

CALIFORNIA'S *FUTURE*

YOUR GUIDE TO AN INDEPENDENT CALIFORNIA



Acknowledgments

A lot of time and effort went into creating a publication that outlines our plan for California's independence.

The Yes California Independence Committee would like to thank each of the following board members for their contributions to *California's Future*:

Marcus Ruiz Evans, for conducting much of the research that supports the content of this publication.

Louis J. Marinelli, for formatting, writing and developing the content of this publication based on Mr. Evans' research.

Michael Ross, for his work developing the *California Index* and other economic reform proposals, and for his painstaking efforts at copy-editing and proofreading *California's Future* prior to publication.

Theo Slater, for his contributions to political reform, namely the reorganization of the State Assembly into a parliament of proportional representation, and the devolution of powers from Sacramento to counties and local governments.

Barton C. Gilbert, for his unwavering support for human rights, and for helping us develop our immigration reform plan, as well as his ongoing struggle to modernize California's democracy.

Sam Chaney and Stuart Webb, for producing and developing video content to go along with this publication, as well as a marketing strategy to maximize its distribution.

The campaign to establish the country of California has already begun but ultimately aims to put an independence referendum on the ballot. This referendum will be a choice between two different futures.

If we vote Yes, we can write the next chapter in the story of California. The story will be that of a more equal, more just, more affordable, and more business-friendly California. This new chapter will be one of fiscal responsibility, financial solvency, and economic prosperity for all.

If we vote Yes, the most important decisions about our economy and society will be made by the people of California, those who care most about California and have a vested interest in its future. The door will open to a new era for our nation. We won't return California to the Golden State of yesterday, we will usher in a new Golden Age.

California's future will be in California's hands.

If we vote No, nothing changes. A once in a generation opportunity to exercise our right to self-determination and choose a new direction for California will be lost. Many decisions about California will remain in the hands of federal politicians on the other side of the continent, bought and paid for by the corporate lobbyists who own Washington.

If we vote No, our taxes will continue to be collected and redistributed to other states to prop up their economies, rebuild their infrastructure, pay for their health care, and educate their children while our roads, hospitals and schools here are in dire need of repair and rejuvenation.

Being independent means we will have a government that we choose – a government that always puts the people of California first. This is what being independent can deliver for California and it is why Yes California believes the people of California, individually and collectively, will be better off with independence from the United States.

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To the People of the Republic of California

May our right to self-determination be acknowledged
so that the nation of California may be released from captivity.

The Yes California Independence Campaign supports California's independence from the United States. It is our goal to start a conversation about independence with the people of California with the hope that our government in Sacramento will come to support California's independence as well.

In 2020, you will be asked to vote in a referendum on the question:

Should California be an independent country?

Yes California believes you should vote Yes on this question of independence and this publication sets out to explain why.

California's Future is designed to provide the reader with an overview of exactly what the Yes California Independence Campaign stands for today. We strive to answer the important questions of why California should seek its independence from the United States, how we actually intend to do that, and what we believe California should do as an independent country.

We also hope to erase all doubts of those who refuse to believe that California is currently a "nation within a nation". As North America's most distinct society, as well as the most populous and diverse place in the United States, there is no doubt that our contributions to the growth of America and the world have become a central part of Western culture, thought, and economics. Beyond that, California already exerts a positive influence on the rest of the world and we could do more good as a *country* rather than an American *state*.

California's diversity explains why we are ideologically and culturally different from other North Americans, and it is why we have unique public policy preferences that set trends in the United States, and even around the world. Let us provide a few examples to illustrate California's influence.

California passed AB 1493 in 2002 that created a set of vehicle emissions standards stricter than federal emissions standards. As a result of California's visionary Clean Cars legislation, eleven other states between 2002 and 2007 adopted California's stricter emissions standards legislation over comparatively lax federal guidelines¹.



In June of 2015, Governor Brown signed a bill that extends healthcare benefits to hundreds of thousands of undocumented immigrants living in California². While federal law explicitly forbids those living in the country illegally from signing up for insurance under the Affordable Care Act, California is setting the tone for national policy. Legislation was recently proposed in the House of Representatives to accomplish this goal at the national level³.

In October of 2015, Governor Brown signed a bill that provides terminally-ill patients the right to end their lives under certain conditions. In a moving interview with CNN the day after Brown signed the bill into law, Christy O'Donnell, a 47-year-old right-to-die advocate, expressed an important and fundamental truth about California's powerful influence and impact around the world⁴.

"Not only do other states look to California to set these types of civil rights movement issues," O'Donnell said. "But other countries look to California, as well. I absolutely hope that the decision by the Governor today, and all his hard work, is going to create a domino effect across America and then continue to those other nations that don't have this law."

However, not all Americans appreciate California's influence. Everyday across this country, Americans are shaking their heads at what California has already or is currently working to achieve, whether it be a smaller human impact on our climate, or a more equal society. These Americans call Californians 'loony', 'nutty', or 'crazy'. One Michigan legislator on the floor of the Michigan House of Representatives said in March of 2015 that California itself is the "land of fruits and nuts⁵". He wasn't talking about our agriculture.

The simple truth is what we Californians see as common sense is often viewed as ridiculousness to our American brothers and sisters. Our common sense makes California a worldlier place than the United States. As a result, Californians believe that the world should be a better place when we turn it over to the next generation than when we inherited it from the last generation. This global perspective we share is a big reason why you should be proud to be Californian.

Meanwhile, the United States is engaged in unwarranted mass domestic surveillance, the militarization of California's local police departments, the mismanagement of our resources, and illegal foreign wars fought by Californians, and paid for by California taxpayers. This



has been the case since 1987, when California began paying more into the national system than it has received from it⁶. To make matters worse, we have been silenced by lobbyists manipulating our elected representatives, and in the *Citizens United* decision, the Supreme Court essentially gave corporations the go-ahead to buy our elections. We the people of California are now powerless in the United States.

To add insult to injury, while California's tax resources are being used to rebuild the rest of the United States, California's infrastructure is falling apart, our schools are ranked among the worst in the entire country⁷, California has the highest number of homeless⁸, poverty rates remain high⁹, income inequality continues to expand¹⁰, and Sacramento must often borrow money from the future to simply provide basic services for our citizens today¹¹.

Because of this, many Americans say that California is a seriously flawed and soon-to-be failed state. Yes California believes that a careful review of the data provided in *California's Future* will show that many of California's problems are actually American-made problems rooted in Washington, D.C.

Americans criticize California's sanctuary cities and our acceptance of undocumented immigrants, but they conveniently overlook the fact that California has no jurisdiction over the border and undocumented immigrants are present in the country because of federal immigration laws, not California's. Indeed, immigration laws are federal and cannot be enforced by local law enforcement but an independent California will have the jurisdiction to enact its own immigration policies that make sense for California's economy, and to enforce its own immigration laws consistent with our values.

Americans criticize California for its high taxes, yet they conveniently overlook the fact that the Federal Government collects and redistributes a tens of billions of our tax dollars each year to help support other states¹², leaving Californians to pay higher taxes to make up for the federal funding we don't but should receive. Under the Yes California plan detailed in *California's Future*, you will find the answers to how we will eliminate California's state income tax and reduce other taxes and fees, making California not only a more affordable place to live, but a more attractive place to do business.

With that in mind, we would like to put this into perspective: when California was admitted into the Union in 1850, the United States



promised that we would have an “equal footing” with all the other states¹³. Sadly, today our footing has slipped, and we find ourselves the victims of decades of federal economic exploitation that has seen hundreds of billions of California dollars leave and never return. While California maintains the right to petition the government for redress of grievances, that right is meaningless as long as those grievances are never redressed.

The unfortunate truth is that the United States treats California as a “colony” whose resources are routinely used for the betterment of other states while the country routinely neglects and ignores our specific social and cultural issues, and economic infrastructure needs. Furthermore, even though complaints about this are rapidly growing, our federal delegation in Washington, D.C. is powerless against those who align their state against ours, supporting our continued exploitation at their state’s own benefit.

Yes California believes that it is time that the Republic of California stand up and rise out from the political dysfunction in the United States that slows our progress, hinders our prosperity, and stifles opportunity in California. That is why the Yes California Independence Campaign is here – to support the belief that California is a nation, and to work hand and hand with others like you in an effort to establish the independent country of California.

Once California is unleashed and our independence is achieved, we will be able to support game-changing public policies through the enactment of laws that place the interests of Californians first - not as they often are - last. Once we do this, California will benefit greatly. For example, the United States will never again be able to use federal funding as a tool to control our government, our businesses, or our citizens, as *California's Future* will demonstrate it currently does today.

To achieve this goal, Yes California has created a platform that alters not only the way we think, but how we act. Presently, the Yes California Independence Campaign is working to create unique programs that not only further our people’s lives, but also change the way we look at ourselves and our place in the world. Additionally, we believe that we have a financial plan that will not only fix our infrastructure, but will reduce and end our financial dependency on the Federal Government, and make California financially solvent.

Yes California is open to using every tool at our disposal to advance



our cause. One of the tools we plan to use is the citizen's ballot initiative, through which we intend to place an independence question on the 2020 ballot. We believe that this non-binding ballot question is an important symbolic step towards independence, and is modeled from the Scottish Referendum of 2014.

As you read *California's Future*, think about this question: Do you agree that California should have the exclusive power to make its own laws, levy its own taxes and establish its own diplomatic relations?

As the Yes California Independence Campaign rolls out, our immediate task is to educate Californians on why we should say 'Yes' to that question, and then organize and use that collective voice to demand that our independence be recognized by the United States, and request that it be recognized internationally as well.

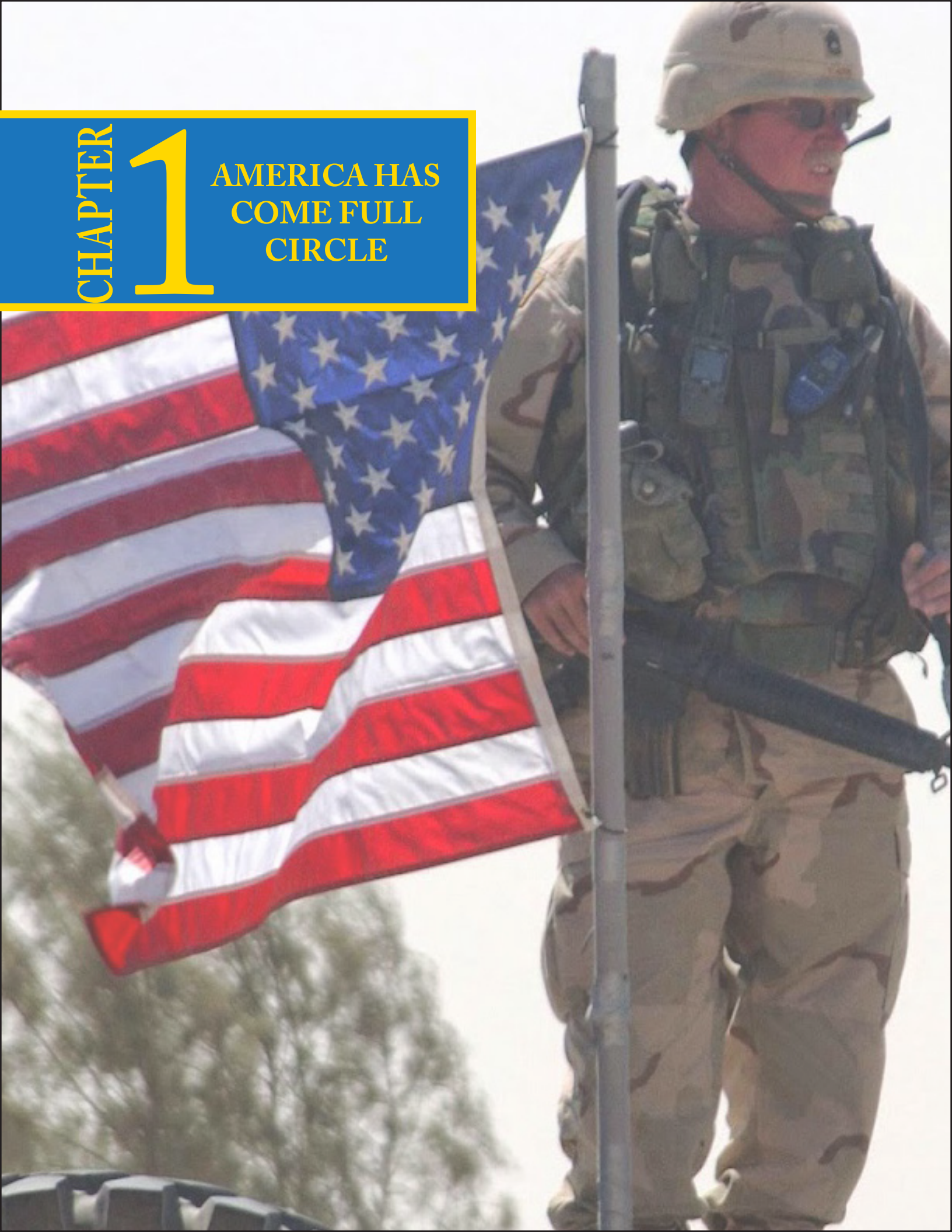
Supporting the right of democratic self-determination through honest referendum has historically been an approved foreign policy of the United States since the time of Woodrow Wilson¹⁵, and we intend to hold the United States to that here at home.



CHAPTER

1

AMERICA HAS
COME FULL
CIRCLE



KEYPOINTS

- The original thirteen colonies declared independence from Great Britain because the colonists felt underrepresented in London. Today California is underrepresented in Washington.
- The British Crown engaged in an 18th century version of the wholesale surveillance that the Federal Government is currently engaged in today, and there are many other parallels between our issues today and the list of abuses compiled in the American Declaration of Independence then.
- With hundreds of military bases around the world, the expression “the sun never sets on the British Empire” could now be used to describe the America, led by an imperial presidency.
- California is more dependent and involved in the global economy than any other state, but America’s provocative and imperialist foreign policy hurts California’s reputation abroad.

Establishing The United States

In 1776, America’s founding fathers declared their independence from an ‘evil’ Monarchy that took advantage of, mistreated, and failed to provide effective representation to the American colonies in the rapidly expanding British Empire.

Once America’s forefathers won their independence after a war, the founders of the new United States of America devised a system that decentralized power away from a central government, and placed it in the hands of the people, often called the “states”. Under the Articles of Confederation, they devised a system opposite of what they fought to free themselves from.

Even so, the Articles of Confederation had a major flaw: the central government was powerless. As a result, the several states were not working very well together.



A More Perfect Union

In order to form a more perfect Union, America's founding fathers agreed to form a new system of government – one that balanced the need for an effective central government with the desire for decentralized power entrusted to the states. The system they created is called Federalism, and is outlined in our present Constitution. Thus, America gained independence from an imperial government with total control, shifted to a government without any control, and then settled somewhere in the middle. Unfortunately as the days march on, we have seen the country inch further and further away from what America's founding fathers established constitutionally, and closer and closer to the extreme from which the American colonies declared their independence.

For the record, we have to remember that most of those who lived in California at the time of the American Revolution didn't have any idea of what was happening on the other side of the continent, and didn't know that the thirteen colonies won their independence after the British Crown engaged in activities the United States is currently engaged in today - activities that caused the thirteen colonies to eventually desire their independence.

Government Surveillance And Data Collection

To support this idea, the Foundation for Economic Education pointed out in July of 2015 that one of the causes of the American Revolution was the issuance of "writs of assistance" that allowed British troops to preform general searches of the colonists' documents in order to search for smuggled goods and confiscate contraband.

Likewise, David Snyder for the Electronic Frontier Foundation wrote that today's National Security Agency's "General Warrants" authorized under the PATRIOT Act where 21st Century versions of King George's writs of assistance from the 18th Century.

According to Snyder, "The Founding Fathers battled an 18th century version of the wholesale surveillance that the government is accused of doing today – an expansive abuse of power by King George II and III that invaded the colonists' communications privacy. Using 'writs of assistance,' the King authorized his agents to carry out wide ranging searches of anyone, anywhere, and anytime regardless of whether



they were suspected of a crime. These “hated writs” spurred colonists toward revolution and directly motivated James Madison’s crafting of the Fourth Amendment.”

Similarly, Georgetown Constitutional Law Professor Randy Barnett wrote of the National Security Agency (NSA) in the Wall Street Journal on the same comparison between then and now.

“With the NSA’s surveillance program,” Professor Barnett wrote, “the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court has apparently secretly approved the blanket seizure of data on every American so this ‘meta-data’ can later provide the probable cause for a particular search. Such indiscriminate data seizures are the epitome of unreasonable, akin to the ‘general warrants’ issued by the Crown to authorize searches of Colonial Americans.”

Today, the Federal Government has consolidated so much power that the states themselves are losing their identity and sovereignty, threatening our “more perfect Union.” The states are no longer united and working together because the Federal Government has evolved into a global empire that unfortunately is more expansive and more dominant than the British Empire ever was, and this is true both domestically, and internationally.

The American Empire And Imperialism

At one time, the phrase “The Sun never sets on the British Empire” was a widely-used expression, made in reference to an Empire that was so expansive globally that it was daytime in at least one corner of the world that they had conquered at any given moment. In fact, the British held land and colonies on every inhabited continent of the world at one time or another.

With history in front of us today, the same could now be said of the American Empire. While the United States does not hold “colonies” in the traditional sense and definition, America clearly displays many forms of imperialism. For example, the United States maintains hundreds of military bases throughout the world and has uniformed military personnel on every inhabited continent. On top of that, the United States military budget is larger than the military budgets of China, Russia, Saudi Arabia, France, the United Kingdom, Germany, Japan, and India – combined¹.



Although America is turning the page on the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq, the United States has repeatedly taken military action in every corner of the globe since the end of World War II. From 1951 – 1953, the United States fought a proxy war against China into a stalemate that is today the division between North and South Korea along the 38th parallel. The United States continues to maintain military bases in South Korea. Today more than 28,000 U.S. Military personnel are permanently stationed there.

From 1961 – 1973, the United States fought a proxy war against China and the Soviet Union in Vietnam. According to the United States Naval Institute, declassified documents show that high government officials “distorted facts and deceived the American public” about the Gulf of Tonkin incident that was used as justification for America’s military involvement in Vietnam.

Since then, the United States military or an American government agency like the Central Intelligence Agency has taken action in military and paramilitary activities, but they have also have been involved in assassinations², revolutions, uprisings, blockades, raids, invasions, regime change, and coup d’etat in Chile, Angola, Nicaragua, Lebanon, Granada, Honduras, Bolivia, Iran, the Philippines, Panama, Iraq, Somalia, Yugoslavia, Bosnia, Afghanistan, Syria, and elsewhere around the world.

Impact Of U.S. Foreign Policy On California

These actions clearly impact California and its citizens because we are the economic giant who often foots a huge chunk of America’s military spending. Additionally, California’s involvement in America’s foreign wars and unfortunate imperialist foreign agenda disproportionately impacts us because Californians are more linked to the international economy than the rest of the country². As a result, when America goes to war, assassinates foreign leaders and topples foreign governments, our reputation and business interests are hurt internationally as we are considered guilty by association. How is California to build international trust and forge business relations when we constantly find ourselves dragged into war after war?

Yes California considers America’s provocative foreign policies, led by an imperial presidency³ as proof that this country has evolved into the



world's newest Empire, an empire with a history of repeated injuries and usurpations of the rights of others in their own lands. In fact, Yes California notes that the American colonists, whom today Americans revere as patriots and heroes, took similar issue with the British Empire when they penned the Declaration of Independence.

History Repeats Itself

Now it is time for California to declare its own independence. It is an ironic but accurate fact that America's Declaration of Independence of 1776 could be easily be used as a template - a first draft even - of a California Declaration of Independence today, for the problems California faces in the United States are a perfect example demonstrating the validity of the statement "history repeats itself."

California, and to be honest, many of the other states have been patient but enough is enough. It is time to make changes. The President of the United States is Barack Obama but this call for independence is not about any one man, but rather about the Office of the Presidency and all of its occupants since the end of the Second World War. The Executive Branch of the Federal Government has continuously grown stronger over the past four decades at the expense of the power of the people via the 10th Amendment.

Meanwhile, the Congress of the United States has become increasingly ineffective and wholly unable to govern the Nation. Here are some examples for the whole world to see. The parallels to list of abuses in American Declaration of Independence are astonishing:

- Congress has been unable to pass important laws, including a federal budget on a regular basis. The 2015 budget was the first passed in six years. But six years ago on September 22, 2009, Senator Bob Corker of Tennessee said in a press released that the United States at that time had not passed a budget in more than three years. This is not sustainable and as long as California relies on the Federal Government for any portion of its budget, this broken system endangers our future and the future of our posterity.
- The Judicial System in the United States is politically biased, it has given corporations the go-ahead to spend unlimited amounts of money on political campaigns in the name of



free speech, and the Supreme Court reverses more decisions from the 9th Circuit Court based in San Francisco than any other Circuit Court system in the country. In 2010, the American Bar Association gave California's 9th Circuit the lowest grade of all "numbered" Circuit Courts with a C-average, pointing out that some 80% of its decisions were reversed or vacated by the Supreme Court.

- The Federal Government has co-opted California's local police forces by arming them with military grade equipment they are in no position to refuse during tough economic times when budget cuts are commonplace. These militarized police forces endanger and spread fear and distrust within our communities, pitting California's citizens against its own law enforcement agencies that are supposed to be there to serve and protect us, not rule us.
- The Federal Government mismanages our forests by allowing them to become too dense. This has spurred a number of serious wildfires over the past decades, causing damages to our communities, and even the loss of life. California is forbidden from assuming control over many of these forests, leaving us powerless to protect our people.
- The Federal Government continues policies that allow our country, which accounts for just 5% of the world's population, to use over 25% of the world's energy resources at our own peril. It has been unable to devise a plan to combat the human impact on climate change, and even denies that climate change is real. Meanwhile, California deals with the consequences of climate change every day, as evident by the wildfires we fight, and the drought that persists to cause water shortages across California.
- On that note, the Environmental Protection Agency has issued regulations denying us access to water resources which rightfully belong to the people of California. There has been no reprieve during this severe drought. Federal Courts have upheld these regulations, and the Supreme Court has refused to intervene on at least two separate occasions.
- The United States is virtually in a perpetual state of war.



CHAPTER
2

A NEW
STATE
OF MIND



KEYPOINTS

- We should declare the bear flag as our new national flag. This is an important first step to creating a new mindset that California is more of a nation than just a state.
- Additionally, California should change the titles of our elected leaders in Sacramento. For instance, the titles of Governor and Lieutenant Governor should be changed to President and Vice President.
- California should also preserve its history by establishing June 14th as California Independence Day, and take further steps to prevent the Americans from overwriting our history with theirs.
- These actions can be taken without approval from the Federal Government. These are largely symbolic actions that can be taken by our elected representatives in Sacramento, or directly by the people.

California On The World Stage

California must adopt a new world view – one that accepts California's role on the world stage. We will never get to the root of our problems in Washington, D.C. or reach our full potential so long as we wear the shackles of statehood as a badge of honor.

In order to get Californians to adopt this new world view, we must create a new atmosphere in California – one that is felt in every city, every county, and every office of the California government. A few symbolic changes to our statutes and to our Constitution can be made with little effort to create this new atmosphere.

A New National Flag

First, if California is to be a country we must have our own national flag. That means we must declare our bear flag the national flag of California. We must salute our national flag, and afford to it the honor



and respect afforded to every other national flag by displaying it in position of first honor.

The display of the California national flag in position of first honor will be a majestic sight for any proud California patriot. At the Capitol in Sacramento, at all other California government buildings, at every school, college and university, and at every park entrance, the California national flag will be flown by itself, waving strong and tall.

California's Civil Rights Record

If we take the position that Californians will honor a flag because it represents our freedom and the advancement of our liberties, Yes California argues that flag should be the bear flag. When it comes to the advancement of women's suffrage, the desegregation of public schools, the legalization of interracial marriage, access to safe and legal abortion, the repeal of anti-sodomy laws, and the legalization of same-sex marriage, California led the way.

It was California Senator Aaron A. Sargent who formally proposed the women's suffrage amendment in 1878¹, and it was in California that women were granted the right to vote in 1911, a decade before that 19th Amendment required all states to grant women the right to vote, including eleven of the original thirteen colonies that declared independence from Great Britain in the name of freedom. Ironic?

It was in Lemon Grove, California where the Nation's first successful school desegregation case was argued in 1931², more than two decades before the Supreme Court ordered schools desegregated in 1954, and more than three decades before President Kennedy had to use the National Guard to desegregate the University of Alabama. Six of the original thirteen colonies refused to desegregate their public schools until forced to the Supreme Court's ruling in *Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka*. Ironic?

It was in California where the ban on interracial marriage was repealed two decades before *Loving v. Virginia*³, that the ban on sodomy was repealed twenty-five years before *Lawrence v. Texas*, and that same-sex marriage was legalized before any other state but one, and seven years before the Supreme Court struck down all state bans on same-sex marriage. Five of the original thirteen colonies refused to allow interracial marriage until forced to by the Supreme Court, and



the same five states continued to keep anti-sodomy laws on the books a decade after *Lawrence*. Ironic?

It was in California where safe and legal abortion became available in 1967⁴, six years before *Roe v. Wade*, where a Family Leave Act was enacted in 2004 while the United States as a whole remains one of three countries with no such law to this day, and where enacted a law guaranteeing all workers three paid sick days each year while the United States as a whole remains the only developed country in the world with no such provision. Six of the original thirteen colonies refused to protect a woman's right to choose until forced to by the Supreme Court. By the way, California never enacted prohibition until it was forced to by the other states with the 18th Amendment.

A President Instead Of A Governor

Second, if California is to be a country, we must have our own president. We must amend the California Constitution to replace the word "Governor" – a term more befitting a state than a country – and replace it with the word "President." We must also do the same for other constitutional offices such as the Lieutenant Governor, who must become the Vice President of California. By doing this, we will clearly be declaring to the world our intent to establish the country of California and our desire to be recognized as a country.

These are clear and logical steps that can be taken on the path towards independence that have nothing to do with the U.S. Constitution or the Federal Government's approval. Because of the way the California Constitution is written, these are steps that "we the people" can take that will go a long way towards establishing the necessary mindset and atmosphere in California we will need in order to actually become independent and seek international recognition. However, there is more we must do to establish this new state of mind in California.

California Independence Day

For instance, if California is to be a country we must have our own Independence Day holiday. For those who have studied American history, we all know that California had absolutely nothing to do with America's independence from Great Britain. Indeed, at the time of the American Revolution, California was undeveloped and lay dormant in



the eyes of the Mexican Government.

In fact, while Thomas Jefferson and those in Philadelphia were penning the Declaration of Independence 3,000 miles away, Mexico wasn't really supporting or representing the inhabitants of California. This allowed the Spanish to establish a foothold in the new world thanks to the establishment of missions throughout California, as well as with the establishment of the Presidio and Mission in San Francisco. It makes no sense for California to celebrate American independence Day.

Preserving California's History

Fourth, we must resist American attempts to either rewrite or overwrite California's history with theirs because the two are clearly quite different. One way to preserve our historical heritage is by annually commemorating important dates in California history. That Yes California believes we must designate the day the Bear Flaggers declared independence from Mexico – June 14 – as California Independence Day, and make it our new “national holiday”.

As a symbol of everlasting pride, the California flag and national holiday must go hand in hand with the understanding that we must never allow California's history to be forgotten, and that not only was the California Republic born on June 14, 1846, but that our short-lived independence was taken away by U.S. military intervention the same week Americans celebrated their Independence Day that year!

How California Became A State

Yes California wants you to understand that California is part of the United States today as a result of what can only be compared to a military conquest, and the expansion of slavery in North America. For four years between 1846 and 1850, California was under military control before Congress voted to make California the 31st state. As a condition of California's unsolicited statehood, Congress passed the Fugitive Slave Act, which forced northerners to return escaped “fugitive” slaves to their masters in the south, and the New Mexico and Utah territories were open to potential expansion of slavery. California's membership in the Union hasn't been pretty since the beginning and it is time for us to do something about both the



historical and present injustices of this egregious American act.

Symbolism Matters

These largely symbolic changes will go a long way to changing the mindset of Californians in every part of California. We can pursue them by electing members to the California legislature that will support their passage in Sacramento, or we can put these issues before the voters via ballot initiative. Either way, these are necessary first steps that need to be taken to change the mindset and get Californians to take the star-spangled blindfold off from over their eyes.

For if we accomplish these tasks, no other American state will have its own national flag, no other American state will have a President and Vice President instead of a Governor and Lieutenant Governor, no other American state will have its own annual Independence Day holiday, and if we vow to preserve our history, Californians can look back on history like Texans and Hawaiians can and recall that California was a republic before it was a state, and use that knowledge to break through the glass ceiling of statehood in order to reach our full potential through nationhood.



INDEPENDENCIA

CHAPTER 3

CALIFORNIA'S INDEPENDENCE REFERENDUM

SCOTTISH NOT BRITISH



KEYPOINTS

- California is a nation within a nation like Quebec in Canada, Scotland in the United Kingdom, or Catalonia in Spain and deserves the chance to exercise its right to self-determination via honest referendum.
- For years now, polls have shown that Americans have lost confidence in all three branches of the Federal Government, while political polarization and partisan animosity are at record highs nationally.
- The Government of California is one of the most professional and well-equipped state governments in the Nation and has the capacity to rise to the level of a national government.
- As a state in the Union, California's hands are behind its back and the federal system itself is arguably rigged against California's interests. That doesn't mean an independent California can't or won't work with the United States in the future as an independent country.

Parallels to Scotland

The Scottish people recently rejected an independence referendum that would have made Scotland an independent country, which begs the question. Why would a nation vote against its own freedom?

Undoubtedly, political professionals believe that the Scottish independence referendum failed because voting for an independent Scotland was too much of a risk to people's day-to-day lives and many people believed that keeping the status quo was the safest bet. In truth, the status quo prior to the referendum was not so bad – Scotland already enjoyed great autonomy within the British national system and there was no urgent issue demanding independence from the United Kingdom *today*.

On top of that, many who might have voted for independence were swayed at the last moment when, in a last ditch effort to save the Union, the British Parliament pledged to grant Scotland even more autonomy than it already had.



The referendum was a shining example of the important right of self-determination. And in this case, the Scottish people determined their future was more secure as a nation within a nation just like California is today. California, too, is a nation within a nation. California is not only geographically isolated from majority of the American population by a thousand miles of mountains and deserts, but we are ideologically and culturally different, as well. These differences explain why California is not the United States.

This is not about who is right or wrong, but about putting our future into our own hands. At the same time we have closely watched the developments in the United Kingdom pertaining to Scottish autonomy. To no big surprise, the government in London has failed to live up to its promise of granting Scotland additional autonomy. Now the Scottish nationalists plan a new referendum.

California must learn from the mistake of the first Scottish referendum on independence and the lesson we must take is that the national government can not be trusted to live up to its promises – something we're already familiar with in the United States. At the same time we must remember that although politicians often can't be trusted, in California we have a government system that does function and is capable of ascending to that of a national government.

The Quality Of The California Government

The California state legislature is one of the most professional and well-equipped legislatures in the Nation and even though California has the largest population of any state, our legislature is one of the smallest. We have the most stringent anti-corruption transparency laws, and Californians have more control over their government than the residents of any other state. To put it another way, the California government is one of the most organized, transparent, and democratic state governments in the Nation. So why so many problems? The short answer is a long way away: Washington, D.C.

Americans Are More Divided Than Ever

For years now, polls have shown that Americans have lost confidence in all three branches of the Federal Government. More than two-thirds of us have no confidence in the Supreme Court, even more have



no confidence in the Presidency, and about ninety percent of us have no confidence in Congress. With numbers of this magnitude, it is clear that disapproval of Washington transcends ideology. This is what the California Nationhood Referendum is partially about – it's a chance for Californians to stand united in a vote of no confidence in the Federal Government and show the world we desire a different future.

However, Americans' apparent agreement over their lack of confidence in the Federal Government is no sign of the country's unity. According to the Pew Research Center, political polarization and partisan animosity across the Nation are unprecedented highs, with members of each political party more and more believing other parties are a threat to the Nation's well-being.

California's Hands Are Tied Behind Its Back

You may not realize it, but the United States has tied California's hands behind its back and the effects of this handicap are apparent in the quality of our infrastructure, the percent of our tax hikes, the depth of our budget cuts, and the availability of public services.

The United States collects income taxes from us, tens of billions of dollars of which are then appropriated for the development of infrastructure in other states while our infrastructure is consistently ranked among the worst in the Nation. Last year, Congress spent over \$121 billion of California taxpayers' money propping up economies, funding education, and rebuilding infrastructure in other states.

California is a "rich" state and our culture promotes a lot of positive concepts, including the belief that there is nothing wrong with charity, but when you take into consideration that California freeways hold five spots on the list of the top ten worst freeways in the Nation, what California is forced to do goes far beyond charity.

Our Roads, Bridges, And Dams

When you consider that nearly 700 of our dams are categorized by the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) as highly hazardous, that a tenth of our bridges are structurally deficient, that another sixth of our bridges are functionally obsolete, and that over a third of our major roads are in poor condition – costing each California motorist an



extra \$700 every year in vehicle repair costs – it is not time for charity.

Our Prisons

There are lingering infrastructure concerns at our state prisons. Let me tell you a quick story. California was ordered by the Federal Government back in 2011 to reduce its prison population because of infrastructure problems. This is a perfect example of the cycle of federal hypocrisy California must deal with. Congress robs us of tens of billions of our tax dollars and uses it for infrastructure in Louisiana, and then because our money was taken from us, the Supreme Court scrutinizes us for failing to provide adequate infrastructure. California has done everything within its power to comply with the Supreme Court's demands – even reducing our prison population by 25,000. Additionally, voters in 2014 approved Proposition 47 – a prison reform measure that has further reduced California's prison population.

Our Public Schools

Children across California attend schools that are in dire need of infrastructure improvements. The ASCE estimates we need \$25.4 billion dollars in infrastructure improvements for our schools, of which about three-quarters are more than 25 years old. While the Federal Government is using California tax dollars to fund infrastructure projects in Mississippi, we have the highest student to teacher ratio in the Nation, the highest number of students enrolled in public schools, and the highest daily attendance at our public schools. Students perform better at clean, safe schools in good repair.

To provide the \$25.4 billion in infrastructure improvements our aging schools need, we could settle for another tax hike, we could cut services from another budget item, or we could simply demand that California tax dollars be spent in California where federal spending per person is below the national average. Until we do, students across California will continue to have difficulty reaching their potential and attending institutions of higher education. The effects of this will cascade on our society for a generation, costing California taxpayers untold billions for social services and law enforcement expenses linked to lacking opportunities resulting from poor education.



Our Water Infrastructure

The ASCE further reports that California needs \$29.9 billion dollars in infrastructure improvements for wastewater facilities, and an additional \$44.5 billion dollars in drinking water infrastructure improvements over the next twenty years. Meanwhile, our water systems infrastructure has worsened in the last decade – falling to a “C” in 2012 from a “C+” in 2006. Right now we face one of the worst droughts in California’s history but the drought is only partly contingent on the naturally-fluctuating water supply. If California doesn’t have adequate facilities to collect, store, treat and distribute water across the state, all the water in the world won’t help us.

Californians approved Proposition 1 in 2014 and that was a step in the right direction providing much of the needed infrastructure funding but California shouldn’t have had to borrow the money for that in the first place. On top of that, how are we supposed to work within a government whose elected representatives are still debating whether or not climate change is real? Climate change is a serious issue in California and we don’t have the luxury of time to sit around and wait for the Americans to accept the scientific consensus.

The System Is Rigged Against California

If we add up these infrastructure needs – \$25 billion for schools, \$30 billion for wastewater facilities, \$45 billion for drinking water – it equals \$100 billion dollars, less than the amount of taxes the Federal Government took from California to give other states in 2014 alone. We are being abused and the abuse that we face clearly comes our way because of the Federal Government. As a result, Californians are not free to do what is right for California because our interests are pitted against those of the other states who don’t care about us or our needs.

What If California’s Taxes Stayed In California?

What could California have done with an “extra” – for lack of a better term – \$27 billion dollars in its budget last year, or on average an extra \$50.5 billion dollars in its budget every year? On the matter of the 2015-16 budget, for example, Governor Brown would likely have been able to spare \$1 million dollars to improve water quality in Lake County’s Clear Lake that was actually cut from the budget.



Administration officials were instead directed to find an alternative funding source for the project.

Additionally, we would have been able to increase spending in areas such as the arts and put California more in line with per capita spending around the country. Currently, California's per capita spending on the arts is the 7th lowest in the United States at 24-cents, even after a 500% increase in funding from last year. The average state spends \$1.12 per capita.

However, on a broad level, let us examine what an "extra" \$50.5 billion in our budget every year would mean. When America's economic recessions are taken out of the equation, California has on average paid \$50.5 billion dollars more into the national system every year since 1987 than we received in federal funding. It is safe to say that independence would return over \$50 billion dollars a year to California. What could we do with that money?

One, we could pay off California's approximate \$800 billion dollars in accumulated debt before a child born today gets his or her driver's license. Imagine a California with no debt and no interest being paid on that debt. Imagine a California within two decades being in a position to lend money to the United States and earn interest on those loans. People often ask how independence would benefit the United States and this is one way. Surely owing money to California is better than owing money to China.

Two, let's say we didn't dedicate all of the additional \$50.5 billion dollars to paying off the debt. If California's taxes were kept in California, we would have a much larger budget to work with – almost twice the present size of our budget– with room for spending increases, tax cuts, paying down the debt, and rainy day funds. What other solution besides independence offers California the ability to increase spending, cut taxes, reduce fees, pay down the debt, and save money for future emergencies?

While the former seems rather appealing, the latter is more realistic. What would the budget of an independent California look like? Without getting bogged down in the numbers, it would represent an opportunity to do more than return California to the Golden State of yesteryear - we would be able to usher in a new Golden Age.

We could rebuild our infrastructure – ranked among the worst in the



Nation. We could reinvigorate our schools – also ranked among worst in the Nation. We could provide a free college education for all high school graduates. We could fully fund a universal health care bill. Our streets would be safer thanks to increased funding for education and local police departments, which would no longer be using traffic citations as a source of revenue for local governments. On top of all that, we may be able to completely eliminate our current state income tax and be responsible only for sending Sacramento the federal taxes we currently pay to Washington.

This is just the beginning of what we can do with the taxes we keep right here at home. These initial ideas are not outrageous, and clearly can stretch as long and far as the imagination allows. Yes California believes that they include, but are not limited to, schools of the future, space travel and Internet connectivity for all. No matter what is chosen, one thing is for sure: we as a people will be choosing what is right for Californians, based on Californians voting for what Californians want. Sadly though, our current relationship with the United States as a state in the Union is the primary obstacle for making this dreamy vision of California a reality.

It's Not Just About The Taxes

As a side note, this movement is not only about recapturing lost tax money stolen by the Federal Government, it is about how the United States is responsible for destroying California's infrastructure by limiting our ability to fix what needs to be fixed in a timely fashion. The failures by the Federal Government can be seen in its Central Valley policies that are turning the valley that feeds North America into a dust bowl because they are denying our farmers the infrastructure enhancements and water that they need to grow the food that feeds the Nation.

This independence referendum is about how the United States is responsible for the "illegal immigration" problems California must deal with. Today, nearly three million undocumented immigrants call California home. They are an important part of our families, our society, and our economy but they are here without documents because of the United States' failed immigration system.

This independence referendum is also about how the United States is responsible for a failed trade system, with an Open Market Index



(OMI) recently ranked 38th by the International Chamber of Commerce. This failed trade system hurts California's prosperity by making international trade more difficult and more expensive. As long as California remains part of the United States and within its relatively burdensome trade system, we will never be able to capitalize on the trade deals and direct foreign investment that are available to us that could do so much for our economy.

California Has What It Takes

Yes California firmly believes that California has what it takes to be a self-sufficient, financially-solvent, productive, environmentally-conscious, independent country. We don't need to be held back by a nostalgic attachment to the United States. And much in the way that Scotland and Catalonia are increasingly demanding their independence by putting the issue before the voters despite protest from their national governments, California, too, can put a question of independence before the voters and that is what we intend to do.

That question reads:

Should California be an independent country?

Independence Does Not Mean Isolation

Yes California intends to seek independence from the United States but it is important to realize that independence does not mean we have to sever all ties and not work together as equals among nations. Yes California believes that an independent California can and should partner with the United States on common economic, military, and political goals when we share common goals.

In closing, many years ago, the great French Marshall Lyautey went out to his gardener and asked him to plant a tree. The gardener objected, stating that the tree was slow-growing and wouldn't flower for a hundred years. It was in that case that the Marshall responded by saying "plant it this afternoon".

That's what we have to do for the people and country of California.



CHAPTER

4

CALIFORNIA'S
CRITICS ARE
WRONG



KEYPOINTS

- America has debated the two-senators-per-state rule since it was adopted in 1787 only now the problem is even more profound. All things considered, California does not have fair representation.
- California's electoral votes don't matter, either. There was only one presidential election where our electoral votes swayed the result and that was back in 1876. That doesn't stop candidates from coming here to ask us for political contributions they spend in other states.
- California's critics mention our high taxes, expensive infrastructure costs, unemployment, immigration, and debt problems but they do not take into consideration that the source of many of our problems is actually the Federal Government, not Sacramento.
- Once independence is achieved, California will be in a position to dramatically lower taxes by eliminating the personal income tax.

California Is Underrepresented In Washington

With a population of nearly 40 million, California is afforded *equal* but not *fair* representation in Congress under the two senators per state rule, a debate which roots back to the Constitutional Convention of 1787, and this is one of the main injustices Californians face as a state.

At that convention, the Constitution's framers agreed that a bicameral legislature would provide the best representation for the people, with one chamber based on proportional representation, and the other based on the concept of equal representation. This concept, entitled the Connecticut Compromise, was narrowly adopted by the framers of the Constitution by a 5-4-1 vote. By no means were America's founding fathers in any more agreement over the fairness of this system of representation than as many Californians are today.

In the beginning, California was not around, so the concept of who was hurt worst by this was limited to the original thirteen colonies which combined had a population under three million. At that time,



the most populous state, Virginia, had a population about 13 times that of the least populous state, Delaware. In today's America, California, the most populous state, has a population more than 66 times larger than Wyoming, the least populous state. What may have worked at the time does not work today and the state most directly affected by this unfair system is California.

To make matters worse, California had no delegates at this constitutional convention, nor a vote in the adoption of this system, and while the Congress voted to bring California into the Union in 1850, the people of California never held a referendum on American statehood as the people of every other state had the chance, and in fact, were required to do before Congress admitted them as a state.

California's Electoral Votes Don't Matter

Another motivation for California being its own country is concerns presidential elections. Did you know the last time California's electoral votes made a difference in a presidential election was 1876? That's because California's electoral votes have always gone to the victorious candidate who won by a large enough margin that California's electoral votes wouldn't have changed the result. Or, California's electoral votes went to the losing candidate who lost by such a large margin that California's electoral votes wouldn't have made a difference, either. That doesn't stop presidential candidates from visiting California's wealthy to beg for donations and then take that money out of California to spend in Midwestern swing states.

Eliminating California's State Income Tax

Critics bring up California's high taxes.

On the one hand, an independent California will need to dramatically increase the amount of taxes collected by Sacramento in order to function as a national government. On the other hand, Californians will no longer have to pay hundreds of billions of dollars in federal income taxes to Washington every year.

Combined, this will not only result in a net savings for each and every Californian, but rebuilding our infrastructure will create jobs that will grow revenues by creating a new base of taxpayers.



Now, because California is a donor state and loses tens and sometimes more than a hundred billion dollars in federal tax dollars every year to the other states, independence will immediately direct an influx of what averages to be \$50.5 billion a year back into California's budget.

To put this in perspective, last year Californians collectively paid \$369 billion dollars in federal taxes and received federal payouts totaling approximately \$248 billion, a loss of about \$121 billion. And this has been going on for decades. In fact, in the last 28 years California has lost more than \$727 billion in federal taxes paid into the system. Imagine what we could have done – or the tax hikes that could have been avoided – had that money been invested into California.

Let's put this into perspective: California's entire operating budget in 2015 is estimated to be about \$167 billion dollars, which means that California lost about five years' worth of budget revenues in the last three decades that could have been used to rebuild our infrastructure, provide additional funding to our schools and universities, fully fund a universal health care bill, cut taxes, you name it.

Maintaining Our Infrastructure

Critics additionally point out that California would have to assume great new (expensive) responsibilities regarding the upkeep of our roads, highways, and bridges. Yes California understands this, and believes that what these critics don't understand is that we can't rely on federal funding anyway. For example, California was recently forced to implement a new 12-cent per gallon excise tax because federal highway funds are disappearing even though federal tax revenues are reported to be at record highs.

Where is all that money going? Why isn't there more money for states to use their own people's taxes in order to rebuild their infrastructure? Yes California understands that federal highway funds come from revenue from the federal excise tax on gasoline but we only get about ninety-four cents on each federal gasoline tax dollar paid. Ironically, to make matters worse, the fact that more Americans are driving more fuel-efficient vehicles is causing this particular stream of revenue to dry up, regardless of the ratio of taxes paid to funds received from the Federal Highway Administration.



However, Yes California believes that given the choice, Californians would opt for increased funding to rebuild roads, freeways, and bridges from the general fund instead of a bloated defense budget or mass surveillance programs that infringe on our civil liberties. In an independent Republic of California, we will be able to decide ourselves how to best put our hard-earned tax dollars to work for us.

Unemployment

Critics point out that California would have to deal with rising unemployment rates. But these critics often conveniently forget is that California's 6.3% unemployment rate is as high as it is today largely due to the economic recession of 2008 caused by American economic policies and the Republican Party's deregulation of Wall Street under the George W. Bush presidency.

Additionally, they overlook the fact that the recession would not have been as bad if the Federal Government didn't deregulate the banks. An independent California would not have allowed this economic collapse to happen because we would not have enacted the same economic policies.

As discussed previously, California receives funding from the Federal Government and this funding is part of the equation determining the gap between the federal taxes we pay and the federal funding we receive. However, a good portion of the federal funding California does receive comes in the form of unemployment insurance checks to help Californians make it through tough economic times. This has been especially true during economic recessions, in particular the 2008 economic recession during which our unemployment rate has remained higher than the national average to this day.

Unemployment checks the Federal Government mails to California citizens are not the same as federal funding for California. Each individual worker pays a specific payroll tax to Washington to provide this safety net, yet the Federal Government includes these unemployment checks in the sum of federal spending in California.

Immigration

Turning our attention to the controversial subject of "illegal



immigration”, many critics do not understand that the immigration problem clearly exists as a result of Washington’s poorly planned and implemented immigration policies, not California’s.

In fact, if California had the authority to handle its own immigration policies, we could institute a small yet effective guest worker program, secure our border in a matter of days, implement a modernized immigration system and eliminate “illegal immigration” into California forever – basically everything Washington refuses to do.

California's Debt And Finances

Lastly, some critics mention California’s state debt and other financial issues. First, \$425 billion dollars in debt is nothing compared to the \$18 trillion dollars of debt held by the United States. Second, in California, each citizen’s share of the debt is \$10,918 while the United States citizen’s share of the national debt is \$203,250. Third, in California the debt to GDP ratio is 17.7% while the United States debt to GDP ratio is 101.6%. Fourth, California passes balanced budgets and this year actually put some cash away into a rainy day fund. The same could not be said of the United States which runs trade deficits, borrows more money than it intends to ever repay, and does nothing about it. Given these choices, clearly the better choice is California.

The point is many of our problems in California are rooted in Washington, D.C. If California obtained the authority to levy its own taxes, make its own laws, and establish its own relations abroad while at the same time remaining part of the American family, it would be not only be a benefit for the people of California, but just as importantly, it will be a benefit for the people of this whole country.



CHAPTER

5

THE NEW
NATIONAL
ECONOMY



KEYPOINTS

- California is the only top ten global economy that is not currently recognized as a country. No other entity in the history of the world has ever had the economy strength and influence California has today, and not been a recognized country.
- By not establishing the critical national-level economic infrastructure detailed in this chapter, California is limiting its economic potential.
- California needs to establish its own stock market and market index, and a gold depository to safeguard our state investments. We need the ability to issue sovereign bonds under the full faith and credit of the California, and establish an international currency board.
- At least initially, California can continue to use the U.S. Dollar as its primary currency, but should allow other currencies to be accepted or exchanged, and consider printing its own currency in the future.

California's Economic Strength And Superiority

Since the 1970's, California has continually ranked as one of the top ten economies in the world based on its Gross Domestic Product (GDP). It also is the only top ten economy in the world today that is not recognized as a country. No other entity in the history of the world has ever had the economic strength and influence that California has today and not been a recognized country.

An economic ranking in the top ten global economies is no small matter as it are those economies that have effectively run the world since the end of the Cold War, and the fall of communism.

The G8 and G20, international associations that represent the eight largest, and twenty largest economies, respectively, rose to prominence after the collapse of the Soviet Union when organizations like the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund, and the United Nations were in existence. That California is the seventh largest economy in the world based on its more than \$2.2 trillion



GDP is perhaps the strongest evidence that California is already essentially country, for money is the real indicator of power.

Considering California is the world's seventh largest economy and therefore has more money than recognized countries like Russia and Brazil, it could be argued that California is definitely more than just a state, and even more than just a nation. Actually, California is a global super power worthy of representation in the G8.

With G8 standings in mind, and understanding that if this is a true representation of California's economy and actual state of existence in today's world, then California should have the same exact support structures and general economic infrastructure the other top ten economies have.

To support California's economic superiority, for years San Francisco housed both a mint and regional stock exchange entitled the Pacific Coast Stock Exchange (this exchange closed its doors in 2001 and merged with the New York Stock Exchange). With California as a country, not only will we be constructing a new financial infrastructure including a new stock market, but we will need to reopen our mint to start issuing our own currency and coinage, as well. This will not only create wealth, but high-paying jobs in the financial sector. The amount of money that California could make if its economy was fully unleashed and able to grow under its own direction, limited only by the bounds of its imagination and drive, would be staggering when realized.

People often think of military as something that only super powers have, and while California in the United States already has its own state defense forces not under federal control, every super power additionally has a number of essential pieces of economic infrastructure that California has never had but needs to develop. California not only deserves but is limiting itself by not having these following pieces of economic infrastructure that virtually all the other top ten global economies have.

The California Gold Depository

First, if California is to be a country we must have our own gold and precious metals depository to place and protect our precious metals investments. Yes California supports the location of this facility in San



Francisco – the world's sixth largest financial center. As a side benefit, the depository could also allow foreign powers to lease space to store and safeguard their wealth like they currently do in the United States Federal Reserve. Additionally, if California had the ability to invest in gold, precious metals and other long-term investments – we could use some of the returns for the benefit of the public, such as in education or infrastructure improvements, paying our debts, or lowering taxes.

The California Index

Second, if California is to be a country and attract more foreign investment than it currently does, Yes California believes that we need to establish our own replacement for the DOW Jones, the market index that is used to judge the health, wealth and status of our stock markets and economy of the country. For California we have created under the leadership of Micheal Ross, something entitled the *California Index*, and it is specifically designed to provide the world with a reliable resource upon which to judge California's economic health, and thus California's economy.

Here is how it works: Currently, investors look to the DOW Jones Industrial Average or NASDAQ to help them judge the health of an economic market. With over 425 companies located in California that are listed on either the New York Stock Exchange (NYSE) or the NASDAQ, it would be worth it for us to have a tool to measure exclusively California's economy, and as such, it would not only show the direction but also the overall health of California's economy, separate from the economy of the United States.

Additionally, we need to provide tax benefits for Californians who invest in California businesses that are listed on those exchanges. For example, today if you had a chance to invest in a California business or an out-of-state one, there is no benefit to choose one over the other. But, if we made investments in California businesses tax free, not only would people flock to them, but companies would find capitol to create jobs and expand their business.

The California Stock Market

Third, if California is to be a country and have the economic



infrastructure every other economy of the top ten global economies, we need to reopen a Stock Exchange for California-based businesses so they can gain more access to capital, and enhance their visibility and public image. Additionally, a California Stock Exchange would allow California-based businesses to grow, attract quality employees, increase their value and maintain more control of their own future.

California Sovereign Bonds

Fourth, if California is to be a country it will be necessary for it to revise and expand its bond delivery system to allow the independent California of the future to borrow money from the people of California and at the same time provide them with a safe haven for their money – one that provides slow, yet predictable returns over a period of time. Currently California, via the vote, provides citizens from all over the world with a variety of bonds that they can invest in. These bonds are purchased either directly from the California State Treasurer's Office or on the market.

The problem is the size of the bonds are designed for institutional investors, not the general public. As such, those who benefit are not the people of California. Yes California believes that not only do we need to review all outstanding bonds, but we need to have the ability to sell “sovereign bonds” that Yes California calls the Golden State Savings Bond. These bonds would be issued under the full faith and credit of the Government of the Republic of California. One class of bonds would be issued in small denominations, allowing the small investor to invest in “savings bonds” that invest in the state of California. The other – or outstanding – would be sold to institutional investors just as they are now.

The State Bank Of California

Fifth, if California is to be a country it has to establish a State Bank of California, a public banking option that can serve the public interests in a number of ways. A State public banking option would drastically reduce borrowing costs for the city, county, and the state government, as well as individual Californians by using market principles to encourage private lenders to lower their rates.

A public banking option would additionally save California taxpayers



money by eliminating big bank fees our government currently pays for its banking services. It would enable low-cost financing of public infrastructure projects, support community-based banks, create jobs and provide a boost to Main Street.

In order for California to live up to its reputation as a global center of diversity, trade, and commerce, this public bank of California should establish within it, or the Division of Financial Institutions of the Department of Business Oversight, an international currency board responsible for managing California's foreign currency assets on the currency market.

Just as it is important for California to have its own stock exchange and market index to demonstrate the health of its economy and business climate, it is equally important for California to hold onto a diverse portfolio of assets, including precious metals and foreign currencies. In that way, California can be protected against future problems with the value of the dollar, or stability of the American financial system – a lesson learned from the 2008 economic crisis.

The California International Currency Board

In order to acquire these foreign currencies, the State Bank of California could provide a currency exchange service free-of-charge to visitors who travel here with foreign currency. While providing such a service free-of-charge may be costly, the benefits of accumulating foreign currencies to trade and sell on the international currency market may very well pay for the service and even provide additional revenue to the new national government of the Republic of California. Meanwhile, it is also important for California to diversify its assets rather than placing its entire financial security upon the United States Dollar, a currency many countries are already moving away from. California must invest in gold, precious metals, and rare earth materials in addition to other foreign currencies in order to maintain our financial security, but overall should continue to use the U.S. Dollar until a California currency can be minted to replace it.

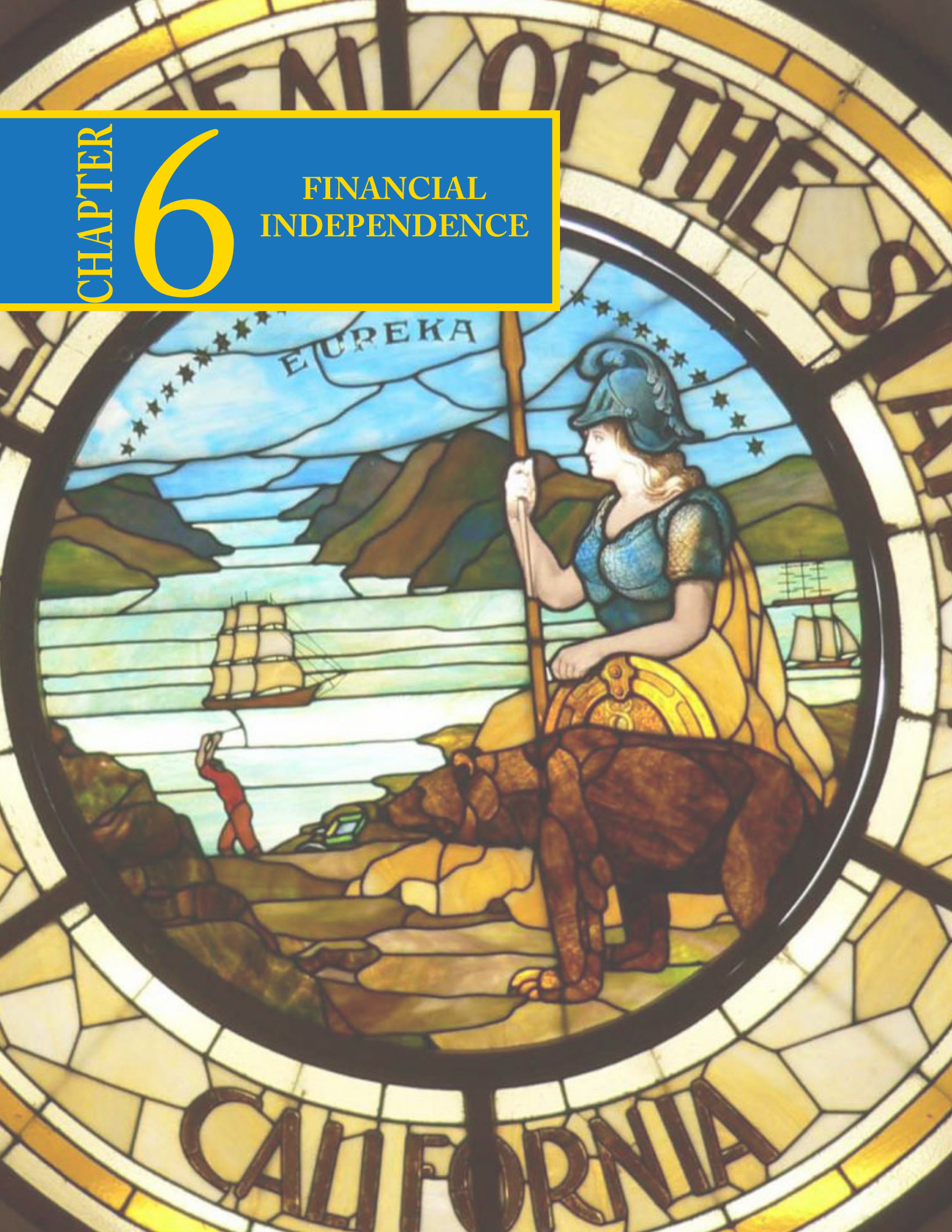
If another economic or financial crisis were to befall upon the United States, a diversified California portfolio of global assets would protect us from another recession. Remember, California is still working to fully recover from the Great Recession of 2008 with an unemployment rate higher than the national average.



CHAPTER

6

FINANCIAL
INDEPENDENCE



KEYPOINTS

- California must become financially independent of the United States by getting federal dollars out of our budget as a first step before full independence can be declared from the United States.
- The Federal Government does not return federal funding to California out of its benevolence. There are conditions attached to federal funds, such as the minimum drinking age of 21 for highway funds.
- The amount of federal funds in the California budget fluctuates year to year, but the vast majority is for healthcare and social services. California can greatly reduce its dependency on the Federal Government by establishing its own single-payer healthcare system.
- Divert all federal taxes currently being paid to Sacramento and California will have enough money to fully fund our government, as well as every government program, grant, loan, contract, etc.

Financial Independence First

With the critical economic infrastructure that will put California on equal ground with the other top ten global economies, California will be in a strong position to grow our economy to the point that we will be able to support ourselves, and therefore declare independence.

However, before that huge step can be taken, California must make it a priority to become financially independent first. The notion of self-reliance is as American as apple pie and from childhood we are taught to believe in freedom, independence, and liberty. The young Congressman John F. Kennedy said in 1950:

“Every time that we try to lift a problem from our own shoulders, and shift that problem to the hands of the government, to the same extent we are sacrificing the liberties of our people.”

His words hold true to this day, for every time California places its responsibilities into the hand of the Federal Government, we are at the



same time sacrificing our liberty. As long as California continues to receive federal funding, the Federal Government may use that funding as a tool to control the California government and the actions of the people of California. For instance, in 1984 the Federal Government passed the National Minimum Drinking Age Act which set the drinking age at 21. A provision of that Act, which was upheld by the Supreme Court in 1987, punishes any state that allows persons under the age of 21 to purchase alcohol by reducing that state's annual federal highway apportionment by ten percent.

Federal Funds Come With Conditions

In 2011 the Governor of California was compelled to delete three provisions within the state budget that would have funded a timber harvest plan review, state forestry nurseries, and the Heritage and Wild Trout Program, as those provisions did not comply with federal requirements and put \$30 million dollars in federal funds at risk.

The California Department of Health and Human Services reported in 2013 that over \$1 billion dollars in federal funds were at risk because of a federal funding requirement regarding federal caseload ratios which one of its agencies was having trouble meeting.

The point is that California receives federal funding to help pay for health and human services, labor and workforce development, education, housing projects, business, and transportation programs, natural resources, environmental protection, corrections and rehabilitation, and consumer services.

Certainly the grants are not issued because of the Federal Government's benevolence. The truth is that each of these grants are mechanisms for the Federal Government to attach conditions to California's budget and policies, as it does with highway funds for transportation, money for healthcare, and support for social services.

We cannot allow our democracy to be enslaved by the Federal Government and we must not allow the Federal Government to use its money – our tax dollars – to coerce our lawmakers into toeing the Federal Government's line. Our democracy can only truly be of, by, and for the California people when California is self-reliant, and independent of the American political system.



The Independence Equation

Independence is about an equation of how many taxes Californians can pay minus the cost of California's government agencies.

Taxes Californians Paid in 2014	
State Taxes & Fees	\$150.6 billion
Federal Taxes	\$371.1 billion
<hr/>	
Total Taxes	\$525.6 billion

Government Expenditures in 2014	
State Expenditures	\$155.7 billion
Federal Expenditures	\$343.5 billion
<hr/>	
Total Spending	\$499.2 billion

Collectively, Californians paid some \$525.6 billion in state taxes and fees, plus federal taxes (both income and commercial) in FY 2014. The sum of state expenditures plus federal spending (contracts, grants, loans, etc) plus federal aid to the state budget was \$499.2 billion during the same fiscal year, resulting in a surplus of \$26.4 billion.

With the amount of taxes and fees Californians are paying to both the Federal Government and to Sacramento, an independent California could preserve and maintain every government program, every facility, every department, every agency, every contract, every grant, every government employee, and at the same time assume responsibility for federal entitlements like unemployment insurance benefits and Social Security and still have a surplus (\$26 billion in 2014).

With that surplus, California will be able to spend \$12 - \$15 billion annually on defense, which would make California's military comparable to Spain's and Canada's, and double the size of Mexico's.



The Federal Footprint On Our Budget

According to the California Legislative Analyst's Office (LAO) 2011–2012 Overview of Federal Funding in California, federal funds represented 38% of California's budget that year. In order for California to be financially independent, we will need to devise a plan that will raise enough revenue to offset these figures, which jumped significantly following the Great Recession of 2008 caused by America's deregulation of Wall Street under the administration of George W. Bush. Most recent figures put federal funds in the California budget at \$94 billion in FY 2014–15, but on average over the past seven years this figure has been closer to \$84 billion.

According to the LAO Report from 2011, over half of federal funding (52%) was allocated for the California Department of Health and Human Services. Of the allocation for Health and Human Services, the vast majority (71%) went to health care services while 17% of the funds went to major social programs like the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, formerly known as "Food Stamps".

Single-Payer Universal Healthcare

An independent California could establish its own single-payer, universal health care system modeled off the successful healthcare systems of central and northern Europe and completely pay for it without levying any new taxes. However, until that independence is won, it will be necessary to look to the legislature to once again pass a bill to create this health care program and to pay for it.

California lawmakers have been attempting to create a single-payer health care system like this since 1994 and the legislature actually passed SB 840 in 2006 and again in 2008 to achieve that very goal. The bill was unfortunately vetoed twice by Republican Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger. If we can bring California into line with most of the rest of the world by providing universal health care to all of us, the big next step will be to replace federal funding for labor and workforce development, most of which is for unemployment insurance.

Federal Unemployment Insurance Benefits

In FY 2011–12 unemployment insurance benefits funding amounted to some \$20 billion dollars from the Federal Government at a time



when the unemployment rate was above 11% following the economic recession. Today California's unemployment rate has fallen to 6.2%, continuing its downward trend since 2010.

With more people working and fewer requiring assistance like unemployment insurance, that \$20 billion figure is bound to decrease as the unemployment rate decreases - something that will inevitably happen as we reorganize California and establish the necessary physical and economic infrastructure a country needs to be successful.

If we can take care of our own health and social services, that will leave education as the last significant hurdle for us to overcome on the path to financial independence. As discussed elsewhere in this platform, we can fully fund education in California through new investments in gold and other precious metals held at our gold depository in San Francisco.

However, it will be much easier and cheaper to fully pay for our health care, social services, and education once California is an independent country since hundreds of billions of dollars in our tax dollars won't be sent to the Federal Government in Washington, but to our new national government in Sacramento.



CHAPTER

7

AMERICA'S
EXPLOITATION
OF CALIFORNIA

UNITED STATES

Internal
Revenue
Service
Building

KEYPOINTS

- The Federal Government spends hundreds of billions of dollars in California in various ways. Money comes to California in the form of federal grants, federal contracts to private corporations, and supplementary support for California's government agencies.
- Federal funding helps create jobs and pay for various government services in California, and this in turn helps grow California's economy.
- However, regardless of the benefits of federal funding, the truth is that California pays more into the national system than it receives from it - to the tune of over \$725 billion in the last three decades. In other words, it costs California \$26 billion annually just to be a state.
- California is also exploited for its minerals and other natural resources by both the Federal Government, and multi-national corporations which extract our groundwater from us to sell for profit elsewhere.

How Federal Funds Are Spent In California

The Federal Government spent approximately \$343.5 billion in California including \$94 billion to augment California's state operating budget in FY 2014. The remaining \$249.5 billion included \$31.5 billion in spending by the Department of Defense, \$17.3 billion in spending by the Department of Veteran Affairs, and another \$1 billion in spending by the Department of Homeland Security. Combined, the Federal Government spent about \$50 billion – or fifteen percent of all federal spending in California – to maintain its national security and defense apparatus in California.

Granted, when the Federal Government spends money in California, it helps provide jobs to Californians and those jobs stimulate our economy. We do not deny the positive influence of money – from whatever source – on our economy. However, regardless of the influx of federal money, in the aggregate we Californians contribute more into the federal system than we benefit from it. That is one reason why California is like the last American colony.



Of the \$343.5 billion the Federal Government spent in FY 2014, about 27 percent of it supported the budget operating expenses of California's agencies and programs. Of the non-budgetary spending – the \$249.5 billion – 30 percent of came in the form of federal grants. The California Department of Health Care Services received more than \$40 billion dollars in federal grants last year, making it the largest recipient of them. Other top recipients included the California Department of Education (\$6.2B), the California Department of Social Services (\$5.6B), and the California Department of Transportation (\$3.7B).

Meanwhile, the Federal Government approved a little more than a billion dollars in federal loans last year, the majority of which were borrowed by the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority. Everything else – about \$170 billion – is categorized as “Other Financial Assistance” and it went mostly to California's institutions of higher education, both public and private, though other recipients included Bank of America.

It is important to remember that the Federal Government did not spend \$343.5 billion in California because of its generosity, and that we shouldn't be thankful for that money – it was ours in the first place – earned and paid for by California taxpayers and corporations. In summary, the Federal Government spent most of our taxes supporting California government agencies and programs, awarding California corporations with federal contracts, and supporting our public and private universities.

California The Donor State

The real story, however, is that the \$343.5 billion dollars the Federal Government spent in California is less than the amount of taxes paid by Californians for the same time period. According to data provided by the Internal Revenue Service, Californians collectively paid \$371.1 billion in taxes. That represents a net loss of \$27.6 billion dollars at a time California was on the receiving end of abnormally high federal stimulus spending package that was used to fight the American economic recession that hit California harder than any other state.

But what should make you as a Californian upset is that \$27.6 billion of California's money was awarded as contracts, grants, loans, and



as other financial assistance to corporations in other states to help their economies and create jobs there, not here. That \$27.6 billion of California's money was given to other state governments to pay for their state agencies and programs, not ours. This begs the question. Should our taxes be given to Departments of Social Services in other states when California has the highest homeless population in the Nation, our budget has forced the Legislature to cut in-home care services for our disabled citizens, and ranks 43rd overall in support for family and community resources?

Should our taxes be given to Departments of Education in other states when we have the highest student to teacher ratio in the Nation, a high school graduation rate below the national average, the greatest number of families not headed by a high school graduate, and rank 39th overall in educational achievement?

Should our taxes be spent to create economic prosperity in other states when California ranks 48th in economic well-being, has the 42nd highest unemployment rate in the country, and has the highest state marginal individual income tax rate in the country while some states that receive our federal taxes have no state income tax at all?

Surely the answer is a resounding no – our taxes should not be spent that way. That our money is taken in that way demonstrates California exists for the betterment of the other American states.

We make no mistake about it. During the recession following the 2008 economic crisis, California in the aggregate received more federal funding than we collectively paid in federal taxes but that was only the case in fiscal years 2009 – 2012. As mentioned above, California has been back in the business as America's colony "donor state" for two years now. For example, in 2013 Californians collectively paid \$341.5 billion in federal taxes and the Federal Government spent 317.9 billion in California. This represents a net loss of \$23.6 billion in 2013 alone. In the year prior to the economic crash, Californians collectively paid \$351.5 billion in federal taxes and the Federal Government spent \$286.6 billion in federal spending, or a net loss of \$64.9 billion.

To make matters worse, this has not been a recent development. Yes California compiled the following data from information provided by the U.S. Census Bureau, the Internal Revenue Service, the official USA Government spending website, the California Department of Finance, and the Tax Foundation.



California first became a donor state in 1987. Since that time, although the year-by-year numbers fluctuate, California has paid over \$725 billion more than it has received in federal funding, averaging at a net loss of about \$26 billion a year to California taxpayers. Putting that in perspective, every man, woman and child in California paid almost \$19,000 for California to be a state. During this 28-year period, there were only seven fiscal years when California received its fair share or greater than its fair share of federal funding and four of them were in the middle of the last recession. In short, the price tag of California's statehood is \$26 billion a year.

What does California receive at that cost? Some may mention the protection of the U.S. military. That thought is a fallacy because for \$26 billion a year, California could have its own military and it would be stronger than the Italian, Israeli, or Australian military, which spent \$24.3, \$23.2, and \$22.5 billion, respectively, on defense in 2014 according to the International Institute for Strategic Studies. Or, we could settle for a military budget of about \$15 billion like Canada, our peaceful neighbors to the north. Most countries in the world are able to maintain sufficient military defense at a cost California could afford on its own.

California Does Not Have A Fair Deal

As recently as September of 2015, the California Legislative Analyst's Office (LAO) published a report and notice on federal spending in California. In their report, their findings confirm our claims that California does not have a fair deal.

First, the California LAO concluded that "...Federal spending in California was \$8,967 per person, lower than the national average of \$9,961," (See Figure 3). Secondly, the LAO concluded that "...Federal funding is equivalent to less than 16 percent of California's statewide economic activity, which is lower than the national average of 19 percent," (See Figure 4).

All during a time when California clearly paid the most taxes into the system and was hurt most by the American economic recession. The LAO data is graphically represented on the following page.



Figure 3. Federal Spending Per Person, by State
FFY 2012-13 (In Thousands)

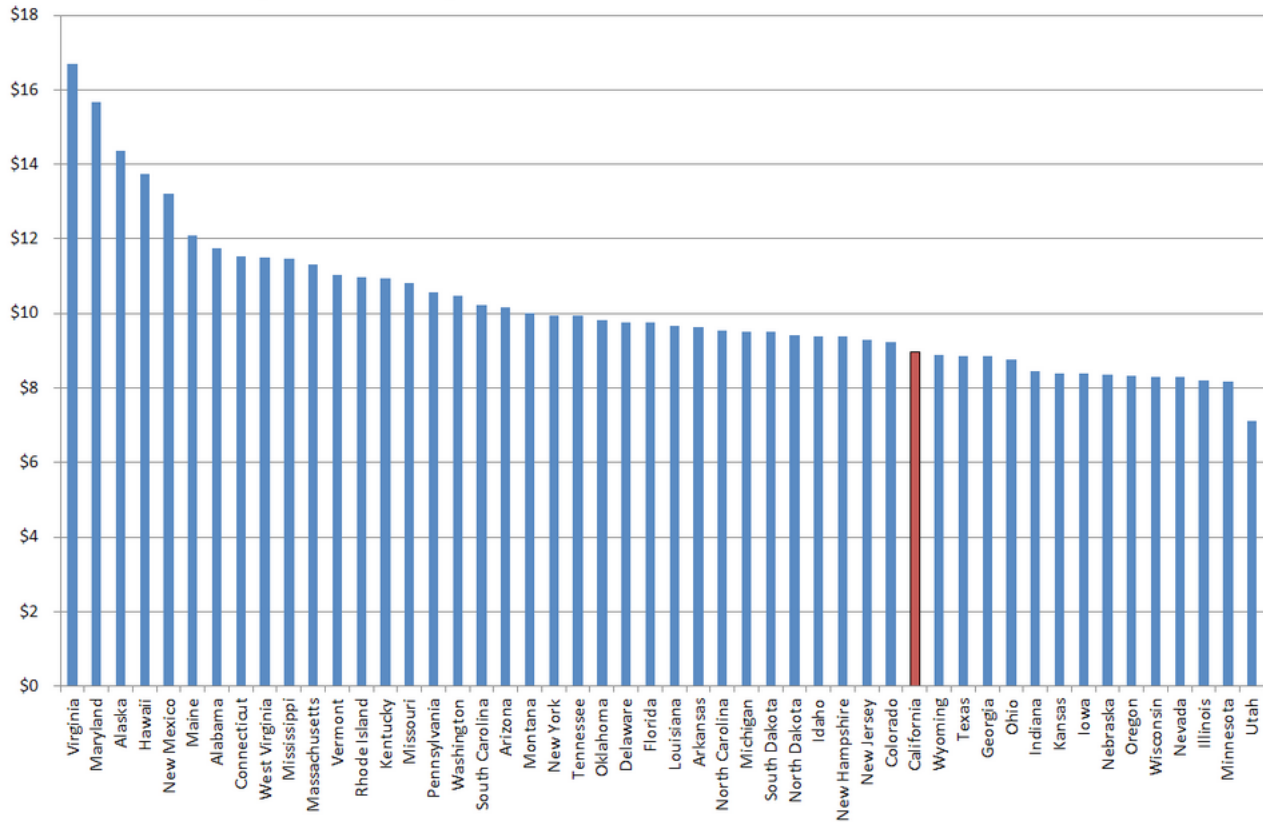
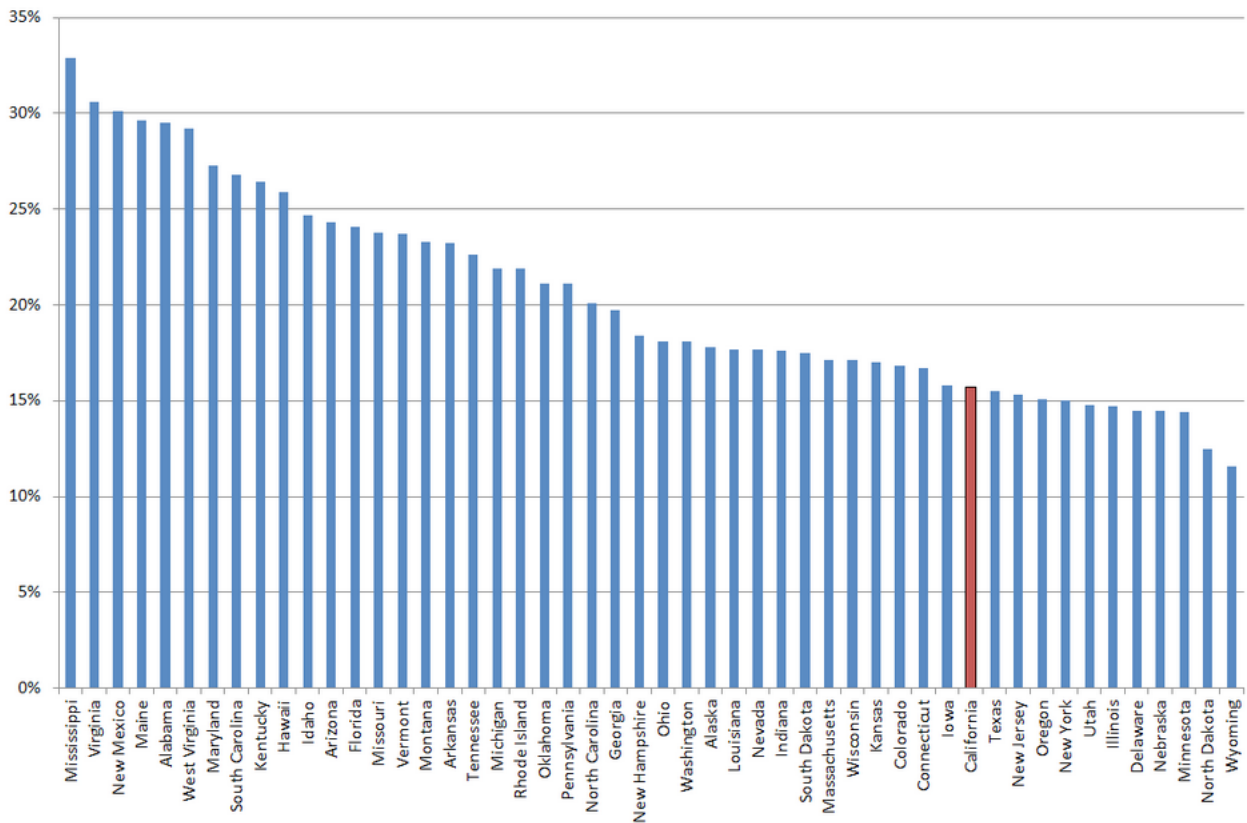


Figure 4. Federal Spending as a Percent of State Gross Domestic Product
FFY 2012-13



However, tax dollars are not the only way California functions as a colony for the rest of the United States. Another noteworthy point is how California's resources are used by the citizens of the United States without much concern for what's best for Californians. Take for instance, California's groundwater. The Federal Government has allowed private corporations like Nestle to bottle up our groundwater in the midst of one of the most severe droughts in California history all the while on permits that have been expired since the 1980s.

The oddity here is this: If you take into consideration where America's bottled water comes from, most of it comes from drought-stricken California! In fact, there are at least a hundred water bottling facilities in California representing the major water bottlers Nestle North America (based in Stamford, Connecticut), Coca-Cola (based in Atlanta, Georgia), and Pepsi (based in Purchase, New York), as well as others, and they have been extracting our groundwater from federal lands in California for sale all around the country for more than a century now.

To go one step further, not only does the Federal Government allow multinational corporations set up shop in California to extract our most precious resource from federally-owned California lands, but they collectively own forty-percent of the territory in California and therefore control the resources on those lands.

Our Minerals And Other Natural Resources

Certain minerals and other resources like coal, oil, and natural gas are allowed to be extracted on federal lands in California via a contractual agreement between a private corporation and the Federal Government. This type of contractual agreement is known as a mineral lease and the United States signs these types of leases in California all the time. Yes, some of the revenue is shared with California but our share of the revenue has been withheld during times of sequestration (the action of taking legal possession of assets until a debt has been paid or other claims have been met).

That means that the Federal Government is paying off their debts with California resources that belong exclusively to us. As such, Yes California believes that we should be the sole beneficiary of any revenues earned or royalties collected from the extraction of California's natural resources.



According to calculations made by the Tax Foundation, using data provided by the United States Office of Natural Resources Revenue, the total amount of royalty disbursements from federal mineral leases was \$12.1 billion in FY 2012. California received just 5.3% of the royalties collected, or \$111.6 million dollars, while the U.S. Treasury received more than \$6.6 billion, or 54.4% of all royalties. In other words, our resources were stolen and the profits were used for the benefit of others.

The situation is even worse, since the Federal Government has not revised many of the financial or environmental requirements for oil and natural gas corporations looking to drill on federal lands in decades. The current royalty rate to be paid for the extraction of “our” natural resources, set by the Federal Government, is a low 12.5%, much lower than most private land owners charge. For the record, the royalty rate for oil and natural gas drilling California charges on California publicly-owned lands is 16.67%.

This means the Federal Government controls not just who may and may not extract our resources for profit in California, but they charge far less than they could charge for the extraction. As a result, the measly \$111.6 million in royalties California collected in FY 2012 was far less than it could have been had the Federal Government simply had rates more in line with current market value.

Independence Will End The Exploitation Of California

In an independent California, we will be able to put forth better natural resource management policies, ranging from drilling to forest management policies. For example, the plain truth is that the Federal Government has allowed the Sierra Nevada forests to grow too dense with vegetation, threatening their existence.

Consequently, those forests have become increasingly susceptible to high severity fires, and we have seen that this year during the devastating drought which saw giant fires range across California. This is important because forests with higher density overall decrease tree health and have other negative environmental impacts. So long as the Federal Government continues to manage our forests, their overall health will continue to suffer and our property and the very lives of Californians will continue to be subjected to avoidable forest fires.



In an independent California, we will be able to ensure that the people of California are the sole beneficiaries of royalties collected from private corporations who extract our natural resources, and we will ensure that those royalties – all of them – will be used for the public good the way that we choose to do so, not what some foreign government three thousand miles away tells us.

As a result, we will be able to ensure that private corporations extracting our groundwater or harvest our timber pay a fair price, and we will actually be able to provide oversight of their business practices, especially during periods of drought. This will put an end to practices where companies like Nestle takes water from below our feet to sell for profit in other states and nations, and pay an annual permit fee of just \$524 to do so.

Lastly, in an independent California we will keep our tax dollars – all of them – in California, and invest them into California's economy, our infrastructure, our schools, our healthcare, and our future. As a result, an independent California will mean the end of American colonialism, at least in North America.

(Editor's note: All figures have been adjusted for inflation to their equivalent in 2015 dollars.)



CHAPTER

8

INTERNATIONAL
AFFAIRS &
MILITARY DEFENSE



KEYPOINTS

- California will have an important role to play in the world as a global center of international negotiations, trade, and technology. It is why San Francisco should become the new home of the United Nations.
- The California Secretary of State will handle California's international relations and diplomacy, and California will establish embassies abroad.
- California's 58 counties will be reclassified as states, each with their own governments that will handle a host of issues at the state level.
- California will be able to adequately defend itself with a military budget from \$12-\$15 billion annually, and thus be able to invest the difference (\$35 billion) on healthcare, education, and social services.
- California should negotiate a Military Base Agreement with the United States, which would provide billions in lease payments annually.

California's New Global Leadership Role

California is a nation with an important new role to play in the world as a leader in international negotiations, trade, global communications, transportation and product development, making us a growing economic hub. Therefore, we must take steps to establish the political infrastructure that we need to accept this important new role. The steps include, but are not limited to, the following proposals.

The Secretary Of State's Changing Role

First, the California Secretary of State must become the head of an expanded California Department of State which will be responsible for managing California's international relations, and representing the Republic of California on the world stage. The new California State Department must include a wide range of new positions, such as a Chief of Protocol – an expert on international customs whose primary responsibility will be to advise the President of California on



matters of national and international diplomatic protocol. This is a position that exists in every office, department, or ministry handling international relations for foreign countries and California will need a Chief of Protocol of its own.

Expanding The Fair Political Practices Commission

Because the Secretary of State must take on an important new role as the chief diplomat of the Republic of California, there will be the need to create an agency responsible for overseeing California's elections and the other duties currently performed by the Secretary of State, such as regulating the establishment of businesses and non-profit organizations. The Fair Political Practices Commission (FPPC) should be expanded into an agency akin to the Federal Elections Commission (FEC) and empowered to oversee California's elections.

Reclassifying California's Counties As States

Each of county in California will assume a larger scope of responsibilities and therefore will be more similar to a state in the United States, or a province of Canada. Each of the 58 new *states* of California will be empowered to regulate and set local rules for their own elections just as the fifty states in the Union do so today.

This is one way Yes California supports local empowerment and governance. Imagine a California with 58 somewhat autonomous states – each with their own elected governor and legislature passing laws at the local level – all outside the political jurisdiction of the national government of California in Sacramento. There will be national laws that apply to every state of California, but Sacramento will not micromanage California as it does in many cases today.

Bringing The United Nations To California

Second, as the world's fastest growing economic body, California must become the new headquarters of the United Nations. The world needs a new Switzerland and there is no better candidate to fill that role than the new Republic of California. For centuries, Switzerland was the center of international negotiations in the world. That made a lot of sense at a time when European powers were the richest and most



powerful countries in the world. Switzerland's geographic location paired with its diversity and its neutrality made it the prime choice for an international meeting place. Also like Switzerland, California is one of the most diverse places in the world – a prime example of many diverse cultures and languages living together with tolerance and acceptance, and in peace with each other.

In today's world, California can replace Switzerland in a heartbeat, especially as the focus of global politics, trade, and wealth is now shifting away from Europe and towards Asia and the Pacific Rim. California is even perfectly geographically situated as a middle ground between Europe and Asia. Because of California's economic power, Silicon Valley and the Central Valley, and the fact that California is perfectly positioned geographically to become the world's international hub for everything from computers and communications to global peace talks, trade, and wealth – the thought of going anywhere else just seems out of the question, especially as foreign leaders already routinely visit California and California already leads the world in the fight against climate change.

Yes California therefore calls on the world to recognize California's role in both the world and the creation of this venerable institution, as well as what we have to offer, and the fact that the United Nations building in New York City is now growing old and outdated. As such, the world should place the new home for the United Nations in California. After all, the Charter of the United Nations was signed at the San Francisco Conference of 1945 and that city itself was a finalist for the permanent location of the United Nations headquarters.

“Let us establish our home in San Francisco,” a Filipino ambassador said at the conference. He then described San Francisco as “...the half-way house of the peoples of the East and the peoples of the West; the common ground of all the peoples of the United Nations.”

Trade Missions And Embassies

Of equal importance is the need for California to begin constructing embassies abroad. California already has business-oriented trade missions set up in Israel and China. However, we need an embassy to represent California's interests in every capital city around the world. Likewise, we will need to provide other countries with the real estate and physical infrastructure they will require to establish embassies



and residences for their Ambassadors in Sacramento. This will not only help establish the necessary political infrastructure in Sacramento so that it may function as the capital city of the world's youngest country, but it will create an economic boom in the region, creating jobs in virtually every sector of the economy, from engineering and construction, to media and journalism, to the service-based economy.

Ambassadorships

We will need to appoint ambassadors to these countries to speak on behalf of the people of California, and the California government. These ambassadors will need staff and protection provided for by servicemen and women of an expanded California military department, which in addition to its duties of protecting our embassies, could also take on an important role in international humanitarian relief effort for the betterment of mankind.

Citizenship And Passports

When California is an independent country, we will ensure that all California residents will automatically be granted California citizenship, including those who hold dual citizenship with another country, but U.S. Military personnel stationed in California will not be California citizens unless they were born in California. It will be possible to hold dual California/American citizenship.

California-born American citizens currently living outside of California will also automatically be granted California citizenship. Other people will be able to register or apply for California citizenship based on clear criteria set by the Government of California.

All California citizens will have the right to acquire a California Passport to use for international travel and for identification purposes, although there will be no requirement to hold one. The California Passport will have pages for international visas, as well as entry and exit stamps. It's exterior will be blue, with a golden Grizzly bear embossed above the words "Republic of California".



California's Military Defense

Unlike the United States, California will not spend exorbitant amounts of money on military defense and weapons of war because we will not be police the world, we will not establish hundreds of military bases around the world, we will not develop and maintain a stockpile of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction, nor will we use our military except for the defense and security of California.

The United States spent approximately \$50 billion of California's taxes in 2014 to maintain its military bases and the personnel stationed here. In theory, California could maintain this level of military spending and an independent California would have a military comparable in size and strength to Germany (\$46 billion) and Japan (\$45 billion), and stronger than South Korea (\$36 billion), which is still in a state of war with the North Koreans.

However, consistent with California values and priorities, Yes California believes we should not spend \$50 billion a year on defense. The average of all global military expenditures by all countries 2014 was just \$12.2 billion. The Government of California will have to work out the specific annual budget allocation for defense depending on a full review of security requirements and a regular cycle of threat assessments, but Yes California believes this allocation should fall between \$12-\$15 billion annually. This would give California a military comparable to Canada's, and free up \$35 billion annually that could be invested in healthcare, education, and social services.

Indeed, much of the necessary political infrastructure needs to be developed for us to assume this new role but the foundations of this infrastructure are already there (even the California military department and state defense forces) and it is time for us to start developing these and other important infrastructure further.

U.S. Military Bases In California

Although the exact details regarding land leases for U.S. Military bases in foreign countries is shrouded in secrecy, we do know that the United States spends hundreds of millions of dollars each year in rent payments to foreign governments to maintain bases in their countries. For instance, we know that the on July 17, 1991, United States agreed to a ten-year, \$203 million annual lease agreement with



the Philippines to maintain its principal naval base at Subic Bay in Southern Philippines. We also know that a volcanic eruption severely damaged Clark Air Force Base in the North around that same time, and that base was closed as a result. Had that eruption not occurred, the United States was prepared to pay \$360 million a year to extend its Military Base Agreement of 1947 with the Philippines.

In 2015 dollars, that ten-year lease agreement would be worth \$628.9 million annually, or \$6.28 billion over ten years. Subic Naval Base was a major naval facility known as “the service station and supermarket of the fleet” according to one retired U.S. Naval Officer. Likewise, Naval Base San Diego is one of the largest bases in the United States Navy today and the principal home of the Pacific Fleet. It would be fair to say the United States would similarly be prepared to pay to maintain its base in San Diego as it was to maintain its presence in Subic Bay, providing a reliable annual revenue stream for the Government of California of hundreds of millions of dollars a year.

Additionally, the United States in 2014 signed a 20-year, \$63 million annual lease with the country of Djibouti to maintain its 4,000 service-member-strong Camp Lemonnier, which serves as a counter terrorism training hub in the Horn of Africa. That works out to \$1.26 billion over the term of the lease.

The question is how much would the United States be prepared to pay to keep its other military bases in California? There are major Air Force, Army, Marines, and Navy bases in all parts of California and combined the leases could provide billions of dollars annually to the Government of California if we chose to go forward and allow the Americans to maintain their strategic positions in California.

Yes California believes we should negotiate a Military Base Agreement with the United States upon independence. By doing so, not only will we be able to provide a new revenue stream for the Government of California, but we will also be able to maintain and even improve our current level of military defense. U.S. Military bases in California, combined with the protection afforded by California's own military bases, will make citizens of California among the safest citizens in the world.



CHAPTER

9

DOMESTIC
AFFAIRS



KEYPOINTS

- We must move away from the two-party system by reorganizing the State Legislature into a parliament of proportional representation.
- We need to make California a more affordable place to live and start a business so that not just the super wealthy own homes and businesses.
- We must provide financial support to low-income families, consider raising the minimum wage, and address the roots of homelessness.
- We must restore tuition and fee-free college so students don't graduate under a mountain of student loan debt.
- We must take action to provide immigration relief to the approximate three million undocumented immigrants in California.
- We must adopt numerous police reforms to create a safer society for all.

Restoring Trust In Government

This ambitious plan for California's new future will go nowhere as long as Californians continue to feel that their government in Sacramento is not working for them.

That is why we must take action to make people proud to be Californians again, and that starts with providing relief to five specific groups of Californians: disenfranchised voters, homeowners, small business owners, students, and low-income families.

As an organization dedicated to enhancing California's future, we can travel from county to county and talk about how California is more of a country than a state all we want. We can paint a rosy picture of the new California we envision and how that new California will improve the quality of life of each and every Californian. All of it means nothing if Californians don't trust Sacramento enough to grant it the powers it needs to be a national government.



Understandably, many Californians are unhappy with Sacramento. Fundamentally, *California's Future* is about building a new relationship between Sacramento and the people of California based on trust and confidence by enacting a series of new policies that will undoubtedly prove that Sacramento is working for us, not the lobbyists and corporations. That problem plagues Washington and the new and independent California we are working to build will go nowhere fast if we allow that disease to infect our new national government.

Moving Away From A Two-Party System

First, we must create an atmosphere of inclusiveness and true representation in Sacramento by reorganizing the to demonstrate that in the new California we envision, Democrats and Republicans will not hold every elected seat in the legislature.

There are many ways we can reorganize the legislature but whatever plan we adopt must allow for third parties to hold seats so that Democrats and Republicans are forced to form coalitions that incorporate the ideas and beliefs of Californians currently dissatisfied with the two-party system. We must build a new California where third parties are viable and their ideas have a chance to become law.

Help For Homeowners

Second, another moral boost can be achieved by helping homeowners in a variety of ways. California arguably already does a fine job protecting life and liberty, but property is the essential third component of John Locke's primary rights our government must protect. To do so, we must act to ensure that everyone can own a piece of the California dream, and that not only the rich can own property.

We can do this by expanding consumer purchasing power and credit options, as well as helping homeowners who lost their homes in the 2008 economic recession by reestablishing their credit and help them purchase new homes. We could further consider overhauling the property tax structure so as to tax land according to its relative value instead of taxing improvements made upon the land. This would encourage development, increase wealth, and make it possible for more Californians to develop land without the disincentive of higher taxes.



Help For Small Business Owners

A third morale booster can help small business owners. We must act to improve the business climate in California by making it easier, more affordable and less burdensome to open and maintain a small business. Large multi-national corporations can afford to operate in a highly-regulated business environment. They have the lawyers to keep up-to-date with ever-changing regulations and the money to pay fines or file lawsuits when necessary to protect their business interests. Their money also provides them with exclusive access to our elected representatives that small business owners don't have. Small businesses are the backbone of our economy and our business climate must be one that is supportive of small businesses.

By cutting red tape and reevaluating our small business regulations, and by creating a series of small business incentives, we can reduce the cost of doing business in California, which will inevitably encourage more small businesses to open. New businesses means more jobs and more jobs means more taxpayers, more homeowners, and fewer citizens dependent on social services. The bottom line is most people are honest and hard-working. They want a job, they want to support their families, they want to feel secure and we need to do a better job of creating an atmosphere of security.

By taking these three steps to provide a new boost in morale to disenfranchised voters, homeowners, and small business owners, we can redevelop the idea of what it means to be a proud Californian because we can show disenfranchised Californians that the new California supports them and is working for them. At that point, Sacramento will have earned the trust it needs to establish our new national government.

Reducing Poverty And Helping Low-Income Families

Official figures say that about a quarter of Californians live in poverty, a rate that by all accounts is above average in the United States. At the same time California is home to some twenty percent of the Nation's homeless population. The new California we intend to build must not leave low-income families behind. There are so many Californians living paycheck to paycheck and struggling to make ends meet.

In the new California we intend to build, we must make good on the



promise that no person working forty or more hours a week will live in poverty. To make good on this promise we must provide income support to minimum wage earners in California, most of which are workers between the ages of 16-24 and work in the restaurant and food service industry. We must be willing to raise the minimum wage but also to consider other options as well, such as reducing taxes and fees that hurt low-income earners the most.

Commitment To Education

In Denmark, they have made it a priority to support their youth and their education. Not only is college fee and tuition free as it ought to be in California, but college and university students actually receive stipends of about \$900 per month. Even though Danish students receive this generous support and the minimum wage is twice that of the minimum wage in the United States, the youth unemployment rate is actually lower in Denmark.

The point is if we can help ensure that our youth set out on the right foot with a college education, and not leave college buried in debt, poverty and homelessness will decrease throughout California. Especially if we can, during these critical youth years, create an environment where those between the ages 16–24 can save for their future. Imagine a California where students save, not borrow money through college and graduate with the possibility of keeping more of the money they earn, rather than paying back student loans.

Reducing Homelessness

Meanwhile, we've got to take on the important issue of homelessness. There are so many homeless people living on the streets its a moral crisis. In the new California we will build, we will establish an ambitious public works program to temporarily employ homeless Californians and provide them with a stipend to help get them back on their feet and lift them out of poverty. In return we can save money on social programs, create new taxpayers, and accomplish great works of community service.

However, we can't forget that any public works program we put into place will not address the cause of homelessness. We as a nation of Californians must be committed to taking action to address the cause



of homelessness while we extend our compassion and generosity to those currently living on the streets. Our aforementioned commitment to young adults will go a long way towards this goal but in addition to that we must be willing to enact policy changes that directly reduce the cost of living and improve the quality of life.

We can do this, for example, by lowering low-income tax rates, by reducing unnecessary bureaucratic expenses like annual vehicle registration fees, and/or by reforming predatory lending laws and regulations to help get struggling low-income families out of the cycle of debt perpetuated by payday loans.

PART 2: IMMIGRATION

Undocumented Immigrants

There's a reason millions of people make the journey to come to this country without a visa and millions more overstay their visa when they expire – life is “better” here even if this country doesn't have the best education system in the world – South Korea does. Likewise, we don't have the best health care system or the safest society. The United Kingdom and Iceland do, respectively.

Yet millions make that perilous journey and are branded as criminals when they get here. The truth is that millions of undocumented immigrants from south of the border live in this country today not because America is such a great place but because it is merely a better place than the disaster zone that exists in Central America as a result of a century of America instituting forced labor and slavery, enacting embargoes and blockades, launching military invasions, planning government overthrows, encouraging civil wars, backing rebellions, seizing government assets, and conducting assassinations in Latin American countries.

With this disturbing level of instability caused by American foreign policy and economic interests, it is no surprise that many Central American countries have not been able to develop societies from which people don't need to flee in search of a better life.

Yes California's California Immigration Reform is about allowing undocumented immigrants to live in California without fear of deportation or exploitation. In order to do this, undocumented immigrants will have to meet certain requirements including



registration, the payment of state income taxes, and the completion of a criminal background check. Once completed, the Republic of California will issue them state identification cards, which will be immediately available to all California citizens.

A lot of thought went into creating a system to protect the undocumented throughout this process. Yes California's immigration plan prohibits sharing any information with the Federal Government. Our plan also transforms the local Department of Motor Vehicles into the Department of Citizen Services where everyone will go for driver licenses, to register to vote, to register a car or a boat, and to register as an undocumented immigrant. Therefore, federal agents parked outside in a black suburban will not be able to tell the difference between California citizens, documented immigrants, and undocumented immigrants standing together in the same lines.

Undocumented immigrants will have a very real reason to come forward and register because our plan provides those undocumented immigrants who come forward a guarantee that no state or local funds or resources will be used to assist the Federal Government in locating, detaining, or deporting them. Undocumented immigrants who remain unregistered are not provided with the same guarantee.

However, this is only a short-term solution. We can not just perpetually issue documents to undocumented immigrants without addressing the actual cause of the problem. Any long term strategy to handle immigration must do a number of things.

California's International Borders

First, an independent California will assume control of its own international border which upon recognition of our independence will include Mexico, and states within the new United States including Oregon, Nevada and Arizona. Once our borders have been established and internationally recognized, the Republic of California must have the infrastructure and support needed to patrol these borders and our coastline. This will require California to create a Coast Guard and a Border Patrol to protect our territorial integrity.

Unfettered Travel In North America

Second, California must enter into negotiations to establish an



open border regime with the United States. This program will be designed to allow for free and unfettered travel between the Republic of California and the other countries of North America. This will require the United States to recognize and accept the newly created California passports and immigration documents issued by the California government. Likewise, California must be willing to accept immigration documents issued by the United States.

For example, Yes California believes that the new system can be modeled after the Schengen Visa. This agreement currently exists between 26 European countries, and is specifically designed to allow for free and unfettered travel of peoples between European countries in Europe. Remodeled and branded for California, this agreement would also help citizens of California and the United States, as well as Mexico and Canada, to travel back and forth.

A New Guest Worker Program

Third, we must establish a guest worker program that allows immigrants from other countries searching for work in selected fields like technology and agriculture to come and go depending on the needs of the economy. One of the reasons millions of undocumented workers are here in California today is because there is an enormous amount of fear that once they leave the California, they may not be able to make it back in. As a result, they stay here and send money back home via wire transfer. Under this type of guest worker program, we can ensure that California farmers have the labor they require while at the same time extending legal protections to laborers.

A Modernized Immigration System

Fourth, we must create a technologically advanced immigration system that allows our immigration officials to keep track of visitors in California on non-immigrant visas and ensure that they leave in a timely manner when the purpose of their visit as concluded, or their visa has expired. We certainly want to make it possible and welcoming for all to visit California but we cannot allow visitors to become immigrants without going through the proper channels or without being subjected to the needs of the California economy and the ability of our infrastructure to support an ever-growing population.



Skilled Workers

Fifth, we must include in our immigration plan a policy to attract and encourage students graduating from a California university in a STEM-related field to stay, live and work in California. Silicon Valley is going to grow and prosper in this new country we are working to establish and their demand for high-skilled workers in science, technology, engineering, and math will have to be met either by native Californians, foreign students attending California's institutions of higher education, or by skilled immigrants from other countries.

California is the home of so many of the world's top universities, such as Caltech, which in 2015 received recognition for the fifth year in a row as the world's top research university, and we want to make sure that international students graduating from these institutions feel welcome and encouraged to put their skills to use in California instead of returning back home to compete against California.

PART 3: CRIMINAL JUSTICE

Police Brutality And Excessive Use Of Force

One are of systematic and institutional inequality and racism we continue to deal with is in the enforcement of our laws and it is a systematic problem. While we must never condone the use of violence to achieve social change, tough criticism of the police is fair and often warranted. After all, we're living in a society without equality of opportunity, there is constant and rampant racism, and a history of brutal violence and exploitation of minority groups.

In the first six months of 2015, the police in this country killed 551 American citizens in the first six months of this year alone. To put that in perspective, one single person was killed by a police officer in the United Kingdom in 2013 and 2014 combined. During the same two-year time period, not one person was killed by a police officer in Germany for any reason.

Considering the massive injustices they experience, it is hard to blame minorities for lashing out at the system. We have got to take on police brutality and the militarization which threatens everyone's civil liberties but we must also remember that these issues



disproportionately affect minorities whose skin color often earns them more police attention than they would like to have.

It's not that police officers are by nature racist, it is that racism is so ingrained into our culture. We need to change the culture. We need to stop perpetuating the association of black skin with crime, of tattoos with violence, of body piercings with disrespect for authority, and of hoodies with troublemakers. These stereotypes exist everywhere. Some progress has been made on this front but there are a number of actions we need to take, starting with body cameras. We need all police officers equipped with and wearing body cameras while on duty and these recordings must be reasonably available to the public. We need independent, non-partisan civilian review boards in every city in California to allow for community oversight of local police departments, and to keep records of stops, arrests, and citations in order to ascertain to what extent institutional racism is playing a role in the enforcement of our laws.

Suggested Police Reforms

We need to end the system of local police issuing citations for minor violations as a source of revenue for city and local governments, and other forms of for-profit policing.

We need to improve sensitivity training and ensure that our police force is made up only of men and women who aspire to a career in law enforcement in order to serve and protect us, not to rule us.

We need to get the right people on the job and the wrong people out of uniform and if that means reforming police union contracts then that's what it means. It also means ensuring that our cities have the resources they need to attract good, qualified candidates to the police force – candidates of the right frame of mind, candidates with the right intentions, and candidates who respect your right to be presumed innocent until proven guilty. It is ironic that the country that brands itself as the land of the free is the same country with the highest incarceration rate in the world.

Legalize Cannabis And End Mass Incarcerations

We need to not only combat the militarized police state developing



in our society but we must also combat mass incarceration. One major step that can be taken to this end would be to legalize, regulate, and tax marijuana. In 2013, California recorded some 20,000 marijuana-related arrests, the majority of which were felonies. In fact today there are about 14 times as many marijuana prisoners as there was in 1980 – all prisoners of a failed war on drugs and each of which costs taxpayers nearly \$50,000 a year in incarceration.

If we were to legalize, regulate and tax marijuana, not only could we reduce our prison population but it could become an important new stream of revenue for the Republic of California.

A Responsible Gun Control Policy

Adopting these reforms does not have to be done in an anti-police atmosphere but we can not allow the powerful police unions to turn a blind eye to the systematic problem that plagues their departments. We must not allow ourselves to be worked by these powerful unions. At the same time we have to be ready as a society to take the bold step to get handguns off the streets in a responsible fashion.

Admittedly, this is something we can never achieve so long as California remains a state in the Union. The Second Amendment to the Constitution protects, and the Supreme Court repeatedly affirms, the right to own guns in the United States. Yes California supports the Second Amendment, but wants to point out that if we are ever going to get serious about gun control and not depriving citizens of the right to own a firearm, we have to free ourselves of a provision that was written at a time when men bore muskets.

Gun ownership will be legal in the new independent Republic of California but we will also be able to craft a sensible policy that balances the rights of gun owners with the safety of society.

Nobody Gets Everything, Everybody Gets Something

We're not going to be able to do everything for everybody but we can certainly do something for everybody. We're going to do something



for disenfranchised voters, something for homeowners, something for small business owners, something for the homeless, for the poor, for our students, for those who are not covered by health insurance, and even for the wealthy. Nobody or no one group is going to get everything they want but everybody in this new California is going to get something they need.

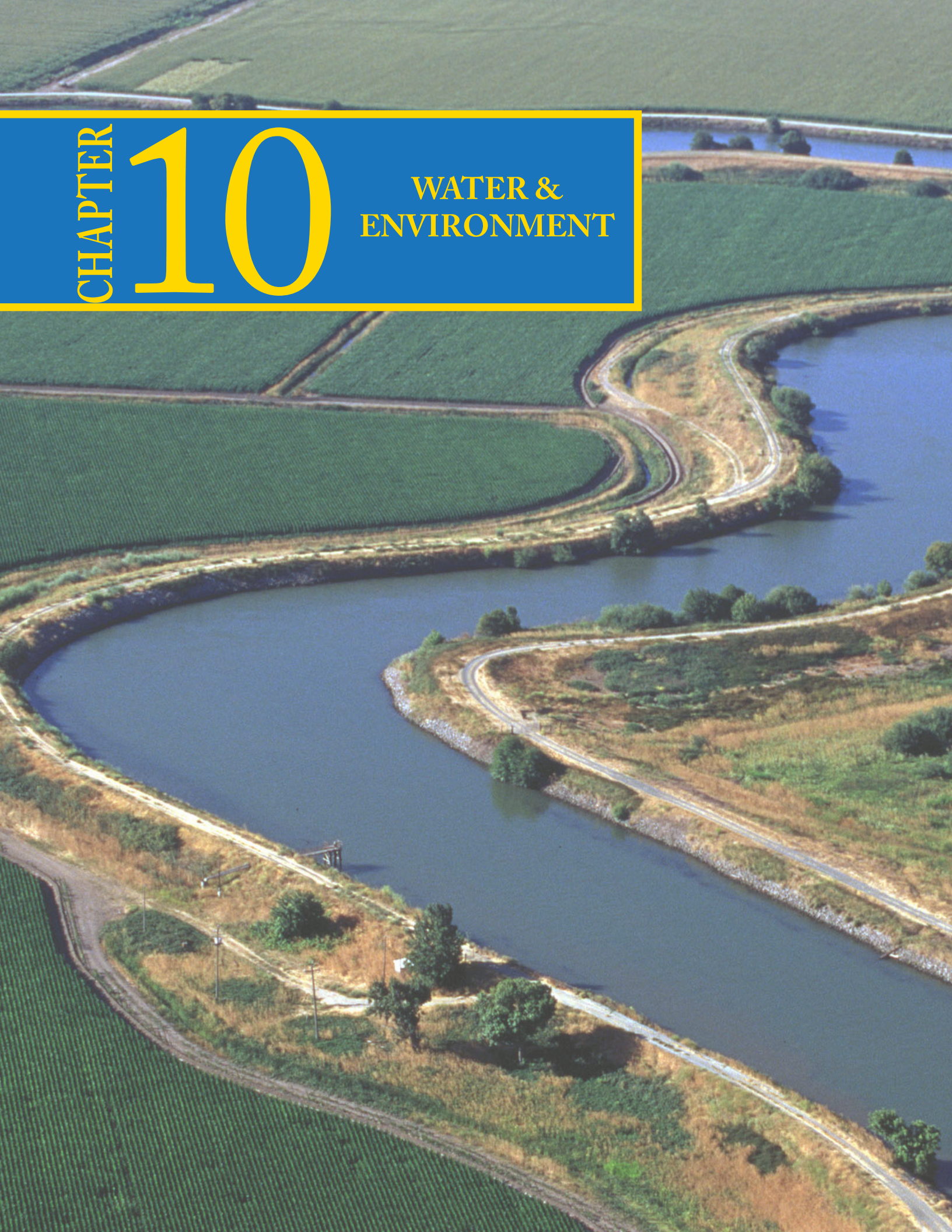
Too much and for too long our two dominate political parties have cut up and divided our society based upon who they calculate they need to vote for them and they discard everyone else. The new independent California we seek to build will be a truly inclusive, more fair, more equal, more productive, and more just society because we will stand together in solidarity for the betterment of our people and society.



CHAPTER

10

WATER &
ENVIRONMENT



KEYPOINTS

- There are a lot of vested interests playing politics with California's water and together these players have an enormous amount of influence.
- California's current drought is very serious. California's and federal water reservoirs are very low, and climate change is affecting the availability of new water to replenish those reservoirs.
- California must take control of all reservoirs and stop federal politicians in Washington from allocating to us our own water at their will.
- We should build more Eco-friendly water desalination facilities to supplement our water supply, and consider a trans-continental water pipeline from Alaska and/or Canada.
- We must reevaluate the 18th century doctrine of prior appropriation and consider using eminent domain to secure our water for the public good.

Who Controls Our Water?

There are a lot of politics in play when it comes to the topic of California's water. In order for any comprehensive plan to address the water issue to come about, it is important to understand the political forces at work behind the scenes.

It is important to understand who actually controls the water in California, whether it be Chairperson of the Energy and Water Panel of the United States Senate Appropriations Committee, billionaires Stuart and Lynda Resnick who own pistachio, almond, and citrus farming operations in southern California and have collectively donated millions of dollars to federal candidates, the Westlands Water District in the Central Valley which spends hundreds of thousands of dollars a year lobbying in Washington, the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California which supplies water to some 19 million people, or the 430 agricultural and urban water districts that make up the Association of California Water Agencies.



Meanwhile, we cannot forget the role that the powerful environmental groups play in the discussion that creates the equation that solves our water problems. The point is the issue, like most other issues, is a complex one involving in which many parties have a vested interest.

Current Status Of Our Water

Let's take a look at the situation. There are six federally-owned and maintained reservoirs in California. The United States Bureau of Reclamation reported in October of 2015 that those reservoirs were a combined 200,000 acre-feet lower than they were at the same time last year and water carrying over from one year to the next is less than half of the fifteen year average. California's largest reservoir, Shasta, has a capacity of 4.55 million acre-feet – or enough to supply 4.55 million households with a year's supply of water. It is 35% full. Meanwhile, California's largest state reservoir, Lake Oroville, which has a capacity of 3.53 million acre-feet (enough to supply 3.53 million households with a year's supply of water) is only 29% full.

Where Our Water Comes From

So, where does California get its water from? Three main sources: mountain snow pack, water stored in these aforementioned reservoirs, and water pumped from underground aquifers. When Governor Brown declared a drought emergency in 2014, the Sierra Nevada snow pack was at just 14% of its normal level, and not only the reservoirs (as discussed) were in decline, but the groundwater aquifers were also in trouble. So what should California do? What could it do as an independent country as opposed to now as a state? These are two important questions Yes California addresses in this section.

Taking Control Of Our Water

First, the last thing California needs is the Federal Government deciding who and when to appropriate our water to us but that is exactly what is happening. They routinely deny water allocations to our farmers, for instance, and an independent California would at the very least be in position to make these important resource allocation decisions ourselves. Do we really want federal politicians from other states, living on the East Coast, and influenced by special interests in



conflict with our own interests to decide who gets water in California? California needs to take control of our reservoirs immediately and unfortunately won't be able to unless California is an independent country. Again, Congress made an express condition that if California were to become a state that it could never question the authority of the Federal Government to manage public lands.

Desalination

Second, Yes California believes we need to add a significant fourth source of water to our budget and that new resource is desalinated water from our ocean. We have virtually an endless supply of water at our toe tips and we must take steps to construct more desalination plants along our coasts like the one just constructed in Carlsbad. That facility, slated to be the largest in the Western Hemisphere, is expected to supply San Diego County with about 9% of its water need. Surely water desalination is not going to solve the problem by itself but it can surely serve as a strong supplementary source of water for the state's overall need.

There are two basic water desalination facilities we as a nation can construct. One is cheaper and less environmentally-friendly, the other more expensive but also not a threat to marine biology. Surely, a lot of the discussion about constructing desalination plants focuses on the environmental factors and the enormous costs associated with the construction and subsequent desalination process itself. Desalination is a very energy-demanding process. That is why California must devise a plan to generate massive amounts of cheap energy that can be used to power these desalination plants so that one, localities will not be adverse to construction plans out of fear of the costs, and two, the desalinated water produced at these facilities won't raise the price of tap water.

Solar Panel Roadways, Parking Lots, Sidewalks

Yes California believes it has a solution that will solve these costs problems, satisfy environmentalists, and thus generate a new stream of water into our resource budget. Granted, this solution may sound dreamy but California is the dream capital of the world. We're the ones who think up new technologies and innovations and although this particular solution wasn't created in California, it has the



potential of generating virtually infinite amounts of clean energy.

As such, Yes California believes we need to bring solar panel roadways to California to generate the clean energy to not only produce the energy we need to power these expensive desalination plans but also to help wane us off fossil fuels like coal, oil, and natural gas, something which will contribute to our global fight against climate change. Solar panel roadways are still in the development stage but Yes California believes in what they have to offer and sees nothing wrong with expediting their completion by installing them on small scale projects like school parking lots, driveways, and sidewalks at first, and eventually replacing our asphalt roads and freeways with them later.

America's Oil Industry Lobbyists

However, because the Federal Government oversees and sets standards over interstate highway construction and maintenance, this plan to replace our asphalt roads with solar panels is unlikely to occur so long as California remains a state. An independent California will be able to make this decision for itself without obtaining a green light from Washington first. Yes California believes that green light from Washington will never come, considering the nature of Washington.

The truth is that the oil industry exerts a heavy influence on the Federal Government and asphalt is a basic residue from the petroleum refining process. Thanks to *Citizens United*, any plan that would reduce the demand of asphalt would certainly be met by opposition from oil lobbyists in Washington which could promise enough campaign contributions to federal politicians in order to hold up California's installation of these solar panel roadways, parking lots, and sidewalks.

Water Conservation

Third, in addition to desalination, the Yes California water plan for an independent California must also include a pillar of conservation. We as a nation cannot perpetually consume water in excess and expect the next generation of Californians to have water for themselves. That is why the country of California must make it a priority to teach and develop water conservation methods in schools, and to help homeowners and business owners install technologies on their



properties that conserve water usage, such as dual-flush toilets, and water-saving aerators on faucets. The Government of California passed a law this year to prohibit homeowners associations from banning artificial turf in an effort to further reduce water consumption and we need more ideas like that.

A Transcontinental Water Pipeline

Fourth, what about building a water pipeline from Alaska or Canada where water is plentiful, and delivering it to California? There is a lot of political talk about an oil pipeline traversing five American states from Canada to Texas in order to bring tar sands oil to refineries in Houston. If that is possible, certainly a water pipeline from Canada crossing through two American states makes even more sense. An independent California could negotiate this deal directly with Canada and work with the United States to make it a mutually-beneficial arrangement, such as by pointing out how much water U.S. military bases and their respective personnel in California consume and demand every day. If the Americans want to maintain their military bases in California, it will be fair to insist they cooperate with us in bringing in extra water via pipeline through Washington and Oregon to support those bases.

A Growing Population Needs More Water

Fifth, as far as water infrastructure goes, with California's taxes kept in California, we will have more than enough money to repair, maintain and even build new water infrastructure to support our growing population. California's population has doubled since 1960 and it is expected to keep growing. All those new Californians will require access to water and we must have the independence and the money that comes with that independence to build more reservoirs and other vital infrastructure in order to store, clean and transport water across California from whatever source.

The overall importance of water and its history and relationship to the growth and expansion of California dates back over 250 years to 1769 when the first the permanent Spanish settlements established water rights laws. Since then (and clearly for the last half century), California has been embroiled in a vicious fight over defining the "who, what, when, where, why and how" of water and related rights including



ownership, collection and the ever-important concept of “allocation”. What’s sad (yet incredibly interesting) is that in just over 250 years, the federal and state governments have fought over water again and again, resulting in the passage of over a hundred piecemeal acts. Combined these measures have nearly crippled California’s ability to actually deliver enough water to its people.

Reevaluating The Doctrine Of Prior Appropriation

On a final note, we do feel that we the people of California ought to re-evaluate the doctrine of prior appropriation as it pertains to water rights. Prior appropriation, some say, is outdated and hurts California’s ability to address periods of severe drought. Others say the system still fundamentally works but the truth of the matter is that conflicts between prior appropriation and public trust use of water are commonplace, especially in the western United States where water is a relatively scarce and the climate is widely arid. Many of these conflicts could be avoided if the people granted so-called “water rights” were instead issued permits to use water. The largely linguistic difference could go a long way to combating the misconception that the prior appropriation doctrine is an absolute protection of one’s access or right to water, which is in fact, owned collectively by the people.

The prior appropriation doctrine subjects the water rights of a property owner adjacent to a stream to whomever had the first claim to the water. This doctrine basically prioritizes the access to water resources on a seniority basis. The problem arises through the misconception that the water prior appropriation affords them is their water, transferable through title from one generation to another like land. The truth is that in California the water is owned by the people, collectively. Therefore, water rights are not really rights, but rather privileges which can be altered or amended with the changing availability of the resource or the changing needs of the people.

Water has long been subject to different legal classifications than land ownership. While the property rights of landowners are protected under the Fifth Amendment to the Constitution, water ownership rights have historically – and across civilizations even – not been included in that consideration.

In 1843, the English adopted a rule pertaining to percolating water that was adopted in the United States in *Katz v. Walkinshaw* by the



California Supreme Court in 1903. The rule stated that a land owner had the right to dig into his ground and apply whatever materials discovered under the surface of the land he owned to whichever purpose he so desired. There was a caveat to this all-encompassing right, however, that was added in future court decisions. The qualification was that a one could not maliciously divert water from the ground with the intent of injuring another landowner's access or use of the water. This is important as it establishes a history of the government regulating water so as to protect water access for all and to prevent negligent use thereof.

Around that same time, the Supreme Court of Washington State issued a ruling establishing the superiority of the state over the water rights of the individual or entity granted rights under prior appropriation. In *Issacs v. Barbar*, the Court cited earlier case law which declared that prior appropriation afforded miners working on federal lands a better right to use of the percolating groundwater than any other users. Specifically, Mr. Justice Field wrote that the first appropriator to put the water to beneficial use was to be regarded as the source of title in all controversies relating to the property, except as against the government.

In fact, the source of all title in the United States defaults to the government – whether it be state or federal. Indeed, the soil of the original thirteen colonies was claimed by Great Britain and ceded to the new United States upon conclusion of the revolutionary war and other lands and territories acquired by the United States later on were ceded to it from other entities, as well. Thus the original landowner, in simple terms, has always been the Government of the United States. In our case, California was militarily conquered by the United States and as a condition of statehood, Congress forbade Californians from questioning their authority over our lands and resources.

The Fifth Amendment to the Constitution holds that no person shall be deprived of life, liberty or property without due process of law. It also states that private property may not be taken without just compensation. While on the surface this appears to protect property owners and solidify their authority over their land, this is not the case. The Amendment merely gives the government an avenue to reclaim its land from landowners. Due process is a citizen's right to fair treatment in the judicial system. Eminent domain is the authority the government has reserved for itself to take private property for public use. This due process merely ensures just compensation be paid, for the



landowner has no right to the land when the government has another purpose for it. In this way, even property rights not absolute.

Considering water rights are even more fragile than land rights, individual ownership of the groundwater is even less ensured. This principle of eminent domain, according to the Department of Justice as recently as 2010, has been used by the government to supply cities with drinking water and for the maintenance of navigable waters. In conclusion, the government ultimately owns the all the land in the country. For various reasons, they essentially allow the people to occupy it and even call it their own until such a time arises that the government needs to reclaim this land for a great public good. With this land comes all the materials below the surface including the percolating groundwater. This is a resource the government has been more reluctant to allot to the individual citizen, and steps in when necessary to overrule prior appropriation.

The best way to resolve the conflicts surrounding prior appropriation rights and public trust use of water is a public education campaign that informs the population of the truth that the government – or the people, depending on your point of view – is the true owner of the resources within the territories of the United States. If this were the case and holders of so-called water rights understood that their rights were, in fact, privileges granted by the government, there could be no reason for an original appropriator of a water resource to dispute government action to limit their allocation when resource availability or the needs of the people change.

Using Eminent Domain To Secure The People's Water

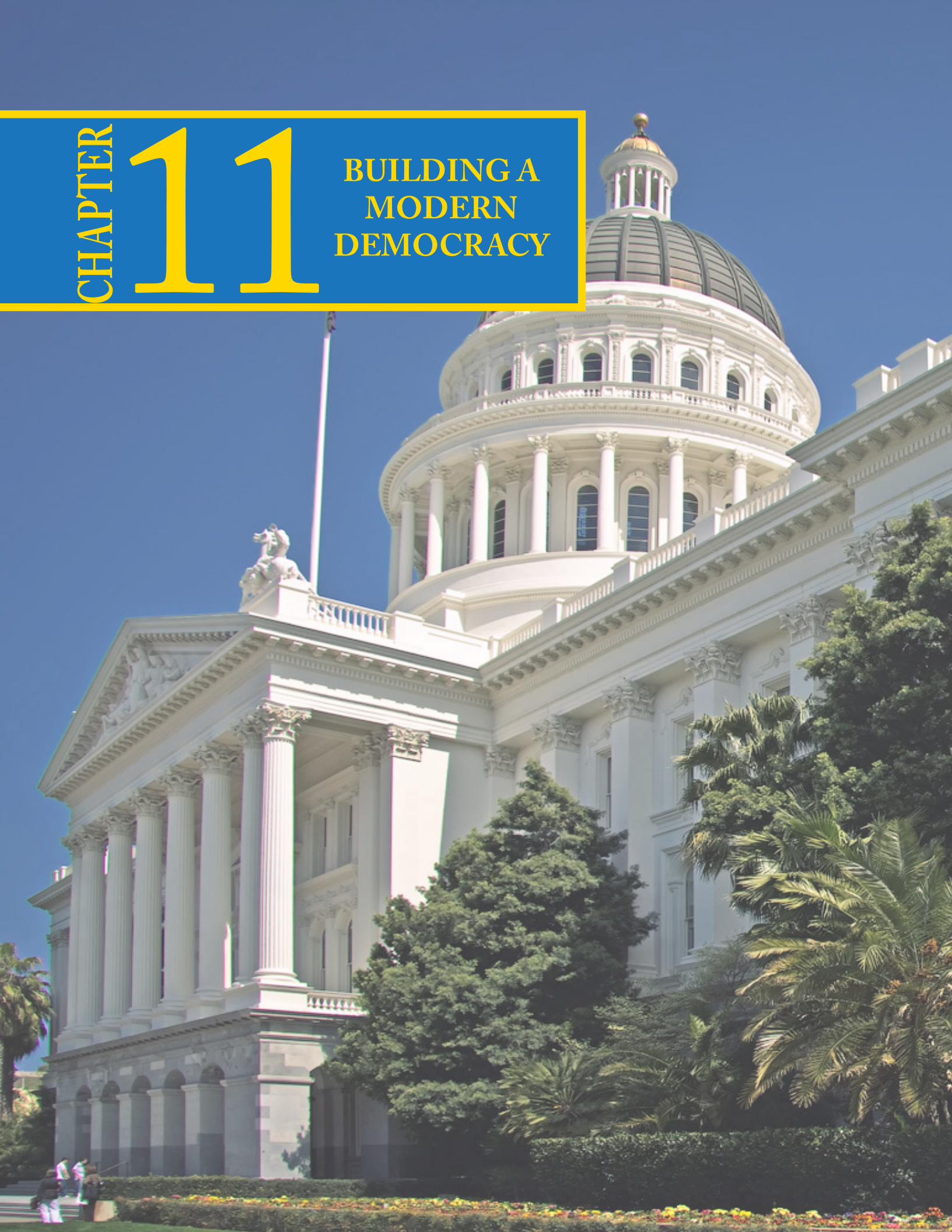
In an independent California, we will make it clear that the people are the collective owners of California's precious natural resources, including the water. We will use eminent domain to assert the people's right to access these resources, including the groundwater, and then issue water permits based on the greatest utility or beneficial use instead of obsolete prior appropriation rules dating back to the Gold Rush. The new Government of California should therefore establish a water permit control board responsible for reviewing applications for water permits and approving them based not only on the extent to which the planned water use is advantageous to society, but perhaps more importantly, based on the fluctuating availability of the resource.



CHAPTER

11

BUILDING A
MODERN
DEMOCRACY



KEYPOINTS

- Currently we live in a system with many problems regarding representation, political parties, powerful lobbyists, and dark money.
- The State Assembly should be reorganized into the California National Assembly, and be comprised of members elected by a national vote on an open or closed party list system of proportional representation.
- The State Senate should be reorganized to be comprised of one senator representing each of California's 58 states.
- *Citizens United* was one of the most egregious assaults on democracy in our lifetime and independence will free us from the consequences of that disastrous ruling.
- California should embrace reforms including digital signatures, e-voting, open source democracy, and public financing for campaigns.

A Modern Democracy

One of the most exciting consequences of independence will be the ability to restore faith in our system of government by modernizing our democracy. Currently we live in a system with many flaws, including disproportionate representation, a two-party system, powerful lobbyists that control our elected representatives, and wealthy private and corporate donors whose voice in government drowns out the voice of the people. In the new California we are going to build, we will address each of these issues while also implementing other reforms to build a modern democracy for the 21st Century.

The National Assembly (of proportional representation)

Currently, California has a bicameral legislature like the United States Congress. Our lower chamber has 80 members and is known as the Assembly, and our upper chamber has forty members and is known as the Senate. The members of each of these chambers come from



districts established by an independent commission that draws the district lines based on census data. There are many problems with this model and an independent California should completely overhaul the way the people choose their representatives in Sacramento, and where those representatives come from.

One problem with the current system is that the urban areas of California are well-represented while rural California doesn't have enough voice in Sacramento. This problem is so profound, in fact, that for years there has been an effort by some in California's northernmost counties to secede from California to form a new state called Jefferson. Although their goal is unlikely to be achieved, the supporters of this movement are both serious and passionate about their movement.

On September 3, 2013 the Siskiyou County Board of Supervisors voted 4-1 to break away from California. In the following months, seven more of California's northernmost counties similarly voted (some unanimously) to join with Siskiyou county to form the state of Jefferson. Two of these counties plan to hold a public vote of secession in 2016, and three of them have filed their official declarations of independence with the California Secretary of State's office.

What motivates this desire to secede from California? In their own words, Sacramento doesn't acknowledge "the needs of the people inhabiting the most rugged and wild environments" of California, and they feel these areas are "under-represented, overburdened and neglected." Yes California believes a concerted effort must be undertaken to provide adequate representation and appropriate attention to the needs of the rural areas of California and our plan to reorganize the legislature achieves that goal.

When it comes to reforming the State Assembly into a parliament called the California National Assembly, there are a number of possible configurations that can be considered. Yes California supports the party list voting system, but the specifics of how the people of California will be represented in Sacramento is a momentous decision that must be made by the people.

First, California should adopt a national party list voting system, considered the most common form of proportional representation. Instead of choosing one candidate over another, each political party would establish a list of eighty candidates, equal to the number of seats in the Assembly. Voters would then cast one vote indicating



their preference for a political party and the parties would then be apportioned seats in proportion to their share of the vote. The larger a party's share of the national vote, the more candidates from their list are elected to the Assembly.

For example, California has eighty seats in the Assembly. According to the Public Policy Institute of California (PPIC), 43 percent of likely voters were registered Democrats in 2015. Under this form of proportional representation, the Democratic Party would likely receive about that percentage of the National Assembly vote. The Democrats would then be apportioned forty-three percent of the seats in the Assembly (34 seats) and the top 34 candidates listed on the Democratic Party list would therefore be elected to the Assembly. If Democrat-leaning independents cast their votes for the Democratic Party, their seat allocation would be higher.

The PPIC also indicates that Republican voter registration is down about three points from 2011. The Republican Party could therefore rely on receiving about 28 percent of the National Assembly vote. The Republicans would then be able to send the top 22 candidates from their party list to the Assembly. If Republican-leaning independents cast their votes for the Republican Party, their seat allocation would be higher.

This is where the good news comes in. At this point, we have accounted for only 56 seats in the 80-seat Assembly. Democrat and Republican-leaning independents would not have to choose between a Democrat or a Republican, or having their vote not matter. This system of proportional representation would allow other parties to be elected to the National Assembly because unaffiliated voters would be able to cast their vote for their true party preference and that party would be allocated a number of seats proportional to its share of the vote (Even if a party received 10 percent of the vote, it would be allocated 8 seats, or ten percent of the Assembly seats).

From the above example, the other 24 seats would likely be shared by California's three other qualified political parties. No one political party with a majority of the National Assembly means that the political parties would be forced to form coalitions, incorporate a broad range of ideas from various parties, and work together to govern the country of California.



At a time when Democrats and Republicans are seeing their voter registrations fall and the bloc of independent and unaffiliated voters is rising, California would do well by so many disenfranchised voters by employing a system of proportional representation as outlined here. This would undoubtedly reinvigorate democracy in California and give voters a real reason to vote – every vote counts! Imagine that. This system would additionally make the political parties more responsible because they would not be able to count on “safe districts” that had previously been consistently won by one party or another before this new system was adopted.

Picture this: both the bleeding-heart liberal in Bakersfield and the tea party conservative in San Francisco would have equal reason to vote because they could each increase their party's total share of the National Assembly vote. As things are now, there is little reason to participate as a liberal in a conservative district, or as a conservative in a liberal district, because the candidate with a majority of the vote wins and every other voter goes unrepresented.

Picture this: a political party proposes controversial legislation unpopular with the general public. No one legislator would be protected in a “safe district” and in the next National Assembly vote, that party's share of the national vote would fall. Consequently, their number of seats in the National Assembly would drop proportionately, and the other political parties would have more seats.

Another possible variant of this National Assembly vote would give voters the opportunity to not just indicate their preference for a party, but also for a particular candidate, something Yes California supports. This is how most modern democracies in Europe conduct their elections today. Fundamentally, the system works the same as previously described but voters are presented by an unordered and randomized list of candidates and they would be instructed to choose one candidate on the ballot. Their vote would count for the candidate specifically chosen, as well as for that candidate's party.

In this way, voters are still choosing a party preference and seats are still allocated to the parties based on their total share of the votes received, but popular candidates individually selected on each list rise to the top of their respective party's list, and those candidates would be elected to the Assembly first. In other words, the voters, not the parties, would get to choose which candidates are on the top of the list and in which order they are elected to the Assembly (A wholly



unpopular candidate would fall to the 80th slot on their party list, making their election virtually impossible unless their party received 100% of the national vote).

Members of the National Assembly would serve a term of two years, and have one vote. There would be a Speaker of the Assembly, but not a prime minister as is the case in most other parliamentary systems. The executive power of government will continue to be vested in the President of California.

The Senate (of equal representation)

California's 58 counties will become states of California upon independence. As part of our plan to build a modern democracy, we also understand the need to provide a better balance of representation. Specifically, there is an urgent need to afford better representation to California's rural states than the currently enjoy.

As such, Yes California supports an overhaul of the California Senate to allow for each state of California to send one senator to Sacramento to represent the people of that state, and the manner in which each state elects its senator should remain a decision of the state, in accordance with our support for the devolution of powers from Sacramento to local governments.

Each senator would serve a term of four years, and have one vote. As a suggestion, Yes California would like to suggest that the states select their senator indirectly, or through their legislatures, as was done in the United States prior to the ratification of the 16th Amendment. This would provide state governments with a voice in Sacramento, reduce the influence of money in elections, and provide a buffer between knee-jerk public reactions, and the composition of the Senate.

Getting Money Out Of Politics

Second, the *Citizens United vs. FEC* ruling by the U.S. Supreme Court is one of the most egregious assaults on democracy in our lifetime. Although there are calls for a constitutional amendment to prohibit corporate front groups like Karl Rove's American Crossroads and the Koch brothers' Americans for Prosperity from spending unlimited amounts of dark money from undisclosed sources, the political



animosity that exists in Washington and around the Nation today makes the passage of a constitutional amendment unrealistic.

The sad truth is that the Supreme Court in its ruling abandoned some of the founding principles that guided the establishment of the United States, further illustrating the point that the country we live in today is not the same as the once noble and great country that existed early on. In fact, in the *Citizens United* ruling, the Supreme Court crushed the hopes of Thomas Jefferson, who said:

“I hope we shall crush in its birth the aristocracy of our moneyed corporations, which dare already to challenge our government to a trial of strength and bid defiance to the laws of our country.”

California's independence from the United States will automatically free California from the consequences of the *Citizens United* ruling, and start us off with a clean slate. Upon this clean slate, California should adopt the following reforms to modernize our democracy.

It should go without saying that as a separate country, political expenditures and campaign contributions from citizens the United States and American corporations alike will be prohibited, just as contributions from foreign sources are currently prohibited today.

We must also crush the aristocracy of the corporations as Thomas Jefferson had hoped we would crush. Specifically, we must ban corporations from spending unlimited amounts of money to influence our elections. We must also shed light on dark money by requiring that the political expenditures corporations do make are disclosed publicly. In doing so, we will be able to move forward with legislation that benefits the people of California.

For example, in a country where corporate electioneering is stringently regulated and limited:

- legislation to raise the minimum wage will not be killed by corporations interested in profits over employee welfare;
- legislation to improve housing standards will not be killed by property management and real estate corporations more interested in protecting their profits;
- legislation to provide a clean, unpolluted environment, and to



reduce the human impact on climate change will not be killed by the fossil fuel industry and by well-funded climate change skeptics;

- legislation to provide people with access to healthy and unmodified food will not be killed by GMO corporations more interested in their monopoly over food than the health of our people;
- legislation to help small businesses compete by cutting red tape will not be killed by corporations that can afford a highly-regulated business environment and support regulations as a method of diminishing market competition.
- legislation to restore the ability of students to attend college without graduating under a mountain of debt will not be killed by private banking corporations that profit from student loans;
- legislation to provide universal healthcare access to all Californians will not be killed by for-profit health and big pharmaceutical corporations more interested in profits than healthcare.

Public Financing Of Political Campaigns

Third, restoring campaign finance limits and shedding light on dark money is not enough. In an independent California, we will remove the influence of big money on our elections by requiring that all candidates receive public financing for their campaigns. Not only will this remove the influence of deep-pocketed donors but it will also provide a level playing field on which candidates may be chosen based on their ideas, their experience, their record, and their platform – not how much money they are able to raise to build name recognition and get their message out to the public.

Private individuals and corporations will still be able to make independent political expenditures to influence the election but they will do so subjected to the limits the Fair Political Practices Commission establishes in accordance with the campaign finance laws we will be able to restore upon gaining our independence. The public financing of campaigns would only apply to a candidate's campaign during the general election season, meaning that candidates would still have to fund-raise in accordance with campaign finance laws to make it through the primary.



Electronic Signatures And Voting

Fourth, with Silicon Valley in the heart of California, we can and must create a technologically modern election process by doing a number of things, each of which will encourage voter participation and engagement. One of the necessary technology upgrades California must make to modernize its democracy by allowing digital signatures.

Today across this country (and the world), people have the capacity of using credit cards, making purchases, transferring money, signing contracts, and performing a host of other important acts which require a signature, and they can do so with a digital signature. In California, it is already possible to register to vote on-line with a digital signature. California must make it possible for people to sign ballot initiative petitions and even to vote with a digital signature on a smart device, or on-line. Certainly the Government of California must take a great deal of care to ensure that the digital system is secure and is able to verify the authenticity and identify of a voter. The point is this: in an age when it is possible to register to vote, open a bank account, transfer money, make payments, sign contracts, and sign loan promissory notes on-line with a digital signature after one's identity has been confirmed and signature authenticated, we should also be able to participate in the democratic process in a similar fashion.

Imagine a California where you could vote or sign a ballot initiative petition with your smart phone, tablet, or PC by submitting your signature by finger or stylus pen, or by PIN if using a laptop computer. On top of that, most new smart devices have the capability of scanning fingerprints, something many people use today as a method of unlocking their devices. The ability to scan fingerprints provides a third option beyond a signature and PIN for those willing to submit their fingerprint during voter registration.

Implementing this reform will not only make elections more efficient by reducing the need of counting paper ballots, but it will make them cheaper by reducing the need to buy, transport, maintain, and repair expensive voting machines. Voting precincts will instead be equipped with government-issued tablets. Likewise, precinct volunteers could be dispatched to public areas with tablets to not only remind people to vote, but actually provide them the chance to do so right on the spot. In addition to these benefits, electronic voting will also reduce voter apathy amongst 18-29 year olds, and encourage more within this age group to participate.



Translated Ballots And Petitions

Fifth, in addition to creating a platform for digital signatures and e-voting, California must embrace its diversity by allowing ballot initiative petitions to be circulated in any language, provided the translation of the document has been done professionally. This would certainly be much less expensive and more efficient if done in conjunction with the digital signatures reform, but the need for translated petitions and ballots stands on its own. In an independent California, people whose first language is other than English will be able to read a citizen's initiative petition, as well as the general ballot in their native language. This will not only serve the benefit of speakers of other languages, but it will also encourage more participation.

Open Source Democracy

Sixth, in order to demonstrate to the people of California that we take their input seriously and want the government to function of, by, and for the people, California should develop an additional on-line resource that will completely revolutionize the way the people interact with their representatives. Specifically, California should develop a "marketplace of ideas" where citizens could propose ideas (for free) that would get voted up or down by other citizens based on their popularity with the general public. Proposals that reached a certain threshold or otherwise demonstrated widespread public support would then be taken up for consideration by the National Assembly.

Implementing this type of reform would make it clear that Sacramento is of, by, and for the people. Imagine a California where people had an avenue to bypass the politicians and get their ideas directly onto the floor of the National Assembly. Granted, the proposals would still be voted up or down by the politicians, but they would at least be taken up for consideration and the parties would be forced to take a stance on them. This open source form of government would be a vital piece to the puzzle of modernizing California's democracy, and would further encourage voter participation, particularly among young adults.

Lowering The Voting Age

On a final note, Yes California is particularly dedicated to reducing



voter apathy and encouraging young adults to participate in the democratic process. That is why we believe e-voting and open source democracy are such important reforms to undertake.

However, in conjunction with a new and improved civics component to the public high school curriculum, an independent California should also consider reducing the voting age to 16. This would demonstrate to California's youth that they have a say in the way things work in our new country, but ultimately this is a policy that will have to be decided locally at the state level.

Extended Voting Opportunities

In addition to these reforms, Yes California believes California should have a three-day voting period in order give people every chance possible to cast their vote in the elections.

During this three-day period, campaigning would be suspended, allowing people to digest the information, have a chance to visit their voting precinct at their convenience, login to vote on-line from the comfort of their homes, be approached by a mobile precinct volunteer with a smart device, be reminded to vote via text message, or have the chance to vote by telephone, using an automated system that would validate their identify much in the way banks verify the identities of its callers before routing their calls to an agent.

Simply put, we want to make it as convenient and simple as possible to vote, and we have the technology and knowhow to do so. In 2015, the California Legislature passed a bill that would automatically register voters via driver license renewals in hopes of encouraging more voter participation. Yes California believes a genuine attempt to increase voter participation must include some or all of these proposals.



CHAPTER

12

OUR BALLOT
INITIATIVES &
CANDIDATES



KEYPOINTS

- This campaign for independence is already underway. Yes California has been traveling across California for over a year now, frequenting Sacramento, Los Angeles, the Central Valley, and San Diego.
- Additionally, Yes California has already filed a number of ballot initiatives to get the ball rolling on various aspects of transforming California from a state to a country, particularly the symbolic aspects.
- Yes California is also working to establish a new political party whose primary platform tenet would be to establish the country of California. This party is called the California National Party.
- Louis Marinelli, president of Yes California, is a candidate for the Assembly in the 80th District running on a platform of independence, and specifically on the issues outlined in this publication.

The Campaign Has Already Begun

California's Future is not just a statement of what we intend to do but also a collection of what we've already been working to accomplish. We have already submitted nine ballot initiatives to the California Attorney General's office in hopes of putting many of the issues in this publication on the 2016 ballot. Initiatives we don't qualify for 2016 will potentially make it on the 2018 ballot but the point is that this effort for California's nationhood is underway.

A State Panel To Investigate Independence

The first ballot initiative Yes California proposed was called "A New Hope for California" and it creates a state panel to keep track of federal policies that hurt California. If enacted, the panel will also determine if our relationship with the United States needs to be changed or not - in other words, would it be in our interests to become a country? Yes California believes California needs and deserves to



become a country but this panel will provide us with an objective resource with information for all Californians before we make any decisions on any future independence referendum. After all, Yes California wants this entire process to be honest and genuine, and for a yes vote for independence to reflect an educated collective decision of the people of California.

The California National Flag Act

Next, we filed “The California National Flag Act” which orders the display of California’s bear flag as California’s national flag in position of first honor. If California is to be a country, we need to start acting like one but beyond that we take issue with the American flag being more important than our own, especially with what the American flag has come to represent in this day and age.

Meanwhile, California’s flag is not associated with America’s colonialism, America’s military and economic imperialism, America’s foreign wars, America’s use of nuclear weapons on civilian populations, America’s self-imposed role as the global police, America’s strategy of regime change, America’s covert military and intelligence operations, America’s war crimes including the use of torture, or America’s hypocritical international rhetoric on human rights while minorities in America continue to be discriminated against and women continue to work for unequal pay. In short, using the bear flag as our national flag, gives California a fresh, clean start on building our own image, as opposed to the baggage that America’s flag currently carries.

California Independence In State Elections Act

The next initiative we filed was called the “California Independence in State Elections Act” which prohibits election money originating from non-residents of California. This law bars candidates or committees from collecting campaign contributions from residents of other states. When it comes to state elections and state ballot measures, our future should be decided exclusively by Californians who live in California and have a vested interest in California’s future. Did you know that over \$80 million dollars from out of state was funneled into California’s elections in 2014 alone? Some of this money supported getting a referendum on the ballot in 2016 to overturn a law



passed by our legislators that would have banned plastic bags.

The President Of California Act

Our fourth ballot measure was called “The President of California Act” which is quite simple. This Constitutional Amendment amends the title of the elected position of “Governor” to that of an elected position of “President”. While this is largely a symbolic move, it is nonetheless an important symbolic move based on the fact that California is a republic, California is a separate nation that should be its own independent country, and the title of the elected leader of a country with a Republican form of government is a *president*.

The California Immigration Reform Act

On April 20, 2015 during our Advocacy Day in Sacramento, we filed a fifth initiative called the California immigration Reform Act that establishes a state agency to provide a number of immigration benefits and protections to individuals present in California with or without authorization from the Federal Government by requiring registration upon arrival (in order to issue immigrant residency cards), the payment of state income taxes, and a criminal background check.

This 16–page immigration reform package we put together takes action to provide immigration relief for the approximate three million undocumented immigrants who should be able to earn a college degree, find gainful employment, and support their families without living in fear of deportation. Eventually an independent California with control of its own borders will be able to do more, such as establish a guest worker program, but for now we can use our existing powers of a state to issue documents to the undocumented and ignore their federal immigration status.

After all, our federal taxes already go to supporting the federal immigration system, including its enforcement apparatus. Our state income taxes shouldn't be used to supplement this entirely federal responsibility. Our local law enforcement resources, which are also supported by state income taxes, shouldn't be allocated to immigration enforcement activities, and we as a people ought to resist federal authorities separating undocumented immigrant relatives from their U.S. citizen family members, or the communities in which they have



set their roots and built their lives.

The California Groundwater Preservation Act

Our sixth initiative addressed the issue of bottled water in California. Yes California believes it is fundamentally wrong that multi-national corporations like Nestle come to California, take our water from under our drought-stricken feet, and sell it back to us and people in other states in plastic bottles for massive profits.

If California is to be a country we must have the ability to control our own natural resources and included in that is the idea of requiring private corporations to pay a fair price for our most precious resource – potable drinking water.

The California Nationhood Referendum

Our seventh initiative was the California Nationhood Referendum, which is working to put the question of nationhood on the 2020 ballot. Remember, Californians were never afforded the right to vote on a referendum to join the Union in the first place when every other state was required to demonstrate their voluntary desire to become a state by holding a vote prior to being granted statehood by Congress¹.

The Preservation And Modernization Of Democracy Act

Eighth, we filed an initiative to modernize our direct democracy system by allowing citizens to sign a ballot initiative digitally with a smart phone or tablet, and by allowing petitioners to circulate petitions professionally translated into other languages. Both of these provisions will encourage voter participation and foster an environment of inclusiveness in California.

Chief Of Protocol For California's International Relations Act

Ninth, and finally, we proposed an initiative to get the ball rolling on California's new role on the world stage by expanding the Secretary of State's office to include the role of managing the state's diplomatic relations and by establishing embassies in other countries.



Running Candidates For Elected Office

However, ballot initiatives are expensive to qualify for the ballot and their campaigns to win a majority vote are expensive to run. Experts estimate petitioners need a few million dollars per initiative to just get it on the ballot. Political progress again stifled by the issue of money in politics, we've decided to shift our strategy from qualifying ballot initiatives to electing candidates to the legislature who will propose these ideas on the floor of the State Assembly and Senate instead.

Overall, electing one Assembly member is much less expensive than qualifying one ballot measure yet an elected Assembly member has the ability of proposing multiple bills in a single legislative session. That is why an effort is underway to elect candidates under this Independence Platform to the State Assembly in 2016.

The California National Party

In California's 80th Assembly District, Louis Marinelli, whom has been labeled by the media as the "anti-Trump candidate for California State Assembly", is running a grassroots, door-to-door campaign against incumbent Lorena Gonzalez, an Democratic Assemblywoman elected in 2013 in a special election to replace Ben Hueso. Marinelli is running as the first candidate of the California National Party.

The interesting thing to point out is this new party welcomes candidates from different ends of the ideological spectrum. Marinelli, quite socially liberal, is a proud card-carrying member of the American Civil Liberties Union, the proponent of the California Immigration Reform Act that would provide documents to three million undocumented immigrants in California, and the author of this publication.

On the other hand, other members of the California National Party are passionate about issues like protecting privacy, expanding economic opportunities, protecting California's position in the world, moving the UN to California, fighting crime, and ensuring that California farmers have enough water to keep food prices down. To support our efforts to run candidates, our party has adopted a set of candidate principals. The principles include a willingness to



promote the concept that California is now a nation within a nation. Additionally, candidates must recognize diversity and equality as an essential characteristic of California's culture. Furthermore, candidates must be committed to working within the system to using legal means to peacefully declare independence from the United States.

Finally, our candidates resolve to put their ideological differences aside in order to promote California's future recognition as a country, both domestically and internationally; to pursue policies that move California towards financial independence from the Federal Government of the United States; to promote the California national identity; to prioritize the interests of Californians and California ahead of the interests of people of any other state; to pursue the legal transfer of authority from the Federal Government to the California government; and to support the empowerment of local and county governance in California.

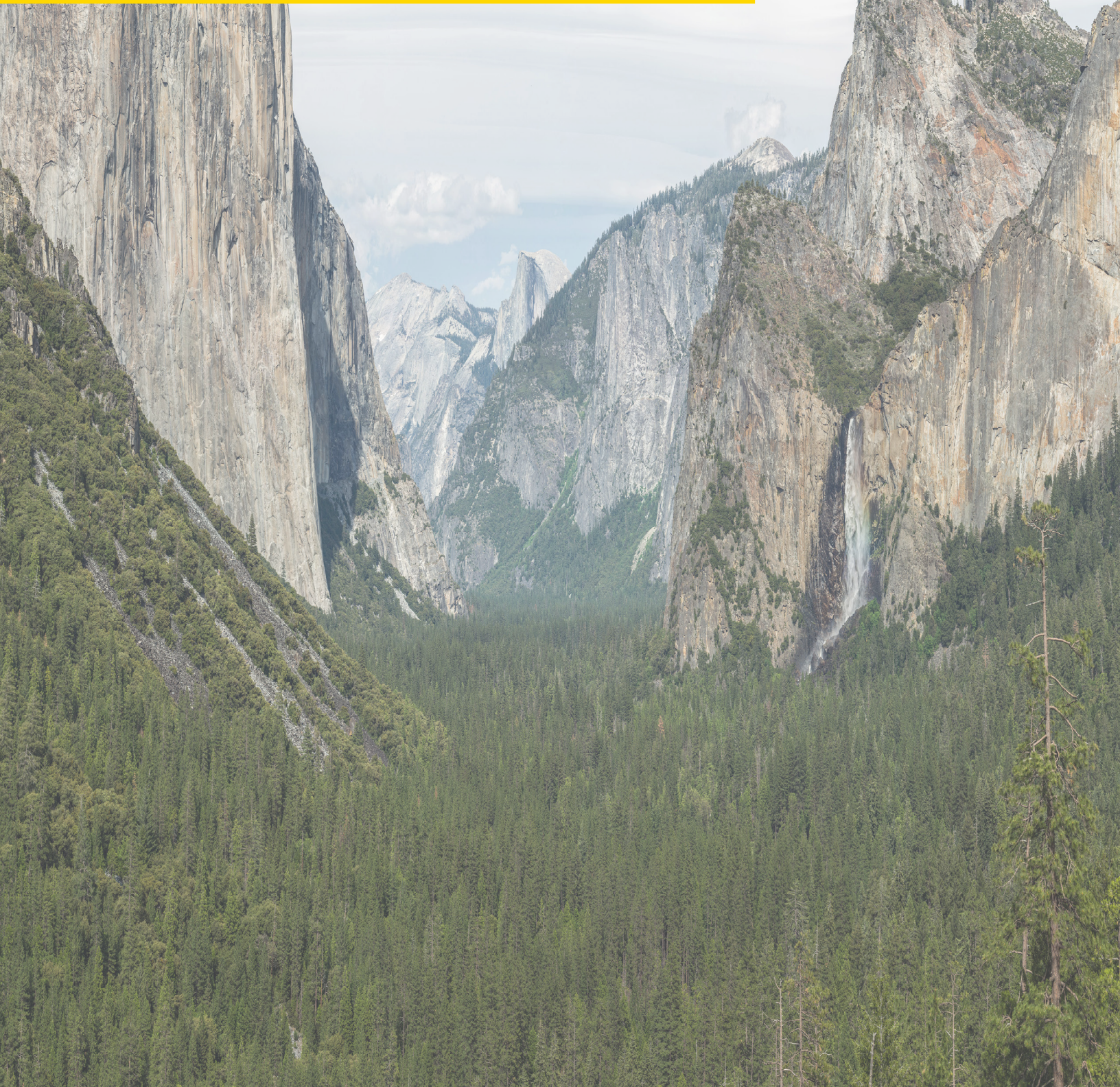
So reads the mission statement of the California National Party that Yes California and Marinelli are working to qualify as a political party. Imagine a California where Californians of different beliefs work towards common goals that supersede ideology. That is the kind of California we are going to build once we declare our independence and establish the country of California.



CHAPTER

13

CONCLUSION



California has what it takes to be a financially-solvent and prosperous country. With a GDP greater than \$2.2 trillion, we have an economy comparable to Russia; with nearly forty million people, we have a population comparable to Poland. With the amount we produce, our volume of our exports is comparable to the volume of products Malaysia exports. Point by point, California compares more with other countries than it does to other American states.

That is why during his term in office, Governor Schwarzenegger worked with legislators to establish the California Trade Mission Program, starting with the first mission being placed in Israel. As it became up and running, Governor Schwarzenegger then worked with California leaders to expand collaboration and tourism between California and Israel, establishing a model that we can use around the world. Governor Schwarzenegger worked hard to promote California's business interests in Japan and other parts of Asia.

At one time, it was reported that he said, "One of the important things is to go out and to sell California, because we have so much to offer, and to let Japan and the rest of the world know that we are open for business and that this is a new California."

In 2007, Schwarzenegger went to China with a delegation of 75 to promote every aspect of California in an effort to attract and encourage Chinese investment in California. His trip culminated in the first ever shipment of California strawberries to Beijing just in time for the 2008 Summer Olympics. He also traveled with a delegation of 60 to Mexico that same year in order to promote our interests there.

Later in 2007, Schwarzenegger went to Canada, where he again promoted California business interests and began discussing strategies to reduce the human impact on climate change with foreign leaders.

In 2008, Schwarzenegger hosted President Michelle Bachelet of Chile. During that visit, Schwarzenegger reaffirmed California's desire to strengthen cooperative ties with Chile and the two signed the "California-Chile Partnership for the 21st Century Agreement" during her visit.

The following year, Schwarzenegger traveled to Germany to attend CeBIT in 2009, the world's largest technology trade fair. There, California was named the first official U.S. state partner with CeBIT.



Schwarzenegger also met with German Chancellor Angela Merkel during that visit.

In 2010, Schwarzenegger visited China, Japan, and South Korea. There he promoted California products and tourism, met with high-speed rail officials, and helped forge business relationships between California and Asian businesspeople. Schwarzenegger returned to California with a \$1 billion dollar investment pledge by Hyundai to create jobs in Orange County.

That same year, Schwarzenegger visited Russia where he met with senior government officials and business leaders. During that trip he also met with British Prime Minister David Cameron. Together they visited British troops to whom he had a chance to speak.

“It’s because you,” Schwarzenegger said, “For hundreds of years, have fought for the freedom, to keep these countries free and to keep these countries strong and to have the freedom of speech. Many countries in the world don’t have that.”

During his term in office, Schwarzenegger made numerous other foreign trips, including one to Copenhagen for a United Nations Climate Summit, another to France to meet with President Sarkozy, another to London to meet with Prime Minister Tony Blair on his last day in office, another to Milan to participate in the World Regional Forum, and another to Vancouver to attend the 2010 Winter Olympics. His actions increased California’s image, spurred the purchase and use of California products and services, and firmly established our role as an international leader in many fields, with Technology and Agriculture as the leaders.

When Jerry Brown returned to the Governor’s Office, he signed an executive order early on signed early on in his Administration to establish California’s own relations with Native American tribes independent of all agreements between those tribes and the Federal Government of the United States.

Like Schwarzenegger, Brown worked to expand the Trade Mission Program, establishing a trade mission in Shanghai, China, just like the one California opened in Israel a decade earlier. Besides traveling internationally and meeting with foreign leaders, however, Brown has made some important comments about California.



For instance, in 2014, Brown remarked that if California “could have Ireland’s tax rate, we’d be very wealthy, we’d become an independent country.” Later that year, Brown led a trade delegation to Mexico to boost bilateral trade and investment opportunities, and expanded environmental and economic cooperation. He also met with Mexican President Enrique Peña Nieto and other Central American leaders about the humanitarian crisis involving children migrating to the United States via Mexico.

In 2015, Brown again touted California’s international influence, this time in the fight against climate change, stating that California is “a separate nation”. Brown increased California’s international credentials when he hosted several international leaders from eleven different states and provinces to sign a historic climate change agreement in 2015, and was invited by the Pope in the Vatican City to discuss climate change and modern slavery shortly thereafter.

Clearly this timeline spanning the past decade demonstrates how California’s chief executives have generally behaved more like the presidents of a country than the governor of a state. However, it is not just the leaders of California that understand California is more like a country than a state. Former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton remarked in the first Democratic presidential debate of the 2016 election cycle that California was “as big as many countries in the world,” explaining how the United States should look at California’s successful adoption of a paid family leave act the United States has yet to pass. Clearly this idea is out there and people understand it.

In 2004, at about the same time Governor Schwarzenegger was establishing a trade mission in Israel, Patt Morrison of the Los Angeles Times published a column in that newspaper where she said it was time for California to be an independent republic again.

“The time has come once more to ‘dissolve the political bands’ that bind,” Morrison wrote, “specifically the ones that tether us to the United States like a milk cow to a Conestoga wagon.”

Morrison made a very interesting point in her column, speaking to people she knew wanted to leave the United States to escape the Texas-style Bush Administration. “Stop packing,” she said. “The California Republic is the answer, the way to live abroad with all the comforts of home.”



The California Republic is the answer

Do you want to escape America's foreign wars of aggression, government surveillance programs, and the militarization of the police but don't want to give up your home, culture, language, or your career?

The California Republic is the answer.

Do you want to live in a country where healthcare is a right guaranteed to all citizens, but don't want to move to Europe to get it?

The California Republic is the answer.

Do you want your children to attend the best schools, and be able to attend university without burying themselves under a mountain of debt, but don't want to give up UCLA, Caltech or Stanford?

The California Republic is the answer.

Do you want your roads, bridges, and freeways to be safe and in good working condition, but don't want to give up your favorite football, baseball, basketball, hockey, or other professional sports team?

The California Republic is the answer.

Do you want to have faith in our election process, get money out of politics, and ensure that every vote counts, but don't want to give up the Redwoods, the Sequoias, wine country, or the golden coasts?

The California Republic is the answer.

Do you want taxes and fees to be lower and at the same time improve public services, and reduce homelessness, but don't want to give up... living in beautiful California?

The California Republic the answer.

The California Republic is the answer to the problems we share with the "State" of California and the United States of America. It is the only bold and brave, yet clear and indisputable solution to the many problems that plague our society and hurt our families.



Throughout *California's Future*, Yes California has attempted to demonstrate several things, including the fact that we face an uphill battle to the fact that a vast new world is out there that we can benefit from. Yes California believes that an independent California can achieve the dreams you and I share for our own lives, our families, our societies, and our country, but we do have to dissolve the political bands that tie us to the United States in order to do it.

The first steps, on a symbolic level, include declaring our own national flag, giving the governor a title befitting the stature of that office, and establishing California Independence Day on June 14.

On a fiscal level, we have to devise a plan to make California financially independent of the Federal Government.

On the societal level, we have to restore trust in Sacramento by enacting a series of reforms to make it clear that California is back in the business of supporting Californians.

On a personal level, each of us needs to come to terms with the reality that the story about the United States that we have been fed since childhood is mostly historically inaccurate and mere propaganda.

Finally, we need to believe in ourselves as a people, and in the future country of California. The time is now for us to act. Yes California put this publication together in order to answer three questions: why California should be independent, how can it obtain its independence, and what we should do with that independence.

Now you know the answers and the question is:

What are you going to do about it?



Scan this QR code to be automatically directed to the California nationhood petition on-line, or visit: <http://www.yescalifornia.org/petition>









