

Rebuilding California

Principle 1 - Should local governments have broad authority, subject to voter approval for bonds and tax increases, to raise and expend a diverse and broad set of revenues necessary to provide critical local services. Concentrating these decisions at the local level will ensure greater transparency and accountability to the voters?

	Strongly Disagree		Disagree		Neutral		Agree		Strongly Agree		
The state should not be able to divert or borrow local tax revenues to fund state programs or state mandated	0.00%	0	6.67%	4	10.00%	6	25.00%	15	58.33%	35	4.35
Given the active involvement of voters in all decisions on local taxes, the 2/3 threshold for voter approval of taxes or bonds should be reduced (e.g., the current 55% vote for school bonds).	5.00%	3	8.33%	5	5.00%	3	25.00%	15	53.33%	32	4.03
Local elected governing bodies should be authorized to approve increases in local taxes without the requirement of seeking prior voter approval, subject to	28.33%	17	31.67%	19	16.67%	10	18.33%	11	5.00%	3	2.40
Authorize counties, schools, cities, or any combination thereof to seek voter approval to levy income, sales, property (parcel or ad valorem within some limit), utility, vehicle or business taxes to finance important countywide or regional education, health, human services, public safety, environmental,	6.67%	4	6.67%	4	15.00%	9	48.33%	29	18.33%	11	3.50

Principle 2 - Should counties, schools, cities, or any combination thereof be authorized to seek voter approval to levy income, sales, property (parcel or ad valorem within some limit), utility, vehicle or business taxes to finance important countywide or regional education, health, human services, public safety, environmental, or other services?

	Strongly Disagree		Disagree		Neutral		Agree		Strongly Agree		
When state preemption of local regulatory, taxation and other local powers is deemed necessary, the legislature should make specific findings setting forth the reasons and necessity of having a statewide rule or program, and the preemptive statute should only be adopted with a supermajority legislative vote of both the Assembly and Senate. Implied	5.45%	3	5.45%	3	21.82%	12	41.82%	23	25.45%	14	3.45

Principle 3 - Do local governments need additional protection from state mandates that attempt to micromanage local

	Strongly Disagree		Disagree		Neutral		Agree		Strongly Agree		
Reform the existing state mandate claims process to remove unreasonable burdens and delays on local agencies seeking to recover	1.75%	1	3.51%	2	7.02%	4	54.39%	31	33.33%	19	3.93
Prohibit the state from avoiding mandate claims by prohibiting the state from requiring local governments to pass on costs through local fees.	0.00%	0	1.75%	1	19.30%	11	43.86%	25	26.32%	15	3.50

Principle 4 - Should all local governments should have broad authority and flexibility in personnel n

	Strongly Disagree		Disagree		Neutral		Agree		Strongly Agree		
All local governments, including schools, should be able to design and implement their own appropriate pension and post-retirement health benefits program, including the ability to establish new benefit tiers for new hires and to implement cost-saving	9.09%	5	16.36%	9	29.09%	16	23.64%	13	21.82%	12	3.05

Principle 5 - When local agencies administer state programs and mandates with state funds, should they be held accountable for the measureable outcomes and given extensive administrative flexibility over the means and methods chosen by local leaders to achieve those outcomes?

	Strongly Disagree		Disagree		Neutral		Agree		Stongly Agree		
Make greater use of block grant programs that give local government flexibility in the administration of state	0.00%	0	1.85%	1	12.96%	7	68.52%	37	12.96%	7	3.43
Remove obstacles to contracting out services as opposed to using employees of the local agency. Create financial incentives for lowering	5.56%	3	9.26%	5	24.07%	13	42.59%	23	18.52%	10	3.23

Principle 6 - Should the state budget process be modernized to reflect the best practices in state financial management from ac

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree						
Implement best practices in performance-based, multi-year budgeting and establish prudent reserves in order to achieve measurable outcomes and improved	0.00%	0	3.64%	2	3.64%	2	40.00%	22	50.91%	28	3.97
New programs or mandated funding obligations should be approved only if the budget authorizes a new, dedicated, reliable and adequate funding source or explicitly provides for measurable offsetting savings in state	1.82%	1	7.27%	4	7.27%	4	41.82%	23	38.18%	21	3.63
Every new ballot measure that imposes new funding obligations on state or local governments should authorize a new, dedicated and reliable funding source or provide for measurable offsetting savings in state or local operations to finance the entire	3.64%	2	7.27%	4	9.09%	5	34.55%	19	43.64%	24	3.68
All state tax increases should be approved by less than a 2/3 vote of the electorate before taking effect.	9.09%	5	21.82%	12	10.91%	6	27.27%	15	25.45%	14	2.95
The 2/3 vote of the state legislature required to approve a state budget and increase taxes should be reduced.	5.45%	3	7.27%	4	3.64%	2	32.73%	18	49.09%	27	3.73
The Legislature should be authorized to approve the state budget with less than a 2/3 vote but the 2/3 vote required to increase taxes should be	27.27%	15	25.45%	14	18.18%	10	12.73%	7	16.36%	9	2.43

Principle 7 - Should the laws governing the major state and local tax revenues be regularly updated and revised to reflect the transformation to a service-based economy and the tax equity concerns that have arisen over time?

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree						
Broaden the sales tax base to cover major services and lower the rate to ensure a revenue neutral effect in the	7.55%	4	5.66%	3	22.64%	12	50.94%	27	9.43%	5	2.98
Over time equalize inequities in property values among similar property tax payers that have arisen based on differences in the date of property	9.43%	5	11.32%	6	15.09%	8	33.96%	18	30.19%	16	3.22

Principle 8 - Should State government periodically review and recommend improvements to the structure, functions and financing of state government operations in order to assure citizens that decisions are being made and services are being delivered in the most responsive and

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree						
At least every 10 years the LAO should identify for the legislature those state programs that have increased in cost at a rate faster than state revenue growth or some other relevant factor or which for reasons of inefficiency or ineffectiveness should be the subject of legislative oversight and reauthorization. Upon completion of the program evaluation by the LAO and the legislature, the continuation of the programs should be contingent	1.96%	1	1.96%	1	11.76%	6	60.78%	31	23.53%	12	3.42
Except for federally mandated services and programs, upon completion of the evaluation of programs by the LAO and the legislature, the legislature shall not appropriate any funds for a program it reauthorizes in excess of the average state revenue growth	7.84%	4	17.65%	9	19.61%	10	39.22%	20	15.69%	8	2.87

Principle 9 - The legislature should be modernized in order to achieve greater effectiveness and responsiveness to the priorities of the people of the state, including changes in how legislators are elected, limits on the length of their terms, the duration of the legislative session, and the way in which the legislature operates.

Strongly Disagree Disagree Neutral Agree Strongly Agree

<p>Term limits should be eliminated or reformed to extend the length of service of members of the legislature. As a result of the rapid turnover of representatives in the current system, a large number of representatives are always new and inexperienced. This has resulted in a loss of historical memory, a system where representatives feel more loyalty to their respective parties than to the constituents that elected them, and a</p>	3.77%	2	3.77%	2	9.43%	5	35.85%	19	45.28%	24	3.62
<p>The ideological extremes in the state legislature have impeded the accomplishment of the people's business, and a system of nonpartisan open primaries should be approved by the voters, such as "Two Top Primaries Act" approved by the legislature in February 2009 for the June 2010 ballot. Voters should be able to vote for any state or congressional candidate in the primary, regardless of the voter's party registration, and the top two vote</p>	13.21%	7	1.89%	1	18.87%	10	33.96%	18	30.19%	16	3.18

Public confidence in the legislature has declined in part due to the fact it operates largely in secret. The legislature should function under the same open meetings and open records requirements as local governments, and no legislation should be enacted without being first published and publicly available for at least 24 hours	1.89%	1	0.00%	0	11.32%	6	35.85%	19	50.94%	27	3.83
The legislative session should be shortened (e.g., 90 – 180 days per year), and legislators should receive a financial incentive to hold hearings and spend time in their districts meeting with constituents rather than in	3.77%	2	7.55%	4	39.62%	21	33.96%	18	11.32%	6	2.92