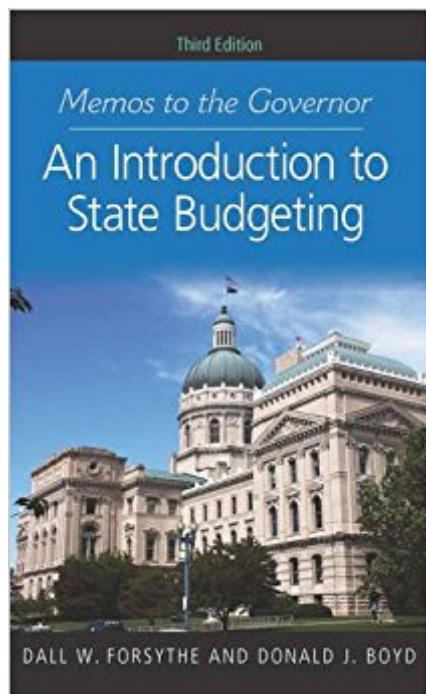


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Memos To The Governor: An Introduction To State Budgeting



Synopsis

This revised and updated edition of Memos to the Governor is a concise and highly readable guidebook that explains in clear, understandable prose the technical, economic, and political dynamics of budget making. Updated with many new examples of budget quandaries from recent years, this book helps current and future public administrators untangle the knotty processes of budget preparation and implementation. Authors Dall W. Forsythe and Donald J. Boyd outline the budgeting process through a series of memos from a budget director to a newly elected governor—a format that helps readers with little or no background understand complicated financial issues. They cover all of the steps of budget preparation, from strategy to execution, explaining technical vocabulary, and discussing key topics including baseline budgeting, revenue forecasting, and gap-closing options. Forsythe and Boyd bring fresh insights into such issues as the importance of a multiyear strategic budget plan, the impact of the business cycle on state budgets, the tactical problems of getting budgets adopted by legislatures, and, of course, the relationship between governor and budget officer. Memos to the Governor is a painless, practical introduction to budget preparation for students of and practitioners in public administration and public-sector financial management.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"Memos to the Governor is a classic in the literature on state budgeting. In this third edition of the

book, Dall and his new co-author, Donald J. Boyd, have done some useful updating of the material while retaining the core elements of this short but invaluable resource for all who study and participate in state budgeting." •James Conant, professor, Department of Public and International Affairs, George Mason University" This third edition yet again demystifies the seemingly inscrutable state budget making process, providing an accessible and invaluable roadmap to this most arcane, yet inherently, political arenas of state government. As state governments struggle to make the hard choices in the aftermath of the Great Recession and the prelude to the baby boom retirement, the new third edition of this primer is even more vital and important." •Paul L. Posner, George Mason University" Every governor should have this book at bedside. Budgeting is the spinal column of government. In eight crisp memos of interest to all citizens who care about state and local government, Forsythe and Boyd provide a rich in-depth primer on state budgeting." •Richard P. Nathan, director, The Nelson A. Rockefeller Institute of Government, 1989-2009

Dall W. Forsythe is a senior fellow at the Wagner Graduate School of Public Service at New York University and is a member of the Municipal Securities Rulemaking Board. He has served as budget director for the State of New York and chief financial officer of the Atlantic Philanthropies. Donald J. Boyd is a senior fellow at the Nelson A. Rockefeller Institute of Government. He recently served as executive director of the Task Force on the State Budget Crisis, co-chaired by Richard Ravitch and Paul Volcker.

Unlike the other reviewers, I bought this book only to read for fun when it was on sale through ... If you have any interest in politics, I would recommend this book. The author keeps the book light and engaging while also making the book very informative. The author chose a great format to present the information and it makes a quick read while providing very good insights.

Professor Forsythe's first edition was very good, and this newer edition is even better. If one is looking for a good and readable overview of budgeting at the state level, this is it.

As described. Great quality!

Very informative and easy to read. I seriously recommend this book for anyone interested in public budgeting, public policy, or public administration. I had to read it for a class, but after reading it I found that it was very useful and practical.

Very basic. Not even Budgeting 101. Could and should have been reduced to a two-page, bullet point memo.

I passed the class, so it must be a good book.

This became an optional read in my class syllabus but I'm glad I read it anyway. Excellent advice and insight that can be used by more than just governors and state officials.

Exactly what I paid for!

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