



Children's Advocacy Institute

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A pop quiz to test governor's ed policy

By Robert C. Fellmeth

1. The Schwarzenegger administration advocates "fiscal responsibility" and conservative principles by:
 - a. Requiring the state to live within its means.
 - b. Responsibly generating new revenues as needed to balance the budget.
 - c. Burdening future taxpayers over the next twenty years with over \$30 billion in bond and other debts.
2. Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger is a child advocate who championed after-school child care through Proposition 49, and followed through with his commitment by:
 - a. Insisting that California increase its percentage of children in preschool to at least the national median.
 - b. Supporting increased pay for child care workers to honor the importance of their work.
 - c. Proposing cuts in child care compensation rates, reducing and restricting care availability for the working poor and leaving his initiative entirely unfunded and moribund.
3. The governor's commitment to K-12 education is reflected in his:
 - a. Insistence that California decrease class sizes, from its current ranking of 49th in the nation, to at least the national median.
 - b. Advocacy for public investment in K-12 education, now among the bottom five in the nation, to levels at least above Alabama, West Virginia and Louisiana.
 - c. Identification of "overspending" as the sole budgetary problem, and proposing the permanent subtraction of \$2.3 billion from the minimum constitutionally guaranteed level for education - to move the state down to 49th in cost-adjusted investment.
4. Among the highest priorities of the administration is health coverage for children. Accordingly, the governor has:
 - a. Removed barriers to enrolling children for health coverage.
 - b. Worked to take full advantage of the 2-to-1 federal match to cover the 800,000 qualified children now uncovered.
 - c. Proposed new premiums for Medi-Cal child coverage, reduced the number of children likely to be medically covered and left on the table more than \$3 billion in federal money available to finance it.

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5. One goal of the governor is to minimize unfair or excessive state taxes and fees wherever possible, and so he has:
- Insisted that special tax favors and exemptions be ended or justified so tax burdens will be equitably shared.
 - Advocated that Proposition 13 be revised so that youth buying a home do not pay 10 to 12 times the property taxes of older adults owning property of identical value.
 - Opposed any new revenue, except for large increases in tuition for students, fees imposed on foster and child care providers and higher premiums for public medical coverage.
6. Faced with a serious budget deficit of more than \$9 billion, Schwarzenegger responded by:
- Forcing the prison guards and other groups receiving recent large pension and other increases to roll back those raises.
 - Demanding that half of the deficit be cut by lower spending, and half by new revenues, as both Govs. Reagan and Wilson arranged under similar budget circumstances.
 - Adding another \$4 billion on top of the existing deficit by reducing the Vehicle License Fee from its 40-year level of 2 percent of the value of a car.
7. Schwarzenegger represents the average Californian against the "special interests" that have dominated Sacramento, expressing his independence by:
- Prohibiting special interest lobbyists from making job offers to his appointees.
 - Asking the PACs to stop seeking tax exemptions and special favors at the capitol.
 - Soliciting and collecting more political money from powerful monied interests in his first two years in office than any governor in state history.

Answers for all questions: "c"

About the writer:

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