



**Treat us as your partners:**

Governor and Legislature should consult with counties in budget reduction strategies in order to meet the needs of our constituents.

Given state and local fiscal conditions, new mandates (legislative, agency rules, or permits) that add costs and responsibilities are unacceptable unless new and sufficient resources accompany such mandates.

Don't shift state programs to counties without the resources to do the job.

**We must have the support of the state to recover for the economic crisis locally and across the state**

Don't reduce funding that leverages other important local economic development priorities and needs.

Ensure that state programs that generate economic development are funded sufficiently so that they can be effectively implemented. Such programs include:

- forest practices permits, water rights permits, HPAS, fisheries (commercial and recreational), outdoor recreation.

All counties must remain economically viable.

**We must have the flexibility with both local and state funds to respond to local needs:**

If you trust us to raise the funds, trust us to spend them to meet local needs.

Block grant health and human resource funding-allow counties to meet local needs.

Changes in state programs or mandates must result in significant savings.

Provide counties with diverse and flexible revenue sources in order to meet local needs.

**Retain shared revenue and other funding to priority programs:**

State revenues currently distributed to local governments are driven by decades of past decisions to deliver vital services to our citizens. Counties rely on these funds and some have made long term bonding decisions based on those funds.

If state support to local government is curtailed, then reductions should be made in tandem with policy changes that provide fiscal relief - either through reduced mandates or responsibilities or expanded home rule authorities. There should be no cuts in revenue or programs without fiscal relief.