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LEGISLATIVE INFORMATION
February 2010

Provided by Prevent Child Abuse California
Source: Lisa Fraser, 02/03/10



For the special session, the Governor proposes solutions for social services programs totaling \$121 million in 2009-10 and \$2.6 billion in 2010-11. The state Department of Social Services (DSS) oversees most of these programs. There are two main types of proposed solutions: expenditure reductions and fund shifts (federal, county, and special funds). In addition to the General Fund savings, adoption of this package would result in the loss of about \$3 billion in federal funds, assuming that the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) is extended through June 30, 2010. In this piece we provide our analysis of the Governor's proposals, in some cases offer alternative approaches, and recommend the actions that we believe the Legislature should take on them at this time. (20 pp.)

For more information, please see <http://www.lao.ca.gov/laoapp/PubDetails.aspx?id=2192>.

2010 Governor's Race Overview

As California continues to grapple with year-over-year deficits in the tens of billions, we find ourselves in yet another election year with the highest office in the state up for grabs as incumbent Republican Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger embarks on his final year before being termed out of office. Schwarzenegger's final year and legacy is in question as distressed and angry voters have indicated through a recent Field Poll that they feel the state is worse off than when Schwarzenegger took office in 2003.

As the world's eighth-largest economy, many policy and political insiders are questioning whether or not the state has gone from golden to borderline ungovernable. Nevertheless, the field is taking shape with at least three presumed candidates vying for the top spot.

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Candidates

Jerry Brown (D) – California Attorney General (2007)



Brown previously served as California governor from 1975 to 1983. His service in the Executive Branch was prior to the enactment of term limits, thereby allowing him to serve two additional terms. More recently, Brown served as the mayor of Oakland from 1998 to 2006. Additionally, he unsuccessfully sought the Democratic nominations for U.S. president in 1976, 1980, and 1992.

Meg Whitman (R) – Former CEO, eBay



Whitman has served in key executive positions at Disney, Stride Rite, FTD, Hasbro and most notably, eBay. When she joined eBay in 1997 the company had just \$4.7 million in revenues; when she retired in 2008 the company had nearly \$8 billion in revenues. Following her retirement from eBay, Whitman served as National Co-Chair for Governor Mitt Romney and Senator John McCain during the 2008 presidential primary campaign.

Steve Poizner (R) – California Insurance Commissioner



Prior to being elected as California's Insurance Commissioner in 2006, Poizner founded two successful technology companies in Silicon Valley – SnapTrack (GPS cell phone technology) and Strategic Mapping Inc. (strategic planning and logistics company). Poizner also spent a year as a volunteer teacher at Mount Pleasant High School in East San Jose, where he taught 12th grade American government.

Polling & Political Outlook

Although not yet a declared candidate, Democrat Jerry Brown continues to lead the field in a would-be election matchup against Republican candidates Meg Whitman and Steve Poizner according to the latest Field Poll. Thus far, Brown is the only Democrat officially exploring a race for the party nomination to succeed termed-out Republican Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger. Brown is expected to officially declare his candidacy next month in what

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appears to be an opponent-free Democratic primary. He has already raised approximately \$12 million to jumpstart his campaign.

While Brown continues to lead in polls, he has seen his lead over the Republican candidates lessen in recent months.

According to the Field Poll, Brown has a 10-point lead over the former eBay chief executive, 46% to 36%. In October he had more than a 20 point lead over Whitman. While Whitman continues to trail, she is closing the gap with an advertising blitz on California's airwaves. Brown leads Poizner 48% to 31%, compared with 50% to 25% in October.

In the fight for the Republican nomination, Whitman and Poizner have invested heavily in their campaigns - \$39 million and \$19 million respectively. The Field Poll indicates that 45% of likely Republican primary voters support Whitman, while 17% said they back Poizner.

The poll, conducted from January 5-17, surveyed 958 likely general election voters and 202 likely voters in the Republican primary. The general election survey had a margin of error of plus or minus 3.3 percentage points, while the GOP primary poll had a margin of error of plus or minus 7.1 percentage points.

Child Abuse Prevention Center
www.thecapcenter.org or (916) 244-1900

First 5 and State Budget Update
SOURCE: Lisa Fraser, 02/01/10

**First 5 and the State Budget
ALERT & UPDATE**



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February 1, 2010

Dear Friend of First 5,

Save the date: The Assembly Budget Committee will hear the Governor's proposal to put Prop 10 on the ballot on Wednesday, February 10, 1:30 pm in Room 4202 of the State Capitol.

We urge you to write letters to the members of the Committee and hope you or your colleagues can attend the hearing to let the Legislature know it is a TERRIBLE idea to move funds from local First 5 programs to state programs - either way young children lose. *See below for hearing details and letter-writing information.*

Last Tuesday, the Governor's proposal was heard in the Senate Budget Committee. Prop 10 was one of many issues on that day's agenda and, unfortunately, didn't come up until nearly 6 pm. Many of our witnesses had to leave to catch planes and drive home to their kids, but a number of First 5 advocates were still present and offered moving and effective testimony.

Several Committee members showed support for First 5, but at the same time were very worried about finding revenues to keep numerous state programs alive, meaning **Prop 10 clearly remains at risk.**

Worse, the Legislative Analyst staff announced their recommendation that the Legislature go beyond the Governor's proposal to make the diversion of Prop 10 funds permanent and to increase the amount diverted to cover another \$110.5 million in the 2010-11 budget. The LAO argued that Prop 10 merely expands and enhances programs, and that the funds are needed at this time to preserve the basic programs.

It is critical to show the Assembly Budget Committee that:

First 5 programs are a key part of the safety net for vulnerable children.

First 5 programs meet needs that no state programs meet.

First 5 programs reduce pressure on state-funded services through prevention and early intervention.

First 5 leverages millions of dollars, bringing much-needed federal and other funds into county departments and provider organizations.

To testify at the hearing:

Come to Room 4202 of the State Capitol at 1:30 pm on Wed. February 10. Be prepared to wait; we probably won't know the order of the agenda until shortly before the hearing. Feel free to contact me if you'd like to discuss your testimony. The Committee Chair will likely limit testimony to 2 or 3 minutes.

To write letters:

Write to Assembly Budget Committee Chair Noreen Evans and Vice Chair Jim Nielsen. Also write to any Committee members who represent your Assembly District.

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Addresses:

Honorable Noreen Evans
Chair, Senate Budget Committee
State Capitol
Sacramento, CA 95814

Honorable Jim Nielsen
Vice Chair, Senate Budget Committee
State Capitol
Sacramento, CA 95814

All other members can be addressed at:

Honorable _____
State Capitol
Sacramento, CA 95814

Click on the links in the box below to go to the members' websites or the "find my representative" site if you are unsure who your Assembly members are.

For sample letters, talking points, and background information, go to "First 5 and the State Budget" on the Association website. Click on the red box on the right side of our home page, www.F5AC.org or click here [here](#).

Thanks for your help and support of First 5,
Sherry Novick
First Association of California

Assembly Budget Committee Members

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[Jim Nielsen, Vice Chair](#)

[Anthony Adams](#)

[Juan Arambula](#)

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To find your Assembly Member, click on [Find My District](#) and then click on the tab on the left side of the page.

For more information and to stay updated, go to www.F5AC.ORG and click on the red "First 5 and the State Budget" box on the right side of our homepage.