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Texas' job growth making headlines, insiders say Perry stands to benefit

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The cover story in Tuesday's USA Today reads, "Need a Job? Move to Texas," and it is a headline political experts expect you will see again.

Many people say national attention on job growth in Texas will bode well for Gov. Rick Perry, if he decides to run for president.

"The economy is the dominant issue in the national debate," David Guenther with the Texas Public Policy Foundation said. "A candidate who has not only a coherent view of how to create jobs, but also a track record in that area is going to be something that a lot of people are going to want to hear more about."

Supporters of Texas' longest serving Governor say Perry should be credited with creating a job friendly climate.

"You look at the tort reform that we had, you look at the medical malpractice we have, you look at the attitude we've taken when it comes to dealing with budget crisis," Guenther said.

Recent employment numbers show that Texas had nearly 50 percent of the nation's job growth since June 2009, but critics warn that many are low wage jobs.

"Texas has over half a million people working in minimum wage positions, and that's more than California and Florida combined," Kirsten Gray, spokeswoman for the Texas Democratic Party said.

Political reporter with the Austin American Statesman, Jason Embry says the USA Today's cover story will play well politically.

"[The headline] sends the message that Texas is the place to be, there must be something special going on there. Governor Perry's message will be, 'What is special about Texas is Gov. Perry,'" Embry said.

Embry expects the headline will show up in television ads to further promote what Gov. Perry has been touting for years.

"Job creation as his number one priority as Governor," Embry said. "It helped him in his primary and general election in 2010."

However, Embry points out that a presidential bid will bring on much tougher questions like how to create jobs on a

national level.

"How are you going to create jobs in states that don't have this vast supply of energy resources and oil in the ground, and all those sorts of things that have helped the Texas economy?"

Gov. Rick Perry's office issued the following statement regarding the USA Today article:

"The recent USA Today article is only the latest in a long list of positive news surrounding Texas' strong jobs climate under Gov. Perry's leadership. It is just one more indicator that the policies of fiscal restraint, low taxes, reasonable regulations, a fair legal system and accountable public schools that Gov. Perry has championed are the keys to creating a climate where jobs can grow and families can thrive."



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