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WEEKLY UPDATE FEBRUARY 16 - 22, 2020

11th ANNUAL

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Steve Hayward
UC Berkeley's Conservative Senior Resident Scholar
Why is the World So Crazy,
Can it Be Made Sane Again?

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HEAR STEVE HAYWARD'S PHENOMENAL FIRST HAND ACCOUNT
WHY IS THE WORLD SO CRAZY? CAN IT BE MADE SANE AGAIN?

Steven F. Hayward is currently senior resident scholar at UC Berkeley's Institute of Governmental Studies, and a visiting lecturer at Berkeley Law. He was previously the Ronald Reagan Distinguished Visiting Professor at Pepperdine University's Graduate School of Public Policy, and was the inaugural visiting scholar in conservative thought and policy at the University of Colorado at Boulder in 2013-14. From 2002 to 2012 he was the F.K Weyerhaeuser Fellow in Law and Economics at the American Enterprise Institute in Washington DC, and has been senior fellow at the Pacific Research Institute in San Francisco since 1991.

He writes frequently for the *Wall Street Journal*, *New York Times*, *Washington Post*, *National Review*, the *Washington Examiner*, the *Claremont Review of Books*, and other publications. The author of six books including a two-volume chronicle of Reagan and his times entitled *The Age of Reagan: The Fall of the Old Liberal Order, 1964-1980*, and *The Age of Reagan: The Conservative Counter-Revolution, 1980-1989*, and the *Almanac of Environmental Trends*. His most recent book is *Patriotism is Not Enough: Harry Jaffa, Walter Berns, and the Arguments That Redefined American Conservatism*.



THIS WEEK

NO BOARD OF SUPE'S MEETING

LOCAL AGENCY FORMATION COMMISSION

LAST WEEK

NO BOARD OF SUPE'S MEETING

**WASTE AUTHORITY MOVES FORWARD ON
EXPANDED PLASTIC BAG BAN
BUT THE BACKLASH IS BUILDING**

PLANNING COMMISSION CANCELLED

**CALIFORNIA COASTAL COMMISSION
QUARTERLY REVIEW OF DUNES DUST REDUCTION**

**SLO COLAB IN DEPTH
SEE PAGE 8**

**DECISIVENESS VS. DELAY, ACQUIESCING TO
ADAM HILL?**

BY MIKE BROWN

**FIGHTING THE ONE-PARTY STATE AT THE
LOCAL LEVEL IN CALIFORNIA**

BY EDWARD RING

THIS WEEK'S HIGHLIGHTS

No Board of Supervisors Meeting on Tuesday, February 18, 2020 (Not Scheduled)

The next scheduled meeting is set for Tuesday, February 25, 2020. That meeting will present significant major new policy concepts related to housing and infrastructure. It will include a proposed compact between the cities and the County to work jointly on developing infrastructure, the lack of which has been a barrier to the production of workforce housing.

The meeting also presents an opportunity for the public to encourage and support the Board in ordering an independent investigation into the allegations concerning Supervisor Hill outlined below on page 8.

San Luis Obispo County Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO) Meeting of Thursday, February 20, 2020 (Scheduled)

The key item on the Commission agenda is a discussion of the Froom Ranch Specific Plan, which contains a substantial planned development off Los Osos Valley Road. The proposal contains housing oriented toward various states of aging, support facilities, a hotel, and other development.

The Froom Ranch Specific Plan area is currently located in the County of San Luis Obispo immediately southwest of the City. The Specific Plan area consists of two parcels, totaling approximately 110 acres just south of the Irish Hills Plaza and across Los Osos Valley Road from the auto park. Beyond the defined Specific Plan area, the project site also includes an offsite drainage basin easement area which is 7.1 acres in size.

The proposed Froom Ranch Specific Plan Project includes two main components:

Villaggio – Life Plan Community

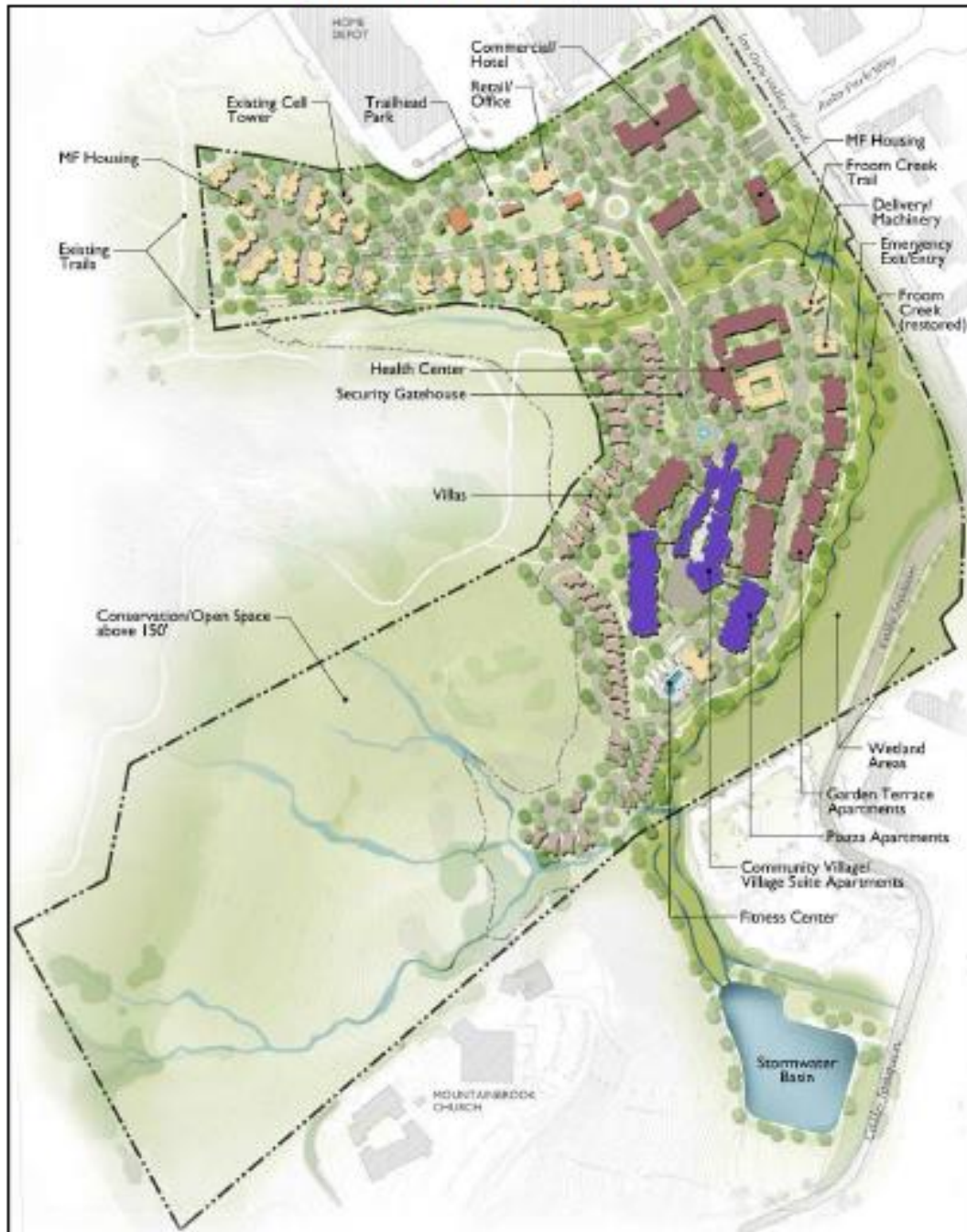
- 366 Independent Living units*
- 38 Assisted units*
- 17 Memory Care beds*
- 34 Skilled Nursing beds*
- 15,000 square feet of restaurant uses and theaters*
- 11,000 square feet of recreational facility*

Madonna Froom Ranch

- Up to 174 Multi-Family units*
- 30,000 square feet of retail and office space*
- 70,000 square feet Hotel; 120 rooms*

Please see the site plan on the next page below:

Figure 2 Froom Ranch Specific Plan



Executive Director to Retire: It is expected that long time LAFCO Executive Director David Church will be retiring. The agenda lists an item entitled “Transition Plan,” but there is no write-up under the item. Mr. Church has always been courteous and responsive to our requests for information and clarification.

Housing Information: Readers may recall that during its January meeting, the Commission received an extensive report on housing needs from the SLOCOG staff and the County Executive. The PowerPoint slides, which were provided by both agencies, constitute a good summary and are a useful resource. They can be accessed and copied from the link:

<http://nebula.wsimg.com/b1437f3e32c5b32261e553bded3bda5f?AccessKeyId=242F22EFFFFDE4B18755&disposition=0&alloworigin=1>

LAST WEEK'S HIGHLIGHTS

No Board of Supervisors Meeting on Tuesday, February 11, 2020 (Not Scheduled)

The next scheduled meeting is set for Tuesday, February 25, 2020.

Planning Commission Meeting of Thursday, February 13, 2020 (Cancelled)

The meeting was cancelled. Apparently, there were no items ready for consideration.

County Integrated Waste Management Authority (IWMA) Meeting of Tuesday, February 11, 2020 (Completed)

Item 13 - Expansion of the Countywide Plastic Bag Ban. The Authority Board voted 8/5 (with County Supervisors Arnold, Compton, Peschong, and Paso Robles City Councilman Hamon dissenting) to direct staff to prepare a new expanded and more severe ordinance. Staff was directed to work with “stakeholders” to determine any nuances and return with a new ordinance as soon as possible. There were about 10 public speakers of whom 8 were supportive and 2 were opposed.

True to form, Supervisor Hill used the occasion to question the motives and character of anyone who might oppose the ordinance as having some sort of philosophical flaw. He criticized those who like the convenience of plastic bags as not being willing to sacrifice. In fact he asserted that opposing the expanded ban was akin to gluttony. He went on to suggest that opponents were shallow and did not value conservatism (as in conserving resources). Hill went on to say that opponents are spokespeople for private interests, which promote plastic. He was probably referring to oil companies. One public speaker directly accused Arnold, Compton, and Peschong of being in the pocket of oil companies. IWMA President, Aaron Gomez (The City of SLO representative) allowed the speaker to go on with her personal attack and then thanked her for her comments.

Hill further suggested that early conservationists such as Teddy Roosevelt were in the game to protect their favorite hunting and camping spots.

The proposal is to add to the existing bag ban by banning individual fruit and vegetable bags, meat and fish bags, and dry cleaner garment plastic bags. No comprehensive list or specimen new ordinance was included with the very poorly worded and incomplete agenda item.

There was the usual hand wringing and whining about the plastic decomposing in the ocean and poisoning whales and everything else. The staff report did not contain any published statistical data about the alleged problem. Nevertheless, 8 of the Authority's 13 members couldn't wait to push ahead with the drafting of a new ordinance.

It was clear that proponents see the original ordinance and this revision as simply steps over time to ban all plastic bags, containers, bottles, and eventually all plastic over time. The ostensible culprit is oil. There was continuous reference to the need to change human behavior in regard to the bags and shopping.

Here we have a government body that is supposed to govern landfills and recycling centers unabashedly admitting to social engineering. Remember that the SLO Integrated Waste Management Authority has been a corrupt and patronage dispensing entity for years, if not decades.

Of course we have seen various jurisdictions (usually in California) either talk about or actually consider ordinances banning red meat, carbonated beverages, gas appliances, private cars, vacation rentals, wood burning fireplaces, on-site parking places, bug spray, and oil tank cars. One of the latest additions to the list is a proposed ban on ownership of vacant residential units. In other words, if you maintain a beach house, a ski condo, or a vacant home to which you hope to retire, you would be required to rent it out in the name of the government-created housing shortage. At the same time they are hell bent to legalize marijuana, homeless camping on the public sidewalks and parks, sanctuary cities, shooting up in public, and behavioral deviancy in general.

California Coastal Commission Meeting: Long Beach City Hall, 4111W Ocean Blvd (Thursday, February 13, 2020, 9AM) (Completed)

Item 10 - Deputy Director's Report. This was a report by the Deputy Director on permit waivers, emergency permits, immaterial amendments & extensions, and comments from the public relating to the Deputy Director's report. For specific information contact the Commission's Santa Cruz office at (831) 427-4863. [Submit Comments](#).

Sub. Item 1 - [February 2020 ODSVRA PWP Update Report](#) ODSVRA PWP Update Report. The Commission probably authorized expedited planting of the 48 acres just removed from the riding area. It also was expected to conduct a quarterly review of the progress on their compliance directives of last summer.

It is not clear what happened, as the video streaming service for Commission meetings broke down “due to technical difficulties.” With the Coastal Commission, no news may NOT be good news, as its ultimate purpose is to socialize all coastal property in the State and to force removal of existing development inland.

Quarterly status report (currently scheduled for February 2020, April 2020, and July 2020 Commission meetings) by State Parks on the progress of State Parks’ Oceano Dunes State Vehicular Recreation Area (ODSVRA) Public Works Plan (PWP) efforts. Please note that the hearing date for the ODSVRA PWP Update item has changed, and the item will now be heard on Thursday, February 13, 2020 as Agenda Item Th4.5 Submit Comment

This is always a tenuous situation, as they might determine to add more requirements and/or reduce the riding area further if they determine that State Parks is not making sufficient progress.

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

DECISIVENESS VS. DELAY, ACQUIESCING TO ADAM HILL? BY MIKE BROWN

Two weeks ago we called on the Board of Supervisors to commission an independent outside investigation of the allegations that Supervisor Hill sent highly salacious emails to radio host and civic personality Dave Congalton. Given Hill’s record of nasty outbursts over the years, it is possible that he created and sent them. It is also highly likely that similar or other harassing emails or other interactions, which have not been disclosed, have been received by citizens and officials who have been too embarrassed or frightened to reveal them. It’s like ground squirrels. Where there’s one there’s more. On February 15, 2020 Hill issued a press release which included a firm and detailed denial of sending the emails to Congalton. In part it states:

In the midst of the last election in 2016, it was brought to my attention that emails sent to a local radio host were traced to a modem registered in the name of my former wife, I had nothing to do with this, and after a response from my attorney, it was dropped. It occurred during my last campaign, and my former wife had been viciously slandered by this same radio host, her reputation had been continuously assailed by him and the local blog he is affiliated with, using allegations about her by a man jailed for violently attacking her. It was so horrendous and immoral, and I did not bring up the “latest claims” to her until I had to, and of course, she had nothing to do with these emails either”.

Notwithstanding the denial, it would be prudent for the Board to order an investigation now. At some point, similar behavior by Hill could result in a lawsuit against the County. At deposition and trial, the Board members (under oath), will be asked what actions they took when they were told of this incident and others in the past. If the answer is “nothing,” and if a complaint is proved, the County would be subject to more severe punitive damages if it loses the future case.

It is not exactly clear when and if the Board will take up the issue in executive session. One can guess that there are a number of factors which may be inhibiting the Board from going forward, including:

- They are wondering if there is any benefit to them or the public, as the County Counsel has repeatedly advised them that they may not remove or discipline one of their members.
- Similarly, it has been opined that since the District Attorney did not press criminal charges, the Board is impotent in the situation and the issue is moot.
- Psychologically, Board members and their key staffers, the County CEO and County Counsel, are reluctant to open up the cesspool.
- Indeed, they all hope the problem will resolve on Election Day, March 3, 2020. They may wait to see what happens.
- They might be worrying about financial cost.
- There will be ill feeling and distraction of executive level staff and the Board during the investigative process.

While these issues are convenient excuses not to act, the general public and the rank-and-file County organization and its affiliate organizations such as SLOCOG, APCD, Waste Management Authority, and a whole network of contractors and not-for-profits will be wondering about the truth and whether or not the Board can hold itself and its members to the standards that it has imposed on everyone else through a variety of anti-harassment policies, codes of conduct, contractual provisions, and rules to which they must all adhere. If they don't, they are subject to discipline, up to and including termination. If nothing else, Supervisor Hill, as the Chief Elected Official of the County, should be the model and be held accountable for acts which violate the standards to which everyone else is held.

As we pointed out last week, the Board was swift and resolved when it investigated and then terminated former CEO David Edge for much less egregious behavior. In that case the Board hired the law firm of Fitzgerald, Abbott & Bearsley LLP of Oakland California. One of its attorney's, Sarah Robertson, conducted a detailed on site investigation and interviewed 15 County employees, including the subjects of the investigation and potential/actual witnesses. Reportedly, that investigation cost \$100,000. Edge's Deputy, Gail Wilcox was found to have been romantically involved with a union official while she was negotiating a labor contract with that very official. Somehow, she walked away with an \$180,000 settlement from the taxpayers.

A detailed 47-page report was produced and was backed up by over 50 exhibits. A redacted version was released to the public after the SLO Tribune litigated a records release in Court.

The Investigation:

One subject of a proposed independent investigation is whether or not Hill violated State law governing the conduct of County Supervisors in this instance or others (which may have occurred over the years) that prohibit illegal behavior:

[25042.](#)

Any supervisor who (a) refuses or neglects to perform any duty imposed on him, without just cause, or (b) wilfully violates any law provided for his government as a supervisor, or (c) fraudulently or corruptly performs any duty imposed on him, or (d) wilfully, fraudulently, or corruptly attempts to perform an act as supervisor which is unauthorized by law, in addition to any other penalty prescribed by law, forfeits to the county five hundred dollars (\$500) for every such act, to be recovered on his official bond, and is further liable on his official bond to any person injured thereby for all damages sustained.

(Added by Stats. 1947, Ch. 424.)

Other Supervisors and some employees should be questioned by the investigator on this matter and the series of incidents which have taken place in the past. A skilled investigator can discover patterns and reveal inconsistencies which can lead to the truth.

The Board should assist its investigator with its subpoena power per the statute below:

[25170.](#)

Whenever the board of supervisors deems it necessary or important to examine any person as a witness upon any subject or matter within the jurisdiction of the board, or to examine any officer of the county in relation to the discharge of his official duties as to the receipt or disposition by him of any money, or concerning the possession or disbursement by him of any property belonging to the county, or to use, inspect, or examine any books, account, voucher, or document in the possession or under the control of the person or officer relating to the affairs or interests of the county, the chairman of the board shall issue a subpoena, in proper form, commanding the person or officer to appear before it, at a time and place therein specified, to be examined as a witness. The subpoena may require the person or officer to produce all books, papers, and documents in his possession or under his control, relating to the affairs or interests of the county.

(Added by Stats. 1947, Ch. 424.)

Through delegation of this power, the investigator could swear the witnesses to tell the truth.

- **What would the other Supervisors report with respect to certain interactions with Hill?**
- **What egregious behavior would some employees report?**
- **What would Hill's former wife say about the Congalton e-mail fiasco?**
- **What would some current and former public officials outside of the County government have to say about exchanges with Hill?**
- **What documents exist relating to the Congalton issue and others in the past?**

If a continuous pattern of behavior is substantiated, which willfully violates the law or demonstrates actions which he performed as a Supervisor but which are outside his lawfully prescribed duties, would he be deemed to have forfeited his office?

If these violations and actions outside his duties are demonstrated by the independent investigation, would the Board continue Hill in his position as Board Chairman? What about his appointments to other bodies?

In the end and given the ongoing record, the Board of Supervisors should conduct an outside expert investigation. This will of course, and at this point in time, be after the March 3, 2020 primary election and would thus have no bearing on that election.

There has been some public comment that a County Board of Supervisors may not legally consider such action on one of its elected members in an executive session. If that is true, the Board should agendaize the matter as a regular business item on the public agenda and conduct its full discussion in open session. Whether or not a closed session is prohibited, such an open proceeding is not a bad idea.

FIGHTING THE ONE-PARTY STATE AT THE LOCAL LEVEL IN CALIFORNIA

BY EDWARD RING

It isn't a partisan observation to say that California is a one-party state. It's just stating a fact. The Democratic Party controls all the levers of political power in California. Consider the evidence: GOP registration is down to 23 percent of registered voters. There is a Democratic "mega-majority" (75% or more) in both chambers of the state legislature. The GOP only holds 7 out of 53 congressional seats. Democrats occupy every state office from Governor on down. The GOP hasn't elected a U.S. Senator to represent California since 1988. Democrats control the city councils and boards of supervisors in almost every city and county. There are roughly 10,000 elected positions in California, from school boards to utility commissions and special districts, and Democrats run candidates and have professional funded campaigns for all of them, all the time.

The reasons that California is a one-party state are also not hard to understand. For this as well, the evidence is overwhelming. Virtually every financial special interest in California supports Democrats. Public sector unions, which are almost exclusively supportive of Democratic candidates and causes, [collect and spend \\$800 million per year](#). California's high tech industry, commanding mind-blowing wealth, is solidly

Democratic. California's wealthy and influential entertainment industry is solidly Democratic. The media establishment in California is also solidly Democratic, wielding priceless influence over voters. And as if that weren't enough, politically active billionaires spend amazing sums of money in California to support Democrats.

It takes BIG money to control California politics, and the Democrats have it: California's own Tom Steyer [spent \\$45 million](#) on CA ballot measures in 2012 and 2016. [Steyer spent \\$60 million](#) on U.S. congressional races in 2018, including several in California. New Yorker Michael Bloomberg [spent an estimated 80 million](#) on 24 battleground congressional races, and won 21 of them – including 3 in California. These and other major donors coordinated efforts with PACs supported by public sector unions to flip seven congressional seats in California in 2018 and increase their majorities in both chambers of the state legislature.

It takes hundreds of millions per year to win in California; the Democrats always have that kind of money, and the Republicans never do.

Californians Want New Ideas

A critical mass of Californians are realizing Democrats have failed them, and this, too, is not a partisan observation. There is ample evidence of how one-party rule has failed. There are now over 150,000 homeless living in permanent encampments on the streets of California's cities. Among these unfortunate individuals are drug addicts, alcoholics, mentally ill, and criminals. Some of them urgently need help, others need to be incarcerated, but permissive laws and unrealistic regulations prevent action. Instead, [voters are conned](#) into paying for "affordable" public housing that costs, on average, [over \\$500,000 per unit](#). The cost to build houses is prohibitive because of expensive permits (and endless delays in getting them), excessive fees, and a shortage of land where [no shortage ought to exist](#) because of "greenbelts."

The litany of one-party state failure is endless. Taxpayers fund expansion of light rail despite low ridership, instead of [upgrading California's roads](#) and freeways. Californians pay among the [highest prices in the nation](#) for gasoline, electricity, and natural gas. Californians endure water rationing because the one-party state won't make effective [investments in infrastructure](#). Californians are driven from their homes and some of them are killed because of wildfires caused by the [one-party state's negligence](#) and misguided regulations, not "climate change." Californians are forced to send their children to failing K-12 public schools, and when it's time to send them to college, they will face an unaffordable tuition burden [in order to pay for](#) the population [explosion of non-teaching administrators](#).

The one-party state has made life in California unaffordable and unfair, and the political system is rigged. But there are ways to fight back. Regardless of party affiliation, local elected officials, and citizens through

the initiative process, can pass measures that have broad populist appeal. Here are examples of nonpartisan reform that are feasible at the local level.

Examples of Local Government Reforms

(1) *Curb Corporate Cronyism*: One way to get at this is via a “[Fairness in Business](#)” ordinance. The city council in Yorba Linda recently approved this ordinance, which “shall prohibit any subsidy or business incentive from being provided to one business for their gain without the same subsidy or business incentive being given to all businesses.”

(2) *Attack Corporate Welfare*: A related measure could attack corporate welfare via a “[Taxpayer Protection Resolution](#).” This measure would use the gift clause in the California constitution as the legal basis to minimize if not eliminate tax incentives and subsidies. The operative language would be “Government shall not expend, loan, or allow the use of public resources, nor use its taxing power, in aid of any individual, association, corporation, or other private party, unless such expenditure, loan, or use is for a public purpose, supported by consideration, and over which the public entity exercises continuing control.”

(3) *Form an Independent Fire Department*: California’s cities can [emulate the experience of Placentia](#), which withdrew from the Orange County Fire Authority, with OCFA scheduled to be effectively replaced by mid-2020. According to *Voice of OC*, Placentia expects to save \$28 million over the next 10 years by forming its own fire department and privatizing the paramedics’ services. [Restoring local control over firefighting](#) and emergency response services offers a huge opportunity to right-size pay, benefits, and work rules that have been a major factor in crowding out other services in California’s cities.

(4) *Require Transparency in Local Government*: Adopt a “[Civic Openness in Negotiations](#)” ordinance. Several California cities have passed ordinances that are helpful during negotiations with public employee unions to adopt or renew labor agreements. Key elements of COIN ordinances are the following: require an independent contract negotiator and an independent contract auditor, require public disclosure of offers and counteroffers, require elected officials to disclose all relevant communications, and allow for public disclosure and time for comments prior to final contract approval. Why hasn’t this *always* been the law?

(5) *Get Retiree Health Insurance Spending Under Control*: Right-size [retired employee health insurance subsidies](#). In 2015 the City of Glendale decided to no longer guarantee that retirees would pay no more than active employees for their health insurance, by no longer subsidizing the higher premiums that typically apply with older participants. As noted in [Glendale’s 2017 Annual Financial Report](#): “In October 2015, the City Council approved unblending medical insurance premium rates between active employees and retired employees effective June 1, 2016. Accordingly, City’s actuarial liability decreased from \$214 million as of 6/30/2013 to \$16 million as of 6/30/2016.

(6) *Keep Taxpayer Funds Out of Political Advocacy*: Regulate use of city or county expenditures on “[public information campaigns](#).” California’s public officials have sought to raise local taxes and fees through “information” campaigns designed to appeal to local voters. These are thinly veiled, barely legal forms of political campaigning. Make them explicitly illegal, through a measure that states, among other things: “This city/county will not use public money – either internally, through its own staff and treasury, or externally, through the hiring or use of outside vendors – to engage in public education; public opinion polling or studies; or communications intended or may seem to be intended to determine the outcome of political campaigns.”

(7) *Pension Reform*: Two major cities enacted pension reform in the past decade, San Jose, and San Diego. Both of these reforms were relentlessly attacked in court by attorneys representing public sector unions, but significant reform elements remained in effect. Some of the key reforms include: Restrict what qualifies as pension eligible compensation. Move new employees onto 401K plans. Set a maximum percent-of-salary limit on city contributions to pensions. Change age of eligibility for pension benefits. Reduce maximum allowable cost of living adjustments to retiree pensions. Cap amount of pension eligible final salary. Assign “disability” retirement awards to independent panel. Discontinue “supplemental” pension payments to retirees.

Using the Initiative Process to Enact Local Reforms

While a city council or county board of supervisors can enact local political reforms, the initiative process offers a method to bypass the local elected officials. Getting a measure onto local ballots in California is still a fairly straightforward process.

Local Initiative Process:

- Draft ballot measure and submit to City Attorney
- Verify signature petition meets state and local legal requirements
- Publish legal ad within 10 days of receiving title & summary
- Gather signatures – typically 10 percent of registered voters
- Collect 50 percent more signatures than you need (15 percent)

- Submit signed petitions within 180 days of getting title & summary
- City has 30 business days to verify signatures
- If City doesn't enact measure, it goes before voters in next election

While all of the already listed reforms can be enacted by a governing body or by a vote of local residents, doing it by initiative actually has some advantages. Most notable, a citizen's initiative cannot typically be overturned by a city council or board of supervisors, it can only be repealed by holding a referendum asking voters to repeal what they'd previously approved. Since the one-party state can almost always retake control of a city council or county board of supervisors where the political reformers temporarily gained a majority, the initiative route implements a solution that can be more durable and lasting.

The following examples of political reforms via the local initiative process are actually being tried in California. In North Los Angeles County, a group of volunteer activists have placed several ballot measures before voters that if approved would repeal various local tax increases, usually utility taxes. In Oxnard, a group of volunteer activists are attempting to place a slate of linked initiatives on their local ballot, a tactic which makes sweeping changes possible in one election cycle.

(1) *Repeal Local Tax Increases*: Sample language can be quite simple, as shown by this example from a repeal measure placed on [the April 2018 ballot in Sierra Madre](#): "Shall the City of Sierra Madre adopt a measure repealing the City's Utility Users Tax in its entirety?" Political reformers who succeed in getting these proposals onto local ballots should prepare for a creative counterattack in the form of an "Advisory Measure" placed adjacent to the repeal on the ballot, asking voters "if the tax repeal passes, should the City Council eliminate paramedic services, reduce and outsource police services and library services, reduce code enforcement, and fire suppression service..."

(2) Place several reforms on the ballot at once, such as was attempted in Oxnard with the following five ballot measures: [Fiscal Transparency and Accountability Act](#), which would make the city treasurer, an elected official, the head of the finance department. [Keeping the Promise for Streets Act](#), which would deny the city certain sales tax revenue if it fails to maintain streets to specific levels. [Term Limits Act](#), which would limit the mayor and council members to no more than two consecutive four-year terms. [Open Meetings Act](#), which would require city meetings to begin no earlier than 5 p.m. and allow public speakers no less than three minutes to comment. [Permit Simplicity Act](#), which would reform the permitting system with training, new guidelines and an auditing process that would lead an applicant to obtain a permit in one business day.

Other Ways to Fight for Nonpartisan Political Reform in California

To state the obvious, it is impossible to provide a comprehensive list of political reforms that can be enacted at the local level in California. A few additional noteworthy items are: reform the [binding arbitration](#) process, resist the ongoing assault on [charter schools](#), defend the [right of public employers to speak openly](#) to employees about the costs and benefits of union membership, fight to [enforce the Janus decision](#), and raise public awareness about the [harm government unions are doing](#) to our democracy.

The political landscape in California, unfortunately, cannot be significantly changed without state legislation or state ballot initiatives. Absolutely crippling, cruel legislation passed in Sacramento by the uni-party has brought California to the brink of becoming a feudal state, and only statewide rolling back of these laws will result in dramatic change. But citizens initiatives that work at the local level can also work at the state level. It just takes a lot more signatures to get it done.

State Initiative Process:

- Draft ballot measure and submit to Attorney General
- Get title & summary, begin signature gathering period
- File petition with election officials in all 58 counties
- Statute or referendum 5% (623,212), amendment 8% (997,139), of votes cast for governor in most recent election
- Collect 30-50 percent more signatures than you need
- Submit signed petitions within 180 days of getting title & summary – must be submitted by county
- Petitions must be submitted *six months* prior to November election

This is a daunting undertaking, which is why most state ballot initiatives require millions in funding to pay for professional signature gatherers, attorneys and consultants. And then, if the initiative is qualified for the state ballot, additional *tens* of millions must be spent to run a campaign in a state with 20 million registered voters, spanning seven major television media markets.

There are exciting new ways these costs can be driven way down, way down, by using the latest online technologies and by viral networking of disgruntled, disenfranchised activists. Millions of these people still

live in California, and all of them want to do *something* to save their state. But a good first start for reformers is to attack on the local level, where they have a chance to marshal sufficient forces to prevail.

Edward Ring is a co-founder of the California Policy Center and served as its first president. This article originally appeared on the website [California Globe](#).



ANNOUNCEMENTS



11th Annual

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Featuring Steve Hayward
UC Berkley's Conservative Senior Resident Scholar

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See the presentation at the link: <https://youtu.be/eEdP4cvf-zA>



AUTHOR & NATIONALLY SYNDICATED COMMENTATOR BEN SHAPIRO APPEARED AT A COLAB ANNUAL DINNER



NATIONAL RADIO AND TV COMMENTATOR HIGH HEWITT AT COLAB DINNER

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: _____

(Revised 2/2017)