



November 29, 2010

## New Legislature, New Governor, Same Mess

While it is a little slow around Sacramento following the Thanksgiving holiday, activities will begin to pick up in the next couple of weeks. A new Legislature will be sworn in on December 6, and Governor Schwarzenegger has said he will call a Special Session to begin that same day to address the \$6.1 billion deficit projected for the current year. Most capitol observers do not expect the Legislature to make much progress before year's end, choosing instead to wait until Governor-elect Brown releases his proposal for resolving the state budget crisis on January 10. CSAC will monitor all activities and report any substantive progress.

On the legislative front, there will be a new class of members sworn into office on December 6. Of particular interest to California's counties will be the swearing in of Roger Dickinson (Sacramento), Rich Gordon (San Mateo), Susan Bonilla (Contra Costa), Katcho Achadjian (San Luis Obispo), and Michael Rubio (Kern), each of them former county supervisors. Michael Rubio will become a state senator; the others will be members of the state Assembly. We wish each of them great success as they continue to look out for the interests of California and its 58 counties.

If you attended the CSAC 116<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting in Riverside County earlier this month, **please take the time to respond to the survey we have been circulating.** Your feedback is very important to our planning and preparation for next year's annual meeting, scheduled for November 29 to December 2 in the City and County of San Francisco. Evaluations submitted so far have been very positive, supporting our observations during the conference that our members were getting a lot out of it.

Later this week, the CSAC Officers will convene for their annual retreat. During this meeting, the Officers will discuss strategies for approaching the next year and for confronting the challenges California counties will be facing. They will also take the first steps towards putting together the leadership team for 2011, including the designation of chair and vice chair positions for CSAC's five policy committees in addition to making other appointments. If you have not yet communicated your interest in a policy committee, you may want to contact CSAC staff early this week and let them know of your interest.

While we know the year ahead will present ongoing fiscal challenges, we remain invigorated about the strength and resilience of our 58 counties. We look forward to expressing the County Voice and working to the benefit of California's counties in 2011 and beyond.

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