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News Clerks Should Know:

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[State Budget Deal Proposes a May 19 Statewide Special Election](#)

Senate Leader Darrell Steinberg announced late yesterday that lawmakers failed to find the final vote needed for agreement on a state budget plan. A special session is being held today, at which Steinberg said he would put the tax provisions of the budget proposal up for a vote.

The budget plan includes \$15.1 billion in program cuts, \$14.4 billion in temporary tax increases and \$11.4 billion in borrowing. **The package also would send five ballot measures to voters in a special election to be held May 19.**

The proposed tax hikes include an increase of 1 cent on the dollar in the state sales tax, a 12-cent-a-gallon hike in the gasoline tax and a boost in vehicle licensing fees.

The measure also includes a one-time, 5 per cent income tax surcharge for taxpayers who owe money to the state at the end of 2009. The surcharge would drop to 2.5 per cent if California gets its expected share of money from the federal stimulus bill.

If a statewide special election is called for May 19, there is possibility for cities to consolidate their special local elections. If this is something your city may be considering, watch this news item very closely as the final date for consolidating is E-88 which (for a May 19 election) would be **February 20, 2009**. (Note: If the Governor calls a statewide special election with less than 88 days prior to the election date, then consolidations must be called within four days of the Governor's proclamation.)