

## Disability Community Targeted Once More!

### *Governor Resurrects Budget Cuts in Face of Growing Deficit*

The budget crisis isn't over. A proposal for devastating cuts to programs benefiting people with disabilities, including seniors, is back on Sacramento's front burner as well.

Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger recently called for an emergency legislative session to deal with a mushrooming budget deficit, even after the prolonged budget fight this summer/early fall, seemingly resolved at the end of September. His proposals include another \$1 billion in cuts to health and human services, on top of the billions in cuts already enacted.

The Governor's proposed cuts include: slashing CA participation in IHSS worker wages to the level of the State minimum wage; eliminating IHSS domestic and related services for some recipients; a reduction in benefits for some SSI/SSP recipients; 3% cuts to regional center providers; elimination of Medi-Cal coverage for such "optional" services as psychiatry, podiatry, dentistry and more. The Governor has also proposed some tax increases, including a temporary sales increase of 1.5%, to help deal with the fiscal crisis.

The Legislature is **NOT** required to take action on the Governor's proposals. Stay tuned.

## Election Day 2008: Better Access, But Many Issues Remain

Presidential election day saw huge numbers of voters get to the polls in 2008. TCIL staff spent some of that day sampling polling places in Eureka, Arcata and McKinleyville to check on accessibility for people with disabilities. This process was undertaken with the understanding that it is difficult for Humboldt County to find adequate numbers of voting locations and that many sites used are not ADA compliant.

Overall, it was found that poll workers were fairly well aware of access issues. They knew where the low vision assistive devices were, where the tables for people in wheelchairs were set up, and if there was accessible parking. However, some temporary "remedies" were not thought through well enough. For example, low tables were set aside for people in wheelchairs, but they were placed in "segregated" locations,

## Take Action! Contact Your Elected Officials

**Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger**, State Capitol Bldng., Sacramento, CA 95814, Tel.: (916) 445-2841; Fax: (916) 558-3160; **Assembly Member Patty Berg\***, 235 Fourth St., Ste. C, Eureka, CA 95501; Tel.: (707) 445-7014; Fax: (707) 445-6607; **Senator Pat Wiggins**, 710 E St., #150, Eureka, CA 95501, Tel.: (707) 445-6508; Fax: (707) 445-5611; **Senator Sam Aanestad**, State Capitol Room 2054, Sacramento, CA 95814, Tel.: (916) 651-4004; Fax: (916) 445-7750

\*until Wesley Chesbro, elected on 11/4 takes office on 12/1/08

TRI-COUNTY INDEPENDENT LIVING, INC.  
2822 HARRIS STREET  
EUREKA, CALIFORNIA 95503



Non-Profit Organization  
U.S. Postage Paid  
Permit No. 32  
Eureka, CA

were obstructed by chairs, or did not allow a voter with a disability the same privacy as others. Paths of travel were sometimes blocked by tables or other objects. Such issues could easily be resolved with some rearranging.

Other common problems encountered were that doors were not propped open and parking was inadequate. For example, parking places for people with disabilities were often put farthest away from entrances and/or signage was not at all clear.

Some specific issues encountered included: **Redwood Acres, Home Ec. Bldg.**, Eureka—no disabled parking set aside; **Eureka Municipal Auditorium**—very low lighting, front doors closed; **Humboldt Community Services Dist**, Eureka—front door closed; **Apostolic Faith Church**, Eureka—front doors closed; **First Covenant Church**, Eureka—awkward location for accessible voting table; **Veterans Hall**, Arcata—no assigned parking spot for unloading; **7<sup>th</sup> Day Adventist Church**, McKinleyville—unclear parking signage, hallway blocked; **Morris School**, McKinleyville—no signage for dis-

abled parking, no accessible voting table set up; **Christ the King Church**, McKinleyville—blocked path of travel, misleading signage for one parking spot, one designated disabled parking spot not accessible. **Grace Baptist Church**, Eureka--closed front door, dim lighting.

TCIL continues to offer its services to the Humboldt County Elections Division to make future voting run smoothly for people with disabilities.

Want to take some action for disability rights and issues? Join the **Disability Action Network**. Contact Cindy Calderon at (707) 445-8404 for more information.

## Local Happenings

**December 4--3-5 p.m.** TCIL Holiday Open House & Artists' Reception at TCIL offices! Come check out some great photography by **Steve Coach**, as well as art work by **Pat Clark** and **Ruth Mountaingrove**.

**March 7--11 a.m.-3 p.m.**, Bayside Grange--**Humboldt Pie II** fundraiser for TCIL

**Tri-County Independent Living, 2822 Harris St., Eureka, CA 95503. For questions on this publication, call Glenn Reed at (707) 445-8404.**