

Assemblyman William Horne, District 34
2251 N. Rampart, #357 ■ Las Vegas, NV 89128-4613
Phone: (702) 457-6963 Email: William@WilliamHorne.com

Special Report: The 2010 Special Session
Legislators make tough decisions, right solutions to save education, create jobs

A BUDGET SHORTFALL

In January 2010, the Economic Forum revised its earlier projections and forecast a budget shortfall of over \$880 million.

After hearing hours of testimony from State agencies, school districts, unions, businesses, local governments and the public, the Assembly and Senate took decisive action to protect:

- K-12 Education: to avoid massive layoffs and even larger class sizes
- Higher Education: to invest in our students, colleges and universities
- Health and Human Service Programs: to serve our most vulnerable citizens

TOUGH DECISIONS

Our members in the State Assembly and Senate made tough decisions to balance the budget and close the \$880 million budget gap.

To close the \$880 million budget gap, we 1) Minimized cuts to K-12 and higher education, health and human services and public safety 2) Implemented government efficiencies and increased certain fees and 3) Passed a jobs bill to create 8,000 new jobs.

THE RIGHT SOLUTIONS

- Proposed cuts of \$211 million in State funding for K-12 education were reduced to \$116.8 million.
- School districts have been given flexibility that will help maximize the use of funding.
- Proposed cuts of \$76 million for our colleges and universities were reduced to \$46 million.
- Cuts to critical services for children, the disabled, elderly, and the mentally ill, as well as cuts to hospitals, were avoided.
- The Nevada State Prison will remain open—as will Casa Grande, a transitional facility for rehabilitated criminals about to be released.

BUDGET SOLUTIONS – IN DETAIL

Implementing Government Efficiencies

- Approximately \$10 million will be saved by eliminating certain State contracts with outside consultants.
- State workers, who took an 11% salary and benefits cut in 2009, will maintain their current salary and benefits.
- Approximately \$197 million in unspent State funds will be redirected to the priority areas of health, education, and public safety.
- The Department of Taxation is now authorized to hire new auditors and implement a tax amnesty program, which will collect \$20 million in owed, but unpaid, taxes.

Increasing Fees

- Mining fees and fees on new gaming licenses were increased.
- The fee paid by banks when filing a Notice of Default and Election to Sell have been increased from \$50 to \$200.
- The Nevada Supreme Court is now allowed to expand the foreclosure mediation program enacted last session to include commercial foreclosures, which affect small businesses.

Creating Jobs

- Modest amounts of State and local revenues bonds will be used for road construction and repair. This will create an estimated 8,000 new jobs in the construction industry.