



CALIFORNIA BUDGET PROJECT

Workshops

Morning Workshops
11:00 a.m. to 12:15 p.m.

Is California's Tax System Prepared to Meet the Challenges of the Future?

Does California's tax system provide sufficient revenues to meet current and future demands? Are the costs of public services equitably shared among different groups of taxpayers? From tribal gaming to electronic commerce, this workshop will explore the impact of changes in the economy on state tax revenues. Topics to be covered include the impact of Proposition 13 on the state's property tax system, how the shift from a goods- to a service-based economy has affected the sales tax, and the impact of changes in compensation patterns on state income taxes.

Speakers: **Jean Ross**, Executive Director, California Budget Project
Terri Sexton, Professor, Department of Economics, California State University, Sacramento

Poverty in California: Trends, Levels, and Demographic Dimensions

Over the past 30 years, California's poor have gotten poorer, disparities between the state's rich and poor have grown, and the characteristics of the poor have changed in important ways. This workshop will draw on new research to examine these trends and look at questions such as: How does poverty in California compare to that in the rest of the nation, particularly when the data are adjusted for California's high cost of living? How many of the poor are workers? Has the relationship between poverty and work changed over the past three decades?

Speaker: **Deborah Reed**, Program Director, Public Policy Institute of California

State and Federal Health Policy: Where Are We Headed in 2006 and Beyond?

Recent Congressional budget cuts will squeeze federal Medicaid funding to California, and President Bush is seeking additional Medicaid reductions in his 2007 budget proposal. At the state level, a hospital waiver sets aside funding that could expand health coverage to uninsured individuals and a ballot measure that may appear on the November ballot would use proceeds from a higher tobacco tax to accomplish a variety of goals, including insuring more children. This workshop will examine the impact of recent changes in and prospects for health care policy on low- and middle-income Californians.

Speakers: **Agnes Lee**, Principal Consultant, California Senate Office of Research
Judith Solomon, Senior Fellow, Center on Budget and Policy Priorities

Strengthening California's Foundations: Meeting the Infrastructure Challenge

The Legislature is considering various proposals to invest billions of dollars in state public works projects such as transportation, flood control, schools, and public buildings. What are the state's unmet infrastructure needs? How should projects be chosen and funded? What policy questions and tradeoffs should policymakers consider? What is the current status of deliberations? Come hear and discuss the answers to these questions and more.

Speakers: **Ellen Hanak**, Research Fellow, Public Policy Institute of California
 Brian Kelly, Consultant, Office of Senate President pro Tempore Don Perata

Through the Crystal Ball: What's Up with the 2006-07 Budget?

How can the Legislature and the Governor balance the state budget while ensuring adequate funding for public services in the 2006-07 budget and beyond? What are the hot issues in this year's budget debate? Come to this workshop to hear Republican and Democratic staff members give their perspectives on the 2006-07 budget deliberations.

Speakers: **Jeff Bell**, Director, Republican Fiscal Office
 Craig Cornett, Budget Director, Office of Assembly Speaker Fabian Núñez
 Diane Cummins, Chief Fiscal Policy Advisor, Office of Senate President pro Tempore Don Perata

What Will TANF Reauthorization and the State Budget Mean for California's Safety Net for Low-Income Families?

The federal Deficit Reduction Act of 2005 included the most significant changes to federal welfare policy since Congress established the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) block grant in 1996. Starting in October 2006, California must substantially increase the number of CalWORKs recipients meeting federal work requirements or face significant federal penalties. Meanwhile, CalWORKs is one of the few programs slated for reductions in the Governor's Proposed 2006-07 Budget. What are the key TANF-related changes? What are California's implementation options and how are the state's low-income families likely to be affected by TANF reauthorization and the Governor's proposals?

Speakers: **Mark Greenberg**, Director of Policy, Center for Law and Social Policy
 Cathy Senderling-McDonald, Senior Legislative Advocate, County Welfare Directors
 Association of California

Afternoon Workshops

2:15 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.

A Closer Look at the Federal Budget and What It Means for California

The Deficit Reduction Act of 2005 will have a significant impact on programs and services for low- and middle-income Californians, as well as the state's budget. The President's proposed 2007 budget would reduce discretionary program spending in California by \$3.9 billion between 2007 and 2011. Tax cuts in the President's budget and those currently under consideration in Congress would deepen the federal budget deficit and increase pressure for additional spending cuts. This workshop will present an overview of recent and pending federal budget and proposals in health care, social services, and discretionary programs, including the potential impact of proposed health insurance tax breaks.

Speakers: **Jason Furman**, Senior Fellow, Center on Budget and Policy Priorities and Visiting Scholar, New York University, Wagner Graduate School of Public Service
Mark Greenberg, Director of Policy, Center for Law and Social Policy
Judith Solomon, Senior Fellow, Center on Budget and Policy Priorities

Boom, Bust, and Beyond: The Economic Realities of California's Workers and Their Families

Over the past decade, California experienced a period of phenomenal expansion, followed by a relatively short recession and an unusually slow recovery. But not all of California's workers and families fared the same through the economic ups and downs. This workshop will explore how the boom, bust, and beyond affected workers and their families in California as a whole, as well as in Los Angeles and the Bay Area.

Speakers: **Alissa Anderson Garcia**, Policy Analyst, California Budget Project
David Carroll, Research Director, California Budget Project

Do the State and Federal Budgets Take Care of Our Kids?

The federal government has historically provided core funding for an array of programs that assist California's children and youth, ranging from education to health and human services. In addition, the state spends a substantial amount on services for young Californians. Recent efforts to reduce federal spending, while providing tax cuts targeted mainly toward the wealthy, call into question the federal commitment to vital programs and services for the nation's children and youth. This workshop will open with an overview of California's spending on children and youth. Two respondents will then address a range of issues, including gaps in funding for programs for children and youth, the most significant challenges to increasing funding, and the prudence of seeking additional revenues through the state's initiative process.

Speakers: **Scott Graves**, Senior Policy Analyst, California Budget Project
Jack Hailey, Staff Director, Senate Human Services Committee
Andrea Margolis, Director, Health, Children Now

California's Public Schools: Are More Storm Clouds Looming on the Horizon?

California's K - 12 education system has faced serious challenges for years, including concerns about the adequacy of school funding for education and the performance of many of the state's schools. While these concerns persist, observers are raising new fears, including the question of whether California soon will face a serious teacher shortage. This workshop will take a hard look at long-term trends in school finance and outcomes, and examine looming new threats such as the shortage of qualified teachers.

Speakers: **Margaret Gaston**, Executive Director, Center for the Future of Teaching and Learning
 Peter Schrag, Columnist, *Sacramento Bee*

Everything You Wanted to Know About Debt

Legislative discussions on infrastructure have focused attention on general obligation bonds and other forms of borrowing. How do bonds work at the state and local level? What other forms of borrowing are available to state and local governments? What policy questions and tradeoffs do state and local officials need to consider? Come hear two of the state's leading experts discuss the answers to these questions and more.

Speakers: **Molly Arnold**, Chief Counsel, Department of Finance
 Jane Thompson, Executive Director, California Debt and Investment Advisory Commission

Paving the Way: Does the Governor's Proposed 2006-07 Budget Prepare California for the Future?

This workshop will examine the social and economic context of the Governor's Proposed 2006-07 Budget and major budget and policy proposals. How does the Governor propose to balance the budget? How will the Governor's proposals affect the state's long-term budget picture? What do recent economic and demographic trends mean for the budget?

Speakers: CBP Staff