

Economic Recovery Commission  
Government Committee Meeting  
Minutes for December 7, 2009

**MINUTES**

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Chookaszian at 8:10am.

Attendance: Dennis Chookaszian, Alex Rorke, Greg Wass, Joe Persky, Jerry Roper, John Brodson, Jennifer Weisensee, Ben Winick, Kevin Ryan, Molly Culhane, Ron Messina

- I. There was continued discussion of the state's current problem, including both the budgetary shortfall, unfunded liability, structural deficit, and revenue shortfall (the latter especially in regard to similar state budgets in comparable states).
- II. It was agreed that any recommended increase in the state's income tax must be at least from its current 3% for individuals to 5%. The question of a minimum amount to be paid by all businesses was raised, and will be explored.
- III. It was noted that a recommendation for an increase in the income tax could not take place in a vacuum, and that there must be expense reductions of some magnitude.
- IV. The graduate student interns were instructed to draft a first narrative outline of what this committee's final report would encompass. The committee will review this at its next meeting on December 17<sup>th</sup>.
- V. In this regard, the meeting previously tentatively scheduled for December 12<sup>th</sup> was cancelled.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:45am.