

Strengthening the Legislative Branch: Possible Reforms to Enhance Policy and Budget Development

Senate and Assembly Select Committees on Improving State Government
October 22, 2009

9:00 AM–12:30 PM – Possible Legislative Branch Reforms
Lunch Break 12:30–1:15 PM
1:15–4:30 PM – Possible Budget Process Reforms – "Part One"
Room 4202, State Capitol

- I. Introductory Remarks by Chairs and Ranking Minority Members (9:00-9:10)
- Review by Chairs of the Select Committees' process, including upcoming hearings

MORNING SESSION – LEGISLATIVE BRANCH REFORM DISCUSSION

- II. Reform Efforts in California (9:10-9:30)
- Review of past efforts at reform, perspectives as to whether those areas of reform may still be relevant today, and a review of areas of reform that the Legislature has started to address

Witness: William Hauck, Chairman, California Constitution Revision Commission

- III. "Federal and State Models of Legislative Decision-Making" (9:30-10:00)
- Review by Karl Kurtz of the National Conference of State Legislatures Regarding Contrasting State Legislative Procedures That May Be of Interest to the Committees
- IV. Options For Addressing Pressing Issues, Increasing Bipartisanship, Conducting More Extensive Oversight, and Strengthening the Integrity of the Legislative Process (10:00-11:30)

Among the legislative branch reform issues to be addressed:

- *How can the Legislature function better? What's not working well?*
- *How can the Legislature better focus on and prioritize California's most pressing issues?*
- *How can the Legislature foster more bipartisanship?*
- *How can the Legislature enhance its oversight and investigative functions?*
- *How can the stability of the legislative branch be improved?*
- *How can the transparency and integrity of the legislative process be strengthened?*
- *How can changes to the legislative calendar improve efficiency, provide opportunities for greater oversight, and bring legislators closer to their constituents?*

Witnesses:

- Bill Lockyer, State Treasurer and former President Pro Tem of the California State Senate
- Robert Naylor, current member of "Third House" and former Republican Leader of the California State Assembly

- Bruce Cain, Executive Director of the U.C. Washington Center and former Director of the Institute of Governmental Studies of the University of California at Berkeley
- Dr. Jaime Regalado, Director of the Edmund G. "Pat" Brown Institute of Public Affairs in Los Angeles
- AG Block, UC Center at Sacramento, former Editor in Chief of the California Journal

V. Committee Member Questions of Legislative Reform Panelists (11:30-Noon)

VI. Public Comments on Legislative Branch Reform Issues (Noon-12:30 PM)

LUNCH BREAK (12:30 PM–1:15 pm)

AFTERNOON SESSION – BUDGET PROCESS REFORM DISCUSSION – "PART ONE"

VII. "Models of State Budget Decision-Making" (1:15 PM-2:00 PM)

- Scott Pattison, Executive Director of the National Association of State Budget Officers

VIII. "Options for Incorporating Longer-Term Planning Into Budget Decision-Making, Basing Decisions on Outcomes, Performance and Accountability, and Promoting Advanced Planning For Fiscal and Other Emergencies" (2:00-3:30 PM)

Some of the Budget Reform Issues to Be Addressed Include:

- *How can the budget process improve oversight and accountability of state agencies and more frequently result in the adoption of a balanced budget on time?*
- *Should the Legislature incorporate longer-term planning into budget decision-making?*
- *Should the Legislature consider multi-year budgeting and its impact on regular legislative business (e.g., the number of bills introduced and in which year of a two-year Session)?*
- *How can the Legislature promote advance planning for fiscal and other emergencies?*
- *What budget reform measures are pending in the Legislature?*

Witnesses:

- Fred Silva, Senior Fiscal Policy Advisor to California Forward and former Executive Secretary to the California Constitution Revision Commission
- Laura Chick, Inspector General of California, former Los Angeles City Controller
- Mac Taylor, Legislative Analyst of California

IX. Committee Member Questions of Budget Reform Panelists (3:30-4:00 PM)

IX. Public Comments on Budget Reform Issues (4:00-4:30 PM)

Please Note: Documents considered by the Committees will be posted in the near future as a courtesy on the Assembly Judiciary website at <http://www.assembly.ca.gov/acs/newcomframeset.asp?committee=15>, as well as in the future on the website for the Assembly Select Committee on Improving State Government.