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A Republic If You Can Keep It!

By Andy Caldwell

These words of Benjamin Franklin, in response to the question, what kind of government was the United States to have, a republic or a democracy, are exceedingly prescient today, for we are surrounded, infected, and infested by enemies within and without.

The four enemies I will focus on today (there are many more than four) are progressivism, the democratic socialists of America, radical Islam, and America's four horsemen of the apocalypse (hedonism, nihilism, materialism, and narcissism).

First, progressivism. Just in time for our 250th birthday party, progressives in California are blowing up the basic premise of our constitution by fomenting class warfare. This rotten political ideology posits that virtually everything about America is either a lie or its wrong. That is, the Constitution was a racist construct aimed at preserving white, male power. Progressives also believe it is wrong for people to become successful, but it is right to redistribute their wealth to people who did nothing to earn it or deserve it.

California, like other blue states, is an epicenter of progressivism. On the ballot this November is the so-called billionaire's wealth tax which is not to be confused with an income tax. This class of earners are already paying more than their "fair share" of taxes. Together, the top 1% of earners (which includes multi-millionaires) in our state pay upwards of 45% of all income tax collected, some \$122 billion annually. SEIU, the Service Employees International Union, is behind the initiative, not because they are concerned about state and federal benefit cuts to the poor, but because their members stand to lose their jobs as a result of the cuts.

This tax, taxes wealth, including the unrealized value of businesses, stocks, bonds, art, collectibles, and intellectual property. Of course, the problem here is that the billionaires are leaving and taking their companies, tax revenues, and jobs with them. It is estimated that \$1 trillion in assets have left the state, which means the state's income tax revenue will crater unless the middle class makes up the difference via future tax hikes. In other words, our state economy is set to implode because of the unmitigated greed of public employee unions in this state who have additionally burdened us with upwards of \$1 trillion in unfunded pension liabilities.

The Democratic Socialists of America (DSA) are progressives on crack! Take for an example, Avila Chevalier who just won the Democratic primary for New York's 13th District, with the support and endorsement of the current leader of the pack, New York Mayor Mamdani. Avila Chevalier has been described by some as "like AOC, but to the left". According to CNN, "Darializa Avila Cheva-

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Trump Admin Launches Crackdown On California Coastal Commission

By Katy Grimes

California and the Coastal Commission accused of a 'long record of obstructing technological innovation and economic development,' prioritizing 'environmental extremism' over national needs

Commerce Secretary Howard Lutnick sent a letter to Kevin Hassett, Director of the White House National Economic Council under President Donald Trump, directing the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) to "evaluate" the California Coastal Commission, over their efforts to bar energy production with restarting an offshore oil project in Santa Barbara, as well as preventing Elon Musk's SpaceX from launching from Vandenberg Space Force Base.

The California Coastal Commission is an unelected commission of political appointees that lords over locally elected city councils in cities and counties on the California coast, acting as the department of business prevention.

The [letter](#) from the Trump administration puts the California's Coastal Commission environmental zealots under long overdue federal scrutiny.

The letter criticizes the Coastal Commission's management as "woefully inadequate at best" particularly during the Biden administration. It accuses California and the Coastal Commission of a "long record of obstructing technological innovation and economic development," prioritizing "environmental extremism."

NOAA is holding public meetings Aug. 10, 2026, in Santa Monica in person, and virtual meetings on Aug. 11–12, and is accepting comments through Aug. 22, 2026, to assess alignment with federal priorities, according to the letter.

"These meetings are intended to provide the public with the opportunity to add to the input obtained from the previous public meeting held in August 2024. In particular, NOAA seeks any new input from relevant stakeholders regarding spaceport infrastructure, offshore oil production, pipeline maintenance, desalination projects, and undersea cables," the letter says.

"During the evaluation, NOAA will consider the extent to which the State of California has implemented and enforced the program approved by the Secretary, addressed the coastal management needs identified in

the Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972 (CZMA), and adhered to the terms of any grant, loan, or cooperative agreement funded under this chapter of the CZMA," the letter says.

"When the evaluation is complete, NOAA's Office for Coastal Management will place a notice in the Federal Register announcing the availability of the final evaluation findings."

The California Coastal Commission lives up to its well-deserved dodgy reputation, and has even been sued by Elon Musk, the world's richest entrepreneur, when the commission voted to shut down SpaceX launches from Vandenberg Space Force Base in Santa Barbara County, because of Space X founder Elon Musk's comments on X and his political activities. Really.

"Elon Musk is hopping about the country, spewing and tweeting political falsehoods and attacking FEMA while claiming his desire to help the hurricane victims with free Starlink access to the internet," said Commissioner Gretchen Newsom (not related to Gavin Newsom), the [Globe reported](#). "It appears that rather than prioritizing the welfare of SpaceX employees and the environment, the focus has been on profit maximization."

Commission chairwoman Caryl Hart added, "You could argue that it's bringing in politics, but this is a political matter to some extent because it involves the US government, it involves the Coastal Commission. We are dealing with a company, the head of which has aggressively injected himself into the presidential

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This Ain't California Regulators' First Rodeo

By Andy Caldwell

Sometimes it is hard to imagine just how stupid California legislators and regulators can be.

If you recall, for 68 years there was an oil facility in Nipomo, known as the Santa Maria Refinery, that treated oil produced from the Santa Maria Valley and received by pipeline. After treatment there, another pipeline sent the semi-refined oil to the Bay area to the Phillips Rodeo facility for further refinement.

Well, the Santa Maria refinery was shut down in 2023 because the Rodeo facility switched production to renewable fuels exclusively, to satisfy the demands of the extremists who want to shut down the CA oil industry entirely.

The defacto closure of this facility for oil production, among other refinery closures, is the reason gasoline prices are so high in CA. Furthermore, because Santa Barbara County wouldn't recognize the right of oil producers to truck their product because the pipeline was no longer available, these producers have been forced to shut down, meaning even less oil is available to other refiners.

Here's the Rest of the Story

The facility in the Bay area that switched to the production of biofuels only, is now facing a state mandated cap (20%) on the production of diesel and aviation fuels made from soybeans. This is hurting farmers in the Midwest and it is eliminating one of the major (50-55%) feed stocks for the biofuels. The loss of these fuels will result in California importing refined gasoline from Africa, Asia, and the Middle East to make up the difference.

You couldn't make up a story this stupid no matter how hard you tried. What's not to love? Unless you are an idiot regulator in the state of CA.

Ironically, the Rodeo facility is so old it previously produced kerosene from whale oil back in 1896. Hence, switching to fossil fuels back then saved the whales. The same thing happened on the current site of UCSB back in the day. A whaling station was succeeded by an asphaltum (natural asphalt). In the 1890s, asphaltum was mined from a site at the north-western corner of the lagoon wetlands. The ore body was a large molasses-like deposit a few feet below ground, later mined by sinking shafts and horizontal drift tunnels down to 550 feet.

See the rich history here: <https://goletahistory.com/goleta-asphalt/>

What caused the plant to close? Today, asphalt concrete is almost exclusively made from crude oil refined into bitumen, mixed with aggregates like gravel and sand. And we still rely on it nearly exclusively to pave our roads. Hence, the war on oil is forcing us to not only import refined gasoline but will soon force us to also import the oil to make asphalt.

Of course, we must also mention the poke in the eye of the local leaders and residents who want nothing to do with oil and gas, as natural seeps off our coast pollute the ocean and our shores and generate the single largest source of emissions in our county. Only drilling relieves the pressure, but what does that mean to the oblivious who refuse to see the obvious?

One More Thing

While our county and our state are still in climate-change jihad mode, much of the rest of the world have cooled their jets, so to speak. Environmental zealot, **Bill Gates**, who wants us to consume bugs instead of beef as a source of a protein-rich diet, has somehow had an epiphany about the so-called existential threat to mankind from climate change. He now admits there is no existential threat and that we as a society should use our time, energy, and money, to address more pressing needs.

Gates is not alone. The UN Climate panel recently admitted that their most extreme prognostications were nothing but hot air. And even Black Rock CEO **Larry Fink**, who was trying to force ESG (enviro-social-governance) down the throats of the investors in his \$14 trillion behemoth fund, now makes the following claim: "For several years, I've argued for energy pragmatism. Meeting rising demand will require expanding supply across oil and gas, in addition to renewables, storage, nuclear, and the grid. The goal is not to favor one technology over another."

Q. *What caused these folks to come to their senses?*

A. Data centers and their massive power requirements that can't be supplied by wind and solar.

I am calling their epiphanies a data center repentance. The question is when will California political leaders, including those on the Central Coast, get some religion and some honest pragmatism?.

Andy Caldwell, Executive Director, COLAB

Supreme Court Sets Hawaii Straight On Second Amendment

By Charles “Cully” Stimson

This morning, the Supreme Court issued its opinion in *Wolford v. Lopez*, an important opinion clarifying the scope of the Second Amendment’s right to bear arms outside of the home.

The issue before the court this time was whether the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals erred in holding that Hawaii may presumptively prohibit the carry of handguns by licensed concealed carry permit holders on private property open to the public unless the property owner affirmatively gives express permission to the handgun carrier.

In a 6-3 decision, Justice Samuel Alito wrote for the majority, holding that Hawaii’s law violates the Second and 14th Amendments.

The Second Amendment Cases

As a refresher, in 2008, the Supreme Court ruled in *District of Columbia v. Heller* that the Second Amendment protects an individual right to possess a firearm not connected with service in a militia and to use that firearm for lawful purposes such as self-defense within the home.

Two years later, the Supreme Court ruled in *McDonald v. City of Chicago* that the Second Amendment right of individuals to keep and bear arms in self-defense applies against state and local governments as well as the federal government. As the Supreme Court said in *McDonald*, “The Second Amendment does not protect a second-class right, but one that is fundamental to our scheme of ordered liberty and applicable against the states through the Fourteenth Amendment.”

Unfortunately, many lower courts have refused to treat *Heller* or *McDonald* with respect, upholding gun control laws across the country.

In 2022, the Supreme Court issued a 6-3 opinion in *New York State Rifle & Pistol Association v. Bruen*. In *Bruen*, the court held that New York’s Sullivan Act—a 1911 law requiring individuals to demonstrate “proper cause” to obtain a license to carry a handgun in public—violated the Second Amendment because it imposed a discretionary standard on the exercise of a constitutional right.

The court held that the Second Amendment guarantees a “general right to publicly carry arms for self-defense.” The implications of this ruling far exceeded

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20th-century state law: The court made clear that modern gun regulations must adhere to historical practice and a constitutional reading of the Second Amendment.

Hawaii Gun Law Response

States with the most restrictive gun laws responded legislatively. On June 2, 2023, the Hawaii Legislature passed Act 52, a staggering overhaul of firearm regulations. While the law allowed for licensed public carry, it established a sprawling list of “sensitive places” where public carry was not permitted. Act 52 established “a default rule with respect to carrying firearms on private property of another person.” The stated purpose of the rule was to protect “the right of private individuals and entities to choose for themselves whether to allow or restrict the carrying of firearms on their property.”

These areas included schools, government buildings, parks, stadiums, movie theaters, beaches, and more. The law also specified that for private businesses, express authorization, in the form of signage, words, or writing, was required as permission to carry a firearm onto the premises. Despite these restrictive terms, the

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You Can't Use A Gym Card To Board A Plane, But.....

By Andy Caldwell

I must apologize for all the minutia in this piece, however, I feel it necessary to flush out the devil in the details as it pertains to all the ridiculous complaints about the SAVE Act, the passage of which is necessary to ensure the integrity of our elections.

Accordingly, what I will outline will serve to demonstrate that the requirements of the SAVE Act are scarcely more stringent than obtaining a CA driver's license, and are virtually equal to obtaining a CA REAL ID. However, in the state of CA, what is required to prove identity to register to vote is, by comparison to all of the above, a contemptible absurdity.

The utter truth is that Democrats are lying when they say the SAVE Act will disenfranchise voters, especially minority voters, some 20 million of them, according to Senate Minority Leader **Chuck Schumer**.

Under the SAVE Act, individuals registering to vote in federal elections must provide documentary proof of U.S. citizenship. Acceptable documents include:

REAL ID-compliant driver's license (more on that later)

U.S. passport or passport card

Military ID card along with a military service record showing U.S. birthplace

A government-issued photo ID showing the applicant's place of birth

In-person presentation is required for both in-person and mail-voter registration applications.

None of these requirements are stringent, considering the fact that in order to get on a plane or enter a federal building you have to have a REAL ID (or passport), which, in CA, can only be obtained with virtually the same documents and the same in-person verification process!

The REAL ID Act was enacted in response to the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks, following recommendations from the 9/11 Commission to establish federal standards for identification documents such as driver's licenses. The Act passed the House 388-43. It passed the Senate 99-0.

That brings up the question of why Democrats didn't oppose REAL ID for the same reasons as they oppose the SAVE Act, relatedly claiming it would disenfranchise minorities?

That is, to obtain a California REAL ID, you must pro-



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vide proof of identity, your Social Security number, and prove your California residency. You must bring all the documents to complete your application at a DMV office so that they can be verified.

The key requirements for a California REAL ID include:

1. *You must present an original or certified document showing your full legal name and date of birth. Acceptable documents include a valid U.S. passport, original or certified birth certificate,*
2. *You need to provide your SSN using documents such as a Social Security card, W-2 form, or pay stub showing your full SSN,*
3. *Proof of California Residency: Applicants must present two documents showing their full name and California residential address.*

Acceptable documents include:

- Rental or lease agreements
- Utility bills (gas, water, electricity, cable)
- Deed or title to residential property
- Vehicle or vessel registration/title
- Bank or insurance statements

To get a plain old ordinary driver's license in the state of CA, the required documentation is pretty much the same as all of the above. You need proof of identity, Social Security number, and California residency, along with passing a vision and driving test.

Key Requirements

1. *Proof of Identity:*

You must provide one original or certified document

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While Mexico Defends ‘Sovereignty,’ Cartels Import A Flesh-eating Parasite Into Texas

By Ammon Blair

Cartels move an estimated 800,000 cattle per year from Central America into Mexico using fake ear tags and falsified records

As the New World screwworm returns to American soil for the first time since its eradication 60 years ago, Texas is now on the front line of Mexico's threat to U.S. sovereignty and national security.

The return of New World screwworm to the United States began with the collapse of the biological containment barrier in Central America that broke in 2021 when millions of illegal aliens were moved through the Darién Gap, overwhelming border controls and expanding the cartel-controlled smuggling corridors that later carried infested livestock northward. By the time Mexican authorities confirmed the first cases in November 2024, the parasite had already spread across Central America and deep into southern Mexico. Mexican officials' complicity in cartel control over these routes turned mass migration into a gray-zone weapon that expanded smuggling infrastructure and increased pressure on the U.S.-Mexico border.

Mexican cartels function as de facto proxies for elements of the Mexican state in this gray-zone campaign. They move an estimated 800,000 cattle per year from Central America into Mexico through these same poorly governed corridors, using fake ear tags and falsified veterinary records to bypass government checkpoints, sanitary inspections, and taxes. The illicit trade is worth roughly \$320 million annually. Once inside Mexico, the animals are laundered into the legal system, where they can enter feedlots or reach federally inspected Tipo Inspección Federal (TIF) slaughter plants used for domestic processing and exports. As of June 3, the New World screwworm has caused more than 171,700 cumulative animal cases and more than 2,070 human cases across Mexico and Central. Many infestations go undetected or unreported, so official figures likely understate the outbreak's true scale.

Elements of the Mexican state continue to protect cartel networks moving high-risk biological material toward the U.S. supply chain. In 2024, Mexico exported roughly 1.25 million head of live cattle to the United States at an estimated value of \$1.3 billion. After the

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pause in the live cattle trade, Mexico rapidly expanded processed beef exports to the U.S., with exports rising 23 percent in the first four months of 2026 as cattle that would have been shipped live were instead finished and slaughtered domestically. NWS threatens more than a single agricultural market.

Presidential Policy Directive 21 defines critical infrastructure, which includes food and agriculture, as "systems and assets, whether physical or virtual, so vital to the United States that the incapacity or destruction of such systems and assets would have a debilitating impact on security, national economic security, national public health or safety, or any combination of those matters." The USDA warns that "this vital sector is a known target for terrorists and malicious actors." Secretary of Agriculture Brooke Rollins has rightfully declared: "Food security is national security. If America cannot feed itself, it cannot fully defend itself — and that reality puts at risk the freedom and security that generations of Americans have fought and died to preserve over the last 250 years."

In that light, Mexico's abetting of NWS's spread should be seen as the security threat it is. However,

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Absolute Democrat Power Has Corrupted California's Elections

By Andy Caldwell

The most puzzling election outcome in CA last week was the race for mayor in L.A. Mayor **Karen Bass** is the first mayor in 21 years that didn't win outright in June. **Spencer Pratt** was the first Republican in a very long time consistently polling high enough to force a runoff.

But a funny thing happened after the polls closed. An L.A. councilwoman by the name of **Nithya V. Raman** soared to second place in a very startling fashion.

Raman is a "Democratic Socialist," often characterized as the West-Coast **Mamdani**. However, the Democratic Socialists didn't endorse her in this race. Raman also waited until the last minute – just hours before the deadline – to enter the race and that was *after* she had already endorsed Bass. Moreover, she didn't win the most votes for mayor from her own constituents in her own city council district. And finally, if that isn't enough, Raman basically conceded defeat on election night in front of her supporters.

The Dirty Details

Well, of course, we no longer have election night in CA, we have election month. And, within days of the polls closing, votes came pouring in for Raman in, quite frankly, an unbelievable torrent.

On election night June 3, Mayor Bass had received 37% of the vote, or about 139,000 votes. Pratt had 30% of the vote, at 117,000. Raman? She had 21%, at 79,000 votes.

A few days and updates later – June 7, to be exact –, the mayor's votes had increased to 250,000, a 79% increase. Pratt's totals went to 193,000, a 70% increase. Raman? She went from 79,000 votes to 196,000 – a 148% increase – meaning, percentage wise, she garnered about as many votes as Bass and Pratt combined.

By June 8, Bass was at 276,000. Pratt had 207,000. And Raman had 229,000. All in all, from when the polls closed on June 3, Raman received a 190% increase in votes.

How did she get so popular all of a sudden?

In the old days, most results held on election night through the rest of the ballot processing period. But, with ballot harvesting, late dumps can now create



some mystifying results.

If Raman's district didn't vote for her, and her ideologues in the DSA didn't endorse her, how did she come in second, to her own surprise?

Inquiring minds want to know.

Of course, finding out the particulars isn't going to be easy, because the state of CA has a new law, Senate Bill 73, signed into law by Governor **Gavin Newsom** just days before the June 2026 primary, to prevent unauthorized law enforcement interference with state elections. The law explicitly bars certain actions that could be used to disrupt or investigate election results without proper legal authority, read that, a court order. How is someone supposed to collect enough evidence to justify a court order? Including the federal government, which has a distinct interest in the federal elections overseen and conducted by state and local authorities, not to mention the over-arching authority of the supremacy clause.

That remains to be seen.

AB2624 Prevents Exposing Fraud By Legal Means

I, for one, believe SB 73 is akin to another bill aimed at protecting potential fraud. That would be the "Stop Nick Shirley Act": AB2624.

Nick Shirley is a citizen journalist exposing widespread fraud across the country, fraud that is bankrupting the United States. The Act seeks to intimidate citizen journalists from investigating and exposing cor-

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Trump's Energy Agenda Is Being Undermined By His Own Justice Department

By Steven Milloy

The DOJ is leaving open the possibility that Biden-era EPA regulations can still prevail.

It is the kind of blunder that makes you wonder how it ever got this far. Trump's own Justice Department is undercutting the administration's effort to rein in federal climate overreach.

In February, Trump's Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) scrapped the Obama-era endangerment finding, the legal foundation for the whole federal climate regime — the basis for a sprawling federal campaign that Congress never clearly approved. That 2009 finding gave Washington, D.C. the excuse to regulate greenhouse gases and use the Clean Air Act as a blunt instrument against cars, trucks, power plants, and the energy economy itself.

Remove that finding, and the whole regulatory scheme starts to fall apart, leaving the EPA's climate authority without a real legal footing.

Yet the Justice Department's position in *Suncor Energy v. Boulder County* is a mess. While the Trump EPA is trying to unwind the federal climate regime, the DOJ appears to be leaving the door open to the same broad Clean Air Act theory that made the regime possible in the first place. Climate activists will happily exploit that contradiction.

This case is bigger than one bad brief. The Supreme Court is deciding whether Boulder can use state courts as a backdoor to impose a climate policy that Congress never passed. If the Court lets that theory stand, it will encourage copycat suits, drag energy companies into years of litigation, and invite state-by-state climate lawmaking by lawsuit.

This dispute is important because the fight over the endangerment finding is not some isolated legal squabble. It is part of a much larger battle over whether the Trump administration can actually dismantle the federal climate bureaucracy. If the rescission gets knocked out in separate litigation, Trump's reform effort can be reversed, and every climate rule he is trying to unwind gets fresh legal cover.

Boulder and its allies are using local lawsuits to do an end-run around Congress and rewrite national energy policy in court. That is lawfare, plain and simple.

The Department of Justice's position gives the game away because it signals that the administration is still hedging on the basic question of the EPA's authority, and that hesitation is exactly what climate litigants will exploit. Once the government starts speaking in two voices, the other side gets to turn its own words against it.

That is not just a bad look. It is a legal problem. Judges notice when the government is inconsistent. They notice when one branch of the administration says one thing and another branch says something else. Credibility counts in court, especially when the issue is whether the EPA has the power to regulate a major part of the economy under a law Congress never squarely wrote that way.

The administration ought to be fighting with one voice. Congress makes the law, not green activists, trial lawyers, or unelected bureaucrats. Instead, the Trump administration appears to be talking out of both sides of its mouth.

The Left does not need a perfect opening. It only needs inconsistency. It will seize on any stray sentence, quote the government back to itself, and argue

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California Is Ripe For Electoral Fraud

By Andy Caldwell

At the time I am writing this, we only have preliminary election results to consider. That is because the state of California takes longer – by design – to count votes.

The biggest news is that, for the first time in a very long time, it appears that a Republican *with a chance to win* will be on the November ballot in the governor's race. **Steve Hilton** could be competitive, if and only if, Bianco and his supporters will work for him in November. Unfortunately, Republicans are famous for holding grudges due to bruised egos and other abnormalities.

The LA mayor's race could result in the first run-off, versus an outright win for a Democrat, in 21 years. All it took was for an entirely inept administration, led by incumbent Mayor **Karen Bass**, to be held accountable for helping to burn entire communities to the ground and then stand in the way of the victims' ability to rebuild.

Locally, the 5th district supervisor's race appears headed to a runoff too. In this case, I am fairly confident that the supporters of the apparent third-place finisher will get behind **Maribel Aguilera** for the win in November.

Having said all that, let's go back to systemic delays in counting votes because those delays create conditions ripe for fraud.

Democrats and Rigged Elections

Do any of you remember **Rod R. Blagojevich**, who served as the 40th Governor of Illinois? In December 2008, a federal investigation led to Blagojevich's arrest on corruption charges after he attempted to sell the U.S. Senate seat vacated by **Barack**

Obama upon his election to the presidency. He was subsequently convicted and sent to prison, only to have President Trump commute his sentence before pardoning him.

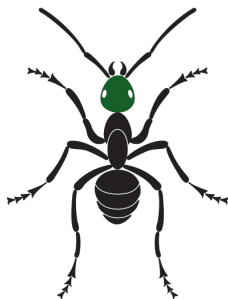
I bring this up because Blagojevich says that rigged elections by his party were commonplace during his time as Illinois governor through illegal aliens voting, fraudulent electronic voting machines, and phony mail-in ballots; and the fraud was particularly egregious in the Democrat-controlled city of Chicago, albeit, he added that cheating is a 'time-honored' tradition in Democrat-controlled cities throughout the country. That is, when asked if the Democrat Party steals elections, Blago's answer was quite blunt: "Is the Pope Catholic?"

Here in CA, we may not know the outcome of some of the electoral races for an entire month. This is because CA has some of the laxest rules in the nation pertaining to turning in and/or mailing in ballots. I firmly believe the reason for this is to *legalize* opportunities for fraud. That is, one of the most basic opportunities for fraud is via ballot harvesting which breaks the chain of control of the ballot between the voter and the registrar of voters.

Illegal Voting Continues Apace

We also know for certain that there is nothing stopping illegal aliens from voting in our state because there is no required proof of citizenship needed to obtain a ballot and vote if you are willing to lie on the registration form asserting your right to vote. As reported by the *California Post*, "Welfare offices and other agencies in at least 46 U.S. states are providing voter registration forms to migrants without requiring

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Chicago Spent Millions To Help ‘People Who Cause Harm’

By Daniel Greenfield

‘Trauma Reducing Book Clubs’ and acupuncture for criminals.

Chicago commemorated the Juneteenth weekend by shooting 39 people and leaving 6 of them dead and surpassing last year’s relatively mild 5 dead and 16 wounded weekend. According to politicians and the media, crime is down in Chicago. According to reality, 861 people have been shot and 207 people have been killed so far this year and we haven’t even reached July.

(Editor’s note: it’s now 864 people shot and 208 killed. It’ll be higher when you read this.)

Mayor Brandon Johnson (pictured above) responded to the weekend massacres by declaring a ‘Transfemicide State of Emergency’ even though none of the people shot were transgender and the only transgender man killed this year was killed by his boyfriend, and calling for a \$100 million Department of Gun Violence Prevention even as Chicago faces a \$1.3 billion budget deficit.

The \$100 million Department of Gun Violence Prevention campaign had been advanced by radical clergy, including Obama mentor Father Michael Pfleger, an associate of other Obama allies like Louis Farrakhan and Jeremiah Wright, as the solution to Chicago’s problems.

But what would that \$100 million actually do?

The Biden administration had created a White House Office of Gun Violence Prevention, that the Trump administration shut down, to largely push gun bans, but Chicago can’t do that.

Dozens of media stories have been filed pushing the permanent \$100 million Department of Gun Violence Prevention without ever describing its function or how it would do anything.

The real goal is to take the Office of Violence Prevention championed by Mayor Brandon Johnson and make it a permanent institution in Chicago. This would implement the agenda of police defunding by treating its non-police strategies as equivalent to the police department.

So what does the Office of Violence Prevention and the various non-police alternatives to which Chicago politicians have already allocated \$100 million to, despite the massive budget deficit and the looming pen-



sion bomb, actually do? ‘Trauma Reducing’ book clubs.

There’s no actual information about what ‘Trauma Reducing Book Clubs’ are or how they stop weekend shootings, but they’re packaged alongside ‘Self-Expression Creative Writing’ and Acupuncture as ‘Wellness Oriented Services’ even though the only ‘puncture’ that stops a shooter before he opens fire uses lead.

But the Office of Violence Prevention isn’t providing the book clubs, creative writing and acupuncture to victims of violence anyway, but to the perpetrators because it’s part of the Office of Violence Prevention’s Chicago Torture Justice Center (CTJC) whose services are provided to ‘victims’ of “police torture and other residents who report being traumatized by law enforcement actions.” In short, acupuncture and book clubs are for the criminals who get busted by police.

The Office of Violence Prevention also boasts Services for People Who Cause Harm (PWCH) also known as violent criminals or more specifically domestic abusers. PWCH vaguely describes the wife beaters “as individuals who are actively causing harm to their intimate partner.”

The rebranding of domestic abusers as “Services for People Who Cause Harm” is part of the larger trend of police defunding and ‘restorative justice’. Earlier this year, the Illinois Domestic Violence Hotline announced that it was also launching a hotline for domestic abusers.

Much as burglar alarm companies generally focus their marketing on homeowners rather than burglars, Jennifer Rosenkranz, the head of a domestic violence non-profit arm, explained that,

(Continued on page 11)

Chicago Spent Millions To Help ‘People Who Cause Harm’ Cont.

(Continued from page 10)

“We realized that the area of working with people who cause harm was underinvested and there was a lack of innovation in that space.”

It’s unknown if any book clubs or acupuncture is involved, but a similar operation in New York City which helped kickstart programs for ‘people who cause harm’ involved typical ‘restorative justice’ elements such as sessions focused on “trauma-informed healing” and accountability.

Its premise, like that of all pro-crime ‘restorative justice’ programs, was that police were the real enemy, not the abusers. Under New York’s DeBlasio administration, the forerunner of Mamdani, a report argued that there was debate about compelling “the state to treat intimate partner violence as severely as violence between strangers” especially in “communities of color and queer communities, to whom the system represented more of a threat than a sanctuary.”

The Left had taken a full turn from feminism and argued against protecting battered women.

Back in 2021, former Chicago Mayor Lori Lightfoot had already been spending \$500,000 on ‘Services for People Who Cause Harm’ offering “culturally appropriate non-mandated services for adults who cause harm within intimate-partner relationships” to be culturally sensitive to criminals.

“Our efforts to reduce gender-based violence throughout our city must not only respond to victims of violence and their needs, but the individuals and trauma of those who cause harm,” Lightfoot had argued.

This was in keeping with the central premise of pro-crime ideology that everyone had been paying far too much attention to crime victims and not nearly enough to the feelings of the criminals or ‘People Who Cause Harm’ who are really the victims of ‘systemic racism’.

5 years later, there’s no sign that catering to ‘People

Who Cause Harm’ has done anything except harm. By 2025, domestic violence homicides were actually up 33%. Catering to ‘People Who Cause Harm’ was, like all pro-crime policies, leading to harm to victims of crime.

(The Chicago Police Department however conveniently erased its domestic violence statistics.)

After millions of dollars spent, domestic violence now accounts for 1 in 4 crime victims in Chicago. Most of the victims had taken out protective orders against their future killers, even as Chicago’s radical city government was wrecking the police department that might have saved their lives and instead spent millions helping their killers while also offering acupuncture and book clubs to the criminals who they claimed were really the innocent ‘victims’ of ‘police torture’.

Pro-crime policies always work, not by reducing violence, but by creating far more of it.

When President Trump proposed sending the National Guard to Chicago to stop the constant shootings, Illinois Gov J.B. Pritzker gave a press conference in which he complained that, “If Donald Trump was actually serious about fighting crime in cities like Chicago, he... would not be cutting over \$800 million in public safety and crime prevention grants nationally, including cutting \$158 million in funding to Illinois for violence crime-prevention programs.”

Chicago is proof that every penny that goes to so-called ‘prevention programs’ should be cut. Not unless taxpayers want to keep funding book clubs for criminals and funds being shifted from the victims of domestic abuse to the perpetrators of domestic abuse by pro-crime radical leftists.

Daniel Greenfield, CEO at the David Horowitz Freedom Center, investigative journalist at FrontPageMag.com and author of the new book, "Domestic Enemies: The Founding Fathers' Fight Against the Left"



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California Is Ripe For Electoral Fraud *Cont.*

(Continued from page 9)

proof of citizenship, leading Republicans, and conservatives to call for swift federal action to stop the handouts. If an applicant (illegally) attests that he is a U.S. citizen, that is considered valid on its face and the person is registered to vote — except in Virginia, Tennessee, and New Mexico, where they must provide a full Social Security number as well.

Every state but North Dakota, New Hampshire, Wisconsin, and Wyoming, give applicants for either welfare benefits, driver’s licenses, or in some cases, mail-in ballots, federal voter registration forms without demanding proof of citizenship.

To remedy this situation, The Safeguard American Voter Eligibility (SAVE) Act would require states to receive proof of citizenship when anyone registers to vote by mail, at a DMV or a welfare agency office. But, of course, the Dems in the Senate are stalling the bill.

Regarding fraudulent homeless voting in CA, as reported by *USA Today*, the feds dropped several felony charges in exchange for a guilty plea from **Brenda Lee Brown Armstrong**, of Marina del Rey, California, a longtime signature collector for ballot initiatives. She was charged with one felony count of paying another person to register to vote, the U.S. Department of Justice said in a Monday, May 18 news release. Armstrong has agreed to plead guilty, prosecutors said.

The quote “It’s not the people who vote that count. It’s the people who count the votes,” is often attributed to **Joseph Stalin**. Whether or not he said it, it is a truth that hits home too often in California.

Andy Caldwell, Executive Director, COLAB

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Trump's Energy Agenda Is Being Undermined By His Own Justice Department

Cont.

(Continued from page 8)

that even Trump's own lawyers admit the EPA has broad authority over greenhouse gases. That is how opponents turn a single bad briefing position into a long-term legal weapon.

That contradiction needs to be fixed now, before it hardens into bad law and leaves Trump's energy agenda paying the price. The White House and the Justice Department need to speak with one voice, or climate litigants will keep using the administration's own words against it.

If the government keeps stumbling over its own arguments, the result will not just be bad law. It will be a setback for American energy, American industry, and the entire Trump reform agenda. The Left will not hesitate to exploit it. The only question is whether Trump's own Justice Department will stop undercutting the Trump agenda in court.

Steve Milloy, founder, JunkScience.com, Senior Legal Fellow with the Energy and Environment Legal Institute, author of "Scare Pollution: Why and How to Fix the EPA" and policy advisor to The Heartland Institute



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Absolute Democrat Power Has Corrupted California's Elections *Cont.*

(Continued from page 7)

ruption, such as that already uncovered by Mr. Shirley in Minnesota and CA.

If a citizen journalist shows up at a fake hospice center with a camera, for example, our pro-crime government could levy fines starting at \$4,000.

As reported by the *California Globe*, "Nick Shirley has released a devastating 40-minute investigative video that exposes what appears to be massive waste and potential fraud in California's hospice, Medi-Cal, and daycare, programs. His report, now viewed more than 7.7 million times on X, uncovers over \$170 million in questionable billings tied to ghost hospice and daycare operations that show virtually no signs of actually caring for patients or children."

Nick Shirley writes: "This bill puts journalists at civil risk for investigating fraud and makes it harder to expose fraud in "immigration support services," including non-profits and health care facilities that receive *hundreds of millions* from the state of California each year.

Want to know the insult to the injury?

The Stop Nick Shirley bill was authored by Assembly member **Mia Bonta**, wife of California Attorney General **Rob Bonta**. It is Rob Bonta's job to investigate fraud. He is not interested in anything, however, but continually suing the Trump administration. And now he and his wife are preventing others from doing his job.

Shutting down investigative journalism is a form of tyranny and so are unexplainable election results.

"All tyrannies rule through fraud and force, but once the fraud is exposed, they must rely exclusively on force." – George Orwell

Andy Caldwell, Executive Director, COLAB

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While Mexico Defends ‘Sovereignty,’ Cartels Import A Flesh-eating Parasite Into Texas *Cont.*

(Continued from page 6)

Mexico’s leaders continue to invoke sovereignty while practicing selective cooperation. AMLO’s “abrazos, no balazos” doctrine provided political cover for limiting action against cartel power, while AMLO and President Biden together presided over the mass movement of illegal aliens through cartel-controlled corridors toward the United States. Sheinbaum’s “cooperación sin subordinación” offers the diplomatic version of the same posture. Mexico engages when cooperation is limited to selected enforcement actions.

The return of NWS couldn’t come at a worse time for the American beef industry. U.S. cattle inventory has fallen to a 75-year low — the smallest national herd since 1951 — while beef imports have reached record levels. By maintaining high levels of agricultural trade while cartels control significant portions of the supply chain, including the laundering of smuggled cattle, Mexico deepens U.S. dependence. In 2025, the United States exported \$30.6 billion in agricultural goods to Mexico but imported \$43.9 billion from Mexico, leaving a \$13.3 billion agricultural trade deficit. That dependence and offshoring our food is precisely the national-security vulnerability USDA has warned about. Secretary Rollins put it plainly: “Our beef cattle, our citrus, so much of this we’re now importing from other countries like Mexico. If we can’t feed ourselves, this is a national security issue that has to be solved.”

Texas counties are on the front line of this incursion. The United States must not decouple trade policy from national security. No policy, protocol, or quarantine can protect America while Mexico’s cartel-state alliance keeps those routes open.

Ammon S. Blair is a Senior Fellow with the Texas Public Policy Foundation’s Secure & Sovereign Nation Initiative, where he develops state-led homeland defense strategies addressing transnational criminal organizations, foreign terrorist networks, hostile-state influence operations, weaponized mass migration, and emerging internal security threats. He is a former U.S. Border Patrol agent, a 22-year U.S. Army veteran, and a consultant to the Operation Lone Star Task Force.

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Supreme Court Sets Hawaii Straight On Second Amendment *Cont.*

(Continued from page 4)

state maintained it had followed the Bruen framework.

Jason Wolford, a Hawaii concealed-carry license holder, and two others similarly situated, sued the Hawaii attorney general, claiming that Act 52 violated the Second Amendment.

Wolford argued that the law’s list of prohibited areas was so exhaustive that it all but nullified his permit. This form of compliance reflects what critics have described as the “vampire rule,” a regulatory construct that preserves the right to bear arms in theory while rendering it functionally unusable in practice. Under Hawaii’s approach, firearms are presumptively banned on private property open to the public unless the owner affirmatively grants permission, flipping the traditional presumption that a constitutional right may be exercised without permission.

Backed by the Hawaii Firearms Coalition, Wolford sought relief in the U.S. District Court for the District of Hawaii. U.S. District Court Judge Leslie Kobayashi granted a partial temporary restraining order.

Despite the state’s claim that there was a historical analogue to Hawaii’s law, Kobayashi found the evidence for these claims to be insufficient. Further, Kobayashi contended that the state had overreached by presuming bans on behalf of public property owners, rather than deferring to a property owner’s fundamental right to exclude. Kobayashi concluded that because plaintiffs had continued to carry their firearms in prohibited areas, they faced immediate irreparable

harm in the form of potential criminal charges.

The state appealed to the 9th Circuit, which evaluated Hawaii’s laws alongside a similar set of laws enacted in California. The court affirmed in part and reversed in large part the lower court injunction. While California’s requirement for a physical sign was deemed too rigid, Hawaii’s rule was upheld. Analogizing historical trespass laws, the court reversed the injunction because the law allowed for consent to be given orally, in writing, or through signage.

Unlike Kobayashi, the 9th Circuit allowed for a less stringent standard in the application of historical practice. The state needs only “evince a principle” in historical practice regulating firearms in places relevantly like those covered by the challenged law. Appellees requested en banc review but were denied. On Oct. 3, 2025, the Supreme Court granted review.

On Jan. 20, 2026, the U.S. Supreme Court held oral argument. Alan Beck, arguing for petitioners, claimed that Hawaii’s law prevented licensed concealed carry in approximately 97% of public areas. Beck also accused the state of improperly bolstering the historical record with Black Codes, which he characterized as discriminatory anti-poaching laws meant to target African Americans.

Neal Katyal, attorney for respondents, took a different tack. Katyal framed the debate as centering on two legal rights: the right to bear arms and the property right to exclude. The right to bear arms, Katyal

(Continued on page 17)

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You Can't Use A Gym Card To Board A Plane, But..... *Cont.*

(Continued from page 5)

showing your full legal name and date of birth. Acceptable documents include an unexpired U.S. passport, a certified U.S. birth certificate, or a valid permanent resident card. If your legal name has changed, bring a certified document linking the old and new names, such as a marriage certificate or court order,

2. Social Security Number:

Applicants must provide their Social Security number, verified electronically by the DMV. Acceptable proofs include a Social Security card, W-2 form, or pay stub showing the full number.

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You need to prove California residency. For a standard license, one document is required; for a REAL ID, two documents are needed. Acceptable documents include utility bills, rental or lease agreements, mortgage statements, bank statements, or employment records, all showing your name and California address

I said all that to indicate that complying with the SAVE ACT is similar to the process of getting a regular driver's license or a REAL ID.

Yet, consider the fact that California allows first-time voters, who can't provide a Social Security number or driver's license to prove identity while registering to vote, to register using such things as a gym membership card, a credit or debit card, or a prescription drug label. The law states, "Any doubt as to the sufficiency of proof or a document presented shall be resolved in favor of permitting the voter or new registrant to cast a regular ballot," knowing full well that, for instance, a prescription drug label doesn't come with either a photo ID or an address.

California politicians have the obvious choice to run their state elections in a manner that would be abhorrent in most banana republics, but they certainly have no prerogative to use these lax verification procedures when federal election results are at stake, and that is what the SAVE Act is all about.

Please support its passage.

Andy Caldwell, Executive Director, COLAB

Supreme Court Sets Hawaii Straight On Second Amendment *Cont.*

(Continued from page 15)

argued, is insufficient to establish implied consent on-to private property. Allowing states flexibility to balance both rights as "laboratories" of democracy, he contended, is the most prudent approach in adapting to a post-Bruen world.

The Holding

The court held that the restrictions imposed by Hawaii's law fell within the plain text of the Second Amendment. The law departed sharply from the standard common law rule on access to private property held open to the public. Under the common law rule, everyone, including those lawfully carrying firearms, could enter unless expressly prohibited from doing so. The Hawaii law flipped the script: no one carrying a firearm could enter private property open to the public without the property owner's express authorization.

At the outset, the court noted that owners of establishments that are open to the public can admit or exclude people who are carrying guns for self-defense under either the common law or Hawaii law.

But the new law "unquestionably imposes a new and significant burden on the exercise of the right recognized in Bruen." The historical analogues proffered by Hawaii do not support the constitutionality of its new default rule.

Justice Elena Kagan dissented, writing that the Hawaii law is a "modern-day analogue of colonial and founding era laws that similarly prohibited carrying firearms onto private property."

Justice Ketanji Brown Jackson dissented, joined by Justice Sonia Sotomayor, writing that this case is not about the Second Amendment, but rather a property rights issue, and as such, the law is constitutional as it preserves private property owners' rights to exclude people from their property.

Charles "Cully" Stimson is Acting Director, Institute for Constitutional Government, Manager, National Security Law Program, and Senior Legal Fellow, The Heritage Foundation

Trump Admin Launches Crackdown On California Coastal Commission *Cont.*

(Continued from page 2)

race.”

“In the lawsuit, filed in the U.S. District Court for the Central District of California, Musk’s SpaceX accuses the commission of ‘unconstitutional overreach’ after members criticized his political leanings during a meeting about whether to approve more frequent SpaceX launches off the California coastline,” Business Insider reported.

The agency, notoriously powerful but abusive, regulates coastal development while “protecting” California’s coastline. They have had serious clashes with the Trump administration over drilling for offshore oil, the Vandenberg SpaceX launches, oil pipelines, desalination plants, and anyone who wants to build a coastal home.

NEC Director Kevin Hassett’s efforts to push back against the state’s coastal board could and should lead to funding cuts or limits on the Coastal Commission’s authority. The CCC defended itself, stating it has approved most qualifying oil and space projects while protecting habitats and public access, the Sacbee.com reported. But only after the commission got caught.

Hassett, a prominent economist who previously chaired the Council of Economic Advisers during President Trump’s first term, has the NEC involved in administration priorities that cross over with regulatory issues.


The California Coastal Commission’s environmental zealots have decades of regulatory activism, and are notorious for running roughshod over Californians’ property rights. The Pacific Legal Foundation has spent as many decades suing the Coastal Commission over gross violations of California property owners’ rights.

Editor’s note: If you want your blood to boil, read PLF’s big win in Nollan v. California Coastal Commission in which the Coastal Commission agreed to grant the Nollans’ building permit—but only if the Nollans consented to give away one-third of their property to the state.

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? .


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A Republic If You Can Keep It! *Cont.*

(Continued from page 1)

lier, deleted a previous Twitter account that included thousands of posts and reposts expressing support for abolishing police, prisons and borders, as well as seizing private property and nationalizing major industries and calling into question Israel's right to exist".

That begs the question, that people like James Carville are asking, why are DSA members allowed to run as democrats?

Of course, the progressives are responsible for creating the circumstances that have led to the election of radicals like Mamdani and "the squad" (Tlaib, Omar, Pressley, and the like who are considered DSA "affiliates"), namely by flooding our country with poor immigrants from third world countries who constitute their main constituent voting bloc. That is, these immigrants are voting for fellow immigrants like Chevalier, Mamdani and Omar. For example, according to censusreporter.com, Chevalier won her party's nomination by winning a district where 33% of the population is foreign-born, 55% of households speak a language other than English at home, and most of the people are poor earning a paltry median income of \$37,754. In other words, a constituency that would love to be the beneficiaries of the redistribution of wealth via a distortion of the American dream that can only survive by destroying the American dream.

It is not an accident that many of the leaders of the DSA and their affiliates are Muslim radicals that did not come here to assimilate but to conquer. I do believe there are many Muslims in America that wish our country no harm. They are not proponents of Sharia law, or jihad. They don't support the genocide of

Jews and the elimination of the Jewish State of Israel. But, the fact remains, America, just like Europe, is being colonized by radical Islam. One illustration I can give you about this is a statement made by the UAE, a solid Muslim country. The UAE provides scholarships to its own citizens (UAE nationals) to study at foreign universities, in addition to supporting them at local institutions. However, the United Arab Emirates is restricting students from enrolling at UK universities amid fears campuses are being radicalized by Islamist groups, namely, the Muslim Brotherhood. Well, this radical movement is not restricted to our cousins across the pond!

Last year, "The Institute for the Study of Global Anti-Semitism and Policy (ISGAP) released its landmark report, The Muslim Brotherhood's Strategic Entryism into Western Society: A Systematic Analysis, at a high-level policy event in Washington, D.C., featuring members of Congress, senior diplomats, policy experts, and leading researchers. The report represents the first-of-its-kind comprehensive strategic assessment of the Muslim Brotherhood's 100-year plan at its halfway point, mapping its ideological, institutional, and financial penetration into North America".

"The 200-page analysis provides a detailed account of how the Brotherhood has spent five decades embedding itself within Western institutions while maintaining ideological opposition to democracy and pluralism. Drawing on authenticated internal documents, verified network mapping, and extensive case studies, the research reveals a coordinated, multi-generational project designed to influence policy, education, and civil society from within."

(Continued on page 20)

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A Republic If You Can Keep It! *Cont.*

(Continued from page 19)

As stated, “the Muslim brotherhood is not simply a political movement but a transnational ideological project that adapts itself to Western systems while working to undermine them. The Brotherhood has learned to use the very freedoms of democracy as tools to erode it from within, exploiting the tolerance and openness of liberal societies as strategic vulnerabilities”.

Of course, none of these things would be a problem for America and in America, were it not for the four horsemen of our apocalypse. As Robert George outlined in his report, “Solzhenitsyn’s Prophecy”, on the occasion of the 1978 commencement speech to Harvard graduates, Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn offered a severe critique of American society. It was a time, as George noted, that anti-Americanism was flourishing both abroad and at home. Many Americans—particularly young Americans—had lost faith in their country, its institutions, its principles, its culture, its traditions, and its way of life. He viewed the West’s weakness, including its weakness in truly standing up to Soviet aggression, as the fruit of the materialism, consumerism, self-indulgent individualism, emotivism, and narcissism—in a word, the immorality—into which we had allowed ourselves to sink. What is behind all this? According to Solzhenitsyn, the moral decline of the West has behind it the same factor that produced the horrors of communism, namely this: “Men have forgotten God.” People worship themselves, deify their own desires, fall into an idolatry of the self, because they have forgotten that there is something—indeed someone—higher. They have forgotten God.



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Andy Caldwell, Executive Director, COLAB



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