



Gubernatorial powers, however, are constantly shifting. Institutional reforms—such as increases in staff and expansion of appointment powers—may change formal power. Informal power, of course, shifts every time a new governor is elected and brings his or her own personal characteristics to the job. How do these changes shape the ability of chief executives to get their agendas

enacted into law? Are these powers enough to give governors the tools they need to meet the increasingly heavy expectations voters place on them? Are those expectations—especially of the economic variety—realistic given that even the most powerful governor leads a state that is open to economic forces beyond his or her control? Political scientists search for systematic answers through the comparative method, examining differences in power and expectations to see whether they predict differences in political influence and policy success. Below we summarize some of the most recent research on the powers and expectations of governors.

- **Crew, Robert E., Jr., and Christopher Lewis.** "Verbal Style, Gubernatorial Strategies, and Legislative Success." *Political Psychology* 32 (2011): 623–642.

(Continued)