administrative costs.
- ⊕ **Targeted Health Conditions:** 39 percent (20) focused on efforts to address specific health conditions, particularly mental health, substance abuse, diabetes, and cancer.
- ⊕ **Health Promotion:** 37 percent of governors (19) emphasized state efforts to promote healthy habits, particularly in areas related to obesity, diet, exercise and smoking.
- ⊕ **Long Term Care:** 37 percent (19) described plans to improve the options of seniors or the disabled for long-term care, including awareness campaigns for families, state-sponsored long-term care insurance, improved monitoring of nursing homes, and other efforts.
- ⊕ **Uninsured:** 35 percent (18) addressed the need to expand health insurance coverage for the uninsured.

Energy and the Environment

Compared with previous years, more governors appeared to be adopting the language of environmental and land-use planning, open-space conservation, smart or sustainable growth, responsible development of natural resources, and clean or renewable energy development. In particular, more governors appear to be emphasizing environmental and land use planning:

- ⊕ In 2004, 53 percent of governors discussed the importance of or offered proposals in land use planning, including protection of open space, identifying and protecting agricultural lands, creating sustainable plans for growth and the environment, and forestry planning.

- ⊕ In 2005, 65 percent of governors (33) described efforts in these areas. Moreover, whereas in 2004, governors referred to environmental planning primarily for its own benefits, in 2005, many governors emphasized the importance of environmental and natural resource planning for economic as well as aesthetic purposes.

In addition, the following areas were emphasized by governors in relation to energy and environmental issues:

- ⊕ **Energy:** 45 percent of governors (23) offered proposals or support for energy development or transmission, as well as development of biofuels. Energy development initiatives included traditional forms such as power plants and clean coal technology. They also included alternative energy development, such as wind and solar power, joint research ventures, and conservation efforts.
- ⊕ **Environmental Cleanup:** 35 percent of governors (18) highlighted proposals to maintain a clean environment, including initiatives to reduce emissions, reclaim brownfields, protect waterways, and adopt tougher acid rain standards.
- ⊕ **Greening of State Government:** 12 percent of governors (6) discussed plans to promote conservation and the use of renewable energy sources in state government.

Homeland Security

The vast majority of governors paused in their speeches to honor the sacrifices of members of the National Guard, the armed forces, and their families. Many introduced and recognized state National Guardsmen who were seated in the audience.

Compared with the previous two years, governors in 2005 mentioned initiatives in homeland security much less frequently. In 2003, about half of governors addressed

issues related to homeland security. In 2004 and 2005, about 38 percent and 25 percent did so, respectively. The efforts of the 13 governors who did mention homeland security were widespread, including the creation of overall plans for homeland security, the development of consolidated intelligence facilities, the use of federal funds to coordinate first responders, state coordination with private industry to protect critical industrial sites, and legislation to prevent cyber-terrorism.

Corrections and Social Services

The following issues were addressed by many governors:

- ⊕ **Crime and the Criminal Justice System:** 59 percent of governors (30) described their efforts to reduce crime or improve the criminal justice system. These included initiatives to combat methamphetamine production and distribution, safeguard communities from sexual offenders, reduce overcrowding in jails, and increase the use of alternatives to incarceration.
- ⊕ **Social Services:** 41 percent of governors (21) indicated support for efforts to improve services for children, youth, families, and the disabled. These included proposals to reduce the caseload of social workers, engage in comprehensive reform of the state child protective system, help single mothers get child support, establish family resource centers in struggling schools, provide wrap-around services for families, and help the disabled remain in communities.

Source Information

This analysis is based on the 2005 state-of-the-state, state-of-the-commonwealth, inaugural, budget, state-of-the-island, or state-of-the-territory addresses of 51 governors, including the governors of American Samoa and Guam. All addresses were delivered between January 1 and March 7, 2005, and, with the exception of one state, were available on the official state or territory Web site. Of the 50 states, only Louisiana was not included, as **Gov. Kathleen Blanco** did not deliver a state-of-the-state, inaugural, or budget address during that time. The Web sites of other United States territories (besides American Samoa and Guam) did not have major addresses posted during the time period studied.

For each state, only one address was analyzed. In determining which address to use in those cases where governors gave multiple major addresses during the time period, the priority was as follows: (1) if available, the state-of-the-state, state-of-the-commonwealth, state-of-the-island, or state-of-the-territory address was used; (2) if none of these was available, then the inaugural address was used; and (3) if none of the above was available, then the budget address was used. State-of-the-state or state-of-the-commonwealth addresses were available and analyzed for all governors except the following:

Governor	Alternate Speech Analyzed
American Samoa Gov. Togiola Tulafono	State-of-the-territory address
Guam Gov. Felix Camacho	State-of-the-island address
Louisiana Gov. Kathleen Blanco	No address delivered
New Hampshire Gov. John Lynch	Inaugural address
Pennsylvania Gov. Edward Rendell	Budget address
Vermont Gov. James H. Douglas	Inaugural address
Washington Gov. Christine Gregoire	Inaugural address

In this report, references to “state-of-the-state addresses” are often used as shorthand to refer to all the addresses being analyzed, whether they are state-of-the-state or other addresses.

All 2005 speeches used in this report were accessed by text version at the official Web site of each state or territory between January 24 and March 9, 2005, except for the state-of-the-state address of **Tennessee Gov. Phil Bredesen**, which was accessed on February 16, 2005, at:

http://seviercountynews.com/seviercountynews/default.asp?id=1&a_id=1177

Comparisons with 2004 were based on the 2004 state-of-the-state addresses delivered by 43 governors, the 2004 budget address of **Pennsylvania Gov. Edward Rendell** and the 2004 inaugural address for **Louisiana Gov. Kathleen Blanco**. Since there were no state-of-the-state, budget or inaugural addresses available for **Arkansas, Montana, Nevada, North Carolina** or **Texas**, these states are not included in the analysis of 2004 information.

Comparisons with 2003 were based on the 2003 state-of-the-state addresses of the governors of 45 states, the 2003 budget addresses of the governors of 3 additional states (**Maine, Pennsylvania** and **Tennessee**), and the governor's budget summary for one state (**New Hampshire**). Since there was no state-of-the-state address, budget address or budget summary available for **Louisiana**, this state was not included in the analysis of 2003 information.

About the Author

Thad R. Nodine, Ph.D., is president of Nodine Consulting and senior writer and editor at the Institute for the Study of Knowledge Management in Education (ISKME). His areas of expertise include shifts in public priorities for education policy; effective public policies for the educational continuum, from school readiness to completion of undergraduate study; the opportunities for using evidence-based and performance-driven strategies to achieve better educational outcomes; and improving the ways educational systems use information and knowledge to advance student learning. As well as writing this annual scan of the governors' state-of-the-state addresses for the National Governors Association, he is co-author of, most recently: *Knowledge Management in Education: Defining the Landscape* (ISKME); "Costs and Benefits of the Workaround: Inventive Solution or Costly Alternative?" in *International Journal of Educational Management*; "Using External Accountability Mandates to Create Internal Change," in *Planning for Higher Education*; and "What Schools Can Teach the Corporate World: Balancing People, Processes, and Technology in Education," in *KM Review*. He can be reached at newsinfo@nodine.net.