

From: RGPPC <[RGPPC@rgppc.org](mailto:RGPPC@rgppc.org)>  
To: [RGPPCRGPPC@rgppc.org](mailto:RGPPCRGPPC@rgppc.org)  
Date: 7/5/2016 8:53:16 AM  
Subject: RGPPC Policy & Press

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## REPUBLICAN GOVERNORS

### PUBLIC POLICY COMMITTEE

Policy & Press | July 5, 2016

#### Taxes and Budget

Gov. Brownback orders new round of cuts to rebalance state budget ([The Topeka Capital-Journal](#))- Gov. Sam Brownback approved a series of emergency budget adjustments in response to a \$33.5 million revenue shortfall in the final month of the fiscal year, officials said Friday. The state is prohibited by law from beginning a new fiscal year with a negative balance, requiring Brownback to flex executive power to create a positive number as the 12-month budget year ended Thursday night.

Gov. Baker Reviewing \$39.1B State Budget ([CBS Boston](#))- Republican Gov. Charlie Baker may be spending part of the holiday weekend reviewing the state budget shipped to him by state lawmakers. The Massachusetts House and Senate gave final approval to the \$39.1 billion spending plan for the 2017 fiscal year on Thursday, the last day of the 2016 fiscal year. Baker has 10 days to review the budget before signing it and issuing vetoes.

Governor Snyder signs bill repealing inadvertent tax break for auto insurance companies ([AP](#))- Gov. Rick Snyder has signed legislation rescinding an annual tax break worth up to \$80 million that was inadvertently given to auto insurers four years ago. His signature Friday had been expected as part of a state budget deal. Industry leaders have conceded that the tax credit was awarded by mistake, but warn that premiums will go up. Some lawmakers question that warning, saying drivers never got a break when the industry qualified for the tax credit in the first place. The unintended credit began after legislators transferred management of Michigan's assigned claims plan in 2012. The Republican governor called for eliminating the tax break as part of his budget proposal earlier this year.

Texas governor asks state agencies to cut budgets ([KXAN](#))- Leaders are asking state agencies to slash four percent from their budget proposals for 2018 and 2019, which have to be approved by the state legislature in early 2017. Governor Greg Abbott, Lt. Governor Dan Patrick and Speaker Joe Straus sent the letter to agencies Thursday. In it, they say it is important to "restrain the size and scope of government to ensure employers are empowered to create more jobs" and will require agencies to use state resources efficiently.

#### Economic Development

Georgia Governor Nathan Deal plans trade mission to Germany ([Athens Banner-Herald](#))- Georgia Gov. Nathan Deal and other officials head to Germany on Saturday for a week-long trade mission. Similar trips take months to plan and this one is no exception. But the visit comes at a tumultuous time for Europe, following British voters' support in a June referendum for leaving the European Union. Germany is among the largest members of the EU.

Airbnb takes its fight to court ([The Hill](#))- Airbnb is taking its hometown to court in an unprecedented lawsuit for the popular home-sharing service. The company's suit against the city of San Francisco over a new law highlights both the limits of Airbnb's political efforts and the way on-demand economy companies are increasingly find themselves in the courtroom.

New Mexico to announce more 'record-breaking' tourism ([The Washington Times](#))- New Mexico Gov. Susana Martinez is expected to announce the state saw "record-breaking" tourism for the fourth year in a row. The governor is scheduled Tuesday to unveil new tourism numbers during an event in Albuquerque to launch her tour around the state to promote state travel.

#### Good Government

(South Carolina) Historic Bill Signing ([The Pickens Sentinel](#))- The governor of South Carolina made history last week when she traveled to Easley to sign into law a bill leading to more transparency in state government and to give a nod to the local legislator who was instrumental in making it all happen. Haley made the trip to Easley to sign into law two bills leading to independent investigations and private income disclosures for elected officials.

## Transportation

Indiana-Kentucky look to bridge the Ohio on I-69 ([Washington Times Herald](#))- For motorists taking I-69 in southern Indiana, most days there is both good and bad. The good is the part of the highway that is completed and open from Evansville to Indianapolis. The bad are the sections still unfinished and under construction, causing other roads to have to handle influxes in traffic flow from the interstate. I-69 dead ends in Evansville and the only way to cross the Ohio River is on the over-loaded U.S. 41 bridge, which takes traffic into downtown Henderson. The solution to this is a new bridge over the Ohio and this week, Indiana Governor Mike Pence and Kentucky Governor Matt Bevin signed a "Memorandum of Agreement" to launch the I-69 Ohio River Crossing project. To get the project started, the states have committed \$17-million in their capitol plans.

Michigan Gov. Rick Snyder vetoes road cost-sharing bill; signs 12 others into law ([Boyne City Gazette](#))- Michigan Gov. Rick Snyder, Friday July 1, vetoed Senate Bill 557, which would have eliminated cost-sharing requirements for some municipalities related to state highway and interstate projects within their boundaries. Snyder noted in his veto letter that signing SB 557 would have forced the Michigan Department of Transportation to reallocate funding from rural areas to urban areas, leaving rural communities with fewer "Main Street" projects.

With No Deal on New Jersey Gas Tax, Christie Orders Shutdown of Road Projects ([New York Times](#))- But after Mr. Christie embraced plans this week to raise the state's gas tax, and the Democratic-led State Senate balked at the proposed trade-offs, Mr. Christie quickly changed his tune. Shortly after 11p.m. on Thursday [July 1], Mr. Christie declared a state of emergency and moved to shut down most road work. Allowing the transportation fund to go broke would be "disastrous" and jeopardize people's safety, Mr. Christie said in an executive order.

## Healthcare

Gov. Greg Abbott meets with CDC to review Zika response plan ([Fox San Antonio](#))- Governor Greg Abbott met with officials from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Friday to review Texas' Zika response plan. State health officials shared measures being taken to protect Texans from contracting the virus. Those measures include coordinating with other health departments and communicating Zika risks to the public.

Planned Parenthood showdown threatens Zika funding ([The Hill](#))- A showdown over Planned Parenthood has moved to the center of the battle over funding to battle the Zika virus. Senate Democrats on Tuesday blocked a Zika funding bill put forward by Republicans, objecting to a range of measures, including most prominently limits on funding for Planned Parenthood. The bill allows Zika funding for community health centers and other providers but not Planned Parenthood.

Massachusetts Medicaid secures rebates for hepatitis C drugs ([Modern Healthcare](#))- It will soon be easier for Medicaid beneficiaries in Massachusetts to get hepatitis C medications thanks to a new drug rebate program. MassHealth, the state's Medicaid program, said Thursday that it has negotiated with Gilead Sciences to receive new, lower rebates for the drugmaker's hepatitis C drugs. In exchange, Gilead's drug Harvoni will be the exclusive therapy for approximately 80% of MassHealth members with hepatitis C.