



Shalice Reynoso, MMC
CCAC Legislative Director

News Clerks Should Know:

Released 11/5/08

Special Budget Session

Governor Schwarzenegger has called the legislature back on Nov. 5 to consider extraordinary proposals to address a serious revenue shortfall in the recently adopted state budget. The legislature must act quickly as there are only a few short weeks until Dec. 1 when the new legislators are sworn into office. At risk during these debates are: COPS and booking fees, potential “loans” of local property taxes, and transportation revenues. City officials are urged to call their legislators immediately and deliver the message that the state budget crisis not be allowed to deepen local budget crises.

FPPC Expected to Adopt New “Gift” Regulations December 11

The League is opposing proposed action by the FPPC to amend Regulation 18944.1 “Recipient of the Gift: Passes or Tickets Given to an Agency.” This regulation addresses whether tickets and other free admissions to events that public officials receive from their agencies are gifts to those officials. The proposed amendments will repeal the current regulation and adopt new rules that clarify that tickets and free admissions received by public officials are gifts to the official unless use of the ticket/admission furthers a specific governmental or public purpose.



Shalice Reynoso, MMC
CCAC Legislative Director

News Clerks Should Know:

Released 11/24/08

AB 1234 Ethics Training for Local Officials

As the year-end approaches, it is a good idea to check now to make sure that your elected officials have met their AB 1234 Ethics Training requirements:

On October 7, 2005, the Governor signed Assembly Bill No. 1234. This law requires (among other things) that all local agencies that provide compensation, salary, or stipend to, or reimburses the expenses of, members of a legislative body must provide ethics training to local agency officials by January 1, 2007, and every two years thereafter.

There are numerous training options, including training conducted by commercial organizations, nonprofits, or even the agency's own legal counsel. In addition, interested parties have collaborated to create an on-line training program that will allow local officials to satisfy the requirements of AB 1234 on a cost-free basis. The training may be accessed at the links below, and at the end of the training a certification of completion must be printed.

LINKS:

<http://localethics.fppc.ca.gov>

or

<http://www.localethics.fppc.ca.gov>



Shalice Reynoso, MMC
CCAC Legislative Director

News Clerks Should Know:

Released 11/25/08

[Excerpt from www.cacities.org]

Current Special Budget Session Makes Little Progress Governor May Call New Legislature into Special Session

The Legislature made little progress this week to resolve the shortfall in the less than two-month old FY 2008-09 state budget. There has been some activity on the budget recently but no major agreement with time running out on the special session which ends on Nov. 30. Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger released a memo on Nov. 19 stating that he will immediately call a special session of the new Legislature when it convenes on Dec. 1 if the current Legislature does not take action. He has the power to do this under the provisions of Proposition 58, which would require legislators to address the current budget year's deficit within 45 days.

When the Governor called a special session on the budget earlier this month, he announced that California already has a revenue shortfall of \$11.2 billion for the current fiscal year. Shortly after, the Legislative Analyst's Office (LAO) reported that this shortfall is projected to grow to \$28 billion when combined with the FY 2009-10 deficit.

In the past week, several budget activities have occurred in the State Capitol. The Assembly Budget Committee met on Friday, Nov. 14 to discuss the Governor's budget proposal and LAO's analysis. The Governor has been meeting with legislative leaders as well as the "Big Five" plus incoming Senate Pro Tem Darrell Steinberg (D-Sacramento). The Senate and Assembly were scheduled to meet this weekend but postponed until Tuesday, Nov. 25.

The League will continue to provide regular updates on state budget developments as they occur through Listservs, *Priority Focus* and www.cacities.org.