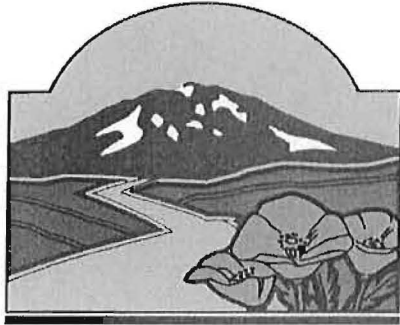


CITY OF  
**ANDERSON**



# AGENDA ITEM

**September 10, 2009, City Council Meeting**

Approved for Submittal By:

City Manager

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To Be Presented By:

Melissa Hunt

Handwritten signature of Melissa Hunt in black ink.

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the Anderson City Council

From: Dana Shigley, Acting City Manager  
Telephone 378-6646

Date: September 10, 2009

## SUBJECT

**Public Forum to discuss the need for State governance and fiscal reform.**

## RECOMMENDATION

The City Manager recommends that the City Council:

**Conduct a Public Forum to discuss the need for State governance and fiscal reform.**

## DISCUSSION and BACKGROUND

After years of State fiscal and governance crises, recent research shows that voters are frustrated and increasingly open to reform that will fundamentally change the way governments finance and provide services. In July, the Cities-Counties-Schools Partnership held a workshop in Sacramento to address this issue and encourage local governments to engage their communities in meaningful dialog about state governance and fiscal reform.

At their meeting of August 18, the City Council agreed to hold a public forum to seek input from Anderson's citizens regarding the need for State governance and fiscal reform. The City of Redding held a similar forum on August 31 and the City of Shasta Lake has a forum scheduled for September 24.

At the City of Redding's forum, as well as the CCS Partnership workshop in Sacramento, many ideas have been identified and discussed. While a list of all possible reform measures is not possible, some of the most often mentioned ideas include:

- Convening a Constitutional Convention to consider broad changes to the state's constitution.
- Eliminating the current bicameral (two-house) legislature and instead institute a unicameral (single house) legislature.
- Reform term limits to allow legislators to serve longer.
- Amend the State Constitution in increments through the initiative process.
- Subject the legislature, including caucus meetings, to the Brown Act (open meeting laws).
- Abolish the requirement that 2/3 vote of the legislature is required to adopt a budget, allowing the budget to be adopted by a simple majority.
- Return to a part-time legislature, with legislators spending more time in their districts rather than in Sacramento.

At tonight's forum, we encourage Anderson's citizens to offer comment on these proposals, as well as offer suggestions for other areas of reform. After all the local forums are complete, all the comments and suggestions will be compiled and relayed back to our legislators and other organizations.