

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

NEWS RELEASE

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Governor to Launch State of the State WEB Site Featuring Live Link to State of State Address

Gov. Christie Whitman today announced that New Jersey will be the first in the nation to invite citizens to view the Governor's State of the State address live on-line. The web site, which goes on-line Tuesday, will provide citizens with an in-depth look at initiatives being announced by the Governor in her State of the State address.

"We want to give citizens the chance to take an in-depth look at the accomplishments we have made over the last four years and our plans for the new term," said Gov. Whitman. "And by providing this information in an on-line format, we will be able to reach an unprecedented number of citizens. We're using the latest in high-tech to give more New Jerseyans the opportunity to be a part of the process."

Today the Governor offered a sneak preview of the web site, which will include:

- access to view the Governor's speech live on-line
- the full text of the Governor's speech
- photographs from last year's New Jersey Outdoors Magazine photo contest
- hyper links to presentations on new initiatives announced by the Governor
- an opportunity for citizens to react on-line to the speech and request additional information
- a trivia quiz about New Jersey facts and the Governor's new initiatives

The web site replaces the annual State of the State booklet, which in previous years provided a retrospective look at the Gov. Whitman's accomplishments. The booklet reached an average of 3,000 people.

The State of the State web site is expected to reach an unprecedented number of citizens. The New Jersey state web site, which has been on line since 1996, receives an average of 200,000 hits each day.

The booklets distributed during the Whitman administration cost \$10,000 annually, an average of \$3 per copy. During previous administrations, the cost to produce the booklet was as high as \$25 per copy. There is no extra cost associated with the production of the State of the State web site, outside of a fee for the transmission of the live feed during the address.

The internet address for the State of the State web site will be released on Monday afternoon. Citizens will be able to access the site on Monday morning to load necessary software for live viewing of the State of the State. The web site will also be reachable through a link at the New Jersey state web site: **www.state.nj.us**.

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