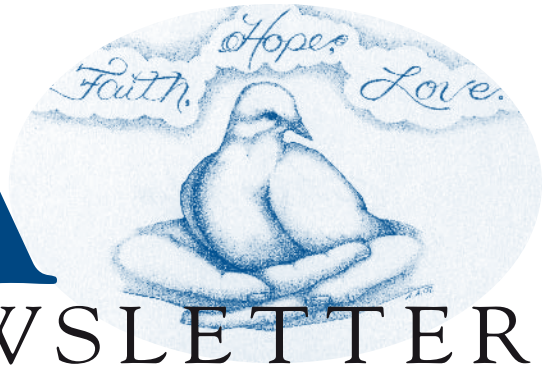


FCLCA NEWSLETTER



Vol. 59, No. 4 FRIENDS COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATION OF CALIFORNIA December 2010

Beacon in a Stormy Sea? Governor-elect and new Legislature begin work on budget

Seven years ago while running for governor, repairing California's fiscal mess was a central theme of then-candidate Schwarzenegger's successful bid to unseat Governor Gray Davis. When asked how he would fix the state's fiscal problems, candidate Schwarzenegger made repeated references to cutting waste and inefficiency, tearing up the state's credit card and sweeping out the special interests. When he arrived in Sacramento, the new governor, amid much fanfare, immediately signed an executive order rolling back the state's Vehicle License Fee (VLF).

The governor's first official act increased the state's structural deficit by \$4 billion annually. Because the governor and Legislature agreed to backfill the loss of VLF funds to local governments resulting from the roll-back, the politically popular VLF reduction amounted to a raid on the state's General Fund. As he faced a \$15 billion deficit in his first budget go around, the governor had to confront a villain larger than any encountered on the silver screen – a legislature gridlocked by partisanship and paralyzed by constitutional constraints. California's budget was further constrained by the passage of voter initiatives that locked in new spending without providing a funding source. Schwarzenegger persuaded voters to pass Proposition 57 to refinance the state's yet-to-be-issued deficit financing bonds (also referred to as "economic recovery bonds") over a longer period. In the short term, this reduced the annual debt service costs and freed General Fund dollars in fiscal year 2004-2005,



avoiding unpopular spending cuts. In an ominous sign of budget wizardry and creative accounting measures to come, Proposition 57 merely pushed the problem into the future and increased General Fund costs in future years.

These scenarios illustrate the tension between the state and local governments, as well as the reliance on stop-gap measures that stem from the Legislature's inability to secure the revenues necessary to avoid further shrinking the state's safety net and deeper cuts to education. While Schwarzenegger's experiences as governor have arguably tempered the irrational exuberance

(Continued on next page)

Friends Committee on Legislation of California (FCLCA)

1225 8th Street, Suite 220
 Sacramento, California 95814
 (916) 443-3734
 fclca.org

Board of Directors 2010

- Laurel Gord, *Clerk*
Santa Monica Friends Meeting
- Betsy Morris, *Associate Clerk*
Strawberry Creek Friends Meeting
- George Millikan, *Treasurer*
Berkeley Friends Meeting
- Stephen Myers, *Recording Clerk*
Sacramento Friends Meeting
- Elizabeth Ralston
Santa Monica Friends Meeting
- David Jaber
Berkeley Friends Meeting
- Nancy Lynch
Santa Barbara Friends Meeting
- Joe Magruder
Berkeley Friends Meeting
- Lillian Henegar
Sacramento Friends Meeting
- Steve Birdlebough
Redwood Forest Friends Meeting
- Sarsh Levine
Santa Cruz Friends Meeting
- Sherrri Sisson
Orange County Friends Meeting

Staff

- Jim Lindburg,
Legislative Director
JimL@fclca.org
- Kevan Insko, *Director of Development and Outreach*
Kevan@fclca.org
- Dale Richter,
Office Administrator
Dale@fclca.org

Newsletter Design and Layout
 Debbi Tempel
 Tempeltype@sbcglobal.net

“The Friends Committee on Legislation of California (FCLCA), guided by Quaker values, advocates for California state laws that are just, compassionate and respectful of the inherent worth of every person.”

that defined his first campaign, his earlier actions reinforce the myth that Californians can maintain adequate levels of government services without having to pay for them.

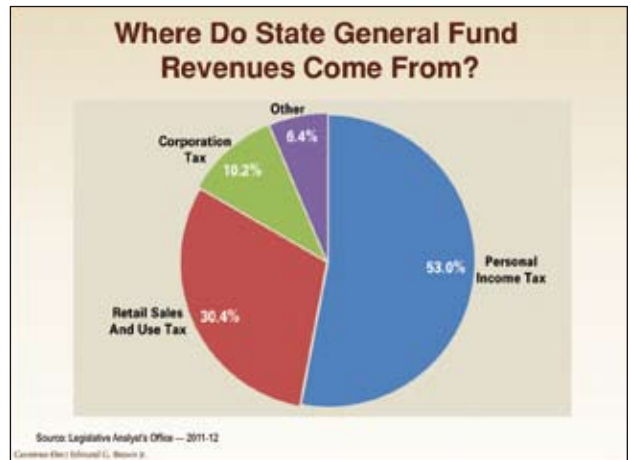
With the upcoming expiration of temporary tax increases, loss of federal stimulus funds, the recent passage of new measures restricting legislative options combined with rising debt service costs and the slow pace of the economic recovery, the state’s fiscal condition will further deteriorate without corrective action. It is in this context that Governor-elect Jerry Brown recently held a budget summit in Sacramento for legislators, local government officials and the media. While not intended to solve the state’s perpetual budget crisis, the summit hopes to create a starting point for budget negotiations by arriving at consensus on the size and scope of the problem.

State’s fiscal condition to worsen

Indeed the state’s fiscal condition is dire. The deficit is so large that closing all prisons and shutting down every University of California and California State University campus would not bridge the gap between revenues and expenditures. Barely a month after Governor Schwarzenegger signed a record 100-day late Budget in October, the Legislative Analyst’s Office (LAO) released its annual fiscal outlook and pegged the budget deficit at \$25 billion between now and the end of the next fiscal year in June 2012. Moreover,

the state stands to lose an additional \$2.7 billion annually if a compromise accepted by the Obama administration to reduce the estate tax becomes law.

The LAO’s \$25 billion figure includes a \$6 billion shortfall for the current fiscal year due in large part to rosy assumptions made in the 2010-2011 budget agreement. These include the expectation of higher federal



stimulus funding that has not materialized, as well as higher than anticipated costs for prisons, state employee compensation and Medi-Cal (California’s version of Medicaid).

The expiration of temporary tax increases after June 30th will result in an annual revenue loss of \$8.3 billion. Losses of federal stimulus funds will add \$4.5 billion to the imbalance. The full impacts of Propositions 22 and 26 and an ongoing \$5-6 billion gap between revenues and

IN THIS ISSUE ...

- FCLCA Perspective Page 1
- FCLCA On the Move..... Page 5
- FCLCA In Action..... Page 6
- Reflections on Giving Page 9
- Your Voice, Your Values Page 10

November Midterm Election Update

California contradicted the nation's Republican tide in part due to the state's strong Latino voter turnout. Latino voters accounted for 22 percent of the turnout in the November election, compared to 19 percent in 2006, the state's previous midterm election. With the late victory of Kamala Harris (D-San Francisco) for Attorney General, Democrats won all seats for statewide office.

California voters approved allowing the State Legislature to approve a budget (spending plan) by a majority vote instead of the current, two-thirds, super-majority requirement. At the same time, they voted to restrict the Legislature's revenue options by prohibiting the taking or borrowing funds from local governments and redevelopment agencies and to make it more difficult to pass regulatory fees. The two-thirds supermajority requirement still remains in effect for tax increases. Passage of Proposition 26 will also void the fuel tax - fuel fee swap that was passed by a simple majority vote to enable a \$1 billion shift in transportation bond costs from the General Fund to transportation funds as a "solution" in the state's current year budget.

Voters rejected Proposition 24, which would have rescinded corporate tax breaks approved in midnight hour budget negotiations and overwhelmingly rejected Proposition 23, which would have suspended California's landmark "AB 32" to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

The partisan composition of the State Legislature stays virtually the same. Democrats picked up two seats in the Assembly, though one of those seats replaces Independent Juan Arambula who quit the Democratic Party in June of 2009, but voted with them on budget matters. Arambula, who termed out, will be succeeded by Democrat Henry Perea. In Assembly District 5, which includes eastern Sacramento County, Democrat Richard Pan will succeed Republican Roger Niello of Fair Oaks who also termed out. Pan defeated Republican Andy Pugno, who helped draft Proposition 8, the amendment to the California Constitution which stripped same sex couples of the right to marry and is currently being challenged in federal court. Democrats now control 52 seats, two shy of a two-thirds majority to approve revenue increases.

In the State Senate, no seats changed parties; however, the Senate will be slightly more centrist with the departure of Senator Gloria Romero (D-Los Angeles) due to term limits. Romero was very favorable to FCLCA having chaired the Senate Public Safety Committee and having conducted numerous oversight hearings as co-chair of the Senate Select Committee on California's Correctional System. In recent years, there has not been a committee devoted to oversight of the state's prison system, while the need for this is perhaps never more evident (see interview with Norman Skonovd on page 6). Romero was also one of the few legislators to vote against AB 900, which authorizes the construction of 40,000 new prison beds and 13,000 new jail beds.

There are currently two vacancies in the Senate. In Senate District 28, the late-Senator Jenny Oropeza defeated her Republican opponent. The governor has until December 20 to call a special election. The seat is likely to remain in Democratic hands.

In Senate District 1, which stretches from eastern Sacramento County to the Nevada border and north to the Oregon border, Assembly Member Ted Gaines (R-Roseville) will face Democrat Ken Cooley in a January 4 runoff to replace the late Senator Dave Cox. This race provides us with our first look at the state's Top Two Vote Getter Primary rules approved by voters earlier this year as Proposition 14. The primary included four candidates, three Republicans in addition to Cooley and voters were allowed to vote for any of the four candidates. Gaines, who is arguably the most conservative of the three Republicans received less votes than the other two Republican candidates combined but still managed to come out on top. Given the district's conservative registration, it is difficult to draw any lessons on the impact of the new primary system from this race. Gaines will likely cruise to an easy victory in January.

When both vacancies are filled, Democrats will likely hold a 25-15 vote advantage, two votes shy of the two-thirds requirement to raise revenues. [FCLCA](#)

– Jim Lindburg <JimL@fclca.org>

expenditures dating back to the dotcom collapse results in a \$19 billion shortfall in the following fiscal year which begins July 1 and ends June 30, 2012. Looking further ahead, California also has unfunded pension liabilities ranging anywhere from \$100 to \$500 billion.

State spending out of control?

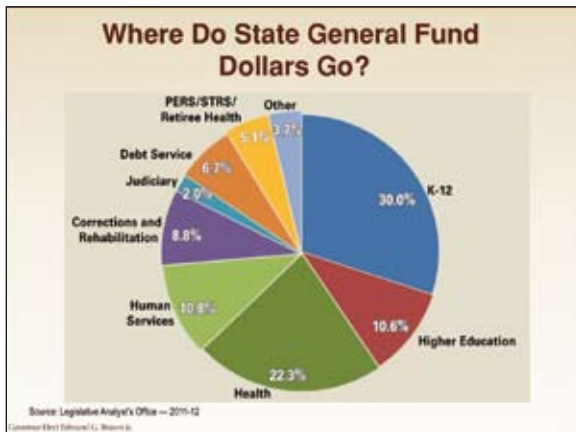
While conservatives have framed the state's fiscal problems as out-of-control spending, Assembly Speaker John Perez (D-Los Angeles) pointed out that in 2007, the LAO had forecast

General Fund revenues of \$125 billion for fiscal year 2011-2012. The LAO has since revised that estimate downward to \$83 billion, a loss of one-third. California relies heavily on the personal income tax, sales tax and corpo-

(Continued on next page)

rate tax. According to the LAO, the “Big 3” tax collections have declined by roughly 27 percent since January 2008.

California went into the Great Recession in poor fiscal shape with a \$7 billion structural deficit so there were no reserves to cushion the impact of the economic collapse. In 2008, with the recession in full swing, General Fund revenues dropped dramatically by \$20 billion. The gap was filled by temporary tax increases, federal stimulus funds, borrowing, redirecting local government funds, various accounting gimmicks and spending cuts that have resulted in painful reductions in services to those in need, as well as layoffs for 27,000 public school teachers. It has also resulted in higher



fees to attend state universities and colleges. The impact of these cuts is magnified when taking into account the increased demand for government services as a result of the recession. California has lost over 1 million jobs since the recession began and though the state has experienced some recent job growth, our high unemployment rate is not expected to recover to pre-recession levels until 2015.

In recent years, voters have also approved the issuance of General Obligation bonds to finance improvements to California’s infrastructure. In 2007, the Legislature passed AB 900, Jose Solorio (D-Santa Ana), which authorizes the issuance of \$7 billion in lease revenue bonds to finance 40,000 new prison beds and 13,000 new jail beds. According to the State Treasurer’s Office, California’s outstanding debt has increased from \$34 billion in 2003 to \$91 billion today. The cost of the debt service is now approaching \$6 billion per year. The state also has \$49 billion in authorized but unissued bonds. The debt service cost is slated to increase anywhere from 7.6 percent to 9.6 percent of total General Fund spending when all authorized

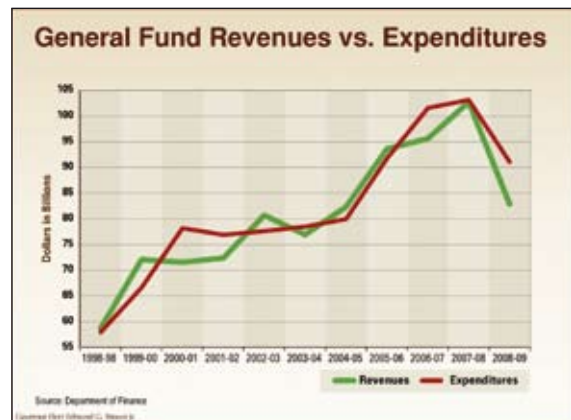
Temporary Solutions		
1 Federal Stimulus Funds	2008-09 to 2010-11	\$17.4
2 Expiring Tax Measures (2010-11 Value)	2009-10	6.3
	SUBTOTAL	\$25.7
Solutions That Can't Be Repeated		
1 Accelerate Collection of Personal Income Tax and Corporate Taxes	2008-09 and 2009-10	\$6.5
2 One-Time Shift of Property Taxes from Redevelopment Agencies	2009-10 and 2010-11	2.1
3 Medi-Cal Program Budget Costs on a "Cash Basis"	2005-06	0.9
4 Shift State Employee Payroll from June 30th to July 1 st	2009-10	0.8
	SUBTOTAL	\$10.3
Solutions That Made the Future Deficit Worse		
1 Economic Recovery Bonds	Various	\$14.6
2 Sale of Future Tobacco Litigation Funds	Various	7.6
3 Loans from Special Funds	Various	3.5
4 Borrowing from Local Government	2009-10	2.0
5 Sale of State Buildings	2010-11	1.2
6 Deferral of State Mandates	Various	1.2
	SUBTOTAL	\$30.1
	GRAND TOTAL	\$66.1

Source: Department of Finance, except for Expiring Tax Measures (Legislative Analyst's Office)

bonds are issued. It will grow even more if voters approve a massive water bond originally scheduled for the November 2010 ballot that was delayed until 2012. California currently has the lowest credit rating of any state, which results in higher interest costs.

The way forward

The conventional wisdom assumes that voters do not want to pay more taxes and is reinforced by the recent rejection of Propositions 21 and 24. Proposition 21 would have provided funding for state parks by increasing the annual Vehicle License Fee by \$18, and Proposition 24 would have rolled back recent corporate tax breaks. Voters also ratified Proposition 26 which raises the threshold for the Legislature to raise fees from a simple majority



vote to a two-thirds supermajority. A recent Los Angeles Times-USC poll found broad support for spending cuts over tax increases but also found that voters do not want to cut programs other than prisons, believing falsely that by reducing waste and inefficiency, the state could avoid reductions in government services.

Voters also placed further limits on legislative budget options by approving Propositions 22 and

(Continued on page 11)

FCLCA in a Time of Change

A letter from our clerk Laurel Gord

Dear Friends,

As the year winds down and I think about what I am grateful for, the opportunity to be involved with FCLCA is near the top of my list. I'm grateful to all of you who are involved with FCLCA with me. We continue to work together at this difficult time in our state's history to create the "golden state" that we know California can be. Knowing we can count on your partnership strengthens and inspires us – never more so than this past year, which has been a time of deep soul-searching for those of us on the FCLCA board.

It all started with the decision to engage in a strategic planning process. As many of you know, FCLCA is the longest-running social justice lobby in Sacramento. Friends came together in 1952 to form FCLCA as a direct response to the fear-based McCarthyism that resulted in California adopting a "loyalty oath." Since that time, together we have lobbied for – and achieved – much. And along the way we've supported other groups, such as farm workers, in creating their own lobbying organizations. We've gone from being the only game in town to one amongst many.

We thought it was time to ask ourselves how this reality affected our mission. We asked ourselves, why FCLCA? And since I, personally, am a very frugal person who likes to get my money's worth, and wants that for others also, I had to hear some pretty good answers.

We surveyed the landscape by calling and interviewing other groups we've worked with, and this is what we heard:

- *From an organization that lobbies on criminal justice issues:* "The faith voice that FCLCA brings is so important. People see us as a bunch of 'liberal criminal huggers,' but they know that you come to your positions from deeply-held beliefs that go back hundreds of years."
- *From other faith-based groups:* "We so value the perspective, experience, expertise, and leadership that FCLCA brings to criminal justice issues. No group can do everything, and so when criminal justice issues come up we call Jim (Lindburg, FCLCA legislative director) to get his take on them."
- *From groups who care about the same issues but don't have a lobby:* "Thank

goodness for FCLCA! When issues concerning the death penalty, gun control...come before the Legislature, we call on FCLCA and you always come through for us."

These responses were gratifying! And they brought us to our next question.

Given that the kind of criminal justice issues FCLCA tackles tend to be complex, difficult and politically dangerous – issues that don't lend themselves to sound bites and don't directly affect most of our financial supporters – and recognizing that there are many other issues that deserve attention, should we change or broaden our focus?

Hmm..It took a lot of time and thought to grapple with and come to unity on this one. Here's where we stand: While we will always provide a voice of support for the other issues which we hold near and dear, we intend, for the time being, to sharpen our criminal justice focus and to use our unique voice of conscience to change the conversation and to make a difference.

We're building our Action Network of activists ready to respond quickly by writing their legislators and putting together delegations to legislative offices. We're building a new website that will make it easier, faster and more effective for you to be politically active. We're working more closely than ever with coalition partners to educate the public, and, as always, we're testifying and lobbying at the Capitol – using our voice of conscience and our expertise to have an impact on specific bills.

Over the past thirty years our prison population has exploded, disproportionately affecting people of color. Our work speaks for those among us – like prisoners and their families – who are least likely to have a voice when laws are made. We also know that California's criminal justice crisis affects all Californians, and so we call for a realignment of our state's budget that reflects the real needs of our people.

Thank you for your past support and partnership. The recent elections offer us our best hope in years to save our state – our best chance in years to end the death penalty, rethink our failed drug policies and reform our prison system. Working together, I believe that we can make a difference. Let us then see what love can do.

Wishing you the best of the season and an engaged, productive New Year! **FCLCA**

– Laurel Gord, Santa Monica Friends Meeting

Corrections without Cruelty

An interview with Norman Skonovd

On December 7, 2010, the front page of the *Sacramento Bee* featured a story by Charles Piller headlined “California Senate probe rips prison watchdogs.” It read

California Senate leaders have released the results of a seven-month investigation into allegations of prisoner abuse at High Desert State Prison. Their probe, launched in response to a *Bee* investigation in April, found that officials from the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation and from the Office of the Inspector General failed to investigate and address claims of staff misconduct from multiple sources, including corrections department researchers.

The Senate’s investigation was prompted by a two-part investigative series on conditions at High Desert State Prison (HDSP) in Susanville by Piller which appeared in the *Bee* May 9 and 10, 2010. Piller documented that allegations of serious abuse and violations of constitutional rights had been

...for over 30 years, there was an increasingly punitive stance towards criminals and the loss of the idea that criminals can be rehabilitated.

reported to the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) since the summer of 2007 by various sources, including prisoners themselves through the CDCR complaint process, prisoners’ family members, and human rights advocate Laura Magnani of American Friends Service Committee.

According to the *Bee*, these allegations were also reported to CDCR headquarters by a team of CDCR researchers who visited HDSP in July 2007 to evaluate the effectiveness of the “Behavioral Modification Unit” or BMU, a pilot program introduced into six California prisons in 2005 to deal with prisoners who for various reasons had not adjusted well to the general population. As part of the evaluation process, researchers

interviewed six inmates in the BMU who shared stories of brutality and violations of both human rights standards and CDCR’s own guidelines. Upon returning to CDCR headquarters, the researchers, in compliance with their professional training, reported the allegations to superiors. However, according to the Senate’s report, these allegations were never properly investigated or resolved. Additionally, two of the researchers later filed complaints that they were subject to retaliation due to their “whistleblowing” activities. The evaluation report on the BMU at High Desert was published on the CDCR’s website years after its completion, only appearing after Piller inquired about the report in April 2010 .

As reports of alleged abuse surfaced this year in May, organizations such as AFSC and FCLCA requested a state Senate investigation into the allegations and the response (or lack of response) of CDCR and the Office of Inspector General, which is charged to be an independent watchdog over corrections.

According to the *Bee* article of December 7, 2010

The agencies’ response to allegations of brutality by guards at the experimental “behavior modification unit” from 2005 through 2007 was “inadequate, ad hoc, and displayed the absence of a uniform and reliable system of response, referral and follow-through,” wrote Senate President Pro Tem Darrell Steinberg, D-Sacramento, and Senate Public Safety Committee Chairman Mark Leno, D-San Francisco.

FCLCA recently interviewed Norman Skonovd, one of the CDCR researchers who reported allegations of abuse in 2007, about these events and about the issues that led to this Senate report, as well as his views of California’s prison system. Norman holds a Ph.D. in sociology from UC Davis and has conducted research in California’s corrections system for over 27 years.

We applaud the high level of ethics and professionalism demonstrated by Norman Skonovd and others who work in corrections to bring to light allegations that deserve to be thoroughly

and impartially investigated. We appreciate the determination shown by prisoners and their family members and advocates to keep these issues from being “swept under the rug,” out of the light of public scrutiny.

What is your reaction to the results of the Senate’s probe?

I was pleased that the Legislature was following through, addressing problems in CDCR that relate to investigating misconduct. The “Code of Silence” which can allow abuse to occur undetected is still operating strongly, and there is a presumption that inmates lie all the time and correctional officers do not.

Back in 2005, when the Youth Authority, the Department of Corrections and other correctional agencies were consolidated into the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation, there was a big push to end the Code of Silence. All employees were trained to report misconduct or allegations of abuse. Naively, perhaps, my two colleagues and I thought that was what was expected of us. I thought that the administrators would want to know about this, so that if there were issues at HDSP, the problem could be nipped in the bud.

We knew, of course, that inmates don’t always tell the truth and that they can be experts at manipulation – but in this case, there were three of us doing the research and we all heard some of the same stories while interviewing separately. The allegations were serious and needed to be investigated: in one case a prisoner showed me documentation that seemed to confirm he was being denied medical services that had been ordered at another prison.

Tell us more about the BMUs. Are allegations of mistreatment more prevalent in the BMU, which deals with “problem inmates”?

The idea of the BMU was to take “troublesome” inmates out of the general population units where they were preventing other inmates from programming and put them in a step program where they would receive training and gradually earn their way back to the general population – a carrot and stick approach. They entered the program with many privileges removed or minimized; as they completed each step they earned back privileges. The BMU program plan included training and treatment in things such as anger management – a teacher was assigned to them, etc. But the program needed more staff to succeed and the extra positions did not come through. At this point all of the BMUs have been eliminated.

But no, I don’t see this as an issue with BMUs

particularly. Mistreatment of prisoners can occur throughout the system in varying degrees depending upon the prison, particularly the location of the prison, its staff and management, and depending on the operation of a given unit in the prison. Most correctional officers are well-trained, conscientious people who perform their job duties professionally. Unfortunately, there are some, who for whatever reason, seem to be there to take out their frustrations on others.

Their probe ... found that officials from the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation and from the Office of the Inspector General failed to investigate and address claims of staff misconduct from multiple sources, including corrections department researchers.

– Sacramento Bee

Location matters – in places like High Desert State Prison, which is in an isolated spot between Reno and Chico, it can be difficult to recruit staff. A majority of prisoners are African-American and Latino, but the surrounding area is largely white and it is extremely difficult to recruit officers of color to move there. This disparity can lead to problems. There is also a lack of volunteers, social workers and health profes-

sionals that you find in more urban areas. The reason so many prisons are in isolated areas is that urban areas tend to have a NIMBY attitude toward prisons, while smaller rural communities may invite them as a source of jobs and economic activity.

What trends have you seen in your years with the criminal justice system?

I think a critical factor is that for over 30 years, there was an increasingly punitive stance towards criminals and the loss of the idea that criminals can be rehabilitated. While there is certainly no “magic bullet,” there are things that do work.

In the mid-1970’s, California did away with indeterminate sentencing and many of its former rehabilitation programs. A generation of correctional staff has worked under this “get tough,” punishment-oriented system.

The “get tough” philosophy became pervasive throughout the English-speaking world, except in Canada, which became a leader in evidence-based

(Continued on next page)

corrections. California used to be a leader in rehabilitative programs, and there are still some in place such as the Prison Industry Authority, but programs have been cut drastically – almost in half last year. In the last few years, there has been a big change in criminal justice circles, and the thinking now is that inmates can be rehabilitated if evidence-based programs are put in place. CDCR is a part of this movement – after all, “Rehabilitation” was included in the name of the new consolidated correctional agency – but the budget crisis has made it very difficult, if not impossible, to carry this forward.

I do see some evidence that attitudes are changing, and all inmates now receive case plans. There is an innovative program in San Diego that identifies the training and treatment needs of inmates before they arrive in prison. A case plan is developed, and this is followed through their incarceration and during their parole.

What are some changes you would like to see?

I'd like to see the Brown Administration bring some new blood into CDCR's administration and a legislative commission to do an independent investigation into conditions in our prisons. I'd like to see the Research functions be separated from CDCR and be accountable to the governor and/or Legislature – perhaps housed at a university.

You've had years of experience inside California's prison system and the academic background to assess the systems of other states and countries. What have you seen that would work?

I really admire the Scandinavian criminal justice system. It's

about as nonpunitive as you can get – their philosophy is that being incarcerated itself is the punishment; there is no need to punish beyond that. There are a large number of prisons and their populations are kept small – Sweden, for example, has a total of 86 institutions and there are generally 100 prisoners or fewer in each – the largest has 350 prisoners. Compare that to around

95% of all inmates will be released eventually – it is certainly in society's best interests not to have them come out worse off than when they went in.

5,000 for the average California prison.

You'll hear defenders of our prison system talk about the advantages of an economy of scale in prison size. However, larger populations in each institution also mean you have a critical mass for any kind of problem group; for example, among 5,000 inmates, each of the major gangs will have a sizeable number of members. There's also a level of anonymity among inmates and staff that you would not find in a 100-inmate prison and this, in my opinion, is not conducive in creating the proper context for rehabilitation nor the best ethical decision-making.

Scandinavia does have some high security prisons, but these are kept very clean; cells are designed more humanely; they have work for prisoners along with training and education programs. Prisoners receive access to the same government-provided, high-

quality medical care that serves all Scandinavians.

In California itself, there have been programs that have been demonstrated to work, particularly at the former Youth Authority, but also in the adult prisons. Some of the programs on substance abuse for women prisoners are good examples of this.

Ironically, a lot of the research on evidence-based corrections – on what does work – was carried out here in California, but never implemented here because of the “get tough” policies and a concern for economy of scale. The Canadians and eventually other states picked up on this and used this research to build their model program.

As I see it, the problem is that we take people in, we lock them up, we don't treat them well, and then they are released angrier than ever, with no skills – back to the same community they came from. When you have a society like ours with such inequality – where the people at the lowest socioeconomic level are denied living wage jobs and adequate housing, it's an uphill battle. This is not just a prison issue; it's a structural issue of access to education, jobs, and housing.

The public and lawmakers need to understand that *95% of all inmates will be released eventually* – it is certainly in society's best interests not to have them come out worse off than when they went in. **FCLCA**

For more information on the allegations of abuse at High Desert State Prison and the resulting Senate probe, see the articles by Charles Piller at www.sacbee.com.

YES, I want to support FCLCA's Work!

We invite you to partner with us to keep a voice of conscience alive and strong in Sacramento. **NEW: Now you can give online when you visit fclca.org.** We especially need monthly sustainers – for just \$10 a month, you can be sure that California legislators hear a voice that speaks with your values.

NAME _____

YOUR EMAIL (Important: to send you FCLCA alerts and updates) _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY, STATE, ZIP _____ PHONE _____

I'd like to become a Monthly Sustainer of FCLCA.

TO: FCLCA (for lobbying, not tax-deductible) FCL Education Fund (tax-deductible)

Amount: \$100 \$50 \$35 \$20 Other _____ (\$10 min.)

Method of payment:

- Automatic withdrawal from my bank account (FCLCA will send you an authorization form to fill out.)
- Charge my credit card – my information is below.
- I'll give online at fclca.org

I'd like to make a gift of: \$500 \$250 \$200 \$100

\$75 \$50 \$35 Other _____

(A gift of \$35 and above includes *Newsletter* subscription.)

TO: FCLCA (for lobbying, not tax-deductible) FCL Education Fund (tax-deductible)

I'd like to sponsor a prisoner's subscription. \$35 Other _____

Method of payment:

- Check enclosed Charge my credit card – my information is below.
- I'll give online at fclca.org

CREDIT CARD INFORMATION: Amount to charge \$ _____

Per Month One-Time Gift VISA MASTERCARD

Account Number _____

Card Security Code (3-digit number on back of card) _____ Exp. Date _____

Name on Account _____

Signature _____

Address, City, State, Zip _____

Telephone (required) _____

E-Mail (if you have one) _____

- Yes, you may send me Action Alerts and online newsletters.

Friends Committee on Legislation of California
 1225 8th Street, Suite 220 • Sacramento, CA 95814-4809
 Phone: (916) 443-3734 • Fax: (916) 448-6109

The Policies that Guide Us

How does FCLCA’s staff know what to support and what to oppose when legislation is proposed? What is an “FCLCA position” and how do we know it is in line with our core values?

The work of FCLCA – its lobbying and advocacy concerns – are guided by **Policy Statements** developed by the Policy Committee of the FCLCA Board and approved by FCLCA’s General Committee.

Every year, the Policy Committee reviews a portion of our 17 policy statements.

The Committee invites participation from Friends all over California to discuss and revise them, and after a months-long process, presents drafts of the revised policies to the FCLCA General Committee at its statewide meeting in December.

On December 4, 2010 the General Committee approved four policy revisions in the area of Human Rights: Agricultural Labor, Civil Liberties, Equal Opportunities and Open Government. In this issue, we’d like to share with you two of our revised policies: Equal Opportunities and Agricultural Labor.

Equal Opportunities

All persons are entitled to the opportunities and resources necessary for them to realize their full potential. These opportunities and resources include housing, employment, child care, health care, education, job training, assistance in business, and consumer education, credit and insurance. No individual should be denied opportunity on the basis of class or group characteristics, such as race, religion, gender, gender-identity, skin color, language, national origin, culture, age, sexual orientation, physical or mental condition, or economic status. FCLCA supports equality of civil marriage for all.

We believe that society must take action on behalf of those who have not had fair access to any aspect of community life because of such discrimination. We urge positive efforts such as aggressive recruiting, special training, employment services and financial assistance in order to provide the opportunities and resources these individuals need.

Agricultural Labor

The Friends Committee on Legislation strongly affirms the value of all who work in food production. We recognize that of God in everyone; therefore, we feel compelled to single out the farm worker. We support legislation which seeks to give agricultural workers parity with other workers, while emphasizing that the



unique circumstances of agricultural employment require special protection for farm workers. Practices which degrade workers, such as low wages, unfair overtime, the use of child labor, exposure to toxic chemicals, or disregard of protective health measures, are unacceptable.

Therefore, we support legislation which provides protection for farm workers, whether citizens, immigrants, or here under special arrangements. We advocate for:

- continued farm worker representation on the Agricultural Labor Relations Board, as well as the provision of adequate staff to enforce the Board’s function in a vigorous manner;
- full support of democratic, non-violent farm worker union activity;
- protection of workers hired through labor contractors to assure that the workers are not isolated from protections they would have if working directly for growers;
- protection of farm workers and their families from hazards of the work place by eliminating avoidable hazards, and eliminating exposure to toxic chemicals;

■ safe and humane working conditions including access to clean water;

■ workers' benefits including social security, employer-paid medical insurance where workers are not already covered by medical insurance, unemployment insurance, worker's compensation insurance coverage, and access to health care. All worker benefits



must include portability between employers;

■ availability of publicly and privately financed affordable housing that meet health and safety standards, including during times of involuntary unemployment;

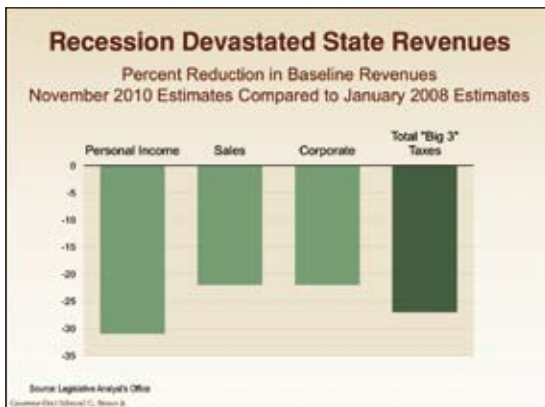
■ access to education that compensates for the family mobility that agricultural work often requires. [FCLCA](#)

FCLCA Perspective (continued from page 4)

26. Proposition 22 prohibits the Legislature from shifting funding from local government and redevelopment agencies to the state's General Fund. In addition to making it harder to raise fees, Proposition 26 also voids the complicated "fuel tax swap" that allows the Legislature to pay for debt service

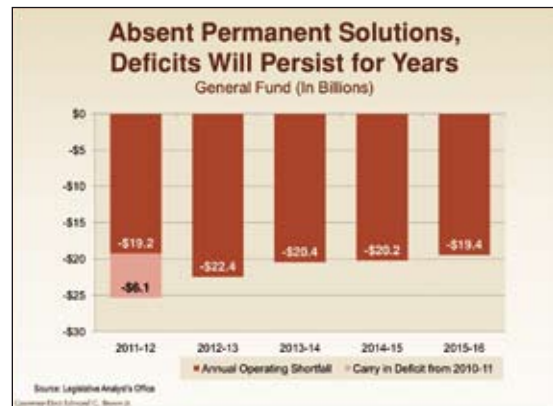
are unavoidable. FCLCA has advocated for shared sacrifices that do not balance the budget on the backs of those in need of government services or undermine our investments in education and infrastructure which are the engines of economic progress. Given that the Congress appears ready to extend federal tax cuts for the wealthiest taxpayers, perhaps now is the time to revisit measures adopted by former governors Wilson and Reagan that increased the state's top tax rates.

Without adequate revenues, government's ability to meet the increased demand for services is mercilessly linked to the business cycle. When the economy recedes, government services should



from transportation funds from fees collected on gasoline instead of from the state's General Fund. We will know much more about where the Brown administration wants to go when the new governor releases his first budget proposal January 10. During his campaign, Governor-elect Brown vowed not to raise taxes without voter approval. Brown has also suggested realigning some state services to the local level. To the extent that services can be realigned, local governments will require dedicated revenue sources and will insist upon discretion over how the funds are spent.

The first step toward solving a problem is to understand the problem. Clearly state spending is not out of control. Of course when revenues decline as steeply as in recent years, spending cuts



provide a much needed economic boost. Given a full understanding of the problem, might voters opt for some tax increases or the continuation of temporary taxes that are set to expire? As California makes difficult choices, let's hope that substance prevails over rhetoric and that informed decisions are made for the benefit of the common good. [FCLCA](#)


– Jim Lindburg <JimL@fclca.org>

**FRIENDS COMMITTEE ON
LEGISLATION OF CALIFORNIA**

1225 8th Street, Ste. 220

Sacramento, CA 95814-4809

Website: <http://www.fclca.org>

 Printed on recycled paper with soy-based inks

Thank You



**Berkeley Friends Meeting
Chico Friends Meeting
Appleseed Friends Meeting
Pacific Yearly Meeting
San Francisco Friends Meeting
Grass Valley Friends Meeting
Santa Cruz Friends Meeting
Santa Monica Friends Meeting
Southern California Quarterly Meeting
Whittier Friends Church
Santa Barbara Friends Meeting**

The Friends Committee on Legislation of California (FCLCA) includes Friends and like-minded persons, a majority of whom are appointed by Monthly Meetings of the Religious Society of Friends in California.

Expressions of views in this newsletter are guided by Statements of Policy prepared and approved by the FCLCA Committees. Seeking to follow the leadings of the Spirit, the FCLCA speaks for itself and for like-minded Friends. No organization can speak officially for the Religious Society of Friends.

While we strive above all for correctness and probity, we are quick to recognize that to err is human. We therefore solicit and welcome comments and corrections from our readers.

PHOTO CREDITS:

All photos: istockphoto.com