

Balance the State Budget?

Introduction

Balance the State Budget? is designed to illustrate the considerations and challenges faced by the Legislature when attempting to balance the state operating budget and give citizens a first-hand account of the tradeoffs encountered when attempting to strike the balance of addressing the immediate needs for the citizens of Washington State while at the same time being financially responsible and adequately planning for the future. When utilized in a group setting, citizens encounter even further difficulties when they attempt to obtain a majority of votes for their "budget plan."

So, follow along as the legislative session progresses and see how similar your choices were to those of the Legislature. Happy budget balancing!

Budget Deficit Overview

For the last few years, as a result of an economy that had rebounded from the last economic downturn, writing the budget has been relatively easy. Oh, how times have changed. Over the last twelve months, the housing bubble burst and the overall economy has significantly deteriorated. Unemployment in Washington State is over 7 percent and rising. As a result, in just the last year, there has been over a \$5.4 billion decline in projected state revenues for the next three years.

This revenue downturn and other budget pressures mean that the Legislature is now facing the worst budget problem in the last thirty years. In fact, the current projected deficit in the major state funds considered as part of the state budget process is approximately \$1.2 billion for the remaining months of the 2007-09 biennium (fiscal years 2008 and 2009) and \$6.1 billion for the 2009-11 biennium (fiscal years 2010 & 2011). In other words, the projected budget deficit is pegged at \$7.3 billion for the next three years not counting any additional increases or enhancements.

Think the job of a legislator is easy? Now, you get to step into their shoes and say how you would balance the budget. Better yet, try this exercise with a big group of people. Remember, you have to get a majority of them to go along with every proposal and two-thirds of them if you want to raise taxes (or a vote of the people).

To make this budget balancing exercise a little easier to understand, we will help you out and assume that you have solved the \$1.2 billion budget problem for the 2007-09 biennium. This means that all you have to do is solve the \$6.1 billion budget deficit for the 2009-11 biennium.

Instructions

1. Requirements

Macros must be enabled for "Balance the State Budget?" to work properly. If when opening the file you chose to disable macros, you will need to exit the file and choose to enable macros when re-opening.

2. Navigation

The "Balance the State Budget?" exercise is a series of questions broken down into nine major categories. Each section will first appear with a section title and the total amount for that section.



A. Expand - To view the questions in each section, you will need to left mouse click on the plus sign to the left of the section header.



B. Collapse - To hide the questions in the section and just see the section total, you will need to left mouse click on the minus sign to the left of the section header.

3. Selections

Selections will only be made in "sky blue" areas. By default, all selections will be initially set to zero. Question totals will be in millions and section totals will be in billions. To reset the answers back to zero, click the "reset" button at the bottom of the page.



A. Check box - by default, all check boxes will be unchecked. To select a check box, point your mouse cursor over the check box and left mouse click. A check mark will appear in the box and an amount will be displayed to the left.



B. Toggle Bar or Spin Button - to increase or decrease the amount, point your mouse cursor over the up or down arrow and left mouse click.



C. Option or Radio button - by default, the option button will be set at "no change." To change the option button, point your mouse cursor over the desired circle and left mouse click. Please note there can only be one selection for these types of questions.

See Diagram below for further information

Instructions

Budget Balance: \$ (6.059 Billion)

Budget Deficit \$ (6.059 Billion)

1. **What do you have available to address the problem?**

Total Resources Available \$ -

2. **What are your priorities for increases (if any)?**

Expanded and/or Created State Services \$ -

4. **Major Spending Cuts**

OK, now we get to the difficult part. You have to review some possible spending cuts to close the budget deficit and set other budget priorities. State government has hundreds of programs, so this list is far from complete and give you a sense of how deep you will have to cut.

Eliminating portions of state government
Want to close over half of the \$8 billion deficit with one swing? To get the job done, you have to chop off a vast swath of state government. For instance, try eliminating all of Washington; Western Washington University; Department of Ecology; Department of Veterans' Affairs; Department of Natural Resources; Department of Agriculture; State Parks and Recreation Commission; State School for the Blind; Human Rights Commission; Children's (Child Protection) Administration; Juvenile Rehabilitation; Alcohol and Substance Abuse; State Supreme Court; State Senate and House of Representatives. Go ahead, try it. **Savings: \$3.1 billion.**

Overall cut to state government
One of the simplest ways to trim spending is with across-the-board cuts to state government.
Savings: \$200 million for every 1 percent cut to all state agencies, colleges and universities (but excluding K-12 education). It would take more than a 30 percent across-the-board cut to close the entire deficit.
All things created equal?
This approach means you have cut state troopers just as deeply as, say, outdoor recreation. And, overall, human service programs would have to bear more than two-thirds of any across-the-board cut.

(Very) Basic Health Plan?
Unlike other states, Washington provides subsidized health insurance to about 100,000 low-income people who do not qualify for other medical assistance. Choose one of the following options.

Savings: \$600 million if you eliminate the program altogether;
\$250 million if you simply reduce the state subsidy by 40 percent and force recipients to pay a bigger share or reduce the number of recipients.
Un-cover the working poor: If cutbacks to the Basic Health Plan leave people uninsured, who pays for their care?

Total Major Spending Cuts \$ -

5. **Budget Cut Grab Bag**

Total Budget Cut Grab Bag \$ -

Budget Not Balanced \$ (6.059 Billion)

Reset

click to expand section

click to collapse section

OR click black line to collapse section

Click inside box to select

toggle up or down to increase or decrease amount

section totals

Reset will uncheck all boxes and reset amounts to 0

Balance the State Budget?

Original Budget Deficit	\$ (6.068 Billion)
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1. What resources do you have available to address the problem?

First, take stock of the resources you have available to help address the budget deficit. Unfortunately, as a result of the revenue decline, at most, you only have \$500 million in reserves including the amount in the state's Rainy Day Fund. One of the few bright spots is that the Congress recently passed the federal stimulus act which will provide some fiscal relief to states to help with their budget problems.

Use reserves to address the budget problem

As a result of the decline in states revenues, it is anticipated that there will only be approximately \$500 million in reserves or the state's "savings" accounts when the new budget cycle starts on July 1, 2009. This includes money in the Rainy Day Fund.

How much of this \$500 million do you want to use to address the current budget problem? Keep in mind if you spend it all, there won't be any reserves for the budget writers three years from now.

\$ _____

Federal Stimulus Act

Congress recently passed the \$800 billion federal stimulus package. In addition to tax relief, increases to selected federal programs, and transportation funding, a portion of the package is intended to provide fiscal relief to states to help them address their budget shortfalls. Current estimates are that the Washington State may be able to use up to \$2.5 billion in the upcoming biennium to mitigate the budget problem.

How much of this amount do you want to assume in your budget scenario? As you decide, you should be aware that this is one-time money and these spending obligations won't go away when the federal stimulus money is gone.

\$ _____

Total Resources Available

\$ _____

2. What are your priorities for increases (if any)?

Second, there are a few important decisions you have to make — decisions that could make the budget problem even larger. You need to decide if you want, even in these tough economic times, to enhance, expand, and/or create particular types of state services?

Keeping up on college

Want to add enough enrollment slots at the state's colleges and universities to keep up with the baby-boom echo? To fund, add another **\$75 million**.

\$ _____

Pay raises for state and higher education employees?

State and higher education employees are slated to get cost-of-living raises of approximately 2 percent per year. If you don't provide raises, it might make it harder to attract and retain quality staff. To fund, add **\$197 million**.

\$ _____

How about for home-care workers, child care workers, and adult family homes?

While not state employees, the state's unionized home health-care workers (people that provide services to low income seniors), staff of adult family homes, and child care workers are also slated to get cost of living increases for providing critical state services. Without these raises, turnover might increase and services might be diminished. Total price tag: **\$101 million**.

\$ _____

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<p>Keeping up with the rising costs of health insurance for K-12 and state and higher education employees As in the private sector, health care costs continue to increase for state government. This has caused increased costs for both employers and employees. If you don't want to make K-12 as well as state and higher education employees pay more of the portion of the costs of their health insurance coverage than they currently do through co-pays (the average is about 12 percent now), this would cost an additional \$257 million.</p>	\$ _____
<p>Family and medical leave insurance The birth/adoption of a child is not only difficult, but expensive. And, trying to balance these demands with a full-time job is even harder. Last year the Legislature established a paid leave program that would provide individuals with much-needed financial support and security. To fund, add another \$75 million.</p>	\$ _____
<p>Puget Sound clean up Protection and restoration activities will clean up toxic waste and remove creosote logs and structures: \$9 million.</p>	\$ _____
<p>Affordable housing Additional state funding will expand affordable housing for homeless families in Washington and provide services (such as job training, child care, and domestic violence counseling) to support a successful transition from homelessness to permanent housing: \$6 million.</p>	\$ _____
<p>Family planning services Additional state funding for family planning will restore service to nearly 10,000 clients who were previously ineligible in order to help the state avoid higher costs associated with unintended pregnancies and sexually transmitted infections among underserved populations: \$5 million.</p>	\$ _____
<p style="text-align: center;">Expanded and/or Created State Services</p>	\$ _____

3. Want to decrease taxes?

Given the overall state of the economy, some have suggested that decreasing particular kinds of taxes would stimulate the economy or provide some much needed relief to certain kinds of taxpayers. Do you agree? If so, below are some examples of some taxes that could be lowered.

However, when deciding whether to lower taxes, keep in mind that any lowered taxes will make your budget problem larger. Also, you need to consider whether lowering taxes for particular types of taxpayers will create an uneven tax burden among Washington's citizens. Too much taxation will be burdensome on both private citizens and businesses. If business perceives the state as being unfriendly and leaves, who supplies the needed jobs? If private citizens cannot afford to pay their taxes, how can they be prosperous and viable participants in the good of the state? Either way, finding an equitable balance of revenue is tricky. Can you make it work?

<p>Decrease property taxes? Although total property taxes in the state are limited to a 1 percent increase each year, some individuals' taxes are increasing much faster than others as a result of increases in the value of their property. Do you offer some relief? To reduce the tax collection by 20 percent over the next two years would cost \$620 million.</p>	\$ _____
<p>Reduce sales and use taxes? The majority of individuals and business in the state are subject to the sales and use tax. Many entities feel that their burden of this tax is more than for others. Want to provide a little relief? Exemptions for wheelchairs and similar medical equipment: \$29 million Exemptions for other prescribed medical equipment: \$25 million.</p>	<div style="text-align: center; border-bottom: 1px solid black; margin-bottom: 5px;">\$ _____</div> <div style="text-align: center; border-bottom: 1px solid black;">\$ _____</div>

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<p>Reduce Business and Occupation (B&O) taxes? Some business owners feel that the B&O tax makes Washington State an unfriendly environment in which to conduct business. Want to provide them a break?</p> <p style="margin-left: 20px;">Deduction for the sale of certain prescription drugs: \$2 million</p> <p style="margin-left: 20px;">Exempt newspapers: \$10 million</p> <p style="margin-left: 20px;">Reduce the threshold for reporting and filing requirements: \$52 million</p>	
	\$ _____
	\$ _____
Total Decreased Taxes	\$ _____

4. Major Spending Cuts

OK, now we get to the difficult part. You have to review some possible spending cuts to close the budget deficit and pay for your other budget priorities. State government has hundreds of programs, so this list is far from complete. But it should give you a sense of how deep you will have to cut.

<p>Eliminate big portions of state government Want to close over half of the \$6 billion deficit with one swing? To get the job done, you would have to lop off a vast swath of state government. For instance, try eliminating all of these: University of Washington; Western Washington University; Department of Health; State Patrol; Department of Ecology; Department of Veterans' Affairs; Department of Natural Resources; Department of Agriculture; State Parks and Recreation Commission; State School for the Blind; Human Rights Commission; Children's (Child Protection) Administration; Juvenile Rehabilitation; Alcohol and Substance Abuse; State Supreme Court; State Senate and House of Representatives. Go ahead, try it. Savings: \$3.1 billion.</p>	\$ _____
<p>Overall cut to state government One of the simplest ways to trim spending is with across-the-board cuts to state government.</p> <p>Savings: \$200 million for every 1 percent cut to all state agencies, colleges and universities (but excluding K-12 education). It would take more than a 30 percent across-the-board cut to close the entire deficit.</p> <p>All things created equal? This approach means you have cut state troopers just as deeply as, say, outdoor recreation. And, overall, human service programs would have to bear more than two-thirds of any across-the-board cut.</p>	\$200 M X _____ % = \$ _____
<p>Reduce state employee pay and benefits Do you want to make reductions to the pay and benefits of government workers. About one-fifth of all state spending goes toward salaries and benefits for more than 100,000 state government and higher-education employees.</p> <p>Savings: \$220 million if you impose a 5 percent across-the-board pay cut.</p>	\$ _____
<p>Save another \$130 million by forcing state and higher education workers to pay 20 percent (they now pay 12 percent) of their health-care costs.</p> <p>Earnings erosion: State workers have already not received cost-of-living raises in 3 of the last 10 years and in recent years have been forced to pay more for health care.</p>	\$ _____

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<p>No teacher raises In 2000, voters approved Initiative 732, promising teachers and other school employees annual cost-of-living raises. The Legislature suspended them in the 2003-05 biennium.</p> <p>Savings: \$390 million if you overturn, or at least suspend, the pay-raise initiative. Or you could ask voters to approve a tax increase to cover the raises. Pick one when you get to the taxing part of the game.</p>	<p>\$ _____</p>
<p>Lower funding for class-size reduction Aside from teacher raises, voters in recent years overwhelmingly approved two other big-spending measures. Initiative 728 steers more money toward class-size reduction efforts.</p> <p>Savings: \$180 million if you decrease these class-size reduction funds by around 20 percent.</p>	<p>\$ _____</p>
<p>Reduce property poor school district funding Beyond the regular K-12 funding formulas, the state currently provides additional funding to approximately 220 out of the 295 school districts because of their low property tax bases. You could reduce the additional state assistance to those selected school districts by 33 percent.</p> <p>Savings: \$125 million</p>	<p>\$ _____</p>
<p>Eliminate K-12 professional development days The state currently provides funding to school districts for a variety of professional development activities including two non-instructional days and activities related to improving math and science instruction.</p> <p>Savings: \$123 million if you eliminate these funds.</p>	<p>\$ _____</p>
<p>Limit K-12 bilingual instruction program School districts currently provide bilingual instruction to approximately 83,000 students. Currently, students can continue to receive this instruction for up to three years. Some other states have limited this instruction to one year and made it more of an English immersion program.</p> <p>Savings: \$20 million if you limited bilingual instruction to one year.</p>	<p>\$ _____</p>
<p>(Very) Basic Health Plan? Unlike other states, Washington provides subsidized health insurance to about 100,000 low-income people who do not qualify for other medical assistance. Choose one of the following options.</p> <p>Savings: \$600 million if you eliminate the program altogether;</p> <p>\$250 million if you simply reduce the state subsidy by slightly over 40 percent and force recipients to pay a bigger share or reduce the number of people covered.</p> <p>Un-cover the working poor: If cutbacks to the Basic Health Plan leave people uninsured, who pays for their care?</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">\$ _____</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Keep Current Funding</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Eliminate program</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Reduce by 40 percent</p>
<p>Eliminate health care coverage for undocumented immigrant children In the 2007-09 biennium, the state expanded health care coverage for non-citizen children in families below 300 percent of the federal poverty level. You could eliminate preventative health care services to these children.</p> <p>Savings: \$61 million</p>	<p>\$ _____</p>

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<p>Cuts to low-income health care coverage The state currently provides medical assistance for approximately 16,500 individuals eligible for General Assistance Unemployable (GAU). GAU is a state-funded program that provides cash and medical benefits for people who are physically and/or mentally incapacitated and unemployable for 90 days from the date of application.</p> <p>Savings: \$230 million if you drop health care coverage for these individuals, but keep in mind that if they don't have health care coverage or some amount of income, they may become public safety risks or cause even greater costs when they show up in emergency rooms.</p> <p>Savings: \$156 million if you eliminate cash grants to these 16,500 individuals.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">\$ _____</p> <p style="text-align: center;">\$ _____</p>
<p>Save through reduced supervision Keeping criminals locked up is expensive. Grant early release to lower risk offenders or those convicted of misdemeanors and you could save lots of money. Are you comfortable reducing parole/supervision for about half of the current 30,000 offenders supervised by the Department of Corrections?</p> <p>Savings: \$69 million</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">\$ _____</p>
<p>Deport illegal alien offenders Savings can be achieved by deporting the roughly 500 non-citizen drug and property offenders currently incarcerated in state prisons. The risk is that these offenders may return to the state and commit additional crimes.</p> <p>Savings: \$9 million</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">\$ _____</p>
<p>Changes to the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program This TANF program provides grants, supports, and services to over 138,000 lower income individuals. This is sometimes referred to as the welfare caseload. You could impose more stringent time limits and take other measures to reduce caseloads, although this would have an impact on some of the individuals being most impacted from the economic downturn.</p> <p>Savings: \$69 million</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">\$ _____</p>
<p>Overall cuts to higher education Higher education is one of the state's biggest expenses. You could do an across-the-board cut averaging around 13 percent to all four-year colleges and universities and 6 percent to the community and technical colleges.</p> <p>Savings: \$370 million</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">\$ _____</p>
<p>One-time pension savings In the past, when faced with budget problems, the Legislature has employed a variety of mechanisms to achieve one-time savings in the amount contributed towards K-12, state, and higher education employee pensions. While recent stock market losses don't make this a great time to consider taking similar action again, this is an option. Keep in mind that this is truly a case of pay now or pay later.</p> <p>Savings: \$400 million</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">\$ _____</p>
<p>Capping tort claims In recent years, the state has been forced to pay huge sums in damage claims. Some legislators want to limit state-government liability payouts to \$1 million to \$2 million.</p> <p>Savings: \$40 million</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">\$ _____</p>
<p>Total Major Spending Cuts</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">\$ _____</p>

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5. Budget Cut Grab Bag	
Reduce nursing home reimbursement rates by about 7.5 percent: \$46 million.	\$ _____
Eliminate the Washington State Arts Commission that funds arts participation and the amount of art in public places: \$5 million.	\$ _____
Eliminate funding for secure crisis shelters for teens: \$9 million.	\$ _____
Eliminate funding for the emergency food assistance program: \$12.4 million.	\$ _____
Cut spending on goods and services — from paper clips to printing — by one-fourth: \$200 million.	\$ _____
Eliminate the Council for Children and Families which coordinates child abuse and neglect prevention activities: \$1.5 million.	\$ _____
Close the State Film Office, which tries to attract Hollywood producers to Washington: \$500,000.	\$ _____
Eliminate education funding for the Pacific Science Center, the Cispus environmental camp, and the LASER science program: \$8.6 million.	\$ _____
Eliminate funding for tourism marketing: \$4.2 million.	\$ _____
Halt Department of Health food safety/shellfish protection program: \$5.9 million.	\$ _____
Close Palmer Ponds and Bellingham fish hatcheries and reduce miscellaneous activities related to fish production: \$8.1 million	\$ _____
Close 13 lower priority state parks: \$3.3 million.	\$ _____
Eliminate tobacco tax-enforcement program: \$3.9 million.	\$ _____
End state Capitol campus tours: \$616,000.	\$ _____
Eliminate publishing of state voter's pamphlet and related activities: \$4 million.	\$ _____
Eliminate funding for homicide investigation tracking by the Attorney General's Office: \$2.2 million.	\$ _____
Cut funding for eradication of noxious weeds: \$2 million.	\$ _____
Reduce litter pickup activities by Department of Ecology crews: \$4 million.	\$ _____
Reduce spending on personal bodyguards for the Governor and Lieutenant Governor by 50 percent: \$1.3 million.	\$ _____
Reduce funding for Poison Control Center by 50 percent: \$2 million.	\$ _____
Eliminate free colorectal cancer exams to individuals between 50 and 64 years old who are below 250 percent of the federal poverty level: \$1.9 million.	\$ _____
Halt state assistance for local economic development: \$20 million.	\$ _____
Eliminate international agriculture marketing: \$2.2 million.	\$ _____
Eliminate customer service staff in the Department of Fish and Wildlife's regional offices. This will require the public to purchase hunting and fishing licenses from private vendors: \$1.7 million.	\$ _____
Total Budget Cut Grab Bag	\$ _____

Balance the State Budget?

6. Larger Revenue Raising Options

Can't do it on cuts alone? Well, your only other option is to find more money. Here are some things you could do to boost income, including a list of tax or "revenue enhancement" ideas. Remember that in reality, you have to get a two-thirds vote of the legislature or approval of voters to raise taxes. Also, keep in mind raising taxes will have an impact on businesses and individuals already feeling the effects of the economic downturn.

Turning to taxes

The \$6 billion tax

The backbone of the budget, Washington's 6.5 percent sales tax, raises about \$7.5 billion a year. The sales tax hasn't been increased since the early 1980s, but some people want a temporary bump. Others argue that the sales tax disproportionately impacts those at the lower end of the economic rung. Choose one of the options below.

Do you want to raise the sales tax?

Increasing the sales to 6.6 percent would raise **\$230 million**.

Go to 7 percent, you get **\$1.15 billion**.

Need more? A 7.5 percent tax will raise **\$2.3 billion**.

\$ _____

- No Increase
- 6.6 percent
- 7 percent
- 7.5 percent

Bread-and-butter tax?

Since the late 1970s, food purchases have been exempt from sales taxes. In the early 1980s, the Legislature lifted the exemption for 14 months to help close a budget crisis comparable to this one.

Lifting the exemption on food purchases for two years would raise nearly **\$1.7 billion**. Keep in mind, the sales tax is already criticized as unfair because poor people are forced to pay as much tax on a loaf of bread as the rich.

\$ _____

Increase the Business and Occupation (B&O) tax

The B&O tax, the state's second largest source of income, will bring in more than \$6 billion over the next two years. If B & O taxes are raised, businesses may be reluctant to hire and make other investments that could impact the timing of the economic recovery. Choose one of the options below.

A 10-percent surtax on all rates would raise **\$604 million**.

A 25-percent surtax would raise about **\$1.5 billion**.

\$ _____

- No Increase
- 10-Percent
- 25-Percent

Increase property taxes

Also known as the "school levy," the state property tax – about \$1.92 on every \$1,000 in property value – will raise about \$3.1 billion over the next two years. Under state law, the highest you can go on the property tax is \$3.60 per \$1,000. Choose one of the options below.

Up a quarter: Increasing the levy by 25 cents would raise nearly **\$472 million**.

A \$1 bump gets you nearly \$1.9 billion.

This is already our most unpopular tax.

\$ _____

- No Increase
- Up a Quarter
- A \$1 Bump

Create a personal income tax?

Unlike most states, Washington has no personal income tax. There have been several attempts in decades past to impose one.

A 1 percent personal income tax would raise nearly **\$4.9 billion** in the next two years. Keep in mind, to do this, you'd have to convince an anti-tax electorate to amend the Constitution and agree to take more out of their paychecks.

\$ _____

Total Large Revenue Raising Options

\$ _____

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7. Smaller Tax Increase Grab Bag

5 cent tax per 12-ounce soft drink: \$277 million.	\$ _____
Extend existing sales tax to haircuts and beauty services: \$52 million.	\$ _____
Extend sales tax on detective and security services: \$116 million.	\$ _____
Increase liquor tax \$1 per liter: \$59 million.	\$ _____
Extend sales tax to golf and bowling lessons: \$5.5 million.	\$ _____
Extend sales tax to dance studios: \$2.6 million.	\$ _____
Sales tax on candy and gum: \$59 million.	\$ _____
Extend sales tax to bakery products: \$32 million.	\$ _____
50 cent increase in cigarette tax: \$106 million.	\$ _____
Extend sales tax to cable television: \$57.2 million.	\$ _____
Bottled water (\$.01 per ounce): \$365 million.	\$ _____
Total Smaller Tax Increase Grab Bag	\$ _____

8. Hitting The Brakes On Tax Breaks

We forego billions each year through tax exemptions. There are more than 430 separate tax breaks on the books, covering everything from hops and bubble gum to prescription drugs and high-tech manufacturing equipment. Lawmakers approved more than 100 new tax breaks during the booming 1990s.

Eliminating Tax Breaks

Sales tax on manufacturing equipment: \$422 million.	\$ _____
Sales tax on newspapers: \$34 million.	\$ _____
Sales tax on prescription drugs: \$600 million.	\$ _____
Sales tax on gasoline (We already pay a per gallon gas tax): \$1.3 billion.	\$ _____
Sales tax on agricultural feed and seed: \$103 million.	
Total Hitting the Brakes on Tax Breaks	\$ _____

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9. Other Options	
<p>Legalized gambling The push is on to expand legalized gambling. One idea—to allow electronic video lottery machines in card rooms, restaurants, bars, bowling alleys, and racetracks—could potentially raise nearly \$200 million over the next two years.</p>	\$ _____
<p>A state lottery run "Quick-draw Keno" would bring about \$90 million to the general fund. But such proposals could hurt Indian tribes, which rely heavily on gambling income. And a powerful group of former governors and community leaders has joined to fight expanded gambling.</p>	\$ _____
<p>Do you want to solicit donations? OK, so you've made all the cuts you can stomach and you're all taxed out. But you still need a little more dough for the deficit. Why not pass the hat? That's what they did down in Oregon, when their budget was even worse off than ours. Right there on the front page of the state's Web site was this link: "Donate to the State of Oregon," with instructions on where to send your check. Enter Any Amount (in millions)</p>	\$ _____
Total Other Options	\$ _____
Balanced Budget	\$ _____