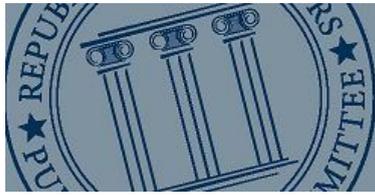


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## REPUBLICAN GOVERNORS PUBLIC POLICY COMMITTEE

Policy & Press | July 27, 2016

### Recommended Reads

Indiana GOP panel nominates Eric Holcomb for governor ([Indy Star](#))- The Indiana Republican central committee has nominated Lt. Gov. Eric Holcomb for governor, snubbing two members of Congress in favor of Gov. Mike Pence's former running mate. The decision caps off a wild month in Indiana politics that saw Pence abruptly drop his re-election bid to run for vice president, upending the state's governor's race and leaving Indiana Republicans without a clear standard-bearer less than four months before the election. With Tuesday's vote, the sitting lieutenant governor and former party chairman becomes the new face of the Indiana Republican Party, and will face Democrat John Gregg in November. "We've got work to do and a short time to get there," Holcomb said at a news conference announcing his nomination. "I'm ready to answer this next call and lead us to victory."

Judge Drops Charge Against Antiabortion Activists in Planned Parenthood Case ([Wall Street Journal](#))- A Texas judge on Tuesday dismissed the remaining charge against two antiabortion activists who took undercover videos of their attempt to buy fetal parts from Planned Parenthood Federation of America. David Daleiden, one of the activists, said just hours after the ruling that he plans to release "more shocking and damning" footage involving Planned Parenthood once a gag order is lifted in a civil case in California.

### Healthcare

Gov. Scott Holds Roundtable On Zika Preps In Broward ([CBS Miami](#))- Florida Gov. Rick Scott met with other local leaders to talk about the Zika virus. With Florida at the forefront of the fight against the local spread of the virus, health experts and community leaders alike are joining in the conversation. "We are sort of the front of Zika in the United States," Scott said. The newest front: blood banks. Blood donated in Miami-Dade and Broward will now be tested for the virus. It will start at One Blood and then move to others. "We are working with One Blood, in particular, to begin screening in South Florida, in both counties," Florida Surgeon General Dr. Celeste Philip said. "A goal of August 1st, but this week if possible."

### Public Safety

'Copycat' weapon crackdown: Gov. Charlie Baker sends letter to Attorney General Maura Healey seeking clarity ([MassLive](#))- Massachusetts Gov. Charlie Baker wrote to Attorney General Maura Healey this week, saying there are "ambiguities" in her recent notice to gun sellers and manufacturers. The notice, issued last week, said her office is stepping up enforcement of the state's 18-year-old assault weapons ban. But a lack of clarity could affect something like a long-legal pistol, the Baker administration said. In a letter dated July 26, Baker, who backs the state's longtime assault weapons ban, told Healey her notice needs to clarify the situation for "responsible gun owners who simply want to follow the rules." "As elected officials, we must do all we can to protect the people of Massachusetts," Baker wrote. "Keeping dangerous weapons out of the hands of those who wish to do others harm is a priority we share. At the same time, protecting from prosecution responsible gun owners who followed the rules in the past and ensuring there is clarity when it comes to enforcing gun control measures such as the assault weapons ban are essential to fair application of the law."

Active shooter alert bill signed by Gov. Rick Snyder ([WWMT](#))- Right now, technology is in place to alert you through text message if there is a public threat nearby. This is all thanks to a new bill which was introduced moments after the Kalamazoo shooting spree. Local law enforcement agencies are now tasked to immediately alert the Michigan State Police if a public threat is present. The MSP will then use geo-location technology to alert you through text message and other means if you are near danger. The new bill isn't expected to cost much, but there are safeguards in place in case someone were to report a false active shooter situation.

### Veterans' Initiatives

(North Carolina) Number of homeless vets sharply down thanks to coordinated efforts ([WNCT](#))- It's just the

latest way North Carolina is putting more veteran-related laws in the books. Governor Pat McCrory held a bill signing Tuesday morning. The bill means income tax forms will now have a space to voluntarily fill out if you or your spouse is a veteran. McCrory says it's a way to better serve those who defend us by helping to figure out what the state needs to have as resources for veterans. Many veterans who are down on their luck may not know what resources are available. That's why one woman who works with them is going out in the community to find them. In the past year, the number of homeless vets has fallen by 19 percent and is down 37 percent since 2012. That's a record low, according to the State Department of Military and Veterans Affairs. New programs, cooperation among local, state, and federal groups, and coordinated efforts by the VA are contributing to the success.

## Energy

Wyoming governor signs pact with Japanese companies to work on clean coal ([Utility Dive](#))- Wyoming Gov. Matt Mead (R) has signed a cooperation agreement between the state and a consortium of Japanese companies to research clean-coal technology, the Associated Press reports. Mead told the AP that progress in reducing emissions from coal plants could help Wyoming export coal to meet Japanese demand. The research aims to cut CO2 emissions by capturing for use in making other products. Mead expects to host a conference in Wyoming within a year that would facilitate work between Japanese researchers and researchers from the University of Wyoming School of Energy Resources. "As we find solutions for Wyoming, the country and the world for coal, which is what we're to do here, it certainly makes the lift for getting ports open in places like the State of Washington easier when we can point to it and say, 'we're not just making this ask, we actually are doing the heavy lifting in terms of trying to find solutions for coal,'" Mead told the AP.

Maine's governor proposes an end to net metering ([Utility Dive](#))- Gov. Paul LePage of Maine (R) has proposed an end to the state's solar net metering program, according to Maine Public Broadcasting. LePage's proposal includes a three-year grandfather period that would allow residents who have installed solar panels to recover some of their investment. LePage wants to replace the state's net metering program with a market based approach.

## Transportation

(Illinois) Governor formalizes IDOT's role as state safety oversight agency ([St. Louis Post-Dispatch](#))- Governor Bruce Rauner recently signed Executive Order 16-07 formalizing the Illinois Department of Transportation's (IDOT) role as the State Safety Oversight (SSO) Agency for Illinois public transit to codify previous designations, according to a press release. Federal law requires each state to designate a SSO agency. Currently, the Regional Transit Authority (RTA) and the St. Clair County Transit District (SCCTD) have acted as the safety organizations for their geographic areas, however, neither is able to act as the statewide agency. If no action was taken by July 1, Illinois could have been at risk of losing nearly \$4 million in federal funds for safety oversight or applying for future federal transit safety funds. The Senate passed legislation to codify IDOT's role as the SSO agency unanimously, but the House of Representatives failed to act by the federal deadline. The Executive Order and intergovernmental agreements between IDOT, the RTA and the SCCTD will satisfy federal requirements in the absence of legislation.

(Michigan) State Approves Funding For Autonomous Vehicle Testing Site ([WSJM](#))- Michigan has approved \$17 million in funding to help convert the site of a former General Motors plant that once pumped out World War II-era bombers into an autonomous car testing facility. Also Tuesday, the Michigan Strategic Fund board approved a \$5.7 million performance-based loan for an auto industry supplier in Flint. The American Center for Mobility is planned for 311 acres at the Willow Run site in Washtenaw County's Ypsilanti Township. The money is for design and construction of research facilities. Governor Rick Snyder says in a statement Tuesday that Michigan is "making a major commitment to the next chapter of the state's legendary automotive history." In Flint, the state says C3 Venture plans a \$9.7 million investment. The state says about 380 new jobs are expected.

## Education

Hutchinson backs college funding shift ([Arkansas Online](#))- Gov. Asa Hutchinson said Tuesday that he supports a proposed outcomes-based funding formula for the state's colleges and universities that the state's Higher Education Coordinating Board will consider Friday. "Right now, we have a model of funding for our higher education [institutions] that rewards [enrollment] growth, but it does not always reward excellence," the Republican governor told about 200 people attending a luncheon meeting of the Rotary Club of Little Rock at the Clinton Presidential Center. Hutchinson said 43 percent of the state's high school graduates go on to achieve some level of degree or certificate and the state's goal is to increase that percentage to 60 percent by 2025. "If we can do that in Arkansas, then we are going to be driving our economy, increasing our per capita income at the same time," he said.