

# Frequently Asked Questions Proposition 76

## Schools Lose Big in Governor's Budget Measure

**What does Proposition 76 - the "cut school funding" initiative - really do?**

It immediately cuts public school funding by over \$4 billion per year - \$600 per student - leading to more overcrowded classrooms, teacher layoffs, and fewer textbooks and classroom materials. It also eliminates our democratic system of checks and balances by giving the governor unprecedented new powers without legislative oversight.

**What kind of new authority would Proposition 76 give the governor?**

Under this measure, the governor can declare a "fiscal emergency" virtually any time, granting himself the power to overturn voter approved initiatives, undo union contracts, and renege on promises to local governments. This governor and any future governor could do all of this without any approval from the legislature or voters.

**Will Proposition 76 balance the budget without raising taxes?**

No. This initiative has nothing to do with taxes. It is an attempt by the governor to bypass the legislature and the voters in order to implement his so-called "reform" agenda. If this measure passes, it will overturn Proposition 98, which ensures a guaranteed level of spending for public schools and community colleges, and allow the governor to drastically cut other vital public services. In fact, those cuts could ultimately lead to higher local taxes to cover the shortfall.

**What kind of cuts could we expect from the governor if Proposition 76 passes?**

The governor has proposed many cuts that have been opposed by the legislature and voters. With his new powers under Proposition 76, no one could stop his agenda of cutting billions from our schools, slashing funds for community colleges and universities, privatizing public employee pensions, and decreasing the state's share of employee health care costs.

**Don't we need something like Proposition 76 to get a budget passed on time?**

No. The answer is not to subvert our democratic process of checks and balances. No single person should ever have the power that the governor proposes to give himself. Further, there is no incentive for the governor to cooperate with the legislature on passing a budget if, in the end, he can declare a fiscal emergency and bypass the system.