



2010 MAJOR LEGISLATIVE ISSUES

State Budget

- No state revenue increases proposed to help balance state budget.
- Cuts of perhaps \$3 billion needed to balance budget. <\$50 million in reserves remaining.
- Federal stimulus money used extensively in FY10; very little left for FY11.
- No equitable tax reform to spread the revenue stream across a wider tax-paying public.
- QBE being cut, again. Continued and higher **austerity cuts** from a formula that has had no adjustment for inflationary impacts since 1988, except for teacher salaries. Accumulated **cuts of \$2.5 Billion**.
- Teacher furloughs, how many in the 09-10 school year? Three days already cut. Any cuts in student days?
- Non classroom services to be cut, again, -- transportation, school nurses, handicapped pre-K, equalization.
- No repeal of the tax credits for private school students. May get eligibility modifications.
- No repeal of the tax exemptions and credits passed in recent years.
- Teacher salary schedule cuts possible. No longer include leadership training unless in a leadership position. Nationally Board Certified already cut in half.

Local Boards of Education funding capacity

- Permanent property tax assessment freezes, statewide. Limits taxing the full value of property for schools, counties, and cities. Temporary freeze passed in 2009 for 3 years.
- Commission charter schools to siphon local money without LBOE concurrence.
- Faith Based Initiative, allows public money to go to faith based providers of human services, such as education. Vouchers, tax deductions, or tuition tax credits are forms of implementation. Local school districts often required to pay private provider.

- Tax changes. With state budget in such dire straits, the repeal of property taxes, tag taxes, and the expansion of sales taxes are unlikely in 2010.
- TABOR, Taxpayer Bill of Rights, Allows increase in state budget only at the rate of inflation and the growth in population. TEL, Tax Expenditure Limitations, another name for TABOR

Other Issues

- Restore authority to fund capital outlay for local schools. Expired June 2009.
- LBOE restrictions on size, nepotism, and candidate eligibility still under consideration.
- Setting the Local School Calendar by the state – when to start, when to end.
- Uninsured Children, 1.6 million. How to Provide Health Care
- The proposed new school funding formula still has not yet seen the light of day.
- New high school designs encourage students to dual enroll in post secondary institutions. BRIDGE requires high schools to become mini technical colleges. Both are expensive and expansive.
- Teachers Retirement System. Change from a defined benefit to a defined contribution plan? Endowment available for venture capital projects?
- HOPE Chest Amendment, Eliminating authority for lottery funds to K-12 students.
- K-12 technology has had no state funding since FY02. Lottery funds used prior to that.
- Lottery funds proposed being used to expand Pre-K to some 3 year olds.
- Cell phone use while driving and to view porn, sexting, may get penalties.
- Juvenile Justice revision, both state and national, being considered.
- Sexual Exploitation of Minors. 250-300 teens inducted monthly into adult entertainment trade and prostitution.

-- Compiled by Sally FitzGerald
Education Policy, GPTA