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Cal-Tax President Teresa Casazza Says Taxpayers Deserve a Responsible Budget System

SACRAMENTO – California Taxpayers' Association President Teresa Casazza issued the following statement today regarding the budget reform proposal released by the Assembly and Senate Republican leaders:

“The current budget system isn’t working for the taxpayers of California, and this proposal offers the reforms needed to get the state off the fiscal rollercoaster.

“The California Taxpayers’ Association supports budget reform, including the creation of a rainy day fund, and we will work with legislators and the governor to find the most effective way to take these needed steps toward getting the state’s finances in order.

“Under the current system, one-time revenue spikes are committed to ongoing programs, and no long-range plan exists for dealing with revenue shortfalls. This inevitably leads to budget problems during economic downturns, when taxpayers are least able to shoulder the burden of tax increases. This has to stop.

“Also, we support strengthening the constitution’s Proposition 13 taxpayer protections by ensuring that tax-like ‘fees’ are covered by the same vote requirement as taxes. This protection is popular with Californians because it has served the taxpayers well, and it only makes sense to provide the same safeguard when the Legislature is considering taxes that masquerade as fees.”

Cal-Tax was founded in 1926 to protect taxpayers from unnecessary taxes and to promote government efficiency. The association serves taxpayers through research and advocacy on significant tax and spending issues in the legislative, executive and judicial branches of government.

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