



# California Church **IMPACT**

## **HOW TO WRITE THE GOVERNOR**

*By California Church IMPACT*

To write the California Governor, you have the option of a regular letter, a FAX, or email. There is a long-standing folklore that email doesn't work, but in the age of anthrax, much of that has changed. However, putting your thoughts on paper and sending them in hard copy - letter or FAX - is likely to get more notice if only because today it is more rare.

Compose your letter simply. You do NOT have to muster heavy facts and figures. The chances are the letter will be read by a staff member (who is much more knowledgeable than the Governor about issues) who knows all that already. What you want to convey is your own view on issues - why something is good, why something is bad, and why you believe as you do.

Concerning the budget or any other issue, bring your faith perspective to bear. If you have a particular quotation concerning our mandate to help those in need, please feel free to quote and cite any Scripture you like. This is also not necessary. Your perspective as a person of faith is fine.

Try to keep the letter to a maximum of two pages; three paragraphs will suffice. A sample of the latter could be:

Dear Governor:

I have read your proposal on upcoming cuts to Education programs. I see that you propose to eliminate \$XXX from the education budget, \$YYY from CalWORKs, and \$ZZZ from child care.

I am a member of (your group or congregation) and as a person of faith I believe our government is a vital force in the responsible care for those in need. I am distressed that your choice, between finding additional revenues or cutting programs for those with no other resources, has led to a budget that is immoral in its priorities. It calls into question our decency as people and calls into question the worth of our government and this administration.

I therefore call upon you to honor the best principles of this democracy and of the faith traditions upon which we all rely - the care for those less fortunate, and the basic Golden Rule. Please find new revenues, and eliminate your cuts for people with absolutely no other resources.

Sincerely,

To mail your letter, do not send it to the Capitol where it will be delayed for security checks. Instead FAX your letter, send it to 916.445.4633. To email log onto the IMPACT site at [www.churchimpact.org](http://www.churchimpact.org) and go to Action, By clicking on the governor's site, you may write the governor directly from the IMPACT page. The letter will come from you, not from IMPACT.

Please note that the chances of hearing back from the Governor are slim. This is not personal! Keep writing - your thoughts DO COUNT and your voice for faith principles is ESSENTIAL!