

## CA'S BUDGET MUST HELP THE UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE FUND DEBT

- **COVID-19 Shutdowns Led to a Historic UI Fund Debt:** COVID-19 shutdowns meant more Californians than ever before claimed unemployment, causing CA's UI Fund to fall nearly \$20 billion into debt – surpassing the prior record by approximately \$10 billion dollars.
- **UI Fund Debt Means Higher Per-Employee Taxes Starting in 2023:** When the UI Fund is in debt, all employers in California pay increased payroll taxes on a per-employee basis, regardless of size or industry. Those taxes start at \$21 per employee, and rise by \$21 every year. In 2023, these taxes will be roughly \$350 million statewide. However, they will *rise significantly over time*, soaring to \$1 billion by 2025 and \$2 billion by 2028.
- **Other States Have Helped Pay Down UI Fund Debts:** Twenty-two states have recognized the effect of COVID-19 on their UI Funds and stepped into help their business communities with the increased taxes. Examples include: Delaware, Maine, New Hampshire, Texas, and Hawaii.
- **California Should Take a 2-pronged Approach:**
  - o **Immediate Tax Relief of \$1 billion**: To address the immediate tax increases coming in January 2023, businesses need tax relief so that they are not disincentivized from hiring and rebuilding. It would cost California about \$1 billion to cover the 2023 and 2024 calendar year tax increases for all employers. (Similar to the Legislature's proposal, but covering *all* employees.)
  - o **\$3 billion To Pay Down a Portion of Outstanding Debt**: The largest tax increases will hit California businesses in later years, and the state will be forced to pay interest on the outstanding principal. A direct payment now would be a good use of a one-time surplus to address costs that we know are coming in future years. (Similar to the Governor's January proposal of \$3 billion over 2 years.)

## \$4 BILLION FOR SHORT AND LONG-TERM AID FOR CA'S UI FUND

