

**November
2024**

Santa Barbara County

**Volume 12
Issue 11**



COLAB

The Coalition of Labor, Agriculture & Business

Consumers Are The Collateral Damage In This War

By Andy Caldwell

**Inside the
November Issue:**

- California's Politicians No Longer Work For The People** 2
- Voting Against The Status Quo** 3
- California Perfects The Weaponization of Government** 4
- Preview Of California's Initiative Frenzy** 5
- Kamala Chameleon: America's First Instagram Candidate** 6
- DA Larry Krasner, 2-Time Campaign Finance Violator, Sues Elon Musk** 7
- California Bans Everything – 2024 Edition** 8

The State of California is ramping up its war on oil and agriculture and, as a result, California is heading for some desperate times.

The war on oil includes production, trucking, and consumption. The war on production includes banning fracking, drilling within 3,200 feet from so-called sensitive receptors, and a new bill that allows cities, counties, and voters to outright ban construction of new oil and gas wells in their community. Another law requires gasoline refineries to have enough gasoline on hand to prevent price spikes that can create temporary shortages during the time the plants are shut down to do maintenance. Unless the companies can build enormous storage tanks to store any extra production in advance of the maintenance closure, the new law presents an impossible scenario.

All this begs the question of why any oil company would invest in California? They won't.

In fact, many are shutting down operations and leaving California. Because in addition to these restraints on production, the state has also issued various death sentences on the ability to deliver oil by way of banning new pipelines or preventing the repair of existing lines (Sable, formerly Exxon, continues to run the gauntlet of agencies that just want to say no to restarting the Gaviota coast pipeline and plant). The County of SLO blocked the construction of additional rail spurs that ended up causing Phillips 66 to close its Nipomo refinery and convert their gasoline refinery in the Bay Area to biofuels. The county of Santa Barbara has also limited the ability to truck oil which explains why most of the oil production in the Santa Maria Valley has been shut down ever since the Nipomo refinery was shut down. Then we have the closure of two Phillip 66 plants in Los Angeles that have been in production for 100 years for all the aforementioned reasons. Meanwhile, California must now import 75% of the oil it consumes.

California's War on Agriculture

Of course, the biggest death blow to the future of the industry are the state mandates in effect that will effectively ban natural gas in new construction along with banning the sale of diesel- and gas-powered vehicles in this state. The latter has already caused the largest trucking company in our region to close its business.

The war on fossil fuels affects agriculture because all their equipment runs on

(Continued on page 18)

COLAB

PO Box 7523
Santa Maria, CA 93456
Phone:
805-929-3148
E-mail:
Andy@colabsbc.org

California's Politicians No Longer Work For The People

By Katy Grimes

Not the Governor, not state Senators and not State Assembly members

California's politicians no longer work for the people – not the Governor, not state Senators and not State Assembly members. They work against the people, refusing to pass or enforce laws that make our lives better.

Look around you – you see drug addicted vagrants living in parks, on city streets, along rivers and bike trails. You see brazen retail theft when you shop at Target, Macy's, your neighborhood pharmacy, and convenience stores. You see dangerous highways and daily car crashes. You see run-down, failing public schools.

Do you feel safe in your neighborhood park? Do you feel safe in the parking lot at your grocery store? Is it safe for your child to walk to school?

Can you afford the home or apartment you are renting? How about your PG&E, SCE or SDGE electric and gas bills? How about filling your car with gas – too expensive for a full tank? What about those grocery bills that have more than doubled? And if you have growing kids, you can't scrimp on food.

What are California's politicians doing about any of this?

They are passing legislation to restore news media access to California prisons to the level it was in the 1990s, before the state restricted access. (SB 254 by Sen. Nancy Skinner, D-Berkeley)

They are removing the sunset on the small employer family leave mediation program to make it permanent. (AB 2011 by Assemblywoman Rebecca Bauer Kahan, D-Orinda)

Protecting abortion clinics by increasing penalties for harassing patients seeking abortions as well as abortion doctors and nurses. (AB 2099 by Assemblywoman Rebecca Bauer Kahan, D-Orinda)

They banned Plastic Bags. (SB 1053 by Assemblywoman Rebecca Bauer Kahan, D-Orinda)

They passed a bill to authorize a three-year pilot program in the county of San Diego for preventative pelvic floor and core conditioning group exercises within the six to twelve-week postpartum window to help *birthing people* rebuild their pelvic floor after pregnancy. (AB 2756 by Assemblywoman Tasha Boerner, D-San Diego)

Bill to authorize pharmacists to continue furnishing COVID-19 oral therapeutics to patients who test positive for SARS-CoV-2, without a prior prescription, until January 1, 2025. (AB 1341 by Assemblyman Marc Berman, D-Palo Alto)

They passed a bill to expand what is covered on the firearm safety certificate test to ensure that potential firearm purchases are aware of the risks associated with owning and bringing a firearm into the home. (AB 1598 by Assemblyman Marc Berman, D-Palo Alto)

They passed a bill that removes the ability of California courts to require a juvenile criminal to pay victim restitution, to pay for any crime, or to pay \$250 fine to be deposited in the county treasury, or to participate in uncompensated work programs. Instead the new law requires the minor to make amends by participating in a restorative justice program, performing community service, or participating in an educational, employment, youth development, or mental health program. (AB 1186, by Assemblywoman Mia Bonta, D – Oakland)

They passed the Menstrual Equity for All bill, which "Ensures menstrual products are readily available in California prisons." (AB 1810 by Assemblyman Issac Bryan, D-Culver City)

California media isn't reporting on these new laws because they are actually harmful or injurious to average Californians. And none of these bills do nothing to help the average California family feel safer, or help pay their exorbitant bills.

(Continued on page 16)



Nutrien
Ag Solutions™

**The One Name In Crop
Production Inputs**
1335 W. Main St.
Santa Maria, CA. 93454
(805) 922-5848

Voting Against The Status Quo

By Andy Caldwell



It has been said that the definition of insanity is doing the same things over and over again expecting different results. That is why voters should reject another four years of the Biden/Harris administration. Consider the inflation we are all suffering from as well as the fact that we are on the verge of World War III as it affects Europe, the Middle East, and the Far East. Moreover, our country has been invaded and overrun by more than ten million unvetted “newcomers” invited by this administration that are competing with Americans for scarce resources including housing, education, medical care, employment, and the like.

How bad is it? According to an April 12, 2024 release from FEMA, the agency authorized \$300 million in grants for the Shelter and Services program targeted to communities that are providing services to those invitees; in contrast, on Oct. 6 the agency announced they had only distributed \$137 million to people impacted by the devastation caused by Hurricane Helene.

Just Say “NO” on All Bond and Tax Measures

Regarding bond and tax measures on your ballot, would you please consider voting “NO” on all of them? Why? Currently, there is no incentive for government to cut staff or expenses. Only by voting no on all the tax and bond measures can you force government to change the way it is delivering services.

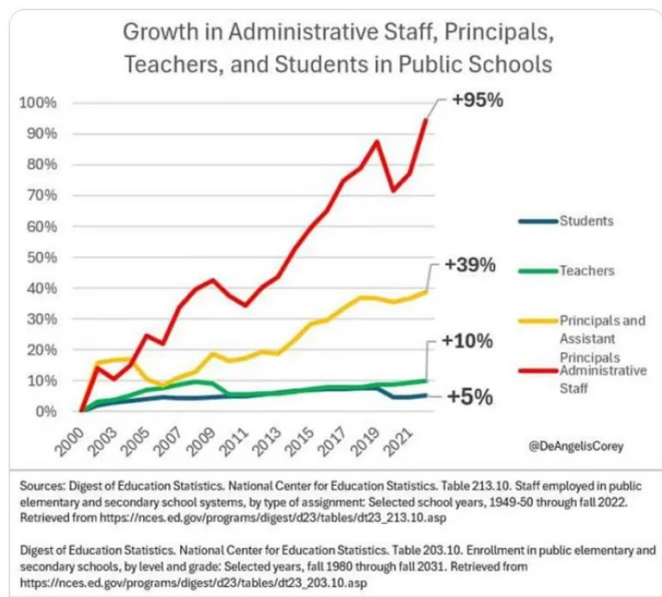
Take school bond measures for an example. Are schools in bad shape? Absolutely. But why don't

schools save money as they go along to maintain and refurbish buildings from their regular revenue streams? Why do they always wait to ask voters to borrow money to rebuild structures that are falling apart due to malign neglect? Moreover, do you know that in the last 20 years, while student enrollment has only increased 5% nationally, schools have increased the number of *administrators* by nearly 100%? All the while test scores have plummeted.

Why reward failure?

Regarding bed tax and sales tax increases, if government wants more money from these sources, then they should be more business friendly in approving new development. That would include reducing the fees charged to new businesses. Are you aware that if you tried to build a 7-11 in one area of the county, the

(Continued on page 15)



County of Santa Barbara - AB 1600 Mitigation Fees | For Use In Fiscal Year 2023-24

Goleta Transportation Mitigation Fee Schedule			
Goleta (Continued)			
Commercial	2022-23		2023-24
Shopping Center 50,000 Sq Ft or less	93,565	per 1,000 Sq Ft	104,793 per 1,000 Sq Ft
Shopping Center 50,001-100,000 Sq Ft	72,723	per 1,000 Sq Ft	81,450 per 1,000 Sq Ft
Shopping Center 100,001-200,000 Sq Ft	60,037	per 1,000 Sq Ft	67,241 per 1,000 Sq Ft
Shopping Center 200,001-300,000 Sq Ft	48,779	per 1,000 Sq Ft	54,632 per 1,000 Sq Ft
Shopping Center 300,001 Sq Ft or more	40,578	per 1,000 Sq Ft	45,447 per 1,000 Sq Ft
Office			
Medical-Dental Office	64,405	per 1,000 Sq Ft	72,134 per 1,000 Sq Ft
Single Tenant Office Bldg	30,267	per 1,000 Sq Ft	33,899 per 1,000 Sq Ft
Office Park	26,398	per 1,000 Sq Ft	29,565 per 1,000 Sq Ft
Corporate Headquarters Bldg	24,458	per 1,000 Sq Ft	27,393 per 1,000 Sq Ft
Business Park	22,701	per 1,000 Sq Ft	25,425 per 1,000 Sq Ft
Research & Development	19,005	per 1,000 Sq Ft	21,286 per 1,000 Sq Ft
General Office 50,000 Sq Ft or less	39,415	per 1,000 Sq Ft	44,145 per 1,000 Sq Ft
General Office 50,001-100,000 Sq Ft	32,904	per 1,000 Sq Ft	36,853 per 1,000 Sq Ft
General Office 100,001-200,000 Sq Ft	27,449	per 1,000 Sq Ft	30,742 per 1,000 Sq Ft
Markets			
24 Hr Convenience Store	434,912	per 1,000 Sq Ft	487,101 per 1,000 Sq Ft
Convenience Store (Other)	279,824	per 1,000 Sq Ft	313,402 per 1,000 Sq Ft
Supermarket	117,475	per 1,000 Sq Ft	131,572 per 1,000 Sq Ft
Miscellaneous Land Uses			
Hotel	10,306	per 1,000 Sq Ft	11,543 per 1,000 Sq Ft
Motel	7,941	per 1,000 Sq Ft	8,894 per 1,000 Sq Ft
Service Station	122,981	per fueling pump	137,739 per fueling pump
Service Station with Conv Market	103,597	per fueling pump	116,029 per fueling pump
Bank/Savings & Loan + Drive-in	722,825	per 1,000 Sq Ft	809,564 per 1,000 Sq Ft
Bank/Savings & Loan, Walk-in	464,182	per 1,000 Sq Ft	519,884 per 1,000 Sq Ft
Auto Dealership	49,270	per 1,000 Sq Ft	55,182 per 1,000 Sq Ft

California Perfects The Weaponization of Government

By Andy Caldwell

Rule of the Liberal Elite

A most remarkable survey was conducted by pollster **Scott Rasmussen** and reviewed in an article by the Heritage Foundation's **Jarrett Stepman**. The poll is now being referred to as the "Elite 1%". It discovered and measured the enormous gulf between America's ruling elite and the average citizen on a variety of issues and the results were nothing less than appalling.

The ruling elite in this poll typically had postgraduate degrees, lived in densely populated urban areas, and earned more than \$150,000 per year. A few of the more important things they had in common included very favorable opinions of university professors, lawyers, union leaders, journalists, and members of Congress. The "Elite 1%" were more socially liberal, and were less likely to trust citizens to govern themselves. They were comfortable with censorship and regulating the lives of ordinary people. Seventy-two percent of the elite would prefer to live where guns are outlawed while 77% would ban private ownership of firearms completely.

What's worse is that the elite were okay with rigging "the system" to ensure they stay in power. Specifically, among the politically active elite, 69% would want their team to cheat rather than accept voters' decisions. Not only are these people dishonest, but they are also deluded. Some 82% of politically active elites think most voters agree with them on important issues.

These one-percenters, unfortunately, effectively shape and control society by controlling academia, the media, social media, and core government positions. As the creators of the project noted, the underlying attitude of the elites reflect an implicit rejection of the founding ideal that governments derive their just authority from the consent of the governed.

Ironically, while this poll was being released, simultaneously, both **Hillary Clinton** and **John Kerry** unwittingly made statements validating the results. Clinton stated that without more regulation of misinformation (information she disagrees with) on social media (read that X, formerly Twitter), "we will lose control." Meanwhile Kerry called the First Amendment a "major block" to keeping people from believing the "wrong" things.

Unfortunately, here in California, the effort to punish people for not towing the line of the elite is fully estab-



3580 Orcutt Rd. Santa Maria
937-3702

2650 Main St. Morro Bay
772-8103

lished. Take as an example the statements by two members of the California Coastal Commission as it affects Elon Musk's ability to increase the number of Space X launches from Vandenberg. The chair of the commission and one of its members both cited Mr. Musk's support of **Donald Trump's** presidential campaign as a reason for denial, along with his tweeting of "political falsehoods." Incidentally, Musk was denied his permit by the vote of these two commissioners. Hopefully, the Space Force base commander will continue to insist the State Coastal Commission has no say on what happens on this *federal* installation as Musk prepares to sue the commission for a violation of his Constitutional rights.

In another example of California regulatory agencies going rogue, this past week the social and environ-

(Continued on page 14)

CAUSE **dpr**

Come Join Us For A
Toxic Tour

Join us and our community leaders in a tour around Santa Maria where we will visit sites in our community that have a direct impact on our environment. If you're interested in knowing more about pesticide exposure, buffer zones, oil wells, and how people within our communities continue to be affected please RSVP. State agencies like DPR, CARB, and other organizations will also be there providing more information and resources.

SATURDAY
19 OCTOBER, 2024

ARRIVE AT
10:00 AM - 3:00PM

CAUSE
1619 S BROADWAY,
SANTA MARIA

MORE INFO?

Wendy Teodoro (805) 754-7813

Preview Of California's Initiative Frenzy

By Steven Greenhut

The state's voters tend to be more conservative on ballot measures than on candidates, so pay careful attention to Nov. 5's initiative races.

California's presidential electors are a foregone conclusion. Likewise, the state's decision on a U.S. Senate race is not even worth pondering. On statewide races, Californians tend to vote around 60 percent to 40 percent for the Democratic candidate. Several congressional races this year are close and Republicans are polling fairly well in some Southern California districts, which could help determine which party controls the House of Representatives.

As usual, the big issue here centers on statewide initiatives. California has a boisterous system of direct democracy. Conservatives of a certain philosophical bent distrust such majoritarianism given that the Founders wisely distrusted any such system. It's not a surprise that early 20th century progressives – most notably Gov. Hiram Johnson – developed our system that lets ordinary voters determine matters typically reserved for legislators.

Practically speaking, however, California voters tend to be far more conservative in their decisions on initiatives than in their choices for candidates. For context, Democrats control every statewide constitutional office and supermajorities in both houses of the Legislature. Yet the same voters who give their nod to those candidates tend to reject tax hikes and far-left pipedreams. So non-progressives have generally made their peace with this progressive election system – and modern progressives often try to limit voter input.

It's ironic, but that's the world we live in here. California Democrats still wrongly blame Proposition 13, the 1978 ballot initiative that capped property taxes, for every ill afflicting the state even though no sane person could suggest that our tax rates are too low or government budgets are miserly. Ironically, the most significant measure this year never even made it onto the ballot after Gov. Gavin Newsom and his allies successfully sued to stop it.

The Taxpayer Protection and Government Accountability Act would have required the Legislature to seek approval from voters for any tax hike – something that could have reignited the kind of tax revolt that led to Proposition 13 and bolstered Ronald Reagan's presi-

dential candidacy. That's how Democrats roll in California. They blather about democracy, but aren't too keen on it when it threatens to undermine their spending plans.

But California voters still have much to consider. The latest polls suggest that Proposition 36 will win by extraordinary numbers. This tough-on-crime measure, back by district attorneys and the business community, would make changes to 2014's Proposition 47. That decade-old measure reduced sentences for low-level crimes, but Californians have tired of the retail-theft wave and dealing with shuttered stores and retailers who lock up common items behind glass doors.

Democrats, who have feared returning to the old days of over-incarceration, have only themselves to blame for their coming ballot-box rebuke. They could have worked with DAs, business owners and Republicans to fix some of Prop. 47's obvious flaws (such as allowing DAs to prosecute thieves for felonies if they engage in serial thefts), but instead they waited far too long to pass a package of anti-crime bills.

(Continued on page 12)



unitedag

**Premier
Health Benefits
for agriculture.**

Committed to providing the best health benefits
and services for agriculture since 1980.

unitedag.org

Kamala Chameleon: America's First Instagram Candidate

By *Andy Caldwell*

A comedian told the story of going into a Denny's restaurant for a meal. After looking the menu over, he pointed to a picture of a dish and told the waiter that is what he wanted for dinner. After finishing the meal, the waiter asked him how he liked it, to which he replied, "My compliments to the photographer!" That story is the best illustration of what I refer to as the "Instagram generation." Young people swapping photos with one another to impress their friends with images that don't convey the truth about much of anything. Unfortunately, we now have our country's first Instagram-age candidate in the form of **Kamala Harris**.

Ms. Harris can't point to a single thing she has done that qualifies her to become president of the United States. Moreover, she can't give us any reason to believe the next four years won't be worse than the last four years of her and Joe's administration. In fact, she had the lowest net negative approval rating in history for a Vice-President at -17%! Nevertheless, the media and the party faithful are now promoting her simply based on images alone. No press conferences. No policy statements, except her insane plan to tax unrealized capital gains. No integrity with regard to her contradicting the positions she previously held on gun control, fracking, border security, and the like. Moreover, no accountability for her famous word salads which are nothing less than her vain attempt to scramble, regurgitate, and repeat questions she can't answer because she is entirely vapid.

What bothers me most about Kamala's candidacy is that it relies on two very troubling attributes of younger Americans. The first has to do with the concept that truth is a feeling rather than something based on fact. One famous example involves one of the most popular topics among the young, namely climate change. Washington's Governor **Jay Inslee** suggested that students engaging a climate curriculum should rely on their emotions rather than rational thinking to understand the topic matter. Hence, Harris's campaign's emphasis on joy. Joy is an emotion. She can't appeal to a person's rational thought because she can't defend her contradictory positions on any number of policies in a manner that will appeal to voters.

The Real Kamala On Display

That brings us straight to the second troubling aspect of Kamala's campaign. What does it say about America that so many people are okay with the fact that she is lying about her positions to get elected? That is un-

CHUMASH
CASINO RESORT

Deon Cole
Friday November 8th

The Beach Boys
Friday November 22nd

Hollywood Fight Nights
Friday December 13th

Boyz II Men
Saturday December 21st

ChumashCasino.com
800-248-6274

fortunately the only explanation having to do with all the glaring contradictions contrasting her former statements and votes to her nebulous campaign rhetoric.

Don't take my word for it.

Senator **Bernie Sanders**, when asked if Kamala has abandoned her previous progressive positions, answered, "No, she is just being 'pragmatic' to win the election."

We all know what he means.

Fortunately, Harris has a voting record as a U.S. Senator representing California, and as Vice-President, she serves in the Senate as a tiebreaker. According to govtrack.us, which analyzes the voting records of our representatives, while in the Senate, Harris distinguished herself by being the farthest left politician in the Senate. She was also the second most absent senator when it came time to vote on bills and she was the senator least often to cross the aisle to back bills by Republican senators. As vice-president, she cast the deciding vote to approve the so-called

(Continued on page 11)

DA Larry Krasner, 2-Time Campaign Finance Violator, Sues Elon Musk Over Voter Lottery

By Charles ‘Cully’ Stimson

Philadelphia’s rogue prosecutor, Larry Krasner, has sued billionaire entrepreneur Elon Musk, arguing that he conducted an illegal lottery under Pennsylvania law because he said he would pay individuals \$1 million a day to sign a petition supporting the First and Second amendments.

But the one case Krasner relies on to support his legal theory actually undercuts his entire argument.

Krasner, a Democrat who is one of George Soros’ bought-and-paid-for district attorneys, doesn’t care about the law. He is doing this to assuage his insatiable desire for media attention.

It’s also a bit rich of Krasner to sue Musk, since the Philadelphia DA is a two-time violator of state campaign finance laws.

Krasner refers to himself as a “public defender with

power”; criminals on the street call him “Uncle Larry.” He won his race for district attorney in 2017 thanks to a boat load of money from Soros-funded groups, as Heritage Foundation colleague Zack Smith and I wrote here.

Krasner received \$1.7 million from the Soros-funded groups, including Real Justice PAC, a political action committee based in San Francisco.

When Krasner ran for reelection in 2021, he received \$1.25 million from the same groups. In both races, he broke campaign finance laws and got into hot water with Philadelphia’s Board of Ethics.

In 2019, in a settlement with the ethics board, Krasner paid a \$4,000 fine and reimbursed the city for excess in-kind contributions from Real Justice PAC. He

(Continued on page 9)



WE HELP OUR CLIENTS SUCCEED BY LOWERING THEIR TOTAL COST OF RISK

Not understanding the risks that affect your business, or underestimating the potential impact of those risks, may be the biggest risk of all.

Tolman & Wiker Insurance is now AssuredPartners of California, part of AssuredPartners, one of the largest and most capable insurance brokerages in the United States. With offices in Ventura, Los Angeles, Santa Maria, Bakersfield, Salinas, and Agoura Hills, the AssuredPartners of CA team brings our clients best-in-class Risk Management and Employee Benefits capabilities, through our laser focused local and regional service teams. With origins dating back to 1923 in Ventura, California, AP of CA now has over 160 employees who place our clients’ priorities at the center of everything we do. Our leading-edge approach to providing proactive risk advice and proprietary resources allows us to serve clients throughout the U.S. and global insurance marketplace.



(805) 922-7301
www.assuredpartners.com

1525 E Main Street
 Santa Maria, CA 93454

DOI LICENSE #01M07762

California Bans Everything – 2024 Edition

By Daniel Greenfield

Mascots, voter ID and octopus farming are just the start.

California is where freedom goes to die. Its annual legislative orgies consist of politicians stealing billions of dollars for special interests and finding exotic new things to ban.

In 2024, California Democrats finally banned plastic bags to ensure that anyone who isn't shopping with a car or with a bag can't buy more than a handful of items in a supermarket.

They also made national news for trying to set the Constitution on fire by banning memes.

And just for the hell of it, they also banned octopus farming.

Octopus farming was banned on the theory that the undersea creatures, unlike California voters, are "highly intelligent" and have "long-term memory." Also unlike California Democrats, octopi have "a high level of problem-solving ability" which means you couldn't go wrong with replacing Gov. Gavin Newsom with an octopus. Unlike Gov. Newsom, octopi are also "known for their ability to learn, use tools, and exhibit behaviors that suggest a level of consciousness."

So Dems are banning octopus farming to keep them from multiplying and learning to vote.

Most people had no idea that there was such a thing as octopus farming. Well there isn't now. Other things that don't exist anymore in California are affordable houses, affordable gas and crime free cities. But California Dems are focused on the big 'octopus' issues facing the state.

And it's legal to steal items under \$950 in California, as long as one of them isn't an octopus.

60% of Californians believe the state is going in the wrong direction. Rather than try to fix that, the Democrat supermajority decided to pass the "California Racial Mascots Act" which outlaws calling any team the "Chiefs" (calling a team "Redskins" had already been banned under a previous 'mascots' bill passed by the hardworking California Democrat legislature.)

Poverty rates on California reservations are at 34%, but at least the state's American Indian population can take comfort in knowing that the *Santa Fe High Chiefs* will have to change their name to something



less offensive. Perhaps the *Santa Fe Octopus Farmers*.

Speaking of schools, they're banned from notifying parents if the staffers have decided to transition their son John to 'Jane' and get him castrated as soon as he turns sixteen.

While California Democrats are happy to test out untested puberty blockers on little kids, they did express concerns for their fellow parasites by banning even more forms of rat poison.

Medieval rat-borne diseases like typhus have already made a comeback in the City of Angels. In an episode of poetic justice, typhus spread to Los Angeles City Hall which is currently infested with both kinds of 'rats' because California voters are dumber than an octopus.

Dogs are also dying of rat-borne diseases, but the rats always come first to Democrats.

California's official policy is that the only lifeforms who can be subjected to poisons and medical experimentation are public school children. And in that spirit, schools have also been banned from removing graphic pornography from library shelves as long as it's LGBTQ graphic pornography. This has been inaccurately described as banning book bans rather than the more accurate mandating the exposure of children to graphic identity politics pornography.

(Continued on page 10)

DA Larry Krasner, 2-Time Campaign Finance Violator, Sues Elon Musk Over Voter Lottery *Cont.*

(Continued from page 7)

acknowledged violating the law, The Philadelphia Inquirer reported.

It's bad enough to violate campaign finance laws once. But Krasner did it again in his reelection campaign in 2021—and was caught.

The Inquirer reported that Krasner's campaign agreed to pay \$10,000 in penalties and admitted making misstatements. He again entered into a settlement agreement with the Board of Ethics.

Back to Krasner's suit against Musk, who in July endorsed Republican Donald Trump for president over Democrat Kamala Harris.

As a prosecutor for the city and county of Philadelphia, Krasner has no legal ability to prosecute anyone for alleged violations of federal law. So instead, he is pulling an Alvin Bragg by concocting a flimsy legal theory that Musk somehow is violating Pennsylvania's lottery law.

As my Heritage Foundation colleague Hans von Spakovsky wrote here, Musk isn't paying individuals to register to vote; he is paying already-registered voters to sign a petition, which is entirely lawful.

And what does the petition stand for? The actual language is: "First and Second Amendments guarantee freedom of speech and the right to bear arms. By signing below, I am pledging my support for the First and Second Amendment."

Each day, one individual who signs the petition in the swing states of Pennsylvania, Georgia, Nevada, Arizona, Michigan, Wisconsin, or North Carolina will be awarded \$1 million, Musk said.

As von Spakovsky noted, "there is no direct *quid pro quo* between getting paid and getting registered; the *quid pro quo* is getting paid for signing the petition, but the offer is open only to registered voters."

In his civil complaint against Musk, Krasner asserts that by "lulling" registered voters into giving their personal identifying information such as their postal address, cellphone number, and email address, voters have paid Musk consideration—as when a person gives a dollar to purchase a Mega Millions lottery ticket.

Krasner cites an opinion from an appeals court in

Pennsylvania in the case of Commonwealth v. Lane that laid out the elements of an unlawful lottery. Under Pennsylvania law, the court said, a lottery is unlawful if it satisfies three elements: (1) a prize to be won; (2) a winner to be determined by chance; and (3) the payment of consideration by the player.

Here, the first two elements are satisfied. But the third element is nowhere to be found.

Consideration is the payment of money, which is completely lacking in the Musk proposal. Registered voters didn't pay money to sign the petition. Their personally identifiable information isn't, under either the Lane case or state law, "consideration."

Krasner's gambit won't work as a legal matter. But that never has been his top priority. Nor has public safety.

Krasner has been a disaster as Philadelphia's district attorney, as Smith and I wrote in the book "Rogue Prosecutors." Crime has exploded in Philly as a result of Krasner's pro-criminal, anti-victim, cop-hating policies.

In the five years before he was elected, an average of 271 homicides occurred per year. Since he was elected in 2017, an average of 368 homicides per year have occurred—an "extra" 97 dead bodies per year.

Other crimes also exploded on Krasner's watch non-fatal shootings (an average of 1,588 per year, up from 1,047), aggravated assaults while armed (3,116, up from 2,209), retail theft (9,084, up from 7,412), and auto thefts (8,665, up from 5,691).

Krasner brags about this year's falling homicide rate, hoping Philadelphians will forget about the fact that between 2008 and 2017, homicides were in the 200s per year. Under his reign, however, homicides have been in the 300s and 400s per year.

(Continued on page 11)

Support

COLAB

The Coalition of Labor, Agriculture & Business

<https://www.colabsbc.org/join-colab.php>

California Bans Everything – 2024 Edition

Cont.

(Continued from page 8)

Along with the rest of the banning spree the corrupt political supermajority also banned legacy admissions in colleges (it's still however okay to bypass the affirmative action ban passed by voters to accept unqualified students due to the exact shade of their skin), online sales of flavored tobacco and food dyes like the beloved Red 40. The basis for the ban is a mostly unsupported claim that food dyes cause autism. Even the FDA doesn't believe it's true.

Also California Democrats wisely banned Voter ID because honest elections would send them flying out of office faster than a dyed octopus with a plastic bag applying to UCLA.

Few of the bans make much sense.

California banned "sell-by" dates on products because Democrats claimed that discouraging people from eating spoiled food caused food waste. But manufacturers and supermarkets have no vested interest in throwing out good food. Democrats were concerned that consumers reading "sell-by" dates on the food they already bought and had lying around for years might then throw it out. They could have one of their multitudinous government agencies put out a guide to what food is safe to eat, when to eat it and let people make their own decisions.

But Democrats have as much faith in the free will of the public as they do in a higher power.

California Democrats are desperately running out of things to ban, forcing them to legalize the things they previously banned and then ban them again in order to have something to do.

After legalizing drugs (and then fighting a drug war

over untaxed drugs), California Democrats turned around and banned CBD 'medicinal products' leading to a lawsuit by Cheech and Chong. This will be followed by the legalization of the banned products and then by banning them again.

The good news however is that there are plenty of things still legal in California. Like crime.

Go ahead, commit as many crimes as you want. California is opening up its prisons and even as it bans plastic bags, octopus farming and voter ID, it's making sure that criminals can freely roam the streets and steal as much stuff as they want. (Preferably under \$950.)

Hamas supporters assaulting Jewish students on campus is also considered a victimless crime and about the only ones who have been arrested were the Jewish students who fought back.

Special interests stealing billions in tax dollars is not only legal, it's practically mandatory.

And while it might seem as if California is running out of things to ban, its cities have recently banned everything from smoking in your own home to breeding French bulldogs to installing gas stoves to slaughtering meat. LGBTQ activists in San Francisco are trying to save gay people from smoking by banning tobacco and localities are trying to ban single family homes.

The future is bright for banners and bans. Just not for California.

Daniel Greenfield, a Shillman Journalism Fellow at the David Horowitz Freedom Center, is an investigative journalist and writer focusing on the radical Left and Islamic terrorism.

HAMON
OVERHEAD DOOR
COMPANY Inc.

Limiting Economic Mobility And Loving It *Cont.*

(Continued from page 6)

“Inflation Reduction Act,” which steered over half of the money dedicated to bolstering manufacturing to just seven states which happen to be the swing states in the upcoming election, including Arizona, Georgia, Michigan, Nevada, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, and Wisconsin.

Coincidence?

I don’t think so.

Meanwhile, NumbersUSA gave Senator Harris an “F-” lifetime rating on immigration.

What *Politico* wrote in 2020, when Harris dropped out of the presidential campaign, is still true today, “Kamala the campaigner couldn’t live up to Kamala the idea.” Or, as **Maya Angelou** rightly stated, “When someone shows you who they are, believe them the first time.”

Support

COLAB

The Coalition of Labor, Agriculture & Business

<https://www.colabsbc.org/join-colab.php>

DA Larry Krasner, 2-Time Campaign Finance Violator, Sues Elon Musk Over Voter Lottery *Cont.*

(Continued from page 9)

Both Democrats and Republicans in Pennsylvania have rebuked Krasner.

The Pennsylvania House of Representatives impeached him by a vote of 107-85 for abuse of prosecutorial discretion.

The Legislature passed and Gov. Josh Shapiro, a Democrat, signed into law Act 40, creating a special prosecutor to handle all crimes on the Southeastern Pennsylvania Transit Authority, the public railroad system known as SEPTA that includes Philadelphia. Shapiro and the Legislature did so because Krasner was failing to hold criminals accountable for crimes they committed on public transit.

Krasner, like former rogue prosecutors such as Baltimore’s defeated Marilyn Mosby, St. Louis’ Kim Gardner, who resigned under pressure, and San Francisco’s recalled Chesa Boudin, has been an absentee district attorney. He has traveled around the country on boondoggles and visited law schools trying to recruit “woke” law students to work in his office.

All that Uncle Larry cares about is Uncle Larry. But Elon Musk is not your typical defendant.

Perhaps someone should advise Uncle Larry about Pennsylvania’s rules prohibiting malicious prosecution and the limits of prosecutorial immunity.

Cully Stimson is a widely recognized expert in national security, homeland security, crime control, drug policy, and immigration at The Heritage Foundation.

TESTA Catering

Full Service Culinary and Bar Catering

The Premier Caterer in Santa Barbara and San Luis Obispo Counties

Since 1983

“Locally Owned by Martin & Debi Testa”

Preview Of California's Initiative Frenzy *Cont.*

(Continued from page 5)

As I explained recently in the *American Spectator*, "lawmakers included poison pills that would scuttle the legislative package if voters approved Proposition 36. After backing away from that cynical approach – designed to score political points rather than seriously address the crime issue – Newsom tried to qualify an alternative measure that would confuse voters." He failed to make the deadline and has now mostly engaged in sour grapes.

Passing complex legislative packages at the ballot box isn't ideal. But the Legislature (especially the notoriously liberal Assembly Public Safety Committee) refused to act even amid public concern. At least the initiative process provides some way to circumvent ideologically driven lawmakers. Voters also seem ready to reject Proposition 32, which would yet again raise the state's minimum wage.

Another major initiative is Proposition 33, which would expand rent control. Voters have on two previous occasions rejected nearly identical measures that would gut the Costa-Hawkins Rental Control Act. That 1995 law stopped localities from imposing draconian rent controls. California already has a statewide rent-control law and many cities such as San Francisco and Santa Monica have relatively extreme local measures, but overturning Costa-Hawkins would open the floodgates to even broader and more destructive price controls.

Prop. 33's simple but dangerous language: "The state may not limit the right of any city, county or city and county to maintain, enact or expand residential rent control." Costa-Hawkins stopped the locals from slapping rent controls on single-family houses, newer con-

struction and imposing vacancy controls that stop landlords from raising rents even after a tenant vacates the property. Argentina recently eliminated rent controls and rental prices have fallen as the number of available units has surged, yet California is slow to learn.

Rent control always is a disaster and is a key reason California has such a tight rental market, but fortunately voters are likely to understand that concept better than their representatives. The latest polling suggests voters are poised to reject this nonsense once again. Proposition 34 is related. It's an effort by apartment owners to turn the tables on the AIDS Healthcare Foundation (AHF), which is the prime sponsor of these rent measures.

This gets oddly complicated. The official ballot title and summary explains that Prop. 34, "Requires health care providers meeting specified criteria to spend 98% of revenues from federal discount prescription drug program on direct patient care." What does that have to do with rent control? Well, the measure targets AHF, which earns money from that federal drug program. The group not only promotes rent control, but campaigns against zoning reform. The initiative would limit its political advocacy.

Unfortunately, California voters often support bond measures. State bonds don't directly raise taxes, but they grab large portions of the general fund to make annual interest payments and therefore create pressure for tax hikes. By contrast, local bonds directly raise taxes (or continue higher tax rates by extending existing bond measures).

On this year's state ballot, voters are asked to

(Continued on page 14)



722 West Betteravia Rd.

Santa Maria, CA 93455 805-922-1262

www.GermanAutoSM.net - www.facebook.com/germanautosm



The COLAB FOUNDATION

Dear COLAB Members,

Did you know that lessening the burden of government is a bonafide and legitimate function of a charitable endeavor, i.e. a 501c3 tax exempt foundation? Is that not a cause you can believe in and support? Well, thankfully, COLAB now has its own foundation!!!

COLAB can now raise funds from other foundations, as well as, individuals who don't own their own business! That means that everyone who contributes to the COLAB Foundation can write off their contributions.

The COLAB Foundation is a public charity formed to procure funding for the Santa Barbara County Coalition of Labor, Agriculture and Business (COLAB) and other select non-profit entities to advance education and science, combat community deterioration and lessen the burden of government.

Of course, the donations to the COLAB Foundation can only be used to educate the public about the work that COLAB and others are doing in our community, but we have been educating people all along!

The COLAB Foundation!

Donations are tax-deductible as a charitable contribution!

Please send your contribution to:

**The COLAB Foundation
PO Box 7523
Santa Maria, CA 93456**

Or online at:

<http://www.colabsbc.org/COLAB-foundation-form.php>

Donations to the COLAB Foundation are deductible IRC 170 as the foundation is an IRS approver 501 C3 charity.

Our EIN is 81-1088586

California Perfects The Weaponization of Government *Cont.*

(Continued from page 4)

mental justice organization known as CAUSE sent out an invitation for community leaders to join them in a "Toxic Tour" of farmlands and oil wells in northern Santa Barbara County.

What's worse again is that at the top of the invite was the logo for the California Department of Pesticide Regulation, indicating the agency was a co-sponsor of the tour. Moreover, the post card also indicated that representatives of the California Air Resources Board would be along for the ride.

What an outrage.

First, any company highlighted by the tour should sue CAUSE and the related agency sponsors for defamation because there is no reason to believe that any farmer or oil field operator in our county is not in complete compliance with the laws governing the use of so-called toxic materials. Moreover, the involvement of these agencies indicates a predisposition of an unwarranted prejudicial bias against any companies not given fair notice of this tour to rebut the information being presented and discussed. In other words, these unelected bureaucrats signed up to participate and serve on a kangaroo court without informing the accused, let alone giving them the opportunity to defend their reputation and legal business practices.

California, the one-party state, is the poster child for the saying that "power corrupts, and absolute power corrupts absolutely"

Preview Of California's Initiative Frenzy *Cont.*

approve an additional \$10 billion on climate-resiliency programs (Proposition 4) – something the Southern California News Group editorial board termed a "giant feedbag of climate pork."

And Proposition 2 would float \$10 billion in school-facilities bonds even though the state already spends more than 40 percent of its general-fund budget on public education – not to mention the endless bond spending at the local level. California lawmakers refuse to make tough choices in their \$297-billion budget and squandered a previous \$97.5-billion surplus. The climate feedbag has a solid lead in the polls, but the school bond is a closer call.

Then there are scores of local bond measures on the ballot, as financially strapped cities and school districts rather just raise taxes than reform their bureaucratic systems. So direct democracy remains, as always, a mixed bag for conservatives. But I suppose it's better than the alternative without it.

Steven Greenhut is a member of the Southern California News Group editorial board. Write to him at sgreenhut@rstreet.org.

Family owned and operated by Cheryl & George Bedford

**COLAB Members, we are here
for you! Always have been, always will be!**

We want to sell you your next vehicle and the next one too!

Dare to compare!



*The home of...
True Value, Up
Front LOW Pricing!*

**CHEVY • BUICK
SUNSET
A U T O C E N T E R**

1300 North H Street • Lompoc

805-736-7577

sunsetautocenter.com



Voting Against the Status Quo *Cont.*

(Continued from page 3)

traffic fee charged by the county would be nearly \$1 million? A large hotel would be charged several million dollars in fees.

No On Most Propositions Too

Concerning the State propositions, I am voting "YES" on only two, that being Propositions 34 and 36. Proposition 34 will restrict health care entities, namely so-called charities, from spending money on things other than health care. Proposition 36 is a measure that will rectify several previous measures that resulted in unmitigated, undeterred, crime sprees. Proposition 36 will make our communities safer by bringing back felony charges for destructive crimes and can help force criminals to enroll in treatment programs for drug and alcohol problems rather than go to jail or prison.

Some of the worse ballot measures I am voting against include Proposition 5 which will lower the threshold for new taxes to just 55% instead of 66.7%. Passage of this measure could end up costing taxpayers billions in new taxes because too many people don't understand that bond measures represent borrowed money that must be repaid back with interest. Proposition 5 would virtually guarantee that your property taxes will go up after every election, thereby increasing the cost to own a home or a business, along with rentals. The other proposition that represents a death blow to our economy by way of inflation is Proposition 32 which raises the minimum wage to \$18. Finally, please vote no on Proposition 33 as it will serve to enable local governments to enact rent control more easily. Everywhere this has been tried has resulted in fewer and less affordable rentals. That is, among other deleterious impacts, it has been proven

without a doubt that few investors will build additional rentals in areas with rent control.

We live in perilous times.

Please vote!



AWARDED 25 TIMES!

Best Government Watchdog
Best Take-It-To-The-Man
Local Activist



**Andy Caldwell
Thanks You!**

He's a government watchdog, taxpayer, business and traditional values advocate, and the Executive Director of COLAB.

—Andy Caldwell



The only local talk show to cover the entire Central Coast! Andy is Live Monday thru Friday from 3pm to 5pm. Streaming Live on KSMA



California's Politicians No Longer Work For The People *Cont.*

(Continued from page 2)

Career politicians

"Citizen representatives" turned into career politicians who won't leave office, even when quite elderly... geriatric, in fact. Over half of the members of both the U.S. House and Senate are over age 65. Some are still quite relevant, but many are not. They have become useful idiots for their special interest funders.

In California we have term limits, which lessens the issue of lifetime geriatric office holders. But we have politicians who may leave the California Legislature, and then go back to their home counties and run for County Supervisor, or City Council, rather than getting or going back to an actual private sector job.

Republicans in California, an endangered species, can't get any consequential legislation passed against the Democrat supermajority. So few in number, they can't even block bad legislation – instead they have to rely on media pressure to raise public awareness to kill bad Democrat bills. Sometimes this works.

And what has California Governor Gavin Newsom been up to? Here are some headlines from the Globe's reporting:

Gavin Newsom's Gas Bill Pushing Venezuela-like Price and Inventory Controls on Oil Refineries

Gavin Newsom Chases Another Oil Company Out of California – Chevron and now Phillips 66.

Gov. Gavin Newsom's \$20 Per Hour Fast-Food Minimum Wage is Tanking the Industry

Gov. Gavin Newsom Signs Dangerous Parent Secrecy Bill AB 1955

Will Gov. Gavin Newsom Face a Reckoning with His \$73B Deficit in the \$330 Billion Budget?

Here is what Gavin Newsom has been up to since being elected governor in 2019:

Doubled the drug-addicted vagrant population living on California's streets.

Created a housing shortage – doubling down on forcing cities and small towns to comply with his order to build "affordable housing."

Cut water off to rural areas in the state; supported dam removal and hydroelectric plant removal.

Limited water deliveries to farmers and ranchers.

Raised the minimum wage so high, fast-food owners and restaurant owners are forced to lay off employees.

Passed policies killing manufacturing.

Passed policies bolstering a service economy (rather than manufacturing).

Limited energy production to renewable energy only.

Limited gas and oil production creating a shortage, forcing people out of their cars and on to public transportation.

Ordered all internal combustion cars banned by 2035.

Mandated an all-electric state, including autos and trucks.

Signed bill to install thousands of floating offshore wind turbines at a cost of \$150 billion.

Legalized drugs.

Legalized sex with minors.

Legalized abortion up to baby's birth.

Destroyed the public education system by watering down actual disciplines of math and English, while sending his own children to private schools.

(Continued on page 17)



**Howard Jarvis
Taxpayers Association**
— established in 1978 —

California's Politicians No Longer Work For The People

Cont.

(Continued from page 16)

Promotes affirmative action, racial preferences over merit.

Creates fake crises – climate change, reparations.

Infringed on the people's right to keep and bear arms by passing laws which nibble around the edges of the 2nd Amendment, creating defacto gun control.

Stopped prosecuting crime.

Decriminalized certain crimes, resulting in emptying out state prisons.

Raised corporate taxes to discourage businesses from expanding.

Raised taxes and fees on public services and energy.

Raised income taxes on all income brackets.

Made it easier for local governments to raise taxes.

Tried to impose a wealth tax.

Supported initiative to radically alter property taxes for inherited homes.

Forced doctors to comply with state medical directive and punish those who refuse to comply. (Court overturned this law)

Has allowed millions of illegal immigrants into the state.

Provides free health care and welfare payments to illegal immigrants.

Allows illegal immigrants to vote in local elections.

Expanded the size of government by hiring hundreds of thousands of state workers.

Created more labor unions jobs by expanding state government.

Encouraged public schools to convince kids they are another gender; provide secret counseling to those kids; shelter kids from parents.

Has limited media access in State Capitol; reward compliant media.

Remember, Gov. Gavin Newsom and the compliant Democrat Supermajority in the California Legislature closed your children's schools, shut down your businesses, ordered your churches closed, cancelled holidays, masked your kids, mandated Covid shots to go

back to work and school... while they exempted themselves from these mandates.

Katy Grimes, the Editor in Chief of the California Globe, is a long-time Investigative Journalist covering the California State Capitol, and the co-author of California's War Against Donald Trump: Who Wins? Who Loses?

**I FOUGHT
THE LAW**

**AND I WON
WITH PLF.**

JOIN THE FIGHT

Patrick.
Supreme Court Winner.

PACIFIC LEGAL
FOUNDATION

PacificLegal.org

Consumers Are The Collateral Damage In This War

Cont.

(Continued from page 1)

diesel. Farmers will have no ability to charge electric vehicles in the middle of a farm field. Moreover, many of the products farmers use to destroy pests and diseases are also derived from fossil fuels, not to mention the fertilizers that help the plants grow vigorously.

This war on agriculture has a new and disturbing component to it. Every county in our state has an Agricultural Commissioner charged with many duties including ensuring that only safe and approved herbicides, pesticides, and fertilizers are used and applied in accordance with the laws that have served to ensure the safest food supply in the world.

However, just a few months ago, the president of the State Association of Ag Commissioners was forced to write a scathing letter to state officials complaining about how environmental justice warriors were teaming with the State Department of Pesticide Regulation (DPR) in such a manner as to hinder the ability of the ag commissioners to do their job of protecting farmworkers, the public, and the environment through the enforcement of current pesticide laws and regulations.

Specifically, the letter expressed disappointment that DPR continues to cater to these stakeholders that support and facilitate false narratives such as the recent "Toxic Tour" of the Santa Maria Valley that DPR cosponsored with the local activist group CAUSE.

Legislators Mandating Scarcity

Finally, a state law known as SGMA, the State

Groundwater Management Act, is a perfect example of the state mandating scarcity rather than creating abundance. The law is causing ag property values to plummet in the state because it is serving to cut off groundwater use for agriculture. The point here is that voters have authorized billions in bond measures to build more dam and reservoir capacity, but nothing has been built. Hence, in the name of managing water, the state is effectively cutting off groundwater supplies to farmers. Need I remind anyone that without water the farmer simply owns a bunch of dirt? Hence, we now have the California dust belt emerging in the San Joaquin Valley which was once the most productive ag land in the world.

How long before consumers figure out that this war on oil, trucking, and farming (not to mention our electricity and water rates), is a war against their very livelihood?

Support

COLAB

The Coalition of Labor, Agriculture & Business

<https://www.colabsbc.org/join-colab.php>



Listen to Andy Live Monday Thru Friday 3:00 PM to 5:00 PM

