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Subject: 5 Key Points on Budget

Rob asked what the 5 key points might be to emphasize tomorrow. At first thought:

1. The budget pays for essential services and is balanced (1) within the 3.23% spending cap and (2) using available revenues.
2. On healthcare, it does not have us participating in the optional Medicaid expansion under Obamacare, but does reflect the fact that ACA will drive up the cost of our current Medicaid program. The budget also makes important investments in Mental Health (\$11.4M) and Disabilities and Special Needs (\$5.0M).
3. On education, it increases support for K-12, including for instructional materials and teacher supplies. It recommends \$5M more for charters and \$1M more for Teach for America, among other points. For higher ed, we're pitching ABF again, which passed in the Senate, plus \$24M for deferred maintenance at our public colleges and universities.
4. For public safety, the budget makes important investments in correctional officer safety (wands, towers, cameras, etc., plus recommends 3% raises for guards at Tier III facilities) and continues to make progress on Sentencing Reform (by adding agents, to improve offender supervision ratios).
5. We've already collected more than \$21M more revenue this year than was projected, and we all know there will be even more before all is said and done. The first thing we should do with that additional revenue is eliminate the 6% individual income tax bracket, to give us a flatter and simpler tax system that is easier for businesses to administer. But then we should take everything that's left and put that money into our transportation infrastructure.

CLS

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