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REPUBLICAN GOVERNORS

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CNBC America's Top States for Business Governors' Op-Eds

This week, CNBC released the annual [America's Top States for Business list](#). Republican-led states make up 15 of the top 20 best states for business, including 7 of the top 10. Upon the release of the rankings, CNBC published op-eds by a number of governors regarding the outstanding economic development happening in their states. Below are the op-eds featured by Republican governors.

Arkansas is the workforce of the future: Gov. Hutchinson ([CNBC](#))

Five years, 500,000-plus new jobs in Georgia: Gov. Deal ([CNBC](#))

Idaho jobs boom is just getting started: Gov. Otter ([CNBC](#))

Indiana's economic momentum sparks tech boom: Gov. Pence ([CNBC](#))

Iowa will lead \$250B renewable-fuels industry: Gov. Branstad ([CNBC](#))

A simple formula for job growth: Mississippi Gov. Bryant ([CNBC](#))

New Mexico's mission: 'Get out from under the dysfunction in Washington, D.C.': Gov. Martinez ([CNBC](#))

How we are saving North Carolinians \$4.4 billion over five years: Gov. McCrory ([CNBC](#))

What the US can learn from Ohio's turnaround: Gov. Kasich ([CNBC](#))

South Dakota is winning the US jobs race: Gov. Dugaard ([CNBC](#))

Education will make or break economy: Tennessee Gov. Haslam ([CNBC](#))

The oil crash won't mess with Texas economy: Gov. Abbott ([CNBC](#))

'Collaboration is where the Beehive State truly succeeds': Gov. Herbert ([CNBC](#))

Slash red tape and embrace the sharing economy: Gov. Ducey ([CNBC](#))

Recommended Reads

Why governors admire Branstad ([The Des Moines Register](#), Op-Ed by Gov. Herbert)- As chairman of the National Governors Association, it is my pleasure to join with my fellow governors in Iowa this week for our summer meetings hosted by Gov. Terry Branstad. While presidential candidates and governors may come and go in Iowa, Terry Branstad remains a constant, and his commitment to the people of Iowa and to the United States of America is unprecedented. As his fellow governors, we admire the work he has done for the people of Iowa and the example he sets for the rest of the nation.

My view: Governors make the tough decisions ([Deseret News](#), Op-Ed by Gov. Branstad)- As governor of Iowa, the host of the 2016 National Governors Association (NGA) Summer Meeting, I wanted to share with Utahns my admiration for Gov. Gary Herbert, chair of this year's NGA Summer Meeting. As NGA chair, Gov. Herbert has focused his efforts on empowering states to deliver solutions for their citizens. I applaud Gov. Herbert's initiative, *States: Finding Solutions*,

Improving Lives, because that's precisely what the Founding Fathers envisioned in giving powers to the states. *States: Finding Solutions*, *Improving Lives* is about providing states with the flexibility they need to best address the needs of their individual citizens. Rather than a federal first approach to our policy ailments, this initiative taps into the hallmark of the 10th Amendment, which looks to the states to act as a laboratory of ideas. This belief that real action takes place at the state level is enshrined in our Constitution with the following, "The powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the States, are reserved to the States respectively, or to the people."

Economic Development

Asa Hutchinson opens Arkansas office in Berlin ([Times Record](#))- Gov. Asa Hutchinson on Wednesday opened an Arkansas office in Berlin. The office, located in Berlin but considered Arkansas' European office, is the state's third international office. Arkansas has had offices in Japan and China for several years. "We are seeing more European businesses interested in expanding in the United States, and this is the ideal time to capitalize on recent momentum and keep Arkansas on the radar," Hutchinson said in a statement. "Berlin was a logical choice due our state's close business ties with Germany. Gaining access to international governments and business leaders requires well-established relationships, which Mr. Schnitzler has developed throughout Europe."

Rauner looks to strengthen minority, disadvantaged businesses ([Chicago Sun-Times](#))- Gov. Bruce Rauner is taking measures to close the gap in state contracts awarded to businesses owned by women, minorities and disabled people. The governor signed an executive order on Wednesday requiring the state's Department of Central Management Services to initiate a series of reforms that aim to make the business sector more accessible for disadvantaged business owners. The order requires the Illinois Department of Central Management Services to implement recommendations from a 2015 disparity study that Rauner ordered. The study found that businesses owned by minorities, women and disabled people are underrepresented among businesses that receive state contracts.

Ky. Gov. Matt Bevin launches \$100 million effort to train skilled workers ([WDRB](#))- A multi-million dollar initiative launched Wednesday by Gov. Matt Bevin seeks to create a trained work force ready to fill 21st century jobs. Bevin says Kentucky has lost out on companies locating here because of a shortage of qualified workers. "I do not meet with a company, with almost no exception, where the topic does not come up almost immediately. And that is, I've got to find good, qualified people who are skilled, who are sober, who will show up on time and have the ability to help our company grow," said Bevin. Now, communities can apply for part of \$100 million dollars in funding to be used for work force development projects. The governor says the goal is to create partnerships between local governments, schools and businesses to train workers for modern jobs.

Good Government

(Kentucky) More than 300 businesses respond to Red Tape Reduction Initiative ([WPSD](#))- More than 300 people, groups and business have asked for a change to state regulations after Kentucky Gov. Matt Bevin announced his Red Tape Reduction Initiative last week. They hope to review, revise or eliminate outdated or unnecessary regulations on private businesses. The governor's office wouldn't give specifics on the changes those submissions ask for or who they came from. It did tell me Kentucky has more than 4,500 regulations on the books. Of those, 85 percent have not been reviewed for their effectiveness or ongoing need.

Energy and the Environment

Gov. Scott Tries To Rally Federal Support For Algae Fight ([CBS](#))- Governor Rick Scott has asked members of the state's congressional delegation to push for federal help to deal with massive algae problems in waterways to the east and west of Lake Okeechobee. Scott, in a letter to the delegation, reiterated his earlier request for President Barack Obama to declare a federal emergency to help address health and safety threats and also called for federal action to shore up the Herbert Hoover Dike around Lake Okeechobee. Polluted water released from the lake into nearby waterways has led to the algae problems.

Transportation and Infrastructure

Georgia, South Carolina to split costs of I-20 bridges ([ABC 4](#))- Georgia's governor says the state will partner with South Carolina to replace bridges crossing the Savannah River and Augusta Canal that are more than 50 years old. Gov. Nathan Deal's office announced Wednesday that the estimated \$75 million project also will add lanes near the first exit on Interstate 20 in South Carolina. State officials say the Georgia and South Carolina Departments of Transportation will pay a "proportional share" of initial engineering and construction costs.

Healthcare

Ohio governor signs 2 bills during event in Cincinnati ([The Herald-Dispatch](#))- Ohio Gov. John Kasich has signed two bills addressing developmental disabilities during a stop in Cincinnati. The Republican governor's office says Kasich signed the legislation Wednesday at the St. Joseph Home, which serves children and adults with severe developmental disabilities. One bill strikes the term "mental retardation" from the Ohio Revised Code and replaces such references in law with the term

"intellectual disability." The measure also specifies that an intellectual disability is a form of developmental disability. The other bill is part of the governor's mid-biennium budget review and makes certain changes to programs administered by the state's Department of Developmental Disabilities.

Congress sends first major opioids bill to Obama's desk ([The Hill](#))- The Senate on Wednesday overwhelmingly approved a bill aimed at fighting opioid addiction, reaching the finish line on legislation that's likely to be one of Congress's top achievements this year. With the 92-2 vote Wednesday evening, the bill now heads to President Obama's desk after nearly a year of negotiations. The legislation's fate had been uncertain until almost its final hour as Democrats dug in their heels to try to secure more treatment funding. Top Senate Democrats announced for the first time Tuesday they would support the bipartisan bill even without the approximately \$900 million they said was needed to expand treatment nationally. Lawmakers of both parties have said the opioid package, the Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act (CARA), marks Congress's first-ever attempt to address the rapidly escalating public health crisis.

Bill to Fight Opioid Abuse Sent to Obama ([Roll Call](#))- The Senate gave final passage Wednesday to legislation that will help communities combat opioid and heroin abuse and, in the process, gave a boost to some lawmakers facing tough re-election bids. "This is a historic moment, the first time in decades that Congress has passed comprehensive addiction legislation, and the first time Congress has ever supported long-term addiction recovery," Sen. Rob Portman said after the final vote.