

# Association of California State Supervisors

1108 O Street, Suite 317, Sacramento CA 95630  
916-326-4257 • [www.acssonline.org](http://www.acssonline.org)

Contact: Linda Holderness (916-326-4302)  
For immediate release

## ACSS calls for impeachment of Schwarzenegger

In a spirited meeting Sunday morning, the Association of California State Supervisors voted unanimously to demand the Legislature begin impeachment proceedings against Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger.

“We want to go on record as supporting immediate impeachment of the governor,” said association President Olin King. “His inability to pass a budget is placing California in financial jeopardy, and his order to furlough state workers, to place the burden of balancing the budget on our backs, is an act of malfeasance.”

The furlough, to start in February, will reduce state workers’ pay by nearly 10 percent. State workers also will lose two paid holidays and face losing 20 percent of their workforce to layoffs.

These losses come on top of a reduction that surprised some state employees, whose paychecks are lower this month because their benefit deductions increased.

In the discussion before the vote, the ACSS board members accused the governor of breaching his fiduciary duty, missing deadlines, managing “with smoke and mirrors,” fiscal mismanagement, incompetence and a failure to exercise proper leadership.

Plus, the group said, the governor was “mean-spirited” and “arbitrary” in cutting employees’ salaries when their responsibilities and the services they provide are strong.

Private companies reduce pay or staff when business is down, King said. State employees are expected to keep up their high level of service with two fewer days each month and a 10 percent pay cut.

Eliminating the holidays particularly irked the group. “Isn’t it contradictory,” asked one member, “that the governor wants to save by closing state offices two days a month yet has ordered those offices to open on two holidays?”

“We have lost by being quiet,” said CalSTRS supervisor Elnora Fretwell, whose plea initiated the discussion that led to the motion. “We have lost by talking. I’m so tired of talking. Let’s not just roll over.”

The members cheered as the president's gavel hit the dais confirming the impeachment motion. "It is important we take a firm stand," King said. "A governor is supposed to be able to work across the aisle. This governor can't even work with his own side."

ACSS, which represents state nonunion employees, is especially outraged the furloughs would disproportionately hurt the management team. Because managers and supervisors are salaried, they work as many hours as their duties require without overtime pay. During times of crisis, when rank-and-file employees do not or cannot work, the supervisors and managers make sure services are maintained.

"We need to keep reemphasizing that," said Norman Stone, a board member from Cambria. "We're the ones who keep the state running, no matter what happens, and we don't get paid anything extra."

The members spoke for all state workers in condemning the furlough for the financial hardships it would cause, particularly in families with two state wage earners, who will lose thousands of dollars, said Alternate Director-at-Large Jerry Fountain. He and his wife, Christy Christensen, are educators with the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation in Coalinga.

"This furlough," Fountain said, "could bankrupt people who survived the foreclosures."

Not only will the cuts further puncture the housing market, but they are bound to hurt all of California's economy. A Jan. 11 Sacramento Bee analysis calculated the losses from the governor's cuts at \$3 billion statewide and \$1 billion in the Sacramento area.

Yet, sympathy for the state workers appears low. ACSS Vice President Arlene Espinoza, a Sacramento Department of Motor Vehicles supervisor whose husband also works for the state, suggested the public does not understand the cuts will affect them, too. Reduced spending will hurt business profits and generate less tax revenue for government operations and services. Businesses will go under, pushing more workers onto the unemployment rolls, and services we take for granted will disappear.

"State workers lose 10 percent of their income," Espinoza said, "but the businesses state workers patronize will lose customers and end up with no business at all."

Several ACSS members confirmed they had already begun curtailing restaurant eating, shopping at discount stores and postponing vacations and major purchases.

State services, too, will suffer. With employees off two days a month, the public will be surprised at some of the services that will suffer, Espinoza said – "much more than longer DMV lines."

"It's time the public really understood the value of state service," she said. "What happens the next time snow closes the roads to Lake Tahoe and they can't be plowed because Caltrans workers are on furlough? How will you get there?"

ACSS can't succeed in this effort by itself, President King said. He is calling for all state employees, plus the employees of cities and counties, to join ACSS in demanding the governor's impeachment.

"The governor's so-called solutions are creating hardships rather than solving any problems," he said. "The burden he has placed on his loyal state workers, especially his management team, is unconscionable."

Only the Legislature can impeach the governor. ACSS urges its members and any employees of another public agency or any citizen of California to write their legislators demanding the governor be impeached. To make it easy, you can access ACSS' online Legislative Action Center ([www.acsonline.org](http://www.acsonline.org)). The site will offer a prewritten letter that can be rewritten or edited and automatically directed to legislators, the governor and the media. Anyone can use the Legislative Action Center and no sign-up is required.

ACSS also is urging its members to make district office visits to their legislators' home offices. "Never has it been more critical for our members to contact their representatives face to face," said ACSS Senior Labor Rep Bonnie Morris.

And on March 17, scores of ACSS members are expected to descend on the Capitol for their annual Lobby Day, when they visit every legislator or a staff member.

