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# Time magazine names Nevada's Guinn as one of America's five best governors

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Gov. Kenny Guinn has been named one of the nation's five best governors by Time magazine.

The magazine praised Guinn on its Web site Sunday for fighting his own Republican party and outliving a legal battle and a brief recall effort to win an \$833 million dollar tax increase -- the largest in Nevada history-- in 2003.

Time called that a "still controversial but realistic step to shore up the overstretched budget of the nation's fastest-growing state."

Guinn justified his decision as something that needed to be done at the time. This year, at Guinn's insistence, the state refunded \$300 million to vehicle owners.

"I believe we stood tall and did what we had to do and put the money in the right places," he said.

Along with the thriving economy in Nevada, the site noted the Millennium Scholarship program Guinn pushed to help the state's high school graduates pay for a college education in Nevada.

"Guinn managed to put Nevada's long-term fiscal health above his own or his party's considerations. That's a risky gamble for any politician," Time said of the governor, who is completing the last of his two terms permitted by the state Constitution.

It added, however, that funding for the program is uncertain and his health care goals remain vague.

"It hasn't been perfect, but I truly can tell you I believe we have made progress," Guinn said.

Time cited Guinn for his fight against a nuclear waste storage site at Yucca Mountain and his work to diversify Nevada's gambling-oriented economy.

He and Arkansas Governor Mike Huckabee are the Republicans in Time's best five. Democrats are Janet Napolitano of Arizona, Kathleen Sebelius of Kansas and Mike Warner of Virginia.

"When it comes to raw political talent, there's not a Bill Clinton in this group," the Web site said. " But these are the rainy days. And charisma doesn't keep you dry. A roof does. Meet the hardest-working carpenters."

Time's worst governors were Democrat Kathleen Blanco of Louisiana and Republicans Bob Taft of Ohio and Mark Sanford of South Carolina.

The magazine said editors consulted academics, political analysts and former governors in compiling the lists.