**For Discussion**

1. Formal powers determine the opportunities available to governors, but informal powers ultimately determine whether governors are able to capitalize on such opportunities. Which type of power, formal or informal, is more critical in determining the overall strength of a governor, and why do you think so?

2. How have the powers of governors changed over time? What caused these changes? What skills do you feel a governor needs to possess in order to perform his or her job well in today’s economic and political environment?

3. What is the best way to measure gubernatorial success? How much influence do governors have over the crafting and implementation of public policy? What might hinder the successful implementation of regulatory policies? Consider the constraints that governors face from legislatures, public agencies, and possibly the federal government. Would examining actual policies help to determine when formal and informal influence is likely to be the most successful, given variation in political context and policy typology?

4. How has the trend toward devolution affected gubernatorial power? Have the informal powers of a governor been affected as well? Will governors be held more or less accountable for the economic condition of the state?

5. Besides the governor, what state official is the most important to governance in a state? Because of their role as the state’s top law enforcement official, should state attorneys general be appointed rather than elected? Should secretaries of state also be appointed rather than elected?

6. Should governors share the same types and levels of formal power? Are there potential problems with differing levels of formal gubernatorial power between states? For example, if one state has a weak governor and a neighboring state has a strong governor, does it matter? What factors cause the variance in the levels of formal gubernatorial power among the states?