



## **ALEC'S RICH STATES, POOR STATES**

*Rich States, Poor States*, written by Arthur Laffer and others and published annually by the American Legislative Exchange Council (ALEC), embodies the policy agenda that ALEC pushes to state legislators: reduction or abolition of income taxes, fewer investments in education and other public services, less help for those who are struggling, low wages, weak unions. The centerpiece of *Rich States, Poor States* is the “Economic Outlook Ranking,” which ranks states on their conformance to ALEC’s preferred policies. While ALEC claims these policies promote economic growth and prosperity, the evidence shows otherwise.

### **ALEC Gets it Backwards in Rich States, Poor States**

ALEC’s 20 “best” states are actually poorer than its 20 “worst” states. [Read more](#)

### **Anatomy of the Economic Outlook Ranking**

The centerpiece of *Rich States, Poor States* is the ALEC-Laffer Economic Outlook Ranking. Here are the details. [Read more](#)

### **The Economic Outlook Ranking Fails to Predict Growth**

How well do the Economic Outlook Rankings predict state economic performance in the years since the first ranking was published? Not so well. [Read more](#)

### **ALEC Fails to Defend its Methodology**

Many have criticized the research methods of Laffer and ALEC. ALEC’s response to these criticisms fails. [Read more](#)

## **What Others Have Written about Rich States, Poor States**

Key commentary by others on the research methods and policy prescriptions of ALEC.  
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## **What is ALEC?**

ALEC is a membership organization of state legislators and corporations. Find out how this works. [Read more](#)