



In Montana's 2011 legislative session, a majority of legislators proposed deep, unnecessary, and harmful cuts to vital public services like education, health care, and job training. The resulting damage to our families, communities, and economy was only prevented by last-minute negotiations with the governor. While the budget compromise restored funding to many vital public programs, some harmful cuts remain. The cuts were unnecessary. The Legislature balanced its budget using out-of-date and overly pessimistic revenue estimates, refusing to act on updated estimates from their non-partisan staff and even higher estimates from the governor's office.

#### **Governor Proposes Budget (11/15/10; updated 12/15/10)**

- Maintains most services but does not make up for all expiring Recovery Act funds;
- Includes sensible solutions to raise revenue by closing tax loopholes and increasing compliance.



#### **Budget Subcommittees Make Dramatic Cuts in Early Votes (Jan. 2011)**

- Sweeps hundreds of cuts into a handful of early procedural motions, starting the budget process almost \$500 million below the governor's proposed budget and over \$300 million below the Legislature's own revenue estimates.



*Some funding restored as budget moves through House, Senate and Conference Committee.*

#### **Legislature Sends the Budget to the Governor (4/13/11)**

- Includes over \$200 million in cuts to education, food stamps, energy assistance for low-income families, and Healthy Montana Kids, among others;
- Over two-thirds of the proposed cuts to health and human services were the rejection of federal funds, and over \$50 million of the rejected federal funds required *no match of state dollars*



*Governor Schweitzer threatens veto of budget, leading to negotiations between Republican leadership and the governor.*

#### **Governor Delivers an Amendatory Veto (4/22/11), Accepted by Legislature (4/28/11)**

- Final budget restores roughly \$150 million of the Legislature's proposed cuts, but is still roughly \$80 million below the governor's proposed budget.
- Most of the federal funds are restored to health and human services
- Remaining cuts include:
  - \$36 million to the Department of Health and Human Services
    - \$2 million for family planning
    - \$7 million in tobacco prevention
  - \$3 million to the Department of Revenue
  - \$14 million to higher education
  - \$12 million to local schools
  - \$25 million pay plan for public employees