**Talking Points for Legislative Chairs, FEBRUARY 2024**

Details are in the February issue of the *Advocacy Communicator.*

* Governor Newsom initial budget proposal assumes a $38.7 billion deficit, $30 billion less than what the Legislative Analyst has predicted. The proposed budget maintains funding for most education programs. We’ll all have a better idea about how big the deficit is after state income taxes have been collected. The governor will issue a revised budget in May.
* The governor wants to increase funding for the Cradle-to-Career Data System, a longitudinal database that will track California children from early childhood into their working careers. This will show what programs are effective over the long run. The system will be open to the public and should be in place by the 2025-26 school year.
* The Primary Election is coming up in March. The Communicator has information about what we will be voting on. A good place to get nonpartisan information about candidates and propositions is vote411.org.
* The Fourth District PTA Advocacy Forum last month was an opportunity for PTA advocates from around Orange County to share their ideas. These included a Student Advocacy Program that takes high school students to Sacramento for one day, ideas for a candidate forum, and a campaign to increase federal funding for special education.

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