



January 5, 2009

Happy New Year to you all!

One of my favorite axioms is “*No man's life, liberty or property is secure when the Legislature is in session.*” Well, folks today is the first day of the new Legislative session – Katie, bar the door!

We have nothing new to report on the budget front today. We will be issuing a *Budget Action Bulletin* this afternoon further analyzing the impacts of the 2009-10 budget proposed by the Governor on New Year's Eve.

I have been a member of the International City/County Management Association (ICMA) for twenty-five years. ICMA is the premiere association for professionals in local government management in the United States and, indeed, throughout the world.

One of the basic tenants of ICMA is the continuing education of its members. In 2002, ICMA developed a Credentialed Manager program founded in the concept of continuous improvement and education. I was in one of the first group of managers to be credentialed.

I tell you all of this because it is with this foundation that we have created the CSAC Institute for Excellence in County Government (“CSAC Institute”) ([Linked here.](#)). Our goal is to provide you with the opportunity for continued improvement and education so that you can stay abreast of the latest developments in public administration and finance. To “*ask better questions, give better answers and expand County capacity.*”

The Institute launches this year with our first class scheduled for Thursday, February 12. The course is the *Art and Practice of Elected Leadership*. The description notes that the course

examines these and many other aspects of the role and practice of leadership for elected officials. It considers the dilemmas facing elected officials in balancing authority and leadership, decision-making and public involvement, and assessing the consequences of political action. Discussion examines the role of leadership in change and helping other manage loss. Participants explore the meaning of county stewardship and harmonizing position advocacy with achievement of goals for the community. The conversation also focuses on the roles of supervisor and staff in establishing means and accomplishing ends.

Registration is open now ([Click here](#)). Costs for the course are minimal (\$75 for members). Help us launch this new and vital program with your attendance!

For those of you who are members of the new Supervisor's Class of 2009, welcome and congratulations as you assume your office. I hope that the material you learned at the first stage of the New Supervisor's Institute helps you to hit the ground running this week. The second installment of the New Supervisor's Institute will be held here in Sacramento on February 26 and 27.

On a final note, CSAC President Gary Wyatt and I will be in Washington DC later this week attending the annual National Council of County Association Executives (NCCAE) and Presidents meeting. We hope to hear from members of the Obama Transition Team about what to expect in an economic stimulus package as well as the relationship the Obama Administration wants to establish with local government.

Have a great week!

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