



GOVERNOR
Gavin Newsom

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To the members of the Senate and the Assembly of the California Legislature:

Since the first North Americans crossed the Bering land bridge, human beings have come to California for fresh starts and new beginnings. Even for those earliest travelers, this land, rich with sunshine and bounty, must have been the stuff of dreams—a place where a prosperous and fulfilling life seemed within reach.

Generations of Californians have etched their dreams into our state's history. Gold rush miners and wagon-wheeled families struck out for gold. Immigrants from Asia and Europe sought opportunities across a vast sea. Servicemen and women returned from theatres of war and sowed entire communities out of cattle land. Dreamers and doers invented the future, from the Silver Screen to Silicon Valley.

The California Dream—the idea that every person can achieve a better life, regardless of where they start out—is central to who we are as Californians. As elected representatives of the people, it's our job to make the California Dream real once more.

Even in a time of economic growth and record employment, too many Californians are experiencing the squeeze of stagnant wages and the rising price of building-block necessities such as housing costs, health care premiums, higher education and child care.

With this new budget—and at this new beginning—I believe we can and must reanimate the California Dream.

California for All. That is the driving idea behind this budget proposal and my first year in office.

My predecessor, Governor Jerry Brown—in partnership with the Legislature—restored our state's confidence by pulling state government back from the brink of fiscal insolvency. This budget proposal doubles down on that responsible legacy, finally tearing down the remaining wall of budgetary debt, paying down pension obligations and building up the most robust and prudent budget reserve in state history.

At the same time, this budget demonstrates that responsible budgeting and bold investments are not mutually exclusive.

The following pages detail a comprehensive blueprint for making the California Dream more accessible and affordable for all. It does more than any budget in California history to invest in future generations and confront the real drivers of our state's cost crisis—housing, child care, health care, prescription drugs, preschool and higher education.

The California Dream should be available to every Californian, not just a privileged few. This year's budget presents the best opportunity in decades to move our state closer to that important goal.

With respect,

/s/ Gavin Newsom

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