



Tips for getting your message across at a town hall meeting:

- **BE VISIBLE.** Wear a sticker! (look for folks handing them out at the town hall)
- **BE VOCAL.** During the Q&A period, get in line early. Ask a question. Ask lawmakers why they would keep unjustified tax breaks for Wall Street banks and private jet owners while they're cutting health care, education, and core services. Ask about how the budget cuts will affect our future and our quality of life. When you ask your question, be polite, but assertive.
- **BE PERSONAL.** Tell your personal story about how the budget cuts affect you, your family and your community.

Talking Points and Sample Questions

Our essential public services are on life support: In the past two years, over \$5 billion has already been cut from the education and healthcare services that protect our kids and communities. These programs are on life support, soon there will be nothing left. The additional \$4.6 billion in cuts being considered would devastate our future and our quality of life. These cuts hit hardest on the people that can least afford it. 100,000 people will lose their health insurance; class sizes continue to swell; tens of thousands of seniors and people with disabilities will lose their in-home care and their life-saving medication; health problems get worse as we abandon protections of clean water and clean up of toxic pollution; and working parents across the state lose access to childcare and are forced to pick between their job and their kids.

Cut unjustified corporate tax breaks instead of cutting services for our kids and communities: Legislators have a choice between cutting funding for schools and healthcare or cutting some of the 500 corporate tax breaks that cost our state billions every year. We should be closing the tax loopholes for private jet owners, Wall Street banks, and big polluters before we cut any more from schools, healthcare and services for seniors. **Do you support ending unjustified tax breaks to prevent deeper cuts to education, healthcare, and other services?**

Reform the tax system! We are making drastic cuts to education, healthcare and other essential services; why isn't the legislature looking at the billions we spend on tax breaks for Wall Street banks and special interests? Only a tiny number (17%) of over 500 special tax breaks have ever been reviewed, most of them have no sunset date, and the corporate fat cats don't even have to create any jobs. It's not fair. We need more accountability. **Do you support reform of the tax exemption system?**

Don't dig the hole deeper! We can't afford any new tax breaks that would make the deficit bigger. **Will you vote no on any new tax giveaway that adds to our budget deficit?**

Don't scapegoat immigrants and public workers: Teacher's, nurses, and firefighters didn't cause this recession and neither did tax paying immigrants. Keep the focus on real solutions like ending unjustified tax giveaways to special interests, and reforming the tax system. **Will you oppose legislation that uses the recession to scapegoat our public servants and immigrant communities?**

Give voters a choice! Tim Eyman's I-1053 makes it harder to close tax loopholes and end special treatment. Under this new law, closing a corporate loophole is treated the same as raising taxes, and requires either a very difficult two-thirds vote in the legislature or a vote of the people. **Will you support a referendum to give voters the opportunity to close some corporate loopholes and protect services for our families and communities?**

For more background information go to: www.oureconomicfuture.org

Please send any relevant notes or comments from the town hall to info@oureconomicfuture.org