

**Table A:
Issues Expressed by Governors in
State of the State Addresses, 2007–2012**

| <i>Issue expressed by governors</i> | <i>2007 percentage of governors mentioning the issue (N=43)</i> | <i>2008 percentage of governors mentioning the issue (N=43)</i> | <i>2009 percentage of governors mentioning the issue (N=43)</i> | <i>2010 percentage of governors mentioning the issue (N=43)</i> | <i>2011 percentage of governors mentioning the issue (N=43)</i> | <i>2012 percentage of governors mentioning the issue (N=43)</i> |
|--|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | N=43 | N=42 | N=44 | N=42 | N=47 | N=43 |
| Education | 100% | 90.5% | 86.4% | 90.5% | 93.6% | 95.3% |
| Economic development/jobs | 79.5 | 81.0 | 79.5 | 88.1 | 87.2 | 90.7 |
| Tax/revenue initiative | 84.1 | 59.5 | 65.9 | 83.3 | 70.2 | 81.4 |
| Natural resources/energy | 84.1 | 71.4 | 79.5 | 73.8 | 44.7 | 65.1 |
| Surplus/deficit/rainy day funds/reserves | 70.5 | 54.8 | 45.5 | 78.6 | 34.0 | 60.5 |
| Health care | 86.4 | 83.3 | 79.5 | 57.1 | 72.3 | 55.8 |
| Safety/corrections | 75.0 | 59.5 | 50.0 | 54.8 | 38.3 | 55.8 |
| Performance/accountability | 72.7 | 42.9 | 52.3 | 73.8 | 83.0 | 55.8 |
| Transportation/roads/bridges | 52.3 | 59.5 | 65.9 | 50.0 | 46.8 | 48.8 |
| Pensions/OPEBs | 36.4 | 21.4 | 18.2 | 19.0 | 36.2 | 32.6 |
| Local government | 52.3 | 35.7 | 20.5 | 11.9 | 17.0 | 25.6 |
| Transparency | 20.5 | 14.3 | 31.8 | 14.3 | 2.1 | 25.6 |
| Borders/illegal immigrants | 11.4 | 16.7 | 6.8 | 4.8 | 8.5 | 11.6 |
| Ethics reform | 13.6 | 11.9 | 15.9 | 26.2 | 8.5 | 7.0 |
| Debt reduction | 13.6 | 9.5 | 4.5 | 0.0 | 8.5 | 7.0 |

Source: Content analysis of 2007-2009 State of the State Addresses from Table C of Katherine G. Willoughby, 2008, "The State of the States: Governors Keep Agendas Short," *The Book of the States*, Vol. 40 (Lexington, KY: The Council of State Governments): 157-64; Content analysis of 2009 State of State Addresses conducted by Tanya Smiley, MPA candidate and Soyoung Park, Ph.D. candidate, Public Policy; Content analysis of 2010 State of State Addresses conducted by Soyoung Park, Ph.D. candidate, Public Policy and Scott Allen, MPA candidate; Content analysis of 2011 State of State Addresses conducted by Byungwoo Cho, MPA candidate; Content analysis of 2012 State of State Addresses conducted by Megan Phillips, MPA candidate and Sarah Beth Gehl, Ph.D. candidate, Public Policy, all students of Andrew Young School of Policy Studies, Georgia State University, Atlanta, Georgia.