



**WEEKLY UPDATE  
JULY 26 - AUGUST 1, 2020**

**THIS WEEK**

**NO BOS MEETING  
OTHER REGIONAL AGENCIES OFF AS WELL**

**TURMOIL CONTINUES IN SOME CITIES  
SLO IS RIOT LITE – BUT COULD HURT DOWNTOWN’S FUTURE**

**COVID-19 PANDEMIC USED TO EXPAND THE  
WELFARE STATE AND EXPAND SOCIALISM**

**STATEWIDE TAX INCREASES, DEBT, & RENT  
CONTROL, PLUS HIRING AND STUDENT ADMISSION  
RACIAL QUOTAS ON NOVEMBER 3, 2020 BALLOT**

**SHERIFF’S COMMENTS DELIBERATELY  
MISINTERPRETED & EXPLOITED TO PROMOTE  
DISORDER**

**LAST WEEK**

**BROKE CITIES PUT SALES TAXES ON BALLOT**

**SLO SCHOOL DISTRICTS TO STAY LOCKED DOWN  
DISTANCE LEARNING – THEN GOVERNOR LOCKED THEM ALL DOWN**

**LA TEACHERS' UNION BLACKMAILS COMMUNITY  
DEMANDS \$250 MILLION & SOCIALIST POLICIES TO RETURN  
HUGE UPHEAVAL IF OTHERS AROUND STATE COPY**

**BOARD MAJORITY DEFENDED PROP 13**

**NO BOARD OF SUPERVISORS FOR 3 WEEKS**

**NO APCD MEETING IN JULY**

**PLANNING COMMISSION OKAYS HOUSING DEAL  
AND USED UP A VALUABLE COMMERCIAL SITE  
CANNABIS ITEMS CONTINUED**

**COLAB IN DEPTH  
SLO COLAB IN DEPTH  
SEE PAGE 17**

**SCHOOL IS CANCELED IN CALIFORNIA  
BY LARRY SAND**

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**WILL 2021 BE 1984?**

*It's all about the power, not the equality.*

**BY VICTOR DAVIS HANSON**

## THIS WEEK'S HIGHLIGHTS

### No Board of Supervisors Meeting on Tuesday, July 28, 2020 (Not Scheduled)

The Board is scheduled to meet next on August 11, 2020.

### Things Continue to Unravel Statewide, Nationally, and Locally

**1. Governor orders K-12 schools to remain shut down and provide distance learning.** There is no clear evidence that opening the schools will result in pandemic spread. In fact the damage to the students, including falling behind, social isolation, lack of nutrition programs, and other services will be highly detrimental. The damage to the economy as parents cannot return to work or must find expensive childcare will be severe.

Last week we pointed out that the LA School District's Teachers Union has seized upon the COVID problem to attempt to blackmail the School District and City into supporting a long list of nasty progressive/socialist platform goals. These go far beyond normal union bargaining demands over wages, conditions of work, benefits, and hours. They are so radical, and the fact that they are being advocated by a 60,000-member labor organization, makes them of huge concern for the future. We repeat them here for your convenience:

*A. Congress passes the HEROES Act, which would allocate an additional \$116 billion in federal-education funding to the states. Obviously this one is not under control of the LA School Board or Mayor and City Council.*

*B. The state must pass a ballot initiative that would reassess property values for the purposes of raising local taxes. This is a demand for the passage of Prop 15, which would remove commercial, industrial, and agricultural buildings from Prop 13 protection.*

*C. There should also be a new wealth tax, appropriating (perhaps they meant "expropriating") the existing assets of the wealthy, as well as a surtax on all incomes over \$1 million annually.*

*D. Schools will remain closed until and unless some form of "Medicare-for-all" becomes law, thwarting the "boundless greed of the for-profit health industry" which, "combined with this country's deeply ingrained racism," has led to worse outcomes for black Americans.*

*E. Los Angeles must commit to "defund police."*

*F. The state must expand the criteria by which residents without U.S. citizenship are eligible for financial and legal protections to the extent that it allows those benefits to flow without even having to apply for them.*

*G. There must be a moratorium on the licensing of charter schools.*

In addition, the union insisted that even if lockdowns do not continue in perpetuity, the City must commit to an ongoing program of “rental relief” and eviction protections. A concern is that these or similar provisions will be adopted by other public sector labor unions. So far it appears that the Service Employee’s International (SEIU), the American Federation of State, Municipal, and County Employees (AFSCME), and the various safety unions have not adopted such radical polemics. The California Federation of Teachers’ website expresses solidarity with Black rights, but so far does not posit any radical actions.

On the other hand and significantly, the California Faculty Association (CFA), which represents 29,000 professors, lecturers, librarians, and other instructors within the entire CSU system, have promulgated their own polemic, which is narrower than the LA Teachers Union version while focusing on Black and minority faculty issues:

*The white supremacist ideology that is part of this structured racism is reflected in the media and gives rise to microaggressions and criminalization of Black bodies that characterize our daily social interactions on the street, in the park, in stores, schools and workplaces.*

*Structured racism and white supremacy are unavoidable. Only systemic change can cure the centuries-long pandemic of racism.*

- *Value Black lives.*
- *Uphold rights to protest anti-Black racism.*
- *Protect Black LGBTQIA+.*
- *Defund and remove armed, militarized policing from our campuses.*
- *Support the Ethnic Studies requirement Assembly Bill 1460.*
- *Resource/establish Black Studies Departments and Black Student/Resource Centers on each campus.*
- *Provide free tuition for Black, Native, and Indigenous students.*
- *Prioritize resources for mental health counseling, including Black counselors.*
- *Establish and resource programs for criminal justice system-impacted students.*
- *Implement racial pay equity.*
- *Recognize and reward the scholarship/creative works of Black faculty.*
- *Relieve cultural taxation of Black faculty.<sup>1</sup>*
- *Transform the leadership of the CSUs so that it is truly representative of the communities served by the CSU.*

These demands are significant in that they are issued by the faculty union of the largest public university system in the nation, a faculty that teaches the overwhelming number of Californians who receive bachelor’s degrees, teaching credentials, and master’s degrees. The radicalization of this

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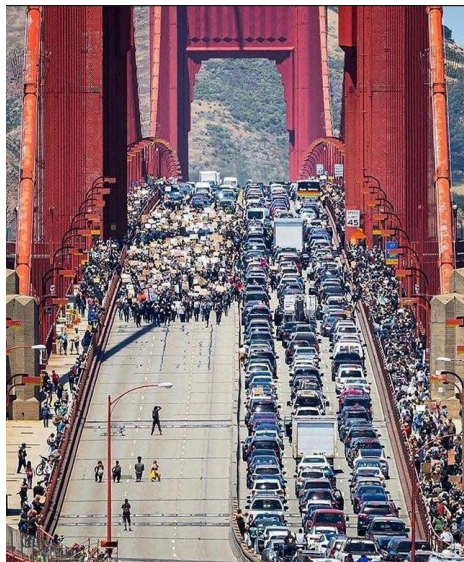
<sup>1</sup> **According to the CFA:** “Cultural taxation” is a stealth workload escalator for faculty of color. And like stress, it can be a silent killer of professional careers and aspirations. Clearly, serving on university and department committees as the “minority” representative is taxing in itself. But being expected to “speak for your people” as well, is a form of “taxation without representation” at whose mere consideration, would make most faculties shudder.

group is having profound impacts on what Californians believe about fairness, society, politics, and history.

**2. Racial and class conflict continue across the State, Nation, and in SLO County.** Police use of deadly force against African Americans and alleged disproportionate routine stops of African Americans have been catalyzed into a revolutionary-like movement to dismantle society. The issues have also been appropriated to help defeat the President's reelection attempt. Major components include direct action and replacement of cultural and institutional forms including:

- Lawful demonstrations designed to be converted into riots
- Attack on law and justice institutions
- Cultural & historical iconoclasm
- Rejection of western science, English language, and Judeo-Christian heritage (as being innately white supremacist)
- Open borders
- Negation of private property
- Rejection of the primacy of the nuclear family
- Suppression of the Judeo-Christian spirit and heritage and their physical symbols

It is nastier if you have a real choke point like the Golden Gate Bridge and burn the whole strip mall down. Will weakness in SLO beckon the worst?



**3. Use of the COVID-19 Pandemic to expand the welfare state and expand socialism including:**

- Free income distribution programs

- Government imposed rent holidays
- Extension and potential permanentization of unemployment insurance payments
- Demands for national free healthcare for both citizens and non-citizens, including people who are in the country illegally
- Massive expansion of Federal debt
- At county level, many cities are using the COVID revenue losses as an excuse to place sales tax increases on the November 3, 2020 ballot. Some of these were already in the works before anyone had ever heard of COVID

#### **4. Statewide Tax Increase, Debt, and Socialization of Private Property Measures on November 3, 2020 ballot**

##### **Proposition 14**

*1880. (19-0022A1)*

**AUTHORIZES BONDS TO CONTINUE FUNDING STEM CELL AND OTHER MEDICAL RESEARCH. INITIATIVE STATUTE.**

*Authorizes \$5.5 billion in state general obligation bonds to fund grants from the California Institute of Regenerative Medicine to educational, non-profit, and private entities for: (1) stem cell and other medical research, therapy development, and therapy delivery; (2) medical training; and (3) construction of research facilities. Dedicates \$1.5 billion to fund research and therapy for Alzheimer's, Parkinson's, stroke, epilepsy, and other brain and central nervous system diseases and conditions. Limits bond issuance to \$540 million annually. Appropriates money from General Fund to repay bond debt, but postpones repayment for first five years. Summary of estimate by Legislative Analyst and Director of Finance of fiscal impact on state and local governments: **State costs of \$7.8 billion to pay off principal (\$5.5 billion) and interest (\$2.3 billion) on the bonds. Associated average annual debt payments of about \$310 million for 25 years. The costs could be higher or lower than these estimates depending on factors such as the interest rate and the period of time over which the bonds are repaid. The state General Fund would pay most of the costs, with a relatively small amount of interest repaid by bond proceeds.***

##### **Proposition 15**

*1870. (19-0008A1)*

**INCREASES FUNDING FOR PUBLIC SCHOOLS, COMMUNITY COLLEGES, AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT SERVICES BY CHANGING TAX ASSESSMENT OF COMMERCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL PROPERTY. INITIATIVE CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT.**

*Increases funding for K-12 public schools, community colleges, and local governments by requiring that commercial and industrial real property be taxed based on current market value. Exempts from*

*this change: residential properties; agricultural properties; and owners of commercial and industrial properties with combined value of \$3 million or less. Increased education funding will supplement existing school funding guarantees. Exempts small businesses from personal property tax; for other businesses, exempts \$500,000 worth of personal property. Summary of estimate by Legislative Analyst and Director of Finance of fiscal impact on state and local governments: **Net increase in annual property tax revenues of \$7.5 billion to \$12 billion in most years, depending on the strength of real estate markets. After backfilling state income tax losses related to the measure and paying for county administrative costs, the remaining \$6.5 billion to \$11.5 billion would be allocated to schools (40 percent) and other local governments (60 percent).***

### **Proposition 16**

The ballot measure is being placed before the voters by the State Assembly per proposed Assembly Constitutional Amendment 5 (ACA 5), which would re-impose affirmative action in city, county, public university systems, community college districts, school districts, special districts, or any other political subdivision or governmental instrumentality of or within, the state. It would allow the establishment of hiring quotas, promotional quotas, and college admissions quotas based on race, gender, sexual orientation, and other protected class metrics. It could also be used in selecting tenants and owners for government financed housing and jobs programs.

### **Proposition 17**

The measure is also being placed on the November ballot by the Assembly through ACA 4. It would repeal election law rules which prohibit convicted felons who have served their sentences from voting. It would also allow those who have been determined to be mentally incapacitated to vote

### **Proposition 21**

**1862. (19-0001)**

**EXPANDS LOCAL GOVERNMENTS' AUTHORITY TO ENACT RENT CONTROL ON RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY. INITIATIVE STATUTE.**

*Amends state law to allow local governments to establish rent control on residential properties over 15 years old. Allows rent increases on rent-controlled properties of up to 15 percent over three years from previous tenant's rent above any increase allowed by local ordinance. Exempts individuals who own no more than two homes from new rent-control policies. In accordance with California law, provides that rent-control policies may not violate landlords' right to a fair financial return on their property. Summary of estimate by Legislative Analyst and Director of Finance of fiscal impact on state and local governments: **Potential reduction in state and local revenues of tens of millions of dollars per year in the long term. Depending on actions by local communities, revenue losses could be less or more.***

**5. Sheriff's Comments Exploited:** The progressive left in SLO County has launched an all-out assault on County Sheriff Ian Parkinson for remarks he made during a talk at a SLO North County Tea Party meeting. The SLO Tribune editorial board, Democratic lobbyist/columnist Tom Fulks, the

New Times Shredder, and a number of bloggers are calling for recall, re-education, or some sort of craven public repentance.

According to news reports, the Sheriff stated that he supports peaceful protests but that riots are illegal. He stated that he does not believe that SLO County suffers from systemic racism and that people should use their own judgment about using facemasks for COVID.

You would have thought from the uproar that he is the reincarnation of the mythical Sheriff Purvis P. Coltrane of Dukes of Hazard fame.

What if instead, the Sheriff had said, “You betcha,” and taking a line from Malcom X added “Racism is as American as apple pie.” He could have doubled down and said, “Look, the real problem is the current scheme of land use in the cities and county, which makes it impossible for working people, newly minted Cal Poly graduates, and minorities to live here and take jobs. And oh by the way, you people have done everything you can to close the county’s major private sector employer, Diablo power plant (\$1 billion in economic annual impact with multipliers.” Check out PG&E’s inclusiveness and diversity statistics for 2014-16 (4 years ago) in the tables below on the next page.

Most of the people currently wanking about the Sheriff today couldn’t be happier that the Diablo plant is closing and that our electric energy will be sourced from solar and wind plants with 20 or fewer low paid maintenance employees. Politicians and progressives supporting closure of the plant are committing a real act of blatant racism from an employment and career-benefited jobs standpoint.

As for the “systemic racist” voters of SLO County, they went for Barrack Obama 61,258 to 59,967 over Romney in 2012 and Obama over McCain 68,176 to 61,055 in 2008.

## PG&E WORKFORCE DEMOGRAPHICS, 2014 - 2016

EEOC CATEGORY	2014	2015	2016
Women	28.2%	28.1%	28.4%
Officials and Managers	32.2%	32.0%	33.6%
Professionals	35.0%	35.2%	34.5%



## PG&E WORKFORCE DEMOGRAPHICS, 2014 - 2016

EEOC CATEGORY	2014	2015	2016
Technicians	18.7%	18.6%	18.6%
Women Continued			
Administrative Support Workers	72.3%	71.8%	72.0%
Craft Workers	2.7%	2.6%	2.4%
Operatives	3.4%	4.8%	4.0%
Laborers and Helpers	9.2%	11.2%	12.0%
Service Workers	9.7%	10.3%	8.0%

## PG&E WORKFORCE DEMOGRAPHICS, 2014 – 2016

<b>Ethnic Minorities</b>	<b>41.1%</b>	<b>41.7%</b>	<b>42.7%</b>
Officials and Managers	31.3%	32.0%	32.6%
Professionals	42.5%	43.8%	44.9%

Technicians	41.9%	39.4%	39.6%
Administrative Support Workers	59.7%	60.7%	62.4%
Craft Workers	31.9%	32.6%	33.0%
Operatives	33.3%	41.8%	39.3%
Laborers and Helpers	47.7%	48.1%	48.2%
Service Workers	32.2%	33.2%	34.7%

## Minority Groups

American Indian or Alaskan Native	1.4%	1.3%	1.2%
Asian	14.6%	14.7%	14.7%
Black/African American	6.3%	6.3%	6.4%
Hispanic/Latino	16.7%	17.0%	17.6%
Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	0.4%	0.5%	0.5%
Two or more races	1.7%	1.9%	2.3%

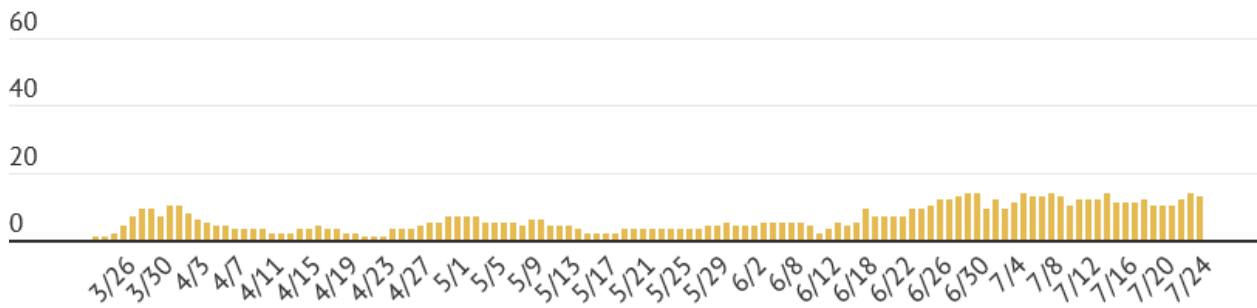
Wonder how the County and the various cities stack up on these numbers?

## 6. COVID STATUS IN San Luis Obispo COUNTY:

### DAILY NEW COVID-19 CASES

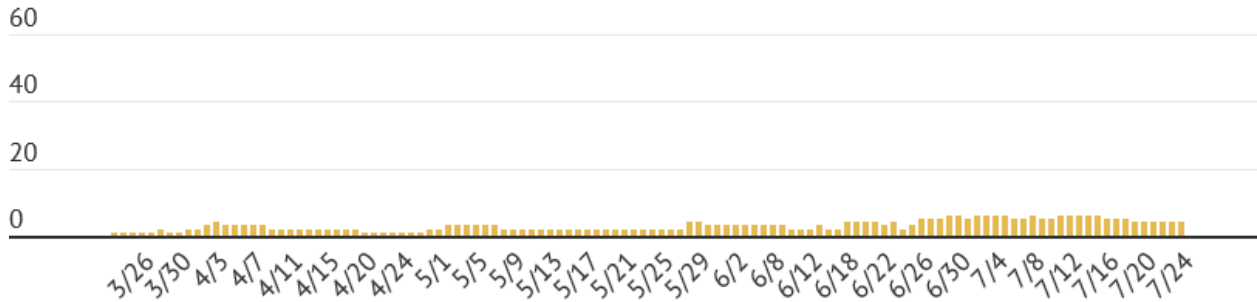


### DAILY HOSPITALIZED CASES



New hospital cases seem to hover around 10 to 12 per day. For whatever reason they don't seem to be tracking the total new cases per day. New ICU cases are low and level so far.

### DAILY ICU CASES



**7. What Can You Do About All This?** Once again, California Policy Center Ed Ring comes to our rescue. How about the list below for a great alternative party platform?

*Implement school vouchers so that parents can send their children to any school they want, public, and public charter, private, parochial, or home school.*

*Dismantle and repeal legislation such as CEQA that has made housing unaffordable to virtually all Californians, especially the disadvantaged.*

*Keep Diablo Canyon open and commission the construction of additional nuclear power plants.*

*Finance through revenue and general obligation bonds new water infrastructure, including aqueduct upgrades, desalination plants, and surface and aquifer water storage.*

*Streamline permitting to allow natural gas extraction from onshore reserves as well as offshore using slant drilling from onshore wells.*

*Build an LNG terminal on the Ventura County coast.*

*Permit mining in the Mohave Desert to extract lithium and other rare earth resources that are essential for batteries.*

*Expedite expanded sustainable logging whereby timber companies remove flammable understorage in return for the ability to harvest timber.*

*Add lanes to all major freeways; pioneer development of smart lanes and hyper lanes where autonomous cars can travel at high speeds.*

*Reform public employee pensions so California's government agencies don't have to continuously raise taxes.*

*Repeal Prop. 47 and Prop. 57 and restore law and order to California's streets.*

*Relocate homeless people to shelters that are built cost-effectively in less expensive areas; break the Homeless Industrial Complex.*

*Require California's pension funds to invest at least 10 percent of their assets as equity stakes in infrastructure projects located in California.*

*Permit utilities such as PG&E to clear cut firebreaks around rural powerlines – which other states allow – instead of the hyper-regulated current state mandate to prune around them.*

*Oppose discrimination in all forms, including affirmative action, preferential hiring, mandatory race & gender quotas, etc.*

*Edward Ring is a contributing editor and senior fellow with the California Policy Center, which he co-founded in 2013 and served as its first president. The California Policy Center is an educational non-*

*profit focused on public policies that aim to improve California's democracy and economy. He is also a senior fellow of the Center for American Greatness. Support for Newsom recall would instantly earn loyalty of thousands of registered voters. By Edward Ring, July 23, 2020.*

## LAST WEEK'S HIGHLIGHTS

### **The Board of Supervisors Not Scheduled For The Next 2 Weeks.**

The Board will return on August 11, 2020 unless COVID or some other extraordinary event requires action sooner. Nevertheless there is plenty to report, some of which is very disturbing.

**COVID, TEACHERS UNION BLACKMAIL, AND YOU LOSE:** Each week the Board received a report on the COVID virus status within the County and State. Last week's numbers are included at the end of this section.

Since the meeting, the County's largest school district, Lucia Mar Unified, announced that it will be on distance learning this fall. Soon other County districts followed with the same distance learning announcements.

Several days earlier, the Los Angeles, San Diego, and Sacramento School districts also announced that they will not operate live classrooms. Not so coincidentally, on Thursday the Governor signed a **new law which prohibits layoffs of teachers or other school employees through June of 2021.** Finally the Governor issued an order to ban in-person attendance and require distance learning for all K-12 schools.

***So even if the schools are closed, everybody gets paid. That's a very sweet deal courtesy of taxpayers, many of whom are currently on hold with the Employment Development Department, trying to get their unemployment benefits.***

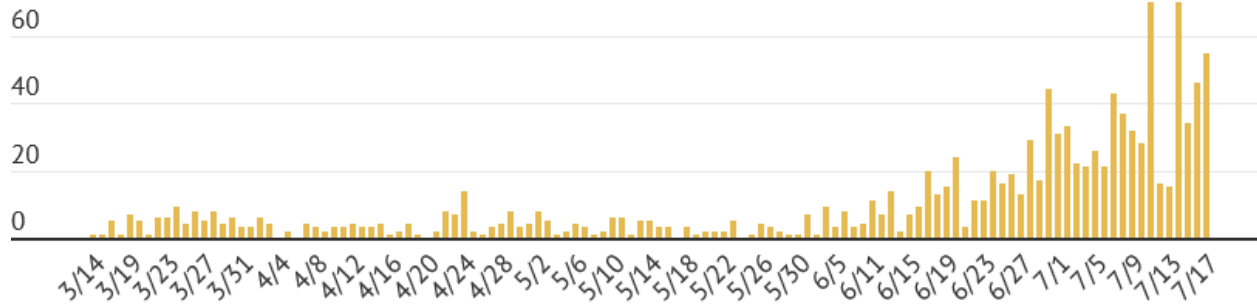
One solution could be for neighborhoods to set up their own day schools and use volunteers and the homebound teachers who live there to teach students segmented by age group. They could use the on line curriculum provided by the districts to assist students academically, work the anti-COVID protocols, take temperatures, supervise distancing and masks to the extent possible, etc. The State, County, and cities could relax zoning and building code requirements to allow this to happen. After all they have done it for restaurants and bars.

See all the details in last week's update at the link:

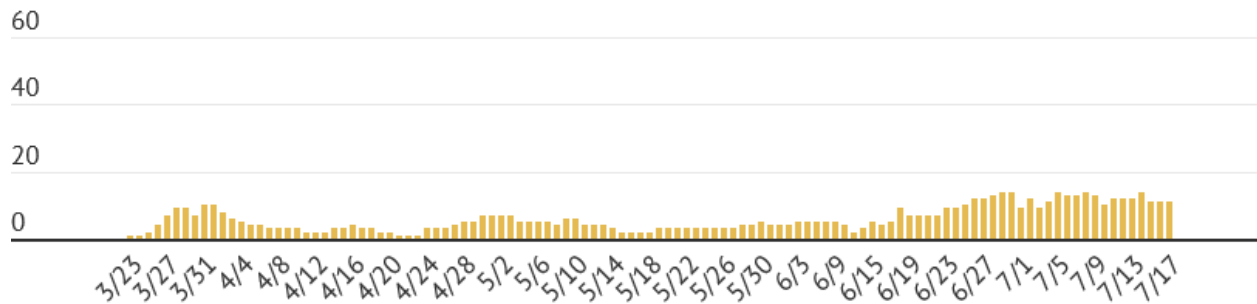
[http://www.colabslo.org/prior\\_actions/2020/Weekly%20Update\\_July-19\\_July-25\\_2020.pdf](http://www.colabslo.org/prior_actions/2020/Weekly%20Update_July-19_July-25_2020.pdf)

Last week SLO County's new cases were up and down per the tables below:

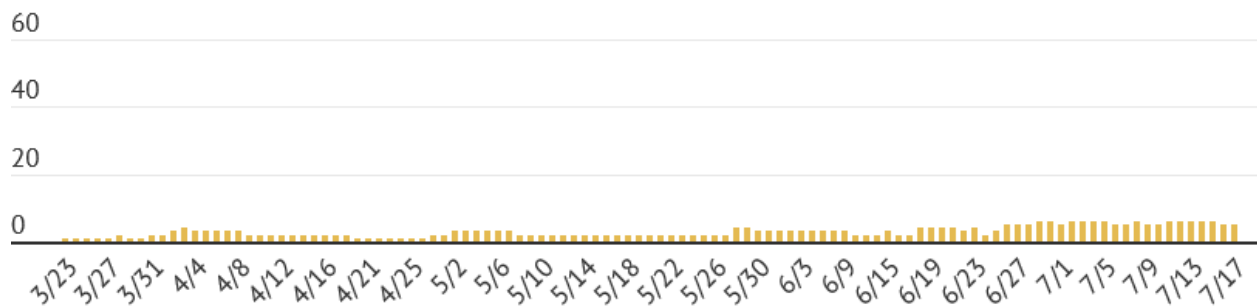
### DAILY NEW CASES



### DAILY HOSPITAL CASES



### DAILY ICU CASES



## Board Majority Defends Proposition 13 at California State Association of Counties

**Background:** Supervisor Bruce Gibson is the County's official representative to the California State Association of Counties (CSAC). It is an important role because CSAC is the counties' representative and lobbying organ in Sacramento. The Association takes positions on pending legislation and pending administrative orders. Gibson is the Chairman of the Finance Committee of CSAC, which was considering its position on various ballot measures for the November 3, 2020 election. Included was Proposition 15, which would remove Prop 13 protection from commercial, industrial, and agricultural operational and support facilities.

It was feared that Gibson would cast SLO County's vote to support Prop. 15, even though the County's officially adopted State Legislative Platform opposes any move to weaken Prop. 13. Gibson has taken pro tax increase positions in the past, contrary to County policy.

**What Actually Happened:** In this case, Supervisors Compton and Arnold Zoomed in and made the County's position clear.

Supervisor Compton reported in part:

*Today the CSAC Finance Committee chaired by Bruce Gibson (on a Zoom meeting) took two important votes to make recommendations (or not) to the full CSAC board in support/opposition of certain proposition measures:*

*1. Prop 15 Split Roll – Finance Committee voted 14:1 to take “no position” in making a recommendation to the CSAC board on this proposition. Overwhelming opposition. Bruce voted with the majority to take no action/position.*

*Comments were: Bad timing, assessors claim it will cost too much money, 70% of income received would be discretionary and go into the general fund, most small businesses wouldn't benefit from the exemptions, it will hurt rural counties, it will hurt agricultural businesses that are already hurting, and it hurts businesses who are already hurting over COVID 19 issues.*

*2. Prop 19 – Portability – Finance Committee voted to “Oppose” as a recommendation to the full CSAC board. Vote was 8:2 (the Motion was to Oppose Prop 19) to oppose.*

*Comments were overall that it hurt counties.*

*Debbie and I spoke on Prop 15, John was on the radio at the same time so couldn't join the meeting.*

Supervisor Gibson reportedly voted along with most of the Committee to take no position. It would have been much better to have voted firmly against supporting the ballot measure for the basic reasons that the Committee invoked to take no position.

#### **No APCD Meeting Scheduled in July (Not Scheduled)**

The quasi-autonomous agency typically meets every other month. Its primary focus has been to close the Oceano Dunes State Park to off road recreational vehicles and on road campers and trailers.

#### **Planning Commission Meeting of Thursday, July 23, 2020 (Completed)**

##### **Summary:**

The agenda contained 3 items, which included permit requests for: 1) a 28-unit affordable housing project near the intersection of Las Tablas Road and Highway 101; 2) a modification to an existing cannabis dispensary in Oceano; and 3) a large cannabis farm about 2.2 miles east of Pozo on River Road. None of the items seemed to have major policy impacts. See site maps below.

**Las Tablas Road/101 Affordable Housing Site:** The permit was approved unanimously and with zeal. The project applicant, Peoples Self Help Housing, is highly regarded for both the development and management of its affordable projects. There was no community comment and no opposition.

The land is zoned for office and professional uses. As we have noted in the past, the County does not have sufficient land zoned for affordable housing in that it would use a parcel which could generate substantial property taxes and sales taxes for a tax exempt residential use. The staff and Commission had nothing to say about this issue.



**Oceano Cannabis Dispensary Modifications:** The modification to the permit encountered some headwinds. The permit application requested that that the number of delivery vehicles operating from the site be increased from 2 to 11. The Sheriff’s Office opposed this on the grounds that there too many were proposed, given the size and other automotive uses existing on the site. The site is an industrially zoned parcel which contains a number of other tenants with automotive repair and related businesses.

After some negotiation a compromise was achieved, which would allow 5 delivery vehicles.

The essential policy takeaway is that business is booming. The Oceano location provides deliveries in SLO County, Santa Barbara County, and even Ventura County.





**East Pozo Cannabis Grow:** The issue was continued due to a noticing error. Area residents are opposed. The Santa Margarita Area Advisory Council is opposed. Traffic, inadequate roads, water usage, and the commercial nature of the enterprise were also invoked as reasons to deny the project.



**East Pozo Cannabis Grow**

## **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**

## **SCHOOL IS CANCELED IN CALIFORNIA**

**BY LARRY SAND**

*Governor Newsom and teachers unions nix in-person instruction for most school kids in the fall.*

The writing was on the chalkboard when the California Teachers Association released a statement on July 8<sup>th</sup> asserting that, due to coronavirus concerns, schools should not open in the fall. The following day, the United Teachers of Los Angeles echoed a similar sentiment, but was far more detailed and blunter than

CTA. Not bothering to mince words, UTLA released a 17-page “research paper” – or, more accurately, a manifesto – in which the union larded up their occasional coronavirus concerns with sweeping political demands, including Medicare for all, a wealth tax, a millionaire tax, defunding the police, guaranteed housing, financial support for illegals, a moratorium on charter schools, et al.

UTLA ended its screed with a statement that would have made Karl Marx beam. “As it stands, the only people guaranteed to benefit from the premature physical reopening of schools amidst a rapidly accelerating pandemic are billionaires and the politicians they’ve purchased.”

Is it any surprise that socialist Bernie Sanders was UTLA’s presidential choice?

The Los Angeles Unified School District fell into line on July 13<sup>th</sup>, announcing that students will not return to the classroom in the fall because of the virus. The final shoe dropped on July 17<sup>th</sup> when Governor Gavin Newsom shut down in-person education in the Golden State for all but a handful of schools in sparsely populated areas.

So California kids are just going to have to communicate with their teachers online, right? Well, maybe. As reported by *EdSource*’s John Fensterwald, CTA claims that “school districts lack the authority to force teachers to do live online instruction or to record lessons for later use.” The union points to Education Code 51512, a 1976 law that provides privacy protections for teachers. “It prevents unauthorized recording in a classroom and requires a teacher’s and a principal’s consent for the use of any ‘listening or recording device.’” So each teacher will have to okay online instruction. While most educators will likely go forth with online learning, parents need to be aware that a teacher can legally opt out.

At the same time as the California education duopoly is canceling school for millions of kids in the name of “science,” many child health experts are urging schools to reopen with in-person classes this fall. For example, the American Academy of Pediatrics, having weighed the pros and cons, maintains that schools should reopen for in-person learning for children’s overall well-being. The AAP strongly advocates that all policy considerations for the coming school year “should start with a goal of having students physically present in school. The importance of in-person learning is well-documented, and there is already evidence of the negative impacts on children because of school closures in the spring of 2020.”

Needless to say, many parents are unhappy being at the mercy of Big Guv-Big Union diktats. Concerned Parents Los Angeles and Speak UP are two grassroots organizations that are trying to counter the education establishment’s one-size-fits-all edicts via town halls, workshops, lobbying school boards, etc.

The best way out of this mess would be to start funding students rather than the bureaucracy. If a school district or the state decides not to hold classes, a parent should be able to use their education dollars to fund their child’s education elsewhere. As Corey DeAngelis, director of school choice at the Reason Foundation,

wrote recently, “If public schools can’t reopen, or aren’t equipped to provide adequate education online, families shouldn’t be forced to pay for them. Think of it this way: If a Walmart doesn’t reopen, families can take their food stamps elsewhere. If a school doesn’t reopen, families should similarly be able to take their education dollars elsewhere.”

While Newsom’s shut-down fiat included private schools, this change would still be a blessing for many, notably single parents, who must get back to work. They could use the money to help defray their child’s education via a homeschool co-op or a pod arrangement, for example.

After Newsom’s July 17<sup>th</sup> decision to close schools, California Assemblyman Kevin Kiley stated, “Today’s decision elevates the appearance of safety over actual student safety. A growing body of evidence suggests school closures do little to flatten the epidemic curve, while an abundance of evidence shows they are a calamity for kids.” Kiley added, “By giving himself political cover, Governor Newsom has exposed millions of kids to untold trauma and loss. The impacts of school closures will be devastating for working parents, academic equity, and mental health.”

Kiley nailed it. It is clearer than ever that in the current system, children and their families are nothing more than political footballs and cash cows for the bureaucrats and unionistas. This must end. Now.

*Larry Sand, a former classroom teacher, is the president of the non-profit California Teachers Empowerment Network – a non-partisan, non-political group dedicated to providing teachers and the general public with reliable and balanced information about professional affiliations and positions on educational issues.*

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## **WILL 2021 BE 1984?**

*It’s all about the power, not the equality.*

BY VICTOR DAVIS HANSON

Cultural revolutions are insidious and not just because they seek to change the way people think, write, speak, and act. They are also dangerous because they are fueled by self-righteous sanctimoniousness, expressed in seemingly innocuous terms such as “social activism,” “equality,” and “fairness.”

The ultimate aim of the Jacobin, Bolshevik, or Maoist is raw power—force of the sort sought by Hugo Chavez or the Castro dynasty to get rich, inflict payback on their perceived enemies, reward friends, and pose as saviors.

Cubans and Venezuelans got poor and killed; woke Chavezes and Castros got rich and murderous.

Leftist agendas are harder to thwart than those of right-wing dictators such as Spain's Francisco Franco because they mask their ruthlessness with talk of sacrifice for the "poor" and concern about the "weak."

Strong-man Baathists, Iranian Khomeinists, and the German National Socialists claimed they hated capitalism. So beware when the Marxist racialists who run Black Lives Matter, the wannabe Maoists of Antifa, the George Soros-paid activists, "the Squad" and hundreds of state and local officials like them in cities such as Portland, Seattle, and Minneapolis, and Big Tech billionaires take power. These are "caring" people who couldn't care less about the working classes or the hundreds of African-Americans murdered in America's inner cities.

### **Vice President as President**

If Joe Biden is elected, the effort to remove him by those now supporting him will begin the day after the election and it will not be as crude as rounding up a Yale psychiatrist to testify to his dementia in Congress or shaming the White House physician to give him the Montreal Cognitive Assessment Test in the manner that the Left went after Donald Trump.

It will be far more insidious and successful: leaked stories to the *New York Times* and *Washington Post* from empathetic White House insiders will speak of how "heroically" Biden is fighting his inevitable decline—and how gamely he tries to marshal his progressive forces even as his faculties desert him. We would read about why Biden is a national treasure by sacrificing his health to get elected and then nobly bowing out as he realized the cost of his sacrifice on his person and family.

In the past until now, there was zero chance that the hard Left would ever win an American election. No socialist has ever come close. Even Bernie Sanders accepted that the Democratic establishment for six years broke rules, leveraged candidates to drop out, and warped the media to ensure that he would remain a septuagenarian blowhard railing at the wind from one of his three houses. George McGovern was buried by a landslide. Most Democrats, after Kennedy and until Obama, never won the popular vote unless possessed of a Southern-accented hinting at centrism.

Only the Great Depression and World War II ensured four terms of FDR, who still knew enough not to let his house socialists ruin the wartime U.S. economy.

But in perfect storm and black swan fashion, the coronavirus, the lockdown, the riots, anarchy and looting, all combined with Trump Derangement Syndrome to be weaponized by the Left—and the media far more successfully than with their failed *pro forma*, legalistic efforts with Robert Mueller and impeachment to destroy the Trump presidency—have pushed socialism along.

Yet even that chaos and anarchy by itself would *not* have been able to bring the radical Left into power. Only a “candidate” like Joe Biden could do that.

“Good ‘ole Joe from Scranton” could offer the trifecta formula for a socialist ascension: a reassuring pseudo-centrism, decades’ old establishment familiarity, and his current cognitive decline. In a rare time of virtual campaigning, virtual conventions, and perhaps even virtual debates, Biden alone could successfully massage the virus/quarantine/rioting and panic to win the election, and then nobly exit.

This is not the analysis of a conspiracy theorist but the operating principle behind the Democrats’ and Biden’s basement strategy. It is for that reason that his vice presidential selection is shaping up like none other in memory. In short, Joe Biden of all people is now the face of a cultural revolution, although even he may not fully realize it.

### **Fundamentally Transforming Everything**

What should we expect then if Biden wins and either steps down or more or less is left as a diminished figurehead controlled by the hard Left?

First, there is one theme that unites “the Squad,” Black Lives Matter, the globalist technocracy, and the international Left: unapologetic anti-Semitism. We will see overt anti-Semitism in a way this country has not seen since the early 20th century, all couched in ideological and politically correct attacks on “Zionists” and “the rich” and “Wall Street”—and why Israel has no business being a “Jewish state.”

It has already begun with an NFL player voicing Hitlerian tropes and praising Louis Farrakhan, and then being seconded by an array of rappers, woke Black Lives Matter activists and “Free Palestine” demonstrations. To smear “the Jews” no longer is grounds for an immediate and expected apology, but more “So what are you going to do about it?” Anti-Semitism is deeply embedded within the DNA of the BLM movement—and professional sports as well, as we saw recently from the warnings of Kareem Abdul-Jabbar and Charles Barkley.

“Eat the rich” sloganeering and plans for a wealth tax, and jacking up capital gains and income tax rates, all seem like they are aimed at the super-rich. But don’t think weaponizing the tax code, the government bureaucracies, and the culture itself will do much to the immense wealth of Jeff Bezos, the heirs to Steve Jobs, the Google zillionaires, George Soros, the Walmart fortunes, the lesser tech billionaires, the Facebook clan, or Michael Bloomberg, Bill Gates, and Warren Buffet. None of them will be touched.

Why would any socialist go after the sympathetic mega-funders of the *Washington Post*, the *Atlantic*, Google or Apple News, Twitter, or *Vox*?

Left-wing billionaires are not so strange as we might think. After all, they can *afford* to be socialists. They like the idea that fewer may follow in their footsteps. They think social activism offers them penance for their hard-driving acquisitiveness. Most of all, they feel their knack for making money is

proof that they have the wisdom, the right, and the need to redirect the lives of less successful others—and for the good of all.

Otherwise, the plutocratic class will spend hundreds of millions—a proverbial drop in the bucket in their fortunes—to consult with lawmakers about how to avoid their own progressive legislation and policies. It will hire phalanxes of tax lawyers, trust evaders, and philanthropy scammers that will make the architects of the Clinton Foundation seem a poor joke.

The real enemy in 2021 would be the upper-middle-class as it always is, the kulaks—and not really the professionals such as the lawyers, media grandees, and professors—although many should expect to become collateral damage.

The special targets will be the self-employed successful business class. The enemies of the people will be mostly those striving to be millionaires who run local insurance agencies, the store owners, salespeople, the successful medical practices, car dealerships, large family farms, the millions who keep the country competitive, innovative, and prosperous.

All of them lack the romance of the poor and the cultural tastes of the rich, but for the most part, they are just too damn informed and stubborn to be tolerated. They need to be marginalized by taxes, regulations, and a second-wave cultural assault that renders the prior “you didn’t build that,” “spread the wealth,” “no time to profit,” and “at some point you’ve made enough money” mere sandbox chatter.

### **The Coming Segregation**

Race? We already see the new contours of the always changing commandments of the anointed posted on the *Animal Farm* barnyard wall. A new segregation and apartheid will be sold as needed justice and enlightenment. Admission quotas and hiring on the basis of race will no longer be subtle but overt and triumphant. Separate facilities predicated on race will be common on campuses. What will happen if someone of the wrong race drinks from a fountain in a racially-segregated safe space?

Equality or superiority of result for the favored will be “justice.” Reparations will follow. The sort of creepy anti-white propaganda we saw at the Smithsonian Museum of African-American History and Culture will become orthodoxy. Some of the U.S. GDP won’t be devoted to production but rather toward ferreting out “racism” as they reconstruct society in order endlessly to punish “racists.”

Merit will soon become a dirty, counterrevolutionary word.

Discrimination and the one-drop racial rules of the Old Confederacy will be rebranded as woke, hip, and progressive. Expect more Rachel Dolezals and Ward Churchills. In Seattle, the city conducted whites-only, segregated reeducation sessions, teaching the naïve how to undo their “whiteness.” It was overseen by an office of “civil rights” and sought to ensure that white employees give up their “comfort,” and even their supposed “guaranteed physical safety.” They were to curb any “expectations

or presumptions of emotional safety,” or “control over other people and over the land,” and probably end “relationships with some other white people.”

All that was missing were the Maoist dunce caps.

In 2020 we call racism and segregation “civil rights.” I doubt very many graduates of Seattle’s reeducation efforts decided to dismantle their home security system, will vote to defund the police, will declare their mortgaged home community property, or plan to shun their suburban neighbors if they appear too white looking. But that’s not the point. Instead, the state is joining the racists by institutionalizing venomous tribalism. An Oregon County tried to demand masks for all its residents except African-Americans—the sort of apartheid policy no one in his right mind four months ago would have imagined could be tried in the United States.

Borders? The wall will stop dead in its tracks, and what has been built likely dismantled. Citizenship and residency will be further blurred, with the rights of citizens insidiously transferred to resident aliens. Perhaps the word “citizen” will disappear as discriminatory. Illegal immigration will be favored over legal immigration, in that the latter is too diverse, too meritocratic, and too politically unpredictable.

### **Farewell to Institutions, Hello to “Progress”**

The military? A progressive’s dream. It will transcend its current race and gender edicts in a way no elected slow-coach legislature could imagine. Virtue signaling and quotas will be the quickest route to flag-officer rank, and with it a nice retirement as a woke lobbyist, a wise-man member on an enlightened defense contractor board, a Wall Street “security analyst,” or a cable TV paid woke pundit. How a colonel handled “diversity,” not whether he understands tanks, planes, choppers, or guns will determine his chances at generalship. The Pentagon budget will be rebranded, as “national security” is no longer defined in anachronistic terms like hardware, missiles, ships, and planes, but by diversity and ending implicit bias—a sort of vast ongoing city of Seattle training session.

Finance? The country is broke. Yet the Left wants to borrow trillions for the New Green Deal, reparations, and massive new and expanded old social projects.

It can do that only through one of three ways. It can institutionalize zero or negative interest for a decade or so until the debt crushes the United States. Or it can inflate the economy, eroding accumulated wealth and paying off debt in funny money.

Or it can follow the Chrysler creditor model of the Obama Administration, and begin selectively renouncing debt obligations or reordering the priorities of various creditors. At first, the effort will appear noble and popular by canceling all student debt. But soon the Left will extend such exemptions to minority mortgages and credit card obligations. Debt cancellation and “starting over,” based on race, will be a cornerstone of the “transformation” as it has been since the age of Catiline.

High tech? Like the media, it will formally fuse into the progressive party, as elites go back and forth between jobs in Washington and those at Apple, Google, Facebook, and Microsoft. Everything from the order of internet searches to censoring ads and videos for their political content will be greenlighted. Silicon Valley will be seen as the most important asset of the Left, both for its political utility in blocking conservative expression, and its enormous wealth that fuels leftist campaigns.

Finally, if the Senate and House go progressive along with the presidency, the filibuster will end. And we will see fundamental constitutional changes never quite envisioned. Expect legislation to make the Electoral College inert without the use of a clumsy constitutional amendment process.

The Supreme Court will be enlarged and packed on a majority congressional vote to neuter existing conservatives until reinforcements of progressive new justices arrive.

Some will wish to make senators popularly elected on the basis of demography or the Senate expanded into the hundreds—anything to do away with the paleo-idea of two senators from Montana or Wyoming standing in the way of the bending arc of history.

Such are the wages of a global pandemic, national quarantine, sudden recession, cultural revolution in the streets—and an impaired Joe Biden.

Add it all up, and 2020 may be the first, best, and last chance for “1984”—and the Left knows it.

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