



Vote for Change

By Andy Caldwell

Vote for Change

Some people vote with their feet; others don't vote at all. Speaking of CA, more than ten million people have left in the last sixteen years. Yes, you read that right. Ten million.

Why did so many people leave? The high cost of housing? Taxes? Poorly performing schools? Failing roads and infrastructure? Crime? A struggling economy? Problems associated with the homeless, despite tens of billions of dollars spent on the same? An oppressive and corrupt state government?

Yes, to all the above.

According to the Public Policy Institute of CA, "Much has been made of the California exodus to other states, and rightly so. This migration, over the decades, has the power to reshape the state. (That is an understatement, if I have ever heard one). From 2010 through 2024 almost 10 million people moved from California to other states." Of course, many more have left since then.

Much of the replacement population is comprised of immigrants, legal and otherwise, and their children. On average, they are poorer and less educated than the people they replaced. Hence, CA, along with Louisiana, has the highest poverty rates in America.

According to various polls, another one-third of the state's population would also like to leave.

I would offer an alternative. Vote for change. And, by that, I mean quit voting for Democrats who are, by their complete control of the state for the past 20 years, driving it into a political and economic abyss.

Here are my personal ballot recommendations:

Steve Hilton for Governor.

Gloria Romero for Lt. Governor.

Don Wagner for Secretary of State.

Michael Gates for Attorney General.

Herb Morgan for State Controller.

Jennifer Hawks for State Treasurer.

Sonja Shaw for Superintendent of Public Education.

How the DMV Enabled Voter Fraud in California

2

The Defective Deflective Crisis

3

A Mid-term Election Reflection

4

'So Ordered: An Originalist's View Of The Constitution, The Court, And Our Country'

5

It's Affordability, Stupid!

6

The Refinery War And The Vulnerability Of Modern Society

7

Continues on Pg. 19

How The DMV Enabled Voter Fraud In California

By Kate Grimes

Not one lawmaker could answer 'how does a state government provide a document to drive legally, if the person came here illegally?'

Heading

California's long-term shift from a competitive or Republican-leaning state to a Democratic stronghold has been driven primarily by demographic change through immigration.

In 2018, more than one million illegal immigrants received driver's licenses from the California DMV, which automatically registered them to vote under the new "Motor Voter" program.

Alex Padilla was California Secretary of State.

Back in 2015, Padilla told the Los Angeles Times, "At the latest, for the 2018 election cycle, I expect millions of new voters on the rolls in the state of California," with "new voters" code for ineligible voters. Remember what happened in 2018?

AB 60 by former Democrat Assemblyman Luis Alejo, was just one of the many attempts over the past decade to authorize illegal immigrants with driver's licenses. Alejo said AB 60 would reduce fatal crashes and improve public safety. AB 60 followed another law from 2012, AB 2189, which granted California driver's licenses to illegal immigrants who came to California as children.

AB 60 was similar to bills authored by former Assemblyman Gil Cedillo, a Los Angeles Democrat, to give illegal immigrants the legal right to drive in California. Cedillo tried unsuccessfully seven or eight times to get his bill passed, but not without a fight. Cedillo's bill was passed by the Legislature three times, but vetoed twice by then-Gov. Gray Davis.

Davis finally signed one of Cedillo's bills in 2003, and it became an issue during his historic recall election. Davis was hammered on the issue by candidate Arnold Schwarzenegger, who was elected to replace Davis. The Legislature then signed a repeal of the bill, and Schwarzenegger signed it into law.

Republican lawmakers said the 50 individual states should not be writing piecemeal immigration laws, as it is something Congress needs to handle at the federal level.

Not one lawmaker could answer how does a state government provide a document to drive legally, if the person came here illegally?



Nutrien
Aq Solutions™

**The One Name In Crop
Production Inputs**

**1335 W. Main St.
Santa Maria, CA. 93454
(805) 922-5848**

But even before then-Gov. Jerry Brown signed AB 60 in 2013 to require California DMV offices to issue driver's licenses to illegal immigrants, the fix was in.

Longtime Democratic political consultant and lobbyist with deep United Farm Workers ties (he worked with Cesar Chavez), Richie Ross openly boasted of targeting the Latino community's fear of anti-illegal immigration measures, to drive the community even further into the arms of the Democratic Party, I explained in my book co-authored with attorney James Lacy, "California's War Against Donald Trump; Who Wins? Who Loses?"

Ross, and now-State Senator Maria Elena Durazo, who once led the Los Angeles County Federation of Labor, a group of self-proclaimed socialist and Communist California labor officials, and Democrat Party operatives created a program in the 1990s to target Latinos and immigrants, illegal and legal, to permanently drive California politics far to the left. They tripled registered Latino voters, increased the Democrat share of that vote substantially, and roughly doubled Latinos' share of total votes cast in California.

This is just one more reason to support Steve Hilton's gubernatorial campaign and promise to Abolish the DMV and cut car registration to \$73.

In 2016 I reported:

The California New Motor Voter Program automatically registers all "eligible" California voters to vote when they first obtain or renew their driver's licenses at the Department of Motor Vehicles. "Eligible" no longer means having the right to do or obtain something; satisfying the appropriate conditions. "The goal is to ease barriers to voting, but election-integrity advocates warn that the measure could inadvertently add millions of illegal voters to the rolls given that California allows undocumented aliens to obtain driver's licenses," The Washington Times reported in an article last year.

The Defective Deflective Crisis

By Michael Brown

Covering Up Policy Failures in Santa Barbara County

Operating under the camouflage of contrived civility and concocted existential crises, the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors majority (Supervisors Lee, Capps, and Hartmann) has deflected media and public scrutiny away from on-going substantive problems and its failure to tackle real solutions.

Other than the Board majority regularly beating up the Sheriff for jailing criminals and incurring overtime pay, the Board meetings are love fests with the Supervisors fawning over their cozily deferential staff and the county's coterie of ideologically left-oriented government-funded not for profits and foundations. It's a team approach under the slogan: "One County – One Future." As Linguist - Philosopher **Noam Chomsky** observed:

The point of public relations slogans like "Support our troops" is that they don't mean anything... That's the whole point of good propaganda. You want to create a slogan that nobody's going to be against, and everybody's going to be for. Nobody knows what it means, because it doesn't mean anything. Its crucial value is that it diverts your attention from a question that does mean something: Do you support our policy?

That's the one you're not allowed to talk about.

The patronage is thick. The South County Democrat Machine harvests the campaign contributions, ballots, and its own promotions to higher office. The average citizen pays for it all in higher County taxes, higher State taxes, and relentlessly rising fees along with poverty inducing foregone business and job growth, agricultural restrictions, severe barriers to housing development, and deferred maintenance of roads, parks, and buildings.

Meanwhile serious program scrutiny and oversight are ignored, banned as politically incorrect or bad for staff morale. It has been years since the Board reviewed the proposed budget in any detail. Instead, the Board spends millions of dollars by inflating the County staff, hiring consultants, promulgating and enforcing new regulations, adopting trendy bleeding edge "crises" driven projects, and banning whole industries.

CHUMASH
CASINO RESORT

ANYTHING FOR SALINA'S - US #1
SELENA TRIBUTE
Friday, November 6

GLADYS KNIGHT
Friday, November 13

TOWER OF POWER
Friday, December 4

ChumashCasino.com
800-248-6274

Three Fake Existential Crises: "Never Let a Crisis Go to Waste"

1) Climate Alarmism

The Board has adopted three successive Climate Action Plans over the past two decades, all of which have failed to reduce CO₂.

The world has been warming up over the last 15,000 years since the end of the last glacial epoch. This natural cycle is ignored, and its impacts are hidden from public disclosure. Recent short-term trends are attributed to human use of oil, gas, and coal, over the past century and a half. Climate alarmists and their Socialist cronies conveniently blame wildfires, disease, storms, annual heat waves, too much rain, too little rain, sea level rise, food insecurity, immigration problems, and mental disorders on the CO₂ increase allegedly driven by fossil fuel use. CO₂ is a small component of naturally occurring greenhouse gases.

In this regard, the Board has never held a public session or received staff analysis on the validity of the assumed "existential crisis" in the first place.

Continues on Pg. 16

A Mid-term Election Reflection

By James Hirsen

An interesting question between now and the mid-term elections isn't just who is going to win the various congressional, state, and local races. It's what the Democratic Party has evidently come to believe in terms of its values, both politically, and in many cases, personally

It's also what the Party has led fellow Americans to believe and adopt as their own.

As intended or unintended fallout, something has been lost along the way.

Once upon a time "Live and Let Live" was part of the shared American creed. As a peaceful-seeking society, we collectively considered this value to be indispensable, since the virtue generally serves to nurture the development of positive human norms, attitudes, and behaviors.

It is oftentimes difficult to get people to agree on a shared set of values. But America had succeeded in doing so, and the success is what made pluralism survivable.

Unfortunately, over the last several decades the Democratic Party has reduced the concept of "Live and Let Live" to a single word: "Tolerance." It didn't just substitute a synonym for the original phrase. It altered the fundamental meaning of it.

The newly defined American value appealed to almost everyone. After all, it felt as if we were saying the same thing; that you may hold a differing belief or opinion than that of another, but you were willing to show respect to those who were of an opposing view.

It's a binary axiom in life. We are all moving in one direction or another.

In the case of the Democratic Party and their newly adopted creed, "Tolerance" eventually devolved into what the Party mandated all must believe.

No more room for dissenting views. And no one allowed into its circle without accepting every one of the self-established tenets of the so-called progressive creed.

Ironically, the Democrats actually became the vice that they had initially been fighting against; i.e., they became the most intolerant among us.

It all seems to be catching up with them, and the timing of the elections in a way may be serendipitous.



Some folks are slowly beginning to realize the shift that has taken place in terms of the freedom to hang on to your own individual beliefs, attitudes, and philosophies without being dictated to and/or socially ostracized.

Bill Maher, who has been known to vote Democrat his entire life, has endured a kind of excommunication in slow motion over the past several years. His crime? He was noticing what was going on, and he wasn't staying silent about it.

Maher proposed a "stand your ground law for cancel culture" so that "when the woke mob comes after you for some ridiculous offense, you'll stand your ground and stop apologizing."

He also coined a segment-closing rule on his "Real Time" HBO show: "Memo to social justice warriors: When what you're doing sounds like an Onion headline, stop."

He has been accused of leaving the left behind, when in reality the left did it to him.

Proof that the Democrat creed-turned-dictate has continued down a wayward path can be seen in the manner in which the Party attempts to police even the smallest of thoughts and actions of the people-at-large.

Here are a few examples of additional prominent independent-thinking celebrities who have suffered negative consequences.

Actress Sydney Sweeney garnered a lot of attention when she appeared in a jeans ad and said the following: "Genes are passed down from parents to offspring." The internet lit up, claiming that she was subliminally endorsing eugenics.

Continues on Pg. 14

'So Ordered: An Originalist's View Of The Constitution, The Court, And Our Country'

By Charles 'Cully' Stimson

Justice Samuel A. Alito's new book "So Ordered: An Originalist's View of the Constitution, the Court, and Our Country" is not a conventional judicial memoir—and that is precisely its strength. This carefully curated collection of 19 lectures and speeches, delivered between 2007 and 2025, offers something rarer than autobiography: a sustained encounter with the mind of one of the Supreme Court's most consequential jurists.

Organized around originalism and textualism, the role of judges, religious liberty, threats to the Constitution, and the American experience, the book ranges from baseball and the Gettysburg Address to judicial review and mankind's search for meaning. The result is not a miscellany, but a portrait of a judge who understands that law does not operate in a vacuum—and that the Constitution is inseparable from the history, habits, and character of the nation it governs.

Originalist Judging

Alito begins with a deceptively simple question: How should a judge interpret the Constitution? His answer—originalism—is familiar. His treatment is not. Rather than defend original public meaning in the abstract, he asks what originalism requires of judges deciding actual cases under the discipline of precedent, collegiality, and institutional stability. He therefore describes himself as a "working judicial originalist."

His organizing device is an originalist judge encountering seven highway exits. Six are wrong turns; the seventh—academic originalism—is legitimate for scholars but often ill-suited to judges. Originalists may lose their way by mistaking rigidity, antiquarianism, or theoretical purity for constitutional fidelity.

Alito rejects "insecure originalism," which treats absurd results as proof of intellectual purity, and "show it to me in black-and-white originalism," which ignores the Constitution's architecture. Federalism, separated powers, and institutional independence may carry necessary implications even when no clause spells them out.

He also warns against "Icarian" originalism, which rises so high into abstraction that constitutional language becomes a vessel for modern aspirations,



and "archaeological" originalism, which searches obscure historical materials for relics that mechanically answer modern questions. Original public meaning is not an esoteric code decipherable only by specialists equipped with pith helmets and trowels.

Alito's central contribution is to discipline originalism, not dilute it. Judging requires historical fidelity and judgment, principle and prudence, conviction and collegial compromise. Pretending judgment can be eliminated does not eliminate it. It merely conceals it.

Textualism

Chapter 2 is at once a tribute to Antonin Scalia, an intellectual history, and a warning. Alito argues that Scalia rescued statutory interpretation from an undisciplined search for legislative purpose, restored enacted text to its rightful place, and constrained judges tempted to mistake policy preferences for law.

Yet some of Scalia's heirs have carried textualism into "hypertextualism," a cramped method that ignores how language communicates meaning. Scalia's corrective was simple: The text is the law. But that maxim begins interpretation; it does not end it. Judges are Congress's "faithful agents," charged with discerning the public meaning conveyed by enacted words in context—not divining secret motives, but not pretending that language consists of dictionary definitions lined up like tin soldiers.

Alito's discussion of *Bostock v. Clayton County* supplies the sharpest edge. He argues that the majority's reading of Title VII was not compelled by the statute's public meaning in 1964 because it treated context that ordinarily illuminates meaning as categorically irrelevant.

Continues on Pg. 12

It's Affordability, Stupid!

By Todd Sheets

In the 1990s, the cantankerous political advisor James Carville – never known for subtlety - coined the phrase “It’s the economy, stupid!” to keep the Clinton campaign focused on the real issues motivating voters. Paraphrased for the current midterms, we might say: “Its affordability, stupid!”

When it comes to political magic, the modern affordability master is Democratic Socialist Zoran Mamdani, who figured out how to take a problem largely created by the Biden Democrats and hoist it onto the Trump Republicans’ shoulders. Understandably frustrated by this political slight of hand, many Republicans have argued that American workers are in much better shape than the Democrats and legacy media would have them believe. All of which raises the question: who’s telling the truth here?

Or, put another way: what really happened with affordability?

Affordability

An affordability problem arises when the cost of things we need or want rises faster than our ability to pay for them. As we’ll see in a moment, the key issues driving today’s debate are the cost of every day necessities (things like groceries and gas) and home prices. Let’s start by looking at everyday necessities.

Everyday necessities

While it’s hard to pinpoint exactly, affordability started to become a hot button issue in the early 2020s. As you may recall from last week, Trump responded to Covid with an enormous increase in deficit spending during that year. Then, even though the economy had already been recovering for eight months by the time Biden took office, his administration nevertheless used Covid as an excuse to continue the spending blowout. As we can see from the following chart, all this excess money flowing into the system started to drive consumer price inflation up in 2021, the year Biden took office.

The consumer price affordability problem created during Biden’s first two years, when nominal income growth of 10%, lagged consumer price increases of nearly 13%.

Interestingly, during Biden’s last two years, incomes rose slightly faster than inflation. While not shown in the chart, for the entirety of Biden’s term, incomes also rose slightly faster than consumer prices.

The key takeaway here is that consumer price affordability started to become a serious concern when inflation shot up to 8% in 2022, but thereafter the real problem was that working class American’s found themselves in a position not unlike a hamster in a spinning wheel: it hard to get ahead.

While this may not seem as bad as much of what we’ve heard, home affordability tells a very different tale.

Housing

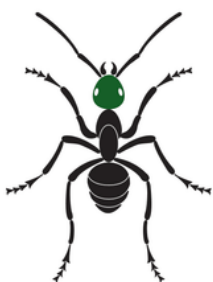
Since the cost of buying a home is not captured by consumer prices (which only include rental costs), we also have to look at home prices to get a more complete picture.

In 2020, home prices increased by about 6% even though incomes fell slightly due to the short Covid downturn.

Then, in 2021 and 2022, things really got out of hand, with home prices increasing 34% for the two-year period even though nominal (before inflation) incomes rose by just 13%. Suffice to say, combined with what happened with consumer prices during these years, this is when the affordability crisis was created.

Even though incomes started rising a bit faster than home prices in 2023, the impact of the blowout during the first two years of the Biden administration plus the rising interest rates that resulted from elevated consumer price inflation caused overall affordability to drop by 40% during his term. Given these dynamics, many workers may have felt like they got off the hamster’s consumer price wheel only to find themselves staring up at a Mount Everest of housing prices.

Continues on Pg. 11



O'Connor
Pest Control
 “Serving Southern CA since 1952”

The Refinery War And The Vulnerability Of Modern Society

By Ronald Stein P.E.

The war in Ukraine is revealing something that is easy to overlook in peacetime: modern military power, like modern civilization itself, depends on continuous supplies of usable transportation fuels and other products made from crude oil.

Ukraine has increasingly targeted Russian oil refineries with long-range drones. In recent weeks, several major Russian refineries have been forced to suspend or reduce operations following drone attacks. On September 20, a Ukrainian drone attack damaged the Moscow oil refinery, causing fires at its two main crude distillation units. According to industry sources cited by Reuters, the refinery subsequently halted crude processing, and repairs could take several weeks. The facility processed approximately 230,000 barrels of crude oil per day in 2024 and produced gasoline, diesel, and other petroleum products.

Why would a refinery be such an important target? The answer lies in the difference between crude oil and refined products.

- Crude oil is a valuable natural resource, but it is not directly used as gasoline for a car, diesel fuel for a truck, or jet fuel for an aircraft.
- Crude oil must first pass through a complex series of refining processes that separate, convert, and treat its various components.

The result is a range of transportation fuels and products that can be used by transportation, industry, agriculture, and the military. In this sense, the refinery is a critical conversion point between a natural resource and the usable forms of energy required by our modern industrial society.

The distinction between raw crude oil and the transportation fuels and products made from that oil becomes particularly important during war.

In the Western world, the current conflict between Ukraine and Russia is sometimes described as a modern-day "David and Goliath" struggle. In the biblical story, David defeated Goliath with a simple sling and a stone, turning a seemingly insignificant weapon into a powerful means of attack. In today's conflict, drones have taken the place of David's sling: relatively small and inexpensive weapons can be used to strike large and strategically important infrastructure targets. But there is an important difference. Both sides now use drones against the other side's refineries, energy infrastructure, and other strategically important targets. In that sense, the "David and Goliath" narrative does not fully describe the reality of the conflict. What is more relevant to our discussion is the asymmetric use of technology to target critical energy infrastructure.

A military may possess large quantities of crude oil, but tanks, military trucks, and aircraft do not run on crude oil. They require refined transportation fuels. Military logistics therefore depend not only on access to oil resources, but also on the ability to refine, store, and transport those transportation fuels to where they are needed.

This gives refineries strategic importance.

Ukraine's attacks can therefore be understood as a form of asymmetric warfare. Rather than attempting to match Russia's much larger conventional military capability directly, Ukraine is using relatively inexpensive long-range drones to attack complex and expensive industrial infrastructure. The objective is not necessarily to destroy military equipment itself, but to interfere with one of the systems that enables that equipment to operate.

Continues on Pg. 9

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
AUTOCENTER

1300 North H Street • Lompoc
805-736-7577
sunsetautocenter.com





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 approved 501 C3 charity.

Our EIN is 81-1088586

The Refinery War And The Vulnerability Of Modern Society

Continued from Pg. 7

The economic logic is straightforward. If a refinery is damaged, the consequences may extend far beyond the immediate physical damage. A damaged crude distillation unit can reduce the refinery's ability to process crude oil and produce transportation fuels. If several refineries are affected simultaneously, the resulting reduction in refining capacity can place additional pressure on domestic fuel supplies.

Recent events suggest that this is no longer a purely theoretical concern. Russia has experienced fuel shortages and has restricted exports of gasoline, diesel and jet fuel while several refineries have faced disruptions. Reuters reported that the Syzran and Saratov refineries suspended processing following drone attacks in September, adding pressure to the domestic Russian transportation fuel market.

But the story does not end at Russia's borders.

Oil is traded internationally, and refined petroleum products are part of a highly interconnected global market. A disruption in one major producing country can affect supplies and prices elsewhere, particularly when spare refining capacity is limited.

That is precisely what is happening now. Diesel fuel markets have become especially tight as the war in Ukraine coincides with disruptions in the Middle East. Reuters reported in September that global diesel prices had reached record levels, with European diesel futures more than doubling from their levels at the beginning of 2026. Refineries in several regions are operating at high utilization rates, leaving relatively little spare capacity to compensate for additional disruptions.

This highlights an important distinction between crude oil and refined products.

People often talk about "oil supply" as though crude oil and transportation fuels were interchangeable, but they are not.

A country may have access to crude oil while still experiencing a shortage of diesel or gasoline if its refining capacity, transportation infrastructure, or distribution system is disrupted.

This is one reason why the refinery has become such an important strategic asset.

There is also an interesting symmetry in the current conflict. Ukraine has attacked Russian energy infrastructure, while Russia has repeatedly attacked Ukrainian energy and transportation infrastructure. Both sides understand that energy infrastructure is not merely part of the civilian economy. It is part of the physical system that allows modern society to function.

The asymmetric nature of the conflict also has another side. It would be misleading to describe the strategy simply as "cheap drones versus expensive targets." Russia has increasingly used drones against Ukrainian infrastructure, forcing Ukraine to devote substantial resources to air defense and interception. Reuters recently reported that Russia's deployment of faster, jet-powered Shahed-type drones is putting additional pressure on Ukraine's air-defense system.

Continues on Pg. 10



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"

805-739-0809

www.TestaCatering.com

The Refinery War And The Vulnerability Of Modern Society

Continued from Pg. 9

The broader lesson, therefore, is not simply about who has the cheaper weapon; it is about vulnerability.

Modern societies have become extraordinarily productive because they have built highly interconnected systems for converting natural resources, like raw crude oil, into usable transportation fuels and materials. But that same interconnectedness can create points of vulnerability.

The refinery is one such point. It takes crude oil—a complex mixture of hydrocarbons—and transforms it into products with specific properties and uses. Gasoline provides mobility for automobiles. Diesel moves trucks, agricultural machinery, and much of the heavy transportation system. Jet fuel enables aviation. Other refinery products become feedstocks for petrochemicals and countless materials used throughout modern life.

The lesson is remarkably simple: natural resources have latent value, and refining makes that value active by converting them into usable forms and delivering them where they are needed.

In other words, refining does not simply “consume” crude oil. It converts it into forms that society can use. The current conflict is making this otherwise invisible process visible.

A damaged refinery is not merely a damaged industrial facility. It can mean fewer trucks moving, fewer aircraft flying, higher transportation costs, and tighter supplies far beyond the immediate location of the attack.

Support

COLAB

The Coalition of Labor, Agriculture & Business

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

This is why the current attacks on Russian refineries deserve to be viewed not only through the lens of military strategy, but also through the lens of energy systems.

Modern warfare demonstrates this principle in an especially dramatic way, and it raises a broader question for peacetime societies as well:

How much resilience does a modern society really have if the infrastructure that converts its natural resources into usable forms is disrupted?



722 West Betteravia Rd.

Santa Maria, CA 93455 805-922-1262

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

It's Affordability, Stupid!

Continued from Pg. 6

The lesson here is quite simple: when government spends too much and the Federal Reserve prints money to help fund the resulting deficits, the results are usually disastrous, with the greatest burden falling on those least able to afford it. Ronald Reagan summed up similar problems from the 1970s with his famous campaign phrase, "Government isn't the solution, it's the problem!"

The affordability crisis caused by the socialist-driven spending blowout in Biden's first two years also helps explain why, just as also happened before Reagan's free market reforms kicked off a long economic boom, so many younger workers today have lost faith in the American dream.

But all of this also raises the question of whether Republicans today are lying when they claim things are better than they seem.

To answer this, we need to look at affordability from another perspective. So far we've viewed this issue from the perspective of what we might call the Aspirational Class, i.e. mostly young workers who don't own a home or have meaningful savings. As we're about to see, their experience was very different from that of what we'll call the Ownership Class.

The Ownership Class

Let's assume a hypothetical older worker had managed to buy a home before the affordability problems discussed above kicked in; and that the value of this home was \$275,000 in 2019, roughly in line with median home prices at the time.

By 2024, after four years of the Biden-driven price increases, our friends home would have been worth over \$420,000 – an increase of \$145,000!

Now, let's also assume that over the course of our older friend's career they had managed to accumulate \$100,000 of investments in stocks. By 2024, their portfolio would have increased in value by nearly \$100,000!

All totaled our Ownership Class BFF would have seen their net worth rise by over \$240,000, which would have more than offset their lack of real (inflation adjusted) income growth during this period.

In other words, while the Aspirational Class was falling further and further behind, the Ownership Class was getting further and further ahead.



This helps explain Republican's current frustrations: first the socialists in the Democratic Party created an enormous class division, and now they're trying to exploit that division to increase their control over the system, all based on a platform that essentially boils down to "more of the same!"

Returning to the question of whether the Republicans are telling the truth when they say things are better than they seem – the answer is yes, if we are looking at things from the perspective of the Ownership Class. But this also makes the Republicans look tone deaf when it comes to the very real problems of the Aspirational Class, which only makes young voters more susceptible to the socialist overtures of those who created all these problems in the first place!

Helter Skelter

Yikes!

No wonder they say politics is a dirty business. Or, to paraphrase the Beatles, "When we get to the bottom we go back to the top of the slide where we stop and we turn and we go for a ride till we get to the bottom and we see you againHelter Skelter."

Today we face important challenges, but none that are greater than those we have overcome time and again throughout our storied history. Here's to hoping your day is as bright as America's future.

Todd Sheets, author of the Newsletter, *On Wealth and Progress*, currently available free of charge on Substack, which is also available on YouTube, Spotify and Apple... and the book, "2008: What Really Happened"

'So Ordered: An Originalist's View Of The Constitution, The Court, And Our Country'

Continued from Pg. 5

His warning persuades: Scalia's revolution was not a command to read statutes woodenly. It was a demand that judges respect enacted law, ordinary language, institutional limits, and democratic accountability.

Baseball's Lessons

Alito is an unapologetic baseball fanatic, and his loyalties lie firmly with the Philadelphia Phillies. His childhood hero was Richie Ashburn. He played second base and shortstop in Little League, attended Phillies Fantasy Camp while serving on the 3rd U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals, and was greeted at his Supreme Court welcome dinner by the Phillie Phanatic. His chambers contain an entire corner of baseball memorabilia.

Alito's meditation on baseball becomes a compact treatise on judging, equality, institutional legitimacy, and technological hubris. Chief Justice John Roberts' comparison of judges to umpires provides the starting point. Rules matter, and most cases, like most pitches, have a discernible answer. But hard cases require judgment informed by text, precedent, experience, and discipline. Discretion is not the absence of law. Properly exercised, it is judgment bounded by law.

Judge Leonard Garth's admonition that "it takes courage to be a good judge" supplies the chapter's moral center. In Alito's chambers, a photograph of the two bears the inscription *Fiat justitia, ruat caelum*: "Let justice be done though the heavens fall." Judicial independence is not a perk for judges; it is a safeguard for litigants and the public. Garth was a longtime judge on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 3rd Circuit for whom Alito clerked during the 1976-77 term.

Alito's discussion of baseball's integration extends the lesson: equality is both a moral imperative and a practical advantage. Merit ignored exacts a price.

He concludes with analytics and artificial intelligence. Baseball's statistical revolution produced greater efficiency but a less attractive game. The analogy to law is sobering. A machine may predict outcomes, process authorities, and impose consistency. But efficiency is not the whole of justice. A legal system worthy of confidence must remain intelligible, accountable, and humane.

Religious Liberty

Alito's central claim is unfashionable but straightforward: The American republic did not merely tolerate religion as an eccentric private preference. It recognized religious liberty as a preexisting right, gave it special constitutional protection, and understood religion as an ally of ordered liberty.

The free exercise clause protects not merely belief or worship, but conduct flowing from faith. Founding-era accommodations for religious objectors demonstrate that religious exercise historically could require exemptions from generally applicable laws, bounded by genuine threats to peace and safety.

Alito likewise rejects the notion that the establishment clause commands a sterile public square. The American settlement prevents governmental establishment and control while preserving a public culture in which faith may speak, organize, educate, and serve. The religion clauses are not museum pieces; they are articles of civic peace for a pluralistic nation.

Continues on Pg. 13



**Howard Jarvis
Taxpayers Association**
established in 1978

'So Ordered: An Originalist's View Of The Constitution, The Court, And Our Country'

Continued from Pg. 12

The Gettysburg Address

Alito closes with a meditation on why Abraham Lincoln's 272 words endure. Edward Everett spoke before Lincoln, delivering a two-hour oration resplendent with classical allusion and grand rhetoric. Lincoln gave the nation a succinct clarion call with biblical cadence, moral clarity, and a statement of national purpose.

Alito is especially good on Lincoln's choice of words. "Four score and seven" and "brought forth" were not ornamental flourishes. They drew upon the King James Bible, the common linguistic inheritance of Lincoln's audience. Lincoln achieved eloquence without displaying erudition.

More importantly, those words framed America not as an accident of geography or power, but as a nation born to test whether self-government rooted in liberty and equality could survive.

Speaking amid the consequences of a constitutional order that tolerated slavery, Lincoln might have repudiated the Founders. He did not. He appealed to their principles while acknowledging their failures—conservative because he preserved the best of the American inheritance, progressive because he summoned the nation to fulfill promises it had not kept.

Why 'So Ordered' Is a Must-Read

That theme captures the larger achievement of "So Ordered." Across subjects as varied as statutory interpretation, religious liberty, baseball, and Lincoln, Alito returns to one idea: institutions endure only when citizens understand the principles beneath them and possess the courage to preserve those principles without resisting every necessary change.

"So Ordered" is not merely worth reading. It is essential reading for anyone who wants to understand the Constitution, the Supreme Court, and the disciplined judicial temperament required to safeguard the rule of law.

This op-ed is based on a longer book review by Charles Stimson in Civitas Outlook, published on Oct. 5, 2026, found here.

Charles "Cully" Stimson is acting director of the Institute for Constitutional Government, senior legal fellow, and manager of the National Security Law Program at The Heritage Foundation.

Support

COLAB

The Coalition of Labor, Agriculture & Business

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

THE
ANDY CALDWELL
SHOW

KSMA RADIO
NEWS • TALK
1240 | 99.5

KZSB RADIO
FROM HERE FOR HERE
1290 | 96.9

K-NEWS
98.5
The Power of Information

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



A Mid-term Election Reflection

Continued from Pg. 4

A slew of derogatory comments about her followed. Her response was direct and effective. "I'm against hate and divisiveness," she said.

Athlete Sophie Cunningham plays guard for the Indiana Fever and is one of the most-followed players in the WNBA. In a single ESPN profile, she offered an opinion about biological male athletes participating in women's sports.

Cunningham said that she wanted to "protect young girls in a locker room, or young girls in sport who shouldn't have to go against biological men."

The left-leaning media generally responded in lockstep, with The Guardian dutifully dubbing her an "anti-transgender culture war ambassador."

Comedian extraordinaire Jerry Seinfeld, when feeling that his art was being cramped, dared to pin the blame for strangling comedy directly on "the extreme left."

Talking to the New Yorker, Seinfeld made the charge that the disappearance of the TV sitcom was the result of ideological policing.

He said that it used to be when you went home at the end of the day, "You just expected, 'There'll be some funny stuff we can watch on TV tonight.' Well, guess what — where is it? This is the result of the extreme left and PC c**p, and people worrying so much about offending other people."

Funny how when people give themselves permission to buck the trend, courage sets in, and many times it turns out to be contagious.

The mid-term elections just may be a time when we remember how important it is to hold fast to our own self-determined principles, and to put them into practice for the good of society and our beloved country.

James Hirszen, J.D., M.A. in Media Psychology, is a New York Times best-selling author, international business attorney, news analyst, cultural commentator, and social media scholar

26
AWARDED 26 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

KSMA RADIO
NEWS • TALK
1240 99.5

The Defective Deflective Crisis

Continued from Pg. 3

Just what is the status of the dire warnings of the past four decades? Would the Board ever deign to hear a countervailing expert or two, prior to basing its overarching strategic policy on this controversial and politicized phantom?

Would it allow the staff to list the plusses and minuses for various sub-policies? What would be the State, national, and world impacts if Santa Barbara County eliminated every single metric-ton of CO₂ generated from within the county?

2) Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI): Similarly, the Board has embarked on a major DEI crusade under which the entire staff is being “culturally transformed” to embrace the outdated and debunked doctrine. In fact, when implementing the dubious program in 2024, the only justification in the entire lengthy agenda item stated:

On December 1, 2020, following the murder of **George Floyd** and decades-long recognition of injustices towards members of our community, the Board held a special meeting and received a presentation on efforts to develop a systematic approach on advancing racial equity and inclusion in Santa Barbara County. On January 26, 2021, the Board approves a Statement of Commitment to equity and inclusion which commenced the County’s journey of self-evaluation and reflection and commitment to organizational values, policies, practices, and service delivery, which specifically and directly impacts countywide inequities and injustices.

How will management determine if employees are successfully completing their “journey of self-evaluation and reflection?” For decades, the County has run a mandated online course on preventing harassment in the workplace. Everyone is required to take it every two years.

Will the County’s DEI Manager, who is based in the HR Department, indoctrinate a cadre of DEI Commissars to test employees on the new more rigorous historical and cultural paradigm? What about the volunteer members of the County’s numerous Boards and Commissions?



Will the policies be spread to purchasing contracts for consultants, not-for-profit service providers, or construction contractors? Are completion of a program test and a statement of confessed guilt part of job requirements used for performance evaluations and promotions?

Which classes of employees are to be subject to the process?

What are examples of the “decade’s long countywide inequities and injustices?” Since at least 1990, and except for the period 2005-09, the Board has been controlled by the left majority. Accordingly, they must share in responsibility for some of the more recent “injustices.”

In mentally calculating injustices, was the Board thinking of the Spanish conquest and feudalization (and near extinction) of the Chumash people in the late 18th and early 19th Centuries? Ironically, and throughout the late 1990s and early 2000s, the Board resisted every attempt by the Chumash Tribe to acquire land to build a resort hotel and homes. Only external Acts of Congress and the State broke the political and physical boundaries.

Continues on Pg. 16

The Defective Deflective Crisis

Continued from Pg. 15

Note that there is also another DEI staff position in the County CEO'S office entitled "Inclusion Initiatives Manager." What new initiatives have been promulgated?

Another flaring irony is that the same Board that professes to correct racist and discriminatory policies of the past and present adopts policies that contradict that aim. For example, the left Board majority just doubled down on perpetuating poverty by banning new oil wells and directing a multi-year study on the feasibility of buying out existing wells. It adopted the ordinance over pleas to reject the policy by the north County Supervisors, the employees of the oil companies, support companies, and farmers.

Many farmers and ranchers possess oil royalty rights that enhance the value of their land. The Board majority illegally took away this value without just compensation. Hypocritically, the Board majority ignored the fact that the oil jobs are especially important to Hispanic residents.

Perhaps the Board majority will recruit major AI data centers to replace the jobs. After all, the entire County is sitting next to the largest recyclable static source of data center cooling water on the planet.

A further irony is that Santa Barbara County has the second-highest poverty rate among California's 58 counties. Reportedly 16% of the population (70,000) residents live below the poverty line. The Women's Fund of Santa Barbara reports that the Hispanic population is disproportionately affected by poverty in Santa Barbara County.

3) The Tajiguas Recycling Project: Another long-term fetish is overzealous refuse recycling. Over many decades Santa Barbara County has been a leader and has exceeded State requirements for source reduction and recycling, reaching a waste stream diversion of 80%. The success was determined to be insufficient. Accordingly, the Board resolved to shoot the moon by contracting with a turnkey company (Mustang – MSG Investors) to build and operate a \$150 million (much more when interest on the debt service is included) trash separator and wet garbage digester (turning the garbage into mulch).



The goals were to achieve 100% recycling, to avoid running out of landfill space, and to forestall expansion of the existing landfill.

The project has been constructed and constitutes a major industrial facility on the unique and environmentally fragile Gaviota Coast – sort of Youngstown, Ohio in paradise. The County subjects everyone else to stringent restrictions in Gaviota, including how many cattle can be grazed, banning most homes, and attempting to void any historical permits.

After a very rough start (the project did not work) the County fired Mustang, shipped trash out of County, and determined to expand the landfill. All of this is costing a yet un-summarized millions of dollars. Mustang has filed a \$60 million dollar plus costs lawsuit against the County.

The Board should schedule a regular public hearing and disclose at least:

1. How much above the original design, construction, and equipment budget is the project costing?
2. How much above the original annual operating budget per year is the project costing?
3. How much is the landfill expansion costing?
4. Is the County still exporting trash out of the County? How much at what cost?

Continues on Pg. 17

The Defective Deflective Crisis

Continued from Pg. 16

5. What recycling rate is the County experiencing above that which existed prior to the installation of the project? That is, what is the new increment contributed by the project? The County website is very out of date and muddled in this regard.

6. How does current revenue from sales of recyclables (separate from landfill gas that was previously being sold) compare with projections?

7. Will an independent outside expert engineering firm certify that the facility is performing as planned?

8. What happens when the landfill expansion is full?

9. What is the forecast for tip rates (for garbage trucks to dump at the facility) and the consequent monthly rates passed through to residents, businesses, industry, etc.?

10. How much has the County expended on defending the Mustang lawsuit to date?

Stay Tuned for Next Week Part II: The Deflected Policy Mistakes

1. How is the new separate Fire Communications Center performing?

2. Are 3CE rates now higher than PG&E?

3. How can the County work with Sable to generate revenue rather than spending millions on lawsuits?

4. If the County criminal justice policy is diversion, alternative sentencing, restorative justice, aspirational justice, etc., should it build more jail space? If those programs really work, how much more jail space is required? Where is justice for the real victims in a therapeutic system that turns the perpetrators into victims?

5. The capital infrastructure deficit is still untouched. What does the Board plan?

6. What is the ROI on the KPMG management studies? They spent \$5.2 million on the consultant reviews and recommendations.

7. What is the Board's legislative program position on voter ID?

8. Is the Fire Union setting up to take another run at the ambulance contract? Where is the Board on that issue?

9. The County suffers a permanent structural financial deficit. The Board is banking on pension UAAL reductions in 2030's to free up revenue. This should be modeled and proven out.

How long would the benefit last? What does it mean that the County has a mature system with more retirees than working employees? What if the market has a couple of bad years?

8. Is the Fire Union setting up to take another run at the ambulance contract? Where is the Board on that issue?

9. The County suffers a permanent structural financial deficit. The Board is banking on pension UAAL reductions in 2030's to free up revenue. This should be modeled and proven out. How long would the benefit last? What does it mean that the County has a mature system with more retirees than working employees? What if the market has a couple of bad years?

10. The County is a player in the homeless industrial complex. It is subsidizing expensive housing and continued addiction.

11. How is the installation of Work Day (the new multi-million dollar financial and HR system) going? How much over the budget for the system and consultants have they spent thus far? What do the employees in the trenches think of its functionality? Is the production version actually up and running?

...

Mike Brown is a retired 43 career city manager/county executive officer who served as Santa Barbara County CEO for 14 years (1996–2010) and previously as City Manager in Berkeley and Tucson. He also held executive positions in Connecticut, including Chief Deputy Commissioner of the State Department of Housing and Deputy City Manager of Hartford. After retirement from the County, he served for 14 years as the Government Affairs Director for COLAB of San Luis Obispo County from which he retired in 2025.

Correction: In the October 9, 2026 Letters to the Editor ("Background Check, Anyone?"), a contributor incorrectly linked City Council candidate Gabe Escobedo to a DUI. The accompanying screenshot was of a different person with the same name. Mr. Escobedo has confirmed he has "never been arrested, charged, or convicted of a DUI." (The bankruptcy filing referenced in the letter was his.) We have removed the false DUI statement and apologize to Mr. Escobedo and our readers for the error.

How The DMV Enabled Voter Fraud In California

Continued from Pg. 2

Is there any question how this was done? First Gov. Jerry Brown signed a bill into law allowing illegal aliens to obtain official California drivers licenses. He did this despite that the California DMV is unable to differentiate between U.S. citizen and non-citizens when automatically plugging them into voter rolls. The real goal wasn't to provide identification to those who are in California illegally; the goal was to automatically register them to vote.

The California New Motor Voter Program even protects ineligible voters from criminal prosecution with this Get Out of Jail Free Card: "if a person who is ineligible to vote becomes registered... (and) attempts to vote in an election... the person is presumed to have acted with official authorization and shall not be guilty of fraudulently voting... unless the person willfully votes or attempts to vote knowing that he or she is not entitled to vote."

California was a crucial state for both Bernie Sanders and Hillary Clinton, but the election was called for Clinton minutes after the polls closed, before millions of provisional ballot votes were counted. One week later, more than 2.6 million votes were still uncounted in California. Adding to the suspicious outcome, based on pre-primary election polling, the media didn't do any exit polling because the results would have shown that Sanders likely won California. A civil rights attorney had even filed a lawsuit before the primary to force the media to publish their exit polls. But the media instead opted not to even do exit polls, in order to get around the order.

Following the hanging chads incident in Florida in the 2000 presidential election, Congress passed the Help America Vote Act in 2002, which mandated sweeping reforms, including a statewide voter registration system that would eliminate ineligible voters. But California failed to comply, and for 12 years was the only state that was still not compliant with the act.

In 2014, newly elected Secretary of State Alex Padilla, a Democrat, announced upon being elected that he planned to have California compliant within the year. A 2014 report by the Election Integrity Project titled, **The Doors Are Wide Open For California Election Corruption**, found California's election system



had serious vulnerabilities, no centralized computerized, no statewide voter registration list, poor National Voter Registration Act list maintenance, non-compliance with statutes protecting lawful voters, and suspected voting fraud. The report also found key election officials were roadblocks to election integrity. "Whether this stems from negligence or design, or a misguided central focus on 'voter experience', the result is the same: Corruption. The injury to lawful voters is patent," the report said. We believe the problem is with Vote Cal," Election Integrity Project co-founder Linda Paine said in a June interview. "It's the same problems all over the state."

The left has been at this for a long time.

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

Vote for Change

Continued from Pg. 1

Bob Smith Congress CD 24

Sari Domingues State Assembly 30

Shannon Kessler State Assembly 37

Maribel Aguilera for 5th District Supervisor

A word of caution on the ballot propositions. As you would expect from a third-world banana republic, our state Attorney General distorts the meaning and intent of ballot measures with a title that is purposefully confusing to voters. In many instances, the title of the ballot measure does not accurately reflect the proposed outcome of a yes or no vote. In other words, voter beware!

Ballot Propositions:

NO on Proposition 1 Authorizes Bonds for Housing Affordability Programs.

Vote No. Why? California needs to reform land use regulations to enable more affordable housing to be built, rather than to continue borrowing us into oblivion, as borrowing actually makes housing less affordable.

NO on Proposition 2 Increases California's Rainy Day Fund

Vote No! Why? This measure simply assures more government spending while ignoring existing budget deficits.

NO on Proposition 3 Provides Permanent Funding for Schools and Health Care by Extending Existing Tax on High Incomes.

Vote No. Why? Prop. 3 makes temporary income taxes permanent while Sacramento wastes billions on failed programs instead of enacting voters' priorities.

NO on Proposition 4 Repeals Prohibition Against Public Funding of Election Campaigns.

Vote No. Why? Instead of fixing potholes and the like, this measure would use tax dollars on political campaigns.

NO on Proposition 37 Creates Loan Program for Middle-Income Buyers of Qualified New Homes.

Vote No. Why? This is a "nice try, but no cigar" proposition. It can help with the down payment but at the cost of having both a first and second mortgage from the onset! The one benefit? The monies for this program will not come from taxpayers but the private sector. The limitation? Private lenders will surely require a really high interest rate for holding the second mortgage.

NO on Proposition 38 Authorizes Bonds for Immunology Medical Research.

Vote No. Why? Again, the state wants to borrow money (over \$8 billion) instead of budgeting for the same. In this case, for research. However, half of the funds automatically go to one research facility instead of letting all researchers compete for the money based upon merit, innovation, and promise.

Yes on Proposition 39 (Warning, very deceptive title!) Prohibits Citizens from Voting Unless They Present Government-Issued Identification.

Vote Yes. Why? This measure allows qualified voters to vote upon presenting a valid ID. This measure is supported by 80% of all voters across all party lines because it ensures election integrity.

NO on Proposition 40 Imposes One-Time Tax on Certain Taxpayers.

Vote No. Why? This is the so-called billionaire's tax, which, if enacted, will eventually cause all taxes to rise. How so? Because most billionaires have already left the state, our legislators will have to raise taxes on the rest of us to make up for the lost revenue arising from this measure.

Continues on Pg. 20



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" 805-739-0809 www.TestaCatering.com

Vote for Change

Continued from Pg. 19

Yes on Proposition 41 (Another title meant to confuse) Prohibits New State Taxes That Exclude Revenues from State Spending Limit. Requires Audits for New State Special Taxes.

Vote Yes. Why? For example, billions of tax dollars have flowed into programs like homelessness, and nobody knows where the money went or if it accomplished anything! Prop. 41 requires the independent State Auditor to conduct public audits of programs funded by new taxes—so we get more transparency, more accountability, and better outcomes for taxpayers.

YES on Proposition 42 Prohibits New State Personal Property Taxes and Certain Retroactive State Taxes.

Vote Yes. Why? California's Constitution currently allows the Legislature to tax your savings, including for retirement and regular savings—even though you already paid taxes on that money when you earned it! Prop. 42 protects Californians from this double taxation.

YES on Proposition 43 (Very deceptive title!) Limits Voters' Ability to Raise Revenues for Local Government Services.

Vote Yes. Why? This measure preserves Prop. 13! Prop. 43 protects taxpayers by restoring Proposition 13's two-thirds vote requirement to pass local special taxes, including sales taxes, real estate taxes, and utility taxes.

NO on Proposition 44 Requires Community Health Clinics Spend 90% Of Revenue on Program Services.

Vote No. Why? Prop. 44 is a dangerous measure by a greedy union that will shut down hundreds of community health clinics and eliminate vital patient services for millions of Californians. The goal of the measure is to create leverage over employers in labor negotiations.



YES on Proposition 45 Modifies Environmental Review for Certain Projects.

Vote Yes. Why? FINALLY, a proposition that amends the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) to expedite environmental review for certain projects (including most housing, transportation, water, and health projects) by setting deadlines to complete environmental review and resolve lawsuits challenging project approvals. Amending CEQA is the ONLY way to lower project costs and increase affordability in our state.

Andy Caldwell, Executive Director, COLAB



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