



# Assembly Democrats Major Budget Priorities

With budget crunch time around the corner, Assembly Democrats key budget priorities are to craft a responsible budget that invests in California to strengthen our future.

While the Assembly will make many improvements to the budget as the budget process unfolds, the following is the list of major budget priorities for the 2015-16 State Budget:

- **Build Reserves and Pay Down Debt.**
  - Proposition 2 Rainy Day Fund was first conceived by the Assembly Democrats.
  - In its first year in operation, Assembly Democrats will follow through on the Prop 2 promise and build the Rainy Day Fund by billions and pay down the Wall of Debt.
- **Invest in our Schools and Early Education.**
  - Schools will rightfully receive the lion's share of growing revenues, Assembly Democrats will ensure schools get the growing funds to increase average per-pupil spending above inflation adjusted pre-recession levels.
  - As more becomes known of the critical role that early education plays in the long term educational success, Assembly Democrats will expand access and rates for quality child care and preschool programs.
- **Improve Higher Education Funding.**
  - Assembly Democrats will increase funding for Community Colleges, CSU and UC with a mix of the General Fund and market rate fee increases for out of state UC students.
    - UC's increases will be contingent upon conditions developed by our Subcommittee through our intensive oversight hearings, including freezing in-state tuition, capping out of state student growth, implementing pension reform, and cutting bloated administrative costs.
- **Establish a State Earned Income Tax Credit to Reduce Poverty.**
  - Assembly Democrats support creating a State EITC that is targeted to working families that are still living in deep poverty.
- **Provide "Down-payment" on the \$2 billion Transportation Plan.**
  - Assembly Democrats will provide a "down-payment" on the Speaker's \$2 billion transportation plan by returning most, if not all, the Truck Weight Fees to be used for Roadway preservation and maintenance.

The Assembly Budget subcommittee and full committee process will culminate by the end of May and will address the issues listed above as well as make other key improvements to the 2015-16 State Budget.