



State of the State: Hope Or Hoopla?

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"We, together, will build a better Michigan. God bless you all, and God bless the great state of Michigan," were Governor Granholm's closing words.

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The uplifting end to the State of the State address Tuesday left many feeling hopeful.

"We'll come out of this, we'll come out of this better and stronger," says Sen. Alan Cropsy, R-DeWitt. □

But some felt it was more of a pep rally-- than a serious plan to turn things around.

"I know Governor Granholm is a hopeful, positive person-- I know she's committed to helping the state," says economist Patrick Anderson of the Anderson Economic Group.

But Anderson says the Governor's speech was heavy on hope and light on real savings.

"What was disappointing was the lack of action on tough things we have to deal with," he says. "Do we actually think we're going to close the state's wonderful museum and save a lot of money? Or stop letting people letting people go to the library of Michigan? That's nowhere near what we need to do in terms of bold changes in the way we're doing business."

And proposing to cut elected officials salaries by 10 percent, he says, makes little sense.

"We're talking about reducing one-tenth of 1 percent of state salaries-- so we're discouraging hiring qualified people for those tough jobs," Anderson says.

Instead of talking about new jobs or slashing state departments, Anderson says people needed to hear about firm plans to fix Michigan's crumbling budget.

"It was a huge missed opportunity for the entire state. We're in a crisis, you have to deal with the

billion-dollar budget deficit, you have to make tough calls."

Before the state of our state can turn around.

The Governor did mention in her address she will not use any stimulus money to balance the budget; she also says she'll be looking to make strong cuts in corrections as one firm way to shore up the budget deficit.

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