

RELIGIOUS PRINCIPLES

A MORAL BUDGET FOR ALL CALIFORNIANS

—CLUE CALIFORNIA ▪ CLERGY & LAITY UNITED FOR ECONOMIC JUSTICE

FAITH

COMMUNITIES CALL FOR A MORAL STATE BUDGET

A budget is a moral document, reflecting the values and priorities of a family, a community, a society:

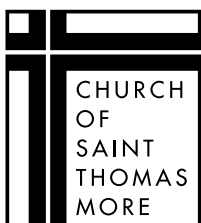
REASON: A responsible family creates a budget to make sure that their resources are sufficient for their needs. A healthy family contributes, each according to his ability, to make sure that the needs of everyone in the family are met. Reason tells us that we are each responsible for ourselves and we are simultaneously interdependent—responsible for one another. It is not different with the state as with a family. Reason also requires that we must examine every alternative and explore every possible source of revenue, including closing tax loopholes that let some people escape their fair share.

COMPASSION: In times of budget shortfalls, no one in the family is left out. Those who are most vulnerable and needy are cared for. Many scriptures call us to care for our neighbors—helping the widow, the orphan, and the stranger. *Seek the lost...bind up the injured, and strengthen the weak.* Ezekiel 24:16

FAIRNESS: Our faith traditions advocate for a community where the needs of each person are equally valued and respected. We often place the greatest burden of our state budget on working families and those who are poor. We have held back cost-of-living increases, foster child protections, medical care, child care allowances, and many other programs. Each of these cuts can and often do *fall on the same family, the same child, the same person.*

RESPONSIBLE INVESTMENT: The statewide budget should convey the government's priority to invest in the well-being of all people in our society. We must invest in the future, not only through quality infrastructure, but ensuring the health of individuals, families, and communities. People of faith understand responsible investment to be essential for the common good.

STEWARDSHIP: If we cannot care adequately for our people under the state budget, we must ask the question—If saving taxes for those who are affluent is our only goal, then what have we become as a people? Healthy families and communities practice the art of compromise. California cannot become a state that only serves those who have already been blessed with good incomes and social stability.



1450 SOUTH MELROSE DRIVE
OCEANSIDE, CA 92056
PHONE: 760-758-4100
www.stmoside.org
parishoffice@stmoside.org



First of a series