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REPUBLICAN GOVERNORS PUBLIC POLICY COMMITTEE

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Recommended Reads

CNBC Announces America's Top States for Business 2016 ([CNBC](#))- CNBC announced America's Top States for Business 2016 yesterday afternoon. GOP-led states make up 15 of the top 20 best states for business, including 7 of the top 10. GOP-Led Top Ten States: (1) Utah, (2) Texas, (5) North Carolina, (7) Michigan, (8) Georgia, (9) Iowa and (10) Florida.

House votes to curb executive branch rulemaking authority ([Washington Examiner](#))- The House voted Tuesday to pass legislation that would restore the power of the judicial branch to interpret federal rules and regulations, rather than deferring to the executive branch. Republicans introduced the *Separation of Powers Restoration Act* in response to what they believe has been improper interpretation of rules and regulations by the Obama administration in order to advance its agenda on immigration, the environment and other issues. The bill passed by a vote of 240-171.

What the US can learn from Ohio's turnaround: Gov. Kasich ([CNBC](#), Op-ed by Gov. Kasich)- These are exciting times in Ohio, where we continue our state's historic transformation as a dynamic and welcoming place for business to thrive. That outlook wasn't nearly so optimistic earlier in the decade. When I took office in 2011, our job creation and retention numbers were dismal. Industries were packing up and leaving the state. Ohio faced an \$8 billion budget shortfall, our rainy-day reserves held less than a dollar, and our credit outlook was bleak. It's not that way anymore, thanks to the wide range of business-friendly reforms and improvements we've made. What has been the No. 1 driver of Ohio's success? It was getting state government's fiscal house in order. We did it by creating a new model for commonsense fiscal management based on sound budgeting, conservative estimating and restrained spending.

Economic Development

(Alabama) German auto supplier Gerhardt to build its first North American manufacturing plant in Montgomery ([WHNT](#))- At a groundbreaking ceremony Tuesday morning, German auto supplier Gerhardt Kuntstofftechnik announced plans to invest \$37.9 million. It will create 235 jobs in Montgomery in its first North American manufacturing facility. "Alabama's leading advanced industry is the automotive industry," Bentley said. "We look forward to forging a strong and lasting partnership with the company." Construction on Gerhardt's new Montgomery facility will begin in 2017, with the start of production scheduled to begin in 2019.

Governor Martinez announces 'Find Your New Mexico True Park' contest ([Ruidoso News](#))- Governor Susana Martinez announced the second year of an initiative to inspire New Mexicans to explore the state this summer. The program, "Find Your New Mexico True Park," is a contest that encourages visitation to New Mexico's state parks, historic sites, and national parks and monuments, by encouraging people to upload photos of their visits for a chance to win prizes. The New Mexico Tourism Department – in collaboration with the Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department's State Parks Division, the Department of Cultural Affairs, and the National Park Service – created this promotion in order to highlight parks throughout the state and to boost tourism.

(South Carolina) \$75 million investment to bring 140 jobs to Greenville County ([5 News](#))- A leading integrated global manufacturer will bring jobs to Greenville County with a multi-million dollar investment. Tower International is investing \$75 million to open its first South Carolina operations facility here in the Upstate. The new facility is expected to create 140 jobs in Fountain Inn. The new facility will manufacture engineered automotive metal components and assemblies for the world's largest automotive manufacturers. "We couldn't be more excited about Tower International's decision to do business in South Carolina," said Governor Nikki Haley on the new facility. "This \$75 million investment and the 140 new jobs it means for Fountain Inn are real reasons to celebrate, and we look forward to watching Tower thrive in our state for many years to come."

Budget and Taxes

(Georgia) Governor's office: Tax revenues up slightly in June ([Gwinnett Daily Post](#))- State revenues increased last month by a slight 0.7 percent margin from a year ago, Gov. Nathan Deal's office announced on Tuesday. Georgia collected a total net of \$1.91 billion in taxes in June, which is \$13.4 million higher than the total net collections from June 2015. It continues a trend of continual growth in tax collections that, year-to-date, is up 9.4 percent from last year. June also marked the completion of the first year under tax reforms stemming from a re-configuring of the state's gas tax. Officials said transportation revenues collected under the new method totaled \$77 million last month.

NC Budget Director Reports \$425 Million Surplus ([TWC News](#))- The NC Budget Director says the state's economy is humming after reporting a major surplus in the state budget. The announcement was made at the Council of State meeting in Raleigh Tuesday morning, when Budget Director Andrew Heath said the budget surplus stands at \$425 million. He added that's significantly more than the surplus projected when Governor Pat McCrory released his budget earlier this year. The surplus is a sign that more people are working and earning higher wages statewide.

(North Dakota) Governor considers special session for budget shortfall ([Bismarck Tribune](#))- Gov. Jack Dalrymple will announce an updated revenue forecast and his decision on whether to call a special legislative session to address the state's revenue shortfall during a press conference Wednesday. "The governor wants to make sure the updated information is shared. He wants folks to know as soon as possible," said Jeff Zent, a spokesman for Dalrymple. The press conference will be held at 2:30 p.m. in Memorial Hall inside the state Capitol. On Monday afternoon, Dalrymple met with Republican leadership to discuss potential options for addressing the shortfall, which was brought on by lower-than-expected oil and sales tax collections stemming from low crude and farm commodity prices.

Public Safety

(Maryland) Governor's Office boosts funding for domestic protective orders ([Fox 5](#))- The State of Maryland will provide nearly \$190,000 to 13 local law enforcement agencies around the state to boost funding for protecting victims of domestic violence. Gov. Larry Hogan's office announced the recipient agencies for the funds on Tuesday. The state is providing the money as part of its Domestic Violence Unit Program. The program allows local sheriff's offices and police departments to create specialized units to serve protective orders and maintain domestic violence databases. The ability to reduce wait times between the issuance of protective orders, which can be implemented without requiring defendants to appear in court, and their entry into databases is a key part of the program, the governor's office said.

Government Efficiency and Transparency

S.C. Governor calls for audit of Cabinet employees phones, computers, and vehicles ([AP](#))- South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley has ordered her Cabinet agencies to audit employees' use of taxpayer-funded phones, computers and vehicles. The executive order requires the agencies to complete their inventory and report any potential savings by Dec. 31. It specifies the review must include cellphones, landline phones, desktop printers, laptops and state vehicles. Asked whether there are allegations or suspicions of misuse, Haley spokeswoman Chaney Adams said Tuesday the effort is to ensure agencies know what they have and use those resources efficiently.

Education

(Illinois) Governor announces bipartisan commission to change school funding ([WGN](#))- Governor Bruce Rauner and legislative leaders are creating a new commission to change the way schools are funded in Illinois. Rauner announced the creation of the Illinois School Funding Reform Commission during a news conference today at the Thompson Center. He said the bipartisan commission will work to develop an equitable, adequate and affordable school funding formula. One of the biggest changes Rauner wants to see is less of a dependence on property taxes to fund schools.

Branstad in Q-C to promote apprenticeship programs ([QC Times](#))- Branstad is making a series of visits at sites across the state as part of his Future Ready Iowa, an initiative aimed at dealing with workforce challenges in Iowa. With today's labor market requiring more education, the initiative has set a goal that 70 percent of Iowans obtain some kind of post high school education or training by 2025. Apprenticeships are a part of that initiative, the governor's office says. The culinary arts program has a 25-year history at Scott. It started with just nine students but has grown significantly. This year, 80 students are taking part in the program, which involves a day of classroom instruction each week and the rest on-the-job experience at a restaurant. It generally takes three years to complete. Branstad praised the local program as an example of gaining skills without a big price tag.

(South Dakota) Governor announces arts grants totaling \$1.3 M ([Capital Journal](#))- More than 250 South Dakota artists, arts organizations, schools and art projects will receive \$1,338,000 in grants from the South Dakota Arts Council for fiscal year 2017, Gov. Dennis Daugaard announced Tuesday. "Strong, accessible arts programs that reach all areas of the state further enhance the quality of life South Dakotans are proud of," the Governor said. "Artists, arts organizations and cultural events also contribute to economic development and South Dakota's tourism industry by making our state a more interesting

place to live and visit."