



# Year One: **Getting it done.**

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## **Governor Raimondo**

was sworn in as the first female Governor of the State of Rhode Island on January 6, 2015. In her inaugural address she laid out a vision to stop Rhode Island's decline and launch its comeback in three ways:

### **Build**

the skills our students and workers need to compete in the 21st century.

### **Attract**

entrepreneurs and investments in industries of our strengths to stimulate the economy and create jobs.

### **Innovate**

including within our state government - to enhance accountability and deliver value to taxpayers.



# Build

The Governor wants to give Rhode Islanders 21st century skills, so they can get 21st century jobs. So we're expanding early childhood education, making college more affordable for more families, and re-imagining workforce development in Rhode Island so that we train people for jobs that actually exist.

## **The Governor has focused on early childhood, K-12, affordable college, and workforce development:**

- » **Early Childhood** - Her budget triples the number of state-sponsored pre-k classrooms by 2019, and finally funds full implementation of universal all-day kindergarten across Rhode Island.
- » **K-12** - Her "Prepare RI" program will transform high school by empowering all qualifying public high school students to take higher education courses at no cost to the student:
  - If a student wants to go to college, the credits they earn will make it cheaper and easier to graduate on time.
  - If a student wants to start a career after high school, they can get an industry certification.
- » **Affordable College**
  - Her "Promise RI" initiative creates last-dollar scholarships for low-income students by eliminating a redundant and antiquated state bureaucracy (RIHEAA).
  - Her "Wavemaker fellowship" establishes loan repayment assistance for graduates who stay in Rhode Island to work in priority fields like science, technology, engineering, math, or design.
- » **"Real Jobs RI"** re-imagines workforce development by aligning job training with businesses' needs so we train people for jobs that actually exist. This is a win-win-win:
  - It's a win for workers who know there's a job waiting for them when they finish training.
  - It's a win for employers, who get workers trained with the skills they need; and
  - It's a win for Rhode Island because we not only put people back to work, but training workers well makes us a more attractive place to do business.

# Attract

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## Predictability

» **Governor Raimondo** is focused on enhancing predictability by exercising fiscal discipline and controlling costs.

• **Pension Reform** - This year's settlement disposes of all of the state's major litigation, and locks in the reforms and savings. After the settlement, we are projecting total annual savings generated by our pension reforms of \$391.6 million.

• **Medicaid** - The Governor pushed through major changes in the recently-enacted budget. Those reforms:

- (a) provided \$70.5 million in savings for this fiscal year, and
- (b) included long-term structural changes that will generate even greater savings in the years ahead by moving us from a volume-based system to a value-based system.

## Tax Cuts

» Predictability and controlling costs are good, but we need to cut taxes, too.

» We already have the lowest corporate income tax in the Northeast, and just this year, Governor Raimondo:

- eliminated the commercial sales tax on energy; and
- reduced taxes on small businesses by lowering the corporate minimum tax.

## Economic Development Package

» Many states in the region and around the country are aggressively and proactively courting companies to invest in their states. Rhode Island has been on the sidelines for too long.

» The Governor passed an aggressive package of economic development tools that the state is going to use aggressively to:

- attract companies to invest and create jobs here;
- encourage existing businesses to expand and grow here; and
- spur construction by reducing companies' tax burden.

» Executive Order on Regulatory Reform.

» \$3m spend on affordable housing, leveraging \$25m+ in additional investments in housing and communities.

» \$5m tourism campaign.

# Innovate

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**Governor Raimondo** is committed to fostering innovation throughout state government, making the state more cost effective and customer friendly.

» LEAN initiatives across state agencies.

» Restructuring of the Department of Transportation.

» A turnaround of the Department of Children Youth and Families.

» Municipal e-permitting.

» Web-based budget tool.

» Municipal LED Streetlights.

» Cybersecurity Commission.

» Brookings Initiative.

» Working Cities Grant/Initiative.



# Making it **in Rhode Island**

## Helping People who are Struggling Now

**The Governor also knows that families are struggling now. So she's taken steps to provide some immediate help:**

- » Invested to put people to work immediately:
  - Established a School Building Authority to put people to work modernizing schools.
  - Set up the Infrastructure Bank to put people to work making buildings more energy efficient.
- » Made hard work pay by raising the minimum wage from \$9 to \$9.60.

**Put more money in the working people's pockets by expanding the Earned Income Tax Credit from 10 percent to 12.5 percent.**

- » Increased funding for Meals on Wheels.
- » Exempted Social Security benefits from taxes for low-and middle-income Rhode Islanders.
- » Increased funding for foster families, the first increase in over a decade.
- » Expanded investment in a statewide tourism effort to boost our economy by attracting more visitors.
- » Provided \$3 million to finance the production and preservation of affordable housing including young workers and seniors.
- » Justice Reinvestment Task Force.
- » Pregnancy Accommodations Bill.
- » Opioid Addiction Task Force.
- » Misclassification settlement.
- » Tip Line and Website to report gender-based pay discrimination.
- » Creation of ABLE Accounts.



For more information on all these programs, please visit [www.governor.ri.gov](http://www.governor.ri.gov) and the best news for RI is **#itsworking**