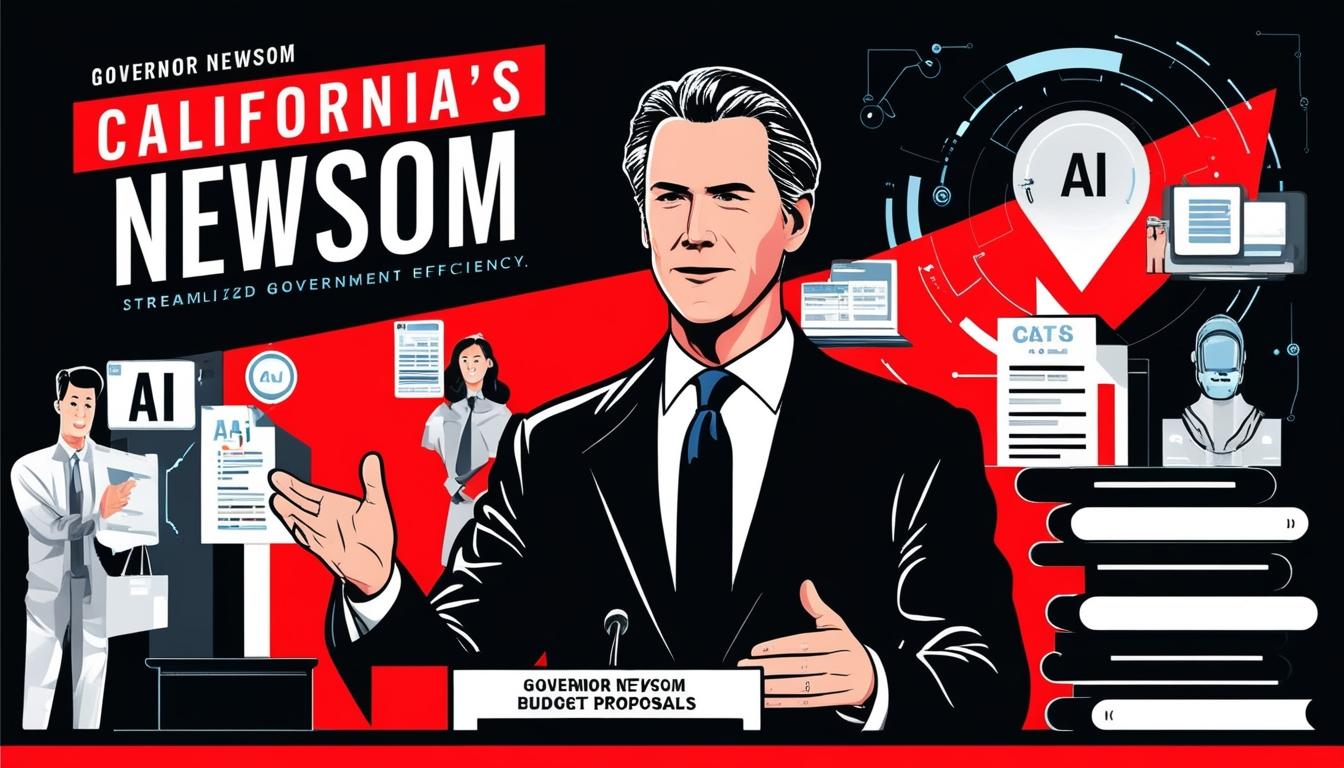
# California governor announces balanced budget and job cuts for fiscal year 2025-26



Governor Gavin Newsom of California provided an overview on Monday of the state government's anticipated direction for the upcoming fiscal year, highlighting a balanced budget of $322.2 billion as well as plans to streamline the state workforce. This announcement precedes a more detailed presentation by the Department of Finance (DOF) scheduled for Friday, which will further elaborate on the proposed budget for FY 2025-26. This budget includes a General Fund allocation of $228.9 billion alongside a rainy-day reserve of $16.9 billion.

The governor's remarks indicated a strategic approach to fiscal management, noting that the state experienced an unexpected revenue increase of approximately $16.5 billion compared to the previous fiscal year. However, he cautioned that these figures are subject to modification prior to the May Revision due to the ongoing fiscal year.

In an initiative to reduce government size and costs, Newsom confirmed the elimination of 6,500 state jobs, which he stated would result in savings of $1.2 billion. This effort aligns with the administration's aim to create a more efficient public sector.

Newsom placed particular emphasis on California’s leading role in technological advancement, specifically in the realm of artificial intelligence (AI) and digital transformation. He referenced the creation of the Office of Data and Innovation (ODI), likening it to the former Trump administration's Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE) but underscoring California's long-term commitment to modernising its IT systems and procurement processes.

The governor highlighted the successful introduction of the ‘Request for Innovative Ideas’ (RFI2) initiative, which has reportedly streamlined procurement transactions by 22%. He noted the historical challenges that vendors faced in navigating the procurement process with the state and expressed optimism that RFI2 might lead to more efficient transactions in the future.

In addition to procurement improvements, Newsom cited advancements made by the California Department of Motor Vehicles in enhancing online services, a development aimed at improving customer experience, although he acknowledged that further progress is still necessary.

During his address, Newsom asserted California's dominance in the AI landscape, sharing that the state has formed six new partnerships with technology companies focused on leveraging AI to tackle pressing state challenges. He stated, “We’re leading the country in this space… and we’re doing it not to labour — with labour.” This indicates an collaborative approach to integrating new technologies into government operations, reflecting a vision for the future that intertwines innovation with public service.

The full details of these initiatives and budget specifics will be presented by the DOF this Friday, with final budget approval expected from the Legislature in June.

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## Bibliography

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2. <https://www.govtech.com/budget-finance/efficiency-takes-a-bow-in-preview-of-balanced-calif-budget> - Supports the information about the governor's presentation and the upcoming detailed presentation by the Department of Finance.
3. <https://www.govtech.com/budget-finance/efficiency-takes-a-bow-in-preview-of-balanced-calif-budget> - Confirms the strategic approach to fiscal management and the unexpected revenue increase.
4. <https://www.govtech.com/budget-finance/efficiency-takes-a-bow-in-preview-of-balanced-calif-budget> - Details the elimination of state jobs and the savings resulting from this initiative.
5. <https://www.govtech.com/budget-finance/efficiency-takes-a-bow-in-preview-of-balanced-calif-budget> - Highlights California’s role in technological advancement, including AI and digital transformation, and the creation of the Office of Data and Innovation.
6. <https://www.govtech.com/budget-finance/efficiency-takes-a-bow-in-preview-of-balanced-calif-budget> - Mentions the ‘Request for Innovative Ideas’ (RFI2) initiative and its impact on procurement transactions.
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11. <https://news.google.com/rss/articles/CBMirgFBVV95cUxNVWRHczlGazhvWW5DUWszbllRTl9aMklzM0pKT2RLYVg1N0xOMDRkSnYzamlpV2kyeDVLTHhKYlRZLTgyMUQ4ZFBzalBXYWlpaTdCb25HZG9mWjBadGdIeFdIbDNJc0NEWVN4VzNsNGhDX2hjQ19WNFlYS2VwZ2hCRjUyQ2ZyLWRyNlBKU00wV3paUnhpam5nTHNjN2lXRnVxTy0wR0ZlLXJtREpGQkE?oc=5&hl=en-US&gl=US&ceid=US:en> - Please view link - unable to able to access data