

**November
2018**

Santa Barbara County

**Volume 6
Issue 11**



COLAB

The Coalition of Labor, Agriculture & Business

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By Andy Caldwell

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Measure A-2018 – Buellton Cannabis Tax – Neutral

Measure B-2018- Santa Barbara Even Year Elections- Yes

Measure C-2018- Santa Barbara Election Requirements- Yes

Measure D-2018 – Lompoc Cannabis Tax – Neutral

Measure E-2018- Lompoc School Bond- No

Measure F-2018 – Solvang Cannabis Tax – Neutral

Measure G-2018 – Citizens Independent Redistricting Committee (a County Supervisors Contrived Ordinance) – Abstain. Even though this cynical response to a legitimate citizen's initiative is better than letting county supervisors choose their own voters, it is clearly inferior to Measure H (these measures are competing against one another)! This measure does not place enough safeguards to ensure a balanced mix of people who are truly politically independent in making the final decision as to where district lines should be drawn. The biggest problem with this measure? Its real priority is to preserve the status quo. Fair reapportionment should be the goal.

Measure H-2018 – Independent Redistricting Commission (A Genuine Citizen's Initiative) – Vote Yes on this legitimate, politically neutral, attempt to allow voters to choose their representatives, instead of allowing representatives to choose their voters! This measure is, however, far from perfect for the exact opposite reasons having to do with Measure G. This measure came up with so many restrictions as to who can be on the committee that it might be tough to find people to serve! Having said that, this was an honest and good-faith attempt to create a citizen's commission to draw the fairest, and most equitable, county supervisor electoral maps that will serve to protect each community's interest in the outcome.

Measure U-2018 – Santa Maria Public Safety Sales Tax Renewal - Abstain. Although Santa Maria does an excellent job handling their finances, this tax is forever! That is a long time considering future city councils may not be as fiscally responsible as has been the case previously.

Measure W-2018 – Goleta City Council/Mayor Salary Increase – Oppose.

Measure X-2018 – Carpinteria ½ Cent Sales Tax: Oppose

Measure Y-2018 – Hancock College Bond – Vote Yes! Local community colleges enhance the community and save residents lots and lots of money. Moreover, not only can they prepare students to go on to four year colleges, Hancock also has a robust program in the "trades" along with a nursing program, that allow people to get very good paying jobs upon graduation.

Measure Z 2018- Goleta Marijuana Tax- Neutral

First Published in the Santa Barbara News Press

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California's Extraordinary Jail And Bail Fail

By Andy Caldwell

Governor Brown signed legislation eliminating bail in California, as one pundit put it, proving once again that liberal democrats can't be trusted to make crucial decisions! This has to do with a number of facts pertaining to this subject, not the least of which is the inconvenient truth that the right to post bail is guaranteed by our state constitution!

Steve Greenhut, a veteran California reporter who is a guest on our radio show every Friday, has long been an advocate of bail reform. He reports two stats that are truly troubling about our current system. First, upwards of 95% of all defendants accept plea deals and, second, people who can't post bail are three times as likely to receive prison sentences than those who can post bail.

The rationale behind these statistics are that people who can't afford to post bail are more likely to accept a plea deal rather than wait in jail for an interminably long amount of time with no guarantee they will avoid a prison sentence after all is said and done. Getting out on bail and accepting a plea can allow a defendant to keep their job, their kids, and their freedom. The main point here, is that too many innocent people are pleading guilty of crimes they did not commit. Yet, Mr. Greenhut is one of many who believes this bail elimination law will only make things worse.

A second guest I interviewed on this subject was the executive director of the American Bail Coalition, Jeff Clayton. Mr. Clayton pointed out that this bill, which both Assemblywoman Monique Limon and State Senator Hannah Beth Jackson voted for, was so bad that the American Civil Liberties Union, which is a leading advocate of bail reform, is joining his organization in an effort to overturn it. He described the new law as unvetted, unconstitutional legislation that is the epitome of hubris.

So, what is the problem? In a feeble-minded attempt to level the playing field between people who can and cannot afford to post bail, the legislature has managed to create the worst of two scenarios. They eliminated bail without creating an objective standard or process by which the risk associated with the defendants can be accurately determined. That means that some people will not be able to get out of jail while awaiting trial, despite their constitutional right to post bail. While others, who truly are a danger to society and/or a flight risk, have an equally good chance of

avoiding incarceration altogether while awaiting trial.

The big picture? Our legislature has recently seriously wrecked the laws in this state by eliminating some of the safeguards that keep violent career criminals behind bars for the rest of their life. They also reduced a slew of felonies to misdemeanor status and they reduced many misdemeanors to infractions. What that means in practical terms is that only people accused of felonies go to jail while awaiting trial. Moreover, tens of thousands of people who did actually commit a crime no longer bother showing up for court. This new law will only make everything worse!

First Published in the Santa Barbara News Press

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California's War Against Its Own Citizens

By Katy Grimes

California is out of control. Not only did our politicians immediately declare war on Donald Trump the moment he was elected, they also declared war on the people of the state.

In our recent book, **California's War Against Donald Trump: Who Wins, Who Loses?** my co-author Jim Lacy and I detail California's decline and how it can rebound.

A quick scan of statewide headlines reveals a great deal about California's war on the people, by the state's elite political class and the Democratic left.

California becoming more feudal, with ultra-rich lording over declining middle class. "The real problems lie with policies that keep housing prices high, an education system that is a disgrace, particularly for the poor, and a business climate so over-regulated that jobs can be created either in very elite sectors or in lower-paying service professions," Demographer Joel Kotkin writes.

I've long addressed how the political class has also become the elites, unaffected by the regulations and policies they impose on the people of the state. Nor do they care.

Kotkin says this feudal California is neither economically or socially sustainable over the long term. But the politicians do not care.

Identity politics: In Los Angeles County, **Latino groups plan protest at Paramount Studios to demand more Hollywood clout.** Irrationality at every level of identity politics.

In addition to Proposition 10, the rent control measure on the November ballot, California's complex eviction laws are stacked against landlords and in favor of tenants and even squatters, said Rikka Fountain, a Palmdale real estate attorney. This headline explains: **Squatters' takeover of Torrance home illustrates landlord frustrations with state law**

California Restaurants Will Soon Face \$500 Fines if They List Any Drinks But Water or Milk on Kids' Menus because parents are too stupid to know what to feed their own children. Well, some are, but it's not the business of nanny government to step in and interfere. Let the stupid parents raise fat kids. But cut their welfare.



In Sacramento, the local utility company is punishing people who work for a living: higher electricity rates will be used on weekdays between 5 and 8 p.m. and lower rates at other times. **Sacramento, your summer electricity bill is about to jump. Here's what to do about it.** California Gov. Jerry Brown has already imposed water rationing, and now we are facing electricity rationing. What is this place... North Korea? The real problem is that Democrats imposed 100% green energy production mandates on the state's utilities in 2011, which are now challenged to generate enough electricity for the 40 million residents of the state. California already purchased one-third of its electricity out of state before the wind and solar mandates, which specifically exclude clean hydroelectric and nuclear power. Rather than lessen the absurd green energy requirements, and allow in nuclear power and hydro, we will be forced to live in the dark and hang our laundry outside to dry.

Coupal: Once again, California Prop. 13 is 'on the table'. "Without Proposition 13, government's insatiable appetite for more tax dollars would quickly force homeowners out on the street — a common occurrence in the mid-70's before Prop. 13 was overwhelmingly approved by voters in 1978," Jon Coupal explains.

Meant to help with mental illness, money from tax on millionaires piles up. I've been following Darrell Steinberg's legislative history for many years, and particularly issues surrounding mental health. First, remember that Steinberg authored Prop. 63, the

(Continued on page 20)

Slim Prospects In The Colonies

By Andy Caldwell

County Auditor Controller Theo Fallati recently published a snapshot of county finances. Two charts in particular inform the community why local government is broke and why we have a permanent urban underclass of poor people who have no reasonable hope of upward mobility.

The first thing you need to understand is that upwards of 90% of the county's discretionary revenues comes from property taxes. What that means is that the money used to pay for county-wide services including fire, sheriff, the operation of the jail, the district attorney's office, flood control, public works, in addition to the required local match for programs primarily funded by the state and federal governments, which include social services, mental health services and the like, all come from local property tax revenues.

So, here is the problem. Of the top ten largest employers in the county, only one of the ten pays any property taxes at all! That has to do with the fact that nine out of the ten are all either government entities or non-profits. Now, I am not suggesting that they start paying property taxes, however, I am suggesting there is something wrong with this picture.

The best way to illustrate the same is to go to the second chart. This chart lists the top ten property tax payers in the county. In this group, only a few of the companies could offer employment opportunities to the tens of thousands of Hispanics in the north county, aka the colonies, who don't have a high school education and who speak neither English nor Spanish!

The bottom line? Power brokers in this county have said that tourism and high tech are the industries they want to promote here, and that is what we've got. Either low-wage tourist jobs or jobs that can only be filled by the highly educated, leaving the rest of the population with no prospects! To summarize, a huge number of employers in this community don't help pay for government services and neither do they offer employment opportunities that match the aspirations and capabilities of the majority of the population.

Things haven't always been this way! I used to work in industry, in what was the oldest factory in this county, Union Sugar. Unfortunately, Union Sugar, along with dozens of other industrial plants, are all gone. They couldn't withstand the regulations and the

taxes that were part and parcel of the goal of preserving the high quality of life for the elitists and environmentalists (I repeat myself) among us. The last important industrial sector that presents upward mobility opportunities is the oil industry, which ironically, once had the distinction of being both the top taxpayer and also paying the highest wages.

County supervisors can help secure a bright future for county's finances and the community as a whole by approving three oil project applications before them, ERG, Aera and Exxon. All three of these projects are legacy projects! They present no new impacts except in helping us return to a balanced economy which serves people who would like the opportunity to get ahead in life.

First Published in the Santa Barbara News Press



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Gutter Politics: The New Norm?

By Andy Caldwell

Some people consider this year's midterm election as a national referendum on the Trump administration and the appointment of Supreme Court Justice Kavanaugh. At a minimum, as the Dems would have it, both Trump and Kavanaugh would face impeachment proceedings should the Republicans lose their majority in Congress.

What we are witnessing here is a train wreck at the intersection of Trump derangement syndrome and the #metoomovement, that is proving fatal, not only to the body politic, but to human dignity. It is bringing out shameful vitriol and penchants for violence that should cause everyone to be aghast.

We have witnessed celebrities and pundits calling for unthinkable actions that would spark a civil war in this country, including a military coup against the president, blowing up the White House, and even out loud wishes for an assassination attempt.

President Trump has not been the only subject of such heinous vitriol since he won the election. Who can forget actor Peter Fonda wishing that President Trump's young son would be locked in a cage with pedophiles? Is there no shred of decency and respect left in this land that once believed that brotherhood was the crowning of our goodness from sea to shining sea?

Senator Richard Blumenthal quoted Roman Law while interrogating Judge Kavanaugh insinuating that if Kavanaugh was false in one thing, he was false in everything. This from a man who, despite his claims to the contrary, spent less time in Vietnam than did Jane Fonda!

Ariel Dumas, a writer for comedian Stephen Colbert, remarked on twitter "Whatever happens, I'm just glad we ruined Brett Kavanaugh's life". Was that not the

goal?

Then there is the cartoonist who took what should have been a proud and precious moment having to do with Brett Kavanaugh's daughter praying for Dr. Ford's well-being and turning it into something offensive and grotesque. The cartoonist, Chris Britt, captioned the prayer as follows "Dear God, Forgive my angry, lying, alcoholic father for sexually assaulting Dr. Ford". So much for Michelle Obama's self-aggrandizing mirage about her fellow lefties, "when they go low, we go high"!

Did you read the tweet from Carol Fair, a "distinguished" professor from Georgetown University in which she said that the Republican Senators who voted to confirm Kavanaugh "deserve miserable deaths while feminists laugh as they take their last breath. Afterwards, the feminists (the presumed killers) should castrate their corpses and feed them to swine".

Finally, there was the USA Today columnist who suggested that Justice Kavanaugh should not be allowed to be around young children. In other words, the left has not only convicted the Judge of attempted rape of a teenager while he himself was a teenager; he is now a pedophile?

I don't recall our democratic Congressman Salud Carbajal condemning any of this vitriol, do you? Why not? Pre-D.C., Salud Carbajal was a fairly amicable person and at least, every once in a while, he could be a moderating influence. What has the swamp done to him?

I surmise that, regardless of the outcome of this referendum, America is lost.

First Published in the Santa Barbara News Press



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Help Wanted: Armpit Justice Warriors

By Andy Caldwell

Where are the armchair social justice warriors when you need them? You know, the local do-gooders who protest dumping undesirable projects in their own neighborhoods?

It is no coincidence that our erstwhile Congressman Salud Carbajal once referred to Lompoc, my hometown, as the armpit of the county! Nobody ever says put your best armpit forward, do they? No, they talk about putting forth your best foot in addition to your best effort, but armpits? Not so much. Since we are talking about body parts, Lompoc always seems to be leading with its chin. That is a boxing metaphor, of course, that signifies a knockout punch is coming Lompoc's way, just one of many for the record.

How would Goleta, Carpinteria and Santa Barbara react to having their only beach closed on an annual basis due to concerns for snowy plovers? After all, these endangered birds are not just found at Lompoc's only beach, Surf beach. Yet, the annual closure doesn't even get discussed by the Board of Supervisors nor the California Coastal Commission. Who cares? It is only Lompoc.

Then, there is the wind turbine project proposed to loom over the Lompoc Valley. It is hard to imagine, but a company wants to put thirty, count them, thirty, 500 foot wind turbines, complete with 213 foot long wind turbine generator blades, and huge transmission lines, in a pristine canyon not far from the ocean in Lompoc. The plan involves taking ranch land and converting it to a ginormous power station that will require 14 miles of new access roads and the widening of 16 miles of existing roads.

Despite the fact that the first company that tried this

ten years ago went belly up, the county is not making the new project applicant jump through all the same environmental hoops as they would in any other area of the county. For crying out loud, we have seen puny little wineries and single family homes get rejected for less impacts than this, outright. These turbines will not only be seen, the vibrations will actually be felt by the neighbors, but who cares? It's Lompoc, right?

Finally, there is the proposal to build a 36,000 square foot, 70 unit housing complex in Lompoc's equivalent of Mission Canyon, a block away from an elementary school. The project will be a three-fer! Not only will poor people be housed there to live with all the other, presumably, poor people in the town, in addition, these new poor people will also have "one or more mental or physical disabilities". Great! The more problems the better, right? It is only Lompoc, after all.

Personally, I believe that armpits should have rights too. Kids in Lompoc practice soccer in the graveyard as it is the only place to play since all the parks and school yards are riddled with ankle breaking gopher holes. For a while there, the kids had a pristine field to play on courtesy of a Lompoc farmer. But the county decided, in short order, that playing soccer on ag-zoned property constituted a zoning violation. Ironically, this field was located in the immediate vicinity of the now infamous riverbed homeless encampments which the county blissfully ignored for more than 15 years.

The biggest tourist draw in Lompoc? Their version of Santa Barbara's funk zone. Ironically, it is called the wine ghetto! How appropriate.

First Published in the Santa Barbara News Press

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Proposition 10: Rent Seeking Gone Awry!

By *Andy Caldwell*

One of the most pernicious propositions on this year's ballot is Prop. 10 which expands local government's ability to impose rent control on residential property. The initiative's proponents would have us believe that "greedy corporate landlords (they cite Donald Trump as an example!) are forcing too many disabled people and seniors to choose between rent and medicine while forcing more low-income families into homelessness". In a nutshell, the measure blames so-called greedy developers alone for high rents.

All the arguments in favor of rent control are absurd, misleading and false. First, there are a number of cities in our state that already have rent control and the rents in these cities are among the highest in the nation! No doubt, California rents are 50% higher than the nation's average and, in some cases, twice as expensive. Why? If you take the argument of the proponents on face value, one would be forced to conclude that greedy landlords must only be doing business in California!

The truth? Rents are a function of supply and demand and market conditions. It is our government, not developers, that control supply by way of a myriad of state laws and local zoning regulations, not to mention the phenomenon of huge swaths of land having been set aside as being off limits to development (conservation easements galore!), and the all-powerful phenomenon of NIMBYism. Nimbys often prove to be the death knell to all sorts of development proposals, as people don't want the ambiance of their neighborhood, and the value of their assets, to be diminished by what gets built in the hood!

Prop. 10 not only opens the door to local jurisdictions to enforce rent control, it goes farther than ever before by applying rent control to single family homes, including the rental of a room inside a home! There is not a single economist in this country who thinks this is a good idea! Why? People own rental housing primarily as an investment. Rent control will negatively impact the value of the rental, ergo, landlords will either sell the houses they were renting and go invest in something else, or somewhere else, while those who own apartments will convert the same to condos and sell those too!

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Finally, this is going to have a devastating effect on state and local government finances because it will diminish the tax revenue that is accrued by way of taxing rental income and property, as both are expected to diminish, to the tune of hundreds of millions of dollars per year.

Ironically and pathetically, some of the most vociferous advocates for this measure are government unions (SEIU!). We are already having a tough time paying for their salaries, benefits and pensions, why would they make it even harder on taxpayers? Prop. 10 will surely backfire on us all as there will be less tax revenue and less housing stock available to rent as a result of this short-sightedness! Vote No on Prop. 10!

First Published in the Santa Barbara News Press

Of Figments And Fig Leaves

By Andy Caldwell

It is past time for the unhinged left wing of the democratic party to go sit in the corner of our nation's body politic for being uncivil, hyper partisan, tyrannical, and downright nasty. But, don't take my word for it! With respect to the latest example of bad faith and unfair dealing, aka, the Kavanaugh confirmation debacle, listen carefully to the not-so-small voice of one extremely liberal Supreme Court Associate Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg.

In the middle of all this tumult in the Senate, which was once previously considered the most deliberative body politic in the world, Justice Ginsburg delivered a rebuke for the ages. She commented on the bar fight by saying this is not how this process is supposed to work, adding for emphasis, that she herself sailed through the confirmation process despite the fact that she had previously worked for the ACLU.

Contextually, Justice Ginsburg was saying that she knows and understands that everything, and I mean everything, the ACLU stands for is anathema to conservatives. Yet, she was judged not by her political leanings but on the basis of her judicial qualifications. That is, of course, the metric that should be used by the Senate as they advise and consent to the President.

Justice Ginsburg is right. The confirmation process was never intended to be a litmus test for an up and down vote based on partisan evaluations of the personal political convictions of the nominee. Yet, no one can deny that is exactly what the dems have made it. Why? Because for decades they have relied on the judicial branch to do their dirty work. By that I mean they have relied on activist judges to legislate from the bench in order to make laws they themselves couldn't get through Congress. Moreover, as we have seen with a number of Trump's executive orders and priorities, they have also relied on activist judges to check the power of the other branches of government, not on the basis of the Constitution or the law, but based on raw partisan hubris and determination.

Furthermore, our country in general and the senate in particular would do well to consider more words from Justice Ginsburg, by way of this enlightening quote from a piece in the Washington Post by Irin Carmon (Feb. 13, 2016). The piece served to highlight the fact



that Justice Ginsburg and the late Justice Antonin Scalia were very, very good friends, who worked well together, despite their obvious political differences.

“At the moment, our Congress is not functioning very well,” she told me. She added, “The current Congress is not equipped really to do anything. Someday, we will go back to having the kind of legislature that we should, where members, whatever party they belong to, want to make the thing work and cooperate with each other to see that that will happen. I mean, it was that way in 1992 when I was nominated for this good job. There were only three negative votes. And my hope and expectation is that we will get back to that kind of bipartisan spirit.”

Just as some ridiculous extremists called for the impeachment of Trump before he was even inaugurated, some democrats have already threatened to impeach Justice Kavanaugh if they get control of the House of Representatives. Again, all on the basis of accusations which could not be corroborated by the very people who Dr. Ford said could substantiate the allegations.

After all was said and done, it appears the assault occurred only as a figment of Dr. Ford's repressed memories! Will the dems, including our Congressman Salud Carbajal, nevertheless attempt to impeach Kavanaugh, or is that too a figment of their imagination?

First Published in the Santa Barbara News Press

Smokin' Hot Slick Salud To The Rescue?

By Andy Caldwell

Congressman Salud Carbajal held a campaign rally disguised as a press conference ostensibly to protect our local forest from hypothetical oil drilling operations. The ordinary value of a cheap and easy photo op during the election cycle is typically incalculable. However, this presser should cost the Congressman the election!

The press conference was ostensibly in response to a proposal from the Trump administration to allow for oil exploration on these federal lands. However, Congressman Carbajal did not do himself, or our forests, a favor in choosing to stand with the likes of Jeff Kuyper, of Los Padres Forest Watch infamy, who hosted the rally. That has to do with the fact that Kuyper and company must actually relish watching our forests burn!

In case you missed the riveting testimony by County Fire Chief Eric Peterson, Forest Watch has been a hindrance to his ability to keep our forest, our community, and his firefighters safe from fires, as Forest Watch regularly sues to prevent control burns and fire breaks, in addition, to protecting the very fuels that bring wholesale devastation. In fact, Forest Watch had the temerity to show up at this hearing in order to once again defend the most dangerous fuels at the expense of the forest itself, not to mention the community, and the lives of our fire fighters.

It is no secret that chaparral and sage fires, unlike grass fires, burn so hot they end up sterilizing the ground (which is what inevitably led to the Montecito debris flow) while sending embers miles in all directions during a fire storm. Hence, for the next five years, we will have a tough time stabilizing the ground severally damaged by the recent fires that threatened not just Montecito, but also Lake Cachuma, the South County's main water supply.

With regard to the cliché, knee-jerk attack on future hypothetical oil and gas operations, I have no reason to believe these resources, if they exist, will ever be developed. This confidence comes from the fact that oil operations have been going on continuously in this county for well over 120 years, specifically in the North County. If there was oil in them tar hills, it would have been drilled long before the surface land rights were transferred to the ownership of the federal government.

Then there was the Chicken Little call to prevent

fracking. Fracking is a process by which oil and gas drillers use high pressure water to break the oil deposits out of rock. Salud Carbajal already knows that our local Monterrey Shale formation doesn't need to be fracked. It comes naturally fracked courtesy of Mother Nature!

The electorate needs to come to terms with Congressman Carbajal's pandering to environmental elitists at the expense of the ecosystem. We need to manage our forests. Too many trees per acre, competing for limited water supplies, is what set up our trees for these deadly cycles of disease and fire. The hands-off management approach, supported by Carbajal and Forest Watch, has left California with 130 million dead trees! These enviros are the proven threat to the forests, not hypothetical oil and gas operations.

Finally, consider the fact that one lone dissident showed up at this event. He held a sign stating that "Carbajal thinks he's slick". The reaction from the useful idiots who showed up with Congressman Carbajal? They tried to block him from the view of the press cameras! This serves as a perfect microcosm of all that is wrong with today's political discourse. No room for dissent and no courtesy to opponents while doing the people's business. Hillary Clinton said it best, the dems have no value for civility except when they themselves are in power.

First Published in the Santa Barbara News Press



The 2018 State Ballot Propositions

By Andy Caldwell

Prop. 1- Vote NO on this \$4 billion housing bond. If the state wants to make housing more affordable, then it should reform land use and zoning regulations, including the California Environmental Quality Act. Unfortunately, too many people see the word "bond" and think, hey, this is not a tax, it must be free money! Wrong. It is borrowed money that comes with hefty interest payments. All such money comes from taxes!

Prop. 2- Vote NO on this proposition that would allow government to use monies from a previous proposition (Prop. 63- the so-called "millionaires tax") for housing for homeless. We are already spending a fortune on the homeless with no results. Liberals think throwing money at problems fixes everything. Well, it doesn't. Most of the people who are homeless in this state are not homeless because they don't have a home. They are homeless because they are addicts and/or mentally ill. No amount of money is going to fix these people unless and until they are willing to address their real problems.

Prop. 3- Vote NO on yet another multi-billion dollar water bond. That is, unless and until the state starts using the bond money previously approved to build dams, reservoirs and desalination plants. For crying out loud, President Trump is trying to raise Shasta dam and the state is threatening to sue him! They don't want more water; they simply want more of your money!

Prop. 4 Vote No on this \$1.5 billion bond for children's hospitals. As a society, we need to step up and help children who are suffering and parents who could otherwise never afford the care these non-profit hospitals provide. However, that doesn't mean we keep borrowing the money to do so.

Prop. 5 Vote Yes on this property tax break for homeowners over 55 years old. It will help free up more housing for younger families in addition to helping seniors afford to downsize.

Prop. 6 Vote Yes on this repeal of SB 1, the 12 cent gas tax that was approved by our legislature without a vote of the people. We are already paying a dollar more per gallon than any other state. Enough already!

Prop. 7 Vote Yes, but why do we need a ballot measure to end Daylight Savings time in California?

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Prop. 8 Vote No on this blatant political attack on dialysis centers by unions (SEIU- Shame on You!) who would rather jeopardize public health than lose employment opportunities!

Prop. 9 is moot as a court took it off ballot.

Prop. 10 Vote No as rent control always results in economic disaster! It discourages developers from building more rentals and current rental owners end up selling these units thereby diminishing the available rental inventory!

Prop. 11 Vote Yes as this measure ensures that EMT service workers will remain on call during breaks. Otherwise, every one of us that will someday need these emergency services will be forced to pay higher bills as the ambulance providers will have to hire extra crews to backfill crews on break!

Prop. 12 Vote No as this measure is being sponsored by an organization that wants to end the raising of animals for food by way of making it inordinately expensive as a business model to do so in California. We end up shipping the jobs and tax revenue elsewhere to the disadvantage of California agriculturalists and consumers.

First Published in the Santa Barbara News Press

The FPPC Finally Lowers The Boom

By Jon Coupal

This column has, over the last several years, exposed multiple examples of government entities using taxpayer dollars for political advocacy, a practice that is clearly illegal under both state and federal law. The free speech clauses of the federal and state Constitutions prohibit the use of governmentally compelled monetary contributions (including taxes) to support or oppose political campaigns since “Such contributions are a form of speech, and compelled speech offends the First Amendment.” *Smith v. U.C. Regents* (1993) 4 Cal.4th 843, 852.

Moreover, “use of the public treasury to mount an election campaign which attempts to influence the resolution of issues which our Constitution leaves to the ‘free election’ of the people (see Const., art. II, § 2) ... presents a serious threat to the integrity of the electoral process.” *Stanson v. Mott* (1976) 17 Cal.3d 206, 218.

While taxpayer organizations have been successful in several lawsuits involving these illegal expenditures, that hasn’t stopped either the state or local governments from continuing to push the envelope into political advocacy. However, there is a secondary legal issue that may actually prove to be more effective when government engages in political advocacy. Beyond the First Amendment implications, California has a strict regimen of campaign finance laws and regulations. These laws both limit a wide range of political contributions and impose strict reporting requirements. Thus, when government agencies engage in illegal political activity under First Amendment grounds, unless they have reported the costs of the activities to the FPPC as campaign contributions, they have violated separate campaign finance laws as well.

In March 2017, Los Angeles County placed Measure H, a sales tax for homeless programs, on the ballot. Whatever one may think of the need for higher

taxes — for homeless programs or any other purpose — the county’s use of nearly a million dollars of public funds for the political campaign unquestionably crossed the line into political advocacy. Angelenos were subjected to pricey television ads in favor of Measure H that were not merely informational pieces, they specifically referenced Measure H and then exhorted viewers to “Vote on March 7.” In addition, the website and social media outreach campaign were similarly unbalanced advocacy.

The Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Association filed a complaint with the FPPC shortly after Measure H passed — by a slender margin — and this past week the FPPC finally took action. Specifically, the FPPC found probable cause to charge L.A. County, as well as the individual members of the Board of Supervisors, with 15 counts of campaign finance violations. Not only is the “probable cause” finding by the FPPC welcomed by taxpayer advocates, the timing is very propitious. California is just weeks away from the midterm elections and, regrettably, local governments up and down California are illegally using taxpayer funds for political advocacy and failing to report the same as political contributions. Los Angeles County itself is currently

running campaign ads, paid for by the taxpayers, for Measure W, a new parcel tax to pay for stormwater projects.

Taxpayers are hopeful that the findings by the FPPC will serve as a huge shot across the bow to all government entities in California not to abuse taxpayers by using public funds for political activity.

In the meantime, using additional FPPC complaints as well as lawsuits can go a long way in stopping this particularly perverse use of taxpayer dollars.

Jon Coupal is president of the Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Association.



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Taxpayers Association**
established in 1978

Fireenemies Lurking In The Smoke

By Andy Caldwell

Santa Barbara and Montecito residents should consider any and all donations to Forest Watch and the Urban Creeks Council as a sin-luxury tax to be avoided at all costs, including the cost of human lives, in the light of the following.

County Fire Chief Eric Peterson informed county supervisors, in no uncertain terms, that we must do something different in order to break the current cycle of perennial conflagrations which regularly engulf our county in death, destruction and mayhem. Unfortunately, not everyone is on board.

Besides a normally intransigent state and federal government, our fire department must also fight so-called environmentalists who are always lurking in the smoke, as they continue to obfuscate and delay the actions necessary to break this cycle of fires and floods. Specifically, when county fire attempted to negotiate with the aforementioned enviros, they walked out of the meeting when they didn't get their way. Unfortunately, as Chief Peterson stated, his department and the community don't have that same luxury!

The enviros, with the implicit help of state Senator Hannah Beth Jackson (HBJ), insist that we protect chaparral and sage brush despite the fact that these fuels burn out of control, sending embers a mile or more over the defensive lines set up by fire fighters! Senator Jackson, these environmental groups, and various egg-head PhDs from UCSB, all insist we protect these deadly fuels. They are, therefore, complicit in perpetuating this disastrous fire regime.

Consider this quote from the poison pill that HBJ snuck into her own legislation allegedly written to save us from these conflagrations: "Prescribed burning, mastication, herbicide application, mechanical thinning, or other vegetative treatments of chaparral or sage scrub shall occur **ONLY** (emphasis added) if the department finds that the activity will not cause "type conversion" away from chaparral and coastal sage scrub currently on site".

Translation? HBJ's legislation forbids the fire department from clearing the landscape of this extremely combustible material, by any means available, including goats, cows, weed whackers, prescribed fires, weed killer applications and the like! HBJ is therefore

elevating the value of these fuels over and above the safety of the community and all the critters and habitat that get destroyed as a result.

Here is the deal folks. If we keep protecting the chaparral and sage instead of converting at least some of the areas dominated by the same, we will not be able to protect this community from fires. Moreover, the fire department explained, that the best way to accomplish this goal is to have farmers plant orchards or grapes, while bringing in some cows and goats to clear out the brush, in order to create a natural buffer of plants and grasses to serve as a line of demarcation between the urban wildland interface. The presence of these farm green belts have proven effective in protecting lives and structures in Carpinteria, Goleta and throughout the entire North County.

Finally, the enviro fireenemies insist that replacing chaparral with grasses presents a greater fire danger to the community and that control burns don't work. Not true! The fire department and Mother Nature herself continue to prove otherwise time and time again. Most grass fires can be put out relatively quickly. And, the only reason we didn't have more damage from our recent wildfires is that these fires ran into the defacto control burn scar of a previous fire and put themselves out!

My advice to all you philanthropists out there? Take the money you were giving to Forest Watch and the Urban Creeks Council (along with the Environmental Defense Center) and give it to the victims of fires and mud slides, including fallen firefighters.

First Published in the Santa Barbara News Press



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Revenge, Closure Or Pathetic Political Expediency?

By Andy Caldwell

I have serious reservations about scuttling the Supreme Court Justice nomination of Brett Kavanaugh. With all due respect to his primary accuser, Dr. Ford, I can't say that I would deny the nomination, even if the allegations against him were true! Why? Having been victimized myself as a child, I would normally opt to punish any and all sexual abusers to the maximum extent of the law. Nevertheless, I believe Dr. Ford had a responsibility to bring the charges against Judge Kavanaugh in a timely manner. I don't believe it is possible to defend oneself otherwise, nor should society hold stupid teenagers accountable for the rest of their lives, especially, if they have lived an exemplary life ever since.

I also don't believe that society should take all such accusations on face value alone. Our justice system must be based on the premise that all defendants are innocent until proven guilty. Of course, the #me-too movement begs to differ despite numerous instances where men were falsely accused. The Duke Lacrosse team and the Columbia University mattress girl cases come to mind, among others. Regardless, the activists and the media have convicted Judge Kavanaugh irrespective of the fact Dr. Ford's own list of witnesses won't corroborate her story.

In a perfect world, Dr. Ford would have told a responsible adult at the time of the alleged attack. Nevertheless, the right thing for Dr. Ford to do today is to contact a Maryland police department and report her accusations since that state has no statute of limitations on this type of crime. She could also choose to retain the services of an attorney who specializes in sex abuse litigation and sue Judge Kavanaugh personally. If Ms. Ford had the temerity and fortitude to do either of these things, I would have more confidence in her story and her motives. However, right now the circumstances of the last few months don't add up for me.

For instance, what was her motivation in sending her complaint to Senator Feinstein's office while asking for anonymity? Did Dr. Ford hope she was going to get closure or revenge as a result? Since she has not as of yet filed a complaint with the police or filed a lawsuit, we can rule out her motivation was to bring Judge Kavanaugh to justice, can't we?



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Did she really think that an anonymous complaint would be enough to derail the nomination? Or, did she believe that the Senate would investigate while keeping her name confidential? Unfortunately, we may never know the answers to those questions because, apparently, Senator Feinstein advised Dr. Ford to lawyer up! But, not with attorneys who specialize in sex abuse cases, but with a couple of veteran democratic political activist attorneys whose number one goal had little to do with helping Dr. Ford personally.

The democratic party machine publicly stated they would stop at nothing to derail the Kavanaugh nomination and they certainly were true to their word. They kept Ford's letter and her identity confidential only long enough to serve their purpose of delaying the floor vote on the nomination. In the meantime, they did absolutely nothing to help with the Senate's own due diligence investigation of the alleged incident and they certainly failed to show any deference or respect to a man who deserved as much, having been a public figure and servant his entire adult life.

The republicans, for their part, were too scared to cross examine Dr. Ford. She was simply interviewed on national television by a veteran sex crimes prosecutor, who determined that there were not enough details or evidence to bring forth charges against the judge. That should have ended this matter.

First Published in the Santa Barbara News Press

Proposition 6 Gets Car Jacked!

By Andy Caldwell

If you want to see a pure example of California banana-republic-style politics run amuck, consider the kidnaping of Proposition 6, the gas tax and registration fee repeal. State officials hi-jacked the ballot title in order to deceive the voters via first impressions! They cynically reference the proposition as “eliminating road repair and transportation funding”!

Unfortunately, the dirty campaign trick might just work as California motorists are clueless, in oh so many ways, when it comes to the cost of owning and operating a motor vehicle. The cost of fuel, along with myriad taxes and fees they are paying, in comparison to what they are getting in return, is abysmal. One of the worst features of the huge tax hike that Prop. 6 seeks to repeal has to do with the fact that none of the monies raised by the tax hike can be used to increase road capacities or build new freeways!

Motorists need to understand that when they fill their tanks, they are not only paying federal, state and local taxes that are added on to the price of a gallon of gas, they are also paying hidden costs, including those having to do with various subsidies, rebates and tax credits designed to lure people into zero emission vehicles. The Manhattan Institute estimates the cost of these vehicles and the infrastructure required to serve them will cost Californians upwards of \$100 billion!

Another significant cost is the unique blend of fuel, designed to cut emissions, that is only produced for sale in this state. This blend costs upwards of a dollar or more per gallon to make. Then there is a charge to the gasoline refineries having to do with carbon emissions. The refiners must buy credits in an auction held by the state to produce gasoline. The number of credits available for purchase over time is going to diminish meaning the price is going to go up. Right now, it is estimated that this hidden cost per gallon is at least 12 cents per gallon. In a few years, you can expect this hidden fee to double, triple, and even quadruple with no end in sight! As a result, you will soon be paying \$2 more per gallon than the rest of the country. The money from this hidden tax is being squandered, including on the bullet train to nowhere.

There are several other ways that California motorists get gouged. First, we pay higher auto registration



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fees which Prop 6 would also serve to roll back. We also pay more for our cars because California supports forcing auto manufacturers to meet certain fuel averages on their fleets. The way this works is insidious to say the least. California, with the complicity of the Obama administration, tried to push standards that would have required automobile manufacturers to have a fleet average of 55 miles per gallon. In order to meet this standard, the manufacturers had to sell, at a tremendous loss mind you, electric vehicles to bring up the fuel average. That is because the types of cars people really want, that is, trucks and SUVs, can't get anywhere near this type of gas mileage. Well, guess what? The only way the manufacturers can stave off bankruptcy from this scheme is by jacking up the price on the cars people actually want in order to cover their losses.

Finally, studies indicate that the cost of fixing roads in California is inordinately more expensive due to gross inefficiencies. We should cut waste, fraud and abuse before we raise taxes!

If you are tired of being robbed and gouged, then please join me in Yes on Proposition 6.

First Published in the Santa Barbara News Press

They're Coming After The Prop. 13 'Loophole'

By Steven Greenhut

The award for the most ridiculous opening paragraph in a news story, this week anyway, goes to CBS Sacramento for its coverage of a 2020 ballot measure that the secretary of state has recently approved for signature gathering: "A ballot measure that would close a loophole in property taxes for commercial businesses has qualified for the 2020 ballot." Granted the article echoed the language used by the initiative's supporters, but this is not about closing a loophole.

A loophole is an "ambiguity or inadequacy in the law or a set of rules," per one dictionary definition. A **tax loophole** is basically some poorly drafted part of the tax code that enables taxpayers, often with the help of clever accountants, to legally reduce their tax liability. It's a gap created by the inadequacy of lawmakers to draft language that grabs as much revenue as they had sought. Thank goodness for such loopholes — and for anything else that allows us to keep a few more dollars out of the grasp of those who prefer to spend it.

But the coming ballot initiative won't attempt to correct some *inadvertent* tax language. It is, without doubt, a direct assault on one of the most clearly drafted and important laws in California history. It's a bald-faced attempt to increase annual property taxes by \$6 billion to \$10 billion by undermining Proposition 13, which had long been considered the "third rail" of California politics. The big question is whether California voters can still be electrified by efforts to raise their taxes.

Passed overwhelmingly by voters in 1978, Proposition 13 helped launch the national career of Ronald Reagan amid a growing tax revolt. Back then, many Californians — especially the elderly — were literally being taxed out of their homes as booming property values propelled reassessments that sometimes doubled a homeowner's tax bill. There were plenty of horror stories, which boosted Howard Jarvis' statewide campaign for the proposition.

Proposition 13 was simple. It rolled back tax rates and then capped property assessments at 1 percent of the sales price of residential and commercial properties (plus whatever local bonds were passed). It limited annual property tax increases to 2 percent until the



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property is sold. That's when it gets reassessed to market rates. The measure also required a two-thirds vote of the Legislature for tax increases and a two-thirds vote of the people for local "special" tax hikes. This initiative would remove Prop. 13's protections from commercial properties — but you can be sure it's

(Continued on page 19)

Progressives: Banking And Bordering On Chaos!

By Andy Caldwell

Congressman Salud Carbajal, what are your thoughts on the caravan of invaders coming our way from Central America? Is your message, come on in, the door is open? Come one, come all? Don't forget to register to vote? Or, what? Is it safe to assume you won't be supporting President Trump's plan to send our military to the border to stop this invasion?

By the time the caravan of invaders reaches our porous borders, we may be faced with the untenable challenge of processing upwards of 10,000 or more requests for asylum. How many open border advocates will open up their home to house the same? Conversely, how many enviros will indicate that none of this is sustainable? Of course, the answer is none. Elitists in communities like Santa Barbara never themselves pay the price for their fake values which amount to nothing more than cheap and easy ephemeral virtue signaling.

The overwhelming majority of these migrants are not leaving their country due to threats of persecution. They are simply looking for a job and a life! Regardless, after having been coached, they will say they came here because they were scared for their lives and voila, just like that, they have made their case to stay.

Personally, I don't blame anyone for wanting to come to America and that speaks volumes to the heart of the biggest lie perpetrated by advocates for open borders. On the one hand, they portray America as a racist country replete with oppression caused by white privilege and accordingly, they foment resentment within the minds and spirits of these migrants once they get here! Yet, they want to welcome one and all with open borders, open arms, and an open check book, the latter courtesy of taxpayers? Why are they never forced to reconcile the contradiction they are selling, i.e. come here so that we can rescue you from our own form of alleged oppression? It is all bunkum.

America is a magnet because we offer so much, even to people who come here without our permission. Minimum-wage workers in this country can make more in a hour than they can back home working all day. The best health care in the world is available regardless of ability to pay. The children of these

migrants wouldn't even get a grade-school education back home. Here, they could end up with a scholarship to Harvard! Standards of living exponentially better than they had back home are virtually guaranteed.

Our real problem? Hundreds of millions of economic and freedom seekers would like to come to America as they see no other option for liberty unless something drastic changes back in their home country. What we really need, therefore, Congressman Carbajal, is an adult discussion about the standard of living, the lack of freedom and opportunity in all these third world hell holes! Instead, the Dems avoid at all costs the need to make these countries as great as America! They would rather us believe America was never that great to begin with, as they trash our country, our president and our values. All the while they encourage people to come here? They can't have it both ways.

Finally, explain to me, would you, how it is that Hondurans, in support of the people who are on their way to our country to take as much and whatever we have to give, would paint a picture of a swastika on an American flag, and burn it in protest of our resistance to the invasion? Just Communities and the SB School District should sign up these flag-burning future-progressive democrats as instructors in their next rendition of an "explicit bias" training course!

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Measures G And H: The Politicians vs The Voters

By Andy Caldwell

When politicians are given the power to draw the boundaries of their own districts, they choose boundaries to ensure their own reelection. In other words, they pick their voters, voters don't pick them! A prime example of this was here on the Central Coast with the district of former Congressional representative Lois Capps. Her district was known nationally as the ribbon of shame. The lines of her district, in certain places, disappeared with the tide. That is, the lines were not drawn to encompass communities of interest but to get her campaign to a honey pot of progressive voters.

Well, some things have gotten a little better over time and some things have gotten worse. The voters in California created a commission to draw the lines of our state and congressional legislators and now these lines make sense for the most part. Unfortunately, the state legislature has since given leeway, a virtual mandate really, to carve up every city in this state into defacto Balkan states, pitting one neighborhood against another, as every city is being forced to go to district elections instead of at-large elections.

The last frontier? County supervisorial boundaries and, truth be told, there is a reason I am a county watchdog rather than a city or state watchdog per se. County government has more power and influence over what happens locally than pretty much any form of government. The county is both an extension of the state and, in many ways, they offer the bulk of city services. For some reason, however, CA has left counties to their own devices and machinations when it comes to deciding the boundaries of our five districts. Well, no more, if voters here choose to approve either Measure G or Measure H. These two measures are competing against one another. The one that gets the most votes becomes law.

A compelling case for reform lies in the form of the Third District. It stretches from Isla Vista to Guadalupe while snaking around the city of Lompoc. It is the poster child for a localized version of gerrymandering. It is all about a power play of progressives and the abuse of the North County. Counting on UCSB students to vote in a 90% block for all progressive politicians and causes, for the past three decades, county supervisors have made sure that IV is part of a North County district in order to offset and dilute the

voting power of the North County.

Honestly, this does as much harm to UCSB as it does to the North County, but none of the students stay around long enough to figure it out! The bottom line? District lines are supposed to be drawn to enhance a community's voting power, not dilute it by pitting disparate voting groups against one another in order to effectively cancel their votes! Yet, that is what has been happening here for decades. Here is my take on the two competing measures.

Measure G-2018– Abstain. Placed on the ballot by the supervisors, this cynical response to the legitimate citizen's initiative (Measure H!) is better than letting county supervisors choose their own voters, however, it is clearly inferior to Measure H. Its real priority is to preserve the political status quo. Fair reapportionment should be the goal.

Measure H-2018 –Vote Yes on this measure that was placed on the ballot by citizens. It is a legitimate, politically neutral, and honest attempt to allow voters to choose their representatives. It intends to take away the power of drawing the boundaries from people who have a vested interest, read that, conflict of interest, in the outcome!

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Trump's Economy Leaving California Behind

By Andy Caldwell

If you care to cut through all the babble, consider what is at stake in this mid-term election. Tax hikes, bond measures, and even a hostile take-over of dialysis centers! What has happened to the once great state of California?

Here in Santa Barbara County, we are constantly bombarded with blather about helping the poor, typically by way of handouts and typically funded by taxpayer largesse. The roots of this paradigm are socialistic, and as Margaret Thatcher famously said, the problem with socialism is that you eventually run out of other people's money! Of course, government handouts keep the poor in a form of bondage rather than setting them free. That is, the only way to help the poor in the long run is by getting them a job that allows them to become financially independent.

Well, that is the background that points to a very unique problem here in California and that is, the Trump economic boom has left California behind. The last time the nation's economy was booming while California's economy lagged behind was in the early 1990's. Accordingly, COLAB invited a member of the Peter Ueberroth Commission to come speak to our membership. The commission was sanctioned by the State of California to determine what was wrong with our economy. The report concluded "California is no longer suffering the effects of the national recession. What we are suffering from are self-inflicted blows to our economy by our state government".

Fast forward to 2018. The county of Santa Barbara receives a report from their own staff that begins:

"Economic growth surged in the second quarter this year. ... The Plow Horse economy is dead. That doesn't mean we're in a boom like the mid-1980s or late 1990s, but tax cuts and deregulation have finally killed off the plodding roughly 2% growth rate of 2010-2016. Currently in its 107th month, this expansion is the second longest in recent history."

"The unemployment rate continued to decline in 2017, falling by 0.9 percentage points to 3.9%. The unemployment rate declined in all cities across the county. Goleta has the lowest unemployment rate in the county at 2.36% ,while Lompoc has the highest rate at 5.23%.

Focused at the local level, the UCSB Economic Forecast Project May 2018 publication includes the following points regarding the Santa Barbara area economy:

- Real GDP fell at an annual rate of 1.5% in Santa Barbara County in 2016, the largest decline in a decade.
- Government was the largest contributor to Real GDP in Santa Barbara County for the second year in a row.
- With 19.3% of total taxable sales, Food Services and Drinking Places remained the largest industry in the county.
- Guadalupe (2.4%) and Santa Maria (1.9%) had the highest growth in taxable sales among cities. Santa Barbara City (-1.1%) and Carpinteria (-3.5%) were the only cities to experience a decline. · Santa Barbara County's total employment for all industries grew by 2,553 jobs in 2017, a gain of 1.26%. This growth is below that of 2016, 2.4%.

Santa Barbara County's Housing Affordability Index falls below both the national (56%) and state (29%) average with only 18% of residents in Santa Barbara able to afford the median-priced home in the county." (end of report)

In comparison, California is experiencing 1/10 of the job growth as is the rest of the nation. We have too many jobs being created in government and the minimum-wage hospitality sectors. Lompoc is especially suffering. Due to overwrought environmental and NIMBY concerns, the Santa Barbara elite who control local government have created a permanent urban underclass in the North County. Elections matter!

First Published in the Santa Barbara News Press

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They're Coming After The Prop. 13 'Loophole' *Cont.*

(Continued from page 15)

the first step toward revoking the initiative in its entirety.

Prop. 13 created such a powerful movement that even Jerry Brown, who campaigned against the measure by calling it "a ripoff," had a change of heart after winning his second term as governor. Brown called himself a "born again tax cutter" and, as the *Sacramento Bee's* Dan Walters explained, tried to capitalize on tax-cut fever as he launched his campaign for the presidency in 1980. Since then, Proposition 13 has been as much of a fixture on California's landscape as Yosemite's Half Dome.

The state's public-sector unions, liberal politicians and journalists have always despised the measure, which they still seem to blame for every tawdry thing that has ever happened here since its passage. It has supposedly even destroyed California. Such arguments are based on the idea that Prop. 13 starved the state of needed revenue, which led to underspending on public services such as roads, parks and police services.

Of course, it did not starve the state of public revenue.

"In spite of the precipitous fall in the state's average tax rate, state and local revenues did not fall proportionately," explains the Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Association, a Sacramento-based group that defends the proposition's legacy. "The total general revenue for local governments fell only 1 percent in the year following Proposition 13. By FY 1980 total revenue had risen more than 10 percent above the FY 1978 level. The tax base expanded by more than enough to offset the reduction in tax rates."

Opponents of Prop. 13 also warned that its passage would destroy the state economy. There was one famous anti-Prop. 13 TV ad explaining that the proposition would plunge the state into a deep recession. But the economy boomed after its passage. It's really not a surprise that allowing individuals to keep, spend, and invest more of their own money has better economic consequences than ramping up government spending.

The latest arguments against Prop. 13 are more nuanced but still off point. Critics argue that the measure has depressed the creation of housing supply. There's some truth to that given that local governments receive a smaller take from housing developments than,

(Continued on page 21)

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California's War Against Its Own Citizens *Cont.*

(Continued from page 3)

Mental Health Services Act of 2004. Then he got legislation passed to allow funds to be diverted. MHSA funds were supposed to serve people with serious mental illness. Then-Senate President Pro Tem Darrell Steinberg prevented the funds from doing that with two bills: AB 100 and AB 1467, both authored by the Assembly Budget Committee. When voters passed Proposition 63, it included a provision preventing the funds from being used to supplant other state funding – and could only be used to increase capacity, and not fund already funded initiatives, MentalIllnessPolicy.org explained. In 2011, the Legislature passed AB 100 with provisions inserted by then-Senator Steinberg. It modified the MHSA non-supplantation provision to allow the state to divert about \$836 million of funds raised by MHSA to satisfy the other commitments the state had. This was done as a ‘clarifying’ amendment to allow passage with a 51% vote rather than a two-thirds vote required to overturn voter enacted legislation. This amendment used MHSA funds to be used to lower the deficit, rather than expand services. Why? Because, as Steinberg, (who authored Prop. 63) told The Sacramento Bee in March that “the reserves have just grown too large and the needs are too great to justify that.” Meanwhile, a proposed \$2 billion state bond issue to build housing for homeless – by using Prop. 63 money to repay the bond – is tied up by a lawsuit that claims that housing construction isn’t allowed by the measure. Mental health advocates are livid that firstly, the state has been hoarding the mental health funds, and secondly, now they want Prop 2 to allow them to use the funds for “housing” for the homeless, which does not serve the needs of the severely mentally ill. Finally, If Prop 2 is passed, the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) Contra Costa strongly feels the No Place Like Home Program will cause more homelessness by forcing more mentally ill people into severe symptoms that could increase the numbers living on the streets. NAMI says money currently dedicated to severely mentally ill will be redirected to homelessness. And, Prop. 2 is extremely expensive: up to \$5.6 Billion (\$140 million x 40, for 40- year bonds) to raise \$2 billion for housing projects.

On the many people leaving California, **Former Rancho Cucamonga conservative helps others leave state.** Joe Vranich use to be known as the Relocation Coach, but then he also left California for a more rea-

sonable, business and people friendly state.

Hundreds of Beverly Hills students demand Trump move or defund Metro's Westside subway No comment.

Kidney Dialysis clinics fight ballot measure to cap revenue. The State and SEIU labor union are attempting to take over kidney dialysis clinics, which already function very well, for severely ill kidney patients. The *Los Angeles Times* reported, “But even if

(Continued on page 22)

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They're Coming After The Prop. 13 'Loophole' *Cont.*

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say, the permitting of auto malls and big-box stores. But California's housing problems have far more to do with NIMBYism and environmental opposition to growth, given that local governments have found myriad ways to impose fees on developers. Critics also say that the two-thirds vote requirements have made it difficult to raise local taxes — yet voters are more likely than ever to approve local tax increases. California is not suffering from a dearth of local bonds and tax measures.

They still trot out the old, "it's destroyed government services" line, which is buncombe. "By closing this loophole, California can restore funding to its underfunded schools, provide for high-need students, invest in local communities, level the playing field for business, and stimulate the economy," according to the argument made by the initiative's proponents. But one need only look at the rapid growth in state and local budgets to see this for nonsense. The state general-fund budget grew \$40 billion in the last six years, yet Democratic leaders chose not to spend it on transportation and instead passed a large increase in gasoline taxes and vehicle license fees.

As always, the state has a spending problem, not a revenue problem. And check out the Transparent California website to see the unbelievably large pay and benefit packages received by California's "public servants" if you really want to look at where our money goes. This initiative is just a chance to prop up the state's existing spending addiction, backfill overburdened pension systems, and keep public employees flush with cash. Why reform anything when we can just raise taxes yet again?

There literally is never enough money for these folks, which is why if they qualify and pass this measure in 2020, it won't be long before they blow it all and try to raise other taxes. Fortunately, the state's business community will no doubt spend whatever it takes to defeat this proposal. But don't be fooled by the "loophole" argument. Supporters aren't trying to tighten up the tax code, but to tighten the noose around taxpayers' necks.

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California's War Against Its Own Citizens *Cont.*

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the revenue cap doesn't drive clinics out of business, it would give them a perverse incentive to deliver care less efficiently — to raise patient-related spending in order to raise the revenue cap. And despite what supporters claim, there's no guarantee that forcing clinics to spend more would do anything to make care better or more available." This is pure evil.

Coming to a city near you, **Rich San Francisco businesses could face homelessness tax.** The Democrat-dominated California Legislature has pushed and legislated policies that do nothing to decrease homelessness, and instead invite more of it to the Golden State. And they've been greatly assisted by the state's biased, liberal/left media.

Ironically, the failed mayors of hell-hole California cities (Antonio Villaraigosa of Los Angeles, and Gavin Newsom of San Francisco, home of the **Human defecation map**), ran for Governor of California in the primary, with Newsom handily winning the top spot on the November ballot — just as current termed-out Governor Jerry Brown did, after making Oakland, CA an even bigger drug and crime-ridden hell-hole than it already was.

With San Francisco residents scurrying to work along the poop-infested sidewalks everyday, and tourists dodging the filth and discarded needles, some socialist brainiacs in the City by the Bay decided to tax the "wealthiest businesses" a homeless tax, as the answer to the city's problem.

Recently elected San Francisco Mayor London Breed is opposed to the measure, "saying it lacked collaboration, could attract homeless people from neighboring counties to the city, and could cost middle-class jobs in retail and service. San Francisco has already dramatically increased spending on homelessness, she said, with no noticeable improvement."

San Francisco admits to spending \$380 million of its \$10 billion budget last year on services related to homelessness. I'm willing to bet it's higher than that.

Yet with all its problems, California's liberal leaders have decided that rather than work on fixing their own state, it is more important to declare war on Donald Trump and almost all his policies — and the people of the state of California. From sanctuary city policies, to "The Wall," to healthcare, education, homelessness, the temporary travel ban, federal regulatory policy, thwarting enforcement of immigration laws, Proposition 13, diverting mental illness funds, and especially climate change, these liberal Democrats in the state are demonstrating such a vicious hostility that one wonders if they have even considered if their actions might be doing more harm than good for their causes and the people of the state. The above headlines and articles certainly indicate this.

President Donald Trump's victory was a needed repudiation of the political establishment, which has failed millions of working-class Americans who have been suffering economically and continuing to fall behind, and California is the poster child.

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