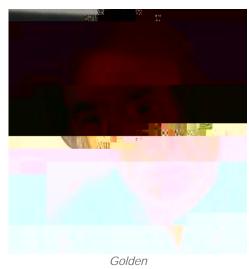
## GOLDEN: Revenue enhancer? It's a tax

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## GOLDEN: Revenue enhancer? It's a tax

## Politicians should make honest case for raising taxes



Its spring! Trees are in bud, day baseball season has begun and the Governors Office is fighting with the Legislature over the definition of "evenue enhancer."

It has long been accepted that a revenue enhancer is a euphemism for a tax increase, one that chief executives and legislators alike use to avoid uttering the politically loaded term.

There are two methods for government to enhance revenue: raise taxes or raise fees. There is no third way

Despite that, both sides engage in linguistic

Christies enhancers will produce \$205 million in the coming fiscal y one the administration desperately he state is essentially new or expanded spending is out of the question.

The governor holds the upper hand in budget negotiations. The exclusive authority revenues belongs to him, and he possesses line-item veto power over spending and language.

Moreover, Democrats concede the state is in dismal fiscal condition, exacerbated by sputtering economy and a job creation rate that has recouped little more than half of those lost in the recession.

Democrats would be hard-pressed to justify

Tax increases may itics, but sprinkling revenue enhancer sugar on it isnt the legitimate response. Open dialogue and discussion is.

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