

“I don’t care if it’s an idea from a Democrat or a Republican; a good idea is a good idea. This is about getting the best and brightest in the same room to share their ideas for taking West Virginia on a rocket ride to the top.”

— Gov.-elect Jim Justice, Dec. 6, 2016, on appointing members to eight transition policy committees

Gov. Jim Justice (D)

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West Virginia

Pop. (2016): 1,914,436

Median household income: \$40,693

Credit Rating: AA-/Stable

Pop. growth 2016–2021: 0.46%

Median age: 42.6

Right-to-work state: Yes

Legislative Update

- House Bill 2444, approved in May, provides for the assignment of economic development office representatives to serve as facilitators to assist both individuals and small businesses
- Lawmakers updated the state’s “Learn and Earn” apprenticeship program, by trimming some of the program’s funding for equipment. The measure also removes a previous exception, thus mandating that all participating employers match one dollar for every three dollars of state grant funding.
- House Bill 4502, passed in May, authorizes the West Virginia’s attorney general to enter agreements with surrounding states and the District of Columbia to establish regulations for businesses headquartered across states lines that operate in West Virginia.



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Business Tax Climate Rank Change 2016-2017: **+1**



41

Higher Ed. R&D Expenditure: **\$199,167**



5

Number of NCRCs: **64,882** | Percent Improvement 2016-2017: **1%**



50

College Attainment Percent: **32.6%**



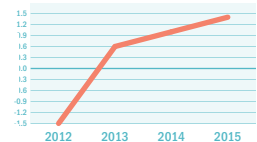
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Lowest Electric Power Cost (cents/kWh): **6.52**



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**GDP
39th**



2015 GDP
(in millions of current US\$)
\$74,321