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ICYMI: *U-T San Diego*: Higher taxes indefensible when state flush with cash

Former Councilman Fred Schnaubelt argues that myriad new and higher tax proposals are unnecessary when the state has significant surpluses

(SACRAMENTO)—Former San Diego City Councilman Fred Schnaubelt argued against raising or creating new taxes in a guest column in Saturday's *U-T San Diego*, especially since drivers are already dealing with a new hidden gas tax and the state is facing such "good fiscal tidings."

***U-T San Diego*: Higher taxes indefensible when state flush with cash**

The death of the "California Dream" was a featured theme of many newspapers just a few years ago. Newspapers were writing our state's obituary when California was hit particularly hard by the worst recession since the Great Depression. But now, housing prices are up, unemployment is down, the budget is balanced and, incredibly, California has enough money to pay off debts incurred during the recession and we still have money left over for a rainy-day fund.

Despite these good fiscal tidings, many in Sacramento are pushing for tens of billions of dollars in new and increased taxes.

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Also in January, a new \$10 billion-per-year services tax was introduced in the Legislature that would tax bank transactions, haircuts, movie tickets and myriad other services. This is not just a burden for taxpayers, but it is also an added regulation for small-business owners and sole proprietors who will be forced to deal with imposing this tax.

There are also suggested initiatives to increase the tobacco tax, impose a tax on sodas and sugary drinks, add an oil severance tax and increase property taxes and impose a vehicle "miles traveled" tax to make up for lower gas tax revenues.

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The politicians in Sacramento should deal with the state budget just like California families do — determine how much money there is and then develop a budget and savings plan that reflects that income.

Instead, they develop a spending plan first and then look to raising taxes to fund their new spending plan. It's time that politicians realize they can't fund every pet project and that we need to prioritize our spending, just like California families do.

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We simply cannot afford to let politicians tax and spend us back into another recession. No state has ever taxed itself into prosperity.

To read the entire guest column, [please click here](#).