

Preface

The purpose *California Policy Options* is to collect and publish annually fresh UCLA research on public policy issues facing California. This edition of *California Policy Options*, which includes articles on policy topics as diverse as the local challenges of homeland security, expert critical analysis of the state budget, and a passionate advocacy to incentivize public transportation on the UCLA campus, is a snapshot that captures the breadth, range, and depth of our research.

Over the last decade, the *California Policy Options* report of the UCLA School of Public Affairs has built on its legacy as an outgrowth of the annual UCLA *Anderson Forecast*. Now produced in conjunction with the Ralph and Goldy Lewis Center for Regional Policy Studies, it has become a trusted source of thoughtful research and analysis on policy issues affecting the state of California.

This broad scope reflects not only California's complexity, but also the interdisciplinary mission and expertise of the UCLA School of Public Affairs, with regular contributions from our departments of Urban Planning, Social Welfare, and Public Policy as well as from UCLA faculty collaborators across campus. Now celebrating our tenth Anniversary as a School, the UCLA School of Public Affairs is a leader in convening academic and policy leaders to solve policy problems across boundaries. In this light, we are pleased to present the 2005 edition of *California Policy Options*.

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