

## **CONSIDERATIONS FOR DEVELOPING DISTRICT BUDGETS\***

Use budget development to positively change district culture

Emphasize district strategic plan/goals/academic achievement

Develop a budget basic facts sheet, make all budget presentations and documents concise and easy to understand, and keep mentioning the 3 most important big ideas.

Hire the best financial officer possible

Get the numbers right

Be wary of increased class size requests

Don't carry too large of an ending fund balance

Use a multi-year approach

Do visible things that show fiscal responsibility

Aggressively recruit effective and diverse budget committee members and provide training for them

Be an expert re: the state K-12 education budget

Utilize a highly skilled auditing firm and stay out of the process

Involve the board and budget committee constantly and start the process early

*\*From J. Colonna based on my experience, the literature, and other school districts' best practices.*