VOICES

TAKING THE FLOOR

Four leaders on Harleys, humor and hobbies



FOR THE RECORD: **GROVER NORQUIST**

DEPARTMENTS

6 **STATESTATS**

States grapple with recidivism rates.

PEOPLE & POLITICS

TRENDS AND TRANSITIONS

Deficit reduction, the appeal of voting centers, disposing of nuclear waste, recalls in Wisconsin, rolling through red lights and state credit ratings.

12 **STATELINE**

News and happenings from around the nation.

AS THEY SEE IT

Quotes and cartoons from the states.

SL ONLINE

www.ncsl.org/magazine

This month find:

- ◆ More about voting centers and how they've developed.
- about the problem of nuclear waste disposal.
- collective bargaining rights that sparked the Wisconsin recall elections.
- ◆ A look at the role of high technology in health care.

THEN & NOW

25 YEARS AGO



Articles from the October 1986 issue of State Legislatures:

FISCAL FORECAST: **STORMS AHEAD**

"The picture that emerged from a recent NCSL survey is one of fiscal deterioration. During fiscal year 1989, most states spent more dollars than they took in."

PAC\$ AND POLITICS

"The cost of American elections may well top the \$2 billion mark this year. Political action committees bankroll much of the expense, and their influence and money are fast becoming a campaign issue."

LEGALIZE THE CULTIVATION OF POT?

"Oregon voters will decide this fall whether they want their state to legalize the cultivation and use of marijuana in small amounts. Alaska passed similar legislation in 1975."

DID YOU KNOW ...



Randolph Rogers, an American living in Rome, created a bronze statue for the Connecticut Capitol and in 1878, the 6,600 lb. winged figure was fastened atop the dome. But after several years and a major hurricane, it became wobbly, leading to a heated discussion over what to do about it. The local newspaper editor joined the debate, writing, "The question facing Connecticut is whether it wants a loose woman on the roof or a fallen woman in the streets." The statue was eventually removed in 1938 and placed in the basement. In 1942, it was donated to the federal government, which melted it down for ammunition and machine parts. Today, its original plaster model is on display in the north lobby of the

-From "A Celebration of State Capitols," by Richard Gibson and the Connecticut General Assembly website.

WHOSE CAPITOL IS IT?



SL ONLINE

To find out, go to: www.ncsl.org/ magazine

- ◆ An earlier State Legislatures story
- ◆ Background on the battle over

STATE LEGISLATURES

Executive Director William T. Pound

Editor

Karen Hansen Managing Editor

Associate Editor

Copy Editor

Contributors

Scott Hendrick Jon Kuhl Karl Kurtz Alison Lawrence Donna Lyons Jeanne Mejeur Douglas Shinkle Wendy Underhill Steve Waters

Art Director Bruce Holdeman

Advertising Sales Manager

(303) 364-7700

NCSL OFFICERS

Senator Stephen Morris, Kansas

President Elect

Representative Terie Norelli.

New Hampshire

Vice President Senator Bruce Starr, Oregon

Staff Chair Michael Adams, Virginia

Staff Vice Chair

Patsy Spaw, Texas

Immediate Past President Senator Richard Moore.

Immediate Past Staff Chair

Denver Office

7700 East First Place Denver, Colorado 80230 (303) 364-7700

Washington, D.C. Office

444 North Capitol Street, N.W Suite 515 Washington, D.C. 20001 (202) 624-5400

Website

www.ncsl.org/magazine

State Legislatures (ISSN 0147-0641), the national magazine of policy and politics, is published monthly by the National Conference of State Legislatures except July/August and October/November, which are combined. Postmaster: Send address changes to: State Legislatures, 7700 East First Place, Denver, CO 80230.

© 2011, All Rights Reserved.

Opinions expressed in this magazine do not necessarily reflect the policy of NCSL.

Go to www.ncsl.org/bookstore/ to subscribe. United States—\$49 per year; foreign—\$55. Teachers only \$25 (enter promo code SLMTEA). Single copy: \$6.50.

Letters to the Editor may be mailed to the Denver office or sent by e-mail to: edward. smith@ncsl.org. Send requests for permission to reprint to Edward Smith in Denver. Send subscriptions and changes of address to the Denver office Attn: Marketing Department.

Periodically, NCSL rents mailing labels to outside organizations. If you prefer your name not be used, please send a written request.

State Legislatures is indexed in the PAIS Bulletin and Expanded Academic Index. It is also available in microform and electronically through University Microfilms Inc. (UMI) at (800) 521-0600.