



State Policymaking

2012 Gubernatorial Elections

Education Commission of the States

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2012 Gubernatorial Elections: Outcomes and Education Priorities

By Stephanie Rose

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In 2012, 11 states and two territories held gubernatorial elections. In six states and Puerto Rico, incumbents ran for re-election. In two states and American Samoa, the sitting governor was term-limited, forcing a gubernatorial election. Three incumbent governors chose not to run for re-election:

- John Lynch (D – New Hampshire) announced he would retire after this term rather than run for reelection. Lynch has served as governor since January 2005.
- Bev Purdue (D – North Carolina) announced her decision not to run for reelection after one term.
- Chris Gregoire (D – Washington) chose not to run after serving as governor since 2005.

In the 11 states, seven Democrats and four Republicans were elected. Prior to the elections, Republicans controlled 29 governorships, Democrats held 20, and one was controlled by an Independent. Due to the party change in one state (North Carolina), in 2013 Republicans will control governorships in one additional state, Democrats will control 19 instead of 20, and one state (Rhode Island) will continue to have an Independent governor. As of the morning after the election, results were not yet available in Puerto Rico and American Samoa. In Washington, only 55% of votes have been counted, but the polls show Jay Inslee (D) in the lead.

State <i>Current Governor</i>	Candidates	Elected Governor	Results
Delaware <i>Jack Markell (D)</i>	Jack Markell (D, Incumbent) Jeff Cragg (R)	Jack Markell (D)	Markell 69% Cragg 29% [96% reporting]
Indiana <i>Mitch Daniels (R)</i>	John R. Gregg (D) Mike Pence (R) Rupert Boneham (L)	Mike Pence (R)	Pence 50% Gregg 46% [93% reporting]
Missouri <i>Jay Nixon (D)</i>	Jay Nixon (D, Incumbent) Dave Spence (R)	Jay Nixon (D)	Nixon 55% Spence 43% [93% reporting]

Montana <i>Brian Schweitzer (D)</i>	Steve Bullock (D) Rick Hill (R)	Steve Bullock (D)	Bullock 49% Hill 47% [90% reporting]
New Hampshire <i>John Lynch (D)</i>	Maggie Hassan (D) Ovide Lamontagne (R)	Maggie Hassan (D)	Hassan 55% Lamontagne 43% [85% reporting]
North Carolina <i>Bev Perdue (D)</i>	Walter Dalton (D) Pat McCrory (R)	McCrory (R)	McCrory 55% Dalton 43% [98% reporting]
North Dakota <i>Jack Dalrymple (R)</i>	Ryan Taylor (D) Jack Dalrymple (R, Incumbent)	Jack Dalrymple (R)	Dalrymple 63% Taylor 34% [92% reporting]
Utah <i>Gary R. Herbert (R)</i>	Peter Cooke (D) Gary R. Herbert (R, Incumbent)	Gary R. Herbert (R)	Herbert 68% Cooke 28% [87% reporting]
Vermont <i>Peter Shumlin (D)</i>	Peter Shumlin (D, Incumbent) Randy Brock (R)	Peter Shumlin (D)	Shumlin 58% Brock 38% [84% reporting]
Washington <i>Chris Gregoire (D)</i>	Jay Inslee (D) Rob McKenna (R)	Too Close to Call	Inslee 51% McKenna 49% [55% Reporting]
West Virginia <i>Earl Ray Tomblin (D)</i>	Earl Ray Tomblin (D, Incumbent) Bill Maloney (R)	Earl Ray Tomblin (D)	Tomblin 50% Maloney 46% [92% reporting]

Territory <i>Current Governor</i>	Candidates	Elected Governor	Results
American Samoa <i>Togiola Tulafono (D)</i>	Faoa A. Sunia (D) Afoa Moega Lutu (I) Lolo Letalu Matalasi Moliga (I)	TBD	NA
Puerto Rico <i>Luis G. Fortuño (R)</i>	Alejandro Garcia Padilla (D) Luis G. Fortuño (R, Incumbent) Juan Dalmau Ramirez (I)	TBD	NA

Where do Incumbent Governors Stand on Education?

Voters re-elected all six incumbent governors. The following table summarizes significant actions taken by these governors in education policy in 2012. Early childhood education (P-3) and improving teaching quality were top priorities for incumbents in 2012. For details, see [highlights](#) from the 2012 State of the State Addresses, or a [summary](#) of each governor's address.

Incumbent	Selected 2012 Initiatives/Legislation Enacted
<p>Delaware Jack Markell (D) (Jan 2009 – present)</p>	<p>H.B. 317: Establishes a statewide Kindergarten Readiness Assessment S.B. 193: Calls for the development of a statewide cyberbullying policy S.B. 233: Creates a formal statewide framework for comprehensive school safety plans</p> <p>Governor’s World Language Expansion Initiative: Creates a K-8 dual language immersion program in which students will receive 50% instruction in English, 50% in a world language</p> <p>Won Race to the Top - Early Learning Challenge (previously received RTTT grant)</p>
<p>Missouri Jay Nixon (D) (Jan 2009 – present)</p>	<p>H.B. 1042: Requires public higher education institutions to identify and use best practices in remediation, and to identify a core transfer library of courses transferable among all public higher education institutions S.B. 576: Requires charter school sponsors to undergo approval and evaluation processes with DESE, requires sponsors to develop performance frameworks for oversight and evaluation, and enter into legally-binding performance contracts (academic and financial) with their chartered schools</p>
<p>North Dakota Jack Dalrymple (R) (Dec 2010 – present)</p>	<p>No Regular 2012 Legislative Session. Governor recommendations for 2013 include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Increase the Energy Impact Grant Fund, in part, to develop affordable housing to attract and retain quality teachers in oil-producing counties 2. Enhance state support for schools facing rapid growth in student enrollments: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Setting aside \$200 million in the Strategic Investment and Improvement Fund to provide low-interest loans to qualified school districts throughout the state for the construction of new schools or for improvements or expansions to existing school buildings b. Forming an advisory group of western school superintendents, teachers, counselors, and school board members to keep state officials informed of actual school enrollments and immediate challenges
<p>Utah Gary R. Herbert (R) (Aug 2009 – present)</p>	<p>H.B. 513: Creates an early intervention program to provide funds for applicant school districts to offer an enhanced kindergarten program targeted to at-risk students S.B. 64: Requires school and district administrators to be evaluated annually, and evaluations to be publically reported, ties administrator pay to evaluations, and prescribes other requirements to increase educator accountability S.B. 178: Modifies provisions related to the Statewide Online Education Program</p>
<p>Vermont Peter Shumlin (D) (Jan 2011 – present)</p>	<p>S.B. 113: Creates a working group to review and evaluate how the state currently allocates financial and other resources and how the system may be improved to promote high quality, equitable educational opportunities for students throughout the state and how impediments to opportunity, such as poverty and substance abuse, may be mitigated.</p> <p>Announced plans to make Algebra I and Geometry required high school coursework Received a Statewide Longitudinal Data Systems (SLDS) grant from the Institute of Education Sciences (U.S. Department of Education)</p>
<p>West Virginia Earl Ray Tomblin (D) (Nov 2010 – present)</p>	<p>H.B. 4236: Establishes a new system of performance evaluations for teachers and school leaders which incorporates student achievement and requires annual evaluations S.B. 186: Provides salary equity supplement payments to teachers and service personnel in order to achieve salary equity among counties S.B. 221: Provides professional development for educators on warning signs and resources to assist in suicide prevention</p>

Newly Elected Governors: Education Platforms

Five new governors—two Republicans and three Democrats—were elected this year. The office of the governor retained its party affiliation in all but one state, North Carolina, which elected Republican Pat McCrory to replace Bev Purdue. The candidates focused on a wide range of education issues in their platforms. Teacher recruitment and retention, CTE, and STEM education were common threads.

Governor Elect	Education Platform
<p>Indiana Mike Pence (R) U.S. House of Representatives (2001-present)</p>	<p>Two of Pence’s six areas of focus relate to education:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Improve the math and reading skills of elementary students 2. Increase graduation rates. <p>Pence’s goals also include making college more affordable and accessible, and enhancing career, technical and vocational pathways</p> <p>Proposed policy actions include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support quality, community pre-K initiatives and opportunities to increase pre-K access for underprivileged children • Fund excellence by increasing rewards for great schools and great teachers • Address the dropout and remediation crisis.
<p>Montana Steve Bullock (D) Attorney General of Montana (Jan 2009 – present)</p>	<p>Bullock’s vision for Montana includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lead the country in educational innovation, opportunity, and achievement • Enable students to graduate from college without tens of thousands of dollars of debt. <p>His jobs plan includes the following actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Better prepare a 21st Century workforce and to attract businesses to expand in or relocate to Montana • Support workers and improve the workforce by investing in education.
<p>New Hampshire Maggie Hassan (D) Former Majority Leader of the New Hampshire Senate (2008–10)</p>	<p>Education is one of Hassan’s nine key issues:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As a State Senator, Hassan worked to expand educational opportunity by passing universal kindergarten, raising the dropout age, improving and protecting education funding, and investing in the state’s community colleges and university system. • As governor, she will work to make New Hampshire’s workforce the best in the country by aligning the state’s education system with the needs of 21st century businesses by coordinating with universities, community colleges, vocational and technology colleges and the K-12 system.
<p>North Carolina Pat McCrory (R) Mayor of Charlotte (1995 – present)</p>	<p>K-12 and higher education represent two of nine key issues for McCrory.</p> <p>Policy proposals include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Give Families and Students Educational Choices: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Two diploma pathways, one to certify a student college ready and the second diploma to certify a student career ready ○ Offer greater access and more flexibility to local school systems and to students with a wide range of for-credit, on-line courses

- Set high expectations:
 - End 3rd-grade social promotion for students who cannot demonstrate reading skills, and provide aggressive remediation
 - Test every entering 9th grader for proficiency in basic reading and mathematics. Provide intense remedial courses for any student not able to pass the test
- Reform the teacher pay system to reward teachers for the impact they have on students
- Hold schools accountable by grading schools on the percentage of students scoring at or above grade level in reading and math (50%), and the percentage of students who made progress in reading and math from the prior year (50%)
- Provide more aggressive community college career counseling
- Expand partnerships between higher education and economic development
- Promote enrollment in high-demand fields and require curricular input from employment decision makers
- Provide financial incentives to students who finish their degree program early while meeting a minimum grade level
- Encourage students transferring from community college to a university to first complete an associate's degree
- Integrate resources across campuses and expand use of technology to improve educational quality and drive down costs

**Washington
Jay Inslee (D)**
U.S. House of
Representatives
(1989-95; 1999 – present)

Education is one of Inslee's eight [key issues](#):

- In Congress, Inslee supported measures to increase innovation in the classroom, lower class sizes, and provide funding to states to prevent teacher layoffs
- As governor, Inslee will support new, innovative classrooms that will prepare students of today for the jobs of tomorrow, including an increased emphasis on STEM (science, technology, education, and math) graduates.

Additional highlights from Inslee's [Education Platform](#) include:

- Invest in early learning opportunities and access for more children
- Recruit more teachers who reflect the cultural diversity in the state's schools
- Help every student develop a career plan that includes coursework, internships, apprenticeships, college visits, enrichment programs, and courses

Gubernatorial Races in the Territories

The results of gubernatorial races in Puerto Rico and American Samoa are not available as of this writing. The candidates' education platforms, as well as selected 2012 policy actions for incumbent governor Luis G. Fortuño of Puerto Rico, are summarized on the following page.

Territories	Education Platform or Selected 2012 Policy Actions
<p>American Samoa Faoa A. Sunia (D) Lieutenant Governor of American Samoa (2003 – present)</p>	<p>Sunia’s education policy goals include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve teacher training in community college • Review, restructure, and refocus vocational education • Increase parental involvement • Build sports arenas or centers and pools • Devise a structure to teach Samoan studies in schools • Address truancy and issues with student behavior.
<p>American Samoa Afoa Moega Lutu (I) Lawyer</p>	<p>Lutu’s plans devote equal attention to all governmental services, including education, health, and public safety.</p>
<p>American Samoa Lolo Letalu Matalasi Moliga (I) Former President, Development Bank, American Samoa Government</p>	<p>Moliga’s education policy goals include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase standards for education and quality-based incentives for teachers • Secure additional funds to ensure sufficient materials and supplies and for facilities repairs and improvements • Increase merit scholarships for high school students • Increase teacher’s wages based on qualifications, experience, and merit
<p>Puerto Rico Luis G. Fortuño (R, Incumbent) Governor of Puerto Rico (Jan 2009 – present)</p>	<p>Signed into law legislation including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Created an academic scholarship for students with disabilities • Created a program for schools and community integration that seeks to integrate the school community in evaluating and improving schools • Integrated the “Your Values Count” program permanently into the Department of Education teaching trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, justice, kindness, and civility • Strengthened alternative education in order to prevent dropouts, and motivate young people who have left school to return and complete their academic studies
<p>Puerto Rico Alejandro Garcia Padilla (D) Leader of the Popular Democratic Party (Oct 2011 – present)</p>	<p>Education is listed as one of six priorities for Padilla. Action items include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Address absenteeism, retention, lack of adequate security in schools, and inadequate books, materials, and services • Work with parents, teachers, administrators, the government, nonprofit organizations, the community, and businesses to devise a comprehensive education agenda • Ensure students arrive at school ready to learn by providing parents and caregivers of children under 5 training for teaching the skills and attitudes children need to succeed • Utilize information technology to create a more individualized educational experience for students • Support the best teachers and principals • Create a culture of success and high expectations • Create a preschool though postsecondary curriculum • Foster parental involvement and cut down on truancy and drop-outs by assigning staff to visit families and communities

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