

CALIFORNIA
Counties

California Counties 101





Webinar Guidelines

- WELCOME!
- 20 min audio and PowerPoint presentation.
- Attendee audio muted but you can use **Raise Hand** feature if you want to ask a question.
- Audio will be unmuted at end for Q&A.
- We'll answer all questions via audio. Some questions we may also answer via chat if they are easy.
- Please type your name and media outlet into the chat window so we know who is here
- You can also use chat window to indicate a problem.



California counties are:

- Political subdivisions of the state (California Constitution, Article XI, Section 1)
- General purpose government
- Different from other local governments
- Complicated

California counties are...



- Providers of state services at the local level, including:
 - CalWORKS
 - Adult Protective Services
 - Child Protective Services
 - Drug and Alcohol Abuse Services
 - Food Stamps
 - Foster Care
 - In-Home Supportive Services
 - Medical Care Services
 - Mental Health Services
 - Public Health/Laboratory
 - Women, Infants and Children (WIC)



California counties are...

- Providers of municipal services in the unincorporated area (about 17% of Californians live in unincorporated areas), including:
 - Building inspection/code enforcement
 - Building permits/plan checking
 - Economic development
 - Emergency Services
 - Fire Protection
 - Housing
 - Library Services
 - Parks and Recreation
 - Pest Control
 - Planning and zoning
 - Police protection (county sheriff)
 - Sewers
 - Street Lighting/road maintenance
 - Streets/roads/highways/storm drains
 - Water delivery
 - Weed abatement

California counties are...



- Providers of countywide services as prescribed by law, including:

Adult Detention (jails)

Ag Commissioner

Assessor

Auditor-Controller

Communicable Disease Control

Cooperative Extension

Coroner/Medical Examiner

District Attorney (Prosecutions)

Elections

Environmental Health

Forensic Labs

Homeless Shelters

Immunizations

Indigent Burials

Juvenile Detention

Juvenile Justice Programs

Landfill

Law Library

Probation (Juvenile and Adult)

Public Administrator

Public Guardian-Conservator

Recorder/Vital Statistics

Regional Parks

Treasurer/Tax Collector

Weights and Measures

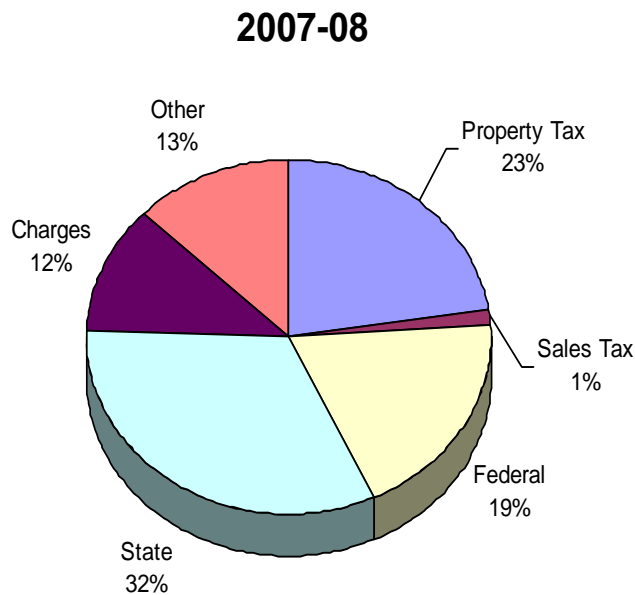
Veterans' Services

County Organization and Structure



- Counties do not have “home rule” authority. They may adopt charters, which mainly provide for the internal workings of county government, to address issues such as:
 - Number of members of boards of supervisors (5 or more)
 - Compensation and terms of office of supervisors
 - An elected sheriff, district attorney, and assessor and any other official, including compensation and terms of office
 - The performance of functions required by statute, including the power of the county executive and the relationship between the county executive and the board of supervisors
 - The powers, duties, and the organization of governing bodies and other county offices
 - Personnel system, labor relations, and contracting for services

County Finances



- The bulk of county revenues comes from the state and federal governments to operate federal and state-mandated services.
- Property taxes and sales taxes account for the bulk of county discretionary revenues.



Mandates

- New program, higher level of service (CA Constitution, Article XIII B, Section 6)
- Amended by Proposition 1A (2004) to include cost shifts from state to locals (Section 6 (c))
- Commission on State Mandates is the quasi-judicial body responsible for mandate determination
- State law requires the Commission to complete test claims and develop a statewide cost estimate within one year (current backlog goes back in some cases six years)
- While waiting for mandate determination, locals are required to perform the mandate and are incurring costs
- As of 2009-10, local agencies are owed well over \$1 billion in unpaid mandate claims
- The 2009-10 state budget suspended a number of mandates, requiring locals to either stop providing the service or do so at its own cost



Realignment

- In 1991, the Legislature and Governor approved a “realignment” of 19 state/county health, mental health, and social services programs, essentially shifting a greater share of costs to counties with funding generated by new revenue sources.
- Counties were also granted flexibility in managing some of the realigned programs, particularly in the mental health area.
- Realignment funding:
 - ½ cent state sales tax increase
 - A “slowing down” of the Vehicle License Fee (VLF) depreciation schedule; currently, 74.9% of the 0.65 VLF rate



Realigned Programs

■ Health Services

- County Health Services
- Medically Indigent Services Program
- County Medical Services Program
- Local Health Services

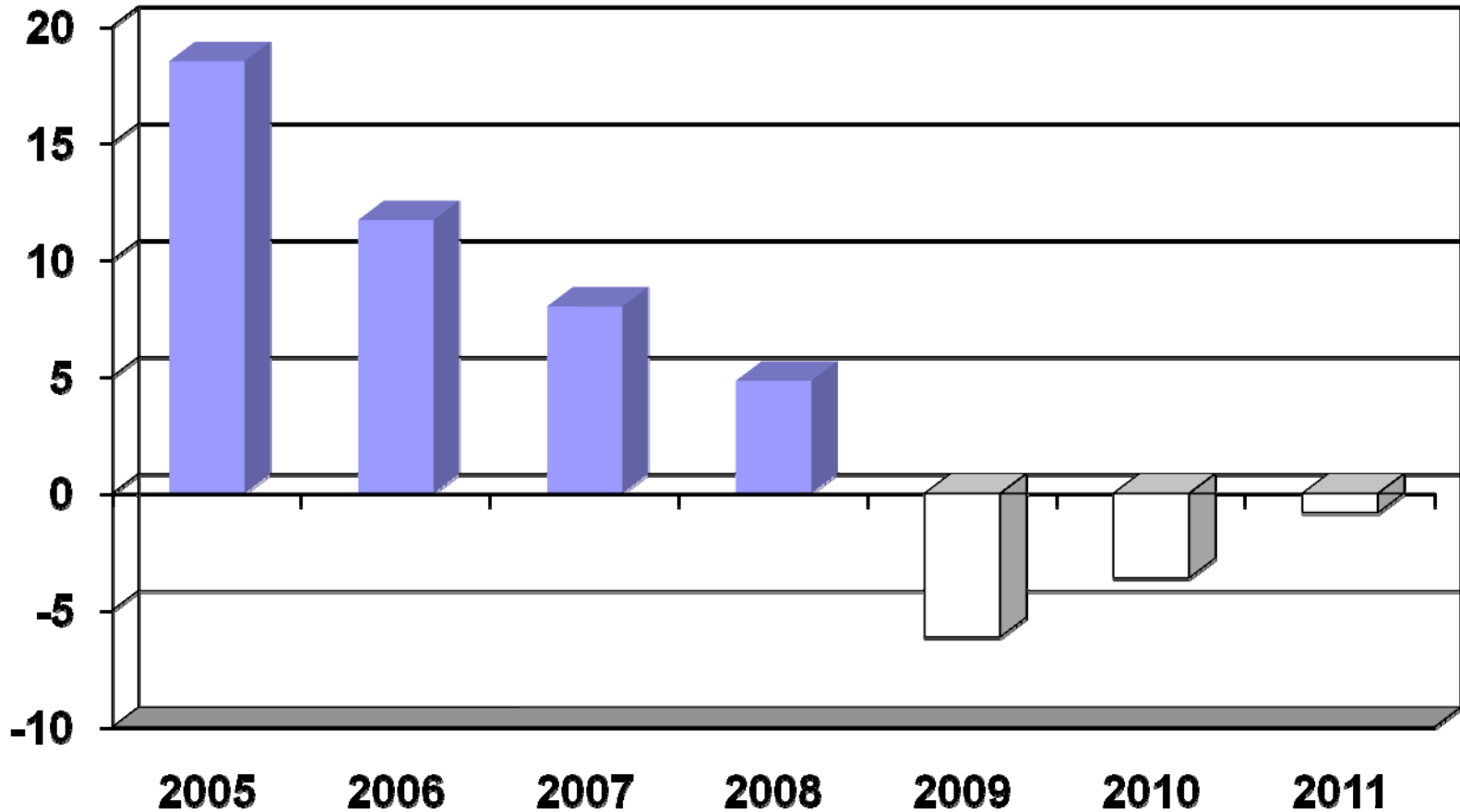
■ Mental Health Services

- Community-based Mental Health
- Institutes for Mental Disease
- State Hospitals

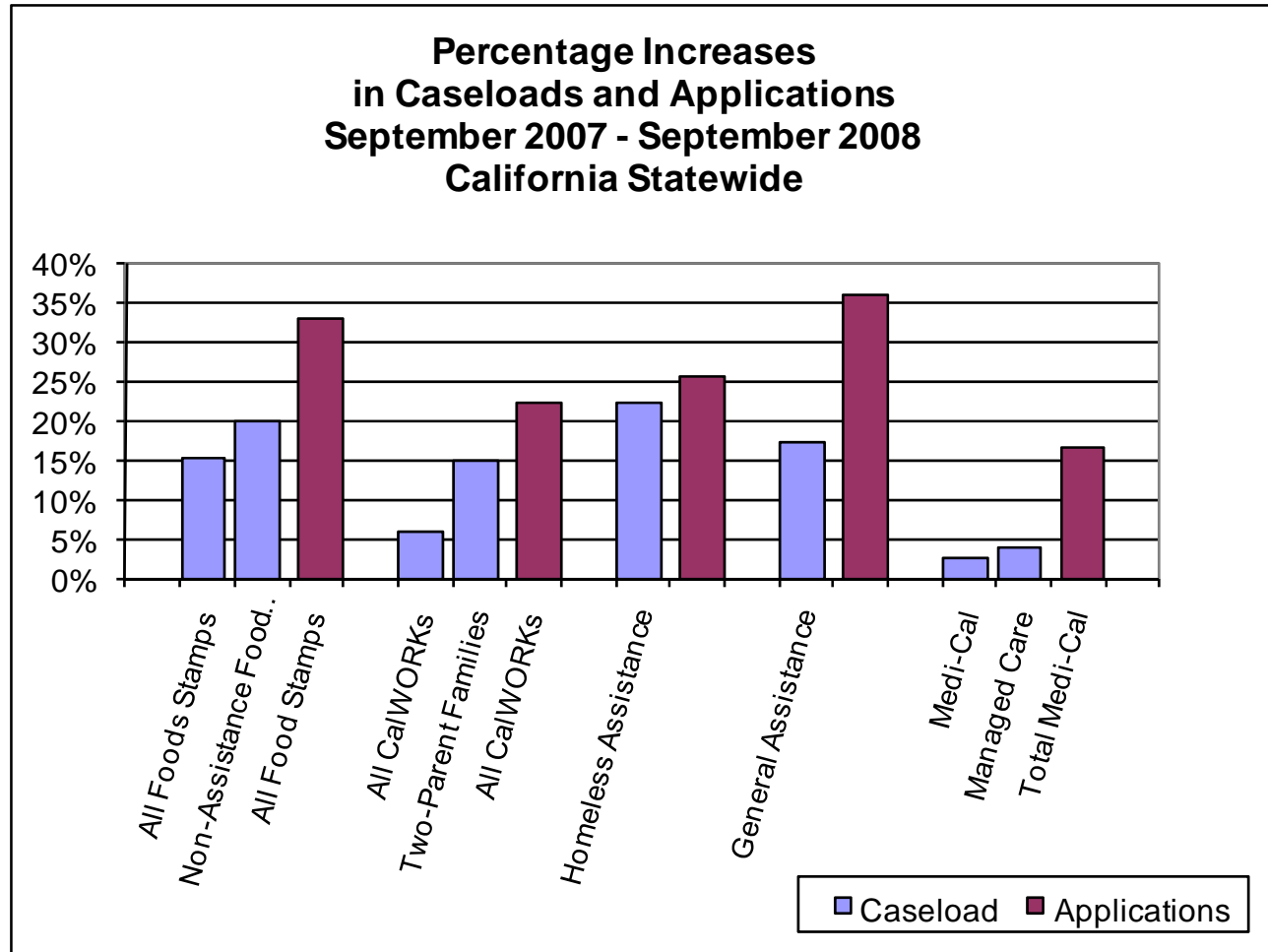
■ Social Services

- CalWORKS Aid Payments
- Welfare Administration
- Foster Care
- Child Welfare Services
- Adoptions Assistance
- GAIN
- In-Home Supportive Services
- County Services Block Grant
- County Juvenile Justice Subventions
- County Stabilization Subventions
- California Children's Services

Property Tax Revenue Projections: Continued Slump



Cuts & Revenue Decline Come at a Time of Increasing Demand



Counties and the State Budget



- 2009-10 budget contains significant reductions to counties, including:

Proposition 1A Suspension	\$2 billion (\$1 billion from counties)
CalWORKS Administration	\$375 million
Deferred Mandate Payments	\$134 million (approx.)
Medi-Cal Administration	\$120 million
Proposition 36	\$90 million
Child Welfare Services	\$80 million
May Special Election Costs	\$68 million
Williamson Act Subventions	\$28 million
Scheduled Payment Deferrals/IOUs/other	Hundreds of millions of dollars

Counties and the State Budget



- In the 8th Extraordinary Session, the Governor signed:
 - ABX8 5, which includes deferral of 2010-11 state payments of HUTA, social services, and Proposition 63
 - ABX8 6, the Legislature's alternative transportation tax swap proposal, which eliminates the sales tax on gas and increases the gas excise tax. Local streets and roads funding is held harmless, while transit receives a partial restoration of funding and the State General Fund is relieved of nearly \$2 billion in debt obligations.

Counties and the State Budget



- May Revision to be released May 14
- Revenues seems to be on a slightly upward trend, signaling good news for budget builders
- But considerable deficit means likely cuts in health and human services programs, suspended mandates, and other impacts

April is National County Government Month

- Raise public awareness and understanding about the roles and responsibilities of county government. As part of the activities for the month, all California counties, via CSAC, are being honored with a joint resolution from the California State Legislature on April 22. This is the first time the legislature has recognized County Government Month.
- During the week of April 19th, we will be focusing on a specific topic area each day with a series of blogs, tweets and other media communication efforts around the subject area each day. The schedule is:
 - Monday April 19, 2010 Natural Res/Agriculture Day
 - Tuesday April 20, 2010 Public Wks/Transportation Day
 - Wednesday April 21, 2010 Justice Day
 - Thursday April 22, 2010 Health and Human Services Day
 - Friday April 23, 2010 Govt. Ops/Elections Day
- If you haven't already, sign up for our blog at www.csac.counties.org/blogs.



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