

California Children & Families Commission & 58 Counties Commissions Timeline

- November 3, 1998 Voters passes Proposition 10 to place an additional \$.50 per pack tax on cigarettes with the promise to pay for early childhood development and anti-smoking programs. (50.5% yes/49.5% no)
- May 15, 2001 “Up in Smoke; They Should Put Warning Labels on Political Promises”
Daily News of Los Angeles Editorial
- June 2002 “Internal controls are not adequate to prevent waste, fraud, or abuse.”
2001-2002 **Kern County Grand Jury Report**
- September 2002 “The (State) Commission does not adequately review and monitor its fiscal information for completeness and accuracy...we identified mispostings totaling \$1,859,405...” **Department of Finance, Office of State Audits and Evaluations Report**
- April 10, 2003 “Up in Smoke.” ...”approximately 63% of available funding ultimately reaches the intended recipient.” **Santa Barbara County Grand Jury Report**
- October 15, 2003 “The (State) Commission does not maintain complete control and accountability over its property...Furthermore, the Commission does not maintain a log of property assigned to employees. As a result, the Commission may be unable to prevent loss, damage or theft of State property and equipment.”
Department of Finance, Office of State Audits and Evaluations Report
- July 15, 2004 “Some county commissions lacked well-defined and documented policies and practices for awarding contracts to service providers ...lack clear policies limiting their administrative spending.” “Some county commissions do not always disclose complete and accurate information to reassure the public that funds are being allocated properly.” **California State Auditor’s Report** at the request of Senator Dean Florez
- July 15, 2004 “Audit Urges Stricter Policies for Steering Cigarette Taxes to Programs”
Associated Press
- December 14, 2004 &
January 11, 2005 **Legislature takes unusual step to amend a voter-approved initiative** and introduced SB 35 (Florez) & AB 109 (Chan) to add stricter policies and require annual audits. Governor signs both bills into law on September 22, 2005.
- March 8, 2005 “Group Questions First 5’s Fairness; Members Say Not Enough of the County’s Program’s Help Is Going Into Black Neighborhoods” *Riverside Press-Enterprise*
- March 2005 “The 2004-2005 Grand Jury believes that a gross amount of money has been spent for a minimal amount of services rendered. ...The children of California were used as an excuse to create yet another bureaucracy that is running rampant and out of control.” **Kings County Grand Jury Report**
- March 27, 2005 “Tobacco Tax Ad Spree; Preschool Panels Spend \$164 Million for PR Campaign” ...”Since 1999-2000, First 5 California – which Reiner chairs – has paid several public relations and marketing firms for media and advertising campaigns, including \$103 million to Washington, D.C.-based, GMMB, \$42 million to Los Angeles-based Rogers & Associates, \$6 million to Sacramento-based Runyon Saltzman & Einhorn, and \$14 million to Los Angeles-based Asher and Partners.”
Los Angeles Daily News

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- March 28, 2005 "First 5 failure - Kings County commission becomes 'poster child' for mismanagement. ...Kings County's is not only First 5 commission to fail in its responsibilities, ...but in this case the sins seem to reveal blatant incompetence." *Fresno Bee Editorial*
- April 19, 2005 Rob Reiner launches "Preschool for All," a campaign committee to gather signatures for universal preschool
- May 12, 2005 "First 5 under Fire for Contract Costs." ... "More than \$500,000 of First 5 Kern funds aren't properly accounted for, according to the agency's newest commissioner." *Bakersfield Californian*
- May 25, 2005 "First 5 Decisions Demand Transparency." ... "The absence of published policies and procedures for the award of collaborative grants and contracts obscures the public's ability to understand how the Commission's decisions to spend tax dollars are being made. ...Lack of regular attendance by the Board of Supervisors representatives impairs the working of the Commission by depriving it of key guidance and insight." **Contra Costa County Grand Jury**
- June 15, 2005 Remcho, Johansen & Purcell submits "Preschool for All Act" initiative to AG for June 2006 ballot
- July 15, 2005 "First 5 Retreat Funding Blasted." ... "You might wonder how those four \$50 bottles of wine helped young children in Kern County." *Bakersfield Californian*
- July 21, 2005 First 5 CA Commission media consultant, GMMB reports to Commissioners that ads promoting the benefits to society of universal access to preschool are in development and will run after the November Special Election until mid-to-late January 2006. *First 5 CA Children and Families Commission Meeting Minutes*
- August 15, 2005 Attorney General's office provides title and summary to "Preschool Act" clearing the way for signature gathering to begin
- October 20, 2005 First 5 CA issues news release announcing study performed for the Commission by SRI International touting the importance of preschool for students in low-performing schools
- November 9, 2005 First 5 CA begins "Preschool for All" ad campaign the day after the Special Election
- November 17, 2005 Reiner, Chair of First 5 CA, announces gathering 1 million signatures; initiative enters signature verification phase
- February 20, 2006 "TV Ads Put Focus on Reiner - Some ask whether the tax-funded spots helped tout the producer's June preschool initiative." *Los Angeles Times*
- February 21, 2006 "Accountability for beginners" *The Los Angeles Times Editorial*
- February 23, 2006 "The Reiner Rip-off. Taxpayer-funded push for initiative reeks." *San Diego Union Tribune*
- February 25, 2006 "Sleazy ads." *The Riverside Press Tribune Editorial*

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February 28, 2006	Audit of Rob Reiner's use of taxpayer dollars on the California First Five Commission requested by Sen. Dave Cox (R-Fair Oaks) and Assemblyman Dario Frommer (D-Los Angeles)
March 1, 2006	Senate Pro Tempore "Perata withdraws support for Reiner's preschool initiative Senate boss says Prop 82 is unfair to low-income families." <i>San Francisco Chronicle</i>
March 1, 2006	Letter to Governor by 14 Republican Senators urging him to replace Reiner
March 3, 2006	"Meathead move. Questionable ethics taint Reiner initiative." <i>LA Daily News Editorial</i>
March 7, 2006	"Call the witness. First 5 boss may stop giving cover to Reiner." <i>San Diego Union Tribune</i>
March 8, 2006	First 5 CA Executive Director Kris Perry refuses to testify before the Joint Legislative Audit Committee on advice of counsel
March 9, 2006	"Back to school, Mr. Reiner - An ethical cloud hangs over his poorly designed and costly initiative; it's time to kill Prop. 82" <i>The Orange County Register Editorial</i>
March 12, 2006	"Reiner and First 5 commission in the spotlight - As auditor sets to work, the preschool advocate needs to give up a starring role" <i>The Sacramento Bee Editorial</i>
March 21, 2006	"Timing of preschool ads at issue" <i>Sacramento Bee</i>
March 29, 2006	Rob Reiner, Chairman of First 5 CA resigned under scrutiny for publicly funding ad campaigns touting the benefits of preschool that coincided with Reiner's effort to gather signatures for a June ballot measure. California law prohibits the use of tax dollars for campaign purposes.
April 14, 2006	"First 5 Panel Seeks Missing Funds – An advertising firm hired by the commission misplaces nearly \$3 million owed to TV stations that aired spots touting preschool." <i>The Los Angeles Times</i>
May 1, 2006	First 5 Riverside Awards \$1.4 million for New Playgrounds to 21 Child Care Centers. <i>News Release</i>
August 2, 2006	"Celebrity justice? DA's probe of First 5 had better be thorough" <i>San Diego Union-Tribune</i>
October 31, 2006	"Its Poor Contracting Practices Resulted in Questionable and Inappropriate Payments to Contractors and Violations of State Law and Policies." <u>Second State Auditor's Report</u>
November 13, 2006	"It's time to examine ballot box boondoggles" <i>The Oakland Tribune Editorial</i>
February 23, 2007	SB 893 (Cox) introduced to reprioritize Prop. 10 dollars to children's health care initiatives in the "year of healthcare reform." (Senate Health Committee, 4 Ayes to 6 Noes)

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- June 21, 2007 "Grand Jury report: First 5 Kern should pay for new audit of work done by former CSUB researchers." Newspaper investigation found extravagant car expenses, staff retreats, travel, and consultants. \$84,000 in computer and related software are unaccounted for. *The Bakersfield Californian*
- October 11, 2007 SBX1 5 (Cox) introduces in extraordinary session to reprioritize Prop. 10 dollars to children's health care initiatives. (Senate Health Committee, 3 Ayes to 5 Noes)
- January 17, 2008 "Kids Panels Hold \$2 billion. Legislator says the state is in need of the Prop. 10 cigarette-tax money now." *The Sacramento Bee*
- Annual Audit Reports show CA First 5 Commission & 58 County First 5 Commissions sitting on \$2,447,338,951 in reserves.
- February 19, 2008 "In closing state budget gap, vast sums are off limits. Voters have passed initiatives that lock in billions to novel social and recreational programs. Meanwhile, basic services are threatened." *The Los Angeles Times*
- April 19, 2008 "Not all First 5 grants are helping poor kids." *The San Francisco Chronicle*