



CALIFORNIA BUDGET PROJECT

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Statement by Jean Ross: Missed Budget Deadline Highlights Need To Change California's Budget Rules

Today, on the constitutional deadline for passing a budget, Jean Ross, executive director of the California Budget Project, a nonpartisan public policy research group, released this statement.

"We all hope for an on-time budget every year. But California's budget process is in need of serious repair. Legislators are bound by constraints that 49 other states don't have – a two-thirds vote requirement for passing both a budget **and** any revenue increases. It is unrealistic to expect an on-time budget when a small minority of legislators can thwart the will of a sizeable majority. Changing California's budget rules to allow for majority approval of both a spending plan and the revenues needed to pay for it provides the best assurance of an on-time budget that is accountable to the will of the voters.

Being on time also isn't the only measure we should use to gauge the success of a state budget. We should also ask: Does it support the services Californians want and expect? Does it prepare California to compete in a global economy? Does it help us plan for the future of a state that is growing, growing older, and becoming more diverse? Does it reflect the values and priorities of all Californians?"

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The California Budget Project (CBP) engages in independent fiscal and policy analysis and public education with the goal of improving public policies affecting the economic and social well-being of low- and middle-income Californians. Support for the CBP comes from foundation grants, publications, and individual contributions. Please visit the CBP's website at www.cbp.org.

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