

## Talking Points – Projected Deficit and Rossi’s Latest Ad

- Republican Dino Rossi’s claim that the state has a deficit today is untrue and meant to mislead voters. According to the state’s constitution, Washington cannot have a deficit – it would be against the law.
- Just as Gov. Gregoire has said, the state has a surplus today. The state’s Office of Financial Management shows a current budget surplus of \$529 million (see state’s balance sheet).
- Republican Dino Rossi speaks of a *projected* deficit. It would not exist until June 2011 and only if the state did not reduce spending, which Gov. Gregoire is already doing.
- Our next governor will have to eliminate the projected shortfall. Voters must ask themselves which candidate will remember the values of our state when they balance the budget.
- As chair of the senate’s Ways and Means Committee, Republican Dino Rossi balanced his budget by slashing healthcare for 40,000 low-income kids, taxing seniors in nursing homes and ignoring voter-approved initiatives in education. He doesn’t share our values.
- Gov. Gregoire led the way to balance a \$2.2 billion deficit, expanded healthcare to 84,000 kids, repealed Rossi’s nursing home tax and funded voter-approved initiatives to improve education. She shares our values.
- Gov. Gregoire saw this national economic crisis coming. That’s why she fought to create the Rainy Day Fund, put a budget surplus in the bank and cut nearly \$300 million from the current budget. In total, the state will have an \$800 million surplus heading into 2009.
- As a former senator, Rossi knows it is against the law for the state to have a deficit. He is lying to voters.