



## THE CALIFORNIA FORWARD 2010 REFORM PLAN

*California Forward* is a bipartisan group of citizens from every walk of life who have come together to reclaim our power and make our government work again. Our goal is fundamental change: government that's small enough to listen, big enough to tackle real problems, smart enough to spend our money wisely in good times and bad, and honest enough to be held accountable for results.

### RESPONSIBLE BUDGETS ON TIME

1. **Pay-As-You-Go.** Require that new programs identify a funding source for any new spending they require.
2. **Base Budgets on Results.** Require the Governor and lawmakers to set clear goals for programs, consider results and effectiveness when making budget decisions, oversee performance to improve efficiency, and consider eliminating outdated and duplicative programs.
3. **Two-year Budget.** Require the Governor and Legislature to craft two-year budgets with midcourse correction authority, and provide long-term revenue forecasts and capital investment plans.
4. **One-Time Use of One-Time Revenues.** Reduce future budget shortfalls by prohibiting the use of unexpected spikes in revenues to increase spending on programs that continue year after year.
5. **Reduce the Budget Vote Requirement.** Reduce the likelihood of budget stalemates by changing the legislative vote requirement for state budget approval to a simple majority (to be adopted in conjunction with the plan's other fiscal reforms, and while retaining the two-thirds majority vote requirement for tax increases).
6. **Provide Certainty Regarding Passage of Fees.** Clarify the circumstances in which the Legislature and the Governor can impose fees without a two-thirds majority vote to those areas with a clear and justifiable nexus to the service provided.

### GOVERNMENT THAT'S CLOSER TO THE PEOPLE

1. **Protect Local Revenue.** Give communities more control over community-related services and prevent the state from siphoning off local revenue by giving local governments legal ownership of specific funds for community services, including the property tax.
2. **Foster and Fund Long-Term Collaboration.** Encourage community-level governments to coordinate and consolidate programs when it makes sense. Allow cities, counties and school

districts that craft long-term flexible plans to address community needs, to seek majority-vote approval to provide funds to pay for them, while retaining the vote thresholds established under Proposition 218.

## **CONSTITUENT ACCESS AND ACCOUNTABILITY**

- 1. Term Limit Reform.** Reducing the total time newly-elected state legislators are allowed to serve from 14 years to 12 years, regardless of whether the time is spent in the Assembly or Senate.
- 2. Constituent Access and Accountability.** Requiring legislators to spend part of every year in their district, in consultation with constituents and local leaders.

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