

December
2025

Santa Barbara County

Volume 13
Issue 12



COLAB

The Coalition of Labor, Agriculture & Business

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Against All Enemies Foreign And Domestic

By Andy Caldwell

The political left loves the concept of “intersectionality.” That is, how many boxes they can check on a political resume to garner the most votes. **Kamala Harris** was once the poster child for intersectionality, but she has nothing on **Zohran Mamdani** – immigrant, socialist, and radical Muslim.

With respect to immigrants, I have stated time and again that I am proud of our nation's DNA as a nation of immigrants. However, there is a distinction between those immigrants – such as my own mother – who came here to become an American and to better her life, rather than those who come here to either exploit America, or worse, destroy it. Hence, until we fix our broken immigration system, I would give “otherwise” law-abiding, taxpaying, hard-working immigrants, a guest worker pass, which would *not* be a path to citizenship, because not having the opportunity to become a citizen would be the ultimate price to pay for coming here illegally.

Regarding socialism/communism, I would not allow any immigrant to come into this country who espouses this political ideology, because as was previously determined by Congress, which passed The Communist Control Act of 1954, card-carrying communists have in essence vowed to overthrow the government of the United States. Even though that Act has been eviscerated, the fact remains that socialism and communism are political ideologies antithetical to our Constitution and capitalistic economy.

No Problem Too Big or Too Small for Government to Handle

One aspect of conflict has to do with our concept of limited government. As far as we have fallen from that ideal ourselves, socialists like Mamdani would finish us off, as he stated, “We will prove that there is no problem too large for government to solve and no concern too small for it to care about”!

Another distinction lies between the tenet we embrace, equality of opportunity vs communism's false promise of equality of outcomes. For, as **Winston Churchill** rightly observed, “Socialism is the philosophy of failure, the creed of ignorance, and the gospel of envy.” And again, Churchill, “The inherent vice of capitalism is the unequal sharing of blessings. The inherent virtue of Socialism is the equal sharing of miseries.”

Regarding the Muslim faith, a vast majority of Muslims, here and abroad, are peaceful, loving, people, but a violent minority of them are anything but. During college, I did a research paper on Lebanon, as I was inspired by a classmate who was from Lebanon. This remarkable country was once ruled by a shared governance of Christians and Muslims. It was a very prosperous and peaceful country because the Muslims in power were not adherent believers in a barbarous cultist

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Stick a Fork in California: Gov. Newsom's Proposed Retroactive Billionaire Tax

By Katy Grimes

IRS Study shows California is losing a taxpayer every minute to states like Florida, Texas, and North Carolina

California Governor Gavin Newsom is pushing a retroactive billionaire tax targeting the roughly 220 billionaires residing in California in 2025, ignoring that these individuals are the most financially mobile and can live anywhere. Expecting them to remain in the state as if they will happily and willingly hand over even more of their wealth surely must be facetious.

SEIU is sponsoring the "2026 Billionaires Tax Act." The measure, recently listed on the Attorney General's website, would impose a one-time 5% tax on individual wealth exceeding \$1 billion, Marc Joffe wrote for the Globe this week. He explains the measure and more:

Although the tax would be levied based on 2026 net worth, it would apply to billionaires who resided in California in 2025, so theoretically it could not be avoided. Of course, billionaires are well equipped to defend themselves in court, so the constitutionality of this unprecedented tax will be rigorously tested.

Proponents assert that the measure would not cause billionaires to flee the state because of the one-time nature of the tax. Unlike federal wealth taxes floated by Bernie Sanders and Elizabeth Warren, the SEIU tax would not be applied each year.

But the flaw in this argument is obvious: if the state could impose a wealth tax once, it could do so again and again. So, yes, billionaires might well leave if this measure passes.

Why are California businesses and residents fleeing the once-Golden State in droves? We've asked and answered this question many times.

California has been bleeding residents and their tax revenue for many years with moves to states with no income tax or very low income tax: Florida, Texas, Arizona, Idaho, Tennessee, South Carolina, Nevada, and even Washington State.

California's own Chevron Oil Company moved its headquarters to Houston, Texas from San Ramon, CA where it has been based since 1879, one of the



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biggest businesses to flee the Golden State. Chevron is in good company joining X/Twitter, Space X, Oracle, Hewlett Packard, Charles Schwab, and Toyota Motor North America, Nissei America, Inc., The Joe Rogan Experience, Gordon Ramsay North America, The Rubin Report, to name just a few of the businesses leaving California because of the state's leftist/Marxist politics and regulatory environment.

Yet Gov. Newsom and Democrats are doubling down and still gouging taxpayers and businesses with some of the highest taxes, fees and draconian regulations in the nation.

"Despite the towering deficit, Newsom and the Democratic Party continue to spend wildly on a boondoggle bullet train and to engage in last-minute redistricting to gerrymander the state further," Jonathan Turley writes. "They have also moved to extend Medi-Cal to illegal immigrants at a massive cost to the budget. Newsom is also pushing ahead with a Commission to pay reparations to black citizens."

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A Happy Thanksgiving With George Washington, C.S. Lewis, And James Hirsen

By Andy Caldwell

I am encouraging you to ask everyone you know some very serious – in fact existential – threat-level questions today considering a phenomenal column written by **James Hirsen** on Newsmax, “Nothing ‘Democratic’ About Socialists.” In his column, Hirsen opines that socialism is no longer just creeping onto the American stage, considering the election of Mamdani as the Mayor of New York City. Mamdani is just the latest socialist elected to office in America, including 11 members of Congress and over 200 state and local officials.

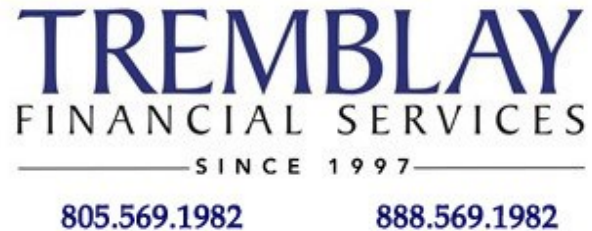
These electeds are all card-carrying members of the Democratic Socialists of America, some 80,000 strong, who, Hirsen writes, are seeking power through infiltration for nothing less than nefarious purposes including “the abolition of private property, ending capitalism, and replacing the free market system with the goal of government control of virtually everything.” As I mentioned last week, Mamdani indicated the same when he stated, “We will prove that there is no problem too large for government to solve and no concern too small for it to care about.”

Hirsen reveals that the DSA’s platform demands “public ownership of utilities, housing, and finance, decommodifying healthcare and education, and seizing the means of production, which are all prequels to the imposition of totalitarianism and freedom’s ultimate demise.”

As **C.S. Lewis** rightfully observed, “Of all tyrannies, a tyranny sincerely exercised for the good of its victims may be the most oppressive. It would be better to live under robber barons than under omnipotent moral busybodies. The robber baron’s cruelty may sometimes sleep, his cupidity may at some point be satiated; but those who torment us for our own good will torment us without end for they do so with the approval of their own conscience.... This very kindness stings with intolerable insult. To be “cured” against one’s will and cured of states which we may not regard as disease is to be put on a level of those who have not yet reached the age of reason or those who never will; to be classed with infants, imbeciles, and domestic animals.”

America’s First Real Holiday

One question before us today is how does the rise of the DSA comport to our nation’s core and foundational belief that the only legitimate purpose of



government is to secure our *unalienable* Divine rights of life, liberty, speech, religion, and private property etc., and that these rights can only be secured by way of *limited* government, because government has and will always be the biggest threat to all our rights?

Another question is, how have we as a nation fallen so far into the grips of communism’s legacy, as Hirsen points out, that is “one of economic decay, government ruin, and social collapse, a distinct pattern that is historically consistent across time, place, and events”?

Our nation, in fact, sets aside a day of Thanksgiving every year, not to thank mankind for our liberty but to thank “Providence.” Specifically, our first president, **George Washington**, inaugurated the first Thanksgiving by way of proclamation in 1789, with gratitude to God for his favor, protection, and providence. The introduction to the proclamation reads, “Whereas it is the duty of all Nations to acknowledge the providence of Almighty God”.... What is providence? We have the answer from the Westminster Shorter Catechism: “God’s works of providence are his most holy, wise, and powerful, *preserving and governing* of all his creatures, and their action.”

Our day of Thanksgiving is a good time to ask for mercy, via “the favorable interposition of providence” as it relates to all these questions. As Washington stated, “Now therefore I do recommend and assign Thursday the 26th day of November next to be devoted by the People of these States to the service of that great and glorious Being, who is the beneficent Author of all the good that was, that is, or that will be—That we may then all unite in rendering unto him our sincere and humble thanks—for his kind care and protection of the People of this country previous to their becoming a Nation—for the signal and manifold mercies, and the favorable interpositions of his providence...”

Andy Caldwell, Executive Director, COLAB .

Family Farms Face Disaster That Leaves Us All Vulnerable

By *Brian Reisinger*

The amount of farm loss is so fast it puts food prices, our health, environment, and more at even deeper risk. If you love Thanksgiving food, imagine a food supply that's "too big to fail."

I promise I don't want to ruin Thanksgiving.

I'm actually hoping Thanksgiving 2025 is my best ever, after spending most of November with my 1-year-old daughter on the family farm in Sauk County. In between the endless work, Ana walked the farmyard under the bluest of skies, took tractor rides with Grandpa, and gabbed her special blend of gibberish and new words at my otherwise quiet cabin in the woods. I've never had more to be thankful for.

The problem is, the Thanksgiving food on all our tables this year is more vulnerable than it's ever been, as the loss of farms like ours in Wisconsin and across the country reaches a tipping point. We've had awareness in shockwaves as the national media covers the role of farms in debates over tariffs, immigration, and the price of food. But there's a far deeper issue at stake than who is right about any of that: the risk of American farms and food becoming too big to fail.

It's a reality that's getting worse, threatening an even more expensive and insecure food supply.

We could lose rest of American family farms in a generation

To put this in perspective, the data shows we're on pace to lose the rest of our family farms in one generation – I turned 41 this month, and by the time Ana is my age we'll have lost all our farms if we maintain our century-long average of 45,000 farms lost per year. Along the way, losing our farms contributes to a vulnerable food supply chain that's making food more expensive — in part because supply locks up during disasters like COVID, bird flu, and more — as well as less healthy, and less sustainable.

Of course, we won't literally lose every farm; we'll just keep forcing them to "get big or get out" until all that's left is a dangerously small number of large operations. If you didn't like having banks so big it would bankrupt everyone if they fell, imagine that with our food.

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I always remind people that farmers, whatever their size, are simply trying to survive – those getting bigger are doing so in response to the same forces that are wiping others out. There is plenty of blame to go around for why we're forcing them to do this, and over the decades, both political parties have failed to address it.

Now the idea that bigger is always better is even spreading to places that once abhorred it. I hear regularly from people on the right, left, and in between that it's inevitable. Meanwhile, as Michael Grunwald reports in his book "We Are Eating the Earth," there's an emerging belief in climate research that mega farms — which can grow more on less land — offer the only way to feed the planet without burning it up, because growing food needs require more deforestation. The problem is we've already tried "get big or get out" for a century, and it's part of why our food is vulnerable.

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If You Don't Vote, We Can't Win

By Andy Caldwell

One of my favorite movie lines – because it made me think – was in “Chariots of Fire,” a 1981 film about the true story of two British track athletes, one a determined Jew, and the other a devout Christian, who compete in the 1924 Olympics. The film was the winner of four Academy Awards including best picture. **Harold Abrahams** is afraid he can't beat **Eric Liddell**. He tells his girlfriend, “If I can't win, I won't run!” She aptly observes, “If you don't run, you can't win.”

Too bad Republicans (and a good number of Independents) in CA don't have wise and discerning girlfriends. I have witnessed several elections over the years where the margin of victory by which the Democrat won was the exact number associated with conservatives who didn't vote because they thought they could not win. It is a very perverse and disastrous self-fulfilling prophecy to lose because you don't think you can win when the *only* thing you had to do to prove yourself wrong was to vote.

I am often asked, “What can I do to make a difference?” The simplest thing is to get involved and recruit other “unbelievers” to do the same. Today I will outline three things you can do.

The First Thing You Can Do is VOTE

Proposition 50 is before voters, and it is as important as it is devious. The fake excuse to redistrict California mid-census has to do with Texas doing the same. But Texas redistricted because it was found to be in violation of the laws pertaining to how districts can be drawn in light of the Voting Rights Act. Regardless, Texas had a legitimate reason to redistrict, while **Gavin Newsom's** Prop. 50 is nothing less than a raw power grab.

What is at stake?

The elimination of *all but three* Congressional seats held by Republicans in California. The goal? Shift the balance of power in the House back to Democrats to stonewall the Trump agenda. What to do?

VOTE!

And urge everyone you know to vote NO on Prop. 50. The deadline to vote is this coming Tuesday, November 4. Prop 50 suspends California's Citizen's Redistricting commission for purely partisan purposes.

Don't let Newsom get away with it.

The Second Thing

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Speaking of voting. One of the things the corrupt Democrat political machine relies upon to win in California is various types of election machinations ripe for fraud. This would include so-called “ballot harvesting,” which allows bundlers to drop off hundreds of ballots gathered under, at best, suspicious circumstances. The cure? The requirement to vote in person and show a government-approved ID to do so. The proposed Voter ID ballot measure, if approved by voters, would become a state Constitutional Amendment that would require citizenship verification for all voter registrations and government-issued ID for casting a ballot in an election. But, before voters get a chance to approve this measure, we need your help to get it on the ballot. That means organizers must get enough signatures to get the measure before voters. Please visit the following website to download the petition and urge your family and friends throughout the state of CA to do the same: <https://www.reformcalifornia.org/cavoterid/sign-the-petition>

The Third Thing

The next issue that needs your immediate attention is an effort by the **Howard Jarvis Taxpayer's Association** to shore up Prop. 13. The passage of Prop 13 was a seminal event in our tax-and-spend state back in the 1970s. Prop. 13 accomplished several things for taxpayers. First, it capped the rise of property tax from year to year. This was so essential to property owners who were losing their homes that they owned outright, because the meteoric rise in property taxes was literally taxing them out of their homes. The second provision of Prop 13 required a two-thirds vote to

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Climate Has A New Head Clown

By Steve Milloy

Move over, Al Gore. The climate clown car has a new self-anointed driver. His name is Gavin Newsom.

The California governor is trying to use the ongoing United Nations climate conference (COP30) to position himself as the leader of the U.S., if not the world, on climate change. In hopes of advancing his presidential aspirations in 2028, Newsom is attempting to exploit the vacuum created by the boycott of COP30 by the Trump administration.

Toward that end, Newsom has attacked President Donald Trump as “an invasive species,” boasted about California’s success in climate and travelled into the Amazon jungle to “absorb a deeper spiritual connection to this issue that connects all of us.” Cue the eyeroll.

But Newsom is actually more of a tragic nuisance than any kind of hero when it comes to climate.

Californians pay the highest prices for electricity in the continental U.S. This is because Newsom has loaded the California grid with expensive wind, solar and utility-scale batteries. Not only has all this green technology caused prices to soar, it has also weakened grid reliability. During periods of peak electricity demand, EV owners are warned not to charge their vehicles.

Californians also pay the highest prices for gasoline in the continental U.S. because the state requires special blends of gasoline that are supposed to be improving air quality. One might think that Newsom would be helping the oil industry to lower costs. But he’s not.

Newsom’s hostility to the oil and gas industry forces California to import gasoline from foreign countries that don’t produce oil as cleanly as we do in the U.S. He’s trying to block offshore drilling that would actually reduce oil pollution in the ocean. Oil from below the ocean floor naturally seeps into the ocean off the California coast. Oil drilling would reduce that natural seepage by reducing pressure.

Newsom is also chasing refineries out of California. The problem is so acute that Newsom is actually now forced to consider a state takeover of the refineries as the industry flees the state.

But it gets worse.

After more than four decades of forest mismanagement that has turned publicly-owned forests and lands in California into tinderboxes just waiting for sparks to turn into deadly, out-of-control wildfires, Newsom has opposed Trump’s suggestions to clean up the forests



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and public lands. These wildfires have burned down forests that companies like Microsoft tried to preserve by purchasing carbon offsets.

While the California legislature had directed in 2012 that reservoirs be built to provide water to fight wildfires and drought, Newsom failed to build any. When President Trump directed the diversion of water from Southern California to end, Newsom opposed the move.

At COP30, Newsom blamed the Los Angeles wildfires on global warming even though the fires were started by arson that was not completely extinguished by firefighters. When the conflagration later spread, aided by the naturally occurring Santa Ana winds, there was no water in the fire hydrants.

None of this is climate change. It’s incompetent government led by a vacuous hologram of a person.

Since 2012, California has charged the oil industry and consumers billions and billions of dollars as part of a cap-and-trade scheme to lower emissions. Not only have the wildfires more than offset all the emissions cuts, but the California legislature recently approved a bill to drill 2,000 new oil wells so that the state could reap more revenue from the cap-and-trade scheme.

The beep-beep of Newsom’s climate clown car is deafening. It’s a warning for 2028.

Steve Milloy is a biostatistician and lawyer. He posts on X at @JunkScience.

Are Truth, Accountability, and Authenticity Still Virtues?

By Andy Caldwell

One of the major problems in our society these days has to do with the fact that most people are led to believe sensational headlines that are later proved to be false. However, they never hear the correction of the falsehood.

For instance, how many of you heard that the cause of the Palisades Fire in Los Angeles was caused by climate change?

Well, the truth is, it was caused by an arsonist.

Furthermore, how many of you heard that the fire was so devastating because of climate change?

Well, in actuality, the fire was made worse by complete and gross incompetence by the Los Angeles Fire Department.

How so? As reported in the *LA Times* and KTLA Channel 5 in Los Angeles, firefighters were ordered to abandon the smoldering underground fire that later became the devastating Palisades Fire, something the crews on the ground thought was a “bad idea.”

According to text messages reviewed by the *Times*, firefighters told their battalion chief that “the ground was still smoldering, and rocks remained hot to the touch” at the site of the Lachman Fire, which burned on New Year’s Day before being contained.

Despite that warning, “their battalion chief ordered them to roll up their hoses and pull out of the area on Jan. 2 — the day after the 8-acre blaze was declared contained — rather than stay and make sure there were no hidden embers that could spark a new fire,” the *Times* reports.

That first fire, which prosecutors say was started by an Uber driver, remained burning underground until the strong winds of Jan. 7 rekindled it. That blaze grew into the Palisades Fire, which killed 12 people and devastated the Pacific Palisades.

Climate change had nothing to do with it. And that my friends is the whole truth.

Epiphany or Opportunity?

I would like to take this opportunity to share a couple of other interesting developments about climate change alarmism.

Bill Gates, who has invested over \$2 billion to fight climate change, has, as of late, had some sort of epiphany. Whereas he still believes that climate change is likely to hurt the world’s most

vulnerable—he now admits it won’t pose a catastrophic risk to civilization, so it’s time to focus on quality of life rather than emission cuts or temperature rise. Specifically, Gates issued a memo which states, “Although climate change will hurt poor people more than anyone else, for the vast majority of them it will not be the only or even the biggest threat to their lives and welfare. The biggest problems are poverty and disease, just as they always have been.”

Has Gates truly had an epiphany? Or does the fact that the massive AI data centers that can use as much power as a large city need more oil, gas, coal, and nuclear generated electricity and that wind and solar can’t supply what they need? Regardless, coupled with Trump cutting off funds from the federal government for green energy subsidies, and the pending repeal of Obama’s so-called “endangerment finding,” which has cost the American economy an estimated \$1 trillion in regulatory costs, the financial wherewithal, and mandates to fund the green energy scam may soon be running on empty.

CALPERS Pours Taxpayer Money Down the “Green” Drain

Whereas, Gates and Trump might be pulling the plug on green energy, I seriously doubt CALPERS, the CA public employee retiree pension trust, has learned a thing. In case you haven’t heard, CALPERS took a bath as it lost 71% of its \$468 million investment in a clean energy and technology private equity fund. As the Center Square pointed out, “Had the money put into the green energy fund been passively invested in an S&P 500 index fund, with dividends reinvested, the fund would have been worth approximately \$3 billion.” But, of course, the board of CALPERS doesn’t really care because taxpayers are on the hook for these losses, in addition to the current \$180 billion shortfall in their fund.

Unfortunately, for many, none of this will affect the general public’s allegiance to the climate change jihad. As **Daniel Greenfield**, of the David Horowitz Freedom Center, put it, “Environmentalism is a secular religion for a secular age. Bureaucracy is its priesthood, and activism is its sainthood.” Yet virtually none of its practitioners are willing to live a simpler life, for instance, without the benefits and byproducts of carbon-based fuels, and that is the real story here.

Andy Caldwell, Executive Director, COLAB

30-Year JAG Veteran Schools Democrats For Video Calling For Sedition In the Military

By Charles 'Cully Stimson

Six Democrat congressmen recently released a video directed at members of the U.S. military and intelligence communities imploring them to “refuse illegal orders” from President Donald Trump. As former members of the military and intelligence community, they should be ashamed of themselves and retract their insubordinate, ignorant, and politically motivated diatribe.

The video, posted earlier this week, was created by Sen. Elissa Slotkin, D-Mich.; Sen. Mark Kelly, D-Ariz.; Rep. Chris Deluzio, D-Pa.; Rep. Maggie Goodlander, D-N.H.; Rep. Chrissy Houlahan, D-Pa., and Rep. Jason Crow, D-Colo.

One might expect that their military experience would make them more cautious, not less, about encouraging service members to reflexively doubt the legality of orders from America’s commander in chief. But that’s exactly what they did.

“We know you are under enormous stress and pressure right now,” intoned Slotkin. “This administration is pitting our uniformed military and intelligence community professionals against American citizens,” Kelly, Slotkin, and Crow added.

Sen. Elissa Slotkin@SenatorSlotkin

We want to speak directly to members of the Military and the Intelligence Community.

The American people need you to stand up for our laws and our Constitution.

Don’t give up the ship.

5:30 AM · Nov 18, 2025

Really? How?

These claims are simply false, no matter how fearful the tone. Military recruiting and morale are at historic highs. If service members are truly under “enormous stress,” why are retention and recruitment numbers soaring?

“Like us, you all swore an oath to protect and defend this Constitution,” the congressmen contend in the video. “Right now, the threats to our Constitution aren’t just coming from abroad but from right here at home.”

Really? How exactly? They don’t say.



They add that the “laws are clear” that members of the military “can” and “must” refuse illegal orders and that no one has to carry out orders that “violate the law or our Constitution.”

Everyone in the military knows that, but what does that have to do with anything?

Throughout the short video, they never mention a single Trump administration order—or even a policy area—which they believe violates the Constitution. This vagueness reveals the real purpose of the video—political theater and yet another example of Trump Derangement Syndrome

Kelly claims “this administration is pitting” the military against citizens.” Where is that happening, because if it is, I’m against it too. Crickets.

Is this about immigration enforcement?

The deployment of National Guard troops to the border or in blue cities to assist federal immigration officers? They don’t say.

When Crow was interviewed by Fox News’ Martha McCallum about the video he participated in and asked what specific orders that Trump issued to the military that are illegal, Crow couldn’t name one.

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Offering Up Military And Intelligence Communities As Political Cannon Fodder

By Andy Caldwell

(This oped was submitted before the National Guardsman shooting in DC)

You must have heard about the six U.S. Senators who stated that the threats to our Constitution are emanating from the Trump administration and therefore both the military and intelligence community should refuse so-called “illegal orders.” Specifically, they stated, “This administration *is* pitting our uniformed military and intelligence community professionals against American citizens... We need *you* to stand up for our laws, our Constitution, and who we are as Americans.”

These senators are, of course, being too clever by half. By stating that “threats are emanating,” they certainly sought to imply that Trump is *already* issuing illegal orders. We know what they are hoping to do. They are hoping that neither the military nor the CIA will follow through on bombing narco-terrorist boats in the Caribbean, and that troops will no longer accept deployment to major US cities to protect federal installations under attack by protestors who are attacking ICE and Border Patrol agents, up to and including, attempted, and now possible first-degree murder.

There is a silence here that is beyond deafening. In what way, shape, or form, have any of these senators, let alone the entire Democratic Party, shown any concern whatsoever about the narco-war being waged against the citizens of the United States? Over 105,000 people die from drug overdoses every year. Moreover, 76% of those deaths are from opioids, mostly related to fentanyl, and drug overdoses have killed over 1.25 million people since 1999. The vast majority of these drugs are being illegally im-

ported into the United States primarily by way of land and sea. Over one million dead Americans and counting, and the “Constitutional crisis” is Trump trying to shut off the supply of the same?

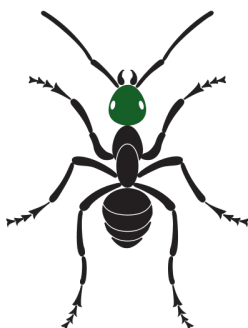
The “Nullification” of Presidential Orders

We all know about Democrat effort to close the border to not only illicit drugs, but also the narco-terrorists, Islamic terrorists, the Mexican drug cartels, the Chinese Triad, and others. Their combined effort was zero, zilch, nada. In fact, as president, **Joe Biden** did the opposite. Instead of using the Border Patrol to stop the invasion of some 12+ million people into this country illegally, he took the Border Patrol personnel off their patrols to help them process the illegals coming into our country. Now that Trump is trying to round up the worst of the worst, including those with final orders to deport, those with a criminal record, and those who trafficked minors, Democrats are urging a revolution against his orders.

To try and undermine our President, who is also our Commander-in-Chief, is extremely dangerous. These senators are asking our troops and intelligence community to make a judgement as to what is an illegal order because they can’t turn to our courts any longer for nationwide injunctions. Nationwide injunctions are court orders that prevent the federal government from implementing a policy or law that has a cascading effect impacting the entire country, not just the parties involved in the court case.

America’s strength against losing our Constitution lies in the brilliance of our founding fathers to separate the balance of powers among the three branches of government: executive, legislative and judicial. Because

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What Is Going On In L.A. County Government?

By Jon Coupal

The word steward has a variety of meanings. In faith communities, stewardship means exercising prudence and thoughtful oversight of the financial resources of a place of worship. In the business world, a steward is someone who has the responsibility to manage another's assets with a legal, moral and ethical obligation to act in the best interest of the beneficiary above their own. The same applies to roles like a trustee managing a trust, a board member overseeing a company or nonprofit, or an investment steward responsible for plan assets.

Although Californians should expect that our elected leaders act as good stewards of public funds, rarely is that the case. Examples of how the state misuses our tax dollars are legion. But one that came to light recently is the stunning story of a Los Angeles County employee who received a \$2 million payout from the county for keeping her job.

Wait, what?

In a story broken by LAist, as KPCC and Southern California Public Radio is now known, it was revealed that the chief executive officer for the county, Fesia Davenport, was paid \$2 million for damages including alleged harm to "reputation, embarrassment and emotional distress." But the kicker is that she is still employed as CEO.

Usually, when we hear about large payouts to public employees, it is the result of wrongful termination litigation. For example, one of the larger public employee wrongful termination verdicts in California was a \$2.85 million award to a former police officer who sued the city of Riverside for retaliation. But in the instant case, there was no termination as Davenport still retains her title as CEO. So what justifies the \$2 million jackpot?

According to media reports, her beef with the county is over the passage of Measure G, a voter-approved measure that reorganizes county government. One provision of the measure changes the CEO's position from an appointed office to one subject to an election of county voters. Measure G was put on the ballot by the Board of Supervisors and approved by the voters in 2024. It doesn't take effect until the 2028 election.

Nonetheless, the fact that the Board of Supervisors placed Measure G on the ballot obviously hurt Davenport's feelings. In a letter to county counsel, she states, "Measure G is an unprecedented event, and



has had, and will continue to have, an unprecedented impact on my professional reputation, health, career, income, and retirement. My hope is that after setting aside the amount of my ask, that there can be a true focus on what the real issues are here — Measure G has irrevocably changed my life, my professional career, economic outlook, and plans for the future."

As offensive as the \$2 million payout is to taxpayers, the fact that the county tried to keep the settlement confidential is a further betrayal of the public trust. According to reporting by LAist, "The settlement agreement, which paid out millions in taxpayer dollars in August, is labeled 'confidential' and was not reported out publicly by the county. County supervisors approved the tentative deal terms in a July 29 closed session, according to the county. The deal was then finalized about two weeks later, when Davenport and county executives signed it in mid-August."

For taxpayers, it is incomprehensible how the Board of Supervisors could sign off on such a settlement. In the meantime, the aggrieved Ms. Davenport continues to receive her \$862,000 annual salary.

Add this scandal to the countless examples of waste, fraud and abuse that have come to typify California governance. The \$50 billion in unemployment fraud, the train to nowhere still costing \$1 billion each year, the documented waste and fraud in homeless programs, have all given the state's political leadership the well-deserved reputation of being bad stewards of our tax dollars.

Jon Coupal is president of the Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Association.

Moscow, ASEAN Nuclear Energy Cooperation

By Frank Vernuccio

In October 2025, Moscow and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) took a notable step toward institutional energy cooperation when Russia's state nuclear corporation Rosatom signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the ASEAN Centre for Energy. The agreement, announced during the ASEAN Energy Business Forum in Malaysia, formalizes Russia's push into Southeast Asia's growing nuclear power market and signals a shift in regional energy geopolitics.

According to Anna Davis of the Jamestown Foundation, the MoU marks Russia's first direct institutional arrangement with ASEAN, moving beyond previous bilateral partnerships. It gives Moscow a platform to promote its small modular reactor (SMR) and floating nuclear technologies to multiple countries simultaneously, as Southeast Asia's electricity demand accelerates and governments search for lower-carbon energy sources.

For Russia, nuclear energy exports are a central part of its broader diplomatic strategy. Rosatom, while technically a corporation, operates as an extension of state power and foreign policy. Its international director, Vadim Titov, was recently appointed to head the Kremlin's Directorate for Strategic Partnerships. This is an unusual crossover that underscores how tightly coordinated Russia's nuclear exports are with its geopolitical aims, says Davis.

By embedding Rosatom into ASEAN's energy framework, the Kremlin is pursuing what analysts describe as "strategic entrenchment." Moscow hopes long-term energy cooperation will "blunt the isolating effects of Western sanctions" by tying its technology to essential infrastructure in developing economies. Nuclear energy, unlike oil or gas, is rarely sanctioned, allowing Russia to sustain high-level technical engagement

even amid its ongoing war in Ukraine, says Davis.

The timing is deliberate. Western nuclear suppliers such as U.S., Japanese, and French firms, have been slower to commercialize small modular reactors or provide turnkey financing for emerging markets. Russia, by contrast, already operates the world's first floating nuclear power plant in the Arctic and has begun marketing export-ready SMRs.

From the Southeast Asian perspective, the attraction is pragmatic. The ASEAN Plan of Action for Energy Cooperation (APAEC 2016–2025) identifies nuclear power as a potential low-carbon option for diversifying supply and cutting emissions. Regional electricity demand is projected to more than triple by mid-century, from roughly 1,200 terawatt-hours in 2022 to about 4,300 TWh by 2050.

"The energy challenge is real," says an ASEAN Centre for Energy official. "Member states need reliable, affordable, and cleaner options and nuclear is one of them." Russia is already negotiating or implementing nuclear cooperation with most ASEAN members. In Indonesia, Rosatom and PLN Nusantara Power signed an MoU in September 2025 for a nuclear power feasibility study. Vietnam agreed to revive discussions on the long-stalled Ninh Thuận-1 nuclear project, suspended since 2016 and Laos signed a nuclear-energy roadmap with Russia that goes through 2026, touting "clean and cheap" power for domestic use. An intergovernmental nuclear-cooperation agreement was also signed in September 2025 with Cambodia. Rosatom has pitched floating and modular reactors as part of ongoing bilateral economic talks with The Philippines. Russia is more than its war in Ukraine. While each of these arrangements remain in early stages, mostly as feasibility studies, site evalua-

(Continued on page 13)

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Moscow, ASEAN Nuclear Energy Cooperation *Cont.*

tions, and capacity-building, collectively they demonstrate a widening Russian footprint in Southeast Asia's nuclear landscape.

ASEAN's engagement with Russia is not driven by ideology. Most member states maintain extensive ties with the United States, China, Japan, and the European Union (EU). Nuclear cooperation with Moscow is a technical and financial calculation rather than a political alignment.

Still, the geopolitical implications are complex. As Davis notes, nuclear energy partnerships "create durable dependencies." Once a country commits to Russian technology, it often relies on Rosatom for decades for fuel supply, training, maintenance, and eventual decommissioning. This long-term link may make governments more cautious about joining Western sanctions or criticizing Russia's global behavior.

The Trump Administration in Washington and Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi in Tokyo are watching the developments closely. U.S. officials have privately expressed concern that Russian nuclear projects could open "dual-use" channels for sensitive technologies or provide Moscow with influence over regional infrastructure. To date, ASEAN's neutral stance is anchored in its principle of "inclusive regionalism" and has insulated the bloc from major diplomatic backlash.

For ASEAN governments, the more immediate challenge is regulatory capacity. Most members still lack comprehensive legal frameworks, independent nuclear safety regulators, or waste-management systems. Without these, large-scale projects risk delays or public opposition. Financing is another hurdle: nuclear plants require long-term commitments and stable governance, both of which remain uneven across the region.

The ASEAN initiative also fits into Russia's wider strategy to pivot eastward. Since 2022, Moscow has intensified its outreach to Asia, Africa, and the Middle East in an effort to counterbalance lost markets in Europe. Nuclear diplomacy has become a centerpiece of

that effort.

By showcasing its SMR and floating-reactor technology in Southeast Asia, one of the fastest-growing energy markets in the world, Russia hopes to demonstrate that it remains a high-tech global player despite Western sanctions. Rosatom already claims 80 percent of the global export market for nuclear power plant construction, including projects in Egypt, Türkiye, and Bangladesh.

As Davis notes, success in ASEAN would give Russia "a new theater of strategic engagement" beyond its traditional Eurasian orbit. It could also provide Moscow with long-term commercial income and political capital in the Indo-Pacific, where competition among great powers is intensifying. Heading into late 2025, the Russia-ASEAN nuclear agenda is still more promise than reality. Most of the agreements are non-binding, and it will take years before construction begins, if at all. The diplomatic symbolism is significant: a sanctioned Russia is finding new relevance in one of the world's most dynamic regions.

For ASEAN, the challenge is to extract the technological and financing benefits of cooperation without becoming entangled in great-power rivalries. "ASEAN's strength has always been its ability to engage all partners without exclusivity," says Davis. "That approach will be tested as nuclear partnerships expand."

Whether Russia's nuclear diplomacy evolves into concrete power plants or remains a web of memoranda, one conclusion seems clear to Washington: in Southeast Asia's search for clean energy, Moscow has found both an opening and an audience. The coming decade will reveal whether that interest can withstand politics, economics, and the exacting safety demands of nuclear power.

Frank V. Vernuccio, Jr., J.D., editor-in-chief, New York Analysis of Policy & Government and, co-host of the popular WVOX weekly radio show, "The Vernuccio/Novak Report"



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Offering Up Military And Intelligence Communities As Political Cannon Fodder *Cont.*

(Continued from page 9)

the Democrat Party won't accept the reality that Trump has won two elections, and because they have lost control of the House, they have turned to lawfare to stop Trump at all costs. That is, they have sought to manipulate, obfuscate, and delay, Trump's ability to govern by using the judicial branch to *bludgeon* democracy.

Democrats Call for Mutiny

Trump's first administration faced more than half of all nationwide injunctions in the last six *decades*, 64 injunctions out of a total of 127 nationwide injunctions issued since 1963. Thankfully, the Supreme Court delivered a monumental victory for the Constitution, striking down the excessive use of nationwide injunctions to interfere with the normal functioning of the executive branch.

Now that Democrats have lost their ability to handcuff Trump by way of the House and our courts, they are turning to the members of our armed services and the intelligence community to block Trump's mandate to govern. In essence, they want the very agencies that directly report to Trump to accomplish their political agenda because they don't have a majority in Congress and they have been rebuked by the Supreme Court as it involves nationwide injunctions.

And they claim Trump is the threat to our Constitution?

These senators – and the members of their own party who will not censure them – are hoping to foment nothing short of a defacto *mutiny* to stop Trump. These senators have, at a minimum, violated their oath of office, and worse, are guilty of sedition. They need to pay a price before America finds itself in the middle of an outright civil war. Their actions are part of a pattern to upend the Trump administration by hook and crook for the umpteenth time, dangerously so.

Andy Caldwell, Executive Director, COLAB

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30-Year JAG Veteran Schools Democrats For Video Calling For Sedition In the Military *Cont.*

(Continued from page 8)

The reality is that the military already has robust systems in place to handle questions about the legality of orders and uses that system every day.

Service members are required to follow lawful orders. If they do not follow a lawful general order, or a specific order, they can—and often are—court-martialed under the Uniform Code of Military Justice for a violation of Article 92, Failure to Obey an Order or Regulation.

If or when they are in doubt about an order's legality (a rarity), service members can—and do—consult with a uniformed lawyer, called a judge advocate general officer. I know, because I served as a Navy JAG for 30 years and retired as a two-time commanding officer with rank of captain.

The president doesn't pick up the phone and call a service member and order him to carry out a mission. Military orders flow through multiple levels—from the president to the secretary of defense, through the joint chiefs, to combatant commanders, to senior officers and eventually to units and individual service members. At each level, uniformed lawyers review orders and establish standing rules of engagement and specific rules of engagement for a particular mission.

These congressmen know this, but that apparently didn't matter to them.

Moreover, military personnel are already trained—and the Department of Defense Law of War manual clearly states—that military personnel have a duty not to comply with orders that are clearly illegal.

History certainly provides instructive examples of genuinely unlawful orders. The My Lai Massacre during

the Vietnam War, where Army Lt. William Calley ordered his soldiers to kill unarmed civilians stands as a clear case where subordinates should have refused, as the order was patently unlawful under the laws of war and the Uniform Code of Military Justice.

If this video was produced by a bunch of rag tag college students or Marxist professors, no one would care.

That's not what happened here. These lawmakers' actions and words undermine good order and discipline in the armed forces by encouraging U.S. military personnel to question the orders of the commander in chief of the armed forces for no good reason, based on nothing more than mere political disagreement.

The video is full of dishonorable statements from people who should know better. By calling on service members to resist Trump's orders, they are essentially asking military members to make political judgments about which policies to implement—a direct assault on civilian control of the military.

The Democrat congressmen should withdraw the video and apologize. They are undermining the authority of the commander in chief of the armed forces—an authority constitutionally vested in the president.

If anyone is violating their oath to "support and defend the Constitution," it is them. Encouraging military personnel to disregard legitimate presidential authority based on unspecified, partisan grievances doesn't protect the Constitution—it subverts it.

Charles 'Cully' Stimson, Deputy Director, Meese Center, Manager, National Security Law Program, Senior Legal Fellow, Senior Advisor to the President, The Heritage Foundation.

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If You Don't Vote, We Can't Win *Cont.*

(Continued from page 5)

raise local taxes. Well, to make a long story short, our politicians and our courts have been whittling away at these protections and the HJTA would like to shore up and bullet-proof Prop. 13.

This is another instance where we need your help to qualify this measure for the ballot by downloading a petition, signing it, and mailing it right now, today! You can find this petition at the following website: <https://www.hjta.org/saveprop13/>

In conclusion, I recently spoke at a church about **Charlie Kirk** and what his life and death represented about America. In essence, Americans have two birthrights. The first as believers in God, in general, the second as Americans whose founding DNA recognized that our divine rights come from God, not government. The question before those who will not stand up for truth, justice, and the American way as Charlie Kirk did, is why have you sold or squandered your birthright?

If you are interested in hearing more, click below:

Andy Caldwell, Executive Director, COLAB

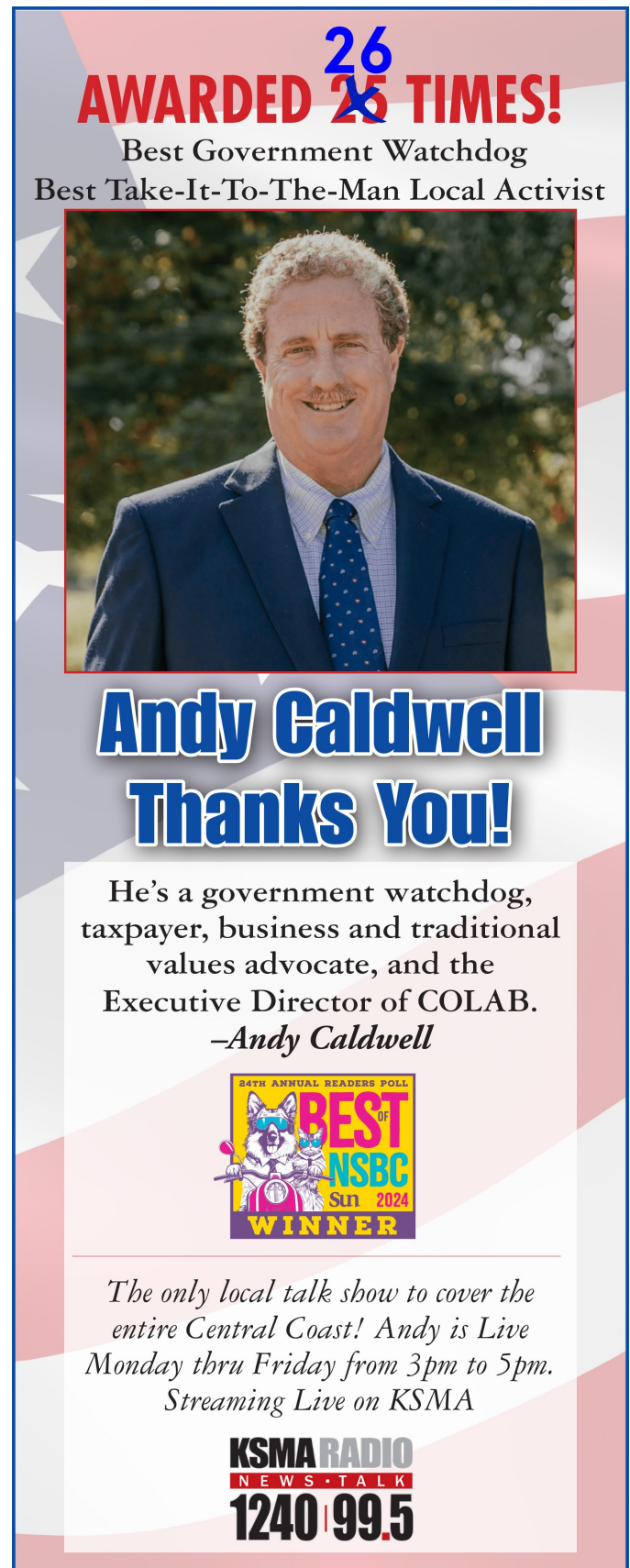


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Family Farms Face Disaster That Leaves Us All Vulnerable *Cont.*

(Continued from page 4)

There are many interesting revelations about our food in Grunwald's book, but those who buy into this new argument (or any reason to keep letting our farms disappear) are missing a key part of the solution: nearly 2 million small family farms we're letting waste away. If we found a way to help farms left barely getting by, sitting dormant, or forced to mainly grow animal feed to instead become entrepreneurial ventures growing more food than ever before, it could revolutionize our food supply.

We're headed for a disaster with too big to fail farms

Some may call me alarmist. But we've already lost 4.5 million farms, more than double what we have left, since the crisis began. And the changes we need to address such a deep issue will take years: harnessing research and development for new solutions, revolutionizing government policy, refocusing our entire food economy, and more. So if we don't start now, everyone who eats in this country (so, everyone) is headed for disaster.

Others may say better utilizing our remaining farms for food won't fix anything, because global hunger far outpaces what we can do on current farmland. But better use of current farms is just part of the solution. Another key solution, marshaling our R&D resources properly, can not only help farms of all sizes innovate,

but also secure new forms of energy.

Regardless, the worst thing we can do is keep letting our farms slip away, and tell ourselves it'll be fine.

There's work to do to convince everyone else of this, and I count myself lucky I don't have to look far to see the truth. My daughter's smile on the farm in the fall is all the reminder I need.

And fortunately, those moments are what Thanksgiving is all about.

Brian Reisinger is an award-winning writer who grew up on a family farm in Sauk County. He contributes columns and videos for the Ideas Lab at the Journal Sentinel, and is the author of "Land Rich, Cash Poor: My Family's Hope and the Untold History of the Disappearing American Farmer," which won Book of the Year from the nonpartisan Farm Foundation

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Stick a Fork in California: Gov. Newsom's Proposed Retroactive Billionaire Tax *Cont.*

(Continued from page 2)

Turley reports on just how bad California is:

"A study of IRS data by the National Taxpayers Union Foundation which found that California is losing a taxpayer roughly every minute, as states like Florida, Texas, and North Carolina attract new residents due to lower taxes and higher standards of living.

In comparison, Florida gains a new taxpayer every 2 minutes and 9 seconds while Texas gains one every 2 minutes and 53 seconds.

The result has been a bonanza for Florida, which is now collecting \$4 billion more per year for its budget.

The states losing taxpayers at the fastest rate are California, New York, and Illinois. Here is the rate of loss:

California: every 1 minute and 44 seconds

New York: every 2 minutes and 23 seconds

Illinois: every 6 minutes and 4 seconds.

Massachusetts: every 11 minutes and 38 seconds

New Jersey: every 14 minutes and 14 seconds.

In 2023, we asked Why Did 352 California Companies Flee to Other States in Three Years? Here's why: Low -to-no income tax states gained \$391 billion from California during 2018 to 2021, coinciding with Gavin Newsom's election as governor.

As Economist Art Laffer and Chapman Economics Professor James Doti correctly said not long ago, Gov. "Newsom doesn't appear to see is the deleterious long-term effects of a highly progressive tax sys-

tem. Case in point: The 'one-percenters' who pay 50% of the tax are voting with their feet by leaving California in droves."

They explained that the ten states with the lowest income taxes including Florida and Texas, gained a cumulative net inflow from all Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) classes of \$391 billion from California during the entire 2018 to 2021 period. Note that 2018 was the final year of Democrat Governor Jerry Brown. Gov. Newsom ran for governor in 2018 and was elected. He took office January of 2019, so the 2019-2021 belongs to Gov. Gavin Newsom.

"The 10 states that ranked the highest in income taxes — California, New York and New Jersey are in this group — lost a cumulative net inflow in AGI of \$391 billion. The fact that the 10 states with the lowest income taxes gained in AGI the same amount as the loss in AGI for the 10 states with the highest income taxes is not a coincidence." ...

Where did these companies go?

Most went to Texas. Here's why:

"Texas offers a combination of unique competitive business advantages that no other state can claim: a business-friendly climate—with no corporate or personal income tax—along with a highly skilled and diverse workforce, easy access to global markets, robust infrastructure and a reasonable regulatory environment," Texas Governor Greg Abbott said when he recently announced that another major California business was moving to Texas. "California-based Ruiz Foods is moving its corporate HQ to Frisco," he said. "With an unrivaled business climate and skilled, diverse workforce, Texas is America's #1 economic destination...."

(Continued on page 19)



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Stick a Fork in California: Gov. Newsom's Proposed Retroactive Billionaire Tax *Cont.*

(Continued from page 18)

Newsom might find that lowering tax rates results in higher rather than lower tax revenues, as the Laffer Curve has shown time and time again.

"The Laffer Curve showcases the intricate relationship between tax rates and government revenue, a concept popularized by economist Arthur Laffer in 1974. This theory posits that both excessively high and low tax rates result in reduced tax revenues, suggesting that tax cuts can potentially enhance revenue collection."

"As drawn, the Laffer Curve shows that at a tax rate of 0%, the government would collect no tax revenue, just as it would collect no tax revenue at a tax rate of 100% because no one would be willing to work for an after-tax wage of zero.

Turley has a new book coming out, *Rage and the Republic: The Unfinished Story of the American Revolution*, in which he explains "there is a common myth that the top five percent of this country do not 'pay their fair share.' However, putting that debate aside, the question is whether it will produce more revenue than it costs the state in the long run. As these politicians campaign on clipping the "fat cats" who are not paying their fair share, many are likely to follow the exodus to lower tax states with greater fiscal discipline."

Turley concludes, "what is clear is that Democratic states are not showing any greater fiscal discipline as they careen toward budget meltdowns."

And to think that Gavin Newsom is running for President on this atrocious record...

Katy Grimes, the Editor in Chief of the California Globe, is a long-time Investigative Journalist covering the California State Capitol, the co-author of California's War Against Donald Trump: Who Wins? Who Loses? and a contributor to "Taxifornia 2016." A California native and Navy mom, Katy lives in Sacramento, CA



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Against All Enemies Foreign And Domestic *Cont.*

(Continued from page 1)

throwback to the 7th Century. That is, their faith was not a radicalized political and military ideology bent on global domination by way of jihad and Sharia law. As Hamas and other groups like them have stated repeatedly, after they get done either subjugating or killing “the Saturday people” (Jews), they are coming after “the Sunday people” (Christendom”).

A Civilization Worth Saving

To not believe them is to *forget* 9/11. Albeit, in Europe and America today, the radicals of Islam are not openly declaring war on the West, instead they have adopted a more subtle approach. Here are two quotes from the Muslim Brotherhood on video, from a foreign publication “The Commune,” that sums up the new approach. “Muslims tried and failed to conquer Europe for 700 years through war. But now there’s a much easier way: we can peacefully infiltrate via immigration.” And, “Allah permits them to live off the infidel while they are *subduing* them.” So, it has sort of a parasitic type of attitude where Muslims can live off the host country where their goal is to eventually *eradicate* the host culture and supplant it with Islam.

While the Left in America condemns our country for “colonialism,” how is it lost on them that both Europe and America are being colonized by Islamists, some of which, are not interested in assimilating into Western civilization at all. Instead, their intention is to invade it to subsume it.

America, including New York City, must protect its civilization and governance by ensuring our citizenship oath and the oath to serve in Government is taken seriously. That is, immigrant believers and adherents to communism, socialism, jihad, Sharia law, as well as any and all foreign allegiances, have no place

in this country. That would apply to both Zohran Mamdani and the likes of **Ilhan Omar**. Omar purportedly said that she was “Somalian first, Muslim second,” and “here to protect the interests of Somalia from inside the U.S. system.”

The Citizenship Oath:

“I hereby declare, on oath, that I absolutely and entirely renounce and abjure all allegiance and fidelity to any foreign prince, potentate, state, or sovereignty, of whom or which I have heretofore been a subject or citizen; that I will support and defend the Constitution and laws of the United States of America against all enemies, foreign and domestic; that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same; and that I take this obligation freely, without any mental reservation or purpose of evasion; so help me God.”

The Oath of Office:

“I do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic; that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same; that I take this obligation freely, without any mental reservation or purpose of evasion; and that I will well and faithfully discharge the duties of the office on which I am about to enter. So help me God.”

If oaths are not enforceable, then they don’t matter, do they? In this day and age, we need them to matter.

While the Left only considers conservatives as their enemy, all of history begs to differ as it relates to the barbarians and their minions at the gate.

Andy Caldwell, Executive Director, COLAB

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