



**California Federation of Teachers**  
American Federation of Teachers, AFL-CIO

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## **CFT launches new radio spots on state budget solution: fair taxes**

The California Federation of Teachers announced today that it will be running sixty second radio spots in the 26<sup>th</sup> Assembly District to draw attention to the obstructionist role played by Republican legislators in the current California state budget crisis.

[Click here](#) to play the radio spot.

"At a time when California's 6.3 million K-12 students face enormous challenges due to the underfunding of public education in the state, it is irresponsible for any legislators to say they will never approve new taxes," says CFT president Marty Hittelman. "California has recently slipped to 47th in the nation in per student funding. When will these legislators be satisfied: when we are dead last? There is only one fair solution, and that is to raise taxes now on the people and businesses that can best afford them."

The radio spots will air in the legislative districts of Republicans who have signed "no new tax" pledges. The spots say that "while California is burning, some legislators are fiddling and chanting their mantra, 'No new taxes'." The third one calls on Assemblymember Bill Berryhill (26th A.D.) to "stop chanting and start helping."

"We want the voting public to know what their elected representatives are doing to public education, public safety, and public health," says Hittelman. "The governor is proposing many billions of dollars of cuts to public education and other necessary services. But even Governor Schwarzenegger recognizes we can't cut our way out of this problem. That's why he has come around to taxes as part of his proposal. We are facing the worst financial situation since the Great Depression.

"By closing corporate tax loopholes and returning the top income tax brackets in the state—for people who make on average \$1.6 million per year—back to what they were paying when Pete Wilson faced a recession and state budget deficit, we can fix the budget crisis."

Recent public opinion polls show that Californians would rather increase taxes and preserve public services than reduce services with current tax levels. A majority would also approve of increasing taxes on the richest Californians to help deal with the problem.

*Marty Hittelman is available to comment on the proposed state budget by contacting Steve Hopcraft or Fred Glass at the above numbers or email.*

*For more information please visit [www.cft.org](http://www.cft.org).*

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