



NATIONAL CONFERENCE  
of STATE LEGISLATURES

*The Forum for America's Ideas*



# 2017 Policy Trends

Laura Tobler

[Laura.tobler@ncsl.org](mailto:Laura.tobler@ncsl.org)



NATIONAL CONFERENCE  
*of* STATE LEGISLATURES

*The Forum for America's Ideas*



# About NCSL

NCSL is YOUR organization, and we are committed to your success. We are a trusted and reliable resource for legislators and staff, and we have been for more than 40 years. Turn to us when you need:

- SUPPORT
- IDEAS
- CONNECTIONS
- STRONG VOICE



NATIONAL CONFERENCE  
*of* STATE LEGISLATURES

*The Forum for America's Ideas*



# SUPPORT

We work to support legislators and  
legislative staff.



NATIONAL CONFERENCE  
*of* STATE LEGISLATURES

*The Forum for America's Ideas*



# IDEAS

When you need to know the newest and best approaches to issues, we're here for you.



NATIONAL CONFERENCE  
*of* STATE LEGISLATURES

*The Forum for America's Ideas*



## Trivia

How many total U.S. state legislative seats are there?



NATIONAL CONFERENCE  
*of* STATE LEGISLATURES

*The Forum for America's Ideas*



**7,383**



NATIONAL CONFERENCE  
of STATE LEGISLATURES

*The Forum for America's Ideas*



## Priorities and Trends in Policy: Education

- The federal Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA, 2016) requires all states to submit a plan. Gives states more flexibility.
- Concern about K-12 student performance.
- Career training; job readiness (workforce development)
- Higher ed student debt.
- K-12 education spending accounts for about 33% of total state spending; higher ed about 9% for a total of 42%. Federal funding is about 7% and limited.



NATIONAL CONFERENCE  
*of* STATE LEGISLATURES

*The Forum for America's Ideas*



## Priorities and Trends in Policy:

### Transportation Infrastructure/Financing

- Perennial issue.
- Real spending on U.S. infrastructure was down 9 percent between 2003 and 2014.
- Trump--proposed a 10-year, \$1 trillion fix.
- Legislatures continue to look at public-private partnerships or increased private-sector involvement.





NATIONAL CONFERENCE  
*of STATE LEGISLATURES*

*The Forum for America's Ideas*



## Priorities and Trends in Policy: Medicaid and ACA

- Everyone wants to know about “repeal and replace” of the Affordable Care Act.
- Thirty-one states and the District of Columbia have expanded Medicaid coverage to millions of people.
- Medicaid block grants?
- Per capita cap?
- States are waiting to react to federal changes, few exceptions.



NATIONAL CONFERENCE  
*of* STATE LEGISLATURES

*The Forum for America's Ideas*



## Priorities and Trends in Policy: Substance Abuse Disorder/Opioid Misuse

- Federal funding for the first time; priority for a majority of the states
- State legislation: Rx drug monitoring programs, pain clinic regulation, preferred drug lists, state-wide awareness campaigns, rescue drug regulation.
- Costs: \$560 million in health care spending; \$635 in lost worker productivity.



NATIONAL CONFERENCE  
of STATE LEGISLATURES

*The Forum for America's Ideas*



## Trivia

How many states have legalized or are in the process of legalizing recreational use of marijuana?



NATIONAL CONFERENCE  
of STATE LEGISLATURES

*The Forum for America's Ideas*



## Priorities and Trends in Policy: Marijuana

- Recreational marijuana legalization continues to spread. Voters in CA, ME, MA and NV approved adult-use recreational marijuana through ballot measures. (AZ said no).
- CO, WA, AK, OR and DC legalized recreational use earlier.
- 28 states and DC allow for medicinal use.
- License and regulate cultivation and retail shops; preventing children from misusing; public safety.



NATIONAL CONFERENCE  
of STATE LEGISLATURES

*The Forum for America's Ideas*



## State Policy Priorities for 2017

- Transportation Infrastructure and funding
- Medicaid
- K-12 Education and Higher Education Funding
- ESSA implementation
- Government pensions; budget shortfalls
- Substance misuse, especially opioids
- Federal changes to health and human services policies/programs
- Job creation/advanced manufacturing/workforce development
- Marijuana legalization



NATIONAL CONFERENCE  
*of* STATE LEGISLATURES

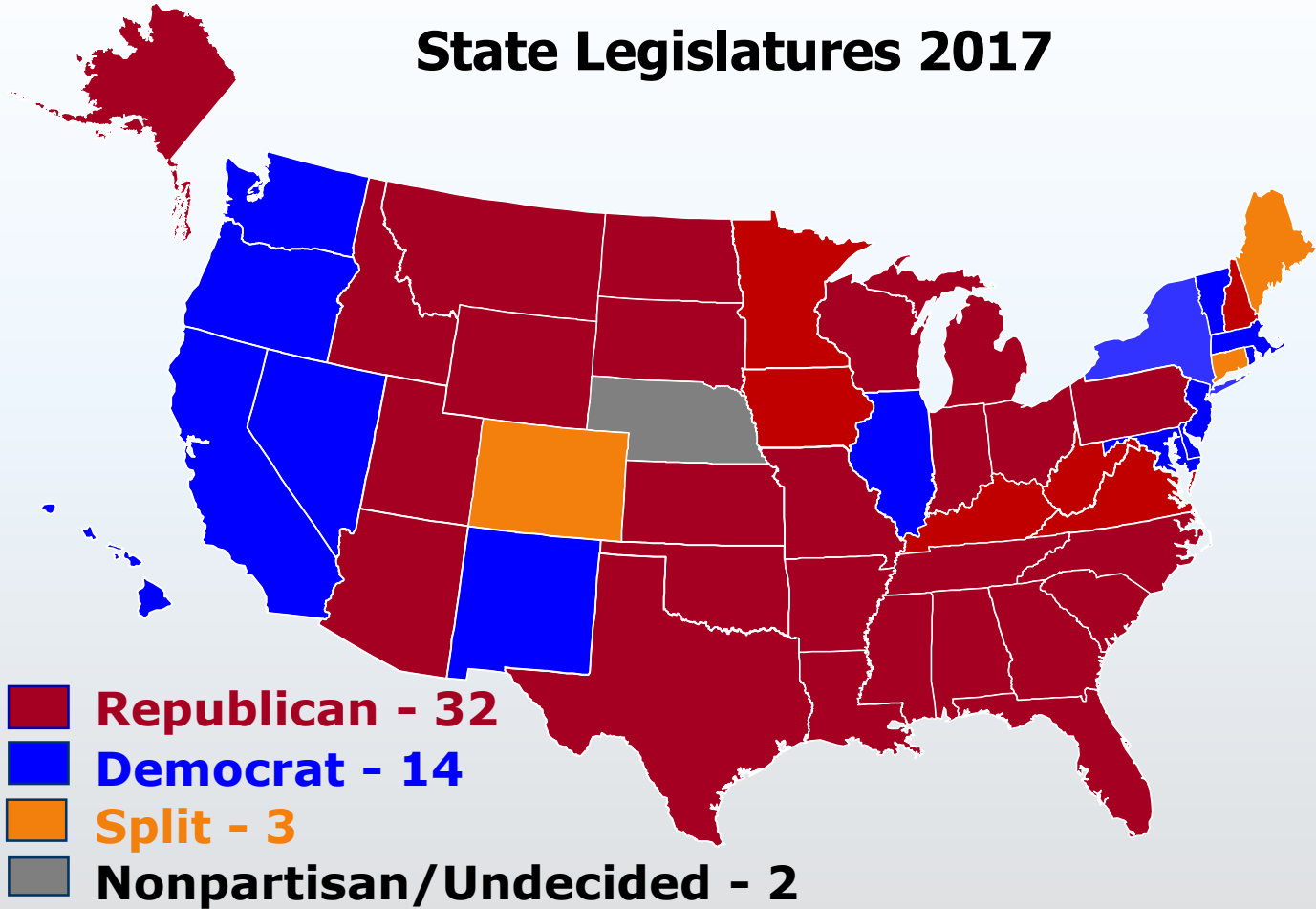
*The Forum for America's Ideas*



## Trivia

Post 2016 election, how many states have Republican control in both chambers of the legislature?

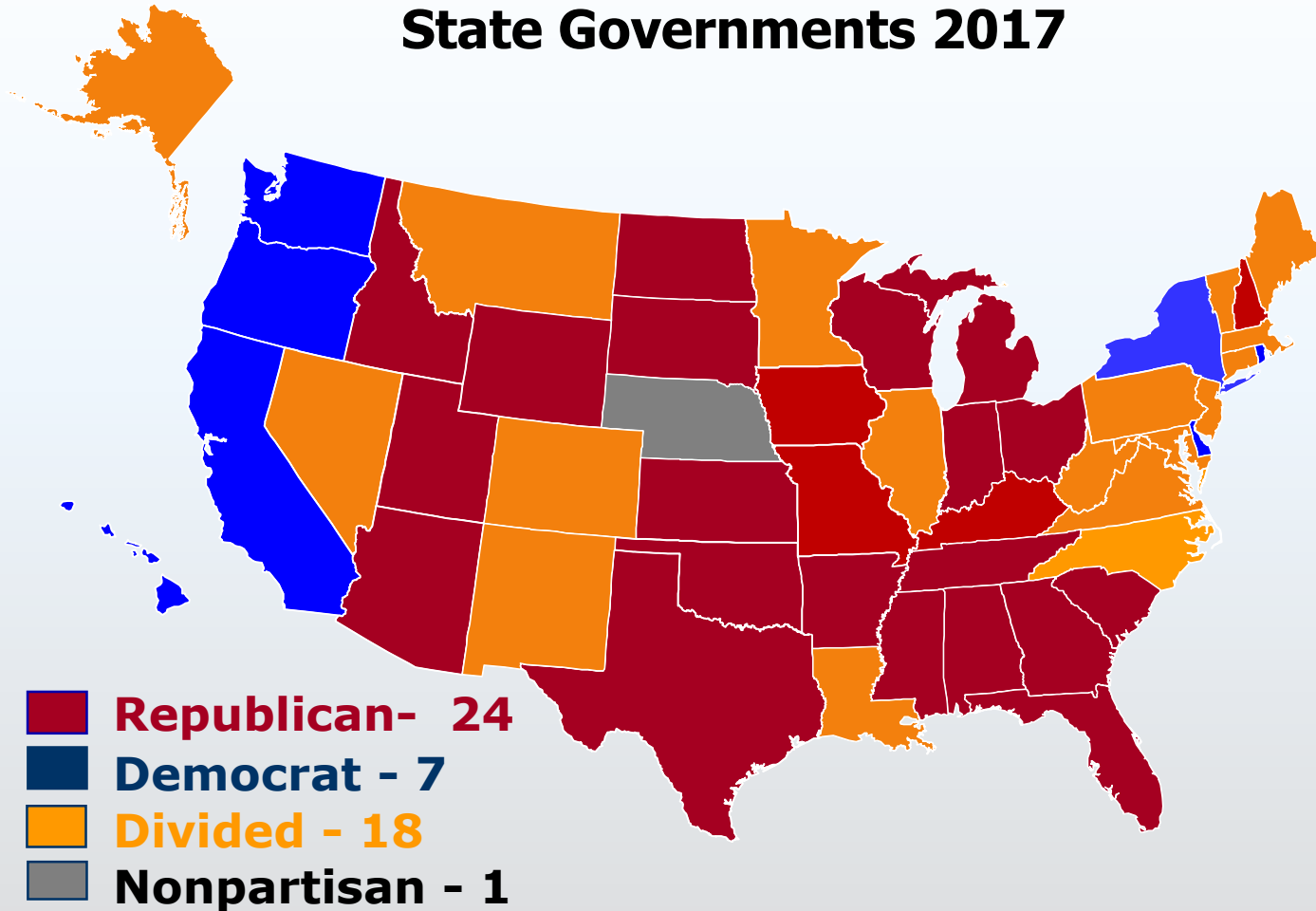
# State Legislatures 2017



- Republican - 32**
- Democrat - 14**
- Split - 3**
- Nonpartisan/Undecided - 2**



# State Governments 2017







NATIONAL CONFERENCE  
of STATE LEGISLATURES

*The Forum for America's Ideas*



## Modeling Best Practices

- Number one question asked of NCSL: what have other states done?
- NCSL collects legislation/policy information from all states and territories
- Examples



NATIONAL CONFERENCE  
of STATE LEGISLATURES

*The Forum for America's Ideas*



# STRONG VOICE

We advocate for you in  
our nation's capitol.





# NATIONAL CONFERENCE of STATE LEGISLATURES

*The Forum for America's Ideas*



## State-Federal Policy Priorities

- Grant states remote sales tax collection authority
- Cybersecurity, including clearance for legislators, energy security and reliability, voting
- Responding to changes in the federal tax code
- Medicaid – monitoring programmatic changes and ensuring support for state program innovation and waiver flexibility
- Criminal justice reform
- Access to broadband
- Infrastructure funding and financing
- State budget certainty
- Balanced Budget Amendment
- Choice in education
- State impact of possible changes to federal regulations



NATIONAL CONFERENCE  
*of* STATE LEGISLATURES

*The Forum for America's Ideas*



# GET INVOLVED

Your participation is welcome and  
strengthens states across the nation.



NATIONAL CONFERENCE  
*of* STATE LEGISLATURES

*The Forum for America's Ideas*



# CONNECTIONS

We link you to the best and  
brightest experts in the nation.



NATIONAL CONFERENCE  
*of STATE LEGISLATURES*

*The Forum for America's Ideas*



**NCSL**  
BOSTON 2017

# **NCSL LEGISLATIVE SUMMIT**

**Boston, Massachusetts**

**August 6-9, 2017**



NATIONAL CONFERENCE  
*of* STATE LEGISLATURES

*The Forum for America's Ideas*



## CONTACT US

Denver 303-364-7700

Washington, D.C. 202-624-5400

[www.ncsl.org](http://www.ncsl.org)