

Constitutional Amendment.

Sacramento Bee columnist Dan Walters moderating discussions on panels of elected officials and city managers covered the impact of the state budget on services provided by local governments. One issue was a Constitutional Amendment sponsored by the California League of Cities for the November 2004 ballot to guarantee local government consistent budgeting like schools.

Level of mistrust.

Mayor Rockholm said, "We have to do something to protect ourselves." Dan Walters commented that "Something I hear all the time is the level of mistrust between the state legislature and the Governor and local government is extremely high. Essentially local folks don't trust the state anymore. They (local government) believe they see themselves as pockets to be picked."

Pork barrel politics

Mayor Rockholm's answer was "I would agree. I think it's a living example of pork barrel politics. The fact that they get use to this money or whatever they are taking and they want to continue to have programs and everybody wants to have a program named after them. With the short terms that they can serve now, they want to leave a legacy and I think there is just a lot of mistrust when someone comes and tells me they are going to do this for me. Really, what they are doing is picking my pocket while they have their arm around me.

Simply no trust.

Dan Walters asked Roseville city manager Craig Robinson whether he felt "kind of like you are at the end of the food chain?" Mr Robinson responded that "Sacramento has forgotten about who provides the services, who makes the investments in infrastructure, who provides growth and development, jobs. We should be partners and we are not." He also said, "the relationship with the state is so strained now because of what they have done to us that there is simply no trust.

Picking your pocket.

Look who is calling the pot black! Roseville voters repealed the Utility User's Tax and the city council and management fought the voters at every turn. They even slipped in an ordinance to prevent ratepayers from getting back the illegally collected tax from November 2000. Although the court commanded Roseville to discontinue collecting the In-Lieu Franchise Fee they continue to collect the fee. They got use to the money by picking your pocket. The trust is gone.

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