PREFACE

These papers, concerned with the states of the American West, review FY 2011 state budgets and their preparations. The papers grew from a half-day roundtable held in San Francisco on April 2, 2010 as part of the Western Political Science Association’s (WPSA) annual conference.

The tradition of this annual roundtable began in the 1980s, by political scientists interested in sharing facts and interpretations of state budgeting, in order to improve the depth and breadth of their understanding for their teaching and research. The roundtable, held each year as part of the WPSA conference, in most cases well before the final adoptions of the budgets, provided an early review of processes, politics, and progress. The efforts of the roundtable participants soon extended to revising and circulating their papers upon the final adoptions of the budgets. The University of Utah’s Center for Public Policy and Administration subsequently facilitated this sharing by reproducing the reports and distributing them to the participants and their institutions’ libraries. This evolved in 1997 (FY 1998) to a web site http://www.cppa.utah.edu/westernstatesbudgets/index.html for the final papers. Besides reducing expenses, the web page accommodated a growing interest in the reports and availability for teaching purposes.

The papers cover the thirteen western states. Texas has been included for FYs 2008 – 2011. On occasion, papers comparing the western states are included as well. Only the revised papers, which include most states, are included on the web site. Requests for reproducing these papers, for educational or other purposes, should be submitted to the editors.

The editor, Robert Huefner (University of Utah), and co-editor, Jerry McBeath (University of Alaska Fairbanks), chair the roundtable. They can be reached through Jolaine Randall at:
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The roundtable for the 2011 WPSA conference is scheduled for the afternoon of April 22, in San Antonio. Information about the conference can be found at:
http://www.csus.edu/org/wpsa/mtgs.stm