

State Budget Messages

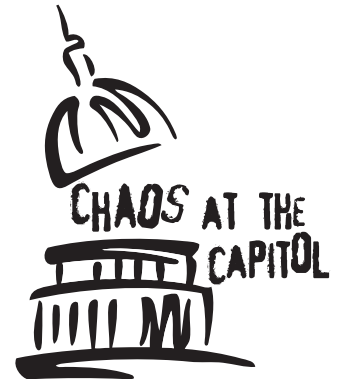


As they consider the K-12 budget for next year, all legislators must hear the following messages:

- Reject the conference report, and budget the projected carryover from last fiscal year to help balance the coming year's budget.
- Pass new revenue to hold schools harmless, including updates to our antiquated tax structure.
- Pass the K-12 budget by the Sept. 30 deadline. Schools and students have been waiting for a state budget since spring – don't make them wait any longer.
- Don't play political football with our students by attaching other bills to the K-12 budget.

Continues

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Background on the State Budget

In what has become an annual event in Michigan over the past decade, the Legislature is grappling with a massive state budget deficit for the fiscal year that starts Oct. 1. The state Senate passed a budget with more than a billion dollars in cuts to the general fund, plus a \$218 per pupil (\$410 million total) cut to K-12 public education.

Stop the Cuts!

- The cuts decimate critical services—like police and fire protection, public health, and education—eliminating programs at both the state and local level. These are issues that will negatively impact our quality of life in this state and our economic future.
- The drastic cuts to our education program leave our children unprepared to compete for 21st century jobs that Michigan needs. A solid, quality education is the answer to our future economic survival.
- All budget cuts to education have long-term effects. For example, if we allow the cuts to early childhood education to stand, we will be dooming our children's educational future. Research shows that investing in early childhood education means fewer dropouts.
- Cuts to the Michigan Promise Scholarship leave more than 100,000 Michigan students without financial help for college. Again, the long-term effect of such a move dooms our economic future.
- Lawmakers need to make the right decisions when it comes to finishing the 2009-10 budget. Instead of quick budget fixes, they need to make a long-term commitment to Michigan students, our citizens and our economic survival.
- The proposed all-cuts budget is unacceptable. Only 28 percent of voters think it's a good idea. The state budget should be balanced by relying both on cuts in state programs and efforts to raise revenue.

Fix the problem!

- Declining state revenues and our own slow economic recovery will force the state into further cuts in the future. We must consider revenue-generating options if we are to survive.
- We have a 20th century tax structure for a 21st century economy. We must update Michigan's antiquated tax structure so the state can weather future economic crises.
- Legislators must close corporate tax loopholes that don't help Michigan's economy and insure that our investments in tax incentives are effective in creating jobs.
- We must build a graduated tax structure so that the tax rate would increase for those in the higher income brackets, but would lower the rate for up to 90 percent of Michigan taxpayers.
- Michigan must ensure that revenue is generated in areas where our economy is strongest, such as services.

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