

The Governor's 2010 Proposed Budget & Impact on First 5 Fresno County

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- California Voters passed Proposition 10 in 1998. Proposition 10 created First 5 Commissions in every County.
- Proposition 10 uses tobacco taxes to fund programs and services for children 0-5 that are prevention focused. Research shows definitively that investing in our youngest children will give society the greatest return by helping children to enter school ready to learn and become productive citizens.
- Proposition 10 created a revenue stream that was to be “hands-off” to politicians and the State because the creators of the Prop 10 knew that when there were financial shortfalls, bureaucrats would first look to cut children’s funding.
- Using Prop 10 dollars to try to balance the budget is predictable, but sad. In 2009, The Governor and Legislature tried to take Prop 10 funds to support state run programs, but California voters overwhelmingly rejected the idea at the May 2009 special election.
- The Governor’s 2010 proposal is an illegal grab of children’s dollars and that’s why *if* politicians decide to balance the budget by assuming they can take Prop 10 dollars (as they did in 2009), the issue must be brought back in front of the voters.
- ***Proposition 10 is about local control and keeping dollars in local communities.*** First 5 Commissions in every county determine the needs of their communities and how best to allocate funding to meet those local needs.
- Under the Governor’s 2010 proposal, a minimum of \$6 million (M) dollars (at least 50% of the annual tobacco revenues earmarked for Fresno County) would be diverted from our county every year for the next 5 years and given to the State ***for a total of \$30 million***. However, keep in mind that \$30 million is just what is minimally required from Fresno County; the state has already asked First 5 Fresno County to “voluntarily” contribute more.