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OVER REACHING, OUTDATED REDEVELOPMENT AGENCIES MUST GO

Assemblywoman Beth Gaines

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[Publisher's Note: As part of an ongoing effort to bring original, thoughtful commentary to you here at the FlashReport, I am pleased to present this column from Republican Assemblywoman Beth Gaines - Flash]

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California's budget system is broken.

Families are making cuts to their budget, food and gas prices are out of control, and businesses continue to leave our state every day. But the Governor and Legislative Democrats still want to tax us and expand our government.

Now is not the time to embrace the failed ideas and bad policies of the past, but to tackle the long-term, structural reform our budget desperately needs and Californians deserve.

Hardworking families have said time and time again they don't want their taxes increased and are tired of bailing out Sacramento for its years of irresponsible spending. So we, as a Legislature should be looking at ways to scale back grand, big government programs and reign in state spending to match revenues.

That's why I'm urging the governor to sign a bill passed by the Legislature this week that would eliminate redevelopment agencies, or RDA's in California.

Redevelopment agencies were first created by the Legislature to clean up urban blight, and while some have completed successful projects in their communities, unfortunately today, many use these state-subsidized programs to seize private property through eminent domain, incur enormous amounts of debt and supplement other general fund expenditures - with little accountability to taxpayers.

This week, I supported Assembly Bill 26x, which would eliminate all of the more than 400 redevelopment agencies in California.

Taxpayers foot the bill for redevelopment agencies throughout the state, even if an agency does not exist in their community. Football stadiums, golf courses, hotels and mermaid bars built in other communities are subsidized by all taxpayers in California. During these tough economic times, these state-subsidized redevelopment schemes are diverting money from vital services like education and police and fire protection.

Even the nonpartisan Legislative Analyst's Office has concluded that redevelopment agencies don't help to create any new jobs, but instead often end up costing the state money. A Public Policy Institute of California study also noted that far from creating jobs, redevelopment just shifts existing jobs to new locations.

This is one way we can lead by example to do our part in addressing California's structural deficit by cutting costs and getting out of debt – without raising taxes.

Many tough budget decisions still lie ahead, but by eliminating these over-reaching, outdated agencies, we can help California navigate its way on the road to recovery.



Assemblywoman Beth Gaines represents California's 4th Assembly District. You can reach Beth Gaines, via the FR, [here](#).



