



**WEEKLY UPDATE
NOVEMBER 28 - DECEMBER 4, 2021**

THIS WEEK

**ALERT
FINAL REDISTRICTING MAP TO BE SELECTED
ON TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 30, 9:00 AM
SHOW UP – SAVE THE COUNTY TO SAVE YOUR FUTURE**

**SPECIAL BOARD MEETING NOVEMBER 30th
SEE PAGE 6 FOR DETAILS ON HOW REDISTRICTING IMPACTS THE ISSUES**

NO REGULAR BOARD MEETING

OTHER AGENCIES DORMANT

LAST WEEK

NO BOS MEETING

SPECIAL IWMA MEETING TUESDAY, NOV 23

OTHER AGENCIES DORMANT

EMERGENT ISSUES

**COVID LOW BUT HANGING AROUND
AND NOW THERE IS YET ANOTHER NEW VIRULANT VERSION**

**California's Alarming Cocktail of Criminal Justice
'Reforms' Responsible for Major Crime Wave**

The house that Californians built and Democrats remodeled is on fire

BY KATY GRIMES

COLAB IN DEPTH

SEE PAGE 14

THE NEW BLUE CONFEDERACY

How did the New North become the Old South, and the New South the Old North?

BY VICTOR DAVIS HANSON

UNDERMINING PENSION REFORM

*The Biden Administration Tries to deny California Transit Aid Because the State
reduced Public –Worker Retirement Benefits eight years ago*

BY STEVEN MALANGA

THIS WEEK'S HIGHLIGHTS

ALL MEETINGS ARE 9:00 AM UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED

No Regular Board of Supervisors Meeting on Tuesday, November 30, 2021(Not Scheduled)

The next regular meeting will take place on December 7, 2021.

**Special Board of Supervisors Meeting of Tuesday, November 30, 2021 - Redistricting of
Supervisorial Districts (Scheduled)**

Item 1 - Hearing to consider two finalist supervisorial district maps and provide staff formal direction on selection of a final map for the 2021 restricting process. The Board is expected to choose one of the two maps remaining in the process. Previously, 28 proposed maps were winnowed down to two for further consideration. In order to meet the State deadline of December 15, 2021, the Board must pick a map on Tuesday, November 30 in order to provide the time necessary to draw up the official meets and bounds engineering map and adopt it by ordinance. On November 19, the Patten map (so named for its proposer) and the SLO Chamber of Commerce maps were chosen on a vote of 4/1, with Supervisor Dawn Ortiz Legg dissenting. Supervisor Gibson voted for the package under protest, as he is adamantly opposed to the Patten map, but as a matter of hedging his bets, he wanted to give the Chamber map a chance.

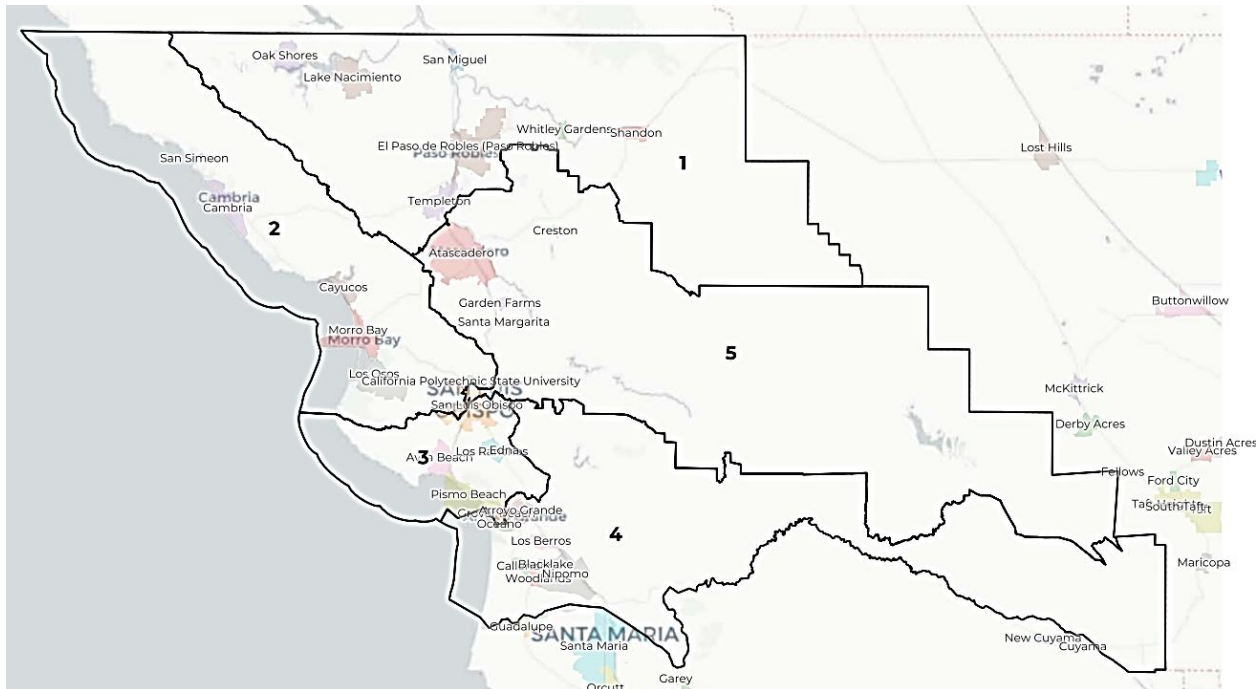
Gibson then proposed staff map B, which is very similar to the current map. The motion failed 3/2 with Arnold, Compton, and Peaching dissenting.

Maps displayed below include:

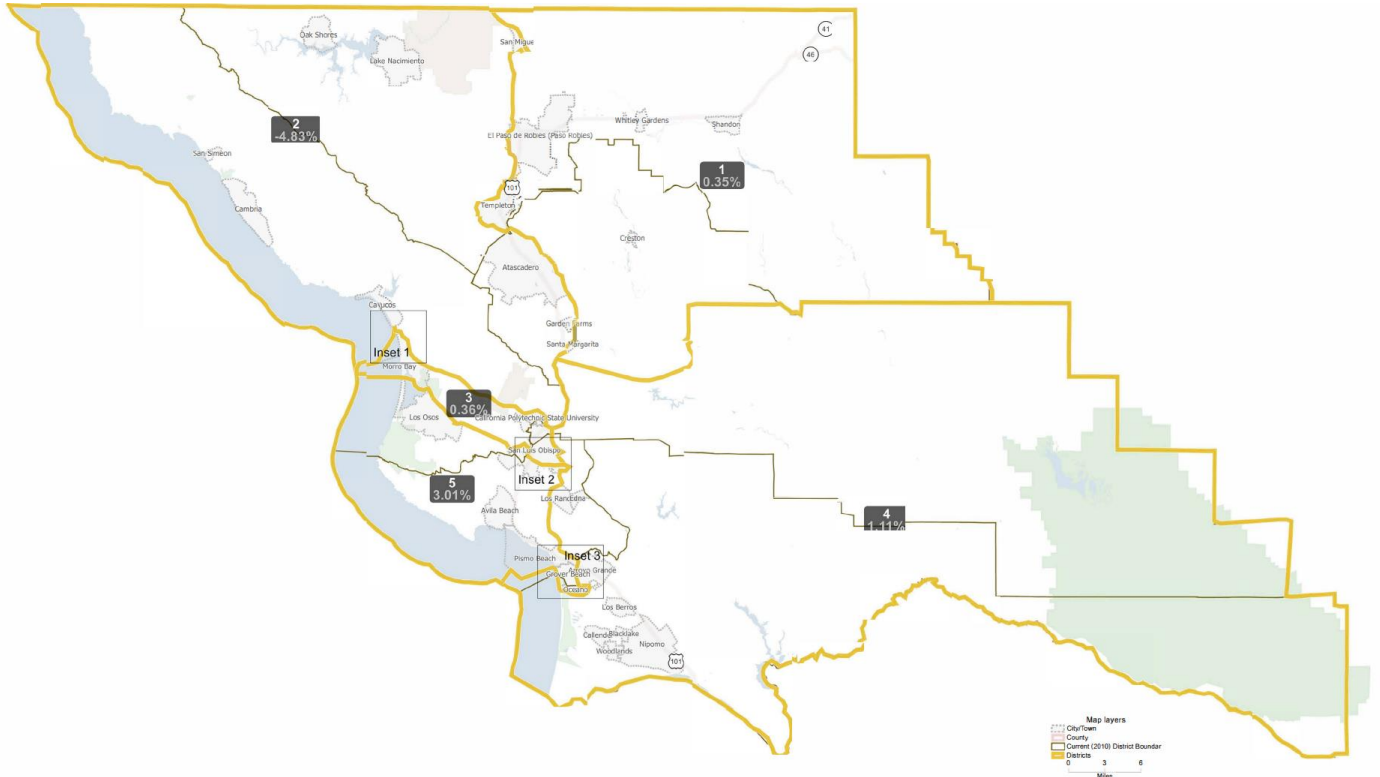
1. The current districts map
2. The Patten proposed map
3. The San Luis Obispo Chamber of Commerce proposed map

The final map will be chosen at a special Board meeting on Tuesday, November 30, 2021.

2011 EXISTING DISTRICTS

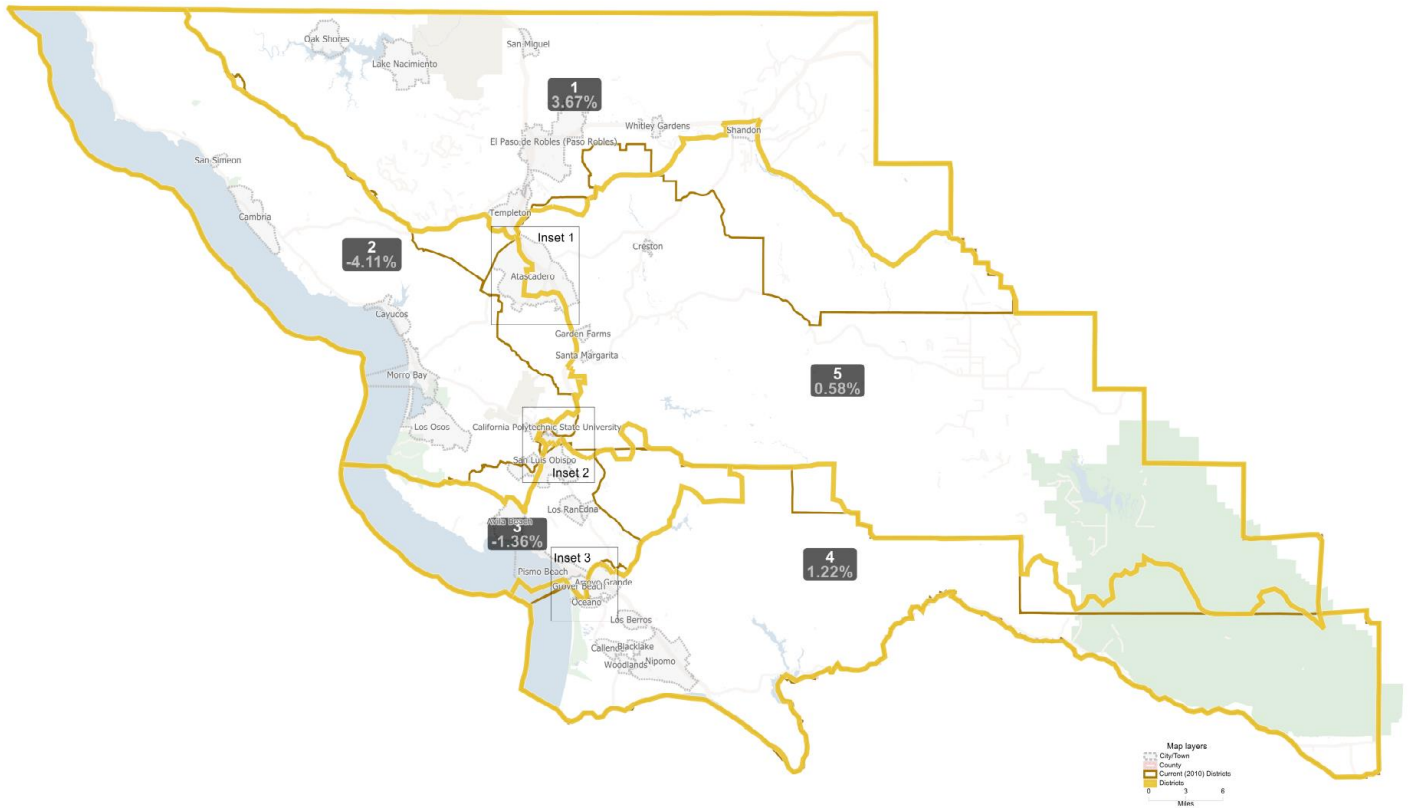


PATTEN PROPOSED MAP BELOW 74786



Map ID 74786 Map ID 74786, titled “Richard Patten Rev1” and submitted by a resident creates a new architecture for the five Supervisorial Districts. District 1, situated in the northeast corner of the county, includes Paso Robles, Templeton, Whitley Gardens, Santa Margarita, and Creston all whole within the district. District 2 is the northern coastal district and includes the coastal communities of San Simeon, Cambria, and Cayucos and the inland communities of Atascadero, Oak Shores, Lake Nacimiento, San Miguel and Garden Farms. District 3 is an oblong district connecting Morro Bay to Cal Poly and a portion of the City of San Luis Obispo along Highway 1. District 4 includes the remaining portion of the City of San Luis Obispo (the southwestern portion) and the coastal communities of Los Osos, Avila Beach, Pismo Beach, Grover Beach, and Oceano, all whole within the district. District 5 includes the southeastern portion of the district, including Arroyo Grande, Los Berros, Callender, Blacklake, Woodlands, Nipomo, Los Ranchos and the large unincorporated eastern parts of the county.

SLO CHAMBER OF COMMERCE PROPOSED MAP BELOW 75760 ON THE NEXT PAGE



Map ID 75760 Map ID 75760, titled “2030 County Plan” and submitted by the San Luis Obispo Chamber of Commerce keeps the cores of current districts largely intact, making some changes. District 1 includes the northeast portion of the county, including the communities of Oak Shores, Lake Nacimiento, San Miguel, Paso Robles, Whitley Gardens, and Templeton. District 2 is the northern coastal district and includes the coastal communities of San Simeon, Cambria, Cayucos, Morro Bay and Los Osos. It also includes a western portion of Atascadero and an eastern portion of the City of San Luis Obispo. District 3 includes a portion of the City of San Luis Obispo (the southeastern portion), Avila Beach, Pismo Beach, Grover Beach, and Los Ranchos. District 4 is the southern coast district and includes the communities of Oceano, Arroyo Grande, Los Berros, Callender, Blacklake, Woodlands, and Nipomo; it also includes much of the southeastern unincorporated portion of the county. District 5 is the northeastern district within the county and includes Cal Poly and a northern portion of the City of San Luis Obispo. It also includes the eastern portion of the City of Atascadero, much of the unincorporated part of the county and includes the communities of Santa Margarita, Garden Farms, Creston, and Shandon.

The fundamental issue is which map most benefits conservatives or progressives. Public opinion is sharply divided and partisan. The Patten map has been labeled a Republican Party attempt maintain and/or strengthen its control of the County government. The Chamber of Commerce map is fairly similar to the existing map, which is favored by the progressive left, including its now subservient Democratic Party subcomponent.

For the issue-oriented voters on both sides (those who actually go beyond party slogans), how you vote locally generally comes down to your position on some of the following issues:

- **Anthropomorphic Climate Change regulatory and social equity mandates**
- **Racialism - the position that the society, nation, and local community are fundamentally racist toward people of color**
- **Rationing of land, water, highways, home construction, medical care, and energy vs. developing more resources through private initiative**
- **Closure of the Diablo Nuclear Power Plant¹**
- **Maintaining off road riding and freestyle camping in the Oceano Dunes State Park on a scale large enough to be meaningful**
- **The establishment of a so-called Chumash Heritage Marine Sanctuary off the County's coast**
- **Voter identification requirements**
- **Community choice electric energy aggregation (Central Coast Community Power)**
- **Control of administration**
- **Fees and taxes**
- **Water rights of overlayers vs. government prescriptors**
- **Housing-in-Lieu Tax**
- **Support for or opposition to so called Therapeutic Justice and Restorative Justice Theories**

¹ It should be noted that in this case, 3rd District Democratic Supervisor Dawn Ortiz-Legg broke from the Party doctrine and publicly supported keeping Diablo open. She also voted for the re-approval of the 31 oil wells in the Price Canyon oil field. These votes were refreshing departures from the usual. Remember, neither the Democratic nor the Republican leaders in the County, other than Assemblyman Cunningham, ever lifted a finger for more than a decade to try to keep Diablo opened. The Board has not announced that it will schedule a hearing on the recent joint MIT-Stanford study, which recommends keeping the plant opened.

- **Legalization of recreational cannabis**
- **Quarantines, lockdowns, school closures, and gathering restrictions related to COVID**
- **Mandatory confinement of the homeless who suffer mental illness, drug abuse, and alcoholism to the point where they cannot function in society**
- **So-called criminal justice “reforms,” which have empowered criminals, weakened prosecutors, overcrowded the county jails, and decriminalized drug use and possession. See page 11 in the Emergent Issues section, below, for the details of these policies, which have led to rampantly increasing lawlessness**
- **Misbehavior, conflicts of interest, harassment, and criminal behavior by some elected and appointed officials**

The stakes are high and of course, none of these categories constitutes a community of interest for Supervisorial redistricting purposes. Instead, the State redistricting law allows approximations, such as city boundaries, racial/ethnic communities, climatological zones, economic bases, etc. Once the numeric balance is achieved, such approximations then become the subject of the maneuvering to optimize aggregations of voters who generally sort one way or the other on the issues.

As one anonymous analyst has put it so elegantly:

Regardless, San Luis Obispo and Cal Poly are each unique communities of interest, as distinct and important as the North Coast communities, Paso Robles, Pismo & Shell Beach, or the inland rural communities of Santa Margarita, Garden Farms, Creston and Shandon. There is a strong nonpartisan argument to be made against splitting each of these – San Luis Obispo and Cal Poly included. Furthermore, it’s well understood – celebrated, even – that San Luis Obispo tends far more progressive elsewhere in the county.

We should ask all of the supposedly nonpartisan defenders of the status quo ...why exactly should the political influence of San Luis Obispo extend to such far-flung locations as Bitterwater, California Valley, Carrizo Plains, and Cuyama? This is not a rhetorical question. In fact, we all know the answer. Politics. The left-leaning elements of our community believe the current district map gives them their best shot at capturing the Board of Supervisors in 2022. District 2 is an easy win, they enjoy the advantage of incumbency in District 3, and District 4 will be a toss-up.

So while there are doubtless many well-meaning individuals defending the current map, much of this is also pure partisanship. They don’t like the current Board majority and don’t want them

making decisions they have every ability under the law to make. It really is just that simple. The worst of these actors are the many District 2 constituents who rallied to preserve the district boundaries as they are. This is of course a completely uncompetitive district, in which the current supervisor has been reelected twice under the current map, enjoying 66% of the vote in 2014 and 60% of the vote in 2018, even though in the latter case there were actually three candidates on the ballot. They should spare us the high-minded lectures about democracy and just state the truth, which is that they oppose any change which would make their district potentially more competitive.

In other words, what is so wrong with the three-member Board majority representing their voting constituencies who generally tend conservative and oppose left progressive absolutism with respect to the issues? How often have we heard Supervisor Gibson state that climate change is “settled science”?

For example, for the left, anthropomorphic climate change is undebatable in the Board room. Similarly, the County’s overarching scheme of land use is based on a world view of limited resources and stagnant human progress. Again, even the conservatives on the Board have not dared to question this fundamental bias for all of the County’s land use, housing, economic development, and agricultural/energy plans and regulations.

Background: During the November 19th Board meeting, 28 maps were reduced down to 2. The meeting was lengthy, with more than 100 public speakers. The basic split was over whether the current map should be retained, or the Patten map should be adopted. The debate was cloaked in a discussion of which map best represented “communities of interest.” The communities of interest rhetoric was really a surrogate for which map most benefits the progressive left (existing) or the conservatives (Patten). Of course, this division impacts everything.

The progressive left advocates were aided by a number of retired public officials, including two former police chiefs, a former SLO City Manager, a former Clerk Recorder Assessor, and a former Project Manager from the County CAO’s office (She was actually the author of the 2011 redistricting map). The League of Women voters, former and sitting city councilmembers (representing themselves), and some members of area advisory committees all supported keeping the current map. Again we saw, that for the bureaucrats, the maintenance of the government institutions is the highest priority. Don’t rock the boat. Keep the jobs, raises, and pensions flowing.

Citizens of the northwest coast (Supervisors Gibson’s District) appeared in force and submitted a letter with over 500 signatures supporting retention of current districts. They are particularly fond of Supervisor Gibson’s generally anti-development, anti-fossil fuel, land rationing, water rationing, anti-Diablo, and “keep the homeless in SLO and other cities” stances. Many are boujee retirees, who could care less about good jobs and housing for the County’s up and coming children and grandchildren, who of course are in school or at work and could not be at the hearing. One problem is that when Gibson is part of a Board majority, he imposes his policies on the entire County, not just the northwest coast.

The conservatives are seeking to detach portions of the City of SLO from District 5 (Arnold). The City of SLO is the Berkeley of the central coast and dilutes the basic communities of interest and their votes by having tentacles into that district.

Apparently, the left progressives are planning a lawsuit if the Patten map or something like it is ultimately chosen.

All the draft maps which were submitted are displayed at the link:

<https://www.slocounty.ca.gov/Departments/Administrative-Office/Countywide-Projects-Programs/Redistricting/Draft-Maps-Publicly-Submitted-Maps.aspx>

When it opens, there is a list of plans which are hot links to each map.

LAST WEEK'S HIGHLIGHTS

Most of the agencies did not conduct public meetings last week. The IWMA had a special meeting to ratify the transition agreement between itself and the County. Thanksgiving was on Thursday, November 25th.

No Board of Supervisors Meeting on Tuesday, November 23, 2021 (Not Scheduled)

The next regular Board meeting is scheduled for December 7, 2021.

Special Integrated Waste Management Authority (IWMA) meeting of Tuesday, November 23, 2021 (Completed)

Item 6 - Memorandum of Understanding (MOA) By And Between The County Of San Luis Obispo And The San Luis Obispo County Integrated Waste Management Authority. The MOA will allow the IWMA to continue to provide certain services to County residents during the transition from the IWMA operation to County operation.

On October 15, 2021, the IWMA received formal notice of the County's intent to withdraw from the IWMA JPA, effective November 15, 2021. On Thursday, October 28, 2021, IWMA Board President, Legal Counsel, and staff met with County Legal Counsel and staff to discuss the impact of the County's withdrawal and how to best manage this transition of programs for the next six (6) months. The attached MOU was developed to address the scope of services and IWMA reimbursement for:

- A. School Education and Outreach*
- B. Household Hazardous Waste, Hazardous Waste, Universal Waste, and Electronic Waste*
- C. Retail Take-Back Services*
- D. Curbside Used Motor Oil and Filter Recycling*

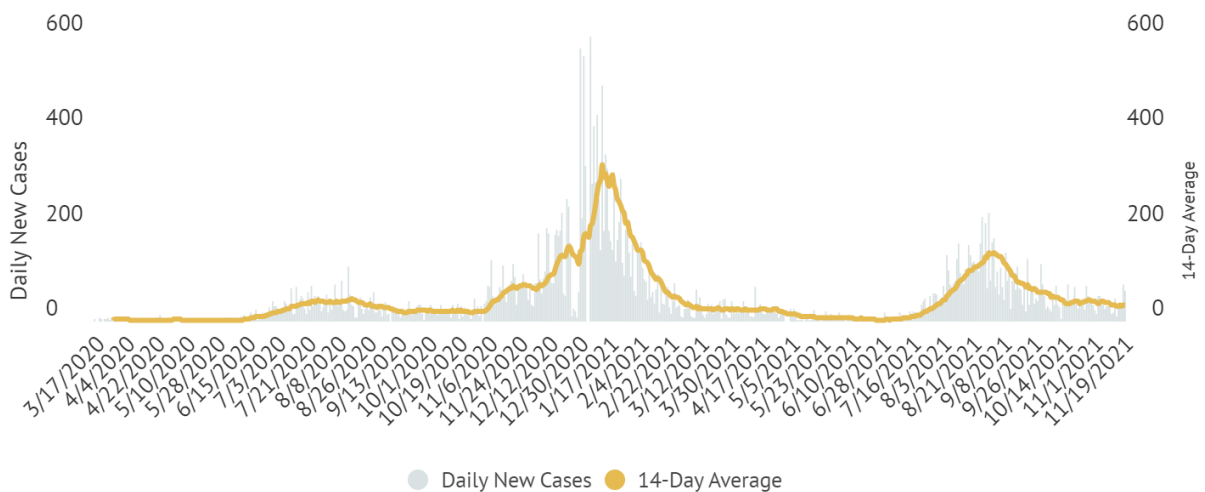
EMERGENT ISSUES

Item 1 - COVID. Not much changed last week at the local level. National and international news media are reporting a rapidly spreading new variant (Type O for Omicron). It started up in South Africa and seems to be both highly infectious and potent. Authorities have not yet determined if current vaccines are effective on Type O. A number of countries have prohibited travel from infected regions. Expect a new surge of lockdowns, restrictions, and economic damage as governments grab onto this power extension opportunity.

News of the outbreak caused the Dow to drop by 1,000 points on Friday right after the opening bell. Did insiders have some special info?

Masks, vaccines, lockdowns, and trillions of dollars in related expenditures haven't broken the current versions yet.

Daily New Cases (and 14-Day Average)



19 (3 ICU) **SLO County Residents with COVID-19 in Hospital

Item 2 - Reasons for California's exponentially increasing lawlessness. Please read the outstanding article by investigative reporter Katy Grimes that details how the left progressives engineered the current decay of a once lawful society.

California's Alarming Cocktail of Criminal Justice 'Reforms' Responsible for Major Crime Wave

The house that Californians built and Democrats remodeled is on fire

BY KATY GRIMES

The house that Californians built and Democrats cheaply remodeled is on fire. Some of the headlines from this past weekend prove this:

This crime wave is also reflected in recent Globe articles about [Walgreens announcing](#) that five additional outlets in San Francisco would be closing on top of the 17 already shuttered just since 2019, as well as serious daily theft and crime troubles at the [iconic Target](#) on Mission Street between Third and Fourth Streets. “This store loses \$25,000 a day to shoplifting,” an SFPD officer recently told the Globe in lengthy, taped interviews. “That’s \$25,000 that walks out the door on average between 9 and 6 every day.”

California was once the land of opportunity and innovation. There was a time when nearly anyone with a good idea and work ethic could open a business. California led the nation in manufacturing – today there isn’t much manufacturing left in the state. California’s schools were once envied by the nation – today they rank at the bottom of the list of states. California agriculture has always provided for more than just our state, but even that is under attack. What made California great is systematically being destroyed.

Prison Realignment and Props. 47 & 57 – A Premeditated Crushing of California

The chickens have come home to roost.

“California has implemented an alarming cocktail of criminal justice ‘reforms’ that are likely to lead to a major crime wave into 2016,” I wrote in the chapter on crime in Laci’s *California 2016*, for which I interviewed Sacramento District Attorney Anne Marie Schubert. She was instrumental in providing confirmation about the rising crime rate in Sacramento and California. I wrote:

“In 2014, California voters were sold on reforming the state’s drug laws with Proposition 47. However, the measure covered more crimes than non-violent drug offenders. Moreover, drug addicts are likely to get less treatment in the state’s drug courts because prosecutors have lost a bargaining chip in the plea process. Add to it the court-ordered prisoner releases as a part of the state’s prison realignment under the 2011 AB 109 law, and you have a state ripe for a surge in crime; such as what is already underway in Oakland, which even after Jerry Brown’s eight years on-the-scene as Mayor, the FBI still considers one of the most dangerous cities in America.”

As the Globe has consistently and [repeatedly](#) reported, there were three big legal changes that fostered the anarchy, violence and chaos in California today.

[Assembly Bill 109](#), in 2011, was then-Gov. Jerry Brown’s signature legislation he sold as “prison realignment.” However, AB 109 only served to overwhelm county jails by re-housing “nonviolent” state offenders from prison. AB 109 has been a failure. “Governor Brown had a choice. He could have built more prisons, but instead he reduced the population by releasing or pushing inmates to local county jails, which are not designed to house someone past a year and prevents law enforcement from taking low-level offenders in,” Ronald A. Lawrence, the Citrus Heights Chief of Police and President of the [California Police Chiefs Association](#), [told](#) the Globe in 2020.

[Proposition 47](#), passed by misinformed voters in 2014, flagrantly titled “The Safe Neighborhoods and Schools Act,” [decriminalized drug possession](#) from a felony to a misdemeanor, removing law enforcement’s ability to make an arrest in most circumstances, as well as removing judges’ ability to order drug rehabilitation programs rather than incarceration. And perhaps the most obvious aspect of Prop. 47 on display today raised the theft threshold to \$950 per location, and bumped theft down to a misdemeanor from a felony.

Notably, U.S. Sen. Dianne Feinstein (D-CA) [opposed](#) Prop. 47, concerned that it would reclassify a wide range of crimes from a felony to a misdemeanor, and would result in the re-sentencing and release of thousands of individuals already convicted of these crimes. She was correct, as her concerns came to fruition.

[Proposition 57](#), shamelessly titled “the Public Safety and Rehabilitation Act,” now allows nonviolent felons to qualify for early release, and parole boards can now only consider an inmate’s most recent charge, and not their entire history because of this proposition. Notably, both Prop. 47 and 57 were given their ballot titles by then-Attorney General Kamala Harris. Crimes now considered “[nonviolent](#)” under Proposition 57 in California include:

- human trafficking of a child
- rape of an unconscious person or by intoxication
- drive by shooting at inhabited dwelling or vehicle
- assault with a firearm or deadly weapon
- assault on a police officer
- serial arson
- exploding a bomb to injure people
- solicitation to commit murder
- assault from a caregiver to a child under eight years old that could result in a coma or death
- Felony domestic violence.

Democrats [even killed six real criminal justice reform bills](#) in the California Legislature in 2019, which would have addressed Prop. 57’s flaws and expanded the definition of violent crime to include human trafficking, elder and dependent adult abuse, assault with a deadly weapon, rape, and other crimes most Californians consider violent.

Is it any wonder we see these headlines today?

Nearly all Democrat politicians in California supported Props. 47 and 57, and AB 109, despite the warnings from law enforcement, judges, parole boards, police and sheriffs, District Attorneys and Assistant DA’s.

California Officials who supported 2014 Proposition 47

- [Lt. Gov. Gavin Newsom](#) (D)[[23](#)]
- [Sen. Loni Hancock](#) (D-9)[[25](#)]
- [Sen. Mark Leno](#) (D-11)[[25](#)]
- [Sen. Darrell Steinberg](#) (D-6)[[25](#)]
- [Asm. Nancy Skinner](#) (D-15)[[25](#)]
- San Francisco District Attorney George Gascón (D)[[26](#)]
- Mary Jane Burke, Marin County Superintendent of Schools[[27](#)]

- Santa Clara District Attorney Jeff Rosen[28]
- [AFL-CIO](#)
- [AFSCME](#)
- AFSCME 3299
- California Federation of Teachers
- California Labor Federation
- California Teachers Association
- [SEIU California](#)
- United Food and Commercial Workers (UFCW)

Remember these politicians: Gov. Gavin Newsom, former Senate President and current Sacramento Mayor Darrell Steinberg, former Oakland Mayor, California Attorney General and Gov. Jerry Brown, former Sen. President Don Perata, former Sen. President Kevin de Leon, former Senator and current Insurance Commissioner Ricardo Lara, former Assembly Speaker John Perez, former Assembly Speaker and current Rep. Karen Bass, former Assembly Speaker Fabian Nunez, Sen. President Toni Atkins, Assembly Speaker Anthony Rendon, Sen. Nancy Skinner, Sen. Scott Wiener, former Sen. Mark Leno, and former California Attorney General, former U.S. Senator and current Vice President Kamala Harris, all have a recent hand in destabilizing California with their felonious legislation and policies.

How can any of these politicians claim their criminal justice “reforms” are successful, unless today’s violent crime and anarchy was always the end goal?

Katy Grimes, the Editor of the California Globe, is a long-time Investigative Journalist covering the California State Capitol, and published author. This article first appeared in the November 22, 2021 issue of California Globe. It has since been published in numerous newspapers and other outlets.



LOOTERS HIT NORDSTROMS IN WALNUT CREEK

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

THE NEW BLUE CONFEDERACY

How did the New North become the Old South, and the New South the Old North?

BY VICTOR DAVIS HANSON

Why are progressive regions of the country—especially in the old major liberal cities (e.g., Chicago, Los Angeles, Minneapolis, New York, Portland, San Francisco, Seattle)—institutionalizing de facto racial quotas through “proportional representation” based on “disparate impact”? Why are they promoting ethnic and racial chauvinism, such as allowing college students to select the race of their own roommates, calibrating graduation ceremonies by skin color and tribe, segregating campus “safe spaces” by race, and banning literature that does not meet commissariat diktats?

Why are they turning into one-party political fiefdoms separating the rich and poor, increasingly resembling feudal societies as members of the middle class flee or disappear? What does it mean that they are becoming more and more intolerant in their cancel culture, and quasi-religious intolerance of dissent, on issues from climate change and abortion-on-demand to critical race theory and wokeness?

Isn't it strange that there are entire states and regions wholly reliant on the money and power of “one-crop” Big Tech monopolies? And why, in the 21st century no less, are Democratic-controlled counties, cities, and entire states nullifying federal law?

In archetypal “states’ rights” fashion, blue-state “sanctuary cities” are as defiant of the federal government as the Old South was when it claimed immunity from federal jurisdiction—all the way from the nullification crisis of 1830-1833 to George Wallace in 1963 blocking the door at the University of Alabama.

Ask yourself: in the decades following the conclusion of the Civil War in April 1865, how might the reunited American public have answered the following hypothetical questions:

- One-hundred-fifty-six years from now, in the year 2021, where in the United States will Americans most likely discriminate on the basis of race?
- Where will citizens squabble over the racial percentages of ancestral bloodlines, and schools admit or reject students in part on the DNA of an applicant?

- Where will free speech and expression become most endangered?
- Where will states' rights boosters deny federal officers the right to enforce federal law?
- Where will the major cities be the most unsafe and the middle classes the most embattled? And from which regions of the country will people flee, and to which will they migrate?

Of course, in the century-and-a-half since the end of the Civil War, we have become in a certain sense a homogenizing country. Gender studies programs at, say, the University of Texas are not that much different from those at Yale. The same types of homeless are found in downtown Atlanta as well as in San Francisco.

But there is a growing red state/blue state divide—encompassing an economic, cultural, social, and political totality. The public seems to sense that the blue-state model is the more hysterically neo-Confederate, and the red state the calmer and more Union-like. The former appears more unsustainable and intolerant, the latter is increasingly more livable and welcoming.

The people themselves are voting with their U-Hauls. After the Civil War and during the early 20th century, Americans left the South in droves to the wide-open new West and industrialized North. Now again they are packing up—but this time to get away from the bastions of old Union liberality. People are fleeing the bright lights and supposed cultural dynamism of old New York and Chicago and “enlightened” newer cities such as Los Angeles and San Francisco.

What once crippled the antebellum and postbellum Old South were obsessions with race that infected every aspect of life. Like the Soviet commissariat, such one-drop fixations ultimately stagnated social life and eroded economic efficacy.

After the war and following the formal abolition of slavery, the former Confederate states returned to many of their prewar racial pathologies, albeit with even more general poverty. Before the war, Southern life had increasingly bifurcated into a medieval society of rich plantationists who stocked the government and professions, and an impoverished white laboring poor class alongside African American slaves. There were few of the middle class, to speak of, at least in any sense comparable to the yeomanry in the North, who brought their values and autonomy ever more westward.

The antebellum worship of the King Cotton monopoly discouraged innovation. It made the plantation class perhaps the richest tiny minority in history, but otherwise impoverished most others around them. The South was a ranked society. Most knew their ossified place in the social hierarchy. Even their speech, comportment, and expression reflected that reality.

Universities and colleges in the North, in contrast, for a while at least evolved into places of intellectual inquiry, classical education, and enlightened science. Immigrants and Americans alike freely moved eastward, northward, and westward, but not so much to the land of postbellum Jim Crow, which represented economic stagnation and calcified racial obsessions.

Fairly or not, America's 19th- and early 20th-century reputation for greater freedom of thought and equal opportunity were mostly identified with large bustling cities like Boston, Chicago, Detroit, New York, and their western clones such as Denver, Los Angeles, San Francisco, and Seattle.

But ask yourself—which cities today are most likely associated with lawless district attorneys who, as tribal bosses, ignore statutes and who indict or exempt criminals on personal and ideological whims? Where are crime rates most spiraling? Where is the greatest racial unrest? And where are the most homeless?

In contrast, where are taxes generally lower, but infrastructure as good as elsewhere or better? Why else would the middle classes, liberal and conservative alike, be migrating to Texas, Florida, or Tennessee and not to California, Illinois, and New York? A century ago, Americans associated the former with racial fixations, anti-enlightenment censorship, nullification, greater religious intolerance, and economic stagnation—and the latter with opportunity, live-and-let-live personal freedom, and efforts to render race incidental rather than essential to who we are.

The best example of the great reversal is the stark contrast between the Bay Area of California and Austin or Dallas. A near-majority of Bay Area residents expresses a desire to leave the state.

California's public agencies and universities are obsessed with race and invest hundreds of millions of dollars establishing and defending de facto racial quotas in hiring and admissions, suing in courts to punish allegedly prejudicial victimizers and to reward prejudiced victims, and to squash free speech under the false charge of "hate speech." It is a given in blue states that few in government question expensive efforts to address "climate change" or critical race theory, just as no one in the 19th-century South ever doubted the sustainability of one-crop Cotton, creationism, or the peculiar institution of slavery.

Silicon Valley emulates the power of old King Cotton—a monopoly that owns state government, one that destroys competition, censors, and smears its critics, and pours its money into elections not just to choose obsequious candidates, but to alter the very systems of balloting to ensure proper results. Like the "good ol' boy" Old South, California is a one-party, boss-man state. Democrats, in Southern fashion, control all statewide offices, supermajorities in both houses of the legislature, and 75 percent of the congressional delegation.

Just as a few families and members of the plantation class ran a Louisiana or North Carolina plantation, so, too, California's Bay Area bosses are mostly controlled by the regime of the Pelosis, Feinsteins, Newsoms, and Silicon Valley liberals, many of whom went into government rich, and got richer the longer they stayed.

Our current servile classes often live in cars and trailers parked on the streets outside the campuses of Stanford University, Google, and Facebook. A time traveler from the South of 1955 might dub their trailers "shanties"—given the absence of indoor plumbing, running water, or usable toilet facilities. There is little new housing construction, given that the entrenched one percent resist affordable home construction, as well as more investments in freeways, power plants, and oil and gas production. Few under 40 can afford even a modest home. Houses are

mostly either inherited or the exclusive domain of the tidewater tech class. Just as the South once fought “internal improvements” and the genteel cotton baron resisted new development, so too the coastal affluent freeze their lifestyles and class privileges in amber, as they fight new industry and development that would elevate hoi polloi.

University administrators, human resources directors, and the media, like their Confederate counterparts, collude to sustain the system—demonizing and ostracizing any who question racial quotas and preferences, swerve from Democratic orthodoxy, doubt the sustainability and morality of the tech overlords, and who talk of class rather than racial categories.

In reaction, those from the blue state model who flee eastward and southward feel liberated that they can finally buy a house, sustain a viable middle-class existence, speak freely without a scold over their shoulder, and be rid of institutional dogmas that suffocate their schools and government.

We think the Old South lost the Civil War—but did it in the end?

That is, did the Union win the short-term battle to abolish slavery and save the Union, but lose the long-term war of ideas and values by adopting the very ethos of the long-defeated—even as vanquished Southerners reformed and gradually embraced the visions of the victors that the Northerners themselves would eventually reject?

In any case, in the 21st century, Tennessee and Florida are far less racially obsessed, freer, and more affordable, more transparent, more tolerant, and more law-abiding states than are the racially-fixated, stratified, manorial, and dogmatic surveillance states of California, Illinois, and New York.

Victor Davis Hanson is a distinguished fellow of the Center for American Greatness and the Martin and Illie Anderson Senior Fellow at Stanford University’s Hoover Institution. He is an American military historian, columnist, a former classics professor, and scholar of ancient warfare. He has been a visiting professor at Hillsdale College since 2004. Hanson was awarded the National Humanities Medal in 2007 by President George W. Bush. Hanson is also a farmer (growing raisin grapes on a family farm in Selma, California) and a critic of social trends related to farming and agrarianism. He is the author most recently of [The Second World Wars: How the First Global Conflict Was Fought and Won](#), [The Case for Trump](#) and the newly released [The Dying Citizen](#). This article first appeared in the Stanford University Hoover Institution Update of November 22, 2021, and the American Greatness of the same date.

UNDERMINING PENSION REFORM

The Biden Administration Tries to deny California Transit Aid Because the State reduced Public –Worker Retirement Benefits eight years ago

BY STEVEN MALANGA

The Biden administration is trying to prohibit California from receiving billions of dollars in new federal aid because, the administration claims, the state's 2013 Public Employee Pension Reform Act (PEPRA) denied workers the right to bargain for changes to their retirement benefits. The move could undermine state-worker pension reforms passed over the last decade.

In a letter to the state, the Department of Labor [says](#) that the 2013 pension-reform act “significantly interferes” with the collective bargaining rights of public employees, including transit workers. As a result, California risks losing some \$12 billion in transportation money, most of it from the recently passed federal infrastructure bill. The administration is strong-arming the state and its municipalities to choose between tens of billions of dollars in savings for a deeply indebted pension system and grants from Washington. And its move raises serious questions about similar reforms enacted by other states that allow collective bargaining by public employees, including New York and New Jersey.

The financial and stock market crisis of 2008 undermined the fiscal stability of many government pension systems. As unfunded liabilities ballooned, government contributions of taxpayer money into worker retirements rose sharply, burdening government budgets. California's pension system, fully funded at the beginning of 2000, saw its unfunded debt bloat to \$170 billion by 2012. The state's retirement system had, by that time, only about 70 percent of the money needed to fulfill its future obligations to retirees. California taxpayers, meanwhile, were absorbing huge increases in payments into the system, and faced years more. Between 1998 and 2012, California's contributions to the pensions system [increased](#) from \$1.2 billion to \$3.7 billion. Municipalities and school districts, their workers part of the system, absorbed even bigger increases.

The state had limited options to fix the problem. A California supreme court ruling held that local governments could reduce pension benefits only for new workers but had to leave untouched the rate at which current workers earned benefits, even for work they had yet to do. In response, the state passed PEPRA, which reduced pension accrual rates for new workers. In California's mammoth pension system, which at the time had some \$610 billion in liabilities, the savings were small at first—amounting to just \$680 million the first year. The state projected that as it hired new workers and older employees retired, the reforms would save about \$75 billion over 30 years on the retirement systems for teachers and other public employees.

Public-sector unions in the state had defeated broader reforms that California tried to institute, and they fought vigorously to roll back the 2013 legislation. Transit-worker unions, among others, filed suit against the law, only to be denied by the courts. The Obama administration then tried to intervene, arguing that the reforms [violated](#) the 1964 Urban Mass Transportation Assistance Act, which gives the Department of Labor veto power over federal aid if it deems a state to have compromised the collective bargaining rights of transit workers or otherwise to have worsened their working conditions. The Trump administration subsequently dropped

federal objections to the reform law. But the Biden DOL, under Secretary (and former union official) Marty Walsh, has reinstated them in the wake of the new federal infrastructure bill.

The Labor Department’s ruling, California Governor Gavin Newsom [said](#) in a letter to Walsh, “deprives financially beleaguered California public transit agencies that serve essential workers and our most vulnerable residents of critical support, including American Rescue Plan Act funds that those agencies need to survive through the pandemic.” Newsom called the decision a “complete reversal” from a 2019 ruling by the Labor Department, which held that the state’s pension reforms did not represent a violation of federal law.

The battle has implications for many other state reforms. California was not alone in reducing pension benefits after the 2008 financial crisis. More than 40 states altered their pensions to save money and bolster the financial stability of their retirement systems. Even so, state and local pension debt has skyrocketed, from about \$900 billion in 2013 to about \$1.6 trillion today. Despite its reforms, California’s pension system holds only about \$7 in assets for every \$10 in debt it owes, and its unfunded liabilities have increased to \$185 billion.

Numerous other states might face similar challenges from Biden’s Labor Department. New York, enduring rising costs from pensions but constrained by the state constitution from making changes that apply to current workers, passed reforms in 2012 that reduced retirement benefits for new workers. Like California, New York permits collective bargaining among public workers for salaries and benefits; the state estimated that it will save \$80 billion from those reforms. New Jersey passed even more sweeping reforms in 2011, which applied equally to new workers and those already employed by the state. Passed over the objections of public-worker unions, who claimed the reform law violated their bargaining rights, the bipartisan pension legislation was projected to save the deeply indebted state system some \$180 billion over 30 years.

The Biden administration lobbied for its massive infrastructure bill as a way to unleash new federal resources at the state level. Now the administration seems intent on using that money to undermine state pension reform in California—and, if successful there, who knows where else.

Steven Malanga is the senior editor of City Journal and the Institute. This article first appeared in the City Journal of November 23, 2021.



ANNOUNCEMENTS



ANDY CALDWELL SHOW NOW LOCAL IN SLO COUNTY

Now you can listen to THE ANDY CALDWELL SHOW
in *Santa Barbara, Santa Maria & San Luis Obispo Counties!*

We are pleased to announce that The Andy Caldwell Show is now
broadcasting out of San Luis Obispo County on FM 98.5 in addition to AM
1290 Santa Barbara and AM 1440 Santa Maria



The show now covers the broadcast area from Ventura to Templeton -
THE only show of its kind on the Central Coast covering local, state,
national and international issues!

3:00 – 5:00 PM WEEKDAYS You can also listen to The Andy Caldwell
Show LIVE on the [Tune In Radio App](#) and previously aired shows at: 3:00
– 5:00 PM WEEKDAYS You can also listen to The Andy Caldwell Show
LIVE on the [Tune In Radio App](#) and
Previously aired shows at:

COUNTY UPDATES OCCUR MONDAYS AT 4:30 PM

**MIKE BROWN IS THE REGULAR MONDAY GUEST AT 4:30
SUPPORT COLAB!**

**PLEASE COMPLETE THE MEMBERSHIP/DONATION FORM
ON THE LAST PAGE BELOW**



MIKE BROWN ADVOCATES BEFORE THE BOS



VICTOR DAVIS HANSON ADDRESSES A COLAB FORUM



DAN WALTERS EXPLAINS SACTO MACHINATIONS AT A COLAB FORUM



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



NATIONAL RADIO AND TV COMMENTATOR HIGH HEWITT AT COLAB DINNER



MIKE BROWN RALLIES THE FORCES OUTDOORS DURING COVID LOCKDOWN.

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)