

North Dakota

On February 16, Governor Doug Burgum delivered his 2022 State of the State Address, highlighting the state's efforts to address North Dakota's workforce challenges and to grow and diversify the economy. He noted the worst drought conditions recorded in the state's 133-year history. "Using our whole-of-government approach we provided over \$6 million in water supply and transportation aid to keep livestock herds watered and fed, leaving no stone unturned to help our farmers and ranchers. For the first time in recent memory, our state's firefighters fought intense wildfires in every single month of the year 2021."

He talked about efforts to secure water supplies. "This legislature has committed an additional \$50 million for the Red River Water Supply Project. It's going to provide emergency water supply to central and eastern North Dakota. And we're talking about providing water to 40% to 45% of the people in the state. We're talking about the entire Red River Valley and everything that's outside of the Missouri River Basin. It's a huge piece of our economic engine. But we're going to have this backup water supply. It's only been promised, it's been pursued, it's been planned, for six decades."

He also talked about the Garrison Diversion and finally developing the infrastructure to transport Missouri River water across the continental divide to the eastern part of the state. "This is why we went through the pain of flooding the land, the tribal lands, the state lands, flooded all of this great bottom land in the Missouri River, which everybody loves now for fishing, but all that flooding of all that acreage was meant to provide a million acres of irrigation and water supply for the rest of the state. That was the vision of Garrison Diversion. It wasn't all about fishing. We love the fishing, but it's not a million acres, we're irrigating about 11,000 acres. There's not been a drop of water come to the east. We finally have a chance to get this thing done, that along with NAWS [Northwest Area Water Supply Project] to get Missouri River water up to the north central part of the state, Minot and the Souris River Basin. These are huge things. The legislature understands this. They're investing in this infrastructure. And this will provide more certainty and resiliency for our farmers and ranchers in the rest of our state. They know they can rely on the abundant clean water supply provided by the Missouri. And like flood protection for Fargo, these water supply projects, super critical. It's about time. Give yourselves a hand for helping to make this happen. Way to go, team." For more information, see: <https://www.governor.nd.gov/sites/www/files/documents/02.17.2022%20State%20of%20the%20State%20transcript.pdf>.

Oklahoma

On February 7, Governor Kevin Stitt delivered the 2022 State of the State Address to the 58th Legislature. Governor Stitt outlined his legislative agenda for 2022, focusing on education, law enforcement, business, taxes, and investments in infrastructure. He said: "I want to praise my colleagues in the Legislature for being fiscally conservative and responsible with taxpayer dollars. In the face of criticism, we stayed the course.... Our fiscal house is in order. We're coming off a year where we made record investments in education while still cutting taxes. We're fourth in the nation in budget reserves. Our state's credit rating has gone up. We've held state agencies accountable by putting the right leaders in place and aligning them with a common vision." See <https://oklahoma.gov/content/dam/ok/en/governor/documents/2022StateoftheStatefulltextversion.pdf>.

Wyoming

On February 14, Governor Mark Gordon began his State of the State Address by remembering U.S. Senator Mike Enzi and Wyoming State Senator Leland Christensen. "They both have a history in this body and continued to serve Wyoming long after they made their impressions here. They will both be sorely missed." Governor Gordon also touched on water. "As ranchers, Jennie and I know how critical water is to our lives. Water in Wyoming is sacred, and we need the ability to stand our ground when it comes to protecting it. The ongoing drought in the West has raised the stakes over water rights in the Colorado, Snake, Platte, and Yellowstone drainages. When drought or the federal government threatens Wyoming water users, our agricultural producers, our industry, our communities; we cannot afford to be shorthanded or unprepared. That is why you will see that I have asked for additional resources for both our State Engineer and our Attorney General." For further details, see <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1o7IYYIrkorMy20Tz7IHsWd46Wwqbv90b/view>.