

**DAN LEAHY**  
**FOR STATE ASSEMBLY**  
*"A new voice, a better choice."*

# STATE BUDGET

## OVERVIEW

### ***Bring Fiscal Discipline to the Capitol***

New State spending is not being offset. Program reductions or increasing revenue should be made to balance these new costs. The Legislature needs to be better stewards of tax dollars.

### ***Reform the State Budget Process***

By making even a few reforms to the way the State develops its budgets we can begin to make the funding the State has available more stable. We should look at other options on how to put together our budget and other budget processes.

## THE PROBLEM

### ***Structural Deficits***

California has a problem with structural deficits. A myriad of different fiscal issues compound the problem, but no lasting solution has been presented. By not addressing the real problems that are creating these structural deficits, we are just adding to the problem.

### ***Legislature Can't Pass a Budget on Time***

The Legislature has rarely been able to pass a budget on time in the past 10 years. A consequence of this inability to get this crucial legislation passed payments and funding to sensitive populations are affected. Services cut across the state affect children, seniors and other people that depend on State government.

### ***Services Interrupted and Planning Stifled***

California's fiscal year starts on July 1<sup>st</sup>. When the Legislature cannot pass a budget on time the State Controllers Office cannot pay bills. This cuts off critical funding to child care, nursing homes, in home support services and programs for disabled. Also school districts cannot plan funds for the following school year impacting our kids education.

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MY PLAN

***Convert State Budget to Biennial Budget Process***

By converting to a two-year budget process, allows state officials more time to review the performance of individual programs and make appropriate adjustments to agency and department budgets. I would propose amending the state constitution to change the annual budget cycle to a biennial cycle.

***Bring the PAYGO Concept to the Legislature***

Just because something is a good idea does not mean we have the resources to pay for the program. New programs need to be funded with cuts to other ineffective programs or new revenue sources.

***Allow State Departments to Modify Their Budgets Easier***

Currently State Departments have to go through a lengthy process to change their budgets. Department budget staffs consistently work on three budgets at one time and would simplify the process to make mid-year budget changes. By modifying the way the budgeting process works we can save money by removing inefficiencies in the process.

***Critical Services Will Not Be Affected with Budget Impasse***

The first bill I would author as an Assemblymember would be to allow California to pay its bills and keep money flowing to crucial services and programs. I would propose a system similar to how the Federal government handles their budget. By allowing the Legislature to pass bills that would the State at previous fiscal year levels, we can avoid cutting off services to the people who need them the most.

***Balancing the Budget***

We can balance the State budget without raising taxes. I would balance the budget with the following;

Collect taxes already owed to the State.	8.5 billion
Eliminate wasteful spending at CDCR	~1.2 billion
Restructure or eliminate "good times" tax credits no longer achieving intended purposes	~6 billion
Eliminate non-essential outsourcing	<u>400 million</u>
<b>Total Cost Offsets</b>	<b>16.1 billion dollars</b>