



Governor Perdue Named *Innovator in Action* by Reason Foundation

The Reason Foundation has named Governor Sonny Perdue as a 2009 *Innovator in Action* for the work of his Commission for a New Georgia.

The annual *Innovators in Action 2009* magazine profiles leaders who have aggressively pursued new strategies for increasing the effectiveness and efficiency of government, to deliver better value at less cost to taxpayers.

“Amidst today’s massive deficits and red ink, we need government leaders who are willing to ditch the failed status quo and seek out better ways of doing things,” said Leonard Gilroy, director of government reform at Reason Foundation and editor of the *Innovators* publication. “We hope the examples and experiences offered by these innovators will inspire reform-minded officials at all levels of government to provide better, leaner and cheaper government to taxpayers.”

Governor Perdue said the Foundation’s recognition of the work of the Commission for a New Georgia “is a testament to the more than 400 Georgians who have volunteered their time to create a more efficient, more effective state government.”

By the end of the Governor’s first term the state transformed from “average” on a national rating scale to one of the five best-managed states in the nation. Implementation of Commission recommendations have resulted in improvements like child support orders taking three months to now just 24 hours and Medicaid’s 45-day processing period has been reduced in many cases to same-day service.

Following recommendations of the Commission, the state’s procurement division has saved more than \$100 million a year on state purchases. The state has also downsized its vehicle fleet by 10 percent and has recovered more than \$200 million in seriously delinquent taxes. Increasing verification of eligibility for health and other programs have saved the state billions of dollars.

The Reason Foundation’s non-partisan public policy research promotes choice, competition and a dynamic market economy as the foundation for human dignity and progress.

Innovators in Action 2009 also features:

- Chicago Chief Financial Officer Gene Saffold on privatizing the city’s parking meters;
- Bob Carr, former Premier of New South Wales, Australia, explains how the private sector built vital infrastructure the government couldn’t afford;
- Onvia Chief Information Officer Eric Gillespie shows why Recovery.org cost less than \$100,000 but the government’s own website, Recovery.gov, is costing taxpayers \$18 million, and illustrates how today’s data and technology can “bring high-level scrutiny to government spending”;
- Oliver Porter, who helped launch the start-up city of Sandy Springs, describes how governments can, and should, outsource many non-governmental functions.

Innovators in Action also contains in-depth interviews with:

- Indianapolis Mayor Gregory Ballard
- Louisiana Commissioner of Administration Angele Davis



- Louisiana State Superintendent of Education Paul Pastorek
- Henry Garrigo, former Director of the Florida Council on Efficient Government.