

A NO-NEW-REVENUE BUDGET WOULD HAVE UNACCEPTABLE CONSEQUENCES

As is required by law, Governor Gregoire prepared a budget for 2013–15 that relies only on existing revenue. But after seeing what that would entail, the Governor is convinced that such a budget would have unacceptable consequences for the state and its people — especially considering the unprecedented cuts of the past four years.

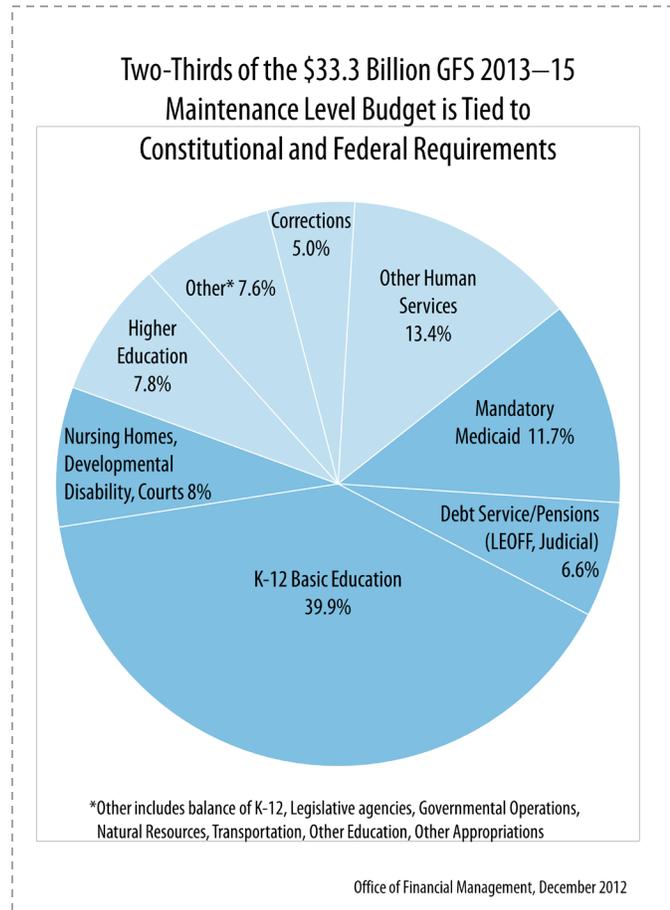
Instead, Governor Gregoire is proposing a balanced approach — one that includes more than \$700 million in reductions and savings but also calls for reasonable revenue solutions and fund transfers to help preserve essential services.

What would a budget that relies primarily on cuts alone look like?

In addition to the cuts proposed in the Governor’s 2013–15 budget, a budget based only on existing General Fund revenue would require some very difficult reductions. It would force the closure of a number of state parks and leave vital programs such as the College Bound scholarships with critical funding shortages.

Here are other examples of cuts the Governor is **avoiding** in the 2013–15 budget with her balanced solution:

- Reducing levy equalization funding to local school districts by \$100 million. Levy equalization is by far the largest state funding program in K-12 that is not included in the Legislature’s definition of basic education. Levy equalization payments to eligible school districts would be reduced by 21 percent during 2014 and 2015.
- Imposing \$52 million in across-the-board cuts to the public universities and colleges. This would shrink total General Fund-State support to the state’s two-year and four-year colleges and universities by 2.5 percent. No reductions would be made to state financial aid programs, and no tuition increase would be provided for in the budget for the next two years. Colleges and universities do have the authority to increase tuition on their own, but absent state increases in financial aid, the schools would be responsible for maintaining financial aid for eligible students if they choose to raise tuition further.
- Ending liquor profit sharing of \$49 million with local governments.



- Eliminating or suspending services that benefit vulnerable or poor citizens, including:
 - › **State Food Assistance Program**, which serves approximately 11,300 non-citizens each month. (\$25 million)
 - › **Individual and Family Services Program**, which helps keep 1,100 families intact by providing assistance in caring for family members with developmental disabilities. (\$11 million)
 - › **Add-on rates for shopping and laundry services** for 8,275 elderly and developmentally disabled clients because they live more than 45 minutes from a shopping facility or do not have on-site access to a laundry facility. (\$12 million)
 - › **State-only employment** services for 568 clients with developmental disabilities, including job training, placement and support. (\$9 million)
- Reducing grants to support county and local fair operations. (\$3.5 million)
- Reducing grants and technical support to local watershed planning groups by \$2.8 million. This cut, combined with previous reductions, represents an 83 percent reduction since 2009–11.