



Brownback, Scott named best governors by Cato Institute

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The libertarian-leaning Cato Institute on Friday issued its **annual assessment of state governors**.

Leading the pack are Gov. Sam Brownback(R-KS) and Gov. Rick Scott (R-FL), who each received an overall score of 69.

Also receiving grades of "A" are Gov. Paul LePage (R-ME) and Gov. Tom Corbett (R-PA), both of whom received an overall score of 65.

Gov. Pat Quinn (D-IL) is the nation's worst governor, according to Cato, with a score of 16.

Other governors receiving an "F" are Gov. Dan Malloy (D-CT), Gov. Mark Dayton (D-MN), Gov. Neil Abercrombie (D-HI) and Gov. Chris Gregoire (D-WA).

"It uses statistical data to grade the governors on their taxing and spending records," Cato said. "Governors who have cut taxes and spending the most receive the highest grades, while those who have increased taxes and spending the most receive the lowest grades."

Scores of other well-known governors include:

- Gov. Bobby Jindal (R-LA): B
- Gov. John Kasich (R-OH): B
- Gov. Chris Christie (R-NJ): B
- Gov. Scott Walker (R-WI): B
- Gov. Nikki Haley (R-SC): B

- Gov. Susana Martinez (R-NM): C
- Gov. Rick Perry (R-TX): C
- Gov. Jerry Brown (D-CA): D
- Gov. Jan Brewer (R-AZ): D
- Gov. Andrew Cuomo (R-NY): D

The highest-rated Democrat is Gov. Deval Patrick of Massachusetts, who received a B.

The lowest-rated Republican is Gov. Bill Haslam of Tennessee, who received a D.