



A Voter's Guide To Jerry Brown

Don't Trust His Words, Learn The Facts

A TRIP BACK THROUGH BROWN'S FISCAL FAILURES PART I

FISCAL FAILURE AS ATTORNEY GENERAL

FACT: In 2008, Jerry Brown Spent \$230,000 Of Taxpayer Dollars To Redecorate His Attorney General Office, Even As The State Suffered Through Financial Crisis.

FISCAL FAILURE AS MAYOR

FACT: As Mayor Of Oakland, Jerry Brown Led The Effort To Raise Taxes By More Than \$75 Million On Parking, Gas, Garbage Collection, Phone Bills, And Cable TV.

FACT: As Mayor, Jerry Brown Raised Oakland Property Taxes By More Than \$400 Million.

FACT: Jerry Brown Used His Power As Mayor To Deny Residents A 20% Tax Break On Their Utility Taxes.

FISCAL FAILURE AS GOVERNOR

FACT: When Jerry Brown Was Governor, The State Had A \$4 Billion Budget Surplus, Yet When He Left Office California Had A \$1 Billion Deficit. Under His Administration, Spending Grew By 119%.

FACT: In Jerry Brown's Last Term As Governor, California's Unemployment Rate Nearly Doubled To A Record High Of 11%.

FACT: As Governor, Jerry Brown Raised, Proposed, Or Endorsed More Than \$7 Billion In New Taxes Including Signing Into Law A Gas Tax Increase Of More Than \$2.5 Billion.

FISCAL FAILURE ON PROPOSITION 13

FACT: As Governor, Jerry Brown Unsuccessfully Led Opposition To Proposition 13, Calling It "Crazy", "A Fraud" And A "Rip-Off."

FISCAL FAILURE ON PAY RAISES

FACT: Jerry Brown Has A Long History Of Supporting Large Pay Raises For Himself And Other State Government Workers, Including A Pay Raise In 2007 That Made His Salary \$184,000.

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Brown Spent Hundreds Of Thousands Of Dollars Redecorating His Office:

“State Attorney General Jerry Brown, Who Prides Himself On Being A Political Miser, Has Ordered Up A \$230,000 Redo At His Oakland Office.” (Phillip Matier and Andrew Ross, “Jerry Brown’s Pricey Office Remodel Out Of Character For Miserly Politico,” *San Francisco Chronicle*, 3/9/08)

- **“As For Spending \$230,000 Or More - When The State Faces An \$8 Billion Fiscal Crunch, Brown Said, ‘I’m A Very Frugal Fellow - Just Look At My Travel Expenses. This Work Is Well Within Our Operating Budget.’”** (Phillip Matier and Andrew Ross, “Jerry Brown’s Pricey Office Remodel Out Of Character For Miserly Politico,” *San Francisco Chronicle*, 3/9/08)

FISCAL FAILURE AS MAYOR

FACT: As Mayor Of Oakland, Jerry Brown Led The Effort To Raise Taxes By More Than \$75 Million On Parking, Gas, Garbage Collection, Phone Bills, And Cable TV.

In 2002, Brown Proposed An Increase In Taxes On Hotel Stays, Parking, Electricity, Gas, Phones And Cable:

“In Response [To An Increase In Crime], Mayor Jerry Brown Asked The City Council On Tuesday To Raise Taxes By \$63.5 Million Over Five Years To Add 100 Officers To Oakland’s Force Of 750.” (Kim Curtis, “Oakland Mayor Asks Tax Increase For More Officers,” *The Associated Press*, 7/30/02)

- **“His Proposal Would Raise Taxes From 7.5 To 8 Percent On Hotel Stays, Parking, And Utilities Including Electricity, Gas And Alternate Fuels, As Well As Telephone And Cable Television.”** (Kim Curtis, “Oakland Mayor Asks Tax Increase For More Officers,” *The Associated Press*, 7/30/02)

Brown’s Plan Passed The City Council. “Ending a day that began with yet another homicide, the Oakland City Council voted nearly unanimously Tuesday night to support the mayor’s call for tax increases to pay for the expanded police force and violence-prevention programs.” (Janine DeFao, “City Seeks To Raise Taxes To Bolster Police As Homicide Toll Hits 65,” *San Francisco Chronicle*, 7/31/02)

In 2003, Brown Proposed A Budget With Increases In Fees On A Variety Of Services:

Brown Proposed Increases On Fees Ranging From Parking To Garbage Collection. “Brown and City Manager Robert Bobb outlined a two-year, \$1.78 billion budget that includes closing city buildings one day a month, laying off 115 city workers, closing one fire station, reducing hours at some library branches and increasing fees for services from parking to garbage collection.” (Janine DeFao, “Mayor Submits Oakland Budget,” *San Francisco Chronicle*, 5/14/03)

- **Brown Said In Order To Balance A Budget You Have To “Increase Fees” And Cut Programs.** “‘The budget is definitely a difficult budget for a tough economic time,’ Brown said, noting that expenses have outstripped revenues. ‘You increase some fees, and you reduce the number of employees or some programs. There’s no other way to do it.’” (Janine DeFao, “Mayor Submits Oakland Budget,” *San Francisco Chronicle*, 5/14/03)

Brown Proposed \$7 Million In Increased Fees. “Brown and Bobb are proposing \$7 million in new revenue through increased fees and fines.” (Janine DeFao, “Mayor Submits Oakland Budget,” *San Francisco Chronicle*, 5/14/03)

- “Parking meter rates would increase 25 cents an hour, to \$1.25 downtown and \$1 elsewhere. Fines for parking at an expired meter would rise from \$30 to \$35, and street sweeping violations would jump from \$42 to \$64. The city would end its ticket ‘give-back’ program, which allows ticket writers to rip them up if drivers arrive while they’re being written.” (Janine DeFao, “Mayor Submits Oakland Budget,” *San Francisco Chronicle*, 5/14/03)
- “The city plans to implement a \$25 to \$35 annual permit fee for burglar alarms and fines starting at \$100 for the 34,000 false alarm calls police respond to each year.” (Janine DeFao, “Mayor Submits Oakland Budget,” *San Francisco Chronicle*, 5/14/03)

FACT: As Mayor, Jerry Brown Raised Oakland Property Taxes By More Than \$400 Million.

In 2001, Brown Supported Measure B That Raised Property Taxes By \$12 Million Per Year For Five Years (Total Of \$60 Million):

“The New Measure B Would Increase The Current Parcel Tax Of \$75 Per Year By An Additional \$48 Per Year (To \$123) If Approved By The Necessary Two-Thirds Majority. If Approved, The New Measure Would Expire In Five Years.” (Michal Lando, “Measure B Hits The Polls,” *Montclarion*, 11/2/01)

Brown Endorsed Measure B. “Oakland Mayor Jerry Brown recently joined OUSD Superintendent Dennis Chaconas and Oakland Education Association President Sheila Quintana in endorsing Measure B.” (Michal Lando, “Measure B Hits The Polls,” *Montclarion*, 11/2/01)

Measure B Passed. “Measure B, a \$123 yearly parcel tax that will pump \$12 million into Oakland public schools annually, won with a 79 percent majority. The tax was bumped up from \$75 a year and extended for five years.” (Kristin Bender, “Landslides For Parcel Taxes,” *The Oakland Tribune*, 11/8/01)

In 2004, Brown Supported Measure Y, Which Raised Property Taxes By \$20 Million A Year; Also Supported Increased Parking Tax (Total Through 2009 Is \$100 Million):

Measure Y Was A New Parcel Tax Of \$88 A Year On Single-Family Homeowners. “In March, hills and other Oakland residents voted against Measure R, which would have raised taxes to support crime-prevention programs. Now, contention is building over what many residents see as a second attempt to boost crime-prevention, Measure Y, which is on the November ballot. ... The proposal would require single-family homeowners to pay a new parcel tax of \$88 a year.” (Bruce Gerstman, “Anti-Crime Measure Debated,” *Contra Costa Times*, 10/8/04)

- **Measure Y Would Raise Taxes By \$20 Million And Would Impose An 8.5% Parking Tax.** “If passed by more than 66 percent of voters, Measure Y would raise about \$20 million a year by taxing owners of single-family homes \$88 annually to fund its programs for a decade. The yearly cost is \$60.12 per unit for multi-unit residential buildings. Owners of undeveloped parcels and families qualifying as ‘very low income’ are exempt. A parking tax rate of 8.5 percent would also be imposed if the measure passes.” (Tricia Caspers, “Measure Y Divides Many Neighbors,” *Contra Costa Times*, 10/22/04)

Brown Backed Measure Y. “Mayor Jerry Brown and seven of eight City Council members backed Measure Y, touting it as a compromise between those who want more police to fight crime in Oakland and others who see targeted social programs as the best way to deter people from crime.” (Jim Herron Zamora, “Tax To Expand Police Slightly Ahead – Marijuana Measure Likely To Pass,” *San Francisco Chronicle*, 11/3/04)

- **“Brown Said Approval Of The Initiative [Measure Y] Is Good For Oakland ...”** (Heather MacDonald, “Measure Y Finally Gets Its Day,” *Tri-Valley Herald*, 11/4/04)
- **Brown “Vigorously Supported” Measure Y.** “Oakland crime tax -- After failures of similar measures over the past several years, voters on Tuesday approved Measure Y, an anti-crime measure that Mayor Jerry Brown vigorously supported, by a margin of 69.8 to 30.2 percent.” (“Oakland Passes Anti-Crime Tax,” *San Jose Mercury News*, 11/4/04)

Measure Y Passed. “Although the debate on Measure Y divided neighbors and polarized the city, the initiative passed with almost 70 percent of the vote, more than the two-thirds required, according to unofficial election results.” (Heather MacDonald, “Police, City Brass Celebrate Victory,” *The Oakland Tribune*, 11/4/04)

In 2004, Brown Supported Measure Q, Which Raised Property Taxes By \$10.7 Million Per Year Through 2024 (Total Of \$214 Million):

Measure Q Would Increase Taxes By \$10.7 Million A Year. “Measure Q, one of several tax increases on the March ballot, will raise about \$10.7 million a year for local libraries. That is double the \$5.14 million raised each year since voters approved a \$36 library parcel tax in 1994. That tax will expire in 2009 unless voters pass Measure Q or a similar measure.” (Laura Casey, “Measure Would Save Branch Libraries,” *The Oakland Tribune*, 2/19/04)

- **Measure Q Received Support From Brown Allies.** “Proponents of Measure Q, which would raise an existing parcel tax from \$36 to \$70 a year to help the public library system keep pace with rising labor and operational costs, received \$10,000 from the Friends of the Oakland Public Libraries and \$1,000 from developer Phil Tagami, a close ally of Mayor Jerry Brown.” (Heather MacDonald, “Chang Leads Race In Contributions,” *The Oakland Tribune*, 1/24/04)

Measure Q Would Double The Parcel Tax And Extend The Tax Through 2024. “Aside from doubling the 1994 parcel tax to \$75 per year and extending its term until 2024, all other provisions of the tax will remain the same. The measure must be approved by a two-thirds vote.” (Laura Casey, “Measure Would Save Branch Libraries,” *The Oakland Tribune*, 2/19/04)

Brown Supported Measure Q. “Supporters of Measure Q, which include Oakland Public Library director Carmen Martinez and Mayor Jerry Brown, say it will ensure neighborhood libraries remain open.” (Laura Casey, “Measure Would Save Branch Libraries,” *The Oakland Tribune*, 2/19/04)

Measure Q Passed. “Measure Q, which will raise about \$10.7 million annually for Oakland's beleaguered libraries, passed overwhelmingly, with more than 77 percent of voters agreeing to increase a \$36 parcel tax to \$75 per year.” (Heather MacDonald, “Anti-Crime Measure May Return,” *The Oakland Tribune*, 3/4/04)

In 2004, Brown Supported Measure E That Raised Property Taxes By \$7.5 Million Per Year For 5 Years (Total Of \$37.5 Million):

“Oakland Voters Also Are Being Asked To Support Measure E, Which Would Raise The Oakland Schools Parcel Tax From \$123 Annually To \$195 ...” (Robert Gammon, “City Voters Asked To Cough It Up,” *The Oakland Tribune*, 2/15/04)

Measure E Raised Taxes \$7.5 Million Per Year. “If Measure E passes, it will mean an additional \$7.5 million a year, or about \$160 more per student.” (Alex Katz, “School Leaders Split On Tax Measure,” *The Oakland Tribune*, 2/17/04)

Brown Supported Measure E. “So far, a number of parent groups, Mayor Jerry Brown and others have endorsed the measure.” (Alex Katz, “School Leaders Split On Tax Measure,” *The Oakland Tribune*, 2/17/04)

Measure E Passed. “Voters also easily approved two proposals to increase Oakland parcel taxes: Measure E for education programs and Measure Q for library services.” (Herbert A. Sample, “Strong-Mayor System Supported In Oakland,” *The Sacramento Bee*, 3/4/04)

FACT: As Mayor Of Oakland, Jerry Brown Used His Power As Mayor To Deny Residents A 20% Tax Break On Their Utility Taxes.

In 2001, Brown Used His Powers To Block A Cut In Oakland's Utility Tax:

“Oakland Mayor Jerry Brown Has Used His Strong-Mayor Powers To Block A Six-Month Cut In The City's Utility Tax, Saying The Reduction Would Cost The City Millions Of Dollars And Could Plunge It Into A Deficit.” (“Mayor Jerry Brown Blocks Utility Tax Cut,” *San Francisco Chronicle*, 4/30/01)

- **The City Council Approved Of The Tax Decrease To Give Relief To Residents Paying High Energy Bills.** “The City Council approved the temporary ordinance last week to provide relief to residents paying higher energy bills.” (“Mayor Jerry Brown Blocks Utility Tax Cut,” *San Francisco Chronicle*, 4/30/01)
- **“In A Letter Sent To The City Council Two Days After The Law Was Approved, Brown Asserted His Authority Under The City’s Strong-Mayor Measure To Block Implementation Of The New Law.”** (“Mayor Jerry Brown Blocks Utility Tax Cut,” *San Francisco Chronicle*, 4/30/01)

The Tax Decrease Would Have Reduced Oakland Taxpayer Energy Bills By \$1.6 Million. “In the letter, Brown said the six-month tax break would take \$1.6 million from the city coffers and could be construed as a permanent tax cut, which under state Proposition 218 would require approval by two-thirds of the voters to reinstate.” (Tyche Hendricks, “Second Try For Tax Cut In Oakland,” *San Francisco Chronicle*, 5/1/01)

The Measure Would Have Reduced The Utility Tax By 20%. “The measure would cut the city’s 7.5 percent tax to about 6 percent for most gas and electricity users.” (“Mayor Jerry Brown Blocks Utility Tax Cut,” *San Francisco Chronicle*, 4/30/01)

FISCAL FAILURE AS GOVERNOR

FACT: When Jerry Brown Was Governor, The State Had A \$4 Billion Budget Surplus, Yet When He Left Office California Had A \$1 Billion Deficit. Under His Administration, Spending Grew By 119%.

Brown Ended Up With A Surplus At End Of First Term:

At The End Of Brown’s First Term As Governor, California Had A \$4 Billion Surplus. “In 1978, as Mr. Brown ended his first term, the growing protest over taxes was exploding into a full-fledged taxpayer’s revolt. The state budget surplus swelled to nearly \$4 billion, fueled in part by the income tax indexing measures of Ronald Reagan’s previous administration, which forced workers into ever-higher tax brackets even as their pay raises only kept up with inflation.” (Jane Gross with Katherine Bishop, “The 1992 Campaign: Candidate’s Record,” *The New York Times*, 4/5/92)

By The End Of Brown’s Second Term, The State Budget Deficit Was Over \$1 Billion:

When He Left The Governor’s Office, The State Budget Deficit Was Over \$1 Billion. “[In 1982,] The budget surplus had evaporated into a deficit of more than \$1 billion and the state’s general fund reserve had fallen from nearly \$2 billion to zero. The unemployment rate, worsened by a national recession, had risen to a record high of 9.9 percent.” (Jane Gross with Katherine Bishop, “The 1992 Campaign: Candidate’s Record,” *The New York Times*, 4/5/92)

Under Jerry’s Administration, The California Budget Grew By 119%. “How much has state spending grown during the eight years of the Jerry Brown Administration? Brown’s first budget totaled \$11.5 billion in 1975, and this year’s total is \$25.2 billion – an increase of some 119 percent.” (Ed Salzman, “Has California Launched A National Health Revolution,” *California Journal*, 8/82)

FACT: In Jerry Brown’s Last Term As Governor, California’s Unemployment Rate Nearly Doubled To A Record High Of 11%.

Brown Left California With Record Unemployment:

When He Left The Governor’s Office, California Was Facing Record Unemployment. “[In 1982,] The budget surplus had evaporated into a deficit of more than \$1 billion and the state’s general fund reserve had fallen from nearly \$2 billion to zero. The unemployment rate, worsened by a national recession, had risen to a record high of 9.9 percent.” (Jane Gross with Katherine Bishop, “The 1992 Campaign: Candidate’s Record,” *The New York Times*, 4/5/92)

At The Beginning Of His Second Term (January 1979) The Unemployment Rate In California Was 6.5%; At The End Of His Term (December 1982) The Unemployment Rate In California Was 11%. (Bureau Of Labor Statistics, <http://data.bls.gov/PDQ/servlet/SurveyOutputServlet>, Accessed 2/18/10)

- **In January 1979 There Were 721,084 Unemployed Californians; In December 1982 There Were 1,341,536 Unemployed Californians.** (Bureau Of Labor Statistics, <http://data.bls.gov/PDQ/servlet/SurveyOutputServlet>. Accessed 2/18/10)

FACT: As Governor, Jerry Brown Raised, Proposed, Or Endorsed More Than \$7 Billion In New Taxes Including Signing Into Law A Gas Tax Increase Of More Than \$2.5 Billion.

In 1981, Brown Supported And Signed A Gas Tax Increase Totaling \$2.7 Billion:

Los Angeles Times: “Brown Signs Bill Hiking State Gas Tax 2 Cents” (Jerry Gillam, “Brown Signs Bill Hiking State Gas Tax 2 Cents,” *Los Angeles Times*, 9/18/81)

- **The Bill’s Also Gave County Governments The Ability To Increase Gas Taxes Locally Above The 2-Cent Increase.** “A little known aspect of the bill is that it would allow for local-option gas increases over and above the 2-cent statewide boost if approved by county board of supervisors, city governments representing a majority of residents in the county and then by voters in a countywide referendum.” (Bill Billiter, “2-Cent Hike In State Gas Tax Voted,” *Los Angeles Times*, 9/15/81)

The Tax Was Going To Increase Taxes By \$2.7 Billion Over Five Years. “The new law would raise a total of up to \$2.7 billion during the next five years to head off a projected multi-billion dollar highway building and maintenance fund deficit.” (Jerry Gillam, “Brown Signs Bill Hiking State Gas Tax 2 Cents,” *Los Angeles Times*, 9/18/81)

In 1981, Brown Asked For A \$5 Billion Sales Tax Increase:

Brown Proposed Increasing The Sales Tax By A Total Of \$5 Billion. “Governor Brown announced Mr. Kaus’s appointment in a speech on television promising a renewed campaign against crime in California. For this he is asking for the first tax he has ever proposed, a quarter-cent increase in the present 6% sales tax. This would yield \$5 billion over the next 10 years. Half would go on prison expansion, half to local police.” (“Brown’s Turnabout,” *The Economist*, 5/16/81)

The Legislature And Brown Worked Together To Propose The Sales Tax Increase In 1981. “Goggin’s proposal originally called for a quarter-cent tax increase for local crime programs to be decided later by the Legislature and an \$850-million bond issue for jails and prisons. However, in negotiating sessions with Brown and his staff, Goggin agreed to drop the bond issue portion of the bill.” (Claudia Luther, “Brown Urges Sales Tax Hike To Fight Crime,” *Los Angeles Times*, 5/7/81)

FISCAL FAILURE ON PROPOSITION 13

FACT: As Governor, Jerry Brown Unsuccessfully Led Opposition To Proposition 13, Calling It “Crazy”, “A Fraud,” And A “Rip-Off.”

Brown Harshly Criticized Proposition 13:

“When Proposition 13, The Landmark Property Tax Cut Initiative, Was Placed Before Voters In 1978, Then-Gov. Jerry Brown Appointed Himself As The Opposition’s Point Man.” (Dan Walters, “Jerry Brown Still Wears Old Flip-Flops,” *Scripps Howard News Service*, 2/13/07)

- **“He Denounced The Measure As ‘Consumer Fraud’ And ‘A Rip-Off ... A Legal Morass And ... A Long-Term Tax Increase’ And Predicted Immense And Negative Fallout Should It Pass.”** (Dan Walters, “Jerry Brown Still Wears Old Flip-Flops,” *Scripps Howard News Service*, 2/13/07)

San Francisco Chronicle Headline: “Brown Calls Prop. 13 ‘Crazy’” (Lon Daniels, “Brown Calls Prop. 13 ‘Crazy,’” *San Francisco Chronicle*, 5/28/78)

- **“Brown Called Prop. 13 ‘Expensive, Unworkable And Crazy.’”** (Lon Daniels, “Brown Calls Prop. 13 ‘Crazy,’” *San Francisco Chronicle*, 5/28/78)

“Brown—Who Once Ridiculed Proposition 13 As ‘A Ripoff’ And ‘Tax Trap’...” (Larry Liebert, “Brown’s Ordeal With Proposition 13,” *San Francisco Chronicle*, 5/28/78)

“Brown Pledged To ‘Campaign Vigorously’ Against The Ballot Measure, The Jarvis Initiative.” (George Skelton, “Brown Signs Tax Relief Bill, Rules Out Any Hikes,” *Los Angeles Times*, 3/4/78)

FISCAL FAILURE ON PAY RAISES

FACT: Jerry Brown Has A Long History Of Supporting Large Pay Raises For Himself And Other State Government Workers, Including A Pay Raise In 2007 That Made His Salary \$184,000.

Brown’s Long History Of Pay Raises:

In 1977, Brown Gave His Staff Pay Raises. “The Governor, incidentally, gave workers in his own office pay raises that range from six percent for those at the top to nine percent for those at the bottom.” (“Brown’s Weakest Session: Failure On Tax Relief, Water Projects,” *California Journal*, October 1977)

In 1978, Brown Allocated Hundreds Of Millions For Government Employee Salary Raises. “The Governor allocated \$261 million in additional employee compensation, \$197 million in salary boosts and \$64 million in equity adjustments and other benefits.” (Ed Salzman, “Brown’s Fourth Budget: Not As Generous As It Seems,” *California Journal*, 02/78)

In 1979, Brown Signed A Bill That Gave State Legislators A 10% Raise. “Gov. Brown has signed into law a bill that could raise stat legislators’ salaries by 10% - to \$28,111 – by the end of 1980, his office announced today.” (Jerry Gillam, “State Legislator Pay Bill Signed,” *Los Angeles Times*, 9/9/79)

- **In His First Year As Governor, Brown Signed A Bill To Give State Legislators A 10% Pay Raise.** “A controversial bill that gives state legislators a ten percent pay raise—was signed by Governor Edmund Brown last night. The politically sensitive bill won narrow approval in both houses of the Legislature....Legislative analyst Alan Post estimated the higher pay will cost the taxpayers \$383,000 a year.” (“Brown Signs Legislative Pay Raise,” *San Francisco Chronicle*, 10/1/75)

Brown Signed Into Law A Piece Of Legislation That Gave Almost All State Employees A Flat Monthly Pay Raise. “Saying that he hopes ‘those with the least income are treated fairly,’ Brown today signs into law a piece of legislation that he proposed earlier this year, giving almost all state employees a flat monthly pay raise. Both janitors and heads of agencies will have their wages raised equally by \$70 a month.” (Orville Schell, “Brown,” 1978, p. 106)

In 2001, Brown Received A 10.5% Raise. “In May 2001, Brown received a 10.5 percent boost based on the formula and research done by Smith’s office.” (“Salary Talk Sparks Power Struggle,” *The Oakland Tribune*, 4/8/03)

In 2007, Brown Received A Pay Raise. “The California Citizens Compensation Commission voted Monday to give legislators and most constitutional officers, including the governor, a 2.75 percent raise. Attorney General Jerry Brown and state Superintendent of Public Instruction Jack O’Connell will get a bigger boost, netting a 5 percent pay hike, the commission decided.” (Mark Martin, “Panel Raises Pay Of Lawmakers, State Executives,” *San Francisco Chronicle*, 6/19/07)

- **Brown’s Salary Became \$184,000.** “The decision will mean the governor’s salary, already the highest in the nation, will be \$212,179 per year -- although Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger declines his state salary. Lawmakers will earn \$116,208, and Brown and O’Connell each will earn \$184,301.” (Mark Martin, “Panel Raises Pay Of Lawmakers, State Executives,” *San Francisco Chronicle*, 6/19/07)