

Subject: FW: [SPAM?] STATE BUDGET ACTION ALERT - \$150M IMPACT CONFIRMED

Importance: Low

From: Rod Ross

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Subject: [SPAM?] STATE BUDGET ACTION ALERT - \$150M IMPACT CONFIRMED

Supervisors and professional staff,

CSA's fears regarding an alternative budget with unprecedented county cost shifts have been confirmed.

This afternoon, CSA received information that Senator Andy Biggs is prepared to release a budget proposal that includes an alarming ***\$150 million shift of state costs to local governments***. This \$150 million cost shift would be *in addition to the ongoing \$77 million in impacts passed in the Fiscal Year 2011 budget*.

CSA has learned that the shift is composed of the following:

\$50 million

Counties would be required to pay approximately 50% of the cost of Department of Corrections inmates sentenced to less than one year in prison. Biggs' proposal would allow counties to pay the state \$30 per inmate, per day, or house the inmate in county jails at full cost to the county.

\$50 million

Biggs' proposal would require cities and counties to pay approximately \$50 million (in forfeited VLT revenue) to keep MVD operating. Cities and counties would be required to forfeit \$29 million and \$18 million respectively.

\$50 million

Senator Biggs does not have a clear plan for making up the remaining \$50 million, but signaled that it may come from county ALTCS payments.

It appears that Senator Biggs will introduce his budget plan next week, which could occur as early as the Senate Appropriations Committee meeting **next Tuesday, March 8**. Alarmingly, the Senator is indicating that his plan has received positive feedback from members.

CSA is working to quantify how these proposals would impact each county, but in the meantime, ***it is gravely important that each county contact its lawmakers, including those in the House of Representatives, to forcefully protest the Biggs budget.***

CSA urges that county supervisors, in coordination with LPC members, contact their state lawmakers and inform them that:

1. Counties have already absorbed \$193 million in impacts from the state since 2008, including \$77 million in *ongoing costs* from the FY11 budget.

2. In some counties, shifting state responsibilities may force an increase in property taxes. In other counties, the shifts will require deep cuts, ***which will jeopardize all county services including criminal justice and public safety.***
3. The Biggs budget represents a threat to the fiscal solvency of Arizona counties and is therefore unacceptable. It is fundamentally unfair and un-conservative for the state to bail itself out by sinking the counties into insolvency.

It is critically important for these communications to be made to lawmakers in the House and Senate ***as quickly as possible***, even over the weekend.

CSA will continue to monitor the Biggs budget proposal and communicate these points to lawmakers.

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