

Gov. Brown likely to ask Californians to support tax extensions and deep cuts in his State of the State address

Kate Larsen Last updated 11 days ago Posted: 1/31/2011



SACRAMENTO, CA - Gov. Brown will likely ask already struggling Californians to sacrifice more during Monday's State of the State.

The state is faced with a deficit project at \$25.4 billion to \$28 billion and a 12.5 percent unemployment rate.

To help plug the budget hole, Brown proposed \$12.5 billion in spending cuts and an extension on vehicle, sales and income taxes. The five-year tax extension would generate \$12 billion under Brown's plan.

Teresa Casazza, President of the California Taxpayers' Association, a non-profit and non-partisan tax research group, says Californians are already struggling and will have a difficult time supporting tax extensions.

"We have the highest sales tax rate currently, we have one of the highest personal income tax rates and our vehicle license fee is one of the highest in the country," Casazza said.

Among the cuts proposed is \$30 million to Cal Fire. The state fire agency is being asked to cut fire engine crews from four firefighters to three.

Janet Upton, Cal Fire Deputy Director, said resources will be available in emergency situations, despite cuts.

"What's important to point out is that this doesn't affect an incident commander's ability to order more equipment," Upton said. "Whether it's engines with firefighters, hand crews, bulldozers, aircraft."

Some of the deepest cuts in Brown's budget proposal are to California's social service programs. Mike Herald, a lobbyist for the Western Center on Law and Poverty, said hundreds of thousands of Californians depend on government aid for food and housing.

Herald said the cuts will affect California's poorest citizens on a daily basis.

Herald said, "If we're talking about cutting 115,000 families giving them no cash assistance at all, that means we're going to have 235,000 kids in our state without any assistance. Their lives are going to get much more difficult."

Brown will deliver the address Monday beginning at 5:08 p.m. at the State Capitol in Sacramento.

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News10 will broadcast the address live, and news10.net will carry a livestream of the proceedings.

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