

California State Senate

SENATE MINORITY LEADER BRIAN W. JONES

FORTIETH SENATE DISTRICT



December 15, 2023

The Honorable Gavin Newsom
Governor, State of California
1021 O Street, Suite 9000
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Governor Newsom:

With recent budget revenues failing to meet projections and the Legislative Analyst's forecast of a \$68 billion deficit for 2024-25, we urge you to consider early action to improve the state's finances. Making prudent adjustments to the current year's General Fund budget would help prevent the fiscal condition of the state's finances from getting worse.

A recent letter by the Department of Finance states that it "anticipates significant General Fund budget deficits" and logically directs various State Agencies to take some immediate actions to reduce General Fund expenditures. However, without broader, accelerated actions to the current year's budget, the amount of available solutions will be limited and have a disproportionate impact on the 2024-25 budget years.

Failing to act now will lead to increased instability in future budgets and impact the functions and services the state provides. Including accelerated action proposals in your January budget will help the state achieve this aim. Senate Republicans are ready to work with our legislative colleagues and your administration on a solution.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Brian Jones".

Brian Jones
Senate Minority Leader
Senate District 40

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Roger Niello".

Roger Niello
Vice Chair
Senate Budget and Fiscal Review Committee
Senate District 6