



# ***THE LEAGUE LEGISLATIVE UPDATE***

**DECEMBER 8, 2008**

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### **2009-2010 Legislative Session Begins**

The never-ending 2007-2008 Legislative Session, augmented by numerous special sessions, was finally adjourned by the Constitutional deadline of November 30, 2008. Prior to adjournment, both houses met for a futile final floor session to address the state’s budget crisis. Hours after adjournment of the 2007-2008 Legislative Session, the State Legislature returned to the Capitol on December 1st for the new 2009-2010 Legislative Session to swear into office the newly elected members of the State Assembly and Senate. 39 new members were sworn into office in ceremonies on the Assembly and Senate floors. All 11 incoming senators previously served in the Assembly, and three of the 28 incoming Assembly lawmakers have served in the Senate, while 25 of the 28 assemblymembers are new to the State Legislature.

Senator Darrell Steinberg has assumed the position of Senate President pro Tempore. Steinberg announced his plan to speed up the budget process and make the budget committee a “committee of the whole,” allowing each member to sit on the committee. “We can no longer afford to have any member representing a million people being on the outside looking in. We all own the problem. Let’s use the May Revise – not as the beginning point as budget negotiations – but as the appropriate refined revenue estimate.” Steinberg also announced that he has established a new Office of Oversight and Outcomes to find waste, fraud and abuse in state government.

Assembly Speaker Karen Bass announced a new committee – the Assembly Accountability and Administrative Review Committee as a permanent standing committee to “examine state agencies and expenditures looking for new avenues to save taxpayer money and ensure that state programs are being administered in efficient and effective ways.”

In addition, legislators have begun introducing constitutional amendments to change the budget process. To date, bills have been introduced to: allow a majority vote on the budget bill if it is less than 5% more than the prior year's budget and allow for a majority vote if the budget is approved on or before June 15. Other related bills would: prohibit initiatives from being added to the ballot unless they contain a funding source, and allow a majority vote on any fiscal bill with an estimated cost of less than \$150,000 annually.

### **The League Budget Update**

For information on the state budget, please click the link below:

<http://www.ccleague.org/i4a/pages/index.cfm?pageid=3320>

### **Senate and Assembly Leaders Announce Their Leadership Teams**

Senate President pro Tempore Steinberg announced his Senate Democratic Caucus leadership team as follows:

- Majority Leader – Sen. Dean Florez (D-Shafter)
- Democratic Caucus Chair – Sen. Jenny Oropeza (D-Long Beach)
- Democratic members on the Senate Rules Committee – Sen. Jenny Oropeza and Sen. Gil Cedillo (D-Los Angeles)

Steinberg also announced the following committee chairs:

- Sen. Christine Kehoe (D-San Diego): Senate Appropriations Committee
- Sen. Ron Calderon (D-Montebello): Senate Banking & Finance Committee
- Sen. Denise Ducheny (D-San Diego): Senate Budget and Fiscal Review Committee
- Sen. Gloria Negrete-McLeod (D-Chino): Senate Business, Professions & Economic Development Committee
- Sen. Gloria Romero (D-East Los Angeles): Senate Education Committee
- Sen. Loni Hancock (D-Berkley): Senate Elections, Reapportionment & Constitutional Amendments Committee
- Sen. Alex Padilla (D-San Fernando Valley): Senate Energy, Utilities and Communications Committee
- Sen. Joe Simitian (D-Palo Alto): Senate Environmental Quality Committee
- Sen. Roderick Wright (D-Inglewood): Senate Governmental Organization Committee
- Sen. Elaine Alquist (D-Santa Clara): Senate Health Committee
- Sen. Mark Leno (D-San Francisco): Senate Public Safety Committee
- Sen. Ellen Corbett (D-San Leandro): Senate Judiciary Committee
- Sen. Fran Pavley (D-Augora Hills): Senate Natural Resources & Water Committee
- Sen. Alan Lowenthal (D-Long Beach): Senate Transportation and Housing Committee
- Sen. Carol Liu, Human Services Committee,
- Sen. Mark DeSaulnier (D-Martinez): Senate Labor and Industrial Relations Committee.
- Sen. Pat Wiggins (D-Santa Rosa): Senate Local Government Committee.
- Sen. Lou Correa (D-Santa Ana): Senate PERS committee
- Sen. Lois Wolk (D-Davis): Senate Revenue and Taxation Committee.

To find information on the Democratic Caucus, please go to the link below:  
<http://democrats.assembly.ca.gov/ademlead.asp>

To find information on the Republican Caucus, please go to the link below:  
<http://republican.assembly.ca.gov/index.asp?page=leadership>

## **Legislation**

On December 1<sup>st</sup>, members of the Legislature immediately began the introduction of new bills for the 2009-2010 Legislative Session. The wide range of bill topics include workforce development, constitutional convention to revise the State Constitution, political reform, performance based funding and audits, elimination of the 2/3 vote, and renewable energy and green technology. Two bills that would appear to affect community colleges are: AB 38 which would amend provisions regarding resident fees for veterans to require that they must also be eligible for federal veterans' education benefits; and SB 15 which would establish Cal Grant A and B entitlement for veterans.

Other bills of interest that were introduced are:

- AB 3 (Perez) Renewable Energy Workforce Readiness
- AB 4 (Blakeslee) Constitutional Convention
- AB 9 (Perez) Political Reform: Public Moneys
- AB 10 (Hagman) Public Funding-actions
- AB 35 (Furutani) Education: Workforce Preparation Strategic Plan
- AB 36 (Furutani) Public Education-Readiness Year Program
- AB 37 (Furutani) Public Postsecondary Education: Honorary Degrees for Japanese detained during World War II
- AB 38 (Salas) Postsecondary Education: Resident Classification: Vets
- AB 48 (Portantino) Private Postsecondary Educations:
- ACA 4 (Bass) 2/3 Vote Exemption
- HR 4 (Portantino) Federal Aid to Higher Education: New Deal for a New Millennium for Higher Education
- SB 8 (Huff) State Finance: Performance Budgeting
- SB 9 (Wyland) State Auditor: Duties: Performance Evaluation of every State Government Program and Expenditure
- SB 15 (Cedillo) Student Financial Aid: Members of Armed Forces
- SB 19 (Simitian) Education Data: Statewide Education Data Governing Board
- SCA 4 (Ducheny) Initiative Measures: Funding Source
- SCA 5 (Hancock) 2/3 Vote Exemption

## **Gov. Schwarzenegger Calls Legislature Into Special Sessions**

Governor Schwarzenegger declared a fiscal emergency for the State of California, allowing him to call a Proposition 58 legislative special session to address the emergency. The Governor also called a second legislative special session to address the state's economy. He reiterated his call for a combination of difficult spending cuts and new revenues to solve the state's revenue shortfall. In addition, the Governor reiterated his call for the Legislature to enact plans previously

outlined by him to stimulate job creation, address the mortgage crisis, and fix the state's Unemployment Insurance Fund.

The Legislature will meet in a joint session on December 8th in the Assembly to discuss California's cash situation and overall budget dynamics with state's fiscal leaders. In a rare Budget 101 session, Treasurer Bill Lockyer, Controller John Chiang, Department of Finance Director Mike Genest, and Legislative Analyst Mac Taylor will describe the consequences of delaying a compromise over the budget. They are likely to discuss the possibility of issuing IOUs to state vendors and state workers, as well as layoff scenarios and other consequences.

Sen. Denise Ducheny, the chair of the Senate Budget and Fiscal Review Committee, in consultation with Senate President pro Tem Darrell Steinberg, will constitute Budget subcommittees for the Proposition 58 special session on December 8<sup>th</sup>. The State Senate will try to come to an agreement before January 1<sup>st</sup>. Senate Budget Subcommittee hearings will begin Wednesday, December 10<sup>th</sup>, to review budget proposals and options. The subcommittees will review Legislative Analyst's Office recommendations, Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger's latest proposal, Legislative Democrats' November plan and any Legislative Republican plan.

The Senate Budget Subcommittees are as follows:

Budget Subcommittee No. 1 on Education

Sen. Gloria Romero, Chair (D)  
Sen. President pro Tem Darrell Steinberg (D)  
Sen. Majority Leader Dean Florez (D)  
Sen. Jenny Oropeza (D)  
Sen. Carol Liu (D)  
Sen. Mark Wyland (R)  
Sen. Abel Maldonado (R)  
Sen. Mimi Walters (R)

Budget Subcommittee No. 2 on Resources

Sen. Joe Simitian, Chair (D)  
Sen. Alan Lowenthal (D)  
Sen. Fran Pavley (D)  
Sen. Pat Wiggins (D)  
Sen. Minority Leader Dave Cogdill (R)  
Sen. Dennis Hollingsworth (R)  
Sen. Roy Ashburn (R)

Budget Subcommittee No. 3 on Health and Human Services

Sen. Alex Padilla, Chair (D)  
Sen. Mark Leno (D)  
Sen. Gilbert Cedillo (D)  
Sen. Elaine Alquist (D)  
Sen. Leland Yee (D)  
Sen. Dave Cox (R)  
Sen. Bob Huff (R)  
Sen. Sam Aanestad (R)

#### Budget Subcommittee No. 4 on State Administration, General Government and Corrections

Sen. Mark DeSaulnier, Chair (D)

Sen. Rod Wright (D)

Sen. Gloria Negrete McLeod (D)

Sen. Loni Hancock (D)

Sen. Christine Kehoe (D)

Sen. George Runner (R)

Sen. John Benoit (R)

Sen. Tom Harman (R)

#### Budget Subcommittee No. 5 on Revenues and the Economy

Sen. Denise Ducheny, Chair (D)

Sen. Lou Correa (D)

Sen. Ron Calderon (D)

Sen. Ellen Corbett (D)

Sen. Lois Wolk (D)

Sen. Robert Dutton (R)

Sen. Jeff Denham (R)

Sen. Tony Strickland (R)

#### **Legislative Conference**

The Community College League of California's Legislative Conference is taking place January 25-26, 2009 at the Sheraton Grand Hotel in Sacramento. This conference provides an excellent opportunity to learn about new members of legislative committees, legislative proposals affecting colleges and student learning, bold initiatives proposed by the Governor, timely information on the proposed State Budget, and advocacy strategies for the legislative year. For more information or to register online, please go to our website at: [www.ccleague.org](http://www.ccleague.org).

#### **Concurrent Enrollment Task Force**

A new task force on concurrent enrollment has held its first (of three) meetings to review the current data on this program, review the current flexibility under the law, and prepare for developing legislation when funding becomes available. The committee is comprised of representatives from the ASCCC, the League, and System Office staff. At the next (January) meeting, the task force will try to determine the questions which need to be addressed under each of the following categories: 1) traditional accelerated high school coursework; 2) career-tech education; and 3) limited basic skills tied to EAP (Early Assessment Program). The intent will be to show that inclusion of more students in these categories within the concurrent enrollment "umbrella" would lead to improved outcomes such as higher college-going rates or decreases in the high school dropout rate.

## **Advocacy Summit Task Force – Follow-up Meeting**

The Advocacy Summit Task Force, comprised of most of the constituent groups in the Consultation Council, plus Diane Woodruff and Jack Scott, met for the second time on November 17th to determine both the short-term and intermediate budget strategies for the system. The group decided to establish a coordinating committee with 3 subcommittees: 1) Direct (responsible for Capitol visits and policy analysis); 2) Grassroots (responsible for rallies, developing local list of workers and developing coalitions); and 3) Media (responsible for targeting, press conferences, radio and op ed columns.)

The group decided that we need a short-term strategy to brief legislative leadership and other key persons immediately with the messages that: a) CCCs are the key to California's economic recovery; b) The \$332.2 million proposed reduction would force community colleges to turn away over 260,000 students; c) CCCs generate enormous benefits to the state's economy including the best return on investment of any higher education segment. The group's next meeting is scheduled for December 15th in Sacramento.

## **Reports**

*High School to Community College: New Efforts to Build Shared Expectations*, Ed Source, November 2008. [www.edsource.org](http://www.edsource.org)

This report focuses on ways in which California's community college and K-12 educators can work together to better prepare high school students for the transition to community college.

*LAO Recommended Legislation*, December 2008.

[http://lao.ca.gov/2008/rec\\_legislation/rec\\_leg\\_120108.pdf](http://lao.ca.gov/2008/rec_legislation/rec_leg_120108.pdf)

This annual report by the Legislative Analyst's Office (LAO) makes the following legislative recommendations which would affect community colleges:

- 1) Amend statute to allow California Community Colleges to require underprepared students to take pre-collegiate course-work beginning in their first term;
- 2) Develop an assessment test using California Standards Tests (CST) questions to help community colleges place freshmen in math and English courses;
- 3) Amend the "fifty percent law" by including community college district expenditures on counseling services as part of instructional costs;
- 4) Enact in statute an explicit student fee policy for all public colleges and universities which provides that students and the state each pay a fixed share of education costs, thus ensuring gradual and moderate year-to-year changes in student fees.

## **CEO Changes**

- Cynthia Azari, vice chancellor for workforce development and education services at State Center CCD, has been appointed president of Fresno City College, effective January 2009.

## Other

- Helen Benjamin, chancellor of the Contra Costa CCD, has been named to the Congressional Advisory Committee on Student Financial Assistance (an 11-member committee that advises Congress on student financial aid). Benjamin is the only community college representative on the committee.
- Chris Kahn, Governor Schwarzenegger's legislative secretary, is leaving his position at the end of the year. He joined Schwarzenegger's office after the governor won re-election in 2006. Kahn serves in his current role as Schwarzenegger's main liaison to the Legislature, a crucial role as budget stalemates have become commonplace in recent years. Kahn will be replaced by chief deputy Michael Pro시오.