



Published: 01.19.2008

Governor's plan hits fast drivers, counties' coffers

By Howard Fischer

CAPITOL MEDIA SERVICES

PHOENIX — Gov. Janet Napolitano wants to pay for an \$800,000 bounce in the state budget next year through a combination of borrowing, shifting costs to local governments, diverting money away from road building and collecting \$90 million from photo radar tickets.

The governor also wants to cover a portion of her proposed \$11.4 billion "operating budget" through a number of accounting changes.

The governor said the state budget has to grow because more people are asking for more services.

For example, she proposes increasing the Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System by nearly 20 percent, to more than \$1.5 billion. State aid to schools would go up about \$163 million, to more than \$4.5 billion.

Her spending plan — and particularly her methods of funding it — faces potentially tough opposition in the Republican-controlled Legislature.

In fact, her budget is about \$1 billion higher than one being proposed by the chairmen of the House and Senate Appropriations committees.

That plan actually cuts expenditures by nearly \$1.4 billion. (See *related story, Page B4.*)

One of Napolitano's proposed accounting maneuvers is that \$55 million in sales-tax receipts that normally would be paid in July 2009 — the first month of the next fiscal year — would be entered in June instead. And a \$297 million payment to public schools due in June 2009 would be delayed a month, so the cost shows up in the next budget year.

She also wants to divert some gasoline taxes and vehicle-registration fees that now go to roads to pay for the Highway Patrol, freeing up \$53 million in general funds for other things — a move she said would not affect long-term transportation needs.

She predicted that the state could cut its expenses, sometimes at the expense of local governments — such as nearly \$61 million a year by housing some convicted felons in county jails rather than in state prisons, shifting the cost to county taxpayers.

On StarNet: To find the projected plan for the state budget, go online to azstarnet.com/metro.

WHAT THE GOVERNOR WANTS ...

WHAT THE GOVERNOR WANTS

...

Selected spending levels in the governor's proposed budget (in millions):

General government	
Auditor general —	\$17.6
Commerce —	\$16.9
Governor —	\$6.9
House —	\$13.9
Senate —	\$9.2
Insurance —	\$7.0
Revenue —	\$78.5
Tourism —	\$16.3
Education	
Aid to education —	\$4,526.9
UA Main —	\$362.8
UA Health Sciences —	\$82.3
ASU Main —	\$420.2
ASU Poly —	\$32.1
ASU West —	\$56.8
NAU —	\$169.5
Health and welfare	
AHCCCS —	\$1,517.3
Economic Security —	\$878.7
Health Services —	\$614.3

Selected spending levels in the governor's proposed budget (in millions):

General government

Auditor general — \$17.6

Commerce — \$16.9

Governor — \$6.9

House — \$13.9

Senate — \$9.2

Insurance — \$7.0

Revenue — \$78.5

Tourism — \$16.3

Education

Aid to education — \$4,526.9

UA Main — \$362.8

UA Health Sciences — \$82.3

ASU Main — \$420.2

ASU Poly — \$32.1

ASU West — \$56.8

NAU — \$169.5

Health and welfare

AHCCCS — \$1,517.3

Economic Security — \$878.7

Health Services — \$614.3

Law enforcement

Attorney general — \$21.5

Corrections — \$898.7

Juvenile corrections — \$79.9

Public Safety — \$35.2

Environment

Environmental Quality — \$31.6

Land — \$25.2

Parks — \$28.3

Water Resources — \$23.2

... AND Where it would come from

Law enforcement

Attorney general — \$21.5

Corrections — \$898.7

Juvenile corrections — \$79.9

Public Safety — \$35.2

Environment

Environmental Quality — \$31.6

Land — \$25.2

Parks — \$28.3

Water Resources — \$23.2

... AND Where it would come from

Major funding changes proposed to pay for the governor's proposed budget (in millions):

\$471

Bond for new school construction

\$297

Delay state aid payment to schools

\$197

Withdrawal from rainy-day fund

\$53

Fund Highway Patrol with road funds

\$90

Anticipated revenues from photo radar tickets

\$61

House some state prisoners in county jails

\$55

Require earlier payment of sales taxes

[Click here to see the budget \(632 pages\)](#)

Major funding changes proposed to pay for the governor's proposed budget (in millions):

\$471

Bond for new school construction

\$297

Delay state aid payment to schools

\$197

Withdrawal from rainy-day fund

\$53

Fund Highway Patrol with road funds

\$90

Anticipated revenues from photo radar tickets

\$61

House some state prisoners in county jails

\$55

Require earlier payment of sales taxes

[Click here to see the budget \(632 pages\)](#)

All content copyright © 1999-2008 AzStarNet, Arizona Daily Star and its wire services and suppliers and may not be republished without permission. All rights reserved. Any copying, redistribution, or retransmission of any of the contents of this service without the expressed written consent of Arizona Daily Star or AzStarNet is prohibited.