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## **STATE BUDGET PLAN**

**EDITOR:** It was reported that state officials are contemplating borrowing 8 percent of city, county and special district property tax revenue, estimated at just more than \$2 billion, to help balance their upcoming budget.

As most citizens realize, local governments have been struggling to balance their own budgets and have had to resort to layoffs, service reductions and delay of maintenance and other projects. Local governments have already been hit very hard by the current recession and have made hard decisions to continue public services with declining revenue. Fire departments, whether municipal or special district, will see service reductions if the state raids local property taxes.

It is irresponsible for state officials to look to further harm local programs and services in order to solve their own budget issues. Any additional revenue cuts to local governments will have a direct impact on critical programs, including public safety. By borrowing local funds, the state deepens its structural deficit and creates an obligation to repay, which it cannot afford. The state needs to balance its budget with its own resources and not on the back of local government.

We encourage the governor to reject this flawed proposal and work to find state solutions to the state budget.

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