



Executive Director's Report  
to the Delegate Assembly

***A Call to Action for Hard Times***

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San Diego Marriott Hotel & Marina  
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***I. "Ain't Got the Do Re Mi"***



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***“California is a garden of Eden  
A paradise to live in or see  
But believe it or not, you won’t find it so hot  
If you ain’t got the do re mi.”***

***- “Do Re Mi,” Woody Guthrie***



## Executive Director's Report to the Delegate Assembly

# LAO Fiscal Outlook Forecasts Dire Times

- **General Fund budget problem of \$20.7 billion**
- **School Districts will be affected by the loss of billions of dollars of temporary federal stimulus funding over the next two years**
- **“No way that the Legislature, the Governor, and voters can avoid making additional, very difficult choices about state priorities”**

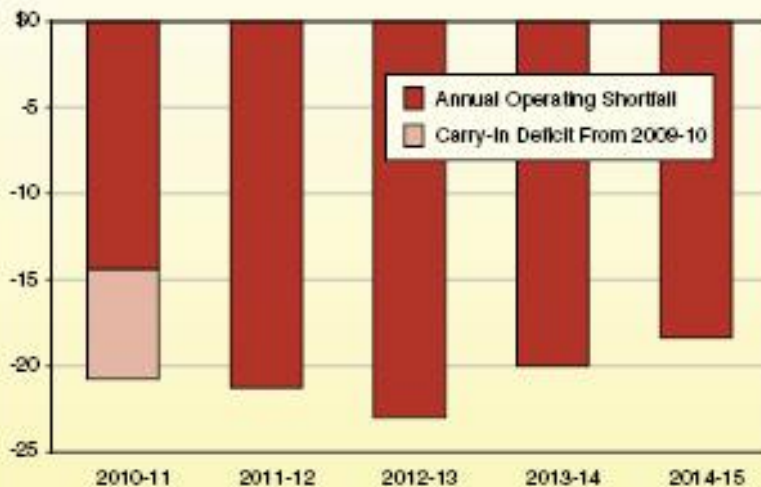


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Figure 2

## Huge Operating Shortfalls Projected Throughout Forecast Period

General Fund (In Billions)



- **The LAO forecasts a lingering budget shortfall around \$20 billion lasting through the 2014-15 fiscal year**
- **Additional budget risks and cost pressures include revenue volatility and the loss in federal stimulus funds in 2010-11 and beyond**
- **Other unknowns include the outcomes of state court cases and the federal health care debate**



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## **“I Read the News Today, Oh Boy”**

- **“El Rancho Unified Employees Agree to Three-Day Furlough”**
- **“Paramount School Board Approves Cuts”**
- **“Trustees Urged to Resist Cuts”**
- **“Where to Cut School Budget?”**
- **“Tales of Fiscal Woes Continues at Chico Unified”**
- **“Educators Show Support for Budget Reform, Discuss Cuts”**
- **“Alisal Board Members Lose Benefits”**
- **“State’s School Funding Process is Failing”**



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## ***II. I see the laws made in Washington, D.C.***



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***“I see the states, across this big nation  
I see the laws made in Washington, D.C.  
I think of the ones I consider my favorites  
I think of the people that are working for me.”***

***- “Don’t Worry About the Government,”  
Talking Heads***





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## Myriad Federal Issues in Play

- **Race to the Top grants**
  - Final Regulations published on November 18
  - Governor making concerted push to ensure California eligible
  - Senate bill problematic – premature and beyond scope of RTTT
- **ARRA Investing in Innovation (i3) Fund**
  - \$650 million in grants for applicants with a record of improving student achievement
  - LEAs and nonprofit organizations in partnership with LEAs or consortia of schools are eligible



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## Other Areas of Federal Focus

- **ESEA Reauthorization**
- **IDEA**
- **School Improvement Grants**
- **Census**



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## **The Challenges for CSBA**

- **Leading the conversation and being influential at the federal level**
- **Being explicit in the Policy Platform on areas of federal education policy**
- **Embracing the principles of key federal initiatives while ensuring more harm than good is not done**



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## ***III. People Have the Power***



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***“I awakened to the cry  
That the people have the power  
To redeem the work of fools”***

***- “People Have the Power,”  
Patti Smith***



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## PPIC Survey: Widespread Discontent

- **Job Approval ratings among likely voters:**
  - **Governor Schwarzenegger: 27% approve, 64% disapprove**
  - **State Legislature: 10% approve, 80% disapprove**
- **General Direction of Things in California:**
  - **Right Direction: 12%**
  - **Wrong Direction: 83%**



## Executive Director's Report to the Delegate Assembly

# 2010: Last, Best Chance for Statewide Reform?

- **The Local Voter Control and Government Accountability Act**
- **The Local Taxpayer, Public Safety and Transportation Protection Act of 2010**
- **Citizens' Constitutional Convention Act**
- **The Call for a Citizens' Limited Constitutional Convention**



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## **Local Voter Control & Government Accountability Act**

- **Would allow cities and counties to approval local facilities bonds with a 55 percent, rather than 2/3, vote**
- **Would allow cities, counties and school districts to approval local parcel tax measures with a 55 percent vote**
- **Both taxes would be subject to citizen oversight committees and independent audit provisions**





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## **Local Taxpayer, Public Safety and Transportation Protection Act of 2010**

- **Sponsored by the League of CA Cities**
- **Would make numerous changes to the constitution related to local taxes and revenues**
- **Initiative is in response to past actions of Legislature**
- **Will need further analysis to fully determine impact on school districts**



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## **Citizens' Constitutional Convention Act**

- **Would make a permanent change to the constitution allowing voters to call for a convention every ten years**
- **Would permit the initiative calling for a convention to limit the scope of issues to be addressed**
- **Would specify a method for selection of delegates**
  - **Assembly district delegates (three per district; 240 total)**
  - **County delegates (one for each 175,000 residents in each county; 221 total)**
  - **Indian tribe delegates (4 total)**



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## Scope of Constitutional Convention

- **Limited to Governance, defined broadly as:**
  - **Government effectiveness, elections process, spending/budgeting, structure of state government, and state/local government relations**
- **Convention would be prohibited from considering:**
  - **Taxes, frequency of real property assessment, definition of “change of ownership” as it relates to taxes, marriage/abortion rights, gambling, affirmative action, freedom of the press and religion, immigration rights, and the death penalty**



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## CSBA's Role in Reform

**REBUILDING  
CALIFORNIA**  
FROM THE GROUND UP

- **Participation on CCS Joint Task Force on State Fiscal Reform**
- **Hugely successful Local Government Summit in July 2009**
- **“Going viral” with YouTube videos**
- **Next May: consideration of positions for November ballot**



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### **Forcing the Issue: School Funding Lawsuit**

- **The State has violated its constitutional duty to provide a functioning system of common schools because of the disconnect between the programmatic and funding components of the system**
- **School funding amounts and mechanisms are insufficient to deliver to all students the comprehensive education that the State has defined and deemed necessary**
- **The State has violated its duty to ensure basically equal educational opportunities**



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## **Moving Closer to Filing Day**

- **Working with prominent school finance/policy experts, school law firms**
- **Partnering with ACSA, and a group of diverse districts on the suit**
- **Key component of the campaign will be a communications/outreach plan**



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## **“State of our Schools” Campaign**

- **Write a letter about the state of the schools in your district and/or local area**
- **Turn in your letter and receive the S.O.S. sticker**
- **Letters will be delivered to the Governor on the day of the State of the State address, and used with members of the Legislature**