

Fourth District PTA Advocacy Communicator



FOURTH DISTRICT PTA ADVOCACY TEAM

JANUARY 2022

A new state budget process begins in Sacramento

The start of another year means the beginning of a new state budget cycle in Sacramento. Among other things, Governor Newsom and lawmakers will have to decide what to do with the \$31 billion state surplus that is predicted for the 2022-23 fiscal year.

Budget decisions this year may be colored by the state “Gann limit.” This article of the State Constitution, approved by voters in 1979 and amended in 1990, creates budget restrictions when state tax revenues exceed a certain level over a two-year period. At that point, the state has three options:

- Designate money to purposes not excluded by the Gann limit, such as infrastructure projects.
- Split the excess funding between tax rebates and schools and community colleges.
- Lower tax revenues.

A proposed budget [blueprint](#) presented by Assembly Member Phil Ting dedicates \$10 billion to school renovation and construction to accommodate the new statewide transitional kindergarten program and community schools. The blueprint would provide funding for university and community college facilities as well. Ting is chair of the Assembly Budget Committee.

If lawmakers go along with this idea they will need to decide whether to also place a school construction bond on the 2022 ballot. Bond proposals were passed by both the Assembly and Senate in 2021, but no final commitment was made.

How the state budget is developed

Each year the governor and the state legislature must work together to determine the state budget, using revenue numbers that change from month to month.

The first step in the process is the presentation of a

proposed budget, based on estimated tax receipts, which the Governor must submit to the Legislature by January 10. The Legislative Analyst’s Office (LAO) will issue its analysis of this proposal by the third week of February.

During the next months, Assembly and Senate budget committees will review the proposal and develop their own versions of the budget.

In mid-May, the governor will issue an updated “May revise” version of the budget based on actual tax revenues received to date. The LAO will again present its analysis. A conference committee may meet to resolve the differences between the Assembly and Senate versions of the budget, and there may be continuing discussions between legislators and the Governor.

The state Constitution requires the legislators to complete the budget by June 15. If they miss the deadline, they permanently lose their pay and expenses for every day that the budget is not passed. If the Governor receives the budget on time, he must sign it by June 30.

Information about the budget and the budget process can be found at the following sites:

- The California Department of Finance will publish the governor’s budget proposal at www.dof.ca.gov
- LAO reports may be found at www.lao.ca.gov
- For information and commentary on how the proposed budget will impact education go to www.edsource.org
- For a detailed description of education funding in California go to Chapter 8 at <https://Ed100.org>

Registration now open for Sacramento Safari

March 7 and 8 in Sacramento

Registration fee:

\$395 per person, double occupancy

\$499 per person, single occupancy



Registration deadline: Monday, February 7

Safari Orientation: Friday, February 25
9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

More information and registration [here](#).

What: Fourth District PTA
Virtual Advocacy Forum

When: Friday, January 21
9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

Who: Orange County school superintendents

You won’t want to miss this opportunity to hear about education issues in Orange County from our local school administrators!

Work proceeds on a new statewide student tracking system

The development of a statewide education data system to track students from childhood to employment took a step forward in December at the first meeting of a 21-member governing board consisting of legislators, education leaders and advocates.

The Cradle-to-Career System will track students from preschool through higher education and into the workforce by combining information from numerous state agencies and education institutions. This integrated data system will give state lawmakers “a more holistic view of the state’s education system and allow policymakers to make more informed budget and policy decisions,” according to a report by the nonpartisan Legislative Analyst’s Office.

The system will be available to the public. Parents and students will have access to analytical tools, summaries of key student and employment outcomes, and a re-

search library. These resources will provide information on college and career planning, college-eligibility monitoring, electronic transcripts, access to financial aid and other services.

Individual identities of students will be hidden and the public will only see trends for groups of students.

The data system will be phased in over the next five years. For more information, see this [EdSource](#) article or go to the [C2C website](#).

Lawmakers and the governor move out of the Annex office building

The next time we go to Sacramento to visit our legislators, we won’t be roaming around the maze of hallways in the Annex office building next to the historic Capitol.



That 70-year-old structure is slated to be demolished and replaced by a modern building with updated earthquake and fire safety features and better accessibility for people with disabilities. With luck, it will also be easier to navigate.

In the meantime, legislators and the governor have moved into offices in a newly constructed building about two blocks from the Capitol. The famous brass bear that stood outside the governor’s office presumably will wait there as well.

The demolition of the Annex is stalled by activists who object to the removal of about 100 trees on the Capitol grounds and maintain that the old building could be renovated. A lawsuit to stop the new construction will likely be settled early this year.

If the project proceeds, the new building is expected to be completed in 2025.

How state laws are developed

January 3 marks the beginning of a new legislative session in Sacramento. Here is a brief review of the law-making process:

When a bill is introduced in the Assembly or Senate, it must be approved by several committees in that house before a debate and vote by the entire house of origin. The bill then goes to the other house, where it again goes through a committee process before a debate and vote by that house.

If the second house amends the bill and members of the first house do not concur with those changes, a conference committee of three Senators and three Assembly Members meets to iron out the differences. The new version must be approved by both the Senate and Assembly before being sent to the Governor.

The Governor can sign the bill into law or do nothing, which also enacts the bill into law. If the Governor vetoes a bill, the legislature has 60 days to override that veto with a two-thirds vote of both the Senate and Assembly.

Important legislative dates for 2022:

Jan. 3—Lawmakers reconvene to begin legislative work.

Jan. 10—Governor must submit a proposed State Budget

Feb. 18—Last day to introduce a bill

April 7 to 18—Spring recess

May 27—Last day to pass bills out of the house of origin

June 15—State budget bill must be passed by midnight

July 1 to Aug. 1—Summer recess.

Aug. 31—Last day for each house to pass bills

Sept. 30—Last day for the Governor to sign or veto bills passed by the Legislature

CAPTA briefings and office hours

Join the California State PTA Legislation Team for an informational briefing, followed by an opportunity to speak with Legislation Team members in small group settings to ask questions and discuss effective ways to advocate at your school, district, and greater community, during office hour.

The briefing and office hour will take place on a select Tuesday each month at 7 p.m. The next briefing will be held on January 18.

To register to join the monthly advocacy briefing and office hour zoom meetings [click here](#).

Click [here](#) to watch the recording of the December 14 virtual briefing.