state news

Vol. 51, No. 3  The Council of State Governments  March 2008

LAY OF THE LAND

- Resident Curatorships
- Transit Villages
- School Trust Lands
Prescription assistance for uninsured Americans, 
from sea to shining sea.

50 states. 5 years. 50 million prescriptions.

In the last 5 years alone, Pfizer Helpful Answers® has helped 5 million uninsured people nationwide get their Pfizer medicines for free or at a savings. We offer more than 90 Pfizer medicines, including those most widely prescribed—the most comprehensive offering of its kind. People with lower incomes are eligible for greater savings.

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CSG and You

The Council of State Governments is celebrating its 75th anniversary this year. You can find out more about CSG’s role in developing interstate compacts during the 1950s in the article on Page 6. And you can share your thoughts about the organization by visiting the CSG blog, Capitol Comments, and clicking on the Talk Back link.

Interbranch relations

The three branches of state government must cooperate on a number of issues. CSG will hold an Interbranch Summit of the States in Bismarck, N.D., June 22–24. State News will feature the topic of interbranch relations in an upcoming article. Share your thoughts at Capitol Comments.

Water Woes

Lingering droughts and decreasing water supplies have created problems for many states. An upcoming State News article will focus on some of those problems, and look at ways states are handling the situation.

Early Childhood Education

Many states are considering making changes in the education of the nation’s youngest students. Learn more about what states are doing in an upcoming State News article and an upcoming Trends Alert, and visit Capitol Comments to share your thoughts.

What Do You Think?

State News is here to serve you, our membership. Do you have issues you’d like to see us cover? Is something going on in your state that might be helpful to other states in similar situations? Let us know. Visit the CSG Web site, www.csg.org, and click on the Capitol Comments link. Click on the Talk Back link in the blog and give us your input.

Regional Publications

The March issue of Stateline Midwest, the newsletter of the CSG Midwestern office, will feature articles on what states are doing to deal with the touchy issue of school consolidation and how states are preparing for an economic slowdown and fiscal crunch. Articles in Firstline Midwest focus on state promotion of financial literacy and new ideas to fund transportation infrastructure.

Current government forecasts show U.S. demand for electricity will continue to grow. A new issue brief from CSG’s Eastern Regional Conference Energy and Environment Program explores the advantages of coal as a power source—abundant domestic supply and lower cost than natural gas or oil. But climate change has emerged as a key factor in the decisions on permits for coal-fired plants.

Each day, millions of tons of municipal solid waste are deposited into thousands of landfills and other dumping sites worldwide. Landfill gas is typically made up of 50 percent methane and 50 percent carbon dioxide. A new issue brief from the Southern Legislative Conference of CSG explores the possibility of using methane in landfill gas as an alternative fuel.

capitol trivia

Question:

Which state has the most mileage in urban roads under its control? Which state controls the fewest urban miles?

To find the answer, log onto CSG’s Web site at www.csg.org!
Fifty years ago, *State News* started with an important mission. Today, that mission remains unchanged: To provide more extensive coverage on state affairs than ever before.

The first issue on state affairs published in July 1958 and the monthly newsletter was known then as *State Government News*. Subscriptions were $2 a year. The publication replaced a news section that appeared in The Council of State Governments’ journal State Government—which became a quarterly publication in 1958. The newsletter eventually became known as *State News*.

Even after 50 years, the need *State News* fills is still the same that it was in July 1958. “It is initiated in response to widespread expressions of belief by state officials and legislators that such a publication would help meet a growing need for up-to-date briefing on state action, studies and reports on important subjects,” the first issue reported.

The first issue covered legislative sessions, education, highways, corrections, health and welfare, water resources and labor. The first issue also reported that Virginia had adopted an uninsured motorists system. Drivers were required to contribute $15 per year to pay for the system.

Topics that were covered by *State Government News* in 1958 are still reported today in the pages of *State News*. Emergency preparedness, for example, was an issue that concerned state officials in the late 1950s. *State Government News* reported 50 years ago about amendments to the Civil Defense Compact, taking on enhanced roles to meet the challenges of a Cold War threat and natural disasters. That compact eventually led to the creation of the National Emergency Management Association, a CSG affiliate.

*State News* has been around long enough to see some CSG activities come full circle. In August 1958, *State Government News* reported that 24 states had ratified the Interstate Compact on Juveniles. It eventually was ratified by enough states to be enacted. Today, that compact has been updated and rewritten and needs the approval of 35 states. So far, 33 states have approved the new compact and six states are considering the legislation.

Not long after that, President Dwight D. Eisenhower signed the act for Hawaii’s statehood, on March 18, 1959—and the state was official Aug. 21 that same year, according to *State Government News.* Hawaii followed suit and joined CSG’s Western Regional Conference, now known as CSG-WEST, in 1959.

With the entrance of the nation’s youngest states, CSG not only expanded its boundaries, it also became more diverse in the issues it covers. Alaska brings its perspectives on natural resource issues with its vast landscape, oil resources and wildlife. In Hawaii’s case, the state added a gateway to the Pacific perspective on trade and tourism. That perspective is especially important today as we become a global economy, said CSG-WEST’s Mary Lou Cooper.
Leadership Programs Mold State Leaders

It’s that time of year again—time to submit applications for The Council of State Governments’ national and regional leadership programs.

Forty of the nation’s most promising state leaders annually come to Lexington, Ky., for the Henry Toll Fellowship Program, a five-night, six-day “intellectual boot camp.” CSG routinely brings in some of the nation’s top lecturers on a variety of topics that have included effective political communication techniques, time management, crisis management, state governance transformation and generational communication styles. This year’s deadline for applications is April 18 for the Toll Fellows Program held Sept. 27 to Oct. 2.

For more information, please visit www.csg.org/leadership/tollfellows/default.aspx or contact Krista Rinehart at (859) 244-8249.

In the Midwest, applications for the 2008 Bowhay Institute for Legislative Leadership Development are due April 1. Regional lawmakers in their first four years of legislative service are encouraged to apply for the program, which is designed for newer state legislators in the Midwest. Each year, 36 legislators attend the program aimed at developing effective leadership and policymaking skills. Applicants are evaluated based on their leadership potential. Each fellowship covers the cost of tuition, lodging, meals and a nominal travel stipend. The intensive five-day program will be held in Madison, Wis., Aug. 8 to 12 and is conducted by the CSG’s Midwestern Legislative Conference, in partnership with the University of Wisconsin’s Robert M. La Follette School of Public Affairs.

For application materials or more information, please contact Laura A. Tomaka at (630) 925-1922 or visit CSG Midwest’s Web site at www.csgmidwest.org.

Each fall, approximately 40 state and provincial officials from the 17 Eastern region member jurisdictions gather in Philadelphia, Pa., for the Robert J. Thompson Eastern Leadership Academy. This select group of state officials are nominated from all three branches of government, and they receive training to enhance leadership skills. Participants study the most significant policy issues facing the states today.

Participation in the Eastern Leadership Academy is a unique opportunity to learn with the best and the brightest policymakers from across the region.

This year’s program will be held Sept. 14 to 18. For more information please visit www.csgwest.org or contact Karen Imas at kimas@csgwest.org.

Each year CSG-WEST conducts the Western Legislative Academy for Western state legislators in their first four years of service to help them become more effective leaders. The academy, scheduled for Nov. 17 to 20 in Colorado Springs, Colo., brings together a faculty of academics, nationally known corporate and public trainers to work with a small class of lawmakers who represent each of the 13 Western states. Participants are selected based on dedication to public service, desire to improve personal legislative effectiveness and commitment to the institution of the legislature.

The deadline to submit applications for the Western Legislative Academy is March 3. For more information, please visit www.csgwest.org/wla/contents.html.

CSG’s Southern Legislative Conference will hold its leadership program, the Center for the Advancement of Leadership Skills, for the second year in an effort to train highly skilled, educated and confident state leaders. The 2008 program will be held Sept. 20 to 24 at the University of Oklahoma, Carl Albert Congressional Research and Studies Center in Norman, Okla. Unique among CSG leadership programs, the SLC’s program will rotate among three sponsoring universities. The inaugural program—which received accolades from participants—was hosted by the University of Arkansas System’s Clinton School of Public Service and the Winthrop Rockefeller Institute. West Virginia University will host the leadership program in 2009.

Nominations for the participants are solicited from 10 of the region’s 16 states on an alphabetically rotating schedule. The application deadline is April 14. For application materials and for more information, please contact Lori Jones-Rucker at ljones-rucker@csg.org or (404) 633-1866.
States Pursue Title of Lieutenant Governor

The last states without lieutenant governors may soon jump on the bandwagon. Two states, Tennessee and Arizona, are pursuing in this legislation session the creation of the lieutenant governor position as a statewide elected office. Rhode Island lawmakers are considering expanding powers of the lieutenant governor. Only five states do not have lieutenant governors.

In each case, lieutenant governor supporters say the position allows for gubernatorial succession that’s clear to voters, while protecting the continuity of government.

However, in Arizona, Oregon and Wyoming, states without the lieutenant governor position, the secretary of state is first in line for gubernatorial succession.

“People who are voting for secretary of state should note they are also electing the person next in line for governor,” Arizona State Senate President Jan Brewer, R-Chandler, told Cronkite News.

Sen. Chuck Gray told the Cronkite News Service.

An East Valley Tribune editorial agreed: “Arizonans always should keep in mind that the official who oversees the state election system suddenly could have power to veto legislation and control a large portion of state government, if the governor became unable to do the job.”

Gubernatorial succession has happened five times in Arizona’s 95-year history, most recently in 1997 when then-Secretary of State Jane Hull replaced Fife Symington. Voters may not realize that the secretary of state is next in line if the current governor dies or resigns since nearly all other states have a lieutenant governor, according to the East Valley Tribune editorial.

Four states place the senate president first in line to replace the governor, but Tennessee and West Virginia give the title lieutenant governor to this officer in recognition of the vital succession duty. Yet, Tennessee this year is considering creating an office of lieutenant governor, which would be elected statewide.

“An elected lieutenant governor is a companion piece to any sort of sensible line of succession,” Gov. Phil Bredesen told The Tennessean. Only three officials are elected statewide in Tennessee, the governor and two U.S. senators.

New Hampshire and Maine are the other states where the senate president is first in line of succession and with no use of the lieutenant governor title. Voters in New Jersey approved creation of a statewide elected office of lieutenant governor in 2005; the first will be elected next year in 2009.

States Lengthen School Days

In an effort to raise achievement in schools, some states are looking to lengthen the school day. A handful of states and cities, along with many charter schools, are seeking to add more hours, days and weeks to their school calendar, according to The Boston Globe.

Massachusetts is spending $13 million this year as part of a program to lengthen school days, according to Heidi Guarino, spokeswoman for the Massachusetts Department of Education. Ten schools made school days longer for the 2006-2007 school year and this school year, the number of schools increased to 19, Guarino said.

An additional 33 schools in 16 districts are in the pipeline and hope to convert to longer days in the future, according to The Boston Globe.

In most cases, the school days are expanded from six-hour days to eight- or nine-hour days.

The Commonwealth Readiness Project—the cornerstone of Gov. Deval Patrick’s education priorities—issued an update in January 2008 that continued the recommendation of expanded teaching and learning time in Massachusetts.

“Expanding teaching and learning time, whether through full-day kindergarten, longer school days, summer learning programs or high-quality out-of-school or after-school programs, can provide increased opportunities that impact academic achievement, address out-of-school factors, such as health and nutrition and enhance support services including in-home resources and parenting skills,” the report stated.

The Massachusetts report also said schools with longer days narrowed the achievement gap at a faster rate than the state and increased the number of students at or above the proficiency level by 10.8 percent compared to the state rate of only 3.5 percent.

Sen. Edward M. Kennedy, chairman of the U.S. Senate’s Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee, joined with Boston Mayor Thomas M. Menino, to celebrate expanded school day programs in Massachusetts at the Clarence R. Edwards Middle School in Charlestown in January. The middle school implemented the state’s expanded learning time initiative in 2006.

“It gives students the time not only to master the basics, but also to expand their horizons through art, music, physical education and other activities. It gives teachers additional time for collaboration and planning to improve instruction,” Kennedy said in a press release.

New York tackled on minutes a day for schools in 28 different school systems, The Washington Post reports. New Mexico is also spending slightly more than $7 million to add 25 extra days at 29 schools where students need the most help, according to the Post.
## Comparison of Pupil/Teacher Ratio, 1999/2004

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<tr>
<th>State or Jurisdiction</th>
<th>Pupil/Teacher Ratio Fall 1999</th>
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--- Not available.
◆ Includes imputed values for states.
■ Includes imputations for underreporting of prekindergarten teachers/enrollment.
★ Includes both overseas and domestic schools.

Many Western states, highlighted in bold, have pupil/teacher ratios higher than the national average and that of many Eastern states. Some people believe this is directly related to funding, since a large part of Western states is owned by the federal government. See story on page 25.

Newt Gingrich
Friday, May 30, 2008 • 2:30–4:30 p.m.

The Art of Transformation

The Washington Times has called Gingrich “the indispensable leader” and Time magazine, in naming him Man of the Year for 1995, said, “Leaders make things possible. Exceptional leaders make them inevitable. Newt Gingrich belongs in the category of the exceptional.”

Gingrich is founder of the Gingrich Group, a communications and consulting firm focused on transformational change, and the Center for Health Transformation, a collaboration of public and private sector leaders dedicated to the creation of a 21st Century Intelligent Health System that saves lives and saves money.

A prolific author, Gingrich’s nonfiction books include Winning the Future: A 21st Century Contract with America; Contract with America; To Renew America; Lessons Learned the Hard Way; Saving Lives & Saving Money; Window of Opportunity; The Art of Transformation; and Rediscovering God in America, which was made into a documentary-style movie; and his latest, A Contract with the Earth, published in October 2007.

Michael Beschloss
Saturday, May 31, 2008 • 12:30–2 p.m.

Presidential Courage: Brave Leaders and How They Changed America

Award-winning historian Michael Beschloss has been called “the nation’s leading presidential historian” by Newsweek.

His most recent book, Presidential Courage: Brave Leaders and How They Changed America, 1789–1989, has been called “engrossing...marvelous...and judicious,” and, “history written with subtlety, verve and an almost novelistic appreciation for the complexities of human nature and Presidential politics,” by Kirkus Reviews.

Join Beschloss as he gives us his observation on leadership qualities through the years.
Griffin Gate Marriott Resort & Spa is located in the heart of breathtaking Bluegrass country. The resort has undergone a $20 million transformation that includes sparkling new facilities and a new luxurious full-service spa. Situated on the beautiful Rees Jones-designed golf course, you'll enjoy the richly appointed guest rooms featuring Tempur-Pedic® mattresses.

Enjoy the recreational amenities including indoor and outdoor pools, tennis courts, volleyball courts, jogging and biking trails, 18-hole Rees Jones-designed golf course, full-service spa and fitness center.

Conference guests will enjoy a 10 percent discount in the hotel's five restaurants and lounge, including superb continental cuisine at the award-winning Mansion at Griffin Gate, JW's Steakhouse and Starbucks café.

Reservations/Room Block/Rates/Cancellations

For reservations, call the number below and ask for CSG's very special conference rate:

Griffin Gate Marriott Resort & Spa
1800 Newtown Pike
Lexington, KY 40511
Phone: 1-859-231-5100 OR 1-800-228-9290
Fax: 1-859-255-9944

Room rate: $109/night, single/double/triple/quad, plus 13.42 percent tax.
All reservations must be accompanied by a first-night's deposit or guaranteed with a major credit card.

Cut-off date for reservations: March 28, 2008

Guest Programs and Activities

Courtesy of the Commonwealth of Kentucky

Our Kentucky hosts are planning an interesting and fun-filled guest program. All CSG registered guests and spouses are welcome to attend. Guest registration is $200 (early bird rate) and includes:

• Breakfast on Friday, Saturday and Sunday
• Welcome Reception
• Kentucky Night at Keeneland Race Course
• Grand Finale Gala Event
• Friday and Saturday guest activities (more information to follow soon).

Flavor of Kentucky • Sunday Optional Events

Sunday, June 1
All registered attendees are welcome to register for optional Sunday afternoon events. Watch our Web site at www.csg.org for more specific information about these events, which will include golf, horse farm tours and more.
The Balance of Power: Federalism in Flux

In an era where partnerships are increasingly essential to success in a wide range of business, governmental and societal endeavors, why is our state/federal partnership in such a state of disarray and disrepair? CSG invites its former governor presidents currently serving in the Bush Cabinet and on Capitol Hill to address the state of our federal system. Moderated by a nationally acclaimed journalist, former CSG leaders and strong state advocates discuss the state/federal partnership from their current national perspectives. Where are we in this critical balance issue, and what changes can/should we jointly seek moving forward?

State Perspectives on Presidential Election Reform

There have been dramatic changes in, and growing controversies with, presidential election processes in recent years. Yet to fully unfold, but lurking on the near horizon is the latest and perhaps most powerful presidential selection trend called “front-loading.” With several of the nation’s most populous states moving their primary dates from mid to late Spring into February 2008, presidential candidate selection dynamics promise to be substantially altered. CSG invites state leaders from diverse geographic and political backgrounds including Secretaries of State to discuss these growing controversies and their consequences on potential reforms in anticipation of the next presidential election cycle.

Creative State Options for Transportation Finance

While states play a variety of roles in supporting different transportation types—rail, freight, river ports, mass transit—the states are increasingly focused on surface transportation—its crumbling infrastructure, long-term maintenance costs, and continued need for new roads, bridges and tunnels. While the need is clear, how we pay for it is not. With the looming insolvency of the Federal Highway Trust Fund and public demand for good roads increasing, state officials are being squeezed from both the top and bottom to craft short-term and long-term financing solutions to this crisis. Whether it’s an increased gas tax, new public/private financing partnerships, the implementation of toll roads, or new congestion pricing schemes, one thing is clear—states are not waiting on the federal government for help. Join us as we explore innovative ways your state can cope with transportation finance.

Broadband—An Economic Change Driver for the Future

In order for the United States to compete in a global expansion of broadband to all of our communities is essential. In the past, we have focused on the development of our transportation infrastructure to foster and develop economic opportunities abroad and at home. Today’s world requires a different kind of infrastructure. An infrastructure that moves information 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, and 365 days a year. This high-speed infrastructure will help states to enhance educational opportunities, create jobs, promote public safety, deliver essential services like healthcare and improve the standard of living.
# 2008 Spring Conference

Lexington, Ky. • May 29–June 1, 2008

Invoking for meeting registrations will begin on the date of registration. All cancellations must be received in writing and a cancellation penalty may apply. For complete information regarding programming, accommodations, registration cancellations, or special assistance needs, please visit www.csg.org or call (800) 800-1910.

Please print. Duplicate this form for multiple registrations.

Prefix: ________________________________

Name _________________________________________________________________________________________________________________

Title (as it is to appear on your badge) ________________________________________________________________________________

Organization ___________________________________________________________________________________________________________

Address _______________________________________________________________________________________________________________

City ________________________________ State ______________ Zip _______________________

Office Phone (_____) __________________________ Fax (_____) ________________________

Home Phone (_____) __________________________ E-mail ____________________________________________________

Guest/Spouse (if attending) ___________________________________________________________________________________________

☐ Please check if this is the first time you have attended a CSG Spring or Annual Conference.

## Attendee Categories and Fees

(Please check the appropriate box. Payment must accompany registration.)

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## Attendee Payment Information

Payment Enclosed $ __________________________

Charge to: ☐ American Express  ☐ Visa  ☐ Master Card  Card No. __________________________ Exp. Date ____________

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☐ Bill to State Agency

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## Spouse/Guest Payment Information

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Growing awareness of risks associated with storms—particularly hurricanes—has states grappling with property insurance availability and rising premium rates. Property insurance has become a political issue.

By Mikel Chavers

From tight budgets to health care, states are facing many challenges. The nation’s governors have offered insight into their plans to address these challenges in their annual State of the State addresses.

By Mikel Chavers
Despite the onset of several key problems in many states, many governors vowed to tackle major issues such as budget and spending, health care, education and other priorities like mental health reform and cracking down on sex offenders with—or without—the federal government’s help.

With slowing revenues and skimpier budgets, many states recognize the difficulty of addressing key priorities without the needed funds. Facing a budget crunch, several states are looking to the private sector—through public-private partnerships—to tap its wealth and efficiency.

“There isn’t enough money in the public sector, we all know that. Can’t do all of it,” California Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger said in his State of the State address. “We need to expand partnerships where government and the private sector work together to meet the needs of the people.”

With that in mind, states are getting creative in solving issues new and old.

**Budget and Spending**

State budgets are expected to tighten in 2008 as revenues nationwide are flattening out, according to a National Governors Association and National Association of State Budget Officers report released Dec. 5.

Newly elected Kentucky Gov. Steve Beshear described that economic climate—and it looks grim. “Because of the economic slowdown, the cooling of the housing market, oil prices and a gap between what we spend and what we earn, we are facing an unprecedented budgetary shortfall,” Beshear said in his address.

Wisconsin Gov. Jim Doyle echoed those sentiments. “America’s economy is in deep turmoil and this will be a year of great challenge for us,” Doyle said. “In Wisconsin, steps have been taken to prepare for a national economic downturn.”

In perhaps evidence of what’s to come, Wisconsin was the only state forced to make a midyear budget cut for the fiscal year ending in June 2007, according to the December NGA/NASBO report, “The Fiscal Survey of the States.”

“Without world class education, we cannot have a world class economy.”

—New York Gov. Eliot Spitzer
And that predicted national economic downturn means even states with a surplus from last year’s budgets—such as New Hampshire’s record $89 million rainy day fund—governors are still looking to rein in spending. “Barring an emergency, I will not support any bills that require additional spending this year,” said New Hampshire Gov. John Lynch in his address.

South Dakota Gov. Mike Rounds said in his speech, “We cannot commit to expensive new programs or huge increases in existing programs, because we don’t have the money to do so. We must live within our means.”

In fact, governors in California, Delaware, Kentucky, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Mississippi, New Hampshire, New Jersey, Rhode Island, South Carolina and Wisconsin said they were looking to cut government spending. With the exception of a few remarks, Rhode Island Gov. Donald Carcieri’s address was entirely about cutting government spending with the state facing a nearly $600 million budget deficit—Rhode Island’s largest since 1991.

In California, there’s also a sizeable shortfall. California is spending $400 million to $600 million more per month than the state is taking in, according to Schwarzenegger. Put simply, he said, Sacramento is overspending. “The problem is that while revenues are flat, automatic formulas are increasing spending by 7.3 percent,” Schwarzenegger said. “Now, even a booming economy can’t meet that kind of increase. So the system itself is the problem.”

To address next year’s projected $14 billion deficit in California, the governor will submit a budget that cuts spending across the board. He also pledged to propose a constitutional amendment aimed at spending—modeled after a process in Arkansas—that would prohibit the government from spending the entire state surplus in good years. Instead, “we would set some of that good-year money aside for bad years,” Schwarzenegger said in the speech.

New Jersey is $32 billion in the hole and Gov. Jon Corzine wants to freeze spending. “We are in a hole, and if we want to get out, we have to stop digging,” Corzine said in his speech. “For nearly 20 years both parties bonded, begged and borrowed money from every pot we could find to fund a growing appetite for spending.”

To pay off some of New Jersey’s debt—and fund transportation projects at the same time—Corzine wants to capture the value in the state’s toll roads. By raising tolls and forming a nonprofit entity to manage the toll roads—not leasing or selling state roads to the private sector—the governor plans to pay down 50 percent of the state’s debt.

Other states are proposing creative ideas to pay off debt and increase revenue. To create a “reliable stream of revenue for cities, towns and the state,” Massachusetts Gov. Deval Patrick urged legislators to pass a Resort Casinos Bill, which would license three proposed gambling venues.

Missouri has taken another creative approach, in this case, for transparency in government spending. Missouri’s Accountability Portal is an Internet site that allows residents to monitor government expenditures in real time. Gov. Matt Blunt wants to make the Web site permanent.

Education

When it comes to the importance of educational priorities, perhaps New York Gov. Eliot Spitzer said it best: “Without world class education, we cannot have a world class economy,” Spitzer said in his speech.

With that in mind, many states are focusing on education priorities. Alaska, Arizona, California, Delaware, Georgia, Hawaii, Idaho, Kansas, Massachusetts, Michigan, Mississippi, Nebraska, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Utah, Vermont, West Virginia and Wisconsin are looking to improve K–12 education. Arizona’s Gov. Janet Napolitano wants her state to raise the high school dropout age from 16 to 18. She also wants to create a special scholarship program allowing high-achieving high school students graduating in 2012 and beyond to attend any of the state’s universities or community colleges for free. Delaware Gov. Ruth Ann Minner similarly wants to expand the state’s SEED scholarship program to offer free tuition to four-year colleges to program participants.

In higher education, Napolitano laid out plans to double the number of bachelor’s degrees awarded by Arizona colleges and universities by 2020. To help college students finance higher education, Napolitano recommends a fixed rate tuition to span all four years of college beginning with next year’s freshman class. Other states are also considering similar fixed-rate tuition policies.

To pay for educational priorities, some states are considering creative solutions such as leasing their lotteries. New York is one of them. Spitzer wants to unlock some of the value in the state’s lottery either by “taking in private investment or looking at other financing alternatives.”

In Vermont, Gov. Jim Douglas also wants to tap the state’s lottery and proposes a long-term lease of the state lottery for an upfront payment of $50 million, plus a share of future revenues. Douglas proposed in his address to spend $25 million for school modernization projects. Georgia Gov. Sonny Perdue wants to pledge another $6.4 million in lottery funds to expand the state’s pre-K program by nearly 80,000 slots.

Idaho Gov. Butch Otter proposes doubling the amount of funding allocated to community colleges from state liquor sales.

Health Care

Most states’ governors mentioned health care as a major issue for 2008. Many of
those governors want to expand access to health care, with strategies ranging from making health care more affordable to adopting universal health care. Thirteen of the 33 governors who gave State of the State addresses before Feb. 1 specifically mentioned expanding health care coverage in their state as a top priority. Countless others mentioned health care in general as a priority.

Governors aren’t waiting for a national cure to health care reform, either. “In Colorado, we won’t wait for reforms to come from Washington,” said Colorado Gov. Bill Ritter Jr. “Instead, we will make smart changes to the system and do what we can afford as we work toward our long-term goals.”

Maine isn’t waiting either. “When the federal government passed a poorly designed Medicare drug benefit that actually hurt some senior citizens in our state, Maine stepped forward to ease the transition,” said Maine Gov. John Baldacci in his speech. “When the federal government failed to deliver on affordable health care, Maine stepped forward. We will continue to step forward.” The governor wants to expand the state’s universal health care program known as Dirigo Health by finding more sustainable funding and by contracting with new health partners.

New Mexico Gov. Bill Richardson, who dropped out of the Democratic presidential primary in January, wants to expand health care coverage to all New Mexicans by 2010. He said 20 percent of New Mexicans do not have health insurance coverage. He proposed that 85 percent of premiums go directly to health care—not to overhead or profits—and advocates using technology to reduce medical costs and medical errors.

“A system that covers only those who can afford it leaves the most vulnerable behind, and values profits over patients,” Richardson said.

In New Hampshire, the governor wants to expand health care insurance coverage by making it more affordable for small businesses to cover their workers. The plan, known as New Hampshire Health-First, will require insurance companies to offer a wellness insurance plan to small businesses—a more affordable choice for coverage, Lynch said in his speech.

A similar plan is in effect in Georgia and Perdue wants to invest another $17 million into the state’s Health Insurance Partnership for small business employees. Several governors, including those in Wisconsin and South Carolina, unveiled similar plans aimed at making health care insurance more affordable for small businesses.

States are also jumping on board with strategies in preventive health care and are looking to reduce disparities in health care. In Delaware, Minner touted the successes of the state’s Screenings for Life program, resulting in record rates of colorectal and breast cancer screenings. The state’s cancer mortality rate is declining twice as fast as the national average, Minner said in her speech. That’s in stark contrast to Delaware in 2001, when cancer incidence and death rates were among the worst in the nation. To combat gaps and inequalities in health care among minority and ethnic populations, Minner recommended the establishment of a health disparities registry, so the state can target its efforts.

In West Virginia, Gov. Joe Manchin III announced that every child entering kindergarten in the state will receive a well- ness screening before they start school. After that, the program will conduct follow-up screenings when the children reach second, fifth and eighth grades. The program is funded through the State Children’s Health Insurance Program.

Iowa Gov. Chet Culver has several wellness initiatives. Culver wants to provide additional funding for early detection dedicating resources to early screening for cancer. “After all, wellness and prevention are the key to reducing costs, reducing medical claims filed, and reducing the number of procedures performed, and most importantly, keeping people healthy,” Culver said in his address.

Other priorities

Other priorities were brought to the surface by recent tragedies. In Virginia, Gov. Tim Kaine highlighted the need for mental health reform in the wake of the tragic shootings at Virginia Tech in April 2007. The gunman in the incident had been declared mentally ill by a Virginia special justice.

Kaine said 6 percent of Virginians have a serious mental illness and one in every four has a diagnosable mental illness of some kind. But in recent years chronic underfunding has plagued Virginia’s mental health system. Kaine is calling for increased funding for more mental health clinicians and case managers as well as additional support for emergency care.

“We also need to do a better job of keeping people with mental illness from entering the criminal justice system and to provide better treatment to individuals when they are in jail,” Kaine said.

He also wants to close a loophole in the law that allows individuals to purchase firearms at gun shows without a background check.

In Washington, after a 12-year-old Tacoma girl was killed last year, Gov. Chris Gregoire asked lawmakers to build on Operation Crackdown, a state program that targets the monitoring and tracking of sex offenders. In her speech, Gregoire proposed a new program that would automatically e-mail families if a sex offender moves into their neighborhood. She also wants to require DNA samples from every sex offender in the state.

—Mikel Chavers is associate editor for State News magazine.
Resident Curatorship Programs Rehab State-Owned Historic Properties

Several Eastern states are saving taxpayer dollars while they preserve history through resident curatorship programs.

By Mikel Chavers
Trees were growing through the porch of the nearly 160-year-old Buchanan house in Maryland. Vacant for 20 years, it was lying in near ruin.

The state-owned structure seemed doomed to be a casualty of limited funding—the state department of natural resources just couldn’t afford to fix it up.

That is until Maryland resident Mike Hisky and his wife came to the state’s aid. “It was just a disaster,” Hisky said of the old Baltimore county property, located in Patapsco Valley State Park. “We had to completely gut the place.”

The couple entered into a special agreement with the state in 1993 under the state’s resident curatorship program. They’d spend their own money—and sweat—to restore the home in exchange for a lifetime lease on a pretty unique and charming place to live.

Since then, the Hiskys’ investment on the place is approaching $250,000—not including sweat equity. The couple did a lot of the grunt work themselves, including tearing out all the old plaster by hand.

More than 40 historic structures are currently under lease in Maryland’s resident curatorship program where residents like the Hiskys, nonprofits and other organizations can agree to restore a timeless piece of the state’s history. In exchange, they get to live in and use the state-owned property—in most cases—rent- and tax-free for life.

Other states, including Massachusetts and Delaware, also have resident curatorship programs dedicated to saving some of the states’ historic jewels.

“Their important historic structures that belong to the taxpayers are restored and maintained without any taxpayer money going toward them,” said Bruce Alexander, manager of curatorship and cultural resources for the Maryland Department of Natural Resources. “The taxpayers have gotten a historic property at absolutely no cost (and) we’ve been able to save an exceptionally large amount of money.”

Today the restored glory of the Buchanan House illustrates another type of public-private partnership. But this one isn’t the kind that comes to mind when the favorite catch phrase is used. This partnership isn’t between state government and a large multimillion dollar firm or finance company. Instead, resident curators are typically ordinary people—mostly families.

The beauty of these partnerships, and perhaps some of the attraction for the curators, is that these properties aren’t the kind typically available on the open market.

Another Maryland resident curator, Joe Klaff and his family, live in the Tilthammer House in Maryland’s Gunpowder Falls State Park. It took 10 years and more than $100,000 to restore the stone Cape Cod to its former glory, but the family is now living in a home that was once part of the second copper mill in the country. The Kliffs also don’t have to fret over noisy neighbors and losing their pristine views. “I do not have to worry about nearby development as I live in a state park,” Klaff said simply.

Besides that, who else can say that the dome of the original capital was fabricated in their house? The Kliffs can. Back in the days of the copper mill, raw copper was banged into sheets in what is now the Kliffs’ living room.

**States Reap Benefits**

Since curators invest their own money into a labor-of-love dream project, the states reap benefits. In fact, since its founding in 1982, Maryland’s resident curatorship program has saved taxpayers $8.3 million. That’s the amount invested by the resident curators in 43 properties in 11 parks and management areas throughout the state, according to Alexander.

When the program began, the majority of Maryland’s state-owned historic structures—the oldest of which dates back to 1753—were barely standing shells, and without the resident curatorship program, “they would have all been rubble by now,” Alexander said.

Massachusetts’ resident curatorship program began in 1994 after it was OK’d by the legislature, and since, curators have saved and restored nine historic properties under the program.

Resident curatorship programs don’t require much state funding, according to Kevin Allen, the program’s director. In fact, Maryland, Massachusetts and Delaware basically each have one person managing the program.
While Massachusetts’ program has a budget of $50,000 to $80,000 annually and one full-time program manager, for every dollar invested in the program, the state sees returns that are five times that from resident curators, Allen said.

That makes the program more than worth it, he said. “It should have been done a long time ago,” he added. After all, he said, “the longer the property sits, the more expensive it is to fix.”

Delaware adopted the idea after a 1998 conference hosted by Preservation Delaware featured other state’s programs. Soon after, the state’s department of natural resources partnered with the University of Delaware, and a graduate assistant gathered information and eventually developed a proposal for the program, according to Cara Lee Blume, the manager of Delaware’s resident curatorship program.

“She had the document in our hands by March 2004,” Blume said. The program currently has one resident curatorship under contract.

### Curators Give Back

But not all the resident curators are families looking to restore a house to live in. Uniquely, Massachusetts allows both nonprofits and for-profit organizations to become resident curators.

In 2002, a nonprofit entered the program to rehabilitate a historic lodge in a state forest in the Berkshires. The nonprofit Boston-based Youth Enrichment Services restored and uses Swann Lodge in Monterey, Mass., as a camp to bring inner city kids to the country to benefit from a change of scenery. The nonprofit uses outdoor and environmental education programs to help low to moderate income students gain confidence and to enrich the lives of urban youth.

Allen calls the agreement with the nonprofit “a best case scenario,” and one “that really aligns with our mission,” he said.

“The best part about this is not only are the properties fixed; but they have life again,” Allen said.

To ensure taxpayers also benefit, most resident curatorship programs require curators to open at least a portion of their state-owned properties to the public a few times a year.

In Massachusetts, some tenants also do trail maintenance on nearby state lands. One curator in Carlisle, Mass., has a garden that’s open to the public, even hosting a concert series in the garden for a small fee, Allen said.

### Choosing Curators Not an Exact Science

While the programs sound like a win-win scenario for the state and the resident curator, they also pose a unique set of challenges for the state. The top challenge is finding the right curator to take on what is often a daunting task of restoring properties that are hundreds of years old and on the verge of ruin, according to Alexander.

After all, some resident curators have to deal with unforeseen issues. And it’s not easy. The Hiskys had to deal with serious vandalism problems in the restoration of the Buchanan House. After they installed cedar siding on the house, someone threw bricks into the side of the house, ruin portions of the siding. Tools and other equipment were also stolen. The Hiskys eventually put up a security fence.

The process of choosing just the right curator who can handle such an undertaking—and perhaps some surprises—is often so involved that few interested parties are left standing.

“The rigorous process works out all the non-serious tenants and leaves only the strong and serious,” Allen in Massachusetts said.

For example, a June 2007 resident curatorship agreement on a Maryland property in a state park shows how detailed—and sometimes lengthy—the process can be. In July 2006, Alexander sent a press release to the local paper and sent 150 e-mails to notify potential curators of the property available for curatorship as part of his marketing campaign.

Nearly 100 people attended an open house for the property in 2006. But of those, only five or six were interested in becoming resident curators.

Alexander received five formal proposals. And proposals, in most cases, are very detailed, lengthy documents that describe the curator’s proposed master plan for restoration, as well as a curator’s experience and expertise with historic rehabilitation.

The proposal also includes how much the curator will invest over the life of the lease period.

The proposals in Maryland are reviewed by a team that includes various representatives including from the state and the Maryland Historic Trusts. During the 60-day review process, the team scores each proposal and then contacts the highest scoring would-be curator. The entire process takes nearly a year.

And even though the process is intended to find a good resident curator, there are rare instances where things go sour. Alexander describes an unsuccessful curatorship years ago where the curator was eventually evicted by the state. When it was all said and done, the furnace and other historic fabric of the property were stolen by the former curator, he said.

That's why it's important “to find the best possible curator for each individual property,” Alexander said. “Because if a curator doesn’t seem to have the skills, there could be more harm caused.”

Delaware, which hosts a much smaller resident curatorship program, struggles with garnering enough interest in the program’s available properties. “Here we are three years after the start of (the program) and I’ve only got one property (leased),” she said. “Part of the problem is that you have to build up familiarity with the program.”

It helps that nearby states have older, more well-known resident curatorship programs. One interested individual inquired about Delaware’s resident curatorship program because his mother-in-law is a resident curator in Maryland, Blume said.

But with those challenges, you learn a lot, Alexander said. Despite challenges, the Maryland program has been successful, he said.

And there’s good news for states looking at starting a similar concept, according to Allen from Massachusetts.

“It’s a great sell to legislators obviously, because we’re preserving these buildings and keeping them in the system,” he said. “We not only take a building from being an eyesore and a legal liability—we turn that into an asset.”

—Mikel Chavers is associate editor of State News magazine.
States Promote Transit-Oriented Development

Several states are exploring Transit-Oriented Development—compact, walkable communities centered around mass transit systems—as a way to decrease automobile dependency and deal with ecological and environmental issues.

By Zachary Campbell

States are getting smart when it comes to growth.

And this smart growth—a new policy trend that advocates mixed land use, decreased automobile dependency, economic development, and ecological and environmental sustainability—often includes transit-oriented development. Transit-oriented development is the creation of compact, walkable communities centered around mass transit systems where people can live, work, play and shop all in one close-knit area. States are recognizing this as one viable alternative to traditional roadway expansion and maintenance.

Transit-oriented development touts the ability to “help preserve the environment, provide affordable transit options and reduce the number of single occupancy vehicle trips without increasing the urban footprint,” said Joan Sollenberger, chief of the Division of Transportation Planning at the California Department of Transportation.

The transit-oriented model proposes a return to more diverse community development through investment in transit stations and the surrounding area. It’s being used from the West to the East coasts.

“If left unchecked, sprawl will continue to fragment the landscape, impair our ability to remain economically competitive, consume precious natural resources, waste energy, and pollute our air and water,” Connecticut Gov. Jodi Rell said in a March 7, 2007, executive
order naming Albert Martin as the head of the state’s transit-oriented development effort. “This is an issue that has been talked about by state and local officials for years. It is time we tackled the issue head on. It is time to lead our state in a more responsible direction.”

California and Connecticut aren’t alone in seeing a need for change in transportation systems. Recent events, such as the August 2007 Minnesota bridge collapse and increased congestion along the nation’s roads, coupled with a depleted Highway Trust Fund, have increased attention on American transit systems and development.

And demand for new infrastructure hasn’t slowed down thanks to development. From 1982 to 1997, the amount of developed land in the Northeast increased by nearly 40 percent, according to a report by the Brookings Institute. Population growth in and around metropolitan areas has exploded. The percentage of the country’s population living in urban and suburban communities has risen from 63.3 percent in 1960 to 80.3 percent in 2000, according to the U.S. Census Bureau.

And it’s not just cities that are affected. The problems posed by modern urban development “typically thought of as metropolitan issues, are crossing state boundaries and affecting the daily life of millions of citizens, thereby aggregating up to the state,” said Sam Zimmerman-Bergman, the project director of Reconnecting America. The Oakland, Calif.-based nonprofit organization works to connect transportation and communities to improve environmental and economic performance and create economic security for families and communities.

**Aiming for Transit-Friendly**

States are touting benefits of the new transit-oriented policies that can include increased accessibility to and ridership of mass transit as well as decreased automobile usage. In fact, increased transit accessibility is a major motivational factor in Florida, where 30 percent of the population does not drive, according to a 2003 report by the Center for Urban Transportation Research. Meanwhile, decreasing automobile usage is a predominant motivator for such development policies in California, which suffers from some of the worst traffic congestion in the country.

Investment in transit-oriented development does pose some risks, however. Most projects are financed by property tax revenue. By investing in private development around public transit—which in some cases occurs by selling off municipal land—states are able to increase their property tax revenue through what is known as value capture, an innovative public financing method. Value capture basically occurs when the new investment causes land value nearby to appreciate, thereby increasing property tax revenue. In several states the new property tax revenue is then reinvested in further local development.

But the returns on investment through value capture, if any, may take a long time. A common argument against transit-oriented development is that smaller towns lack the density to support transit, and the funding required to build the rail station and the necessary density to support such development would come at a large expense to taxpayers. As an alternative, California is experimenting with a new tax increment financing program that would allow money to be borrowed against future property taxes. This proposal, however, poses potential risks if property tax returns are lower than expected.

Six states—California, Florida, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Jersey and Pennsylvania—and Washington, D.C.—have proactive transit-oriented development policies. These states along with the district provide financial and logistical support to municipalities agreeing to adopt transit-oriented policies which differ from state to state.

**California**

California is unique in that the 2007 Proposition 1C—a part of Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger’s Strategic Growth Plan—offers grants to developers who build low-income housing projects in areas designated as transit-oriented developments. Recent studies have demonstrated that these housing developments increase density and transit ridership, which are two top priorities of the state’s transportation department. Development projects in California receive funds for redeveloping transit systems, as well as funding for residential development around the station.

The first municipal transit-oriented development practices in California date back to the Bay Area Rapid Transit system policies of the early 1970s, and several municipalities in the Golden State have a longstanding history of the walkable community policy. State-level involvement, however, is quite new. The California Department of Transportation—also known as Caltrans—commissioned a study on the potential benefits of such development in 2000.

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, California is expecting population growth of more than half a million people in the next year. Accommodating the transportation needs of the state’s massive population, as well as decreasing congestion and pollution, are some of Caltrans’ primary goals. These development projects aim to place people closer to their jobs and decrease single occupancy car use.

**New Jersey**

The New Jersey Department of Transportation sponsors many municipal transit-oriented development projects, the largest of which is the New Jersey Transit Village Initiative. The initiative
can designate certain areas as transit villages. Transit village status not only entitles urban areas to a new zoning ordinance that drives the community’s redevelopment and transit-oriented design, but it also gives it the access to state grant funds to develop mixed-use neighborhoods around transit stations.

“Because of the interdependence between New York, New Jersey and Pennsylvania,” said Jack Kanerek, the senior director of Project Development for New Jersey Transit, “New Jersey’s deliberate attempt to upgrade in areas of transit-oriented development promotes transit, which benefits the entire region.”

New Jersey’s initiative started in 1999 with five officially designated transit villages and has since grown to 19 villages. A New Jersey Department of Transportation study of the first seven transit villages found that an investment of between $150 million and $175 million in public funds yielded $186 million in private construction activity. In addition, New Jersey Transit is also experiencing record high ridership levels.

**Pennsylvania**

Pennsylvania’s policy is defined in the state’s Transit Revitalization Investment District Act, enacted in February 2005. The program provides state-level budgetary and technical resources for municipalities to develop land within a half mile radius of a transit station. The Pennsylvania departments of Transportation and Community and Economic Development administer the districts.

The state’s law developed a how-to handbook on transit-oriented development. Pennsylvania also allows transit agencies to partner with local governments and developers to facilitate development and share tax revenues by establishing areas where additional property tax revenue can be collected through value capture and by allowing transit agencies to acquire land for non-transportation purposes. The state can also offer planning and implementation grants of up to $75,000 to each municipality for such development.

—Zachary Campbell is a communications assistant at The Council of State Governments/Eastern Regional Conference.

**States’ Roles in Development**

State governments play three roles in effectively supporting transit-oriented development, according to a report by the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials. In places where there is no municipal policy, state departments of transportation can provide leadership through outreach to local jurisdictions.

Those departments can also provide the necessary information to local governments and the private sector to jumpstart programs. For example, the California Department of Transportation regional blueprint grants, which compare current municipal land use plans to alternate smart growth/transit-oriented development plans, illustrate the importance of state and local partnerships in these efforts.

Through various measures, the state can also facilitate such development. In areas where local development policies exist, the state can provide financial and technical tools to help expand and improve existing policy. In some cases, often inadvertently, state policies and practices stand in the way of local efforts to achieve transit-oriented development. For this reason, Massachusetts created the Office of Commonwealth Development to oversee the state’s transportation, housing community development and environmental agencies to prevent redundancies and inconsistencies.

**A Brief History of Urban Development**

Suburban communities accessible by public transit began to emerge at the beginning of the 20th century. These communities were predominantly based around privately owned streetcars that extended from major cities into residential communities.

As dependence on automobiles increased in the 1930s, these communities began to deteriorate. Suburban, car-based societies became the dominant development model after World War II when transit use declined and many rail stations closed. The expansion of car-dependent suburban communities and the decentralization of jobs in the 1980s, partnered with the economic difficulties faced by many American cities, made suburban development more popular.

Suburban development in itself is not necessarily problematic. More recently, however, suburban growth has tended toward sprawl. Sprawl is the unchecked, uncoordinated spread of development. The most defining characteristic of sprawl is widespread low-density development over large areas. Land use in these communities also tends to be homogeneous.

Sprawl poses serious problems to states because it increases the demand for roads, sewer and water delivery systems in an arbitrary manner that is neither sustainable nor cost-effective. As a result, states spend more to maintain infrastructure. By promoting growth in areas where infrastructure systems are already in place, smart growth allows states to maintain residents’ quality of life at less cost.

**Infrastructure, Transit Costs Up**

According to a report by the Congressional Budget Office, annual infrastructure spending by the federal government between 1987 and 2004 rose 1.7 percent, while annual spending by state and local governments grew by 2.1 percent. Private expenditure on transit has also increased. The average American now spends approximately 19 percent of his/her income on transit—second only to housing expenditures.
AN APPLE FOR THE STUDENTS

Initiative Aims to Get More Revenue-Generating Western Land for School Trusts

School trust lands in the West generate funding for those states’ public education systems. Some officials would like the federal government to give more land to those school trusts, while others say states need to ensure good investment for money in the funds.

By Mary Branham Dusenberry
If you visit the Canyon Ski Resort and Mid-Mountain Lodge in Park City, Utah, chances are you’re helping a Utah school child.

That’s the way Margaret Bird sees it. The resort and lodge sit on land owned by the Utah school trust, and revenue generated from leases help fund the state’s public education system, according to Bird, a trust lands specialist in the Utah Department of Education.

It’s a good thing, since about two-thirds of all land in Utah is owned by the federal government—either by the Bureau of Land Management for national forests or parks, or for Native American reservations—and no property taxes are generated for schools. With so much federally owned land, officials in Utah and other Western states believe they are missing out on much-needed revenue that could be generated from the federal land.

It’s true that the federal government makes payments in lieu of taxes, but the money generated is only “a drop in the bucket of what we are owed and what these lands should be doing for state coffers,” said Utah state Rep. Steve Urquhart.

Because of that, Urquhart and others would like to see an increase in the amount of land designated for the school trust. After all, they say, the federal government promised that each state would get 5 percent of the proceeds from the sale of federal lands.

“That was well and good except they didn’t sell federal lands in the West like they did in the East,” Bird said.

In fact, the federal government still owns more than 62 percent of land in four Western states—Utah, Nevada, Idaho and Alaska, according to data from the Bureau of Land Management. The feds own 52 percent of Oregon, and at least 27 percent of all the other Western states west of the eastern boundaries of states from Montana in the north to New Mexico in the south. In total, the federal government owns 51.9 percent of the land in the 13 Western states, compared to 4.1 percent of the other 37 states.

Some people believe that has created an inequity in Western states’ abilities to fund public education.

### The APPLE Initiative

Urquhart, former Utah House Speaker Marty Stephens and former Utah Rep. Tom Hatch came up with the Action Plan for Public Land and Education Initiative—commonly known as the APPLE Initiative—while discussing the funding issue in 2002. The initiative is an effort to make the idea of recapturing revenue from federal lands to fund public schools a federal law.

“The three of us had known for quite a while that Utah struggled to fund public education because of the amount of federal lands,” Urquhart said. “All the Western states were struggling to fund education.”

The common element in all those states, he said, was the presence of large tracts of federal lands that didn’t generate property taxes or revenue for the school trust. The federal government changed its land management policy in 1976 when it decided not to sell any more federal land, according to Urquhart.

“In our opinion,” Urquhart said, “that’s when the federal government breached its contract with Utah and other Western states.”

The APPLE Initiative effort has garnered support from legislatures in several Western states.

Utah state Board of Education member Janet Cannon said as a result of that change, “the amount of dollars that are expended on a per pupil basis have consistently gone down in the West and risen in the East.”

And the pupil to teacher ratio is higher in the West. In fact, according to the latest statistics available from the U.S. Department of Education, of the 14 Western states, only Wyoming and Montana had a pupil to teacher ratio lower than the national average of nearly 16 students to every one teacher in 2004.

“The idea of the APPLE Initiative is for the West to get together and petition the federal government for redress for changing their policies to sell federal lands. That has damaged states’ abilities to pay for education,” Cannon said.

### Pushing for the Federal Law

“Property tax revenue, which funds education, is generated on private lands—and 65 percent of Utah is federally owned, second only to Nevada with 83 percent—so it should not be a surprise that Utah’s school districts struggle with their budgets,” U.S. Sen. Orrin Hatch of Utah said in a statement to State News.

Hatch has again introduced a bill in the U.S. Senate that supports the APPLE Initiative. Utah Congressman Rob Bishop introduced a twin bill in the U.S. House of Representatives last September.

Hatch also asked the U.S. Department of Education to study the impact on public schools of high federal land ownership in Western states.

“Some say that the West’s education funding deficit is due to a lack of commitment or effort by state governments, which is preposterous to anyone who knows how much Utahns value their children’s schooling,” Hatch said.

He pointed out schools are primarily funded by property taxes, which come from private land, “and Utah just doesn’t have enough of it,” he said.

Diverting 5 percent of the federal lands in the West into school trusts would go a long way in helping Utah and the other Western states, Hatch and others believe.

“This is not something unreasonable we’re asking for,” said Urquhart. “This is something we were promised when we
joined the nation. Congress needs to step up and honor its obligations.”

School Trust Lands

Every state, with the exception of the original 13 colonies, was granted school trust lands when they joined the union, said Bird from the Utah Department of Education.

In addition, the federal government promised to give states 5 percent of the subsequent sale of federal lands. The language in those state enabling acts that date back to as early as the 1800s, according to Bird, indicates Congress intended for all the federal land to be sold. But that wasn’t possible in the West because of the deserts and rocky terrains of the mountains. The land just isn’t conducive to production, and that’s one stipulation in the Homestead Act, which gave 160 acres to private citizens who settled the land, she said.

“There are a lot of the parts in the West where you couldn’t make 160 acres productive,” said Bird. That kept the land in the hands of the federal government, which doesn’t pay taxes on it.

Another problem, said Utah board member Cannon, is the way the school trust lands are designated. Those lands form a checkerboard across the Western states, often making it difficult to administer and make productive because it is surrounded by federal land. That makes land swap deals with the federal government critical to create a productive property on which income for the trusts can be generated, she said.

School trusts make money off the land by such things as drilling for methane gas, and mining for coal and minerals, as well as leasing land for grazing cattle or development. Some states also have sold part of their school trust land, according to Cannon.

Proceeds from such production or sales are deposited into the state school trust’s permanent fund, which is invested to produce funding for schools. But many Western state legislators and educators have recognized for years that isn’t enough.

Management of Resources

Even if the Western states do get an additional 5 percent of federal land the school trusts, other issues need to be addressed to ensure states are managing the trust lands and investments properly, Bird said.

“The legislature has an awesome responsibility to make sure these lands are used for the purposes these lands are granted in the trust,” Bird said. “That’s a concept we really need to help legislators understand, because as trustees, they are responsible to see that those trust lands are managed in a way that helps all kids.”

Some school trusts generate good returns on their investments according to Bird. There are 45 million acres—mostly in the West—and $45 billion still held in trust for the support of public schools in several states, according to the Children’s Land Alliance Supporting Schools. The return on investment for 2006 ranged from 10.9 percent in Idaho to a negative return in Washington state.

Bird became involved in school trusts while working on a doctorate in economics. She discovered the investments from the permanent funds “weren’t managed to make real money,” she said.

She founded the Salt Lake City-based nonprofit alliance with the mission of ensuring prudent and profitable management of school trust lands and permanent funds.

Bird can recount instances in which the school trusts in some states have been raided for state coffers, or when groups seek to take the land without proper compensation. “Some states call them state lands, so people wouldn’t know they were trust lands with a beneficiary that was the schools,” she said.

Some environmental groups, for instance, want to set aside these lands for conservation, said Bird.

“We’re not anti-environmental,” she said. But she wants to make sure when lands are taken for conservation, the schools don’t lose money. And that would require the trust to sell the land or ask the federal government to trade acreage. The feds could then conserve the land, she said.

Problems also arise with the school trust’s permanent fund itself.

According to Cannon, after Utah state legislators took $39 million from the school trust in 1989 to balance the state budget, education advocates supported establishing the School Institutional Trust Lands Association, which would manage the trust and ensure the money is used for Utah schools.

School trust land in Utah was previously managed by the state Department of Natural Resources, which also managed state parks, forests and wildlife areas—all oriented to conservation.

“It should be no surprise that with a governmental structure oriented toward conservation, that’s what they did. They were not successful in making land productive,” Bird said.

The change in the management structure in Utah has paid off. Bird said annual returns on the investment have increased from $15 million under previous management to $163 million last year under the new corporate structure.

That has helped Utah increase its per pupil spending and return more money to local schools, which form community councils of parents and teachers to decide how to spend that pot of money. This year, according to Bird, the state will distribute $26 million or more to local schools.

Utah’s Experience Benefits the West

While Utah has been at the forefront of action on school trusts, that state’s experience may also benefit other Western states. The Children’s Land Alliance is working to help its 21 member states better manage land and investments to increase returns to their schools as well.

Bird believes that, while it would be nice to have additional federal land for school trusts in each state, “from my perspective, the easiest thing to fix is how you’re investing that fund. States need to say ‘we’re going to invest the fund as a prudent investor would.’”

After all, said Cannon, these school trusts serve the interests of school children. “It’s something we should not take lightly,” she said. “Our ability to fund their education makes a huge difference in their lives.”

—Mary Branham Dusenberry is the managing editor for State News magazine.
Native Americans are more likely than whites to be diagnosed with a sexually transmitted disease. Project Red Talon strives to increase communication about STDs among Native American populations in an effort to address those disparities.

By Tim Weldon

Program Opens Lines of Communication to Cut STD Rate Among Native Americans
At kitchen tables, youth centers, health clinics and school classrooms on tribal lands dotting the Pacific Northwest, the veil of silence is being lifted from a subject once considered taboo. With a little encouragement, people are talking about sexually transmitted diseases freely, openly, and in many cases, for the first time.

The notion of talking candidly to teenagers and young adults about STDs may not be a new prescription, but it’s frequently been a bitter pill, often ignored. For many Native Americans, the result of keeping quiet about the risk of STDs has been devastating.

**Infection Rates Are Increasing Rapidly**

According to the most recent surveillance data released by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Native Americans are nearly four times more likely than whites to be diagnosed with gonorrhea, twice as likely to be infected with syphilis and more than five times more likely to be infected with chlamydia. And the STD rates just keep growing—faster than any other ethnic group—the CDC reports.

Tribal leaders could remain silent no longer.

In 2004, a three-year capacity building grant from the CDC enabled Project Red Talon, a Portland, Ore.-based grass-roots health organization serving 43 tribes in Oregon, Washington and Idaho. The project aims to develop a new model for attacking STD disparities in its region. An educational campaign called “Stop the Silence,” was borne from the effort and encourages frank conversations about STD prevention, screening and treatment.

“As in many communities, talking about sex and reproductive health is a real challenge for many people,” Project Red Talon Director Stephanie Craig Rushing said. “So Project Red Talon has been focusing on helping adults and elders talk to their young people about sex and STDs and those risks.” Adding to the challenge of breaking the silence is that “it might not have been a risk that those parents faced themselves. So they just don’t have the background to talk about those things,” Rushing said.

She called the burgeoning STD rate among Native Americans a “time bomb.” Project Red Talon’s mission is to work with tribal health educators to provide educational resources, training and technical assistance to defuse the time bomb before it explodes.

**Behind the Gap in Rates**

Today, American Indians and Alaska Natives have the highest rates of gonorrhea, syphilis and chlamydia of any ethnic group with the exception of African-Americans. As with other populations, STDs among Native Americans are most common among those 15 to 29 years old.

“There’s no doubt in my mind that the disparity is real,” said Doug Hargraver, the STD program lead at the Oregon Public Health Division. “Native Americans do have higher rates.”

Many factors appear to contribute to the disparity. Rushing said Native American teenagers tend to have sex at a younger age and have more sexual partners over time than the white population. Drug and alcohol use is greater on reservations while condom use is less. Rushing also considers the geography of many tribal areas in the Northwest, where relative isolation leads to close-knit social and sexual networks, as one cause for the rising numbers.

Teens may find getting access to condoms more challenging in rural areas than in large cities, she said. “If your auntie or your neighbor is working at the one place to get condoms, it’s hard for young people to access that without most people knowing.”

But perhaps Rushing’s most pressing concern is a lack of funding for the Indian health care system, particularly in the area covered by Project Red Talon. That system is funded at only 40 percent of the amount needed to provide adequate services, Rushing said. In the region covered by the project, most tribes operate their own health clinics, according to Rushing, and the result is that STD and HIV screening is not always considered a high priority for scarce funding.

“These clinics are so underfunded that resources are used for other programs,” she said. “Unfortunately, American Indians and Alaska Natives have been forgotten by many of the service providers. States and counties often neglect to work with tribes because they assume that Indian Health Service is sufficiently tackling this, and unfortunately, they don’t have the resources to do that sufficiently.”

Consequently, she explains, many tribal clinics will not routinely screen someone for STDs if no symptoms exist. With little funding available to screen those without obvious symptoms, chlamydia and other STDs frequently go undetected and are eventually spread to other sexual partners. Chlamydia is often a silent infection, because the majority of infected women and half of infected men have no symptoms.

Washington State Rep. John McCoy, a member of the Tulalip tribe, also blames poor funding of tribal health clinics for creating an environment that fosters a high STD rate
“I had heard comments from the Native American community saying, ‘When I or my friends look at information that is obviously not geared toward Native Americans, it’s easy to tune out.’”

—Doug Harger, STD program lead, Oregon Public Health Division

among Native Americans. “It’s the continuous cutting of Indian Health funding. It keeps getting whacked,” McCoy said. “We don’t get the reimbursement rates that other hospitals … and other medical care providers (get).”

Rushing agrees. “We have this national health care agenda to reduce health care disparities and yet, at least in the STD and HIV divisions, most of the resources focusing on ethnic populations focus on African-American and Hispanic populations, and fail to mention American Indians or Alaska Natives in the services altogether.”

Red Talon Takes Flight

In 2004, Project Red Talon received one of two CDC three-year grants awarded to tribal organizations to build tribal capacity to attack STD disparities among American Indians and Alaska Natives. The project within the Northwest Portland Area Indian Health Board received $200,000 per year for the past three years to produce and disseminate culturally appropriate educational materials and to work with tribal health leaders.

The project is designed to encourage parents to talk with their children and for teens to talk to one another about the ABC approach to STD prevention: Abstain from sexual risk behaviors, Be faithful and use Condoms. Project leaders produce and disseminate fact sheets and brochures specific to native populations, as well as newsletters, resource directories and other media campaign products. PRT also has distributed approximately 14,000 condoms.

Rushing said the campaign does not try to scare young people with data; instead the focus is on empowering young adults to protect their own health while increasing awareness of how easy it is to get screened and to get treatment. Rushing said that helps young people feel responsible for their own bodies. “It really is telling them if you are sexually active, it is your responsibility to yourself and your body to get tested,” she said.

Educational resources are tailored to be culturally appropriate to the Native American population. Photographs of American Indians and graphics with cultural symbolism mark the brochures, newsletters and Web site.

Harger, with the Oregon Public Health Division, agrees culturally appropriate resources are more effective in convincing Native Americans to take preventive measures against STDs and to get screened. “I had heard comments from the Native American community saying, ‘When I or my friends look at information that is obviously not geared toward Native Americans, it’s easy to tune out,’” he said.

Future Funding Uncertain

Just as Project Red Talon’s work has taken off, however, it appears the effort may be grounded. By September, CDC funding is likely to evaporate, Rushing acknowledged, and the project will have to look for new funding sources to sustain its work. CDC has extended funding for the project, but there are no signs of additional funding from the federal government.

Lily Blasini-Alcivar, who oversees the funding for Project Red Talon at the CDC, believes the program is making important inroads to educate Native Americans about STDs. “It’s amazing. What these people proposed for each year in their proposal, they accomplished,” she said. “I feel like we need more programs.”

McCoy from Washington also is concerned about the impending expiration of federal funds for the project. “They’re doing an excellent job. And if we’re going to tackle this STD problem, we need this educational material and their expertise on how to deliver this education and work with our youth.”

Rushing agreed. “The problem is that programs that are intended to build capacity really require sustained effort on the part of the funders to keep that capacity going,” she said. “We’ve spent the past three years building interest and buy-in and trust, and if we stop the project, it’s going to erode and all the time and energy that was put into this process will really have been for naught.”

There could be more serious health implications on the horizon as well. Evidence suggests having an STD infection increases a person’s risk of acquiring HIV. Without programs in place to reduce the STD rate among American Indians and Alaska Natives, many health officials are concerned that a similar increase in HIV rates may soon follow close on the heels of rising STD rates in American Indian and Alaska Native populations.

For more information about Project Red Talon, go to http://www.npaihb.org/epicenter/project/project_red_talon/.

—Tim Weldon is a health policy analyst with The Council of State Governments.

A Growing Problem: Native Americans and STDs

STDs are increasing at a faster rate among American Indian and Alaska Native populations than among any other ethnic group. Between 2002 and 2006, the gonorrhea rate increased nearly 23 percent in those populations. During that same time period, the increase among whites was less than 18 percent and among Hispanics less than 12 percent. Gonorrhea rates for African-Americans and Asian/Pacific Islanders declined.

As for other STDs, from 2005 to 2006, the syphilis rate for the American Indian and Alaska Native populations increased by more than a third, also faster than among any other ethnic group. The rise in the chlamydia rate for the same period was greater among American Indians and Alaska Natives than among any ethnic group with the exception of Hispanics.

Source: The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
Rep. Michael Fisher admits he’s no fan of the war in Iraq. But he’s adamant that’s not the reason he filed a bill in the Vermont House of Representatives to bring all the state’s National Guardsmen home.

Instead, Fisher said his bill lays out a narrow legal argument as to why President Bush no longer has the authority to federalize National Guard troops for the war in Iraq.

And along with questioning the federal government’s authority to federalize Guard and Reserve forces, state legislators like Fischer also believe the absence of the reserve troops—many of which are stationed in Iraq and overseas—is leaving a void at home. That void is hampering some states’ emergency response readiness and the Guards’ equipment and recruitment suffer, they believe.

In 2002, “Congress laid out a pretty specific mission: To defend the national security of the U.S. against the continuing threat posted by Iraq and to enforce UN Security Council resolutions,” Fisher said.

But since the two aspects of the original mission no longer exist, some argue, Fisher said it’s time for the National Guard to come home. He based his bill on the Constitution and the War Powers Act of 1973, which stipulates the relationship between Congress and the president for the authorization to use military force.

“There is no credible argument that Iraq poses a risk,” Fisher said. “(The members of Congress) were specific. They didn’t say the president has the authority to mobilize our Guard permanently. The War Powers Act and the Constitution doesn’t allow it.”

And, according to a report from the independent Commission on the National Guard and Reserves, it goes against the Guard’s primary mission of domestic service. The report, released in late January, determined that mission has been eroded by the near-constant use of the Guard for wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.

In fact, one of 95 recommendations the commission makes in its report is for Congress to amend the partial mobilization statute to clarify congressional intent regarding how long troops will be required to serve in active duty.

Fisher’s bill—it’s also being introduced in other states—is one of a
number of recent actions to highlight the simmering dispute between states and the federal government over National Guard issues.

Governors Regain Some Control

One major issue was Congress’s 2006 approval of the so-called “Insurrection Act Rider,” which made it easier for the president to take control of the National Guard from governors and to use the U.S. military for domestic law enforcement. That action brought criticism from governors and legislators alike.

“States tend to be the first responders in a natural disaster,” said Massachusetts Sen. Richard Moore. “Much of what happens, even on a terrorist issue, starts somewhere locally, as well as the need to be able to control the Guard for other kinds of public emergencies. It’s important they report to the state administration.”

The National Governors Association said in support of the 2008 Defense Authorization Bill that a repeal of the 2006 rider “will ensure that the authority for responding to disasters and local emergencies, along with managing the Guard within a state, remains with the governor.”

Bush signed that 2008 defense bill, which includes repeal of the Insurrection Act Rider, in late January.

The Commission on the National Guard and Reserves went even further in its recommendations. While acknowledging the role that all levels of government—local, state and federal—play in protecting the homeland, the commission recommended the National Guard and Reserves have the lead role in Department of Defense operations in the homeland.

“State and local governments are the nation’s first line of defense,” the report said. “Their first responders, the National Guard, and other state and local officials often represent the bulk of the capabilities responding to a disaster.” In addition, the report cites governors as vested with the responsibility to protect the lives and properties of their state’s residents.

The commission also recommends the Defense Department develop protocols that allow governors to direct the efforts of federal military assets responding to an emergency such as a natural disaster.

“The homeland threat is real,” retired Marine Maj. Gen. Arnold L. Punaro, the commission chairman, said in releasing the report Jan. 31 at the National Press Club. “The Guard and Reserve has a significant operational advantage because they’re located in 3,000 communities across the country.”

War Impacts States’ Ability to Protect Homeland

Continued use of the Guard in Iraq and Afghanistan has created many problems for states. Not only have Guard personnel been unavailable to help in times of domestic crisis—such as Hurricane Katrina in Louisiana and Mississippi and the May 2007 tornadoes in Kansas—states have lost numerous pieces of equipment, which are being used overseas. In addition, the readiness of personnel to deal with homeland defense has deteriorated.

“We think there is an appalling gap in readiness for homeland defense, because it will be the Guard and Reserve that have to respond to those things,” Punaro told The Washington Post.

The commission report acknowledges the traditional strategic role of the National Guard and Reserves has shifted to an operational role with the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. The commission said there is no reasonable alternative for the shift. It recommends creating an operational force using portions of the National Guard and Reserves, and changing the laws for funding and training them.

“Because the nation has not adequately resourced its forces designated for response to weapons of mass destruction, it does not have sufficient trained, ready forces available,” the report said. “This is an appalling gap that places the nation and its citizens at risk.”

Guard Recruitment, Equipment Suffer

Part of the problem, according to Moore of Massachusetts, is the continued use of the Guard and Reserve in active duty mission has made it more difficult to recruit new Guardsmen and Reservists.

“The federal government, by the heavy utilization of the National Guard in the last five years with Iraq and Afghanistan, has sapped states of recruitment opport-
tunities because members haven’t been signing up,” Moore, of Massachusetts, said. “People do it as a part-time position. They don’t expect to be used as full-time soldiers for years on end.”

The report also addresses the lack of up-to-date equipment for the Guard and Reserves. It found a $48 billion unfunded shortfall for reserve component equipment at the beginning of 2007. “The high operational use of Reserve equipment in the current conflicts has degraded their readiness for both combat operations and domestic emergency response,” the report found.

Although the lack of equipment for Guard members to perform their domestic duties has hindered states’ ability to respond to emergencies, state governments aren’t likely to replace equipment, according to Moore of Massachusetts.

“Unless the federal government provides additional funding for rebuilding the Guard, the states aren’t going to buy the equipment and have the potential for it to be taken away from us,” Moore said.

The commission recommended Congress require budgeting and planning efforts include the equipment requirements for all branches of the armed services; and suggested the services use the commission report to prioritize funding to restore equipment readiness for current and future operations.

The commission expects a quick turnaround on its recommendations. Some recommendations from an interim report released last March have already been incorporated into the 2008 Defense Authorization Act, which was signed in January.

The commission asked in the January report for a cost analysis of the recommended changes for the National Guard and Reserves by the Congressional Budget Office.

While the changes are expected to be costly, Punaro believes they are necessary. “Right now we don’t have the forces we need, we don’t have them trained, we don’t have the equipment,” Punaro, the commission chairman, told The Associated Press.

“Even though there is a lot going on in this area, we need to do a lot more. ... There’s a lot of things in the pipeline, but in the world we live in—you’re either ready or you’re not.”

—Mary Branham Dusenberry is the managing editor for State News magazine.
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MORE THAN WATCHING THE BORDER
Enforcing Federal Immigration Laws a Challenge for States

As lawmakers across the country debate legislation related to immigration, law enforcement executives urge them to consider the effects such policy will have on policing in their communities. This article is one in a series that highlights CSG Trends publications, which will focus on various public policy issues facing the U.S. today.

By Jennifer Horne Boyter

States are taking immigration matters into their own hands.

For example, Oklahoma lawmakers passed legislation in 2007 that requires state and local law enforcement agencies to enforce federal immigration law, among other things.

Actions like Oklahoma’s can trace its roots back to the terrorist attacks on Sept. 11, 2001. Shortly thereafter, the federal government—and more recently several state governments—called on state and local law enforcement agencies to become active partners in enforcing federal immigration laws in an attempt to better protect the nation and help stem the perceived trend of increased illegal immigration.

That call has grown as the federal government fails to enact comprehensive immigration reform. In the absence of action on the national level, states are increasingly working to fill this void, despite the fact that immigration remains primarily a federal responsibility.

Supporters say state and local enforcement of federal immigration laws will help enhance national security.

Realities of Enforcement

For that reason, communities across the country are evaluating policies regarding enforcement of federal immigration laws. And police executives are urging federal and state lawmakers to consider the realities and concerns of law enforcement before implementing major policy changes. Two national police organizations expressed these concerns and urged policymakers to consult with community law enforcement when developing immigration initiatives.

The Major Cities Chiefs Association, in a June 2006 position statement, said “local police agencies must balance any decision to enforce federal immigration laws with their daily mission of protecting and servicing diverse communities.” The association also believes all law enforcement immigration initiatives should be voluntary.

Similarly, the International Association of Chiefs of Police in July 2007 said participation in immigration enforcement is “an inherently local decision that must be made by a police chief, working with his or her elected officials, community leaders and citizens.”
Several state and local agencies have partnered with the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement in a federal program that permits state and local police officers to enforce federal immigration laws. While some agencies welcome such partnerships, some states explicitly prohibit participation and many local communities have declined to participate.

Enforcement of federal immigration law raises many complex legal, logistical and resource concerns for local law enforcement agencies. Among the concerns of law enforcement executives:

- Immigrants, who are more likely to be victimized than the general population, are often afraid to report crime, making them easy targets. Police officials fear immigrants would become even more reluctant to seek assistance, report crimes or serve as witnesses if state and local officers are required to enforce federal immigration laws. For this reason, many local police agencies don’t ask about immigration status of those reporting crimes or serving as witnesses, unless the person is suspected of committing a crime.

- More than three-quarters of all police agencies have 25 or fewer sworn officers serving populations up to 25,000, according to the International Association of Chiefs of Police. Many lawmakers argue that state and local enforcement resources should not be used to fund what is essentially a federal responsibility, especially if it means other duties could be affected.

- Training officers to enforce immigration laws could detract from their core policing mission. Determining immigration status is difficult and carries significant responsibilities. Adequate training could take some time and requires a large commitment of already strained resources.

- The absence of effective training for officers, and a lack of clear authority, could pose significant risks and liabilities for both the police agency and local government. State and local officers may have authority under federal law to enforce criminal immigration violations, but it is unclear those officers have the authority to make arrests for federal civil immigration violations.

—Jennifer Horne Boyter is a senior public safety and justice policy analyst at The Council of State Governments.

**Trends in America  Immigration**

Last June, The Council of State Governments released a new report focusing on 10 trends that state policy experts, state government leaders and business professionals have identified as major forces of change. These Trends in America were addressed in issue briefs released at last year’s annual meeting. This year, a new Trends in America series begins and CSG will continue to educate state officials through online issue briefs. State and local enforcement of federal immigration laws in the United States is the subject of March’s issue brief.

**Fast Facts:**

- An estimated 11 million to 12 million illegal immigrants currently live in the United States, according to a May 5 report by National Public Radio. These immigrants are no longer centralized in large urban areas and border states.

- More than three-quarters of all police agencies have 25 or fewer sworn officers serving populations up to 25,000, according to the International Association of Chiefs of Police.

- Headquartered in Washington, D.C., U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement has more than 15,000 employees working in offices nationwide and around the world, according to the organization’s Web site.
The Henry Toll Fellowship Program is nationally recognized among all branches of state government. The program serves to equip talented state policymakers with the skills and strategies to meet the challenges ahead.

Application Deadline April 18

The Henry Toll Fellowship Program will convene Sept. 27–Oct. 2, 2008 in Lexington, Ky. Applications are available at www.csg.org, keyword “tolls” and must be postmarked by April 18, 2008 to be considered for the 2008 class. If you have any questions about the program or application process, contact Krista Rinehart at (859) 244-8249 or send an email to krinehart@csg.org.

www.csg.org, keyword “Tolls”
Midwestern Legislators Head for the Black Hills

Attendees of this year’s Midwestern Legislative Conference Annual Meeting will have the opportunity to hear from some of the nation’s leading thinkers and learn more about the rich history of South Dakota’s Black Hills.

This year’s conference will take place July 13-16 in Rapid City, S.D.

New York Times columnist David Brooks will be a luncheon speaker at the event. One of the most recognized and highly respected commentators in the country, Brooks appears regularly on “The NewsHour with Jim Lehrer” and is a frequent guest on National Public Radio and NBC’s “Meet the Press.”

Edmund Morris, Pulitzer Prize-winning author of “The Rise of Theodore Roosevelt,” will close this year’s meeting with a speech on the former president.

After hearing a presentation from Gerard Baker, superintendent of Mount Rushmore, attendees can visit the breathtaking national monument during an evening reception.

The MLC Annual Meeting gives lawmakers the chance to share ideas and to learn from some of the nation’s foremost policy experts. More information is available at www.csgmidwest.org.

CSG-WEST Selects New Officers

Alaska State Sen. Lesil McGuire is the 2008 chair of The Council of State Governments-WEST. The Anchorage lawmaker is a longtime leader in the organization, serving as an officer and chairing the Committee on the Future of Western Legislatures. McGuire will join with her Alaskan colleagues to host the CSG-WEST annual meeting July 16-20 in Anchorage.

In 2001, McGuire was elected class president of the Western Legislative Academy, and she was selected for the prestigious national CSG Toll Fellows program for emerging leaders in state government. McGuire was also chosen as a German Marshall Fund fellow for the summer of 2008, a program for political leaders under age 40 who meet with other young leaders from throughout the European Union. McGuire serves as an officer of the Pacific Northwest Economic Region.

McGuire served three terms in the Alaska House of Representatives where she chaired the Judiciary Committee and was a member of House leadership. Now serving in the Alaska State Senate, McGuire chairs the State Affairs and Administration Regulation Review committees and serves on the Senate’s Judiciary and Resources committees.

Other CSG-WEST officers are Rep. Jose Campos from New Mexico, chair-elect; Arizona Sen. Tom O’Halleran, vice chair; and Washington House Speaker Pro Tem Jeff Morris, immediate past chair. These officers guide all policy and program decisions of CSG-WEST.

New officers for CSG-WEST are Sen. Tom O’Halleran, Arizona, vice chair, left; Sen. Lesil McGuire, Alaska, chair; Speaker Pro Tempore Jeff Morris, Washington, immediate past chair; and Rep. Jose Campos, New Mexico, chair-elect.
This calendar lists meetings as designated by CSG’s Annual Meeting Committee. For details of a meeting, call the number listed. “CSG” denotes affiliate organizations of CSG. Visit [www.csg.org](http://www.csg.org) for updates and more extensive listings.

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Month</th>
<th>Meeting</th>
<th>Details</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>March 2008</td>
<td>National Association of State Treasurers (NAST) Legislative Conference</td>
<td>Washington, DC—Willard Inter-Continental Hotel. Contact Adnée Hamilton at (859) 244-8174 or <a href="mailto:ahamilton@csg.org">ahamilton@csg.org</a>.</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 10–14</td>
<td>CSG/National Emergency Management Association—NEMA Mid-Year Conference</td>
<td>Washington, DC—JW Marriott. Contact Karen Cobulus at (859) 244-8143 or <a href="mailto:kcobulus@csg.org">kcobulus@csg.org</a>.</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 12–14</td>
<td>CSG/National Lieutenant Governors Association—State Federal Meeting</td>
<td>Washington, DC. For more information, visit <a href="http://www.nlgau.org">www.nlgau.org</a>.</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 14–16</td>
<td>CSG/ERC Executive Committee Meeting</td>
<td>Atlantic City, NJ—Sheraton Hotel. Contact Pamela Stanley at (212) 482-2320 or <a href="mailto:pstanley@csg.org">pstanley@csg.org</a>.</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 2008</td>
<td>National Association of State Technology Directors (NASTD) Eastern Region Seminar</td>
<td>Mystic, CT—Hilton Mystic. Contact Pamela Johnson at (859) 244-8184 or <a href="mailto:pjjohnson@csg.org">pjjohnson@csg.org</a>.</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 22–24</td>
<td>CSG/State International Development Organizations—SIDO White House Forum</td>
<td>Washington, DC. Contact Chris Whaley, Director of International Programs, at <a href="mailto:cwhaley@csg.org">cwhaley@csg.org</a> or (202) 624-5460.</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 25–26</td>
<td>CSG/WEST Executive Committee</td>
<td>Napa Valley, CA—Napa Valley Marriott. Contact Lolita Urrutia or Cheryl Lee Duvauchelle at (916) 553-4423 or <a href="mailto:csgw@csg.org">csgw@csg.org</a>.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 2008</td>
<td>National Association of State Technology Directors (NASTD) Midwestern Region Seminar</td>
<td>Duluth, MN—Radisson Hotel Duluth-Harborview. Contact Pamela Johnson at (859) 244-8184 or <a href="mailto:pjjohnson@csg.org">pjjohnson@csg.org</a>.</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 28–30</td>
<td>CSG/joint-Regional Legislative Service Agency and Research Directors Meeting (LSA/RD)</td>
<td>Lexington, KY—Embassy Suites Lexington. Contact Ken Fern, SLC at (404) 633-1866 or kfern@csorg; or Mary Lou Cooper; CSG-WEST (505) 424-3322 or <a href="mailto:micooper@csg.org">micooper@csg.org</a>.</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 29–30</td>
<td>Interstate Commission for Adult Offender Supervision (ICAO) Executive Committee Meeting</td>
<td>Lexington, KY—Marriott Hotel. Contact Barno Saturday at (859) 244-8235 or <a href="mailto:btsaturday@csorg.org">btsaturday@csorg.org</a>.</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 29–June 1</td>
<td>CSG 75th Anniversary Celebration—Spring Conference</td>
<td>Lexington, KY—Griffin Gate Marriott Resort and Spa. Contact registration at (800) 800-1910 or <a href="mailto:registration@csorg.org">registration@csorg.org</a>.</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 31–June 3</td>
<td>National Association of State Technology Directors (NASTD) Western Region Seminar</td>
<td>Moran, WY—Jackson Lake Lodge at Grand Teton National Park. Contact Pamela Johnson at (859) 244-8184 or <a href="mailto:pjjohnson@csg.org">pjjohnson@csg.org</a>.</td>
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<tr>
<td>June 2008</td>
<td>National Association of State Chief Administrators (NASCA) &amp; National Association of State Facilities Administrators (NASFA) National Conference &amp; Resource Expo</td>
<td>Jackson, WY—Jackson Lake Lodge. Contact Marcia Stone at (859) 244-8181 or <a href="mailto:mstone@csg.org">mstone@csg.org</a>.</td>
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<tr>
<td>June 14–18</td>
<td>National Association of State Technology Directors (NASTD) Southern Region Summer Seminar</td>
<td>Little Rock, AK—Peabody Little Rock Hotel. Contact Pamela Johnson at (859) 244-8184 or <a href="mailto:pjjohnson@csg.org">pjjohnson@csg.org</a>.</td>
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<tr>
<td>June 22–24</td>
<td>CSG Interbranch Summit of the States</td>
<td>Bismarck, ND. Contact registration at (800) 800-1910 or <a href="mailto:registration@csorg.org">registration@csorg.org</a>.</td>
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<td>July 2008</td>
<td>CSG/Southwestern Legislative Conference</td>
<td>Oklahoma City, OK—Contact Elizabeth Lewis at (404) 633-1866 or visit <a href="http://www.sclatlanta.org">www.sclatlanta.org</a> for more information.</td>
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<tr>
<td>July 12–16</td>
<td>National Association of State Personnel Executives Annual Meeting (NASPE)</td>
<td>Oklahoma City, OK. Skirvin Hilton. Convention Center. Contact Leslie Scott at (859) 244-8182 or <a href="mailto:lscott@csg.org">lscott@csg.org</a>.</td>
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<tr>
<td>July 13–16</td>
<td>CSG/Midwestern Legislative Conference</td>
<td>Rapid City, SD. Contact Cindy Andrews at (630) 925-1922 or <a href="mailto:candrews@csg.org">candrews@csg.org</a> or visit <a href="http://www.csgmidwest.org">www.csgmidwest.org</a> for more information.</td>
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<tr>
<td>July 16–20</td>
<td>CSG/Congressional Fellowship Year Conference</td>
<td>Anchorage, AK—The Hotel Captain Cook. Contact Cheryl Duvauchelle or Lolita Urrutia at (916) 553-4423 or <a href="mailto:csgw@csg.org">csgw@csg.org</a>.</td>
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<tr>
<td>August 2008</td>
<td>CSG/Proclamation and Parole Association</td>
<td>Las Vegas, NV—Rio All-Suite Hotel. Contact Kris at (859) 244-8204 or visit <a href="http://www.oppo-net.org">www.oppo-net.org</a>.</td>
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<tr>
<td>August 8–12</td>
<td>CSG/Midwestern Legislative Conference</td>
<td>14th Annual Bowhay Institute for Legislative Leadership Development (BILLD)</td>
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<tr>
<td>August 9–11</td>
<td>CSG/Southern Governors’ Association</td>
<td>White Sulphur Springs, WV—The Greenbrier. Contact Liz Purdy at (202) 624-5897 or <a href="mailto:sgia@so.org">sgia@so.org</a>.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August 10–13</td>
<td>CSG/ERC 48th Annual Meeting and Regional Policy Forum</td>
<td>Atlantic City, NJ—Sheraton Hotel. Contact Pamela Stanley at (212) 482-2320 or <a href="mailto:pstanley@csg.org">pstanley@csg.org</a>.</td>
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<td>August 18–21</td>
<td>National Association of State Treasurers (NAST) Annual Conference</td>
<td>Rockport, ME—Samoset on the Ocean Resort. Contact Adnée Hamilton at (859) 244-8174 or <a href="mailto:ahamilton@csg.org">ahamilton@csg.org</a>.</td>
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<tr>
<td>August 23–27</td>
<td>National Association of State Technology Directors (NASTD) 31st Annual Conference &amp; Technology Showcase</td>
<td>Boston, MA—Seaport Hotel &amp; World Trade Center. Contact Pamela Johnson at (859) 244-8184 or <a href="mailto:pjjohnson@csg.org">pjjohnson@csg.org</a>.</td>
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<td>September 2008</td>
<td>CSG/National Emergency Management Association—NEMA Annual Conference</td>
<td>Portland, OR—Contact Karen Cobulus at (859) 244-8143 or <a href="mailto:kcobulus@csg.org">kcobulus@csg.org</a>.</td>
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<tr>
<td>September 20–24</td>
<td>CSG/Southern Legislative Conference</td>
<td>Center for the Advancement of Leadership Skills (CALS)</td>
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<tr>
<td>September 27–Oct 2</td>
<td>CSG—Henry Toll Fellowship Program</td>
<td>Lexington, KY—Hilton Suites at Lexington Green. Contact Krista Rinehart at (859) 244-8249 or <a href="mailto:krinehart@csg.org">krinehart@csg.org</a>.</td>
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<tr>
<td>December 2008</td>
<td>CSG 75th Anniversary Celebration—Annual Conference</td>
<td>Omaha, NE. Contact registration at (800) 800-1910 or <a href="mailto:registration@csg.org">registration@csg.org</a>.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Although the federal government tends to get more attention, state officials are often on the front lines of cutting-edge trends and issues. On the other hand, sometimes in the community of state governments, the more things change, the more they stay the same.

In print since 1958, State News (formerly State Government News) has chronicled many of the changes … and continuities.

Here’s what we reported on:

### 40 years ago—March 1968

**Governors Hold First Mid-Year Meeting**

Forty-eight governors attended the National Governors’ Conference first Mid-Year Meeting on Federal-State Relations in late February 1968, according to an article in the March 1968 *State Government News*.

Among actions taken at the meeting:

- The Committee on Constitutional Revision and General Government Organization called for early Congressional passage of the Intergovernmental Cooperation Act;
- The Committee on Education called for immediate implementation of greater funding provisions for Title I of the 1967 Elementary and Secondary Education Amendments;
- The Committee on Health and Welfare called for immediate removal of the freeze on the number of children eligible for the Aid to Families with Dependent children and for the federal government to match the state share of Medicaid premiums;
- The Committee on Manpower and Labor Relations urged complete revisions of the proposed Occupational Health and Safety Act to reflect the philosophy of federal-state relations;
- The Committee the National Guard, Civil Defense and Natural Disasters called for continued negotiations with the federal government for maintaining the level of technical personnel during National Guard call-ups. *(For an update on what’s going on with the National Guard today, see story on page 31.)*

### 10 years ago—March 1998

**Economic Times, From Good to Bad**

Based on strong state economies, the nation’s governors were setting aggressive agendas in early 1998. In their State of the State addresses, governors were proposing tax cuts and expanded health insurance programs for children, as well as better state parks and new scholarships for college students, according to an article in the March 1998 *State Government News*.

Education and public safety were top concerns of governors.

While charter schools, vouchers and school choice were popular issues for governors, they focused in 1998 on early childhood education and higher academic standards. Then-Rhode Island Gov. Lincoln C. Almond proposed an initiative to provide a child care entitlement to families earning as much as $47,000 annually, give grants to expand and improve child care centers, and create more after-school programs for students up to age 16.

Some governors proposed new scholarship programs. Then-Maryland Gov. Parris Glendening proposed a tuition grant that, in combination with federal higher education tax credit, would have covered the cost of tuition at any public college or university.

As for health care, several governors proposed expansion of health insurance for children. While the new federal State Children’s Health Insurance Program would provide states billions of dollars to expand health insurance coverage, then-New York Gov. George Pataki asked the legislature to guarantee access to comprehensive health coverage for every child through age 18. Then-Alaska Gov. Tony Knowles and Utah Gov. Mike Leavitt suggested every child in their states have access to the same level of health coverage as state employees.

### Update

**Economic times are not as good for state economies these days. In the words of Wisconsin Gov. Jim Doyle: “America’s economy is in deep turmoil and this will be a year of great challenge for us.”**

Still, governors have proposed some innovations this year, and are looking at creative solutions for funding them. Some governors, including those in New York and Vermont, are proposing leasing the state lotteries to fund education initiatives.

*For more information on this year’s State of the States, read the article on Page 15.*
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