



Myth: The California budget system works just fine, there isn't any need for reform.

Fact: Californian's see late and irresponsible budgets every year. And this year, after months of budget wrangling and gridlock, the Legislature produced a late and careless state budget that pushed \$8 billion of debt into the next year.

Voters are frustrated by the current budget stalemate and are ready to reform a broken budget process. Business as usual is simply not acceptable.

The Budget Accountability Act is a comprehensive reform package designed to end the partisan gridlock and political games that the state faces every year.

Our goal initiative would hold the Legislature and the Governor accountable for completing their work on a responsible budget by the constitutional deadline.

Myth: It doesn't really matter if the budget is late.

Fact: Late, irresponsible budgets hurt real people. The problem isn't just that the budgets are late, often they are irresponsible too.

Late budgets mean that nursing homes have to be shut down and schools can't plan for the upcoming year.

This year, when the budget was late, critical education programs went unfunded and were left in jeopardy, like special education, English Language Learner classes and after school programs.

1510 J Street, Suite 210 • Sacramento, CA 95814 • Phone: (916) 443-7817 • Fax: (916) 441-2653
WWW.BUDGETACCOUNTABILITYNOW.ORG FFPC#1254038

Californians for Budget Accountability. A coalition of the League of Women Voters of California, Firefighters, Educators, Parents, Healthcare Workers, Seniors, Faculty Members and Public and School Employees. Major funding provided by California State Council of Service Employees Political Issues Committee and California Teachers Association Issue PAC.

Passing a responsible budget on time is the Legislature's most important job, but right now legislators can work on other bills or even go on vacation while California's budget remains in limbo.

Currently the Governor and the Legislature have almost six months to adopt a budget. If they are not doing their job then they shouldn't get paid.

If the State Budget is not passed by the Constitutional deadline, the Governor and members of the Legislature will permanently forfeit their salary, per diem expense allowance, and car allowance for each day until the budget is adopted and signed into law.

After 17 years of late budgets, papered-over deficits and a sinking bond rating, the time for systemic reform of California's budget process is long overdue.

Myth: The Budget Accountability Act will negatively impact Prop. 13 provisions.

Fact: The Budget Accountability Act will not change property tax limitations in any way. The Budget Accountability Act changes the legislative vote requirement for taxes to 55 percent only for the purpose of increasing or decreasing taxes as part of the process of adopting the budget.

Myth: This initiative will just make it easier for the legislature to raise taxes.

Fact: The initiative was written to reform the process of passing the budget – since the past 17 haven't been passed on time.

By lowering the vote threshold, political cover for legislators is stripped away, and voters can hold the majority party accountable for passing an on-time and responsible budget.

By allowing voters access to information on how their legislators voted in the voter pamphlet and on an easy-to-use

web site, this initiative finally gives voters the tools to hold legislators accountable.

Myth: Taxes will go up if the vote threshold goes down.

Fact: The 55% vote required by the Budget Accountability Act still requires broad consensus to pass the budget, but it will end the gridlock caused by our current system.

There is no evidence in the 47 other states that taxes are any higher. This initiative is about reforming the broken budget process that produces late budgets year after year – it is not about raising taxes.

This initiative gives voters the tools they need to hold legislators accountable for whatever budget decisions they make.

Myth: The state budget process is immune to partisan politics.

Fact: Under the current system, Legislators hold out and refuse to compromise on the state budget. Instead they hold up the process and try to get more money for pet projects in their district while the rest of the state waits.

Legislators are also threatened and punished by party leadership if they do not follow the party line. Elected leaders should be accountable to their constituents for their votes on the budget, not beholden to political parties.

The Budget Accountability Act provides the Legislative Ethics Committees of the Assembly and State Senate authority to censure party leaders, members of party caucuses, or individual legislators who punish or threaten to punish any legislator for casting a particular legislative vote.