June 15, 2011

On the Floor - CSAC OPPOSES Budget Proposal

Legislative leadership is poised to debate a majority-vote budget today. Details of the budget proposal can be found in today's Sacramento Bee (click here).

CSAC has long supported a balanced approach to resolving the nagging structural deficit that has plagued this state for the past few years. The budget proposed by Governor Brown provided such an approach, along with important reforms, and CSAC is on record supporting that budget.

The budget plan being considered today, however, continues the time-honored (and widely criticized) tradition of gimmicks to resolve the remaining \$9.6 billion budget gap. It takes resources dedicated to First 5 for General Fund purposes, it proposes to eliminate redevelopment and then resuscitate it under a new fiscal scheme, it relies upon the sale and lease-back of state buildings, and the list goes on. By our rough estimate, about \$6 billion of budget solutions are at risk of legal challenges. In addition, the budget does not include funding for local public safety subventions and an unclear path toward funding and implementing AB 109. This is no budget solution - it kicks the can down the road. For this reason, CSAC has written a letter to the Legislative leaders OPPOSING the budget as proposed.

CSAC continues to support a comprehensive, rational, and balanced budget approach that will begin restoring California to the Great State we all know it can be. We urge the Legislature to work in a bipartisan manner to achieve a compromise budget plan with necessary reforms.

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