

SAVE YOUR CITY

Orange County Division Members,

By now you've heard that the Legislature and the Governor are looking to pull the Proposition 1A (2004) trigger to balance the 2009-10 State budget deficit. This would result in a 8% hit to your property taxes (total of \$2 billion). Yesterday, League staff saw some hardcopy proposals in the Capitol that not only included Prop. 1A, but also a raid on Prop. 42 revenue and an undoing of the Triple Flip agreement.

DOOMSDAY MAY BUDGET REVISE

Tomorrow at around 10am, the Governor will release a unique May Budget Revise which will contain two versions. The first will assume if the Special Election on May 19th is a success. The second will assume if the Special Election is a failure. The second version will contain the Prop.1A trigger. The Prop.1A trigger was designed for an emergency, such as a natural disaster or unprecedented event, not for an annual structural budget deficit.

We all know the prognosis of the Special Election, therefore we are preparing for the second Doomsday version of the May Revise. The League has launched a **SAVE YOUR CITY** campaign, which is an aggressive, statewide advocacy strategy to prevent any borrowing or raid of local revenue. This is not a ballot measure campaign involving political activity, this is strictly an advocacy effort to protect your city's revenues.

SAVE YOUR CITY STRATEGY

The first step in our campaign is to let the Governor and Legislature know that cities oppose any irresponsible borrowing immediately following the May Budget Revise. Your participation in this first step is critical. We need every city in our Division to call the Governor and your State Legislators tomorrow, **Thursday, May 14, between 12:00 – 3:00 p.m.**, and let them know your city is opposed to irresponsible borrowing.

It doesn't matter if your city elected officials make the call, or city staff, just be sure to place a call to the Governor and your legislators. Time is of the essence and your participation and response are critical. **Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger's Office phone number is (916) 445-2841.**

COALITION BUILDING

The second step is to amass a strong statewide coalition to demonstrate wide public opposition. We need your help to sign up the Business Community, Chambers of Commerce, Public Safety, Builders, Affordable Home Groups, Ethnic Organizations; and any other groups that you may bring to the table.

If we don't amass a broad diverse coalition to march into battle with us, we are lining ourselves up for failure. I implore you to send out the attached endorsement form to any and all organizations in your city. After you make initial contact, let me know and I will follow-up and take over from there. All I need is an initial lead, that's it. *(NOTE: it's perfectly legal to send this out via city email addresses since this is not a ballot measure campaign).*

VIDEO TESTIMONIALS

We are launching a **Save Your City** website that will warehouse hundreds of video testimonials opposing irresponsible State borrowing. Our goal is to heighten awareness and generate media interest. Beginning tomorrow are our Division General Membership meeting, I will request you to record video testimonials about the importance of city services and the damaging effects of state borrowing on city budgets. These video testimonials will only be 15-30 seconds long. It will take 5 minutes of your time at the most, and the return for your participation will be significant.

Anyone can do these testimonials; elected officials, city managers, staff and coalition partners. I will have a digital camcorder that will be with me at all times, so we can shoot right on the spot. I will also have a sign up sheet tomorrow where you can pencil in a date and time to meet at our Orange County Division office. If you can't meet at our office, I will come to you.

I will be following up directly with your city. As always, thanks for your time and for your support. This will be the mother of all battles, stay tuned...

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