

# COLAB

San Luis Obispo County



The Coalition of Labor Agriculture and Business

## WEEKLY UPDATE JANUARY 28 - FEBRUARY 3, 2024

COLAB  
San Luis Obispo County



### 15TH ANNUAL DINNER & FUNDRAISER

THURSDAY, MARCH 21, 2024  
MADONNA INN EXPO CENTER

#### STRAIGHT SHOOTING FROM OUR SHERIFFS

*The central coast's two most prominent lawmen will team up to enlighten us on the current wave of challenges and opportunities facing law enforcement. The epochal woke assault on justice and behavioral standards combined with budget and staffing limitations underscore the dangerous trend. This will be an undiluted straight shooting forum of major relevance.*

5:00 PM SOCIAL HOUR & OPEN BAR  
6:15 PM FILET MIGNON DINNER & WINE

AUCTION WILL BE HELD AFTER DINNER  
(AUCTIONEER TODD VENTURA)

**\$150/ PERSON**  
**\$1,500/ TABLE (SEATS 10)**



Ian Parkinson, SLO County Sheriff



Bill Brown, SB County Sheriff

For tickets:

On-Line Reservations & Payment can be made at [www.colabslo.org/events.asp](http://www.colabslo.org/events.asp)

or

Mail your check to: COLAB SLO County, PO Box 13601, SLO, CA 93406

Cocktail Attire Optional - More info at (805) 548-0340 or [colabslo@gmail.com](mailto:colabslo@gmail.com)

**THIS WEEK LITE**

**SEE EMERGENT ISSUES PAGE 21 FOR YOUR DOSE OF DISTRESS**

**NO BOS MEETING**

**OTHER AGENCY BOARDS OFF**

**LAST WEEK**

**PAGE 4**

**SLO PENSION TRUST**

**TRUST ENJOYS POSITIVE 8.9% INVESTMENT RETURN IN 2023  
HEAVY TRAINING ON FIDUCIARY DUTIES OF PENSION BOARD  
COUNTY, IWMA, AND OTHER BOARDS COULD LEARN SOMETHING**

**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

**INTRO OF LARGE CANNABIS FEE INCREASES**

**AG LIASON ADVISORY BOARD CONSOLIDATION**

**PLANNING AND BUILDING 21% FEE INCREASE BACK  
STAFF REJECTS ELIMINATING OVERHEAD FEES**

**BOS MAKES WORKING FROM HOME PERMANENT  
APPROVES \$2.5 MILLION RENOVATION TO CONSOLIDATE SPACE**

**SHOULD THOSE WHO WORK FROM HOME BE PAID LESS?**

**- PRIVATE SECTOR NOW REJECTING WORKING FROM HOME -**

**AIR POLLUTION CONTROL DISTRICT**

**WOOD SMOKE REDUCTION PROGRAM**

***THEY WILL PAY YOU TO GET RID OF YOUR FIREPLACE  
ONE DAY THEY WILL MANDATE ITS SHUTDOWN***

**ELECTRIC VEHICLE CHARGING STATION INCENTIVES  
*YOU ARE PAYING FOR THEM WITH YOUR DMV FEES***

**FREE AIR PURIFIERS GIVEAWAY**

***YOU ARE PAYING FOR THEM FROM AN UNDISCLOSED SOURCE***

***WHICH FEE OR TAX FUNDS THE PATRONAGE?***

# **PLANNING COMMISSION**

## **CANNABIS AND WINE**

### **EMERGENT ISSUES**

**SEE PAGE 21**

#### **A CHANCE FOR LEGAL SANITY ON HOMELESSNESS**

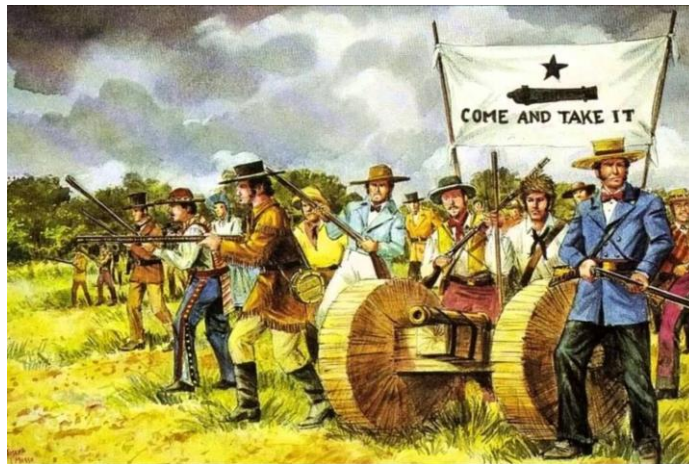
*The Supreme Court may soon overturn Ninth Circuit rulings that have aggravated the crisis on the West Coast*

#### **OFFSHORE WIND STUMBLES**

*Developers face unexpected obstacles*

#### **MORE THAN 25% OF PUBLIC EV CHARGING STATIONS DO NOT WORK**

#### **TEXAS GOVERNOR ABBOTT'S OPEN BORDER GRIEVANCE PROCLAMATION COMPARED TO CERTAIN GRIEVANCES LISTED IN THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE WILL THIS LEAD TO A CONSTITUTIONAL CRISIS?**



#### **“COME AND TAKE IT”**

**TEXANS TO MEXICAN DICTATOR ANTONIO LOPEZ DE SANTA ANNA - 1835**

**TEXAS GOVERNOR GREG ABBOTT TO US PRESIDENT BIDEN ON THE BORDER  
RAZOR WIRE BARRIER - 2024**

**PROPOSED CA BILL WOULD ELECTRONICALLY RESTRICT  
CARS FROM GOING OVER SPEED LIMIT**

**COLAB IN DEPTH  
SEE PAGE 29**

**WHEN WILL DEMOCRATS ADMIT CALIFORNIA'S  
PROP. 47 HAS BEEN CATAclySMIC?**

*Make crime illegal again*  
**BY KATY GRIMES**

**2024 - AMERICA'S YEAR OF LIVING DANGEROUSLY**  
*Add it all up, and the world abroad agrees America is in rapid decline and will  
not or cannot defend its interests, or for that matter itself*  
**BY VICTOR DAVIS HANSON**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS  
SEE PAGE 35**

**SLAY THE DEATH TAX**

**THIS WEEK'S HIGHLIGHTS  
ALL MEETINGS ARE AT 9:00 AM UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED**

No Board of Supervisors Meeting on Tuesday, January 30 , 2024 (Not Scheduled)

In a serendipitous coincidence, the other agencies are also off this week. Some will return to action next week. Please read the Emergent Issues starting on page 21 for your usual weekly doses of distress, outrage, and hope.

**LAST WEEK'S HIGHLIGHTS**

SLO Pension Trust Meeting of Monday, January 22, 2024 (Completed)

**Item 9 - Monthly Investment Report for December 2023.** In some good news, the trust exceeded its target interest assumption rate of 6.75% for the year, ending up at a respectable 8.9%. We had a question about how this happened, since the November report (11 months of the year) was at 6.5%. The Trust reported that some successful investment data for November was actually reported after the November books closed. This contributed to the enhanced returns at the end of the year.

**The good news could lessen pressure to raise rates and add stress to the Budget.**

	1-month	YTD	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018
Total Fund (%)							
<i>Gross</i>	2.1	8.9	(8.0)	15.2	8.9	16.3	(3.2)
Policy Index (%) *	2.0	10.2	(9.7)	12.8	10.0	16.4	(3.2)

	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019
Market Value (millions)	\$1,694	\$1,614	\$1,775	\$1,552	\$1,446

\* Policy index as of Nov. 2021 Strategic Asset Allocation Policy with 2023 Interim targets:  
 Public Mkt Equity- 21% Russell 3000, 17% MSCI ACWI ex-US  
 Public Mkt Debt- 10% Barclays US Aggregate,  
 Risk Diversifying 4% Barclays US Aggregate,  
 5% Barclays 7-10yr Treasury, 4% Barclays 5-10yr US TIPS  
 Real Estate & Infrastructure- 15% NCREIF Index (inc. Infrastructure)  
 Private Equity- 10% actual private equity returns  
 Private Credit- 8% actual private credit returns  
 Liquidity- 6% 90 day T-Bills  
 Pending annual updates to interim targets.

**Agenda Item 7: Monthly Investment Report for November 2023**

	November	Year to Date 2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018
Total Trust Investments (\$ millions)	\$1,656		\$1,614 year end	\$1,775 year end	\$1,552 year end	\$1,446 year end	\$1,285 year end
<b>Total Fund Return</b>	3.3% Gross	<b>+6.5%</b> Gross	-8.0% Gross	15.2% Gross	8.9 % Gross	16.3 % Gross	-3.2 % Gross
Policy Index Return (r)	4.6%	+6.9%	-9.7%	12.8%	10.0 %	16.4 %	-3.2 %

(r) Policy index as of Nov. 2021 Strategic Asset Allocation Policy with 2023 Interim targets:  
 Public Mkt Equity- 21% Russell 3000, 17% MSCI ACWI ex-US  
 Public Mkt Debt- 10% Barclays US Aggregate,  
 Risk Diversifying 4% Barclays US Aggregate,  
 5% Barclays 7-10yr Treasury, 4% Barclays 5-10yr US TIPS  
 Real Estate & Infrastructure- 15% NCREIF Index (inc. Infrastructure)  
 Private Equity- 10% actual private equity returns  
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 Pending annual updates to interim targets.

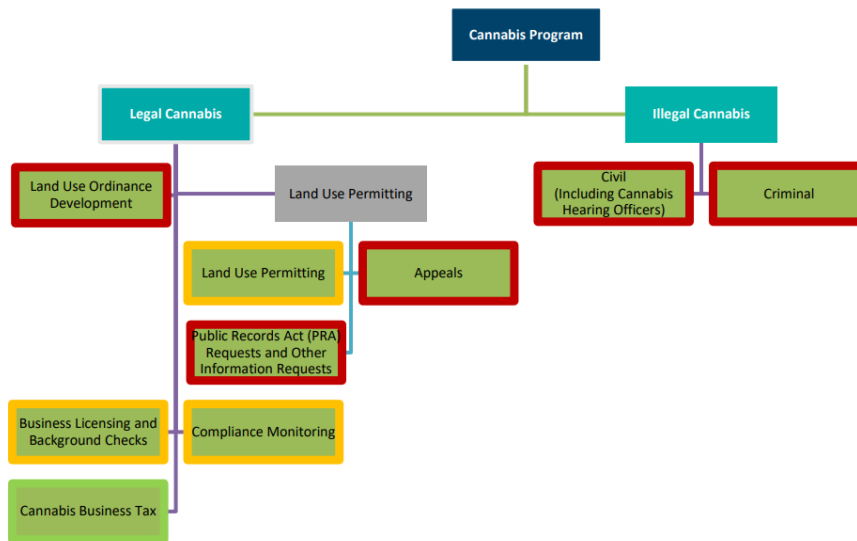
**Fiduciary Training:** Much of the meeting focused on the ethical responsibilities of the Trustees. These policies and documents are very positive and could serve as an analogy for training by the County Counsel of the Board of Supervisors as well as department heads, and the

Boards of some of the other County agencies, such as the Integrated Waste Management Board, SLOCOG, and the ACPD.

**Board of Supervisors Meeting of Tuesday, January 23, 2024 (Completed)**

**Item 1 - Introduction of an ordinance amending Auditor-Controller-Treasurer-Tax Collector (ACTTC), Planning and Building, and Sheriff-Coroner Cannabis Fees in the County Fee Schedule "B" for Fiscal Year 2024-25. Hearing date set for February 6, 2024.**

This constitutes early warning for the February 6, 2024 hearing, during which fees related to Cannabis administered by various departments will be considered. A number of cannabis growers attended and complained about the high fees. The February hearing is likely to be a major event.



**Funding Key**

Outlined in Red = Funded partially or fully by the General Fund:

- Land Use Ordinance Development - No way to fund through user fees (funded by the General Fund)
  - PRA's - Limited ability to charge user fees (funded by the General Fund)
  - Appeals - Limited ability to charge user fees (partially funded by the General Fund)
- Illegal Cannabis - No way to fund through user fees - cost recovery/restitution/administrative fines only against responsible parties (majority funded by the General Fund)

Outlined in Yellow = Should be fully offset by user fees

Outlined in Green = General Fund revenue (Development and Administration of Tax - no way to fund through fees)

**Auditor Controller**

Auditor-Controller-Treasurer-Tax Collector Cannabis Fees				
Fee Description	Current Fee	Proposed Fee	Fee Amount Decrease	Percent Decrease
Cannabis Tax Compliance Program	\$3,918	\$3,303	(\$615)	-15.7%

## Planning and Building

Planning and Building Cannabis Fees				
Fee Description	Current Fee	Proposed Fee	Fee Amount Increase	Percent Increase
Amendment to Approved Land Use Permit - Cannabis Deposit (R26cn)	\$8,662	\$9,587	\$925	10.7%
Appeal (Cannabis) - Approval / Denial of a Cannabis-Related Land Use Permit, or Request for Review of an Environmental Determination (A30cn)	\$850	\$850	\$0	0%
Business License Review - "Cannabis" (L01cn)	\$300	\$307	\$7	2.3%
Zoning Review - "Cannabis" (L04cn)	\$404	\$409	\$5	1.2%
Conditional Use Permit / Development Plan - "Cannabis" (RTB Deposit plus Processing Costs) (L45cn)	\$13,455	\$14,921	\$1,466	10.9%
Minor Use Permit - Tier II - "Cannabis" (RTB Deposit plus Processing Costs) (L31cn)	\$11,266	\$12,187	\$921	8.2%
Minor Use Permit -Tier III - "Cannabis" (RTB Deposit plus Processing Costs) (L32cn)	\$12,496	\$13,755	\$1,259	10.1%
Pre-Application Meeting - "Cannabis" (L52cn)	\$1,443	\$1,581	\$138	9.6%
Pre-Application Meeting with Site Visit - "Cannabis" (L53cn)	\$1,652	\$1,818	\$166	10.0%
Environmental - Exemption (Cannabis) (EX01cn)	\$1,588	\$1,756	\$168	10.6%
Environmental - Initial Study - Cannabis (RTB deposit plus processing costs) (IS01cn)	\$12,907	\$13,940	\$1,033	8.0%
Cannabis Greenhouse - Plan Check	\$.56 per sq foot	\$.98 per sq foot	\$0.42	75.0%
Cannabis Greenhouse - Inspection	\$.42 per sq foot	\$.68 per sq foot	\$0.26	61.9%
Cannabis Hearing Docket Fee (H10cn)	\$365	\$404	\$39	10.7%

## Sheriff's Office

Sheriff's Office Cannabis Fees				
Fee Description	Current Fee	Proposed Fee	Fee Amount Increase	Percent Increase
Cannabis Business Application (Cultivation) Phase 1	\$12,600	\$14,142	\$1,542	12.2%
Cannabis Business Application (Cultivation) Phase 2	\$12,030	\$12,311	\$281	2.3%
Cannabis Business Application (Non-Cultivation) Phase 1	\$12,600	\$14,142	\$1,542	12.2%
Cannabis Business Application (Non-Cultivation) Phase 2	\$10,991	\$11,204	\$213	1.9%
First Year Site Visits (Cultivation)	\$11,570	\$12,884	\$1,314	11.4%
First Year Site Visits (Non-Cultivation)	\$9,423	\$9,640	\$217	2.3%
Cannabis Business License Background for Added Partner	\$3,079	\$3,973	\$894	29.0%
Annual Cannabis Business Fee (Cultivation)	\$18,702	\$20,493	\$1,791	9.6%
Annual Cannabis Business Fee (Non-Cultivation)	\$15,441	\$16,214	\$773	5.0%
New Location Background (Cultivation)	\$18,804	\$16,675	(\$2,129)	-11.3%
New Location Background (Non-Cultivation)	\$16,931	\$15,223	(\$1,708)	-10.1%
Cannabis Business Employee Background	\$628	\$764	\$136	21.7%
Cannabis Labor Contractor Background	\$3,302	\$3,542	\$240	7.3%
Major Violation	\$16,396	\$19,483	\$3,087	18.8%
Minor Violation	\$4,958	\$5,436	\$478	9.6%
Notice of Nuisance	\$1,244	\$1,397	\$153	12.3%

New Fees - Proposed

Sheriff's Office New Cannabis Fees		
Fee Description	Current Fee	Proposed Fee
First Year Site Visits (Testing Facility)	\$0	\$2,818
Annual Cannabis Business Fee (Testing Facility)	\$0	\$4,784

**Financial Impact**

Legal Cannabis Fee Estimated Budget FY 2024-25

	FY 2024-25 Projected Expense*	FY 2024-25 Fee Revenue**	General Fund Support
ACTTCPA	\$123,882	\$123,882	\$0
Planning and Building	\$122,056	\$106,333	\$15,723
Sheriff-Coroner	\$1,809,229	\$865,471	\$943,758
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$2,055,167</b>	<b>\$1,094,015</b>	<b>\$959,481</b>

**Item 6 - Request to approve a resolution to remove several membership categories and add a new Produce Representative and a new Agricultural Stewardship Representative to the County Agricultural Liaison Advisory Board.** There was no controversy apparent on this one. The write-up explains the logic.

*The ALAB members support consolidation of the current membership categories of Vegetable Industry Representative, Strawberry Industry Representative, Environmental Representative, and Organic Grower/Direct Marketing Representative into two new categories to the Agricultural Liaison Advisory Board, as set forth below:*

*One representative from the produce industry, nominated by local commodity associations for a four-year term, and one representative of the agricultural stewardship community with a record of participation in agricultural stewardship practices and/or agricultural sustainability organizations for a four-year term.*

*ALAB members voted unanimously to support the proposed membership changes and ALAB recommends that the Board of Supervisors approve the attached resolution.*

*Three of the four existing membership categories affected by the resolution are currently vacant. The current Vegetable Industry Representative meets the requirements of the proposed Produce Representative, and in accordance with the ALAB Operating Guidelines, will continue to serve in that capacity through the end of the existing term*

**Item 15 - Introduction of an Ordinance amending Planning and Building Fees in the County Fee Schedule “B” for Fiscal Year 2024-25. Hearing set for February 6, 2024.** The Board also set these fee increases for February 6, 2024.

**Background:** This is another early warning of a fee increase hearing set for February 6, 2024. When the Board considered fee increases back in November, Planning and Development fees were deferred to a future meeting due to various questions about redundancy. These included the Initial Study Fee, the 30% Fee for Contract Management, and the Technology Fee. These are actually fees on fees, in that they are assessed on top of the actual fees charged for permit processing. They cover “overhead” costs.



Remember that overhead fees for utilities, building maintenance, support from other departments, and so forth are already charged through the “annual cost allocation plan.” Planning is charged about \$2.9 million in overhead by this internal transfer.

The staff report defends the three fees and recommends that the Board adopt them as well as the rest of the P&B proposed fees.

The overall impact is a 21% increase for 2023 to 2024.

Budget to Budget Fee Revenue Comparison			
	\$ Amount	Year to Year \$ Difference	Year to Year % difference
FY 2023-24 Budget	\$8,469,270		
FY 2024-25 Projected*	\$10,181,473	\$1,712,203	21%

\*Calculation based on FY 2023-24 Budgeted activity at the FY 2024-25 Proposed Fee amounts.

**Item 19 - Request to approve 1) two facility maintenance projects to complete design development for each of the opportunities identified through the Telework Space Analysis and reconfigure space occupied by the Clerk Recorder’s Office, Human Resources Department, and Auditor Controller-Treasurer-Tax Collector-Public Administrator; and 2) two related budget adjustments totaling \$2,482,000 for FC 200 - Maintenance Projects from the General Government Building Replacement Designation, by 4/5 vote.** After some discussion the Board unanimously approved the project, which will help embed the policy of allowing employees to work from home.

After COLAB spoke in opposition to the project, the Board engaged in some hyperbolic logic. Several members asserted that the project had nothing to do with working from home, (teleworking), but was instead an effort to update the allocation of work space and achieve some efficiency.

This seems patently false, since the second paragraph of the Board letter stated:

*However, in 2020, the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic suddenly required employees in various departments to perform their jobs and meet their responsibilities remotely. Today, this arrangement is commonplace; and because the County of San Luis Obispo Telework Policy authorizes each Director to establish unique telework guidelines for their departments, most have done so.*

The very next paragraph states that as a result, the CAO directed staff to analyze how teleworking changed the existing office space plan.

*As a result, in 2023, the Administrative Office directed the Department of Public Works (“Public Works”) to complete an analysis of how teleworking for select departments operating in facilities in downtown San Luis Obispo might have changed the conclusions in the Conceptual Plan.*

How then was this item not related to the advent of expanded working from home?. In this case the Board failed to consider the bigger elephant in the room – that is – is teleworking a good idea in the first place.

Moreover, justifying the plan on the basis that many people were assigned to work at home during the COVID emergency lockdown, without analyzing the policy in the first place is evasion of the Board’s responsibility.



**Background:** So many County employees are now working from home, (“telecommuting”) that some departments do not need as much office space as in the pre-COVID era. This in turn means that the County can rearrange and consolidate some departments’ office space. Collaterally, they can reduce the amount the County is renting in commercial office buildings. This item, if approved, would allocate nearly \$2.5 million for rearranging various office spaces on the theory that the working from home policy is permanent.

All this sounds commendable; however, it does not consider the short and long term impacts of allowing employees to work from home. What if the work at home experiment fails, is made illegal by the State or the Feds, or is otherwise found to be problematic after the County has rushed to construct reassigned space?

Check out the recent Forbes magazine article, below, on some national perspectives.

## **Bosses are fed up with remote work for 4 main reasons. Some of them are undeniable**

Story by Jane Thier

The golden age of remote work seems to be ending. [The Wall Street Journal is reporting](#) that even tech firms (the first industry that told employees they could work from home forever just a few years ago) are getting engineers and project managers back in the office. The economic blogger [Kevin Drum](#), formerly of Mother Jones, has taken note of the increasing anti-remote literature and is making a bold prediction about the future of work: there is none. It’s not going to look much different than it’s ever looked. That’s because the remote work revolution just isn’t going to materialize.

“Companies that put up with [remote work] for a long time are finally getting sick and tired of [it],” Drum [wrote on Sunday](#). The reason for that is fairly straightforward: Working from outside the office “simply isn’t as productive as office work, no matter what remote workers say. Too much evidence has piled up to credibly deny this any longer.”

He pointed to [return-to-office pushes](#) at tech companies where most jobs could be remote, particularly [Salesforce](#), [Google](#) and Meta. Then he highlighted four key pieces of evidence, although asterisks abounded. Still, Drum is worth listening to on this matter: Along with figures

like Brad DeLong and Ta-Nehisi Coates, he thrived in the Wild West days of blogging, and at Mother Jones and independently he displayed an aptitude for paying attention to what the data says about major economic subjects and cutting out the noise.

For his part, Drum expects most of the private sector to go back to work in the physical sense. “There was remote work before the pandemic and there will be a little more after the pandemic,” he wrote. “But it's going to be measured in a small handful of percentage points, not as a revolution in work.” Drum, who since [leaving Mother Jones in 2021](#) has been blogging semi-daily from his home in Orange County, Calif., did not respond to Fortune’s request for comment.

Most remote workers insist they won’t be going back to their [sad desk lunches](#), and many companies are still promising they [won’t take attendance ever again](#), but maybe they should listen to Drum’s warning. Here’s why the tide is turning against remote work (rightly or wrongly).

## **#1: Remote work is bad for new hires and junior employees**

This one is not nearly as controversial as it sounds. Especially when you’re new on the job, being physically present can be an enormous leg up; even the [supposedly anti-office](#) Gen Z workers acknowledge the overwhelming truth of this.

“We know empirically that [new Salesforce employees] do better if they’re in the office, meeting people, being on boarded, being trained,” [CEO Marc Benioff said](#) in March. “If they are at home and not going through that process, we don’t think they’re as successful.”

That could also hurt companies; a recent [Paychex](#) survey found that [80% of new hires](#) will quit a job if they had a poor onboarding experience—which is much more likely to be the case if they’re welcomed aboard from a distance.

Nearly one-third of employees told Paychex they found their onboarding experience confusing. That figure jumped to 36% for remote workers, who were most likely to feel undertrained, disoriented, and devalued after onboarding, compared to their in-person counterparts.

As a one-time entry-level product manager, Drum wrote, “I can't even imagine what it would have been like trying to learn what I needed to know if everyone I had to work with was available only via [Zoom](#) or phone or Slack. It's one thing for existing teams to continue working well from home; it's quite another to get a new member of a team up and running.”

It’s a shame, because [proximity bias](#) poses an enduring threat to career advancement. But attempting to get around by staying home as an entry-level worker means you’ll be swimming against the current.

## **#2: Workers admit that remote work (sometimes) causes more problems than in-person work**

When executed incorrectly, hybrid work plans can create discordant, unproductive teamwork. That’s especially true when teams don’t make an effort to align their in-office days.

Also, remote work has its fair share of downsides. Drum linked back to [McKinsey research](#) he had highlighted in his [“midterm report on remote work”](#) from December, which found that remote workers are much more likely to report mental and physical health issues and hostile work environments. That’s not the worst of it: [60% of bosses](#) recently admitted that if they had to make job cuts, they’d come for their remote workers first.

Usually, Stanford economics professor and remote work expert Nick Bloom [has told Fortune](#), companies mess up these kinds of plans because they fundamentally misunderstand why people want to work in-person or remotely in the first place. The disaster scenario, which too many companies end up in, is when everyone must come in two days per week or so, with no further clarity.

“Then they come in and realize their team is all at home, which defeats the purpose,” Bloom said. “They didn’t come in to use the Ping-Pong table, and there’s no point in coming in just to shout at Zoom all day.” Plus, Bloom, who advocates for organized hybrid arrangements, agrees with pro-office zealot Benioff that newer workers [need the office most](#).

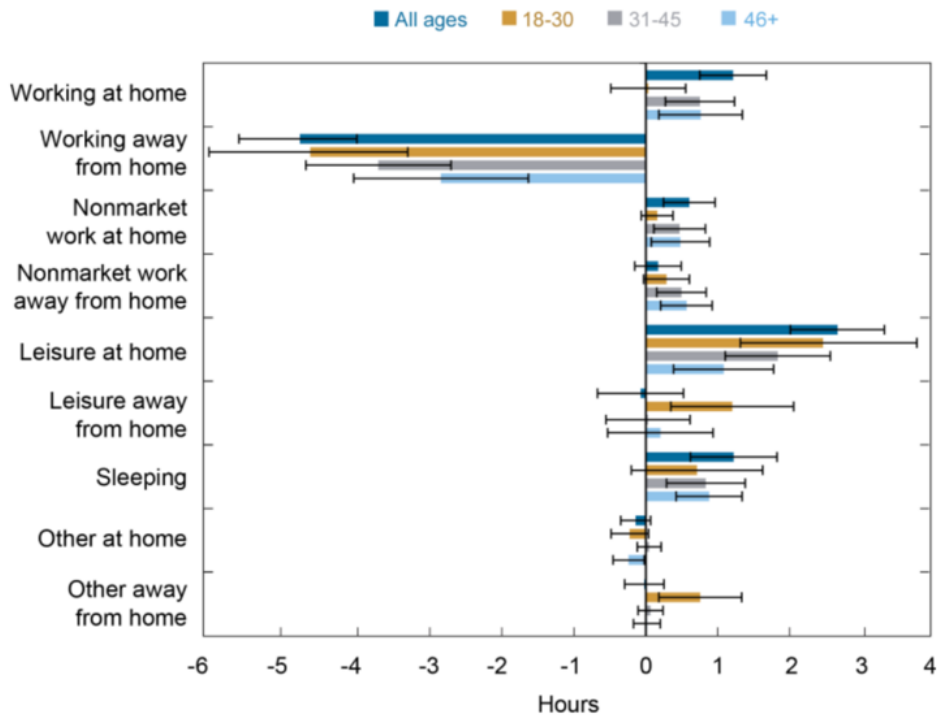
### **#3: Remote workers [put in 3.5 hours less per week compared to in-person workers](#)**

Sure, it’s true that remote workers squeeze in errands, exercise and laundry between 9 and 5, but just how much? A [working paper](#) submitted to the National Bureau of Economic Research in January found that remote workers worldwide save 72 minutes a day on average just from avoiding their commute, and that on average, of that time saved, 40% [goes to extra work](#).

Drum is unconvinced about the effects in America—and so is the federal government’s own dataset.

For his part, Drum sees a 3.5-hour decline in hours worked, and he got the figure from an [October 2022 report](#) by Liberty Street Economics, an arm of the Federal Reserve Bank of New York. Researchers David Dam, Davide Melcangi, Laura Pilossoph, and Aidan Toner-Rodgers made calculations based off the [American Time Use Survey](#), a nationally representative survey by the Bureau of Labor Statistics that measures both the amount of time people spend on various activities and where the activities occur. In a damning chart, they found that remote workers “decreased time spent working” and instead increased their time spent on “leisure and sleeping.” The chart clearly showed an increase roughly between three and hours in time spent on things that are, well, not work.

## Employees Decreased Time Spent Working and Increased Their Leisure and Sleeping



Source: Authors' calculations using the American Time Use Survey.

Note: Error bars represent 90% confidence intervals.

Bosses are fed up with remote work for 4 main reasons. Some of them are undeniable© **Provided by Fortune**

Maybe in the rest of the world, workers are taking time not spent commuting and plowing it back into work, but the government's own data in the U.S. tells a different story. A 3.5 hours less story.

### **#4: Productivity plummets on days when everyone is working remotely (anecdotally)**

In March, Drum [wrote a post](#) highlighting what the CEO of an HR tech firm told the [Wall Street Journal](#): On days his team is working remotely, new subscriber counts plummet 30%. But that's just one anecdote; even Drum himself says the stat is amazing—"if [the CEO] isn't exaggerating."

A piece of hard data in Drum's favor here is the shocking decline in productivity across five straight quarters, unprecedented in the postwar era. EY-Parthenon's chief economist Gregory Daco [told Fortune](#) that he's heard similar stories from clients across sectors of "reduced productivity because of the new work environment." Daco added that remote work is only one piece of the puzzle here. "The difficulty is that there is no magic productivity wand."

Other experts are more skeptical. “What I suspect is if you took out all the time at work talking about the Super Bowl, politics, your weekend, etc., working from home would involve more actual working minutes [than working in an office],” Bloom, the remote work evangelist, told [Fortune’s](#) Tristan Bove.

Workers themselves certainly beg to differ on this point. According to a recent [Pew Research survey](#), pro-remote workers (especially parents and caregivers) have a better work-life balance and are more productive and focused. According to an [October 2022 survey](#) of white-collar workers from Slack’s think tank, Future Forum, those with full schedule flexibility showed 29% higher productivity scores than employees with no flexibility at all, and remote and hybrid workers reported 4% higher productivity than their fully in-office counterparts.

The Pew survey respondents acknowledged that not being in the office could be hurting their opportunities for advancement, mentoring and making connections, but they believe they’re more productive.

But the tide is turning for many reasons, and whether workers believe they’re more productive remotely or actually are, they may not have much of a choice in the matter.

*This story was originally featured on [Fortune.com](#)*

### **Other issues that are occurring include:**

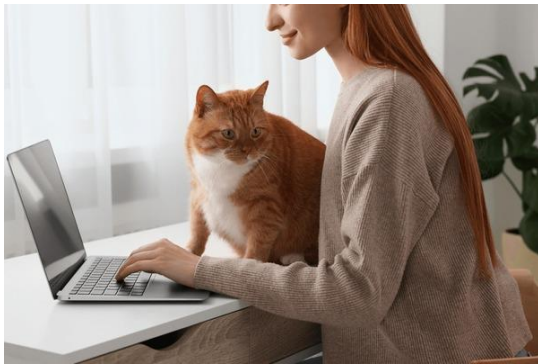
**Labor “equity” issues:** It is argued that employees who perform analytical, legal, financial, regulatory, and other desk assignments can work from home on computers. Obviously, hands on employees such as laborers, inspectors, nurses, firefighters, corrections officers, deputy sheriffs, tradesmen, and many others cannot work from home. The split will eventually raise equity questions as the convenience of no commute (and its costs), not having to dress up, the ability to forego childcare costs, the ability to tend to home maintenance issues, and so forth will raise significant equity questions. These, in turn, will induce pressure for higher pay and benefits for those who cannot work at home.

**One counterpoise would be, class for class, those working from home would be paid less than those coming in every day.**

### **At the bargaining table**



**Non-work related Interruptions:** The distracting possibilities are endless at home.



### Less Esprit De Corps and synergy:



At every Board meeting employee retirement presentation, the department heads, managers, and employees themselves all extoll the virtues of in person hands on mentoring, mutual support, personal leadership, etc., over the course of their careers.

Often, personal bonds develop and lifelong friendships and marriages occur. This has even happened to some elected Supervisors.

### Less informal tips and communication:



**Public servants have a higher calling and should look sharp and be present out of respect for the citizen taxpayer, especially upper level managers, executives, professional/analytic office types, and aspiring up and comers.**

### **Working in your bathrobe and boxers in the kitchen or spare bedroom is depressing:**

Instead, getting up, taking a run, showering, dressing up, hitting the commute (you can listen to news shows and get an update on public affairs), knocking off some phone calls on your hands-free car phone, and getting a little wired on coffee, sets you up to hit the playing field with enthusiasm and confidence.



**Loss of Situational Awareness:** Running a large, complex, all-purpose government requires situational awareness. Being out in the community or in the office, keeping up with the news, keeping up with societal trends, and other exposure is important. Problems and opportunities can hit from any direction. It is somewhat analogous to air combat pilots, who must maintain extreme situational awareness to survive. Being on the ground in the office and in the field is essential to developing and maintaining this vital skill. County managerial, executive, and analytical employees are already too confined to professional silos with rigid job classifications. Locking them up in their bedroom is not going to help this situation.



### **County Policy for who can work at home**

*The County Department Head will determine if he/she wishes to establish a teleworking arrangement in his/her department. Prior to establishing a telework program, he/she may consider the following:*

- Not all jobs are eligible for telework based on the nature of the position*
- The work can be performed from a remote or alternative non-County location*
- The work can be performed without negatively impacting service delivery*
- There is a clear way to measure the work the employee completes*
- The alternate work site is suitable for the type of work to be performed*
- Sensitive and/or confidential data is reasonably protected and not placed at a higher risk because of the telework arrangement; and complies with the security requirements of IRS Publication 1075, including worksite inspection*

**Item 29 - Any Supervisor may ask a question for clarification, make an announcement, or report briefly on his or her activities. In addition, Supervisors may request staff to report back to the Board at a subsequent meeting concerning any matter or may request that staff place a matter of business on a future agenda. Any request to place a matter of business for consideration on a future agenda requires the majority vote of the Board.** This is now a standing item at the end of each Board Meeting. There were no new studies or policies proposed.

**SLO Air Pollution Control District Meeting of Wednesday, January 24, 2024 (Completed)**

**C4 - Your Board is requested to authorize the acceptance of additional funding from the state for the expanded Fiscal Years 2021-2023 Wood Smoke Reduction Program.** The program was approved unanimously.

**The Board letter stated in part:**

*This third round of the Program offers financial incentives for homeowners countywide to replace old, inefficient, and highly polluting wood stoves, wood inserts, or fireplaces with cleaner burning and more efficient home heating devices to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, criteria pollutants, and air toxics.*

**And**

*State Wood smoke Reduction Program: The Wood smoke Reduction Program is part of the California Climate Investments, a statewide program that invests California Cap-and-Trade dollars from emission sources to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, strengthen the economy and improve public health and the environment. The Program-wide goal for the state is to distribute 75% of the total state funding to residents of disadvantaged and low-income communities and low-income households and tribal lands. APCD will continue to run this program as it was brought to your Board in September 2023.*

The California Air Resources Board (CARB) seeks to ultimately ban wood burning fire places and stoves as well as outdoor barbeques. This program is just the beginning.

**C7 - Request to adjust the funding for the CALeVIP Electric Vehicle (EV) Charger Incentive Program.** The application was approved unanimously. The item authorizes more funding from a State grant to be used for electric vehicle charging stations. The write-up indicates that they are having difficulty finding sites. Thus, it is a little confusing. In any case, most of the funding (nearly \$1 million) comes from your DMV fees.

**D2 - Authorize Community Air Protection Implementation funds to execute the next round of the Clean Air Rooms Program providing air purifiers to qualified low-income households across SLO County and approve attached Budget Adjustment Request.** Again, the item was approved unanimously. Several members expressed strong support.

The recommendation stated in part:

*In our first round of the Clean Air Rooms Program, we did a pilot of the program in the communities of Oceano and designated AQI forecast zones on the Nipomo Mesa. With this 2024 Program, the APCD's goal is to provide HEPA devices to any SLO County residents who are traditionally underserved and/or who may not have the means to purchase an air purifier on their own. This program expands across all SLO County for residents that qualify as low-income.*

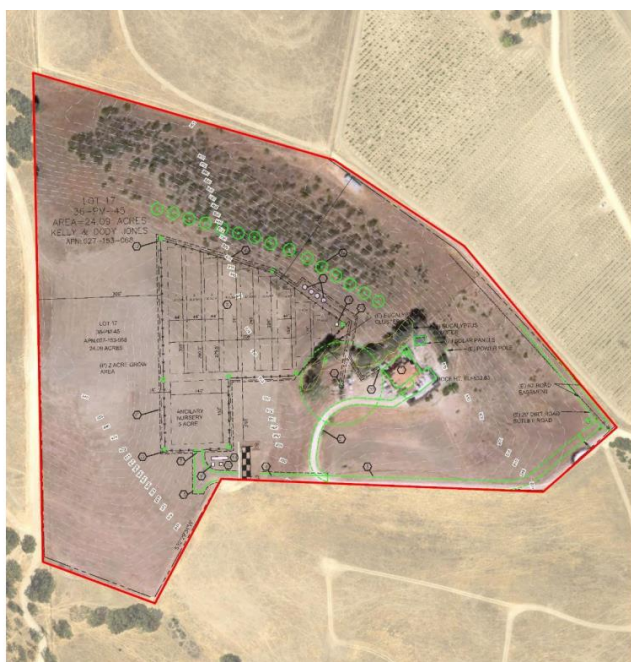
The write-up provides no data on the number of units installed, the cost, or if anyone's health has improved. Do they install these in the homes of smokers? The program is funded by a State grant for which the funding source is not disclosed.

No one seems to represent the beleaguered taxpayers and fee payers. The never ending salvos of new programs and continuation of old programs continues endlessly.

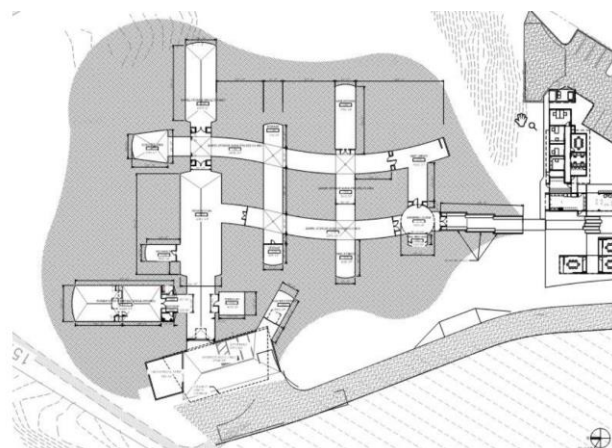


**Planning Commission Meeting of Thursday, January 25, 2024 (Completed)**

**Item 7 - Hearing to consider a request by Buffalo Management Group for a Conditional Use Permit (DRC2019-00241) to allow for the establishment of 2 acres of outdoor cannabis cultivation canopy, 0.5 acre of outdoor ancillary cannabis nursery, and ancillary transport of cannabis grown on-site on a 24-acre parcel. The project would result in approximately 3.66 acres of site disturbance, including 350 cubic yards of earthwork, to be balanced on-site. The project includes a request for the modification of the standards set forth in the County of San Luis Obispo Inland Land Use Ordinance (LUO) Section 22.40.050.D.3 to allow the outdoor cultivation area to be located 263 feet from the southern property line where 300 feet is required. The project is located within the Agriculture land use category, at 1793 Sutliff Road, approximately 1.4 miles southwest of the community of San Miguel, in the Salinas River Sub Area of the North County Planning Area. The staff recommends approval of the project. Apparently, the Army doesn't mind having a grow across the fence.**



**Item 8 - Hearing to consider a request by Guillaume Fabre (Solene Vineyard LLC) for a Conditional Use Permit (DRC2021-00025) to allow the phased development of a 27,248-square-foot winery facility, including a 19,101-square-foot underground wine cave system with a 3,505-square-foot exterior covered work area and a 4,642-square-foot administration building and tasting room with 3,117 square feet of interior space and 1,525 square feet of exterior space. The winery would increase the annual case production from 5,000 cases per year to a maximum of 10,000 cases per year. The project include a request for modification of the County of San Luis Obispo Land Use Ordinance standard Section 22.30.070.D.2.d(1) setback standards that require a 200- foot setback from each property line to allow the underground wine cave system/outdoor work area to be set back 34 feet and 5 inches from the northern property line and the administration building and tasting room to be set back a minimum of 141 feet and 4 inches from the southern property line. The project would result in approximately 2.6 acres of ground disturbance on a 26.69-acre parcel including 14,900 cubic yards of cut and 12,200 cubic yards of fill, to be balanced on-site (difference accounts for 15% soil shrinkage). The project site is within the Agriculture land use category and is located at 2040 Niderer Road, approximately 4 miles west of the city of Paso Robles in the Adelaida Sub Area of the North County Planning Area. The staff report finds no reasons to deny the project. Neighbors are banned together to oppose it. They have provided extensive information to support their opposition.**



**BUILDINGS AND UNDERGROUND WINE CAVES**

## EMERGENT ISSUES

### Item 1 - A Chance for Legal Sanity on Homelessness by Judge Glock

*The Supreme Court may soon overturn Ninth Circuit rulings that have aggravated the crisis on the West Coast.*

Jan 23, 2024

The Supreme Court recently agreed to hear the case of *City of Grants Pass v. Johnson*, dealing with whether the homeless have a constitutional right to camp on public property. As a result, the Court may soon overturn rulings by the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals that have greatly contributed to the West Coast's homelessness crisis.

Six years ago, the Ninth Circuit first decided *Martin v. City of Boise*, ruling that unless sufficient shelter beds were available, imposing criminal penalties on people for sleeping and camping in public violated the constitutional prohibition against cruel and unusual punishment. In 2022, the Ninth Circuit strengthened this precedent in the *Grants Pass* case, stating that even civil citations and citations for putting down bedding were forbidden.

No other circuit adopted this strange reading of the Eight Amendment's cruel and unusual punishment clause, which certainly would have perplexed the Founders. The rulings were made even stranger by the Ninth Circuit's claim that the numerous shelters with "mandatory religious programs" were not acceptable alternatives because of the First Amendment's prohibition of government establishment of religion. In *Grants Pass*, the court argued that camping [enforcement](#) by authorities in the Oregon city was illegal because not enough "secular shelter space" was available.

These rulings have had a dire effect on West Coast cities' ability to enforce their own laws. In the four years after *Boise*, homelessness in Ninth Circuit states grew by about 25 percent, while in the rest of the U.S. it diminished. Unsheltered homelessness in Ninth Circuit states [increased even more](#). Deaths among the homeless in the largest Ninth Circuit cities have spiraled out of control. In [Los Angeles](#) and [Seattle](#), for example, they have risen by as much as 50 percent in a year.

Though many view *Boise* and *Grants Pass* as typical instances of Left Coast insanity, cities and political leaders in the region, even very progressive ones, have almost unanimously opposed the Ninth Circuit rulings. The City of Los Angeles [told the Supreme Court](#) that homeless camps are denying pedestrians and the disabled use of the streets, and that the Ninth Circuit decision has made "incremental improvement, and progress unworkable." Phoenix and other Arizona cities [argued](#) that the "state of the law is simply unworkable," and that the two major decisions were "driven more by policy considerations than constitutional law." Even California governor Gavin Newsom [submitted a brief](#) on the "Ninth Circuit's failure to provide clarity" and said that the rulings' broad scope has made clearing encampments difficult, even though "[e]ncampments are dangerous" and clearing them is "vital."

Some cities in the Ninth Circuit have tried to keep their streets clear, despite the court rulings. [Portland](#) and [San Diego](#) have adopted a combination of enforcement with sanctioned camping alternatives. Las Vegas strengthened its camping ban and expanded its [Courtyard Homeless Resource Center](#), which keeps a running tab of available sleeping spots to ensure

that the city can clear the streets and parks in compliance with *Boise*. But cities still must deal with persistent lawsuits from homelessness activists. Phoenix and Portland are also under legal obligation to keep streets clear of homeless encampments because of suits brought by citizens fed up with the camps. These conflicting pressures make adherence to the odd terms of the Ninth Circuit rulings even more onerous.

The tragedy of the *Boise* and *Grants Pass* cases is that they resulted from pure political preferences, untethered to legitimate constitutional grounds. The judges seemed to think that they were being compassionate to the homeless. As with many such cases of good intentions gone awry, they instead wound up worsening the very crisis that they hoped to prevent.

*Judge Glock is the director of research and a senior fellow at the Manhattan Institute and a contributing editor of City Journal.*

## **Item 2 - Offshore Wind Stumbles, by Jonathan Lesser**

*Developers face unexpected obstacles.*

Jan 23 2024

Ørsted, the world's largest developer of offshore wind, [announced late last year](#) that it was cancelling both of the [Ocean Wind](#) projects it had planned to build off the New Jersey coast. Earlier in 2023, the developers of Pilgrim Wind and Mayflower Wind, two prospective wind farms off the Massachusetts coast, [paid](#) that state's electric utilities millions of dollars to cancel their contracts. And in New York, BP and Equinor recently [announced](#) cancellation of the contract for Empire Wind 2. But while the offshore-wind industry may have lost these recent battles, the battle against this inefficient and high-cost technology is far from over.

Last October, New York's Public Service Commission (PSC) [rejected](#) offshore-wind developers' effort to hike their contract prices, which would have saddled New Yorkers with an extra \$38 billion in electric-bill costs. The developers responsible for the Beacon Wind, Sunrise Wind, and Empire Wind 1 and 2 projects had requested a 50 percent price increase under their current long-term contracts. They claimed that the price hikes were needed to offset unanticipated costs related to Covid-19, supply-chain constraints, and inflation. The regulators disagreed, calling the developers' proposal "inconsistent with Commission policy favoring competition in generation procurement."

The developers have themselves to blame. They bid their projects as far back as 2018, when the Federal Reserve and European central banks were holding interest rates near zero. Back then, raw-material prices had not yet skyrocketed, as they did post-2020. Developers also believed their own hype that their construction costs would fall as new turbines grew in size, which has not occurred, and they likely succumbed to what economists call "[winner's curse](#)"—or a winning bidder's tendency to overestimate the auctioned item's worth.

While the PSC's rejection was hailed as a win for consumers, the move is less momentous than it seems. New York is proceeding apace to meet former governor Andrew Cuomo's [goal](#) of producing 9,000 megawatts of offshore wind by 2035. The New York State Energy Research and Development Authority has [announced](#) the three winners for its most recent auction: the 1,404 MW Attentive Energy project, and the 1,314 MW Community Offshore Wind and Excelsior Wind projects, all to be developed by European companies.

Those three winners' contracts come with an average price of \$145 per megawatt-hour—much higher than the prices bid by Beacon Wind, Sunrise Wind, and Empire Wind I and II, and made

worse by New York’s having added an inflation-adjustment mechanism to the developers’ contracts. The inflation-adjustment clause will allow developers to transfer the risks of higher materials costs and of connecting to the state’s high-voltage transmission system onto captive electric ratepayers. Connecticut has adopted a similar [mechanism](#) that insulates developers from cost rises and transfers the risks of those increases onto ratepayers, resulting in predictable price hikes.

Though the PSC is charged with ensuring that electric rates remain “just and reasonable,” the latest prices for the three newest wind projects signal that New York will not abandon the offshore-wind mandate, regardless of cost. To abandon that mandate would be to admit that offshore wind, despite former Governor Cuomo’s lofty promises, is a high-cost boondoggle. The reality of offshore wind, however, won’t change. The [technology on which it relies is inefficient](#), and like other forms of intermittent generation, requires 100 percent backup to compensate for the hours when it is unavailable.

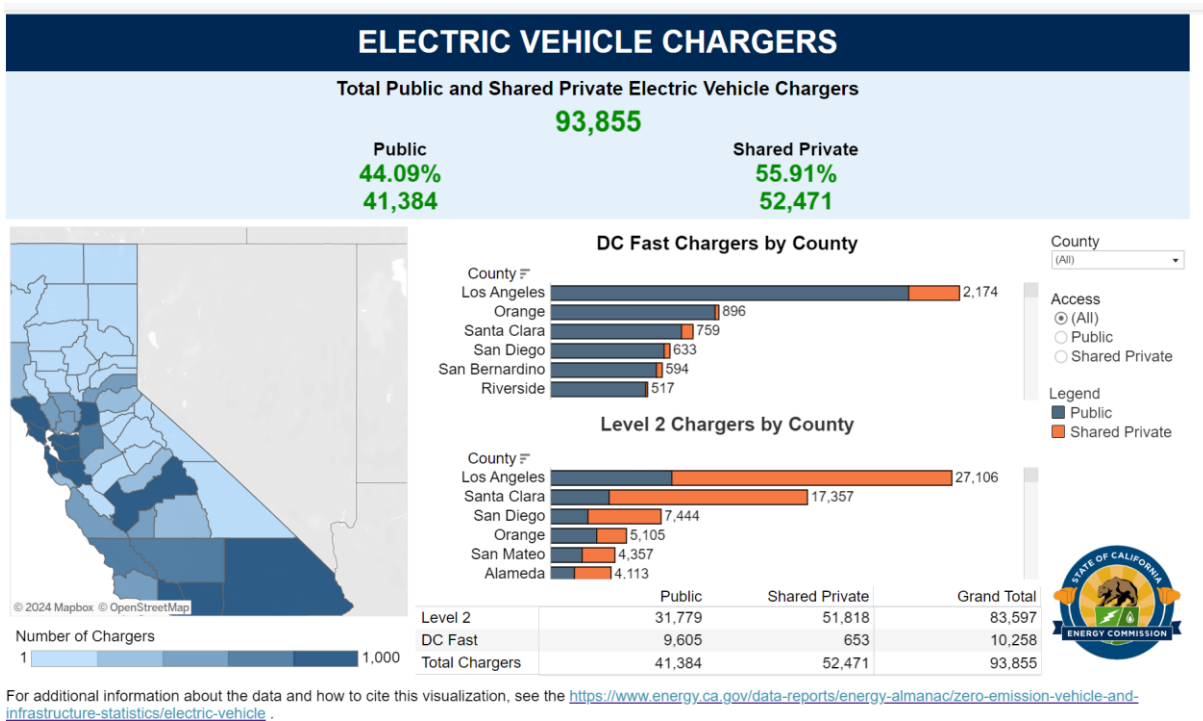
The real question is how much pain New York and New England politicians will impose before ratepayer and taxpayer pushback becomes too much for them to ignore.

*Jonathan Lesser is the president of Continental Economics and an adjunct fellow with the Manhattan Institute.*

**Item 3 - More than 25% of Public EV Charging Stations Do Not Work.** The California Air Resources Board (CARB) has awarded hundreds of millions of dollars to corporations to install the things, but 25% are broken. Now the staff admits that they set no standards. The taxpayer was ripped off.



Sign on EV charging station at parking garage near the CA Capitol 9/30/2022. (Photo: Katy Grimes for California Globe)



**Item 4 - Comparison of Texas Governor Abbot’s open boarder grievance proclamation to certain grievances listed in the Declaration of Independence.** Will this lead to a Constitutional crises? See the relevant clauses from the Declaration, below:

*The history of the present King of Great Britain is a history of repeated injuries and usurpations, all having in direct object the establishment of an absolute Tyranny over these States. To prove this, let Facts be submitted to a candid world.*

*He has refused his Assent to Laws, the most wholesome and necessary for the public good.*

*He has forbidden his **Governors** to pass Laws of immediate and pressing importance, unless suspended in their operation till his Assent should be obtained; and when so suspended, he has utterly neglected to attend to them.*

*He has refused to pass other Laws for the accommodation of large districts of people, unless those people would relinquish the right of Representation in the Legislature, a right inestimable to them and formidable to tyrants only.*

*He has erected a multitude of New Offices, and **sent hither swarms of Officers to harrass** our people, and eat out their substance.*

*He has excited domestic insurrections amongst us, and has endeavoured to bring on the inhabitants of our frontiers, the merciless Indian Savages, whose known rule of warfare, is an undistinguished destruction of all ages, sexes and conditions.*







GOVERNOR GREG ABBOTT

January 24, 2024

The federal government has broken the compact between the United States and the States. The Executive Branch of the United States has a constitutional duty to enforce federal laws protecting States, including immigration laws on the books right now. President Biden has refused to enforce those laws and has even violated them. The result is that he has smashed records for illegal immigration.

Despite having been put on notice in a series of letters—one of which I delivered to him by hand—President Biden has ignored Texas’s demand that he perform his constitutional duties.

- President Biden has violated his oath to faithfully execute immigration laws enacted by Congress. Instead of prosecuting immigrants for the federal crime of illegal entry, President Biden has sent his lawyers into federal courts to sue Texas for taking action to secure the border.
- President Biden has instructed his agencies to ignore federal statutes that mandate the detention of illegal immigrants. The effect is to illegally allow their *en masse* parole into the United States.
- By wasting taxpayer dollars to tear open Texas’s border security infrastructure, President Biden has enticed illegal immigrants away from the 28 legal entry points along this State’s southern border—bridges where nobody drowns—and into the dangerous waters of the Rio Grande.

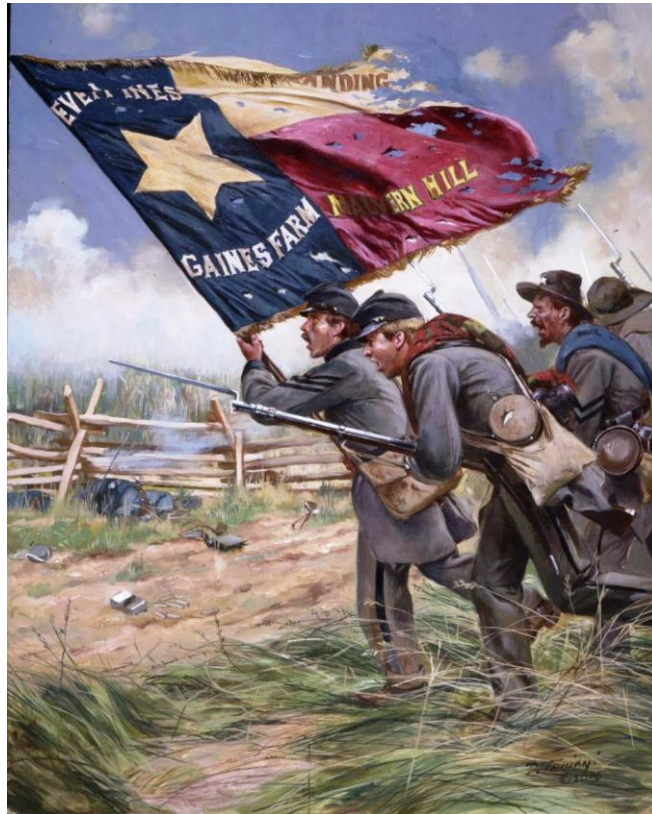
Under President Biden’s lawless border policies, more than 6 million illegal immigrants have crossed our southern border in just 3 years. That is more than the population of 33 different States in this country. This illegal refusal to protect the States has inflicted unprecedented harm on the People all across the United States.

James Madison, Alexander Hamilton, and the other visionaries who wrote the U.S. Constitution foresaw that States should not be left to the mercy of a lawless president who does nothing to stop external threats like cartels smuggling millions of illegal immigrants across the border. That is why the Framers included both Article IV, § 4, which promises that the federal government “shall protect each [State] against invasion,” and Article I, § 10, Clause 3, which acknowledges “the States’ sovereign interest in protecting their borders.” *Arizona v. United States*, 567 U.S. 387, 419 (2012) (Scalia, J., dissenting).

The failure of the Biden Administration to fulfill the duties imposed by Article IV, § 4 has triggered Article I, § 10, Clause 3, which reserves to this State the right of self-defense. For these reasons, I have already declared an invasion under Article I, § 10, Clause 3 to invoke Texas’s constitutional authority to defend and protect itself. That authority is the supreme law of the land and supersedes any federal statutes to the contrary. The Texas National Guard, the Texas Department of Public Safety, and other Texas personnel are acting on that authority, as well as state law, to secure the Texas border.

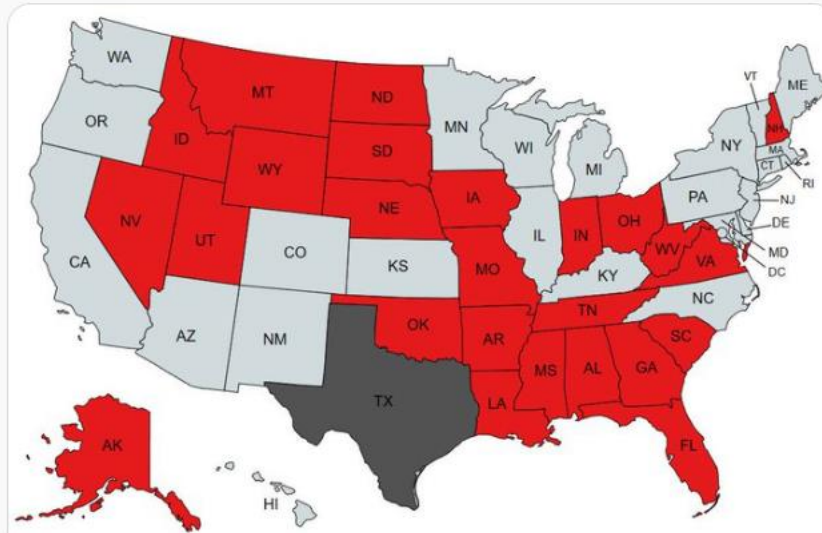
A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Greg Abbott".

Greg Abbott  
Governor of Texas



Texans at Antietam, 1862  
Now What?

Holy shit. 25 Republican governors just signed a joint letter in support of the TX Resistance.



Signatories include: Governor Kay Ivey (AL), Governor Mike Dunleavy (AK), Governor Sarah Sanders (AR), Governor Ron DeSantis (FL), Governor Brian Kemp (GA), Governor Brad Little (ID), Governor Eric Holcomb (IN), Governor Kim Reynolds (IA), Governor Jeff Landry (LA), Governor Tate Reeves (MS), Governor Mike Parson (MO), Governor Greg Gianforte (MT), Governor Jim Pillen (NE), Governor Joe Lombardo (NV), Governor Chris Sununu (NH), Governor Doug Burgum (ND), Governor Mike DeWine (OH), Governor Kevin Stitt (OK), Governor Henry McMaster (SC), Governor Kristi Noem (SD), Governor Bill Lee (TN),

Governor Spencer Cox (UT), Governor Glenn Youngkin (VA), Governor Jim Justice (WV), and Governor Mark Gordon (WY).

Excerpt from Daniel Greenfield article (below)<sup>1</sup>

**A question is whether they'll provide further support and materials for securing the border.** For now there's a standoff.

Texas will keep on putting up wire and the Border Patrol will keep taking it down. Of course, any time that the Border Patrol has to spend removing Texas defenses, is time that it won't be able to spend escorting illegal alien invaders into America.

The question is what happens if Texas escalates to defenses that are more difficult to remove. Before leaving office, Gov. Ducey in Arizona was putting up shipping containers. There are defenses Texas could put up that wouldn't be removed with wire cutters.

And what happens if the Supreme Court rules to explicitly order Texas to cease and desist?

What happens if Biden moves to seize control over the Guard?

Those are explosive questions that may well end up testing the limits of federal authority.

Democrat states had argued that they had the legal authority to defy the federal government when it came to immigration law producing 'sanctuary states'. The legal double standard has been that Democrat states can defy the federal government to protect illegal aliens, but that Republican states can't defy the federal government to keep illegal aliens out.

As cities are overrun with illegal aliens, the Biden administration is in a standoff that is not going to be popular with a public in blue states already drowning in illegal alien invaders.

Do states have a right to defend their own borders? Does America have a right to protect itself?



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<sup>1</sup> January 27, 2024 by [Daniel Greenfield](#) Daniel Greenfield, a Shillman Journalism Fellow at the David Horowitz Freedom Center, is an investigative journalist and writer focusing on the radical Left and Islamic terrorism.

## Item 5 - Proposed CA bill would electronically restrict cars from going over speed limit

By [Tony Cabrera](#) and [Lena Howland](#)  
Thursday, January 25, 2024 9:56AM



The law would require any new car or truck made or sold in the state in 2027 or later to have special technology installed in the car called "speed governors."

SAN FRANCISCO -- California Sen. Scott Wiener is introducing a new set of bills to make streets safer across the state, including one that would change how you drive. It would require any new car or truck made or sold in the state in 2027 or later to have special technology installed in the car called "speed governors." The device would make it physically impossible for vehicles to go 10 miles per hour over the [posted speed limits](#).

"I don't think it's at all an overreach, and I don't think most people would view it as an overreach, we have speed limits, I think most people support speed limits because people know that speed kills," Wiener said.

Another part of the measure would require large trucks to install side guards to prevent pedestrians, cyclists, or other vehicles from getting sucked underneath the truck during a crash. Sen. Wiener says the bills are "commonsense actions" to protect public safety.

"I think if you ask anyone, do people need to be driving more than 10 miles an hour over the speed limit, assuming you're not an emergency vehicle which are exempt from the bill, I think most people would say no, I don't want people driving more than 10 miles an hour in my neighborhood," he said.

A woman whose mother was permanently injured while crossing the street in San Francisco says she supports the change.

"It is hard to stand here where she suffered, where everything changed in an instant, all she was doing was crossing the street," Jenny Yu, a San Francisco resident said.

"Dangerous speeding destroys lives, speed is the number one cause of severe and fatal crashes in San Francisco and in California, and dangerous speeding is on the rise. Vehicles are bigger and more powerful every day, pedestrians become innocent carnage and collateral damage."

Wiener's second bill would require Caltrans to make upgrades to crosswalks, bike lanes and curb extensions on state-owned roads to protect pedestrians, cyclists and those who rely on public transit.

A similar bill was vetoed by Gov. Gavin Newsom in 2019 in order to give Caltrans a chance to do this work on its own.

But five years later, Wiener says he still hasn't seen much progress.

The bills introduced this week are expected to go to a committee sometime in the spring.

**COLAB Note:**

- 1. How will you be able to accelerate onto a crowded freeway?**
- 2. How will you pass a log truck on a mountain highway?**
- 3. Why shouldn't you be able to go 80 on the 101 in South Monterey County, now that they are dropping the speed limit to 65?**

**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**

**WHEN WILL DEMOCRATS ADMIT CALIFORNIA'S  
PROP. 47 HAS BEEN CATAclySMIC?**

*Make crime illegal again*  
**BY KATY GRIMES**

California's Proposition 47 has been a man-made disaster... cataclysmic... a catastrophe. Need more descriptors?

How about, "Make crime illegal again" in California.

There have been numerous attempts to repeal and/or reverse Proposition 47, which was passed by tragically misinformed voters in 2014, and flagrantly titled "The Safe Neighborhoods and Schools Act" by then Attorney General Kamala Harris, which reduced a host of serious felonies to misdemeanors, including drug crimes, date rape, and all thefts under \$950, even for repeat offenders who steal every day.

Prop. 47 which also decriminalized drug possession from a felony to a misdemeanor, removed 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.

The commensurate escalation of crime throughout California is stunning. And there is no coincidence that during this same time period, the exponential escalation of homeless vagrants and drug addicts on the streets occurred.

California's largest cities resemble third world hellscape, with people living in stolen tents on sidewalks, covering the sidewalks with human defecation, urine and vomit, garbage strewn on city streets, drug addicts shooting up in public, drug sales, public sex acts, and violence – street fights between vagrants, and open harassment of passers by, with virtually little to no policing.

Sacramento's District Attorney Thien Ho, a Democrat, has been a pioneer on homeless legal issues, filing the first of its kind lawsuit against the City of Sacramento in September for failing to abate the homeless crisis in the Capitol city. "The city instead chose to enforce some of the laws some of the time against some of the people," DA Ho says in the lawsuit.

DA Ho said Sacramento's homeless crisis has exploded by more than 250% in just 7 years, and described the city as collapsing into chaos and said Sacramento's homeless crisis has become an "erosion of everyday life."

When will Legislative Democrats admit that Prop. 47 has been a disaster for the entire state?

There may be a light on the horizon... it's an election year.

Some Democrats are starting to imply that parts of Prop. 47 need to be "Reconsidered." Reevaluated. Reexamined. Revised. Rehashed. Reassessed.

Assemblyman Kevin McCarty (D-Sacramento) who is running for Sacramento Mayor, is now saying parts of Prop. 47 need to be repealed. "McCarty, the new chair of the Assembly Public Safety committee, introduced legislation to reform Prop. 47," Spectrum1 News reported. "I think the people of California want us to act, but they don't necessarily want us to go back to, let's say, the mid-90s and mass incarceration. They want us to be smart on these things," McCarty said. According to a 2022 UC Berkeley IGS poll, 59% of the people support making changes to Prop 47, while 30% don't want to see the law amended.

Sacramento County Sheriff Jim Cooper, a former Democratic Assemblyman, testified at the Select Committee on Retail Theft and stressed there is no accountability when it comes to these crimes. He said his office doesn't get statistics from retailers, theft is underreported and some stores are told not to report it, ABC10 reported in December.

That Assembly Democrats even created the Select Committee on Retail Theft is breakthrough. But California doesn't need a legislative committee "to identify policy solutions to this ongoing crisis." How dangerous and disgusting does California have to get before Democrats will repeal Prop. 47?

Don't expect miracles. Plenty of the left insists that "Prop. 47 is working," including one of the authors of the disastrous initiative. Lenore Anderson, president of the Alliance for Safety and Justice, co-authored Prop 47 still stands by this law despite growing criticism of its effectiveness, ABC 10 reported. "Anderson sees the positives in the law she helped write."

“Without a doubt, it’s been overwhelmingly successful,” she said. “Nothing in Proposition 47 prevents local and state law enforcement from responding appropriately to the kind of retail theft that voters are concerned about,” Anderson said.

She claims “More than half a billion dollars has been reallocated from state prisons to community-based public safety programs.” Where is the evidence that this funding reallocation has helped anyone?

She also served on the Executive Committee for California’s Proposition 57 to expand prison rehabilitation – which has only served the criminals, turning many violent offenses into “non-violent” offenses. Influence Watch reports “Founded in 2016, the Alliance for Safety and Justice was created as a project of the Tides Center, associated with the Tides Foundation, a major left-of-center grant making organization.” The Alliance has received \$18 million from the Open Philanthropy Project Fund(OPPF), a left-of-center, Silicon Valley-based charity.

As the Globe has consistently and repeatedly reported, in addition to Prop. 47, there were two other 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, as we describe above, decriminalized most theft. 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.

No Democrat has of yet openly admitted that the crimes of human trafficking a child or a drive by shooting are indeed violent crimes, and need to be reclassified back.

In 2022, Democrats killed Assembly Bill 1599 by Assemblymen Kevin Kiley, James Gallagher, and Jim Patterson, to repeal Proposition 47, and “make crime illegal again,” despite overwhelming support at the hearing from elected District Attorneys, elected Sheriffs, police officers associations, chambers of commerce, businesses and shopping malls.

Despite overwhelming evidence of rampant crime throughout the state, Gov. Gavin Newsom has continually praised Proposition 47, Proposition 57 and AB 109, claiming they had helped reduce crime in the state, rather than doubling down on the source of these crimes. Of course they “reduced” crime in the state – the criminals can’t get arrested any longer for these supposed “non-violent” crimes.

The people of California want the crime to stop. Now.

*Katy Grimes, the Editor in Chief of the California Globe, is a long-time Investigative Journalist covering the California State Capitol, and the co-author of California's War Against Donald Trump: Who Wins? Who Loses? This article first appeared in the January 23, 2024 California Globe.*

## **2024 - AMERICA’S YEAR OF LIVING DANGEROUSLY**

***Add it all up, and the world abroad agrees America is in rapid decline and will not or cannot defend its interests, or for that matter itself***

**BY VICTOR DAVIS HANSON**

Lame-duck presidencies, especially in the last six months of their final term, in general can offer opportunities for America’s enemies to take advantage of a perceived vacuum as one government transitions to the next.

But these normal changeover months are especially dangerous when a perceived weak or appealing lame-duck president is likely to be replaced by a strong deterrent successor that will likely serve as a corrective to his disastrous policies.

James Buchanan (1857-1861), a northern but pro-South president, was a particularly anemic chief executive. He had done little if anything to try to deal with the growing rift between North and South, especially the furor over the Dred Scott decision and Bloody Kansas. Even when warned, Buchanan did little to beef up the U.S. Army or increase its weapon stockpiles to deter any potential secessionist state.

After Buchanan declined to run for a second term, the South understood that the abolitionist and anti-slavery Republican candidate Abraham Lincoln might well be elected in 1860—given the North/South split within the Democratic Party. And they understood that President Lincoln might well use force to stop secession.



Therefore, in the waning days of the Buchanan administration, after Lincoln's victory, seven southern states seceded during the presidential transition, a confused North reacted little, more would follow, and a terrible Civil War became inevitable.

During the waning days of the crippled second term of Richard Nixon in summer 1974, communist North Vietnam saw a once deterrent president fatally weakened by Watergate. It was encouraged by a renewed antiwar movement, a likely soon anti-war Congress, and the next president, Gerald Ford—a probable caretaker soon to be replaced by an anti-war Democrat. And so in late 1974 and 1975, the communists renounced ignored peace accords, judged correctly that the directionless US would not help South Vietnam stop a massive invasion from the North, and thereby won the 12-year-long war.

As the Jimmy Carter administration began to wind down and as it was increasingly judged as weak abroad, the new theocratic revolutionary government in Iran stormed the U.S. embassy and took hostages in November 1979. Throughout the next year, Tehran systematically humiliated the U.S., mocked an impotent Carter administration, and rebuffed all U.S. efforts to secure the return of the hostages.

The Soviet Union as well saw the dying and still inert Carter term as ripe for exploitation and so invaded Afghanistan a month later, in December 1979. It too concluded that there would be a year of continued timidity in Washington before a likely remedy from a Republican president—in this case, Ronald Reagan, who had declared his candidacy a little over a week after Iran took hostages with clear promises to restore U.S. deterrence abroad.

We are now once again entering one of these dangerous moments, compounded by a weakening of the armed forces. During Biden's tenure, the U.S. military has suffered historic shortfalls in recruitment, the disastrous humiliation in Afghanistan, a new DEI commissariat that wars on meritocratic promotions and assignments, the politicization of generals and admirals, the hyped but otherwise inane effort to root out mythical white supremacists and "domestic terrorist" bogeymen from the ranks, and the expulsion of some of our best soldiers for their reluctance to be vaccinated, many of them having developed natural immunity from prior infection.

The Pentagon is short on ships and planes. U.S. weapons stocks are dangerously low, drained by the abandonment of billions of dollars of equipment to the Taliban, the resupply efforts to Ukraine and Israel, the failure of the Biden administration to fund the restocking of our munitions and to ramp up resupply production—and a \$35 billion national debt fed by \$2 trillion annual deficits.

Add eight million illegal aliens who pranced over a nonexistent southern border, nearly uninhabitable big-city downtowns, an epidemic of violent crime, and a president who resuscitates mostly to blast half the country as "semi-fascists" and "ultra-MAGA" extremists.

Add it all up, and the world abroad agrees America is in a strange, self-inflicted decline and will not or cannot defend its interests, or for that matter itself.

In particular, both enemies and neutrals have accordingly drawn a number of self-interested conclusions about the waning Biden administration and what may follow:

1. That Joe Biden, to their apparent delight, has in the last three years reversed the Trump deterrence policies and thus has green-lit their aggressions.
2. That given the ensuing chaos, they have further agreed that Biden's growing unpopularity with the American people makes it likely that both he and his appeasement policies will be gone by January 2024.
3. That Donald Trump may well return to office. That would mean a much worse deal for Russia, China, Iran, and its terrorist satellites, and thus recognition that 2024 is a brief window of opportunity for aggression.

Putin remembers that Trump blasted 200 Russian mercenaries in Syria, got out of a bad missile deal with Moscow, upped sanctions on Russian oligarchs, flooded the world with cheap oil, destroying Russian oil export profits, sold once-canceled offensive weapons to Ukraine, and warned what would happen if Putin invaded Ukraine. Of the last four administrations, Trump's was the only one that saw no Russian cross-border invasions.

China remembers that Trump slapped tariffs on its mercantilist market economy, accused China of birthing the COVID virus at its Wuhan virology lab, increased military spending, forced NATO to spend another \$100 billion on munitions, and jawboned more alliance members into upping their military contributions. Beijing knew that to send a spy balloon across the continental United States between 2017-21 would have meant its destruction the minute it entered U.S. airspace. China did not serially threaten Taiwan during the Trump era—and may believe that this year could be the last chance in a decade to confront Taiwan.

Iran has concluded two things about 2024: 1) they do not wish to see another Trump presidency on the horizon that took out its top-ranking terrorist-general Qasem Soleimani, slapped sanctions on its oil, yanked the U.S. out of the flawed Iran Deal, declared the Iranian Houthi satellites a foreign terrorist organization, cut off all aid to the Palestinian Authority and Hamas, moved the U.S. closer to Israel, and warned Hezbollah of consequences should it start a war with Israel; and 2) that the present Biden abdication will likely be short-lived and thus now may be the time to take advantage of a currently directionless global superpower that either will not or cannot deter Iranian aggression.

So what should we expect in 2024? Lacking a strong U.S. patron and sponsor, Israel will be subject to more international calls to leave Gaza, to negotiate with Hamas, and to give up the idea it can “destroy” Hamas.

Hezbollah will likely up its daily barrage of missiles into Israel.

Iran will become more overt in supplying Russia, Hezbollah, Hamas, and the Houthis with weapons.

China will increase its threats to Taiwan and weigh carefully the costs-to-benefits of attacking the island.

The common denominator? All our enemies are right now calculating how best to use their gift of the next 12 months from a non-compos-mentis president and his neo-socialist team that either believes the U.S. is at fault for much of the world's pathologies or is too terrified to do anything about them.

In sum, adversaries believe there is a rare window of opportunity in which the U.S. uncharacteristically does nothing to deter its enemies, back its allies, or win over neutrals. And over the next year, we can only pray they are mistaken.

*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, and is the 2023 Giles O'Malley Distinguished Visiting Professor at the School of Public Policy, Pepperdine University. Hanson was awarded the National Humanities Medal in 2007 by President George W. Bush, and the Bradley Prize in 2008. Hanson is also a farmer (growing almonds 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 recently released [The Dying Citizen](#), and the forthcoming [The End of Everything \(May 7, 2024\)](#). This article first appeared in the January 22, 2023 American Greatness.*



## ANNOUNCEMENTS

# Slay the Death Tax

HJTA needs about 1.2 million signatures by February 5th to qualify the Repeal the Death Tax Act for next November's ballot

By [Katy Grimes](#), January 16, 2024

Last week when Gov. Gavin Newsom was sharing his proposed 2024-2025 budget, he insisted that he was opposed to a proposed wealth tax. And sure enough, [Assembly Bill 259](#) by Assemblyman Alex Lee (D-Palo Alto), which will impose an annual “worldwide net worth” tax of 1 percent on net worth above \$50 million, rising to 1.5 percent on net worth over \$1.0 billion, was killed in committee that afternoon.

However, the governor has been mum about another type of wealth tax – California's sneaky Death Tax, which adds a new tax on property inherited by a family member, which was already was taxed over the years of ownership.

In 2020, [Proposition 19](#) resurrected the Death Tax on families whose property is left to loved ones when they die, putting their homes, property and businesses at significant risk. While the

initiative was cleverly disguised as a benefit for the elderly and disabled communities, Proposition 19 caused far more harm than good.

[In May](#), Senator Kelly Seyarto (R-Murrieta) introduced [Senate Constitutional Amendment 4](#), to restore taxpayers' property rights by reversing the state's "death tax" written into in [Proposition 19](#). Deviously titled "[the Property Tax Transfers, Exemptions, and Revenue for Wildfire Agencies and Counties Amendment](#)."

SCA 4 would have reversed one of the largest property tax increases in state history, a little-noticed provision of Proposition 19 that revoked the ability of families and parents to pass property to their children without any change to the property tax bill, [according](#) to the Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Association.

However, [Democrats killed Seyarto's SCA 4](#) in a legislative committee.

I remember when the Death Tax was first slayed.

"It was 1986 when the parent-child exclusion from reassessment was first added to the state constitution," Susan Shelly [recently wrote](#). "A growing number of Californians were angry to discover that state law treated death and inheritance as a "change of ownership" under Prop. 13, triggering reassessment to current market value just as if it was a sale. The legislature proposed a constitutional amendment that would allow parent-child transfers of a home and a limited amount of other property, such as a small business or a rental property, without reassessment."

"The parent-child transfer protection passed by a unanimous vote in both houses of the legislature, and then was approved by 75% of voters statewide."

Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Association [elaborates](#) on how Proposition 19 hurts taxpayers: Proposition 19, had two main elements. The first was expanded "portability" of base-year property taxes. Homeowners who are 55 years of age or older, who are victims of a wildfire, or who are disabled may now move to a replacement home anywhere in the state, of any value, and take the base-year property tax assessment of the old home with them to a new home up to three times.

Now to the other part of Proposition 19. Previously under the state constitution, property transfers between parents and children, and sometimes grandparents and grandchildren, were excluded from reassessment. These family members could transfer a home of any value and up to \$1 million of assessed value of other property, such as a small business property, a vacation cabin, or a rental property, without any increase in the property tax bill. This taxpayer protection was added to the state constitution in 1986 by Proposition 58 (parents and children) and in 1996 by Proposition 193 (grandparents and grandchildren) with overwhelming public support.

Proposition 58 was approved by more than 75% of California voters, and Proposition 193 was approved by nearly the same margin. Now, *these taxpayer protections are gone*.

Proposition 19 has replaced 58 and 193 with a very narrow exclusion for family transfers of property. Only a principal residence that the inheriting child occupies as his or her permanent primary residence is eligible for an exclusion from reassessment. Unless the new owner can move in within one year, the property is reassessed to market value. Business properties and rental properties lose the protection entirely.

So, what can be done?

Susan Shelly [continues](#), “the Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Association, where I am on staff as VP of Communications, is collecting signatures to put an initiative on the ballot that would repeal the tax increase that was hidden in Prop. 19, without touching the other provisions in it. The official petition is available at [RepealTheDeathTax.com](#) and can be downloaded and printed on one sheet of ordinary letter-size paper. This enables instant distribution of the petition throughout the state. Theoretically, a million people could download the petition at the same time, fill it out and sign it, and have one other registered voter in the household also sign it.”

It’s easy. Click on [RepealTheDeathTax.com](#) and/or

**[Click here to DOWNLOAD the official petition RIGHT NOW](#)**

[RepealTheDeathTax.com](#) has more details **HERE**:

[Read the Initiative here.](#)

Please note: You must print and sign the petition with paper and ink. It’s not electronic.

Follow the easy instructions. And please note:

**DEADLINE EXTENDED! Return signed petitions to HJTA postmarked by FEBRUARY 5**

Download the official, legal petition to put the **REPEAL THE DEATH TAX** initiative on the November 2024 ballot.

Complete instructions are included in the pdf file.

Get your petition in the mail ASAP – before February 5th.

[Katy Grimes](#)

Katy Grimes, the Editor in Chief of the California Globe, is a long-time Investigative Journalist covering the California State Capitol, and the co-author of [California's War Against Donald Trump: Who Wins? Who Loses?](#)

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