

RESPONSES TO SUPPLEMENTAL BUDGET SURVEY

HOW WOULD YOU BALANCE THE STATE BUDGET?

The MSEA-SEIU, Local 1989 developed a survey for the collection of ideas on how to deal with the revenue shortfalls in State Government. We targeted this survey to those who know best where to find savings...our members.

This survey was placed on our website and was also included in both a mass e-mailing and postal mailing to current and retired state workers as well as other MSEA-SEIU members who interact with State Government.

The survey was initiated on December 28, 2009 and ran until February 5, 2010.

Responders were asked the following questions:

1. Do you have any cost-savings suggestions that could make your Agency, Department or the work that you do more efficient?
2. If your job brings in revenue to the State's budget, do you have any suggestions how to increase that revenue stream?
3. Recent State budgets have relied on large budget cuts, that include hiring freezes, lay-offs and position eliminations, wage cuts and program cuts, but no increases in taxes or other sources of revenues. What would be your suggestions regarding taxes or any other types of revenue increases?
4. The State contracts out work that is currently being performed by state workers or was performed by state workers. Please provide specific examples of known contracting out that appears to be wasteful or questionable.

The survey received a total of three hundred and twelve (312) responses. These responses have been consolidated in to this report. While there is some duplication in some responses there was benefit in seeing the total number. Also, some that appear to be duplicative have additional detail that may prove helpful. Each response is provided in the person's own words.

In order to protect the identity of each of the respondents the survey was setup to assign a unique nine (9) digit "ControllID" to each completed survey. If there is additional detail needed or any questions to be asked we can get the information if you provide us with the "ControllID".

We are aware that the State of Maine still has a program in place that provides for a monetary reward to state workers for ideas that result in cost savings to State Government. We would ask that if any of the ideas contained in this report should prove to result in such savings that the "ControllID" be provided to the MSEA-SEIU so that the deserving person can be recognized for their efforts.