

May  
2026

Santa Barbara County

Volume 14  
Issue 5



The Coalition of Labor, Agriculture & Business

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## **The Sad State Of Gavin Newsom's California**

*By Andy Caldwell*

**H**ave you heard of the bombshell report titled "Gavin Newsom's Empire of Fraud?"

What follows are direct quotes from the introduction to the exposé conducted by the think tank "The Manhattan Institute for Policy Research":

### ***California's Cash Machine***

*The state collects some of the country's highest income, business, and fuel taxes, and now spends more than \$300 billion per year.*

*And yet, everywhere you look, California seems to be falling apart.*

*The roads are crumbling. Mismanaged wildfires have turned neighborhoods into ash. Drug addiction and homelessness have metastasized, turning parts of Los Angeles and San Francisco into no-go zones, and the cost-of-living crisis is pricing middle-class taxpayers out of basic necessities like groceries and gas, even as the state spends billions on welfare programs that never seem to lift anyone out of poverty.*

*Californians are beginning to ask: Where is all this money going?*

*On paper, it funds public services. But beneath the surface, something else is happening: massive, systematic, brazen fraud.*

*We (The Manhattan Institute) conducted interviews with public officials, fraud experts, and political figures, and reviewed hundreds of pages of government reports, state audits, criminal indictments, and other public records on California fraud.*

*Seemingly, every state program has been compromised by criminals.*

*The best estimates suggest that, on the governor's watch, fraudsters, scammers, and organized crime rings have stolen at least \$180 billion from taxpayers.*

### ***Welcome to Gavin Newsom's Empire of Fraud***

*The culture of fraud in California is so pervasive that it has allegedly reached the*

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# Anti-Billionaire ‘OUR REVOLUTION’ Endorses Billionaire Steyer For Gov

By Katy Grimes

## *Will Bernie the millionaire campaign for Steyer the billionaire?*

April 21, 2026 9:24 am By Katy Grimes, California Globe

Anti-billionaire Group “OUR REVOLUTION” has just endorsed Billionaire Tom Steyer for California Governor.

“OUR REVOLUTION” was founded by Bernie Sanders “as an independent organization to take on corporate power, elect progressives, and fight for a government that works for all of us — not the billionaire class” – before Bernie became a millionaire?

Anti-billionaires are supporting billionaires in California?

Our Revolution@OurRevolution

We’ve never endorsed a billionaire — but Tom Steyer is using his position to upset the system.

As Our Revolution executive director Joseph Geevarghese told @theintercept

, “he’s been a partner in the movement. Most billionaires have used their wealth and privilege to lock in the status quo. Tom is doing the opposite.”@TomSteyer

has put his money where his mouth is on climate change — and is running on taxing the wealthy, single-payer healthcare, and getting big money out of politics.

He’s aligned with our mission, working with the grassroots, and has the best shot to stop a Republican from becoming California’s next governor.

The conversation around this race is heating up.

The X post says:

“We’ve never endorsed a billionaire — but Tom Steyer is using his position to upset the system. As Our Revolution executive director Joseph Geevarghese told @theintercept, “he’s been a partner in the movement. Most billionaires have used their wealth and privilege to lock in the status quo. Tom is doing the opposite.” @TomSteyer has put his money where his mouth is on climate change — and is running on taxing the wealthy, single-payer healthcare, and getting big money out of politics. He’s aligned with our mission, working with the grassroots, and has the best

shot to stop a Republican from becoming California’s next governor. The conversation around this race is heating up — read more: <http://tinyurl.com/3szpy7k4>“

The Intercept has the explanation:

OUR REVOLUTION, the progressive group founded by Bernie Sanders as an outgrowth of his 2016 presidential campaign, is endorsing its first billionaire as the race for California governor tightens.

Tom Steyer, a hedge-fund billionaire and philanthropist, won the group’s endorsement on Monday. Our Revolution said its decision to back Steyer was driven in part by the shakeup over Rep. Eric Swalwell’s exit and fear that if progressives fail to consolidate around a candidate, they’ll hand the gubernatorial seat to a Republican.

“While yes, he is a billionaire, and that’s a real and important concern, it’s equally important to recognize how he’s used his wealth and power,” said Our Revolution Executive Director Joseph Geevarghese.

“The worst thing that could happen is a Republican winning,” Geevarghese said. “Strategically, Steyer and his campaign is best positioned to make sure that does not happen.”

*(Continued on page 21)*



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# Government Imposed Political And Economic Self-Immolation

By Andy Caldwell

County Supervisors **Laura Capps**, **Joan Hartmann**, and **Roy Lee** are planning to shut down all oil operations in Santa Barbara County.

Why is this a horrible idea?

The number one reason California residents and businesses are paying upwards of \$2 more per gallon than the rest of the country is because a multitude of CA politicians, including these locals, have declared war on the oil industry which predates the war on Iran. By shutting down oil drilling throughout the state, politicians of the same ilk have created a shortage of oil that can be refined here. That has led to refineries closing one after another. For the record, our state once had over 40 refineries; there are about seven major ones left.

But that doesn't mean we are using less oil and gas. It simply means we are importing oil from various places around the globe, and refined gasoline from India and South Korea.

You read that right.

We aren't just importing oil to our state; we are now shipping gasoline here from these faraway places. Our local supervisors have aligned with the Governor and the state legislature to sabotage our economy while *increasing* emissions via tankering oil and gas from elsewhere rather than producing it here.

How ludicrous is that?

The resulting high fuel prices by importing oil and gasoline from half-way around the world, coupled with refinery closures, means California residents and businesses will soon see prices of \$8 or more per gallon at the pump, according to a study from USC, a study which predates the war with Iran. What's worse – for our business sector and consumer prices – is that diesel costs even more than gasoline.

Diesel is expected to hit \$10 per gallon. This will directly harm farmers, truckers, freight trains, and the construction industry, among others. And it will eventually result in higher prices for consumers, because virtually every product we create and use involves a vehicle fueled by diesel.

However, because no other state has gone this far via the war on fossil fuels, this effort could serve to cripple our economy because our producers will not be able to pass on these higher costs to consumers in a com-

petitive domestic and global marketplace.

Considering the current county budget deficit amounting to tens of millions of dollars, and the county's own reliance on fossil fuels for such things as paving our roads with asphalt, these three supervisors are doing our county much harm. This has to do with the fact that the oil industry has historically paid the highest property taxes to the county. We are talking tens of millions of dollars per year, especially from offshore oil and the associated former Exxon facility (now Sable) on the Gaviota Coast.

Fortunately, President Trump may end up pulling California out of this political and economic self-immolation. It is well known that the President's Executive Order that facilitated Sable's resumption of production could help keep at least one major refinery in business, via the production of some 60,000 barrels of oil per day. However, many people are unaware that Trump could soon sign several more orders affecting the production of onshore oil here in CA.

## The Executive Orders

In an *exclusive* report, **Katy Grimes** of the *California Globe*, reported that "seven draft Executive Orders to address California's war on the oil and gas industry are making their way through Washington, D.C. to President **Donald J. Trump**. The Executive Orders are intended to ensure that the United States has the necessary fuels from California to provide for its national security".

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# The Planet Is Still Doing Great. It's The Climate Cult That's Broken

By Jason Isaac and Steve Milloy

Every April, like clockwork, a predictable ritual unfolds. Earth Day rolls around with the same tired apocalyptic sermon from the climate catastrophe cult.

The routine never changes: The planet is dying, humans are to blame, and only surrendering your freedom, your car, and your paycheck to the green elites will save it. Fifty-six years later, they're still wrong.

The planet is fine. It's the climate cult that's cracked.

You'd think after all the busted prophecies, they'd tone it down. Instead, they double down.

Remember when the "experts" said the Arctic would be ice-free by 2013? The ice is still there, just as thick and stubborn as ever.

We were told hurricanes would grow "more frequent and more powerful." Instead, there were near-normal seasons in 2023 and 2024.

So now they move the goalposts: Every weather event, hot or cold, wet or dry, is "caused by climate change." It's not science. It's superstition plotted on graphs.

They said snow would vanish from ski resorts — remember that "End of Snow" panic? Instead, skiers in the Northeast this year were digging out from record blizzards.

The 2023-2024 warming spike was caused by a natural El Niño. When the El Niño ended, the spike ended. February 2026 was cooler, in fact, than February 1998 despite a trillion tons of emissions.

Time after time, the "experts" predict apocalypse. And year after year, Mother Nature refuses to corroborate their stories.

Meanwhile, the actual data tell a different story. U.S. air quality today is the cleanest it's been in 50 years.

Global deaths from natural disasters have plummeted over 90% since the early 20th century. Crop yields worldwide keep hitting records.

Humans are safer, wealthier, and more energy-secure than at any time in history. The planet isn't gasping for breath — it's very healthy.

That's exactly what George Carlin was getting at in his legendary bit, "The Planet Is Fine." Over three

decades ago, long before "climate anxiety" was a diagnosis, Carlin, perhaps the most famous comedian of his time, saw through the sanctimony.

The planet's been through ice ages, asteroid strikes, and supervolcanoes — and it's still spinning. Yet today's enviroactivists think your SUV is going to do what Mount Tambora couldn't? Please. Their arrogance is nauseating.

The self-appointed saviors of Earth don't really care about the planet. They care about control.

Earth Day has turned into a political holiday — a green May Day for those who want to remake society in their image. Their "solutions" invariably mean more regulation, higher taxes, and fewer choices.

Shut down the power plants, outlaw gas stoves, ban plastic straws while flying private jets to elitist conclaves dressed up as "climate conferences."

It's not about saving Earth. It's about saving face.

When the predictions fail, the excuse shifts. Sea levels were supposed to swallow Manhattan, but the only thing underwater now is former Vice President Al Gore's credibility.

Polar bears were "going extinct" until the population hit record highs. Every "climate emergency" gets de-

*(Continued on page 18)*

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# California Corruption: Ideological And Otherwise

By Andy Caldwell

**D**uring this past Tuesday's County Board of Supervisors' meeting, Supervisor **Laura Capps** (she is now the ideological leader of the county supes), with the support of Supervisors **Lee** and **Hartmann**, approved some very extreme measures that violate our Constitution, at least in spirit, if not literally.

The worst measure approved by these three has do with a bill in the State Legislature, sponsored by Assemblyman **Greg Hart** (AB 2257). I would bet anything that Capps helped spawn the bill that would *allow* counties to appoint "an official" other than our elected Sheriff to operate the county jail system.

Never mind that Sheriff **Bill Brown** has been re-elected some four times and that he is so well-regarded by his peers that he has served as President of the National Association of Sheriffs.

For county government insiders, this is one in a series of moves whereby these power-hungry, vain-glory libs are scheming to eliminate their fellow electeds to consolidate and aggrandize even more power among themselves. The current race for Auditor-Controller (which is in good hands with incumbent **Betsy Schaffer**) is another example whereby they hope to eliminate the independence of the office in favor of a challenger who appears to be willing to eventually hand the reins over to the supervisors.

## Do Away With Fossil Fuel

Back to last week's meeting. A second item on the agenda triggered a study the three supes hope will help them eliminate all oil and gas operations in the county (voters said no to that with the defeat of Measure P) without being sued for a "takings case." That is, the Constitution protects the right to not have your property (mineral rights are considered property rights) taken away without just compensation. These assets are potentially worth billions; good luck with not being sued. Resumed oil production in our county would go a long way to retiring county debt and deficits, but that is not the priority of the shrew who knew too much. Of course, our current gas prices have everything to do with such pompous virtue-signaling throughout this state.

## Punish and Humiliate ICE

A third item was just a little bit nebulous as it was an attempt to basically keep ICE out of the county and more precisely, off county property, to whatever extent practicable, as if the Sovereignty Clause of the Constitution was of no effect by way of county fiat. An

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additional component of this hearing received unanimous support from all five county supervisors having to do with "taking actions to safeguard elections" from ICE, presumably. Do they imagine themselves ordering the arrest of ICE officers if they show up outside a precinct while the majority of voters vote by mail? Who knows, but this too was some great virtue-signaling.

## Fraud Capital of the Nation

All in all, these supervisors have never hearkened to the concept of "staying in their lane." Instead, they sought to sideswipe our sheriff, oil and gas operators, along with mineral rights owners and, of course, our federal government, while failing to ensure public safety by adequately supporting law enforcement, maintaining infrastructure, and honoring the will of voters.

Meanwhile, California has become the fraud capital of the country involving the fraudulent use of taxpayer dollars and an abundance of crooked politicians.

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# Supreme Court Fist Pumps For The First Amendment

By Charles 'Cully' Stimson

Today, the Supreme Court ruled unanimously that First Choice Women's Resource Centers, a religious nonprofit that provides counseling and resources to pregnant women in New Jersey, had established a present injury to its First Amendment associational rights to confer standing to challenge a subpoena from the state to disclose private donor information. First Choice does not provide abortions or refer clients to others for abortions. This ruling is a victory for First Choice and other organizations targeted by the Left.

## How We Got Here

After the U.S. Supreme Court's ruling in *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization*, which overturned *Roe v. Wade*, the newly inaugurated New Jersey attorney general, Matthew Platkin, launched what his state coined as a "reproductive enforcement initiative." This initiative issued a scathing consumer alert, warning about pregnancy centers that deterred women from seeking abortion.

In November 2023, Platkin issued a broad subpoena to First Choice, purportedly based on a patina of authority to protect consumers in New Jersey to "discover" if the clinic had "allegedly deceived donors and potential clients with misleading language on its website." These "misleading claims" allegedly pertained to licensing requirements for health care professionals and "faulty medical advice."

Tellingly, the subpoena not only requested internal communications but also sensitive donor information, which included names, addresses, phone numbers, and employer history.

In December 2023, the Alliance Defending Freedom once more stepped into the breach on behalf of First Choice and challenged the subpoena in the U.S. District Court of New Jersey, arguing that the center's rights to free speech and association had impeded its First Amendment rights to free speech and free association. The trial judge denied the center's request for a temporary restraining order and preliminary injunction on a jurisdictional basis. The judge claimed the claim was not "ripe" for the federal judiciary and, because the alleged harm "rests upon contingent future events," the claim was deemed insufficient for the forum.

In a December 2024 per curiam opinion, The 3rd Circuit also dismissed the center's claim, echoing the lower court's ripeness argument. One month later, Alliance Defending Freedom requested the Supreme



Court have the final word, and by June the petition was granted.

Oral argument was held on Dec. 2, 2025. Alliance Defending Freedom attorney Erin Hawley claimed that the courts below had erred in overlooking the immediate threat posed by the subpoena's chilling effect. Not only was the threat immediate, Hawley argued, but it resulted in tangible harm in the form of litigation costs, potential donor loss, and harassment.

The respondent's position was presented by Sundeep Iyer, arguing on behalf of Platkin, the attorney general of New Jersey.

Iyer told the court that the subpoena has no legal force unless a state court enforces it. Further, Iyer contended that allowing pre-enforcement federal challenges gave the federal government ample opportunity to hamper investigations and would flood federal courts with countless claims.

## Common Sense Prevails

In a unanimous opinion by Justice Neil Gorsuch, the court held that First Choice had established a present injury to its First Amendment associational rights sufficient to confer Article III standing, reversed the judgment of the 3rd Circuit, and remanded the case for further proceedings consistent with their opinion.

In journeyman fashion, the court explained that Article III standing requires three elements (injury-in-fact, causation, and redressability) and noted that this case centered on the "injury-in-fact" element, which requires "an injury that is concrete, particularized, and actual or imminent."

The court held that the subpoena had caused First

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## The No Kings Movement, Then And Now

By Andy Caldwell

The original No Kings movement happened a little over 2,000 years ago when some leaders of a mob shouted to Pontius Pilate, “We Have No King but Caesar!”

Just a few days earlier, a multitude of people had welcomed Jesus as king when he rode into Jerusalem on a donkey colt, not as a conqueror, but as a sacrificial lamb. That day is known as Palm Sunday, the day the multitudes shouted, “Hosanna, Hosanna,” to the Coming King and Savior, as Jesus entered the City of Jerusalem.

And as Jesus approached and saw the city, He wept over it, saying, “If you had known in this day, even you, the things which make for peace. But now they have been hidden from your eyes. For the days shall come upon you when your enemies will throw up a bank before you, and surround you, and hem you in on every side, and will level you to the ground because you did not recognize the time of your visitation.”

Little did anyone know or understand that Jesus didn’t come to Jerusalem to be crowned a king. In fact, the only crown that would be placed upon His head was a crown of thorns.

Subsequently, a few days after Jesus entered the city, the leaders of the mob were shouting for His crucifixion as they also declared, on the day we call Good Friday, “We have no king but Caesar.”

Nonetheless, the King the mob rejected that day was predestined to become the King of Kings and Lord of Lords, the Savior of mankind. Easter Sunday is the celebration of God’s triumph over eternal death, wrought by sin, by way of the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Sin being both the conscious and unconscious rebellion against the sovereignty of God and the rejection of His offer of reconciliation by way of the atoning the death of Jesus.

### America’s Founders Honored Sovereignty of God’s Law

In contrast to today’s No King’s movement, it is obvious that upon our nation’s founding, we had “eyes to see” as our country recognized the day of *our* visitation. A significant number of statements abound with testimony to that end. That is, those who desired self-governance in America nonetheless acknowledged the sovereignty of God’s law and order.



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In **George Washington’s** Inaugural Address in 1789, Washington reiterated the nation’s debt to the sovereignty of God, declaring that “no people can be bound to acknowledge and adore the invisible hand, which conducts the affairs of men more than the people of the United States. Every step by which they have advanced to the character of an independent nation seems to have been distinguished by some token of providential agency.”

**Samuel Adams**, in his 1776 Oration at the State House, states, “We have this day *restored* (emphasis added) the Sovereign to Whom alone Men ought to be obedient. He reigns in Heaven, and with a propitious Eye beholds his Subjects assuming that freedom of thought, and dignity of self-direction, which he bestowed on them. From the rising to the setting Sun, may his Kingdom come.”

**John Adams** wrote, “we have no government armed

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# Studios' Costly Woke Agendas Chase Elusive Prestige, Trophies

By James Hirsen

**I**n the risky business that is Hollywood, where budgets frequently reach nine figures and a film's fate is determined by the willingness of film-goers to part with their dollars, Warner Bros.' "The Bride!" is serving as the perfect cautionary tale on how ill-advised it is to *mix woke politics with general entertainment fare*.

Written and directed by actress-filmmaker Maggie Gyllenhaal, a movie that's supposed to reimagine the "Bride of Frankenstein" film has only managed to scrape together a minuscule \$7 million domestically during its recent debut weekend.

Because it has a humongous \$90 million production budget hanging over it, the project is on track to lose north of \$100 million, once marketing and distribution are factored in.

This was no misfire, but rather a full-blown box-office disaster, joining the ranks of other infamous flops that have hemorrhaged cash while favoring cultural relevance over entertainment.

But why did this star-studded vehicle, which features an Academy Award winner and two Oscar nominees, fail so spectacularly?

The answer lies in the film's heavy-handed injection of a political agenda, which transforms what could have been a respectable remake of a horror classic into a hack D-level flick.

Gyllenhaal's film relocates the story to 1930s Chicago, where a girl, who gets possessed by the spirit of Mary Shelley dies, is resurrected, and ultimately becomes the monster bride of Frankenstein.

This bride isn't just brought back from the dead, she's brought to life to rage against patriarchal oppression.

She does so with awkward homages to modern gender politics, which has the feel of having been shoe-

horned into the dialogue.

The script relies on graphic depictions of gratuitous violence.

Men are consistently characterized as evil, and the plot eventually devolves into a contrived revenge fantasy.

Shelley's "Frankenstein" novel, published in 1818, is among the most well-known works of English literature.

Over the years it has had a significant impact on literature and popular culture, spawning its own genre consisting of stories, films, television content, plays, and even music.

The original tale is one of a mad doctor and his experiment gone wrong, with Shelley delving into thought-provoking themes such as the scope of scientific ethics, the nature of monstrosity, and most importantly, the consequences of playing God.

The lessons of Shelley's parable are essentially ignored in the Gyllenhaal version.

Subtlety is abandoned and the movie quickly degenerates into a lengthy diatribe, with multiple scenes being devoted to chastising the viewing audience.

Folks are not inclined to spend their time and/or money on a film that feels as if they've been corralled into participating in a feminist studies seminar.

Entertainment, yes. Escapism, yes. Sanctimony, a definite no.

"The Bride!" is no isolated agenda-ridden film.

It's the latest in a string of politically charged missteps that have alienated mainstream viewers and consequently tanked at the box office.

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## Media Knew About Swalwell For Over A Decade

By Daniel Greenfield

**T**hey sat on the story for 13 years until it was politically convenient.

“More than half a dozen interviewees independently named one California congressman for pursuing female staffers.” CNN dropped that blind item into its story on sexual harassment in Congress in 2017 as part of its #MeToo coverage and then did nothing with it for 9 years.

Nearly a decade after CNN had the story and sat on it, explaining at the time that it would not name the congressman because “the stories are unverified”, CNN took credit for its “investigative journalism”. CNN’s Brian Stelter told CNN that the rumors had been “circulating for weeks” about Swalwell until CNN published them. He was only off by almost a decade.

In 2020, CNN had time to train its “investigative journalism” on President Trump’s ability to climb stairs and drink water from a glass. “During the same event, the awkward way Trump sipped water from a glass also raised questions. Trump appeared to have difficulty lifting his right arm to his mouth, so he used his left hand to push the bottom of the glass higher.”

That same year, Rep. Eric Swalwell, a politician CNN knew had been accused of sexual harassment, ran for president. CNN made no mention of the fact, instead issuing a virtual press release which quoted Swalwell’s appearance on Stephen Colbert’s friendly late show.

Had “more than half a dozen women” accused Donald Trump of anything, CNN would have had them on within 5 minutes and the story would have been national news for the next two years.

If the stories were “unverified”, CNN wouldn’t have cared. This is the same news network that ran not only “unverified”, but completely false stories that Trump had a secret channel into a Russian bank, that Russian prostitutes had been sent to his hotel room, that there was a tape of them urinating on a bed, that Russia has been blackmailing Trump, and, of course, that Trump had trouble drinking water out of a glass. CNN chose not to verify the story because then the news network would have had to run the story and take down Swalwell. And it didn’t want to.



“Eric Swalwell ending his bid for California governor is, among other things, a testament to the power of investigative reporting,” Stelter claimed. CNN didn’t activate its famed “investigate reporting” on any of Swalwell’s next three congressional races or the time he ran for president.

There’s an unintentional admission here. CNN chose to stop Swalwell when he ran for governor against more ‘progressive’ candidates. Had Swalwell stayed in his lane, running against Republicans, he could have sexually harassed and/or raped as many staffers as he liked.

The only time CNN will try to take down a sex predator from their party is when there’s a political reason for doing so. That’s not “investigative journalism”: it’s opposition research on behalf of progressive candidates and causes, and that is most of what the media does nowadays.

How far back did the media know about Swalwell? Steven Tavares of the East Bay Insider tweeted that, “I’ve covered Eric Swawell since he was a member of the Dublin City Council. Shortly after being elected to Congress in 2013, his behavior towards women was known by all levels of our local government and the Alameda County Democratic Party.”

And for 13 years, no one said a word.

“This Swalwell situation was... shall we say widely

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# AI, Aata-centers, Ignorant Politicians: The Coming Electricity Crisis!

By Ronald Stein P.E., Olivia Vaughan and Steve Curtis

**A Trillion-Dollar Contradiction: A Picture Paints a Thousand Words:** Electricity is becoming the most valuable commodity on earth. The AI revolution will drive demand to levels that intermittent power from breezes and sunshine cannot meet. The data center boom has already forced the world's most sophisticated technology companies to sign long-term nuclear power supply agreements, restart dormant reactors, and fund advanced reactor development.

The picture that paints a thousand words is a chart of **Electricity production by source, World** that should settle the electricity debate once and for all. The chart shows an increasing reliance on coal and natural gas-generated electricity over the last 30 years, i.e., fossil fuels, and highlights the challenges in transitioning to non-fossil fuel electricity sources.

For thirty years, the world has poured trillions of dollars into more than 350,000 wind turbines, millions of solar panels, other so-called "renewable" electricity systems, and the support structures to run them (that is trillions with a "T").

The result after three decades and trillions of dollars? The share from nuclear for emission-free, continuous, and uninterruptable electricity has narrowed.

This is not a scientific mystery. It is a political one. And it raises an uncomfortable question that politicians in every wealthy nation have been dodging for years: *if you truly believe that carbon dioxide emissions are cooking the planet, why have you spent three decades systematically blocking the one proven source of electricity that is both emission-free and always on?*

"Renewable" electricity is only intermittent electricity generated from unreliable breezes and sunshine. It has, in turn, been supported by substantial expansion in coal and natural gas to support the variability of the technology, which requires 100% back up all the time.

Wind turbines and solar panels cannot manufacture any of the more than 6,000 products and transportation fuels for the eight billion people on this planet, and they certainly cannot power a civilization that is about to demand dramatically more electricity, not less.

So, while trillions of dollars have been poured into a clean electricity transition, the real elephant in the room is where has all the money gone? Certainly not



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alleviating the cost of living in the developed or the developing world. And certainly not into substantial material success in achieving electricity security.

**The Coming Electricity Crisis:** The demand surge is no longer theoretical. Data centers and artificial intelligence systems consumed an estimated 2% of global electricity in 2022. The combined electricity consumption of just four companies, Amazon, Microsoft, Google, and Meta, more than doubled between 2017 and 2021, reaching roughly 72 terawatt-hours.

**The electricity demand increase is clear:**

- *Morgan Stanley* estimates that AI is driving a global electricity demand surge set to rise by more than one trillion kilowatt-hours per year globally through 2030, with AI set to make up nearly one-fifth of demand.
- *Goldman Sachs* projects that data center electricity demand could rise by 165% by 2030.
- *Deloitte* forecasts U.S. data center power capacity tripling from 4 gigawatts in 2024 to 123 gigawatts by 2035.

*McKinsey* reports that electricity demand from data centers is expected to rise significantly, accounting for more than 10 percent of total US power demand by 2030.

**The Political Blind Spot on Nuclear:** French President Emmanuel Macron said in his keynote speech at the World Nuclear Energy summit in Paris in March this year that France offers the clearest answer. It is the world's largest net exporter of clean electricity, generating over €3 billion annually from exporting surplus low-carbon, nuclear-powered elec-

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## AI, Aata-centers, Ignorant Politicians: The Coming Electricity Crisis! Cont.

tricity to its neighbors. France gets roughly 70% of its electricity from nuclear power. The lights stay on. The emissions stay low. Bills for electricity remain manageable.

In France, last year, they exported 90 terawatt-hours of decarbonized electricity. Thanks to their nuclear plants, they have the ability to □ open data centers, to build computing capacity, and to be at the heart of □ the artificial intelligence challenge.

**Preaching Zero-Emissions, Blocking Zero-Emissions Power:** The contradiction at the heart of modern energy policy is this: politicians who loudly demand zero-emissions electricity have, in practice, enacted the policies most hostile to the one source that reliably delivers it.

California is the most dramatic example. The state has ambitious zero-emissions electricity targets. It has also opposed natural gas plants, coal plants, and nuclear plants. Essentially every form of continuous, dispatchable electricity generation. It sends large delegations to COP climate conferences while depending on neighboring states to keep its grid stable. The state is becoming a national security risk for the entire country.

'Net zero' leaders in California have even pushed to shutter the state's last remaining zero-emissions electricity-generating plant, a nuclear facility at Diablo Canyon, while simultaneously lamenting the absence of clean power on the grid. The green line for nuclear power in the Energy Institute's global chart didn't expand because political leaders never supported electricity wisdom conversations. The political narrative moved from nuclear to wind and solar, and thirty years of investment followed the consensus narrative rather than the physics.

Electricity is a service, not merely a product. It must be available on demand 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, at the correct frequency, voltage, phase, and current. This is the physical reality governed by the laws of thermodynamics and electromagnetism. Supply and demand must balance instantaneously, or the grid collapses.

**What the AI Boom Demands:** Intermittent electricity from breezes and sunshine does not meet the specification for the 99,999% uptime requirements needed for the technological future. These are not ideological decisions. They are engineering decisions. Speed, reliability, and 24/7 availability are what data centers require. Nuclear power is fundamental to a secure electricity future. It is by far the best electricity choice. The biggest obstacle is government.

China appears to have understood the need for continuous and uninterruptible electricity. It is forecast to become the world's largest nuclear power market. China's HTR-PM, the world's first commercially operating small modular reactor (SMR), has been generating electricity at Shidaowan in Shandong Province since December 2023, having passed world-first inherent safety demonstrations that confirmed the reactor can cool itself passively with no human intervention and no emergency systems.

The small modular reactor (SMR) project was led by Tsinghua University's Institute of Nuclear and New Energy Technology, drawing on decades of pebble bed research that included a formal cooperation agreement with South Africa's PBMR programme, a reminder that nuclear knowledge is cumulative, international, and hard-won.

While Western politicians debate whether to permit new reactors, China is already operating them. Just like Japan did when we invented transistors, China will take our invention and make it work, both practically and economically.

**The Questions Politicians Cannot Answer:** History tells us political leaders will continue to cling to the political safety of climate-framing while avoiding electricity-reality conversations. But the AI and data center boom is making that avoidance untenable.

The question is whether government policies will catch up, or whether politicians will continue preaching zero-emissions while blocking the only power source that reliably delivers. Continuous power is needed; politicians who have stymied nuclear-

*(Continued on page 12)*



Howard Jarvis  
Taxpayers Association  
— established in 1978 —

## AI, Aata-centers, Ignorant Politicians: The Coming Electricity Crisis! *Cont.*

*(Continued from page 11)*

generated electricity will have to provide the answer as to where the electricity will come from.

### Basic “electricity wisdom” questions that demand straight answers from politicians:

- If you support zero-emissions electricity, why have government policies spent three decades blocking nuclear energy, the only proven emissions-free source of continuous, uninterruptable power?
- With data centers requiring electricity that is always on, which generating source do you support: coal, natural gas, or nuclear? And if nuclear, what specific regulatory and policy changes will you make to enable it?

With electricity demand set to rise by more than 40% over the next decade, and with AI and data centers accounting for a growing share of that demand, where specifically will the electricity come from, and who pays when it is not there?

These are not gotcha questions. They are the most consequential electricity infrastructure questions of the next century. The bidding war for electricity between data centers and ordinary households, hospitals, schools, businesses, and families is already beginning. Without a competing supply of continuous power, there will be no good outcome for either side. So we all need to ask these questions of the leaders we elected, over and over again.

**Time for Electricity Wisdom:** America has a track record of nearly 70 years of nuclear power plant operation without injuries — alongside more than 70 years of nuclear Navy reactor operations for ALL their submarines and ALL their aircraft carriers without a single nuclear-related casualty. For more than seven decades, nuclear power has proven to be the safest, most compact, emissions-free, and most cost-effective way to produce continuous, uninterruptable, and dispatchable electricity.

Physics has not changed. The safety record has not changed. Technology is established. What has changed is the political willingness to talk about it honestly.

Electricity is becoming the most valuable commodity on earth. The AI revolution will drive demand to levels that intermittent power from breezes and sunshine

cannot meet. The world market is voting for continuous, uninterruptable, and zero-emissions electricity from nuclear.

It is time for electricity wisdom to replace electricity theatrics. NOW is the time to start building nuclear power for the continuous, emission-free, uninterruptable electricity that civilization requires.

*Ronald Stein, Pulitzer Prize nominated author, Policy advisor for The Heartland Institute on Energy and author of "Clean Energy Exploitations"*

## Media Knew About Swalwell For Over A Decade *Cont.*

*(Continued from page 9)*

rumored,” Bloomberg columnist Matthew Yglesias tweeted. There was just no reason to turn those rumors into an actual news story.

Until now.

The media knew about Swalwell. Its ‘journalists’ can’t stop bragging about how they were in the know, while also explaining that they couldn’t run the story because their journalistic integrity prevented them from running an “unverified story” (and a story can’t possibly be verified unless you try to verify it), because “it wasn’t my beat”, because the “women wouldn’t talk” and other excuses none of which would have been an obstacle had Swalwell’s last name been Trump.

That may retroactively explain a strange gambit from Swalwell’s original congressional race in 2012 to unseat former Rep. Pete Stark. Stark took to repeatedly accusing Swalwell of being a ‘secret Tea Party Republican’. The absurd accusation made no sense, but Stark may have gone with it anyway because he knew there was no other way the media would report on Swalwell.

It didn’t work.

*(Continued on page 13)*

## Media Knew About Swalwell For Over A Decade *Cont.*

*(Continued from page 12)*

The media sat on the story for 13 years. If you believe its reporting about Swalwell now, then it knew that women were being sexually harassed and possibly assaulted and did nothing until Swalwell finally ran against a candidate more liberal than him. But then again why be surprised?

The same media that sat on Swalwell's sexual abuses for 13 years, also covered up Bill Clinton's sexual abuses and Hillary Clinton's complicity in those abuses. Long before that, they covered up JFK and MLK's sex scandals. And they spent four years pretending that Joe Biden was "sharp as a tack" and that his growing senility was "misinformation" and "deep fakes" until, just as with Swalwell, they got the green light to finally reveal what everyone already knew.

All the while pretending that they were breaking new ground rather than politically pivoting.

Not long ago, the media marked Jimmy Carter's death by insisting that one of the most corrupt presidents whose involvement in everything from bribes to a Pakistani bank linked to drugs and terrorism to covering up sexual harassment at Habitat for Humanity, was "scandal free".

There's no point in being outraged by any of this. The media's political slippery slope long ago led it from bias to complicity to its transformation into a pure political operation. One would no more expect CNN to break a damaging story about Rep. Swalwell or any Democrat without a political reason than one would expect the DNC or House Democrats to put it in a press release.

The media is the communications arm of a radical leftist movement. It has no allegiance to any principle, ethic or moral beyond its supreme allegiance to

advancing the leftist cause.

The moment Rep. Swalwell challenged former Rep. Katie Porter, a truer 'progressive', and Tom Steyer, he was on dangerous territory, and when he not only began out-polling them, but appeared to be an inevitable winner, then the time came to bring down the axe. Democrats were worried about too many candidates crowding the race and allowing a Republican to emerge.

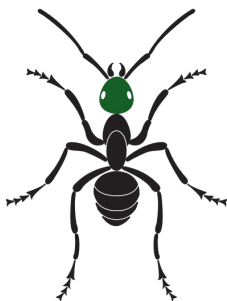
Some heads had to roll. And between the Porter campaign, which was surely aware of Swalwell's antics on the Hill, and CNN, which had sat on the sexual harassment story for 9 years, the time came to dig into the vaults and take down Swalwell for purely political reasons.

No one cared about the women or any of the victims: real or imagined. Their outrage over Swalwell is as fake as their previous outrage over movements members like Jeffrey Epstein and Cesar Chavez whose crimes they had helped cover up until the time arrived to uncover them.

Why didn't any of those women come forward before? Maybe it's because they knew they would be treated like Bill Clinton's accusers, Al Franken's accusers or Joe Biden's accusers were.

Every good Democrats knows there's a right time to accuse someone on your side of sexual harassment. The wrong time is when he's running against a Republican and the right time is when he's running against another Democrat.

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



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## Studios' Costly Woke Agendas Chase Elusive Prestige, Trophies *Cont.*

*(Continued from page 8)*

Disney's "Star Wars" sequels stand as the granddaddy of such disasters, illustrating how sermonizing over storytelling swiftly alienates audiences, leading to both losses in revenue and long-term damage to brands.

The "Star Wars" sequels feature content in which diversity and girlboss tropes overshadow coherent plots. They, along with Marvel's recent offerings, favor identity politics to a such a degree that a billion-dollar franchise has now become damaged goods.

Disney has responded by scrapping projects, canceling trilogies, and shifting its focus to television. And although CEO Bob Iger cited over-saturation and fatigue as possible causes, everyone pretty much knows that this is code for audience rejection of the agenda-driven direction.

Last year's "Joker: Folie a Deux" from Warner Bros., which is a bizarre big-budget courtroom musical, resulted in a \$200 million loss for the studio, which prompted entertainment execs to rethink high-stakes experiments.

It's a truism that the box office doesn't lie.

Woke content just can't fill seats when so many in the audience feel as if they are being lectured instead of entertained.

Hollywood's lesson here is crystal clear and long overdue: Forcing political agendas into movie and television fare is destined to result in failure.

Studios that have insisted on pouring fortunes into woke projects have been placing their bets on prestige while chasing golden trophies. Unfortunately, far too many times they've ended up with neither.

The cardinal rule is "First Entertain!"

Without this priority brands will continue to be tarnished and shelves will remain empty.

Hollywood knows better.

So does the patient public.

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

## The No Kings Movement, Then And Now *Cont.*

*(Continued from page 7)*

with power capable of contending with human passions unbridled by morality and religion. Avarice, ambition, revenge, or gallantry, would break the strongest cords of our Constitution as a whale goes through a net. Our Constitution was made only for a moral and religious people. It is wholly inadequate to the government of any other."

If one were to take a close look at the political and social priorities of today's version of the No King's movement, it would be hard to ignore the same as nothing less than an obscene admission of our nation's great spiritual and political declension from the time of our founding.

### There Is Only One King

For instance, as reported by MSN, while the movement claims the protests, some of which turned violent, had to do with rejecting "authoritarianism", protestors in several cities carried flags with red hammer and sickle symbols while chanting "there is only one solution, communist revolution." It is no surprise, therefore, that both the Communist Party USA and the Democratic Socialists of America sit among the coalition's official partners. Communists (which is officially a god-less political movement) too, have no king but Ceasar.

Ironic, isn't it, that when Pontius Pilate asked the mob if they wanted to see Jesus pardoned for the "crime" of declaring Himself the Son of God and the King of the Jews, the mob instead asked that a man named **Barrabas** be pardoned. Barrabas had committed murder while engaging in an insurrection against Rome.

In conclusion, I have a King, but his name isn't **Donald Trump**. What about you?

Happy Easter.

*Andy Caldwell, Executive Director, COLAB*

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## Supreme Court Fist Pumps For The First Amendment *Cont.*

(Continued from page 6)

Choice to suffer “an ongoing injury to its First Amendment rights.”

Citing *NAACP v. Alabama ex rel. Patterson*, the court noted that it has long held that “compelled disclosure of affiliation with groups engaged in advocacy many constitute as effective a restraint on freedom of association.” That 1958 case involved the then-attorney general of Alabama’s attempts to force the NAACP into giving the AG its records and papers containing the names and addresses of all Alabama members and agents of the NAACP.

The Supreme Court ruled unanimously that “immunity from state scrutiny of [NAACP] membership lists is here so related to the right of [NAACP’s] members to pursue their lawful private interests privately and to associate freely with other in doing so as to come within the protection of the Fourteenth Amendment.”

Here, the court batted away New Jersey’s justification for the subpoena easily, noting that it didn’t matter if the subpoenas were not “self-executing, nor did it matter that they allowed First Choice to solicit funds through one specific website without disclosing the identities of those who donated through that website, and it didn’t matter that the AG promised to keep confidential the documents produced by First Choice.

Citing *Shelton v. Tucker*, the court noted that “demands for private donor information burden First Amendment rights ‘even if there is no disclosure to the general public.’”

The fact that this holding was unanimous and there were no concurrences evinces how emphatic the court is in protecting associational rights under the First Amendment. This holding is a victory for the First Amendment and a slap at any government actor who attempts to disgorge private donor information from lawful organizations under the fig leaf of “consumer protection” or any other guise of “transparency.”

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

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## California Corruption: Ideological And Otherwise *Cont.*

(Continued from page 5)

For instance, allegedly fraudulent hospice centers in Los Angeles alone, are suspected of racking up some \$5 billion in phony charges for fake clients.

And over the least 10 years, nearly 600 public officials in California have been convicted, not merely charged, but convicted on federal corruption charges, according to Justice Department reports. That total exceeds the number of cases in states better known for public corruption, including New York, New Jersey, and Illinois.

### How California Became Ripe for Fraud and Corruption

The super-majority of our state legislature and our state's executive officers including the Governor and the Attorney General are all democrats. In a one-party state, you can bet the party in charge is not going to investigate, expose, or prosecute its own members.

For example, Attorney General **Rob Bonta** is supposed to be our state's top cop, so to speak. Yet, it was the federal Department of Justice that prosecuted the nearly 600 dirty politicians in our state; AG Bonta was too busy suing the Trump administration for political purposes.

Moreover, when citizen journalist **Nick Shirley** exposed the L.A. hospice fraud, just as he exposed the Somali fraud in Minnesota, what did Bonta do? He had his wife – a state legislator – introduce a bill (AB 2624), dubbed by realists "The Stop Nick Shirley Act," to make fraud investigations by journalists a crime.

That was some serious pillow talk going on right there.

That's right. Obviously, the Dems in Sacramento don't care about stopping fraud, but they do care about stopping fraud investigations. This wouldn't be the first time, a la the prosecution of the journalists who exposed **Planned Parenthood** for selling baby parts obtained from abortions.

As **Daniel Greenfield** put it, "AB 2624 is a Swiss army knife kit for protecting fraud. You've got to give the one-party dictatorship in California credit for its ability and willingness to build elaborate walls around its corruption."

Or, as **Katie Grimes** put it, "one party rule always devolves into a type of totalitarian rule whereby dissent and even exposure becomes a crime."

*Andy Caldwell, Executive Director, COLAB*

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

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

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

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## The Planet Is Still Doing Great. It's The Climate Cult That's Broken *Cont.*

*(Continued from page 4)*

bunked, but the headlines roll on because fear sells.

Carlin joked that people crave bad news. The legacy media just industrialized it.

And the public is getting wise. Net-zero mandates are collapsing under their own absurdity.

Europe ran headfirst into the wall of "green reality" and came crawling back to coal and nuclear. Even California's self-inflicted energy shortages have people asking whether energy policy should be based on cockamamie models or common sense.

The answer should be obvious: If your plan can't keep the lights on, it's not saving the planet — it's sabotaging it.

"Follow the science" is their mantra. Fine. The science says carbon dioxide is plant food.

The science says climate models have blown past reality for decades. The science says mankind thrives in warmer eras.

None of this fits the narrative, so it gets buried under the next climate scare of the month. The apocalypse never arrives — but the grant money does.

Here's the part Earth Day activists really hate: The planet isn't fragile — we are.

Nature doesn't need our policies, our pledges, or our petitions. It will outlast every last panel discussion in Davos, Switzerland.

So instead of groveling over our collective "climate guilt," maybe they should celebrate what we've actually accomplished: clean air, longer lives, record food production, and energy that works at the flick of a switch.

The planet doesn't care about your compost bin or your latest electric car mandate. It's been around for 4.5 billion years, and cooling for the last 485 million years, and it will still be here when the last climate model is rotting on an obsolete hard drive.

It's humans who need perspective. As Carlin famously said, "The planet is doing great." The hysterical people who keep screaming that it isn't are the problem.

*Jason Isaac, founder and CEO of the American Energy Institute, previously served four terms in the Texas House of Representatives. Steve Milloy is a senior legal fellow with the Energy and Environmental Legal Institute and is on X at @JunkScience.*

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## Government Imposed Political And Economic Self-Immolation *Cont.*

(Continued from page 3)

These orders include the first one that helped Sable restart.

Order #2 would rescind the California blend which would allow us to import gasoline from other states rather than half-way around the world.

Order #3 would remove and revoke state and local control and development restrictions on both offshore and onshore in-state crude oil and gas proven and potential reserves and existing crude oil production assets (such as platforms) and drilling restrictions to immediately increase oil production, by any means necessary, including here on the Central Coast.

Order #4 would vest all control and management of California crude oil and gasoline pipelines under the auspices and direction of the Department of Energy and other designated Federal agencies.

Order #5 would direct all California refineries to increase jet and diesel fuel production and encourage importation of U.S. refined gasoline products from Gulf of America refineries.

Order #6 would direct the Secretary of Energy to immediately enter into a lease and operating agreement with Valero for the reanimation of the Benecia refinery complex for a guaranteed period of seven years. The agreement would provide for the U.S. government to procure 100% of Valero Benecia refinery production primarily for military uses.

Order #7 would direct the Secretary of Energy, or his delegate, to create an operational and organizational structure for the deployment, oversight, and coordination of the Executive Orders in California and the state's energy strategies for a period of seven years.

### In Conclusion


California has shut down most in-state oil production, which has already led to refinery closures, although we are still consuming over one billion gallons of gasoline per month. Experts are sounding the alarm, sans the intervention of the Trump administration, having to do with the fact that we will soon be incapable of serving the fuel demands of our military and civilian airports, our international ports, along with the farming, construction and transportation sectors of our economy, let alone your average consumer.

This is what we get for electing fact-challenged zealots to office rather than informed public servants.

*Andy Caldwell, Executive Director, COLAB*


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## The Sad State Of Gavin Newsom's California *Cont.*

(Continued from page 1)

governor's own former chief of staff Dana Williamson who has been charged with fraud for allegedly "siphoning campaign and COVID-19 recovery funds into her and an associate's pockets." Two other "well-connected aides were also charged" and struck plea deals that reportedly confirmed the scheme's existence.

### Many Opportunities to Cheat & Steal from Taxpayers

That was merely the introduction of the report! In summary, the report indicates that some of the worst fraud occurred during Covid, when the state handed out tens of billions of dollars without bothering to implement basic fraud controls. In fact, the state suspended all the rules it had in place before the epidemic hit. That is to say, the investigators believed the state opened the door to massive fraud *intentionally*. Criminals here and abroad had a field day including a gang from Romania, a California neo-Nazi gang known as the SFV Peckerwoods, the former leader of the Aryan Brotherhood, and some 133 inmates on death row. All in all, some \$20 billion was paid out in fraudulent claims during the pandemic and an estimated \$55 billion in improper payments!

Other opportunities for waste, fraud and abuse

abounded.

While under Newsom's watch, Medi-Cal spending more than doubled while our population slightly declined. One couple, all by themselves, defrauded taxpayers of more than \$178 million.

In-Home Support Services, a Medi-Cal program, pays caregivers to care for people who might otherwise have to be institutionalized. Former Governor **Arnold Schwarzenegger** estimated the fraud in this program to be as high as 25%. The program, which is now spending some \$33 billion per year, had increased some 170% and is responsible for 41% of "job gains" during the Newsom administration, even though most of the people getting paid – some 70% – are caring for their own family members. Yet the program's protocols explicitly prohibit random unannounced home visits that would serve to uncover potential fraud.

State experts believe that Medi-Cal has wasted upwards of \$146 billion in taxpayer funds under Newsom's watch.

Then, we have the various welfare programs including some \$24 billion spent on homeless projects. Federal prosecutor **Bill Essayli** has brought charges against several individuals accused of bilking the system of

(Continued on page 21)

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## Anti-Billionaire ‘OUR REVOLUTION’ Endorses Billionaire Steyer For Gov *Cont.*

*(Continued from page 2)*

Geevarghese said that Steyer aggressively sought Our Revolution’s endorsement throughout the race.

The big question is will Bernie the millionaire campaign for Steyer the billionaire?

Not if Sanders truly believes the goals of Our Revolution:

1. **Get Oligarch Money out of Politics** and eliminate in the influence of corporations, billionaires and consultants in our political process

**Fight the Oligarch Agenda** from Capitol Hill to City Halls, and fight FOR an agenda that delivers for poor and working people

Isn’t Tom Steyer a billionaire oligarch? His commercials certainly depict him as one.

Never say never: “We stand a risk of giving California to the Republicans. And that would be the worst outcome possible,” Geevarghese said. “Democrats could do themselves in here and be their worst enemy.”

*Katy Grimes, the Editor in Chief of the California Globe, is a long-time Investigative Journalist covering the California State Capitol, the co-author*

## The Sad State Of Gavin Newsom’s California *Cont.*

*(Continued from page 20)*

tens of millions of dollars.

The report rightly observes that the pattern of waste, fraud, and abuse in CA is not one of isolated breakdowns in oversight but of a vast system that almost seems to invite fraud. As one Assemblyman put it, “Sacramento is pervaded by a culture of corruption” and Newsom helped create it.

### In Conclusion

One must ask what happened to institutional safeguards, including the office of our State Attorney General **Rob Bonta**, our state’s “top cop?” As it turns out, Bonta, by way of Newsom’s direction, has been ignoring crime in our state altogether because he would rather be suing the Trump administration nonstop. According to CA.gov, in just over six months, Attorney General Bonta has filed 37 lawsuits, leading or co-leading 23 of them, and separately filed more than 40 amicus briefs in support of other litigation against the Trump Administration. Such is life in our one-party banana republic, overly and overtly ripe with waste, fraud, abuse, and misfeasance.

Andy Caldwell, Executive Director, COLAB



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