



# HOST YOUR OWN CALIFORNIA BUDGET CHALLENGE PRESENTATION

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## INTRODUCTION:

The California Budget Challenge, produced by Next 10, was first developed in 2005 and is updated on an annual basis. The purpose of the California Budget Challenge (CBC) is to educate Californians on the tradeoffs that must be weighed in order to create the state budget. The web-based CBC tool invites users to develop their own state budget based on options currently being debated by the state's legislature and governor. While the online tool has more options to choose from, it has also been adapted for interactive, in-person events that Next 10 has hosted throughout the state for assemblymembers and organizations.

## OVERVIEW:

The purpose of this document and its associated materials is to empower individuals and organizations throughout the state to host their own California Budget Challenge events. The tool consists of a budget reserve & resiliency category (paying down debts and adding to the rainy day fund), spending categories (such as K-12 education or healthcare), and revenue categories (such as income or corporation tax). To help facilitate an engaging and educational event, Next 10 has pulled the most relevant and interesting budget options from the online tool to include in a presentation slide deck for public use. In addition to basic budget options and information, the slide deck also includes corresponding notes for each option, to provide presenters with key background and facts so that attendees can make the most informed decisions. Full details for each option can be found online at [www.budgetchallenge.org](http://www.budgetchallenge.org). The adapted, interactive presentation can be delivered in-person in 60-90 minutes, depending on length of audience questions and discussion.

## MATERIALS:

- Presentation slides and accompanying notes\*
- California Budget Challenge Worksheet\*
- Sheet of paper and pen to keep track of the surplus or deficit
- A way to keep track of the votes (see the **ADDITIONAL RESOURCES** section for suggestions)

*\*provided by Next 10*

## TO HOST YOUR OWN EVENT:

- **Keep track of your starting point:** Throughout the event, a host or event lead will need to track progress on spending vs. revenue. To begin, the group will start with a **\$5.8 billion surplus** for fiscal year 2020-21, and based on how the group votes for each option in the presentation, the surplus will go up or down, with an event host or lead tracking progress along the way.
- **Tally votes:** After going through the options on each slide, take a vote of the audience members to determine the group consensus, and adjust the starting surplus number based on the revenue generated or dollars spent from the consensus choice.
- **Start with reserves:** In addition to making choices on how much to spend vs. how much revenue to generate, audience members can decide how much they would like to add to reserves. We suggest starting with the reserves slide first, followed by the spending options, and then the revenue questions. This allows the audience to add to the reserve at the outset and still have the opportunity to make up revenue at the end if they get into a deficit during the spending questions.
- **Track changes to surplus or deficit:** To help expedite the event, it is much easier to keep track of changes to the surplus or deficit, rather than the changing total budget amount.
- **Dig deeper:** Should you or your event participants be interested, you can learn more about each option with our background information and supplemental facts. These are available in the notes section of the presentation slides so that the presenter is able to provide more context on each of the options, as well as the current state of the budget. This year, Next 10 has also launched a new **Budget Basics** series of two-page backgrounders as an educational resource to provide more context and background information on the components of the state budget.

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## ADDITIONAL RESOURCES:

To learn more about the budget development process:

- [Legislative Analyst's Office](#) (LAO)
- [California Budget & Policy Center](#)

For ideas on how to track votes at your event:

- Show-of-hands
- Online polling options such as Slido (note: requires participants to have a smartphone, tablet, or laptop)
  - If using an online platform such as Zoom to deliver your presentation, polling features may be available
- Invest in clickers for interactive events (note: requires investment in both the hardware and software)
  - Please contact us for more information if you are interested in this option

Have you hosted an event using the presentation? We want to hear from you!  
Please let us know if you have any questions or feedback by emailing [info@next10.org](mailto:info@next10.org)