

Resources on States and Localities

Almanac of the 50 States: Basic Data Profiles with Comparative Tables. Edith R. Hornor. Information Publications. Published annually. 447 pp.

Provides statistical profiles of each state and rankings of the states based on the statistical data. The data cover geography and environment; population characteristics; vital statistics and health; education; social insurance and welfare programs; housing and construction; government and elections; governmental finance; crime, law enforcement, and courts; labor and income; economy, business, industry and agriculture; and communication, energy, and transportation. See also the entries for *CQ's State Fact Finder* and *State Rankings*.

The Book of the States. The Council of State Governments. Published every two years in May; most recent edition published in 2002. 551 pp.

Called the “encyclopedia of state government,” this very useful resource provides data on all 50 state governments in tabular format. It covers topics such as terms of office, impeachment provisions in the states, agencies administering major state taxes, and campaign finance laws. The book has eleven chapters: state constitutions; state executive branch; legislatures; the judiciary; elections, campaign finance, and initiatives; state finances; management, regulation, and personnel; programs and issues; intergovernmental affairs; state pages; and state government in review.

CQ's State Fact Finder: Rankings Across America. Kendra A. Hovey and Harold A. Hovey. CQ Press. Published annually. 406 pp.

Breaks down state data in tabular form in the following broad subject areas: population, economies, geography, government, federal impacts, taxes, revenues and finances, education, health, crime, transportation, and welfare. Information is presented alphabetically by state and by rankings to show how each state compares with the others. See also the entries for *Almanac of the 50 States* and *State Rankings*.

Desk Reference on the States: Over 500 Answers to Questions About History, Government, Elections, Courts, and More. Bruce Wetterau. CQ Press. 1999. 328 pp.

Provides quick answers to the most frequently asked questions about all aspects of state government, including state history, the governorship, legislatures, campaigns and elections, state courts, and demographic data.

Facts about the States, 2nd ed. Joseph Nathan Kane et al. H.W. Wilson. 1994. 624 pp.

Profiles each state, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico. Describes each state's location, seal, flag, origin and meaning of the state name, and unusual state symbols (such as state beverage). Provides information on geography and climate, national sites, history, demography, government, finances, economy, environment, culture and education, and unusual state facts. Also provides lists of fiction and nonfiction works about the state. Some of the information is dated, but still a useful book.

Governors' Staff Directory. National Governors' Association. Updated weekly. [Available](#) on the Web.

Contains state-by-state listings of more than 1,000 key governors' aides, including contact information and issue areas.

The Handbook of State Legislative Leaders. State Legislative Leaders Foundation. Published annually. 370 pp.

Provides brief profiles of each state legislative leader (such as majority leader or president pro tempore), including the number of years in current position, previous offices, committee assignments, selected staff, legislative priorities, contact information, and a photo. Also provides contact information for each state legislature, including Web address.

The Municipal Year Book. International City/County Management Association. Published annually. 341 pp.

Similar in format to *Book of the States* but information covers municipalities. Provides information on management issues and trends; intergovernmental issues; staffing and compensation; and name and telephone numbers for officials in municipalities and counties.

National Survey of State Laws, 3rd ed. Edited by Richard A. Leiter. Gale Group. 1999. 673 pp.

Provides state-by-state comparisons of state laws and cites the state code section for each law. The book is arranged by broad subject area: business and consumer laws; criminal laws; education laws; employment laws; family laws; general civil laws; real estate laws; and tax laws. There is a cross-reference table so if you know what kind of law you want to look at, you will know which chapters to look in. A very useful resource.

State Administrative Officials. The Council of State Governments. Published annually. 451 pp.

Lists state government agency officials by function, such as drinking water or boating law administration or highway safety. Provides contact information for these offices. Very helpful for figuring out the best state agency to contact.

State Rankings. Morgan Quitno Press. Published annually. 624 pp.

Compares states in several areas: agriculture, crime, defense, government finance, health, economy, education, energy, environment, geography, housing, population, social welfare, and transportation. Information is presented in alphabetical order and rank order. Also available are specialty publications on *Health Care State Rankings*, *Crime State Rankings*, and *City Crime Rankings*. See also the entries for *Almanac of the 50 States* and *CQ's State Fact Finder*.

State Yellow Book. Leadership Directories, Inc. Published quarterly. 1,407 pp.

A well-organized directory of state government executive and legislative offices. Also contains state profiles, which provide information on the state's demographics, economy, schools, statewide organizations, and vital records office.

Worldmark Encyclopedia of the States, 5th ed. Gale Group. 2001. 787 pp.

Provides narrative information on 50 subject areas, such as topography, history, commerce, industry, social welfare, education, housing, taxation, and health. Some of the more uniquely helpful topics include information on the ethnic, religious, and language groups in each state; the number of military personnel and installations; a summary of the state's annual budget;

a listing of state newspapers along with circulation numbers; and information on famous people from each state. There is also a bibliography for each state entry.