



## California in Crisis:

### Richman Comments on Progress

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Contributor*

California is in crisis. In the past, late night state assembly sessions usually meant a politics-as-usual stalemate, leaving unfinished business on the public agenda. However, last October, Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger was voted into office with the hope of advancing the public's interest and getting California back on track.

District 38 State Assemblyman Keith Richman feels there are three main areas to tackle with regard to the state budget: financial recovery, boosting the economy, and promoting bipartisanship.

Financial recovery begins with voters approving \$15 billion in long-term debt refinancing to avoid bankruptcy because \$14 billion in short-term debt is due in June. A constitutional amendment will require a balanced budget with reserves for ongoing expenses without borrowing.

The legislature and governor will then work to close the \$14 billion gap between revenues and planned expenditures in the new budget year beginning July 1. Reforms discussed in Governor Schwarzenegger's state of the state address will be reviewed and voted on in

session.

Boosting the economy requires the state to provide favorable economic conditions to generate revenue. California's business climate has limited the creation of new jobs and has driven many employers to neighboring states. Improving the business climate includes dealing with issues such as workers' compensation.

California is not in a position to tolerate partisan politics. Good ideas can be found on both sides and everyone should be heard and considered in order to repair and improve the state budget. Good policy decisions should prevail over partisan politics. Assemblyman Richman is committed to working for the people and finding consensus among the parties.

Special interests and partisan politics have failed California. State Assemblyman Richman will continue to represent Santa Clarita's best interest as he works to develop solutions that benefit the region and the state.

"The months ahead will be filled with the kind of hard work that results in substantial improvements in our state's future and restores the public's faith in its elected leaders," Richman stated.

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