

# Political Update

**Date:** March 11, 2011

**To:** Carolyn Doggett  
Executive Director

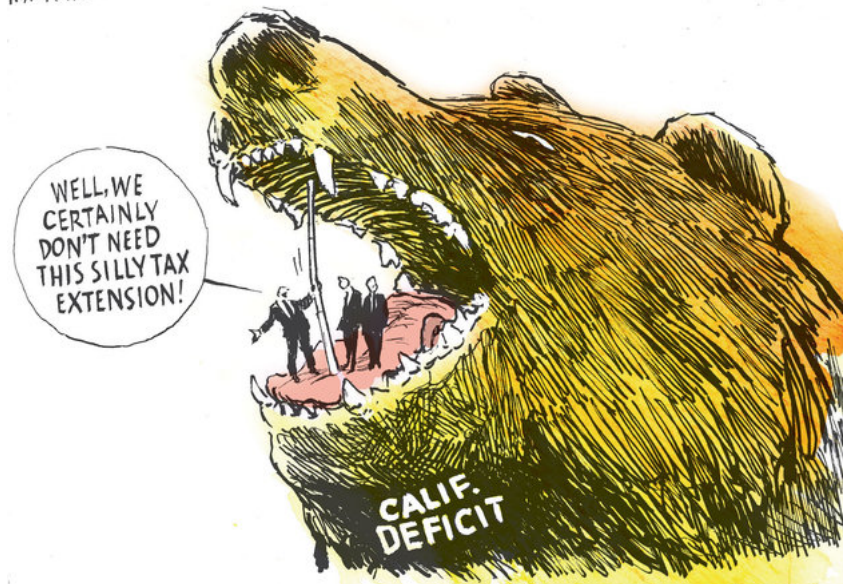
**From:** Joe Nuñez  
Associate Executive Director

## Governor Presses for Approval of Budget with Tax Extension

Gov. Jerry Brown has been pressing Republican lawmakers to provide him with the needed GOP votes in each house to move his budget plan and send a tax extension measure to the voters.

*See the attached article from the Sacramento Bee.*

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## Business Leaders Urge Republicans to Back Tax Measure

Even the state Chamber of Commerce and other business organizations are asking lawmakers to vote for the governor's budget and the tax extension ballot measure.

*See the attached article from the Contra Costa Times.*



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**Governor Urges Business to Support His Revenue Plan**

Gov. Brown has met with business leaders in efforts to enlist their support for his budget proposal. He is also seeking support for his plan to put a measure that would extend the current temporary state taxes before voters this spring. Without that extension, the state could suffer another \$12.5 billion in cuts and additional reductions of more than \$2.3 billion in school funding.

*See the attached article from the Los Angeles Times.*

**Supt. Torlakson Tells Community Group Why Extension is Vital**

During a recent presentation to an Asian Pacific Islander Public Affairs organization, Supt. of Public Instruction Tom Torlakson explained how the governor's proposal would stave off another \$12.5 billion in cuts, including billions from hard-hit public schools.

*See the attached CTA staff report.*

**Speaker Perez Explains: Two-thirds' Vote is Necessary**

Addressing the Sacramento Press Club, Assembly Speaker John Perez made it clear that there is no legal support for the assertion that the tax extension measure can be put on the ballot without a two-thirds' vote. GOP legislators have claimed Democrats can move the bill without them.

*See the attached staff report.*

**Editorial: Let Voters Decide on Tax Extension**

A newspaper editorial board calls on Republican members of the Legislature to provide the votes needed to move the tax extension measure to the ballot. Voters should be given the opportunity to have a say on the matter, the editorial board members say.

*See the attached article from the Sacramento Bee.*

**GOP Lawmakers Press for Cuts in Public Pensions**

Some GOP lawmakers have been saying they might be willing to put a tax extension measure before the voters....but only if public pensions are "reformed" first.



*See the attached article from the Associated Press.*

### **CTA Educates Legislator about Teachers' Pension System**

CTA representatives and staff joined the California State Teachers' Retirement System's deputy director to brief legislators and legislative staff about teachers' pensions in California. The workshop underscored how a strong, predictable retirement helps California attract and keep the highly qualified teachers the state's students need and deserve.

*See the attached CTA staff report.*

### **Columnist: Pension Rollbacks Won't Really Balance State Budget**

A columnist points out that cuts to public employee pension protections will not materially bring the state closer to a budget solution.

*See the attached article from the California Budget Watch blog.*

### **CalPERS Rebutts Little Hoover Commission's Pension Assertions**

The California Public Employees' Retirement System (CalPERS) has issued an "observation" paper that corrects errors of fact or omission contained in a recent report by the state's Little Hoover Commission.

*See the attached brief from CalPERS.*

### **Education Coalition Backs Governor's Redevelopment Reforms**

CTA and its statewide Education Coalition partners have sent a letter supporting the governor in his effort to end the "drains on the state's finances."

*See the attached article from the Educated Guess blog.*

### **Pension Coalition Urges State to Protect Public Pension Systems**

A statewide retirement coalition whose members include CTA is pressing the legislature and the governor not to make changes to public pension systems that will harm workers and schools.

*See the attached article from the Majority Report website.*



**Columnist: Demise of Public Unions Would Harm All Workers**

A conservative former talk show host argues that eliminating public sector unions will harm all workers, including those in the private sector.

*See the attached article from the Sacramento Bee.*

**Wisconsin Assembly Okays Anti-union Proposals**

The Republican-dominated Wisconsin legislature has approved a measure that would sharply curb collective bargaining rights for its public employees.

*See the attached article from the Los Angeles Times.*

**CTA President: Association Stands with Wisconsin Workers**

CTA President David A. Sanchez issued a statement expressing the organization's support for educators and other public workers who are under attack in Wisconsin.

*See the attached CTA news release.*

**Poll: Public Supports Collective Bargaining Rights for Public Unions**

A full 62% of those polled said they found "totally unacceptable" the concept of eliminating collective bargaining rights for public employees. The poll was commissioned by the Wall Street Journal and NBC.

*See the attached article from the Associated Press.*

**Schools Nurses Pegged as "Endangered Species"**

A compelling article in a San Diego media outlet does a close-up on the situation in schools, where few nurses are left after recent cutbacks.

*See the attached article from the Voice of San Diego.com.*

**Ongoing Education Cuts Swelling Class Sizes Around Nation**

California and other states are seeing dramatic increases in class sizes as a result of continuing cuts in public education spending. Students are suffering, consequently.

*See the attached article from the New York Times.*



**Census Sees Potential Power Shift to Minorities, Central State**

An analysis of the decennial census finds that California has seen a significant increase in its minority population, as well as increases in its population in the inland and central valleys. One analysis suggests the census could lead to increases in political clout for minorities and voters living inland.

*See the attached article from the Los Angeles Times.*