

NOTE: “...Kasich’s most critical accomplishment doesn’t appear on a spreadsheet or in legislation; it rests in the hearts of the many Ohioans who again have hope that their state and their prospects are on the rise.”

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Leap year: editorial

After repairing state, Kasich's bold 2012 course is transforming Ohio

For Ohio and its governor, 2012 has been a transformative year. John Kasich sped through his second year with his trademark zeal for getting done the big and difficult things, hardly skipping a beat after his 2011 reforms stabilized the state.

When Kasich took office that January, the state’s budget had an \$8 billion shortfall and its economy was in a freefall. More than 400,000 Ohioans had lost their jobs. Former Gov. Ted Strickland clearly was in over his head. Hopes were high that Kasich, having learned politics in Congress and business in boardrooms, could repair the damage by the end of his first term.

He did it in a year.

The man who once balanced the federal budget, line by line, took a scalpel to the Buckeye spending plan and erased the deficit without raising taxes. He launched reforms of Medicaid, prisons and job-killing red tape, to name a few.

He got rid of the estate tax, shed government bureaucracy and proclaimed Ohio was once again “open for business.”

Is it ever. In a year-end review with reporters on Wednesday, Kasich cited employment statistics. Ohio went from being nearly dead-last in job creation to No. 5 in the nation this past year and No. 1 in the Midwest; we’re up 132,900 jobs. And unemployment, nationally at 7.7 percent, has dropped in Ohio during his tenure from 9 percent to 6.8 percent.

Editorial continued here: <http://www.dispatch.com/content/stories/editorials/2012/12/23/leap-year.html>

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