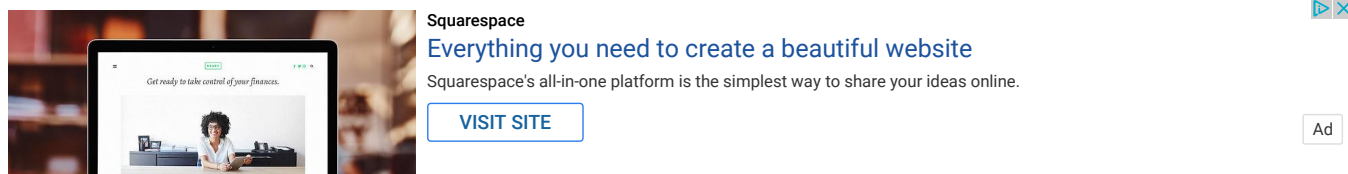




Stewart said Ivey enjoyed popularity simply because she represented a clean break from the scandal that engulfed her predecessor, but now people will be looking to more from her administration.

"People need to feel comfortable with her leadership, and she needs to convince people she is worthy of a full four-year term in office," Stewart said.

An advertisement for Squarespace. On the left, a laptop displays a website with the text "Get ready to take control of your finances." and a photo of a woman. To the right, the text reads "Squarespace Everything you need to create a beautiful website" and "Squarespace's all-in-one platform is the simplest way to share your ideas online." Below this is a blue "VISIT SITE" button. In the top right corner of the ad area, there are icons for a play button and a close button. In the bottom right corner, there is a small "Ad" label.

Ivey will lay out her agenda that is expected to include initiatives for education, rural broadband and corrections. One of the most pressing budgetary matters before lawmakers this session is compliance with a court order to overhaul prison mental health care.

"Gov. Ivey's goal for this legislative session is to invest in our future, provide for our people and spend taxpayer dollars responsibly," Ivey spokesman Daniel Sparkman said.

In seeking the governor's office in 2018, Ivey will face challenges from within the Republican Party and Democrats. Huntsville Mayor Tommy Battle and state Sen. Bill Hightower are challenging Ivey in the GOP primary. On Democratic side, Tuscaloosa Mayor Walt Maddox and former Chief Justice Sue Bell Cobb have announced runs for governor.

Like Ivey, lawmakers begin the session Tuesday under the backdrop of an election year. In addition to the governor's race, all statewide offices and legislative seats are up for election in 2018.

Senate President Pro Tempore Del Marsh said he expects a compressed session in which the emphasis will be on state budgets. The session could end as soon as late March.

"Let's get in and get out as quick as possible," House Speaker Mac McCutcheon said.

The session is expected to be dominated by two major budgetary issues: prisons and the Children's Health Insurance Program.

Alabama is facing a court order to improve conditions in Alabama prisons after a federal judge last year ruled that mental health care was "horrendously inadequate." State lawmakers will deal with the price tag of trying to comply with the ruling against the state.

McCutcheon said lawmakers would like to see to see pay increases for state employees and teachers, but it depends on available money and health insurance costs.

The session begins at noon Tuesday.

Copyright 2018 The [Associated Press \(http://www.ap.org\)](http://www.ap.org). All rights reserved. This material may not be published, broadcast, rewritten or redistributed.



[www.foxnews.com/news/2018-01-08/ivey-lawmakers-begin-election-year-session/](http://www.foxnews.com/news/2018/01/08/ivey-lawmakers-begin-election-year-session/)  
[www.best-states.com/alabama/2018-01-08/ivey-lawmakers-begin-election-year-session/](http://www.best-states.com/alabama/2018-01-08/ivey-lawmakers-begin-election-year-session/)  
[www.best-states.com/alabama/2018-01-08/ivey-lawmakers-begin-election-year-session/](http://www.best-states.com/alabama/2018-01-08/ivey-lawmakers-begin-election-year-session/)



Tags: [Alabama \(https://www.usnews.com/topics/locations/alabama\)](https://www.usnews.com/topics/locations/alabama)

---

**USNews** BrandFuse

Ad Content by Vanguard

**What Does a Daily Cup of Coffee Have to Do With Retirement? (https://www.usnews.com/sponsored3?prx\_t=bUkDAgZUYAPfMPA&ntv\_fr)**

Saving a few bucks here, a few bucks there, may pay big over the long term.

## Recommended Articles



<https://www.usnews.com/news/best-states/slideshows/these-10-states-have-the-highest-labor-force-participation-rates?int=news-rec>

**10 States With the Most Labor Force Participation**

**(https://www.usnews.com/news/best-states/slideshows/these-10-states-have-the-highest-labor-force-participation-rates?int=news-rec)**

Casey Leins

<https://www.usnews.com/topics/author/casey-leins> | Nov. 29, 2017

These are the states with the largest share of people either employed or looking for work.



**[Best States for the New Economy \(https://www.usnews.com/news/best-states/slideshows/10-best-states-for-the-new-economy?int=news-rec\)](https://www.usnews.com/news/best-states/slideshows/10-best-states-for-the-new-economy?int=news-rec)**

Gaby Galvin

(<https://www.usnews.com/topics/author/gaby-galvin>) | Nov. 6, 2017

A new report ranks states on how well they are equipped to benefit from the economy of the future.

(<https://www.usnews.com/news/best-states/slideshows/10-best-states-for-the-new-economy?int=news-rec>)

**[Regulators Want Utility Customers to Benefit From Tax Cut \(https://www.usnews.com/news/best-states/virginia/articles/2018-01-09/regulators-want-utility-customers-to-benefit-from-tax-cut?int=news-rec\)](https://www.usnews.com/news/best-states/virginia/articles/2018-01-09/regulators-want-utility-customers-to-benefit-from-tax-cut?int=news-rec)**

Jan. 9, 2018

State regulators say they want to make sure Virginia's utility customers benefit from a corporate tax cut signed into law last month.



**[United Airlines to Add Nonstop Flights at Alabama Airport \(https://www.usnews.com/news/best-states/alabama/articles/2018-01-09/united-airlines-to-add-nonstop-flights-at-alabama-airport?int=news-rec\)](https://www.usnews.com/news/best-states/alabama/articles/2018-01-09/united-airlines-to-add-nonstop-flights-at-alabama-airport?int=news-rec)**

Jan. 9, 2018

United Airlines will increase the volume of nonstop flights into and out of one Alabama airport.

**[Teen Dies After He Was Injured Playing in Winter Weather \(https://www.usnews.com/news/best-states/south-carolina/articles/2018-01-09/teen-dies-after-he-was-injured-playing-in-winter-weather?int=news-rec\)](https://www.usnews.com/news/best-states/south-carolina/articles/2018-01-09/teen-dies-after-he-was-injured-playing-in-winter-weather?int=news-rec)**

Jan. 9, 2018

Officials say a South Carolina teenager who was injured playing in winter weather has died.

**[2 Teenagers Killed While Getting Stalled Vehicle off Road \(https://www.usnews.com/news/best-states/missouri/articles/2018-01-09/2-teenagers-killed-while-getting-stalled-vehicle-off-road?int=news-rec\)](https://www.usnews.com/news/best-states/missouri/articles/2018-01-09/2-teenagers-killed-while-getting-stalled-vehicle-off-road?int=news-rec)**

Jan. 9, 2018

~~Two teenagers are dead after being struck by a car while trying to get their stalled vehicle off an eastern Missouri roadway.~~

~~https://www.usnews.com/news/best-states/alabama/articles/2018-01-08/five-lawmakers-begin-election-year-session%3Fsrc=usn\_fb)~~

**[Cianbro CEO Steps Down, Succeeded by Son \(https://www.usnews.com/news/best-states/maine/articles/2018-01-09/cianbro-ceo-steps-down-succeeded-by-son?int=news-rec\)](https://www.usnews.com/news/best-states/maine/articles/2018-01-09/cianbro-ceo-steps-down-succeeded-by-son?int=news-rec)**

Jan. 9, 2018



The CEO of Maine-based construction company Cianbro Corp. has stepped down.



**Powerful California Storm Floods Roads, Loosens Hillsides**  
**(<https://www.usnews.com/news/best-states/california/articles/2018-01-09/california-storm-follows-fires-bringing-new-round-of-danger?int=news-rec>)**

Jan. 9, 2018

Heavy rains pounding Southern California for a second day caused flooding and loosened hillsides as officials in fire-ravaged communities warned people to stay off roads over fears of mud flows.

<https://www.usnews.com/news/best-states/california/articles/2018-01-09/california-storm-follows-fires-bringing-new-round-of-danger?int=news-rec>

**1 of 3 Suspects in Custody in Double Homicide in Sioux Falls**  
**(<https://www.usnews.com/news/best-states/south-dakota/articles/2018-01-09/1-of-3-suspects-in-custody-in-double-homicide-in-sioux-falls?int=news-rec>)**

Jan. 9, 2018

One of three suspects wanted in connection with a double homicide in Sioux Falls has been taken into custody.

**Homeless Man Arrested on Suspicion of Fatal Hammer Attack**  
**(<https://www.usnews.com/news/best-states/california/articles/2018-01-09/homeless-man-arrested-on-suspicion-of-fatal-hammer-attack?int=news-rec>)**

Jan. 9, 2018

A homeless man was arrested on suspicion of using a hammer to brutally kill another man near a San Diego bus stop.

Load More

<https://www.usnews.com/news/best-states/california/articles/2018-01-09/homeless-man-arrested-on-suspicion-of-fatal-hammer-attack?int=news-rec>



# BEST STATES

Best States is an interactive platform developed by U.S. News for ranking the 50 U.S. states, alongside news analysis and daily reporting. The platform is designed to engage citizens and government leaders in a discussion about what needs improvement across the country. The data was provided by McKinsey & Company's Leading States Index.

[Home \(/news/best-states\)](#)

[Rankings \(/news/best-states/rankings\)](#)

[Methodology \(/news/best-states/articles/methodology\)](#)

[FAQ \(/news/best-states/articles/frequently-asked-questions\)](#)

[Twitter \(https://twitter.com/usnews\)](https://twitter.com/usnews)

[Facebook \(https://www.facebook.com/usnewsandworldreport\)](https://www.facebook.com/usnewsandworldreport)

Copyright 2017 © U.S. News & World Report L.P. [Terms and Conditions \(https://www.usnews.com/info/features/terms\)](https://www.usnews.com/info/features/terms)  
[Privacy Policy \(https://www.usnews.com/info/features/terms#privacy\)](https://www.usnews.com/info/features/terms#privacy)