

Alaska

On January 26, Governor Mike Dunleavy said: “The state of our fiscal situation has vastly improved from the budget deficit of \$1.6 billion I inherited upon taking office. Thanks in part to our fiscal restraint over the past three years, we’re on track for a budget surplus in the current fiscal year for the first time in a decade. Based on current trends, we could see revenue in the current year increase by more than \$281 million over the fall forecast and by \$466 million in the upcoming fiscal year. This can generate a surplus this year, and next, even without one-time federal funds.” See <https://gov.alaska.gov/newsroom/2022/01/26/governor-dunleavy-addresses-alaskans-in-fourth-state-of-the-state/>.

Arizona

On January 10, Governor Doug Ducey highlighted several issues in his address, including the need for thoughtful water planning and infrastructure. “One area where our work clearly isn’t done is on water. We passed a monumental policy that we were told would never happen – the Drought Contingency Plan. After that one, I determined – in Arizona, if we can do this, we can do just about anything. Then last year, with Speaker Bowers’ leadership, we put our money where our mouth is: \$200 million to invest in the water technology of the future. Now, with resources available in our budget, a relationship with Mexico that we’ve built and strengthened over the last seven years, and the need clear – what better place to invest more? Instead of just talking about desalination – the technology that made Israel the world’s water superpower – how about we pave the way to make it actually happen? So Speaker Bowers, President Fann and I have been working, and we propose that we make a historic investment: \$1 billion. Our goal: Secure Arizona’s water future for the next 100 years.” He continued, “Our state has grown and thrived because of the foresight of past leaders on this issue – Carl Hayden, Barry Goldwater, Bruce Babbitt and Jon Kyl. The result: the Central Arizona Project, the Salt River Project, the Hoover Dam, the Roosevelt Dam. Now it’s our turn, our moment, to leave this state better than we found it. Let’s rise to the occasion.” See <https://azgovernor.gov/governor/news/2022/01/watch-2022-state-state-address>.

Colorado

On January 13, Governor Jared Polis highlighted the importance of water. “Because water is the lifeblood of our state and our critical agriculture industry, we must work together across industries, divides, and state boundaries to secure a sustainable water future for all Coloradans. We will continue to protect and aggressively assert Colorado’s water rights under all existing water compacts. And I am also committed to updating Colorado’s Water Plan to make it more climate resilient, and ensure that our cities, farms, and streams can thrive for generations to come.” See <https://www.colorado.gov/governor/news/7081-governor-jared-polis-provides-hope-and-plan-save-coloradans-money-2022-state-state>.

Idaho

On January 10, during Governor Brad Little’s address, he reflected on the strength of Idaho’s economy and state budget before detailing his plan to put more money back in the pockets of Idahoans and make strategic investments in education and other areas to propel Idaho even further ahead. His LEADING IDAHO plan included strengthening the commitment to agriculture and natural resources with historic investments in projects to aid the economic vitality of rural Idaho. Combined, the Governor’s budget provides more than \$850 million to improve the quantity and quality of water throughout the state. He said: “Idaho has a strong track record of giving back through tax relief and by making significant investments in the areas that impact Idahoans’ daily lives the most. Things like...clean and plentiful water for a strong agricultural sector; improved broadband access; increased medical capacity to support a healthy Idaho and our healthcare heroes; better access to outdoor recreation and improved land and fire management; opportunities through investments in career technical education, colleges, workforce development and housing, and childcare.” See <https://gov.idaho.gov/pressrelease/gov-little-highlights-plan-for-education-investments-tax-relief-in-2022-state-of-the-state-and-budget-address/>.

Kansas

On January 11, Governor Laura Kelly said: “I’m excited to share with you that my budget this year also restores full funding to the State Water Plan for the first time in 15 years. The water plan is a five-year blueprint for action that

will ensure that we have a reliable, quality water supply to support not only the needs of Kansas communities, but a thriving farming economy. Because everyone in this room knows, as I do, that agriculture built the Kansas economy, and it will always be the backbone of our state. And, despite all of the obstacles that our farmers and ranchers have faced, and thanks to their unrivaled persistence, Kansas is on its way to another record year of agricultural exports.” See <https://governor.kansas.gov/wp-content/uploads/2022/01/EMBARGOED-2022-SOTS-address.pdf>.

Nebraska

January 13, Governor Pete Ricketts said: “After our people, water is Nebraska’s greatest natural resource. To secure Nebraska’s water supply, I am recommending \$500 million to construct a canal and reservoir system from the South Platte River. Access to this water enables our farmers and ranchers to produce. It protects quality drinking water. It keeps electric generating costs manageable, and it ensures Nebraska remains the best place in the world to live, work, and raise a family. If we fail to secure our supply from the South Platte River, we could expect to lose 90 percent of the water that currently comes to us from Colorado. We must act to preserve, protect, manage, and steward our water supply for our future Nebraskans. I am also requesting \$200 million be allocated to the water projects presented by the STAR WARS Special Committee. These projects will also secure our access to water – and they provide the additional promise to grow the good life in tourism and recreation. In addition, I am recommending: \$5 million to support repairs on the Peru Levee; \$60 million to restore and protect drinking water systems in rural areas, such as Cedar and Knox Counties; and \$23 million in repairs to the Fort Laramie Gering canal tunnel.” See <https://governor.nebraska.gov/press/gov-ricketts-state-state-address-2>.

South Dakota

On January 11, Governor Kristi Noem said: “In order for us to defend liberty, government must remain limited. And part of how we do that is through our budget process – through our commitment to fiscal responsibility. I want to assure every South Dakotan of this: we will not use one-time money – whether federal or state dollars – for ongoing expenses or new programs. It would be irresponsible to create or expand any ongoing programs with one-time dollars. A month ago, I reported to you the exceptional revenue growth that South Dakota has enjoyed because of the steps that we took in South Dakota. Since that time, we’ve received even more great news, which I’m prepared to share with you today. In addition to the estimates I gave you back in December, our economy is even stronger than expected. Ongoing general fund revenues were \$20.8 million higher than the revised estimates from December. So far this fiscal year, we’re \$116 million above ongoing legislative adopted estimates. That’s fantastic news, and we should return a portion of these strong revenues to the people of South Dakota.” See <https://news.sd.gov/newsitem.aspx?id=28835>.

Utah

On January 20, Governor Spencer Cox said: “This past year was one of the driest on record, with 98% of the state experiencing extreme drought conditions. Utahns stepped up in a big way, conserving billions of gallons of water to help us through this crisis. Tonight, I encourage you to vote for bills carried by Reps. Robert Spendlove and Ray Ward to prioritize water storage and dramatically improve water conservation in our state. While water is the greatest limiting factor to our growth, there are several other pressing issues we must address including air quality, transportation, housing affordability and other infrastructure needs. Our goal should never be to grow for growth’s sake. We must prioritize a quality of life that all Utahns can enjoy.” See <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1ESn8XHblqOiy3bJC-Dbu4Slcmt5A8WHv/view>.

Washington

On January 11, Governor Jay Inslee talked about the importance of salmon recovery and proposed \$187 million in his budget toward that goal. “We must restore the green corridors along rivers and streams known as riparian habitat, which keeps the water clean and cool. Our legislation sets a unique ecological blueprint for each river and stream habitat to conserve and restore these critical lands.” As he spoke of Washington’s legacy, he said that during his time as Governor, “We came back from disasters such as the Skagit Bridge collapse, the Oso landslide, historic wildfires, heat waves, drought and now unprecedented flooding. You as legislators have a lot to be proud of. But now we are going to be called upon to do more.” See <https://www.governor.wa.gov/news-media/news-media/speeches/2022-state-state>.