



YES ON THE MAJORITY VOTE BUDGET INITIATIVE FACT SHEET

REFORM A BROKEN SYSTEM AND END THE POLITICAL GAMES

THE PROBLEM:

- The Legislature is constitutionally required to pass the state budget bill by June 15 each year. The budget bill requires a two-thirds vote of both houses of the Legislature.
- Unfortunately, our current system has created dysfunction that results in late budgets year after year. Californians are frustrated and tired of the yearly budget gridlock and want to see legislators spend less time bickering and more time working together towards common-sense solutions.
- Currently, just a few politicians can take the budget hostage for weeks, holding out for special concessions and pork projects.
- When the state budget is late school districts can't finish preparing for the upcoming school year and local government services become hostage to the state standoff.
- Thousands of teachers, firefighters and public safety officers get pink slips and our schools and safety are at risk.
- Small businesses that provide goods and services to the state are expected to continue without getting paid and are forced to take loans to survive.
- Last year, due to the state budget gridlock, California was forced to issue over 450,000 IOUs worth \$2.6 billion.
- Because of our chronic budget problems California currently has the lowest credit rating of the 50 states.

Support the Majority Vote Budget Initiative: Common sense budget reform

The Majority Vote Budget Initiative does two things:

- 1) Changes the vote requirement for a budget from two-thirds to a simple majority, while retaining the two-thirds vote requirement for any tax increase.
- 2) Penalizes politicians for failing to do their most important job – passing a fair budget on time as the law requires.

Support the Majority Vote Budget Initiative: Accountability for late budgets

Currently there are no repercussions on legislators – only harm to Californians - when the budget is late. Today, even if the budget is late, politicians still receive their daily salary and per diem expense payments and, according to the independent Legislative Analyst's Office, "any salary payments which are withheld from these officials then are paid upon passage of the budget."

The Majority Vote Budget Initiative will end this practice and will prohibit any members of the Legislature from collecting any salary or reimbursements for travel or living expenses. This prohibition would be in effect from midnight on the June 15 constitutional budget deadline until



the budget is passed by both houses and sent to the Governor. **Lost salaries and expenses would be permanently forfeited and could not be paid retroactively. We don't get paid when we don't do our job, why should the politicians who work for us get paid when they don't?**

Support the Majority Vote Budget Initiative: Reform the budget and end the games

Only two other states, Rhode Island and Arkansas, still require a two-thirds vote to pass a budget. There is no reason that California should continue as part of this small minority.

It is time to stop allowing a handful of politicians hold the state budget hostage while they try to extract political concessions, pork barrel projects or other special closed door deals that end up costing the state more money.

Support the Majority Vote Budget Initiative: Promote bipartisanship

The Majority Vote Budget Initiative will not change the two-thirds vote required to increase our state taxes. Maintaining the two-thirds legislative vote for taxes means that the Legislature will still need to obtain bipartisan consensus before raising taxes.

Support the Majority Vote Budget Initiative: Supported by those on the front lines

Teachers, nurses, firefighters and school employees are on the front lines in the state's budget crisis. They are supporting this initiative to help reform our state's budget system and hold the politicians accountable when they don't do their job. Join millions of your California neighbors and help end the political dysfunction and political games in the Capitol.

The Majority Vote Budget Initiative is endorsed by:

- California School Employees Association
- California Federation of Teachers
- California Nurses Association
- California Faculty Association
- California Professional Firefighters
- California Consumer Federation
- AFSCME
- California Church IMPACT
- California Young Democrats
- California Alliance for Retired Americans
- Planning and Conservation League
- Endangered Habitats League

READ FOR YOURSELF AT www.endbudgetgridlock.com

The Majority Vote Budget Initiative has submitted its signatures for verification and is headed for the November 2010 ballot.

**For more information or to join our campaign, please contact us at (916) 444-8897.
Teachers, Firefighters and Nurses for an On-Time Budget (ID# 1323713)**