



COLAB SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY

WEEK OF JANUARY 1 - 7, 2017



COLAB
San Luis Obispo County

8th
ANNUAL



DINNER & FUNDRAISER

SAVE THE DATE

Thursday, March 30th

Alex Madonna Expo Center

details coming soon...

**How The New Board
Can Reform
San Luis Obispo County**

COLAB San Luis Obispo County
805-548-0340 colabslo@gmail.com

THIS WEEK

**BOS MEETING Of JANUARY 3, 2017
CEREMONIAL AT 11:55 AM
(REAL ACTION STARTS ON JANUARY 10, 2017)**

**SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY COUNCIL OF
GOVERNMENTS (SLOCOG) JAN. 4, 2017
(MEETING APPEARS TO BE ORGANIZATIONAL – NO REAL POLICY)
*BUT THEY BRAG HOW THEY CAMPAIGNED FOR THE MEASURE J TAX***

LAST WEEK

**WINTER RECESS – NO BOS MEETING & OTHER
AGENCIES DORMANT**

SLO COLAB IN DEPTH

(SEE PAGE 4)

**TRUMP, MERLE HAGGARD, AND PROMISES, WHICH
MUST BE KEPT**

By Michael F Brown

**UNAFFORDABLE CALIFORNIA – IT DOESN'T
HAVE TO BE THIS WAY - DEC. 2016 UPDATE
(CALIFORNIA - THE WORST TAX AND REGULATORY STATE)**

BY RICHARD RIDER

THIS WEEK'S HIGHLIGHTS

Board of Supervisors Special Meeting of Tuesday, January 3, 2017 - 11:55 AM (Scheduled)

This is a special meeting for the swearing in of Supervisors Arnold, Hill, and Peschong. No regular business is anticipated.

Date and Time of Special Meeting:	January 3, 2017 at 11:55 a.m.
Place of Special Meeting:	Board of Supervisors Chambers, 1055 Monterey Street San Luis Obispo, CA 93408
Business to be considered:	See agenda below.

AGENDA

FLAG SALUTE

SWEARING-IN-CEREMONY
Swearing in of elected and re-elected County Officials

ADJOURNMENT

The real action will commence on Tuesday, January 10, 2017, when the Board will elect a Chair and Vice-Chair. It will make critical committee and commission assignments, including appointing 2 representatives to the Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO), one representative to the California State Association of Counties (CSAC), two representatives to the Economic Vitality Corporation (EVC), and others.

San Luis Obispo Council of Governments (SLOCOG) Meeting of Wednesday, January 4, 2016 (Scheduled) – Regional Transit Authority meets 1st so it's hard to know when SLOCOG will actually start. – (9:00 AM to be safe)

The meeting appears to be largely organizational, focusing on farewells to departing members as well as making committee assignments for 2017; however and as noted below there is an inadvertent disclosure.

Item C-1: Approval of the Annual Video Report. The item is placed on the agenda to secure the approval of a video that apparently details SLOCOG's activities and accomplishments for last year. A link to the video didn't seem to be provided. Instead there was a link to a prior staff report detailing the activities in a prior Board letter. One of the paragraphs below is a good example of how the SLOCOG staff unabashedly championed the Measure J ½ cent sales tax increase.

3. Continue to enhance the visibility and awareness of SLOCOG (very good progress): • Undertaken extensive public outreach in consideration of Self Help: meeting with over 80 organizations including over 1,000 participants, including council, and advisory meetings,

stakeholder groups, service organizations, and public interest groups; meetings with another 70 groups is scheduled since June.

COLAB NOTE: Does this mean they visited over 150 groups?

- *Enhanced speaker engagements countywide at council meetings, media, service organizations, and public interest groups; and improved contacts with media outlets.*
- *Consistent, graphically friendly supporting materials geared to audiences.*

COLAB NOTE: Here they admit they violated the prohibition on using staff and public funds to support the Measure. What else would friendly supporting materials tailored to specific audiences be?

There has been much crowing lately about how close the measure came to passing. Hopefully the current Fair Political Practices Commission investigation will find SLOCOG and its member agencies guilty and levy some fines. The taxpayers will then see how SLOCOG attempted to manipulate them at public expense.

LAST WEEK'S HIGHLIGHTS

There were no Board of Supervisors Meetings on Tuesday, December 20 or Tuesday, December 27, 2016

The Board was on its winter recess. The other agencies were dormant as well.

SLO COLAB IN DEPTH

In fighting the troublesome, local day-to-day assaults on our freedom and property, it is also important to keep in mind the larger underlying ideological, political, and economic causes and forces.

TRUMP, MERLE HAGGARD, AND PROMISES, WHICH MUST BE KEPT

By Michael F Brown

Recoiling from the defeat of Hillary Clinton, the more astute and serious Democratic Party analysts have concluded that their party's policies had failed its historic blue-collar labor base. That base finally revolted after decades of irrelevant Democratic promises and policies, aided and abetted by Republican compromise. Those heretofore loyal Democratic voters gave Trump victories in Michigan, Ohio, Pennsylvania, West Virginia, Iowa, Indiana, and Wisconsin – victories (some very narrow and some very large) that ran counter to the reigning political calculus – the so-called blue wall.

But the Republicans shouldn't gloat. Trump, the Party crasher, won because he gave voice to the "deplorables" and coalesced the long simmering grievances of conservatives, the sinking disaffected middle class of both parties, and as it turned out, real workers – that is, the wrench-turning, machine operating, truck driving folks who sweat on the job and who actually harvest raw materials, grow food, build things, make stuff, and deliver it. Erroneously, this constituency was taken for granted and assumed to be safely in the Democratic fold.

As NPR's Domenic Montanardo, pointed out, the GOP, with standard-bearer, Trump, made huge gains in voters lacking college degrees in the industrial north.¹

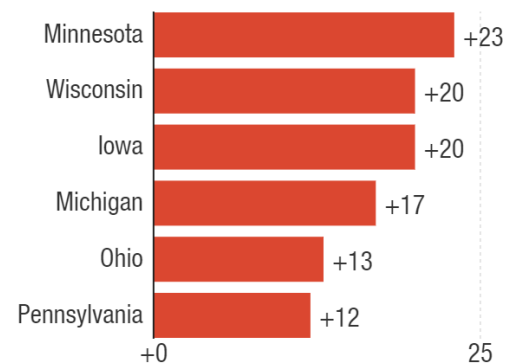
Like Federal national security agencies in recent years, both the ever dithering checked pants Ivy League Republicans and the ever smugly social justice preaching Democratic Ivy League intelligentsia experienced an intelligence failure. This is somewhat surprising, especially for the Democrats.

Out in the America away from Malibu, Manhattan, Marin, Miami Beach, and Metro DC, the people have been crying for relief for decades, but instead, and notwithstanding which party was in charge, many of their communities have been in a death spiral since the early 1970's.

Since the 1930's the Democrats have proclaimed themselves as the party of the working man and woman and in recent decades as the arbiters of social equality, environmental salvation, and political correctness. As it turns out, none of their massively accumulative and oppressively expensive initiatives, along with the accompanying \$20 trillion in Federal national debt, have actually saved Hartford, Allentown, Akron, Detroit, Flint, Dayton, or hundreds more.

We watched them like clouds as they have floated by. JFK's New Frontier, Lyndon Johnson's Great Society, Jimmie Carter's A Leader for Change, Bill Clinton's We Need a Change, and Barrack Obama's Hope and Change never actually stopped the decline of hundreds of cities in New England, the middle Atlantic region, upper Midwest, or even some in California such as

GOP Gains Among Non-College Degree



¹NPR Politics Newsletter of November 12, 2016

Oakland, San Bernardino, Stockton, and Richmond. In fact, and in California, their water and environmental policies have turned the San Joaquin Valley into an economic disaster zone and social tragedy. As predicted, plastic bag bans, carbon taxes, Obama Care, piling on public pension debt, and diverting water for extinct fish haven't exactly helped expand our roads, fix our decaying public buildings, generate jobs that can support a household, or reduce California's massive welfare role.

For decades Merle Haggard, Bruce Springsteen, Billy Joel (regardless of their stated political preferences), and many other singers have reeled off scores of songs warning about the heartbreaking plight of people in the country's declining or dying industrial cities and smaller mill towns. The late Bakersfield balladeer and country music legend Merle Haggard, discerning the thoughts and hopes of tens of millions and perhaps anticipating a Donald Trump, wrote the song "America First" (from the 2005 Chicago Wind Album):

Why don't we liberate these United States,
We're the ones that need it worst.
Let the rest of the world help us for a change,
And let's rebuild America first.

Our highways an' bridges are fallin' apart:
Who's blessed an' who has been cursed?
There's things to be done all over the world,
But let's rebuild America first.

Who's on the Hill and who's watchin' the valley?
An' who's in charge of it all?
God bless the army an' God bless our liberty,
And dadgum the rest of it all.

Clinton and Obama never really heard the songs metaphorically or understood that a vibrant and free economy with manufacturing, energy extraction/production, and capital investment is an important key to saving our obsolescing communities and their people. Not everyone can be a lawyer or a Cloud Solution Architect and you sure can't eat, wear, or keep warm with what they produce. The promised salvation of education and job training never panned out. As Billy Joel so poignantly put it in "Allentown" (from the 1982 Nylon Curtin album):

Well we're waiting here in Allentown
For the Pennsylvania we never found
For the promises our teachers gave
If we worked hard
If we behaved
So the graduations hang on the wall
But they never really helped us at all

No they never taught us what was real
Iron and coal
And chromium steel
And we're waiting here in Allentown

Trump capitalized on this failure and promises to make “America Great Again,” which really means making our economy and all those hundreds of cities and towns great again. In turn this means abandoning the decades of land use tyranny, regulatory oppression, government expansion, and job killing taxation. Hopefully he and the Republican Congressional majority along with their colleagues in many of the state houses will have the fortitude, resolve, and resiliency to take Merle’s prescription and “liberate these United States.”

They had better, because if they fail, and given the current set of promises, the backlash will thrust the enviro-socialist – collectivist elite into unassailable power. If that happens, not only will America not be great again, but it won’t even be America.

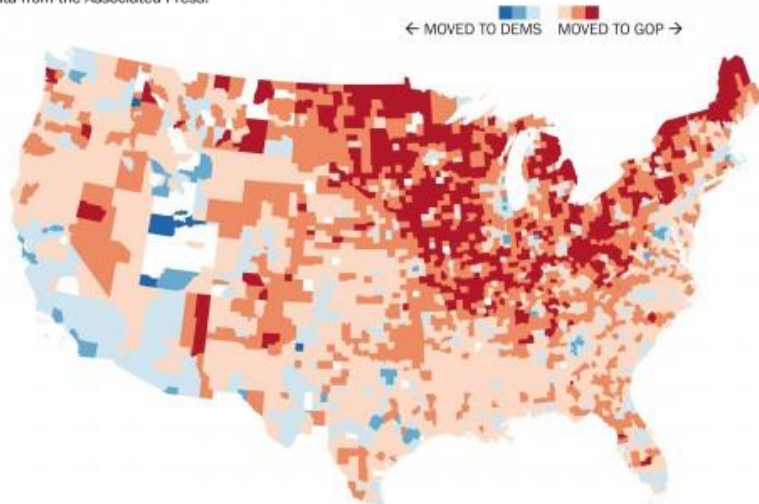
Mike Brown is the Government Affairs Director of the Coalition of Labor Agriculture and Business (COLAB) of San Luis Obispo County. He had a 42 year career as a city manager and county executive officer in 4 states including California. He can be reached at mike@colabslo.org. This article first appeared in the December 22, 2016 CalCoastNews

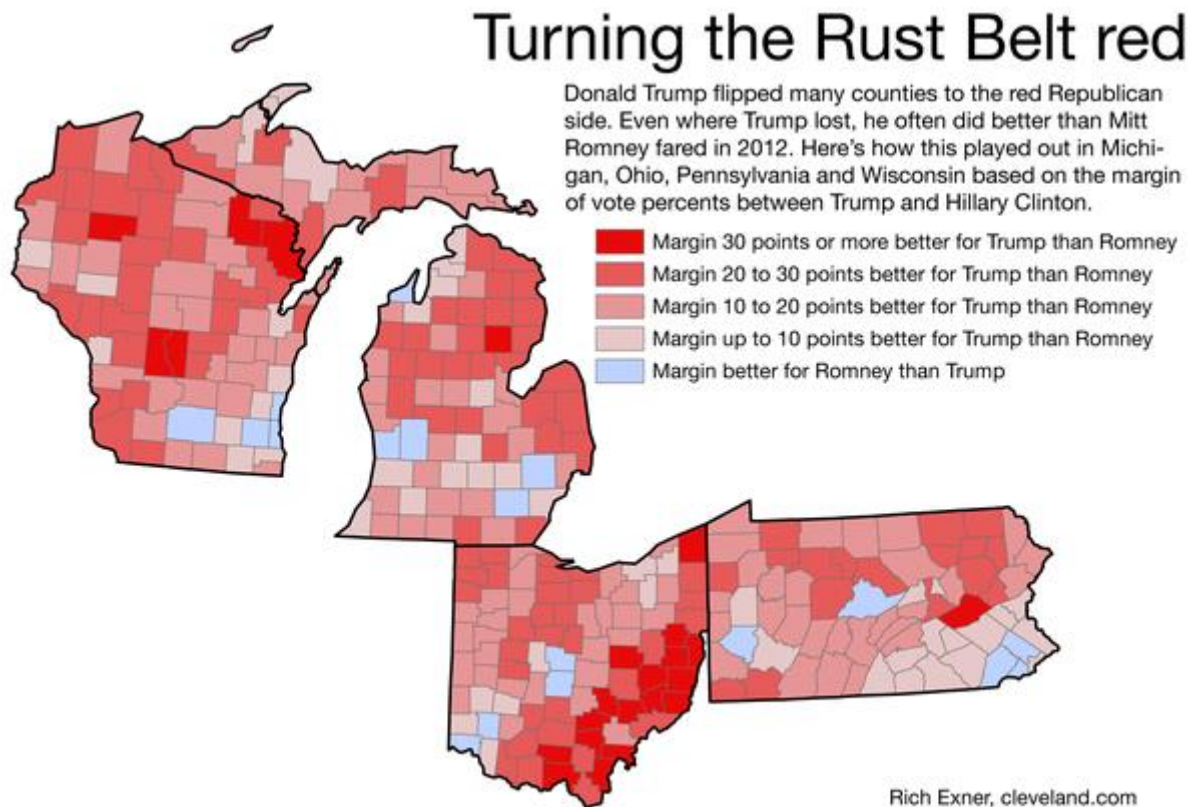
Maps Below Illustrate Significant Shift

Note the change in voting patterns for President from 2012 to 2016 illustrated in the 2 geographic charts below.

Change in vote margin since 2012

Data from the Associated Press.



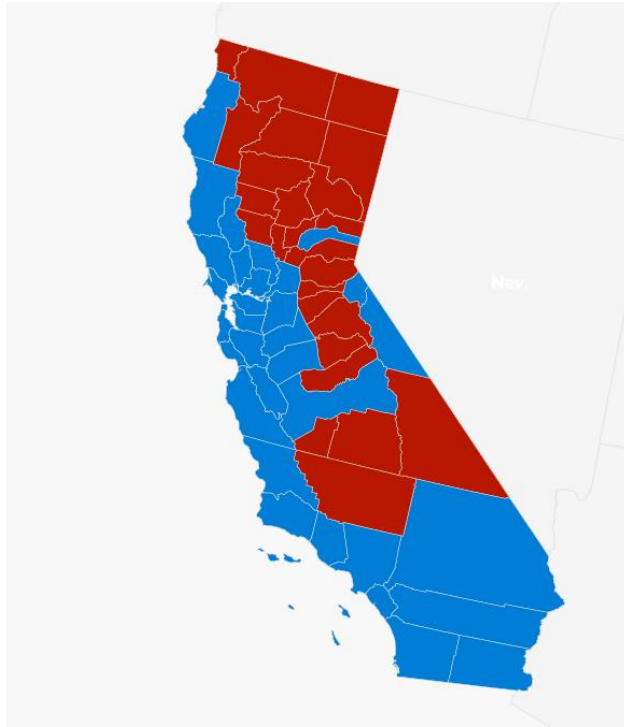


A LESSON FOR THE LEFT IN CALIFORNIA

The map below on the next page displays the Presidential vote by California's counties in 2016. At some point, just as the working people in the industrial heartland began to figure out that Democratic regulatory and tax policies actually subvert the economic base and their standard of living, Hispanics and college educated millennials in California will begin to awaken to the hard truth. This will happen as they are unable to find jobs which will support a household and come to understand that Democratic/enviro-socialist green energy and land use policies, punitive taxes, and crushing bureaucratic exploitation, based in a declining resource world view, will deny them the American dream. That dream includes a free standing single family home with yards and privacy. It includes a vibrant and growing free market economy and the expansion of resources through technological progress.

Watch the blue counties change to red over the decades if the State continues its current fetishes of eliminating traditional energy sources, banning manufacturing, and making the development of affordable homes impossible.

Check out the article on page 9 which provides a detailed update for 2016 on the State's destructive economic and social policies.



California Presidential Vote – 2016 (Blue = Clinton, Red = Trump).

UNAFFORDABLE CALIFORNIA – IT DOESN'T HAVE TO BE THIS WAY - DEC. 2016 UPDATE

(CALIFORNIA AGAIN - THE WORST TAX AND REGULATORY STATE)

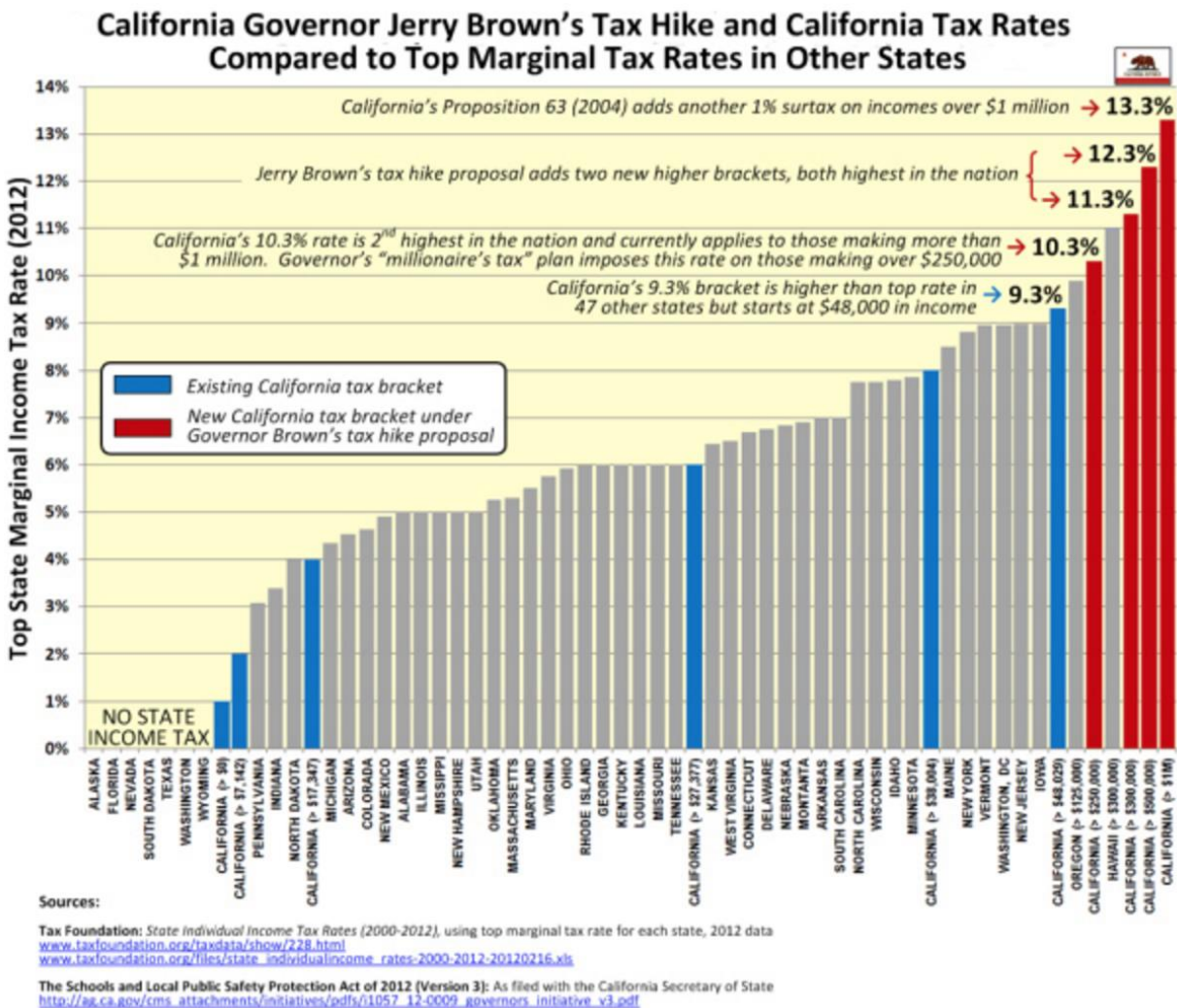
BY RICHARD RIDER

December 2016 Update: Here's a documented comparison of California taxes and economic climate with the rest of the states. The news is bad and getting worse. But it doesn't have to be this way! The state and local government policies that created an unaffordable California can be reversed.

PERSONAL INCOME TAX: Prior to Prop 30 passing in Nov. 2012, CA already had the 3rd worst state income tax rate in the nation. Our 9.3% tax bracket started at under \$50,000 for people filing as individuals. 10.3% started at \$1 million. Now our "millionaires' tax" rate is 13.3% – including capital gains (CA total CG rate now the 2nd highest in the world!). 10+% taxes now start at \$250K. CA now has by far the nation's highest state income tax rate. We are 34% higher than 2nd place Oregon, and a heck of a lot higher than all the rest – including 8 states with zero state income tax – and one state (NH) that taxes only dividends and interest income.

CA is so bad; we also have the nation's 2nd highest state income tax bracket. AND the 3rd. AND the 4th!

<http://taxfoundation.org/sites/taxfoundation.org/files/docs/ff2013.pdf> Ref. Table #12
<http://tinyurl.com/CA-income-tax-bar-chart>
<http://tinyurl.com/CA-2nd-CG>



SALES TAX: CA has the highest state sales tax rate in the nation. 7.5% (does not include local sales taxes). Two 2015 bills sought a combined \$10 billion++ CA state and local sales tax increase (failed to pass that year).

<http://taxfoundation.org/article/state-and-local-sales-tax-rates-2011-2013>

GAS TAX: CA has the nation's 7th highest "gas pump" tax at 56.6 cents/gallon (November, 2016). But add in the unique 10-12 cent CA "cap and trade" cost per gallon, and CA is in the top 3 states (with PA and WA). National average is 48.9 cents. Yet CA has the 9th worst highways.

NOTE: CA state legislature leaders are discussing a new additional 17 cents/gal gasoline tax.

<http://www.api.org/oil-and-natural-gas/consumer-information/motor-fuel-taxes/gasoline-tax> (CA roughly tied w/WA for highest total diesel tax) and http://reason.org/files/22nd_annual_highway_report.pdf

PROPERTY TAX: California in 2015 ranked 14th highest in per capita property taxes (including commercial) – the only major tax where we are not in the worst ten states. But the 2014 average CA single-family residence (SFR) property tax is the 8th highest state in the nation. Indeed, **the median CA homeowner property tax bill is 93% higher than the average for the other 49 states.**

<http://tinyurl.com/go89o6u>

<http://tinyurl.com/hf6phjz>

<http://linkis.com/blogspot.com/Yq6cx>

“IMPACT FEES” ON HOME SALES: Average 2012 CA impact fee for single-family residence was \$31,100, 90% higher than next worst state. 265% higher than jurisdictions that levy such fees (many governments east of the Sierras do not). For apartments, fee averaged \$18,800, 290% above average outside state. The fee is part of the purchase price, so buyer pays an annual property tax on the fee!

<http://www.newgeography.com/content/003882-california-homes-require-real-reach>

<http://eyeonhousing.org/2014/01/home-building-impact-fees-state-averages/>

“CAP AND TRADE” TAX: CA has now instituted the highest “cap and trade” tax in the nation – indeed, the ONLY such U.S. tax. Even proponents concede that it will have zero impact on global warming.

<http://tinyurl.com/WSJ-CA-cap-and-trade>

SMALL BUSINESS TAX: California has a nasty anti-small business \$800 minimum corporate income tax, even if no profit is earned, and even for many nonprofits. Next highest state is Rhode Island at \$500 (only for “C” corporations). 3rd is Delaware at \$175. Most states are at zero.

<http://tinyurl.com/CA-800-tax>

Based just on GDP, CA ranks as the 6th largest economy in the world. But adjusted for population and cost of living, CA ranks lower than all but 13 U.S. States.

<http://riderrants.blogspot.com/2016/07/updated-2015-figures-ca-per-capita-gdp.html>

CORPORATE INCOME TAX: CA 2016 corporate income tax rate (8.84%) is the highest west of Iowa (our economic competitors) except for Alaska.

<http://www.taxfoundation.org/sites/taxfoundation.org/files/docs/CITmap.png> Ref. Table #15 – we have the 8th highest rate in the nation.

BUSINESS TAX CLIMATE: California’s 2015 “business tax climate” ranks 3rd worst in the nation – behind New York and anchor-clanker New Jersey. In addition, CA has a lock on the worst rank in the Small Business Tax Index – a whopping 8.3% worse than 2nd worst state.

<http://taxfoundation.org/article/2015-state-business-tax-climate-index>

<http://www.sbecouncil.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/04/BTI2014Final.pdf>

LEGAL ENVIRONMENT: California’s 2016 “business tax climate” ranks 3rd worst in the nation – behind New York and anchor-clanker New Jersey. In addition, CA has a lock on the worst rank in the 2016 Small Business Tax Index – **7 TIMES worse** than the best small business state (South Dakota).

<http://taxfoundation.org/article/2015-state-business-tax-climate-index> <http://sbecouncil.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/06/BTI2016.pdf>

FINES AND FEES: CA driving tickets are incredibly high. Red-light camera ticket \$490. Next highest state is \$250. Most are around \$100.

<http://reason.org/blog/show/red-light-cameras-and-the-enigmatic>

CA needlessly licenses more occupations than any state – 177. Second worst state is Connecticut at 155. The average state is 92. But CA is “only” the 2nd worst licensing state for low income occupations.

<http://cssrc.us/publications.aspx?id=7707>

<http://bit.ly/1ff0OGu>

WORKERS COMPENSATION INSURANCE: CA has the highest/worst state workers’ compensation rates in 2014, up from 3rd in 2012. CA rates 21.3% higher than 2nd highest state, 88% higher than median state. Yet we pay low benefits — much goes to lawyers.

<http://riderrants.blogspot.com/2014/10/california-has-worst-workers.html>

OVERALL TAXES: Tax Foundation study ranks CA as tied for the 7th worst taxed state in 2016. But the CA taxes are the most progressive of all states, hammering the upper third of the populace. The top 1% pay 50% of all CA state income taxes.

<http://taxfoundation.org/article/tax-freedom-day-2016-april-24>

UNEMPLOYMENT: CA unemployment rate (Nov., 2016) has been improving. We are tied for ninth worst – 5.3%. National unemployment rate 4.6%. Nat’l unemployment rate not including CA is 4.5%, making the CA unemployment rate 17.7% higher than the average of the other 49 states.

<http://www.bls.gov/web/laus/laumstrk.htm> NOTE: We were at 4.8% unemployed in Nov, 2006 – vs. national 4.6%.

But using the lagging yet arguably more accurate U-6 measure of unemployment (includes involuntary part-time workers), CA is the 4th worst – 11.6% vs. national 9.8%. National U-6 not including CA is 9.6%, making CA’s U-6 21.4% higher than the average of the other 49 states.

<http://www.bls.gov/lau/stalt.htm>

EDUCATION: CA public school teachers the 3rd highest paid in the nation. CA students rank 48th in math achievement, 49th in reading.

http://www.lao.ca.gov/reports/2011/calfacts/calfacts_010511.aspx (page 36)

http://www.nea.org/assets/docs/NEA_Rankings_And_Estimates-2015-03-11a.pdf

California, a destitute state, still gives away community college education at fire sale prices. Our CC tuition and fees are the lowest in the nation. How low? Nationwide, the average community college tuition and fees are more than double our California CC’s.

<http://trends.collegeboard.org/college-pricing/figures-tables/tuition-and-fees-sector-and-state-over-time>

This ridiculously low tuition devalues education to students – often resulting in a 25+% drop rate for class completion. In addition, because of grants and tax credits, up to 2/3 of California CC students pay no net tuition at all!

<http://tinyurl.com/ygqz9ls>

Complaints about increased UC student fees too often ignore key point — all poor and many middle class CA students don’t pay the UC “fees” (our state’s euphemism for tuition). There are no fees for most California families with under \$80K income. 55% of all undergraduate CA

UC students pay zero tuition, and another 14% pay only partial tuition.

<http://www.universityofcalifornia.edu/blueandgold/>

<http://tinyurl.com/UC-zero>

WELFARE AND POVERTY: California's real ("supplemental") 2015 poverty rate (the new census bureau standard adjusted for the COL) is easily the worst in the nation at 20.6%. We are 43.6% higher than the average for the other 49 states.

<https://www.census.gov/content/dam/Census/library/publications/2016/demo/p60-258.pdf> Table 4 on page 9

California has 12% of the nation's population, but 33% of the country's TANF ("Temporary" Assistance for Needy Families) welfare recipients – more than the next 7 states combined. Unlike other states, this "temporary" assistance becomes much more permanent in CA. <http://www.utsandiego.com/news/2012/jul/28/welfare-capital-of-the-us/?print&page=all>

California ranks 48th worst for credit card debt and 49th worst for percentage of home ownership.

<http://riderrants.blogspot.com/2013/02/more-dismal-california-economic-rankings.html>

GOVERNMENT INSOLVENCY: California has the 2nd lowest bond rating of any state – Basket case Illinois beat us out for the lowest spot. We didn't improve our rating – Illinois just got worse.

<http://www.pewtrusts.org/en/research-and-analysis/blogs/stateline/2014/06/09/sp-ratings-2014>

Average California firefighter paid 60% more than paid firefighters in other 49 states. CA cops paid 56% more. CA 2011 median household income (including gov't workers) is 13.4% above nat'l avg.

www.tinyurl.com/CA-ff-and-cop-pay

www.en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_U.S._states_by_income

HOUSING COSTS: Of 100 U.S. real estate markets, in 2013 CA contained by far the least affordable middle class housing market (San Francisco). PLUS the 2nd, 3rd, 5th, 6th and 7th. San Diego is #5 (with "middle class" affordable homes averaging 1,056 sq. ft.)

<http://riderrants.blogspot.com/2013/10/the-us-least-affordable-housing-market>

TRANSPORTATION COSTS: CA has 2nd highest annual cost for owning a car – \$4,112. \$370 higher than the other 49 states' average.

<http://tinyurl.com/zcame8j>

WATER & ELECTRICITY COSTS: CA residential electricity costs an average of 42.3% more per kWh than the national average. CA commercial rates are 51.8% higher. For industrial use, CA electricity is an astonishing 93.6% higher than the national average (July, 2016). The difference is growing between CA and the national average. NOTE: SDG&E is considerably higher. https://www.eia.gov/electricity/monthly/epm_table_grapher.cfm?t=epmt_5_6_a

A 2015 U-T survey of home water bills for the 30 largest U.S. cities found that for 200 gallons a day usage, San Diego has the 3rd highest cost – 73.7% higher than the median city surveyed. At 600 gal/day, San Diego was again 3rd highest – 81.7% higher than the median city.

<http://www.sandiegouniontribune.com/news/2015/jul/27/drought-water-prices-rise/>

BUSINESS FLIGHT: In 2012, our supply of California businesses shrunk 5.2%. In ONE year. NOTE: That's a NET figure – 5.2% fewer businesses in CA in 2012 than were here in 2011. Indeed, in 2012, CA lost businesses at a 67.7% higher rate than the 2nd worst state!

<http://riderrants.blogspot.com/2013/07/in-2012-ca-lost-businesses-at-677.html>

The top U.S. CEO's surveyed rank California "the worst state in which to do business" for the **12th straight year** (May, 2016)

<http://chiefexecutive.net/california/>

From 2007 through 2010, 10,763 manufacturing facilities were built or expanded across the country — but only 176 of those were in CA. So with roughly 12% of the nation's population, CA got 1.6% of the built or expanded manufacturing facilities. Stated differently, adjusted for population, the other 49 states averaged 8.4 times more manufacturing growth than did California.

<http://www.cmta.net/20110303mfgFacilities07to10.pdf> — prepared by California Manufacturers and Technology Association

OUT-MIGRATION: California is now ranked as **the** worst state to retire in. Easily the lowest percentage of people over age 65. We "beat" 'em all – NY, NJ, etc.

<https://www.fidelity.com/insights/retirement/10-worst-states-to-retire-2014>

<http://riderrants.blogspot.com/2015/12/kiplinger-ranks-california-as-worst.html>

The median Texas household income is 13.5% less than CA. But adjusted for COL, TX 2015 median household income is 29.3% more than CA.

<https://www.census.gov/content/dam/Census/library/publications/2016/demo/acsbr15-02.pdf>

https://www.missourieconomy.org/indicators/cost_of_living/index.st

Consider California's net domestic migration (migration between states). **From 1992 through mid-2015, California lost a NET 3.9 million people to other states.** Net departures slowed in 2008 only because people couldn't sell their homes. But more people still leave each year — in 2015 we lost 77,219. Again, note that these are **NET** losses. Sadly, our policies have split up many California families.

<https://twitter.com/SenTedCruz/status/464827967747526656/photo/1>

<http://riderrants.blogspot.com/2015/04/were-california-real-estate-prices.html>

It's likely that it's not the welfare kings and queens departing. They are primarily the young, the educated, the productive, the entrepreneurial, the ambitious, the wealthy (such as Tiger Woods) – and retirees seeking to make their nest-eggs provide more bang for the buck.

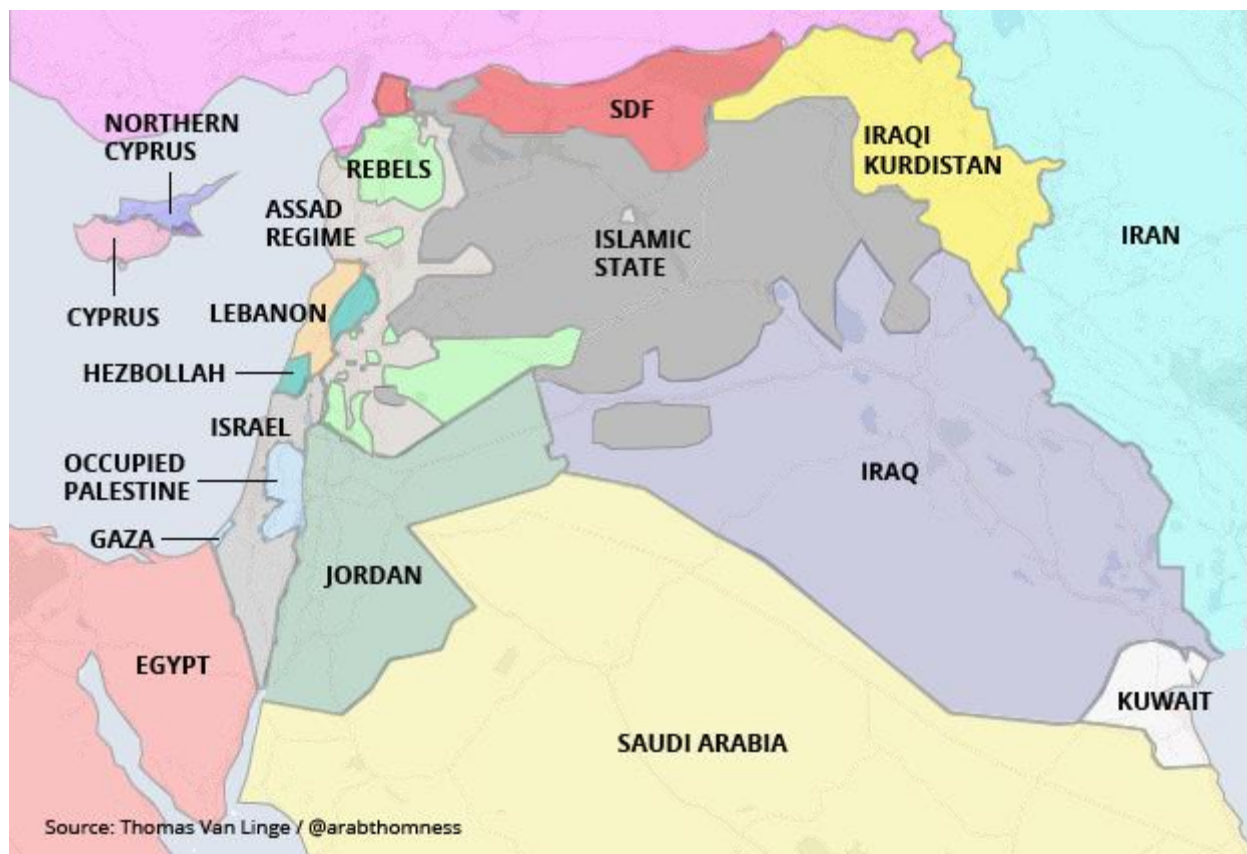
* * *

Richard Rider is the chairman of San Diego Tax Fighters, a grassroots pro-taxpayer group. Rider successfully sued the county of San Diego (Rider vs. County of San Diego) to force a rollback of an illegal 1/2-cent jails sales tax, a precedent that saved California taxpayers over 14 billion dollars, including \$3.5 billion for San Diego taxpayers. He has written ballot arguments against dozens of county and state tax increase initiatives and in 2009 was named the Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Association's "California Tax Fighter of the Year." Rider updates this compilation of statistics on California every month; they are regularly updated here. This article first appeared in the December 23, 2016 Prosperity Forum of the California Policy Center.

REAL MAP OF THE MIDDLE EAST/SO YOU WANT TO CLOSE DOWN OIL AND GAS FACILITIES?

Note that the portion controlled by the Islamic State in Syria (ISIS) is much larger than is portrayed on TV or in many other news outlets. With the Russians in full deployment and supporting Assad, Putin becomes the de facto power player.

All the zealots and sheep who wish to ultimately close down the Phillips 66 Refinery might want to reflect on the larger stakes and broader public interest.



- The Syrian central government (in light grey), based in Damascus, controls a coastal strip of territory in a patchwork shared with a number of rebel forces. The interior of the country is lost to government control, except a single light grey island in a sea of dark grey (for IS): the besieged city of Deir ez-Zor.
- The 'official' rebels (in green) control a fragmented archipelago of territories, spread across the north, middle and south of the country – also concentrated in the east, but

without coastal access. Aleppo, in the north, is on the front line between government and rebel forces, with horrific consequences for the city and its people.

- Large parts of northern Syria are controlled by the Syrian Defense Forces (in red): a contiguous zone in the northeast, and a smaller zone in the northwest. Both are separated by the zone of contact between Turkey and Islamic State, although that zone has gotten a bit narrower since the takeover by the SDF of Manbij. The SDF, by the way, are mainly Kurdish forces, and the area they control is often referred to as *Rojava* – Kurdish for 'West'.
- The Islamic State controls not only the largest part of Syria, but has also spilled over into Iraq, where it dominates mainly Sunni areas in the center, up to and including the city of Mosul in the north. The IS's territory is surrounded by enemies, but has the advantage of being contiguous **COLAB NOTE: (Interior lines from a military standpoint - which allow a defender to move materiel and troops over shorter distances)**, with the exception of two exclaves, one in southwest Iraq, and another one in southeast Syria.
- What remains of Iraq is controlled in the south by the Shiite-dominated government in Baghdad (in light blue), and in the North by the Iraqi Kurds (in yellow).
- The map also reflects the mainly unrecognized secession of Northern Cyprus (in dark blue), and the de facto secession of Hezbollah-dominated areas within Lebanon (in green) – both facts on the ground predating the Syrian conflict, and likely to survive it.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

ALERT

ASK YOUR ELECTED OFFICIALS TO CONTACT TRUMP
ON DIABLO CLOSURE & TO SEND HIM RESOLUTIONS
OF SUPPORT TO KEEP IT OPEN

It appears that the Trump Administration could help develop a path to incentivize PG&E to keep the Diablo Nuclear Power Plan open and facilitate its relicensing. As we have been reporting, local officials never did anything to support PG&E's effort while it was alive. They either openly opposed it or tacitly opposed it by their silence and overtly negligent failure to promote it. Once

PG&E announced the closure plan, they all wrung their collective hands and demanded reparations for the negative impacts on local revenues and the economy.

The Trump transition team sent a memo of inquiry to the US Department of Energy (DOE) requesting factual information that would help it to begin to formulate policy and develop qualifications for Presidential appointments to implement that policy. Aside from the fact that the DOE leadership and staffers are resisting the legitimate requests (see the related article on page 10 below), the questions signal a strong interest in preserving existing nuclear generating plants and perhaps promoting future development of new plants. The questions are part of a long list, which includes other subjects including budgetary, staffing, fossil fuel, green energy, and other normal concerns for an incoming administration.

The nuclear energy related questions include the following:

- ***Does DOE have a plan to resume the Yucca Mountain license proceedings?***

COLAB NOTE: They may have shelved or subverted previous plans, good to know if so.

- ***How can the DOE support existing reactors to continue operating as part of the nation's infrastructure?***


COLAB NOTE: Our local officials should explain the huge negative impacts of the plant closure and offer to work with the new DOE team to save the plant. What costs have been imposed by the State of California which could be reduced or eliminated by a reformed Trump Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)?

- ***What can DOE do to help prevent premature closure of plants?***
- ***How do you recommend continuing to support the licensing of Small Modular Reactors?***
- ***How best can DOE optimize its Advanced Reactor R&D activities to maximize their value proposition and work with investors to develop and commercialize advanced reactors?***

All of these questions are concerned with support of nuclear plants, suggesting strongly that the new administration is interested in keeping existing plants open and licensing new plants.

Given their recent protests and concerns, including filing protests with the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC), how could these same officials drop the ball and let this opportunity pass?

**THE
ANDY CALDWELL
SHOW**



The only local talk show to cover the entire Central Coast!

Central Coast Government watchdog, taxpayer, business and traditional values advocate Andy Caldwell interviews leaders and scholars on a variety of local, state and national issues.

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

Call in 1-888-625-1440

Visit www.theandycaldwellshow.com for more information

Streaming Live on www.am1440.com and www.newspress.com

AM1440
KUHL • the information station

AM 1290
Santa Barbara News-Press Radio

TO PROTECT OUR FISHERMEN

INDIVIDUAL Coalition Member Form

I OPPOSE the proposed National Marine Sanctuary which would bring additional regulations placed on our local waterways and the loss of local control in a federally designated sanctuary.

You may list my name and city of residence publicly as a member of Our Protected Coast Coalition, the official coalition of San Luis Obispo and Santa Barbara County citizens, businesses, fishermen, farmers and ranchers who OPPOSE sanctuary status.

Name: _____ Spouse _____

Title/Occupation _____ Employer _____

Address _____ City _____ Zip Code _____

Phone Number _____ Cell Phone _____

Email Address _____

Date _____ Signature _____

Paid for by Our Protected Coast Coalition, PO Box 323, Morro Bay, CA 93443. Contact us at opccoalition@gmail.com or visit www.opccoalition.com for more information.

SUPPORT COLAB!
PLEASE COMPLETE THE
MEMBERSHIP/DONATION FORM
ON THE NEXT PAGE

WANT TO RIDE A HORSE OR ATV THROUGH HERE?



**BID ON A STAY AT
THIS MONTANA
RANCH AT COLAB'S
MARCH 30TH
DINNER/AUCTION
MANY ACTIVITIES**



Coalition of Labor, Agriculture and Business
San Luis Obispo County
"Your Property – Your Taxes – Our Future"
PO Box 13601 – San Luis Obispo, CA 93406 / Phone: 805.548-0340
Email: colabslo@gmail.com / Website: colabslo.org

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

MEMBERSHIP OPTIONS:

General Member: \$100 – \$249 ☐ \$ _____ Voting Member: \$250 - \$5,000 ☐ \$ _____

Sustaining Member: \$5,000 + ☐ \$ _____

(Sustaining Membership includes a table of 10 at the Annual Fundraiser Dinner)

General members will receive all COLAB updates and newsletters. Voting privileges are limited to Voting Members and Sustainable Members with one vote per membership.

MEMBER INFORMATION:

Name: _____

Company: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Fax: _____ Email: _____

How Did You Hear About COLAB?

Radio ☐ Internet ☐ Public Hearing ☐ Friend ☐

COLAB Member(s) /Sponsor(s): _____

NON MEMBER DONATION/CONTRIBUTION OPTION:

For those who choose not to join as a member but would like to support COLAB via a contribution/donation.

I would like to contribute \$ _____ to COLAB and my check or credit card information is enclosed/provided.

Donations/Contributions do not require membership though it is encouraged in order to provide updates and information.

Memberships and donation will be kept confidential if that is your preference.

Confidential Donation/Contribution/Membership ☐

PAYMENT METHOD:

Check ☐ Visa ☐ MasterCard ☐ Discover ☐ Amex NOT accepted.

Cardholder Name: _____ Signature: _____

Card Number: _____ Exp Date: ____/____ Billing Zip Code: _____ CVV: _____

TODAY'S DATE: _____

All applications are subject to review and approval by the COLAB Membership Committee and Board of Directors.

Applications that are not accepted will have the dues or donations promptly refunded.

(Revised 9/2016)