

# *2016 State Update*



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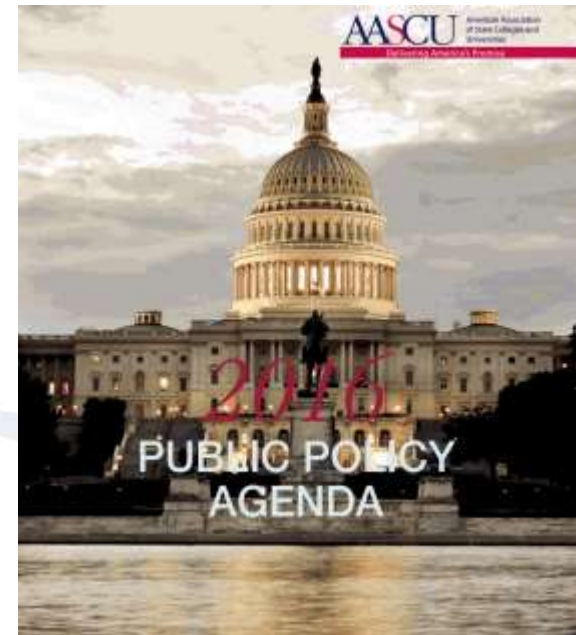
**American Association of State Colleges and Universities**

# About AASCU

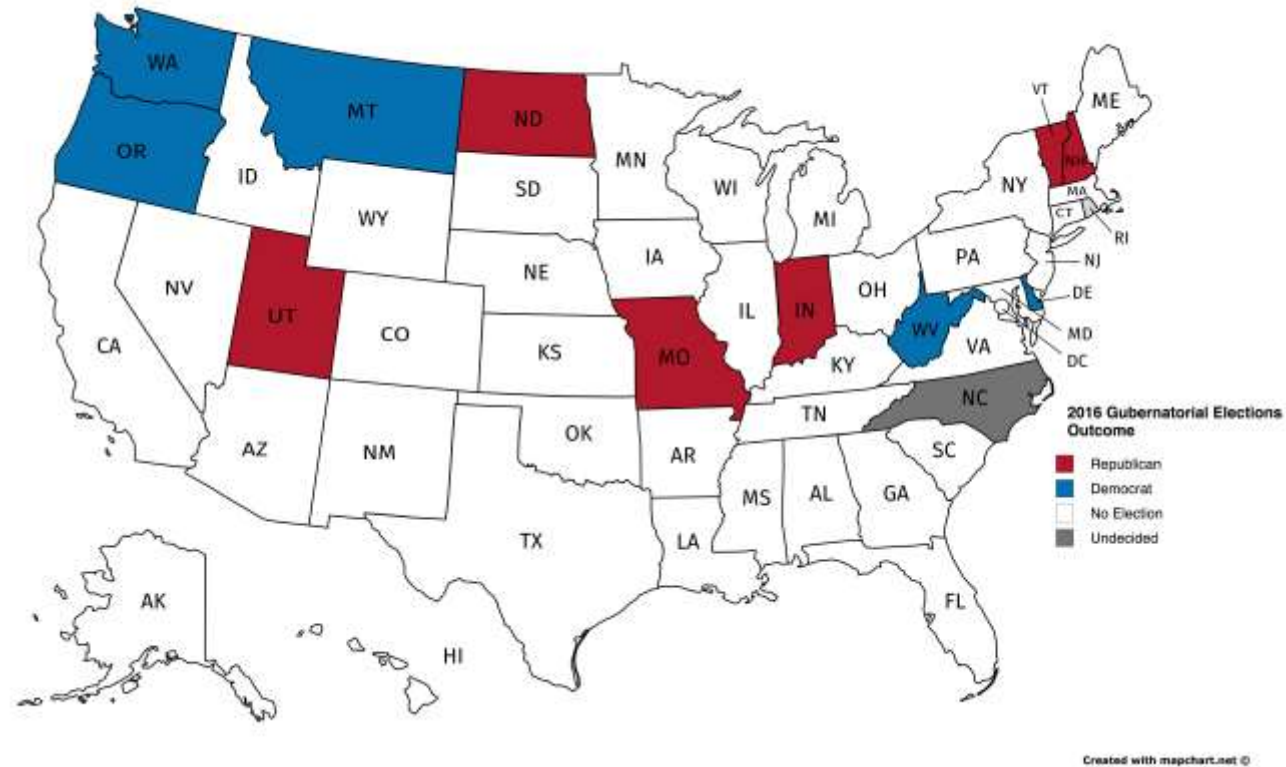
- **420 presidents/chancellors of public universities & systems**
- **Emphasis: undergraduate education, college access, student success, institutional leadership**
- **Federal lobbying and federal/state/institutional policy leadership**
  - **Only D.C. higher ed association with state policy focus in addition to federal focus**
- **Leadership/professional programming for CEOs, CAOs, Government Relations, Communications, International Affairs**

# AASCU Public Policy Agenda

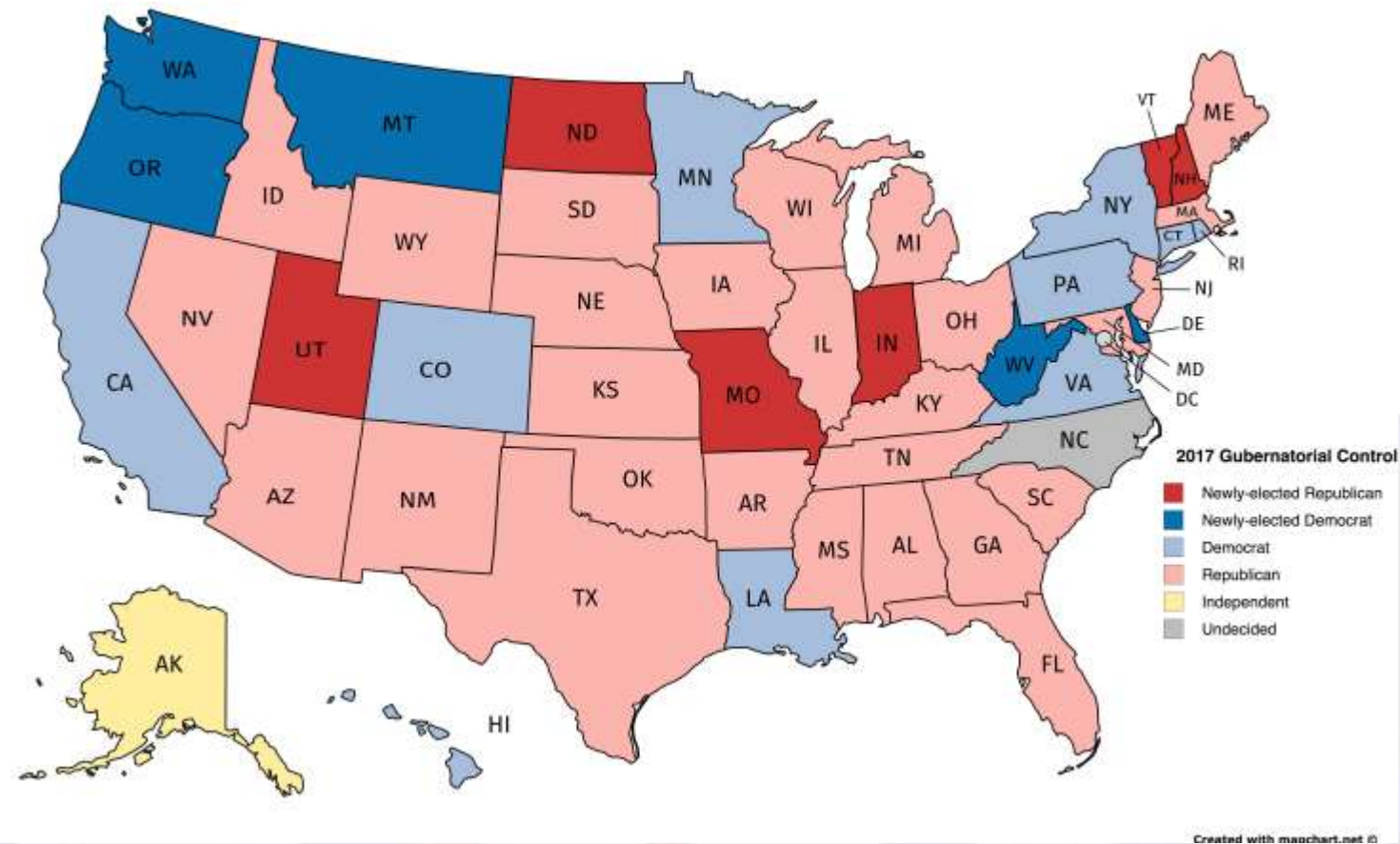
- Annual summary of state and federal policy priorities
- Focus on student access, affordability and success
- Endorsed by several other higher education groups



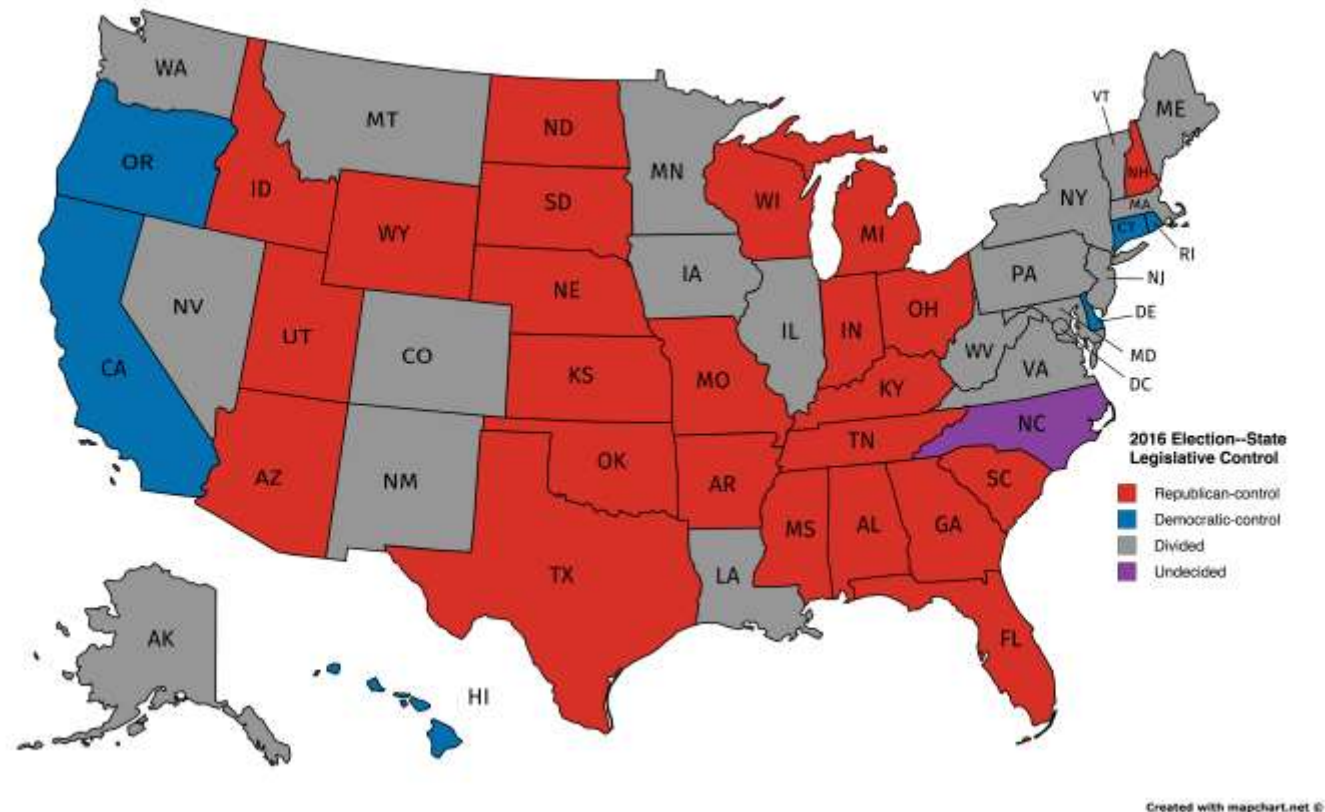
# 2016 Election—Gubernatorial Outcome



# 2017 Gubernatorial Control



# 2016 Election—State Legislative Control Outcome



# **GOP Dominance of State Government**

- Dems netted 1 chamber pickup in 2016; GOP netted 46 seats.
- GOP now has total control of 32 legislatures vs 12 for Democrats. 4 states have split chambers, 1 state is nonpartisan
- Republican trifectas: 25 states (and 2 supermajorities) vs 6 for Democrats. 56% vs. 19% of population
- Percent of legislative seats held by Republicans is the highest in nearly 100 years. Dems have lost nearly 1,000 seats since President Obama took office.
- Solid South: Republicans now control every chamber in the South, hold nearly 2 in 3 seats. 25 years ago, completely Democratic.
- Geography matters: In 2016, Dems gained seats in East, West. GOP netted seats in the Midwest, South
- 2018 state elections will matter (big time)

Source: National Conference of State Legislatures, 2016; Ballotpedia, 2016

# State Ballot Measures

- **Louisiana tuition-setting authority (Failed)**
- **California Tax Increase-Prop 30 (Passed)**
- **Oklahoma Sales Tax Increase (Failed)**
- **Alaska Bonds for Student Loan Program (Failed)**



# State Policy: The Top 10 Issues

- 1) Keeping College Affordable Through State Investment in Public Higher Education
- 2) Improving Institutional Outcomes and Degree Production
- 3) Combating Campus Sexual Assault
- 4) Meeting State Economic Needs Through Higher Education
- 5) Aligning Secondary-Postsecondary Education Standards

# State Policy: The Top 10 Issues

- 6) College Access for Undocumented and DACA Students
- 7) Guns on Campus
- 8) College Access and Success for Veterans
- 9) Free Community College
- 10) Student Loan Refinancing and Debt Assistance



# State Policy: Honorable Mention

- **Dual Enrollment**
- **Consumer Protection Involving For-Profit Colleges**
- **Privacy and Data Protection**

# Governor's State of the State Addresses

- 41 addresses given this year
- 28 Higher Education Topics
- Major Themes:
  - Economic and Workforce Development
  - College and Career Readiness
  - Community Colleges
  - State Higher Education Funding



# States' 2016 Legislative Sessions

## *Higher Education Outcomes*

- Tuition increase caps/tuition freezes
- More legislation to combat campus sexual assault
- Mixed outcomes on undocumented students



# States' 2016 Legislative Sessions

## *Higher Education Outcomes*

- More gun bills
- Continued interest in performance-based funding
- Interest in free community college



## 2017 State Higher Education Policy Forecast

### *Projections:*

- *Likely more of the same: legislation on combating campus sexual assault, guns on campus, and performance-based funding*
- *Continued interest in investment in programs leading directly to available jobs in the state*
- *Reliance on budget cuts rather than revenue enhancements to balance state budgets*

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## PolicyMatters

A Higher Education Policy Brief ■ January 2015

### Top 10 Higher Education State Policy Issues for 2015

By the AASCU State Relations and Policy Analysis Team

The mood of public higher education entering the 2015 state legislative sessions might be described as a blend of tepid optimism and restrained anxiety. The economic turbulence of the Great Recession has subsided, with dramatic state funding reductions giving way to the long slog toward funding restoration. Forecasts suggesting moderate national economic growth portend a period of stability in most states' budgets, and hence, for higher education funding.

Signs of state budget stability, however, may turn

and myriad other benefits of state investment in public higher education to a new class of elected officials.

States have constitutional authority over higher education, and state lawmakers, working in concert with campus governing bodies, have jurisdiction over foundational higher education policies: state funding, capital construction, enrollment policy and tuition pricing. States' role in determining the policy framework for public colleges and universities is only expected to intensify this year, as **political polarization and paralysis** in Congress have left a backlog of federal education bills for congressional committees to consider in the next session. Much attention will be on Congress' ability to govern effectively now that the U.S. House and Senate are both in the hands of Republicans. If Congress' success in the 114<sup>th</sup> session is assessed in comparison to the outgoing session—whether related to education or not—the threshold for success is unusually low, given that the just-concluded 113<sup>th</sup> session of Congress witnessed the largest number of bills passed in a session.

From the Division of Government Relations and Policy Analysis

## State Policy Update



### The 2015 Gubernatorial State of the State Addresses and Higher Education

March 26, 2015

Each year, governors throughout the country share their policy priorities for the upcoming legislative session through State of the State addresses given to a joint legislative session. Governors also use this opportunity to outline state challenges, revisit ongoing policy initiatives, and publicize accomplishments of their administration.

AASCU has analyzed 48 gubernatorial addresses that have taken place since the beginning of this year. In cases where a governor did not give a State of the State address, AASCU analyzed an inaugural or budget address. Collectively, these speeches provide insight into how state leaders view higher education as well as the fiscal and policy priorities they have put forth that could affect students, families, and institutions of higher education in the years ahead.

The following higher education-related themes were evident in this year's gubernatorial addresses:

- **Higher education's role in state economic development remains a cornerstone of many gubernatorial policy agendas.** In line with past years, governors continued to highlight higher education's role as a state economic driver through workforce development, university research and innovation, and strategic partnerships between the private sector and public institutions of higher education. This gubernatorial narrative affirms public colleges' and universities' reputations for serving as multi-faceted engines of economic expansion that are deeply embedded in regional and state economies.
- **Governors continue to propose policies to incentivize state residents to explore technical and vocational educational opportunities.** A number of governors expressed concern over state businesses failing to have access to a robust talent pool in technical and vocational fields. Commonly touted responses to this challenge included making new investments in community college job training programs and forging stronger partnerships between K-12 districts, higher



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#### **AASCU in the News**

[MO: After Mizzou resignations, a look why university leaders leave](#)  
*St. Louis Post-Dispatch* (Date posted: November 20, 2015)

#### **National Headlines and Reports**

[8 big ideas for reforming college in the U.S.](#)  
*Brookings* (Date posted: November 20, 2015)

[People have more options to repay student debt, so why are defaults rising?](#)  
*The Washington Post* (Date posted: November 20, 2015)

[U.S. Student-Loan Forgiveness Program Proves Costly](#)  
*The Wall Street Journal* (Date posted: November 20, 2015)

[Tester pushes to renew, expand and simplify college loans](#)  
*Bozeman Daily Chronicle* (Date posted: November 21, 2015)

[Number of Americans with college degrees growing more slowly than advocates want](#)  
*The Hechinger Report* (Date posted: November 19, 2015)

[Clinton Hits Economy And Student Debt At Nashville Campaign Stop](#)  
*Nashville Public Radio* (Date posted: November 20, 2015)

[Op-ed: What needs fixing isn't teacher education programs – it's poverty](#)  
*The News & Observer* (Date posted: November 21, 2015)

#### **State Headlines and Reports**

[FL: Plan to allow guns on college campuses goes to full Florida House](#)  
*The Miami Herald* (Date posted: November 19, 2015)

[FL: \\$20M requested for Florida university police departments, counseling centers](#)  
*Tampa Bay Times* (Date posted: November 21, 2015)

[KS: Kansas students, regents prep for concealed weapons on university campuses](#)  
*The Wichita Eagle* (Date posted: November 21, 2015)

[LA: Editorial: Louisiana must start reinvesting in higher education](#)  
*The Times-Picayune* (Date posted: November 22, 2015)

# Questions / Comments??

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