

SAMPLE RESOLUTION

RESOLUTION NO: _____

***A RESOLUTION TO REBUILD CALIFORNIA FROM THE GROUND UP BY
URGING THE REALIGNMENT OF AUTHORITY, RESPONSIBLILTY, RESOURCES
AND ACCOUNTABILITY BETWEEN THE STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS.***

WHEREAS, California government is broken; and

WHEREAS, The failure of California's lawmakers to adopt a sustainable budget is only the most obvious manifestation of a dysfunctional state government and it is clear that state leaders are not investing in the future, whether in needed infrastructure, economic development, social services or in education; and

WHEREAS, New laws and regulations are piled onto local governments without balancing costs against any clear added value, the long-term fiscal implications of current legislative actions are ignored, and urgent current problems in the state go unaddressed; and

WHEREAS, The inherent strength of local governments in this environment is dissipated; and

WHEREAS, It is clear that there must be a new and better way of governing a large, complex and dynamic state, and the local governments of California are the key to the solution; and

WHEREAS, California can restore functional state and local governments only by aligning authority, responsibility, resources and accountability.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

That the [name of local government entity] hereby adopts the following nine principles for reform:

1 **Responsive and Accountable Local Governments.** Local governments should have broad authority, subject to voter approval for bonds and tax increases, to raise and expend a diverse and broad set of revenues necessary to provide critical local services. Concentrating these decisions at the local level will ensure greater transparency and accountability to the voters.

2 **Reduce State Preemption of Local Control.** Local control should be the rule and state preemption the exception.

3 **Enhanced Protection from State Mandates.** Local governments need additional protection from state mandates that attempt to micromanage local affairs.

4 **Personnel Policies and Pensions.** All local governments should have broad authority and flexibility in personnel matters.

accountable for the measurable outcomes and given extensive administrative flexibility over the means and methods chosen by local leaders to achieve those outcomes.

6 **Modernize State Budgeting.** The state budget process should be modernized to reflect the best practices in state financial management from across the country.

7 **Update the State and Local Revenue Systems.** The laws governing the major state and local tax revenues should be regularly updated and revised to reflect the transformation to a service-based economy and the tax equity concerns that have arisen over time.

8 **Enhance Governance and Responsiveness.** State government should periodically review and recommend improvements to the structure, functions and financing of state government operations in order to assure citizens that decisions are being made and services are being delivered in the most responsive and efficient manner possible.

9 **Modernize the Organization of the State Legislature:** The legislature should be modernized in order to achieve greater effectiveness and responsiveness to the priorities of the people of the state, including changes in how legislators are elected, limits on the length of their terms, the duration of the legislative session, and the way in which the legislature operates.

APPROVED on this _____ day of _____, 2010