



Weekly Update Aug 3 - 10, 2026

Disenfranchised Voters – Too Bad, So Sad

As the San Luis Obispo County Board of Supervisors was going about certifying the June primary election results, Supervisor Peschong asked our County Clerk Ilaina Cano about the number of votes that were disqualified due to late postmarks. In a shocking revelation, she explained that the post office doesn't always deliver mail in the most timely fashion. She went on to say that this is a big problem statewide.

We agree with Ms. Cano on that point. Nearly 3,000 voters had their ballot rejected in San Luis Obispo County because postal policies do not ensure that ballots are postmarked the day they are sent.

Perhaps we are beating a dead horse, and perhaps a few percent of votes being thrown out shouldn't ruin the integrity of the election process, but why can't we deliver on the basic promise that everybody's vote counts? Why aren't voters warned that the closer to the election, the less likely their vote will get counted?

In the case of San Luis Obispo voters, some of the mail travels to a main processing center in Goleta where it is sorted and postmarked. Apparently, this can add a couple days to the transit time for our mail to go from one part of the county to another. We can't help but wonder if this is a regional problem within our county. For example, are North County voters more likely to have this problem

than those from South County? We also wonder if there is any way for those thousands of voters who were shortchanged by the system to know that their vote was thrown out? We hope there is no opportunity for partisan shenanigans.

Cano's advice (post-election) was to take the mail-in ballot to the local post office, stand in line and watch the person at the post office stamp the current date on the return ballot. We can't help but wonder if most people are going to go through all that. Why not just go to the polling place and cast a ballot there?

Here is what Mr. Googly has to say about disqualified ballots in California:

In California's June 2, 2026, primary, **93,479 vote-by-mail ballots were disqualified due to late postmarks**, making it the largest single reason for rejections. State data show that a total of **148,241 mail ballots** were rejected in that election, representing **1.73% of all returned mail ballots** — the highest rejection rate for a California primary in over a decade. The late postmark category alone accounted for nearly two-thirds of all rejections, far exceeding the roughly 76,000 late ballots rejected in the 2024 primary and about 70,000 in 2022.

We stand by our criticism that our community leaders and the people running our election systems are always very dismissive about any potential for votes being disenfranchised. They would have everyone believe that the system has no faults, and everyone is guaranteed their vote will be counted. We now know that that is not true.



San Luis Obispo County Clerk Elaina Cano

We didn't see anything leading up to the election from Ms. Cano cautioning people to be wary of slow postal service. We didn't see anything from her suggesting that it might be better to go to the polling place and cast a physical ballot rather than to

rely on sending a ballot through the mail. But she's always quick to assure anyone who asks that the system is working just fine.



Good 'ol reliable Post Office – except when it isn't

When the California Secretary of State and the County Clerk make the vote by mail system the leading method for voters to cast their ballot, they have a responsibility to promote a system that works flawlessly. It's clear that they are aware of the problem with the post office, yet they do nothing about it.

Obviously, if a voter took the time to fill out their ballot and put it in the mail, they were expecting their vote to be counted. Does anybody have the moral fortitude to let those thousands of voters know that they were cancelled by a flawed system?

Yes, waiting until the last minute has consequences. That said, most voters are under the impression that they can post their ballot right up to election day. When will our flawed system start educating voters that they need to post their ballot early?

Reach Contract

The contract between the county and REACH (Regional Economic Action Coalition) that we covered a few months ago was up for some amendments at the July 28th BOS meeting. Readers might recall the contract is to create a list of potential economic development projects throughout the unincorporated parts of San Luis Obispo County.



At the time we called it an “inventory of opportunity” because no one else is really looking at all the kinds of economic development that could benefit our local economy and business community. We were excited to see some new ideas being kicked around.

Unfortunately, it's beginning to look like REACH will treat this as just another blah blah housing report. It was mentioned at the BoS meeting that REACH is working with the Planning and Building Department to look at housing regulations. We were under the impression that KPMG was working on ideas of how to improve our planning and building department.

We already have housing summits, housing subcommittees and housing associations. There seems to be a housing expert full of answers on every street corner. We have more presentations, graphs and pie charts about housing than probably any other issue in our community. They never result in anything productive.

REACH has the opportunity to bring forth projects such as light manufacturing, clean tech, hospitality, aerospace development, vocational and specialized education and other kinds of small to medium ventures that bring employees, attract investment, and foster opportunity in our community. We all know one of the biggest impediments with any good local idea is housing. However, we don't need another big fat study with lots of charts and graphs pointing out all the shortcomings of our silly planning process. We don't need to know that if only housing were cheaper, we would probably have a lot more economic development going on.

REACH

Ideas + Action for a Thriving Central Coast

Reach does great things for the community. They bring together all kinds of wonderful business opportunities. They highlight solutions. And they seek innovation. But what they don't do is tell their story very well.

Supervisor Gibson criticized REACH because he didn't think the taxpayers were getting value for their money from REACH. While we don't agree with him, we see how he could come to that conclusion. This contract is a fantastic opportunity for Reach to demonstrate just how much value they have to offer to the San Luis Obispo community. If they flub the project by making it about housing, Gibson will be proven right in many people's opinion.

We encourage the Board of Supervisors and the leadership at REACH to think beyond just housing. If REACH can bring something new to the discussion about housing, fine. However, the best opportunity for new ideas for economic growth and to bring vitality to our community is with all the other kinds of projects that make up economic development.

ICE Haters

About 40 Ice Haters showed up at the July 28 BoS meeting with the same old accusations about the San Luis Obispo County Sheriff. Their big beef was a misunderstanding about the resolution passed by the BoS a couple months ago that really does nothing but reaffirms the inability of the San Luis Obispo County Board of Supervisors to tell the United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement agency (ICE) how to do their job when they are in our community. Almost any ninny that got better than a D- in High School civics knows that a county government has no ability whatsoever to tell the federal government what to do. It's called the Supremacy Clause and can be found in Article VI, Clause 2 of the United States Constitution.



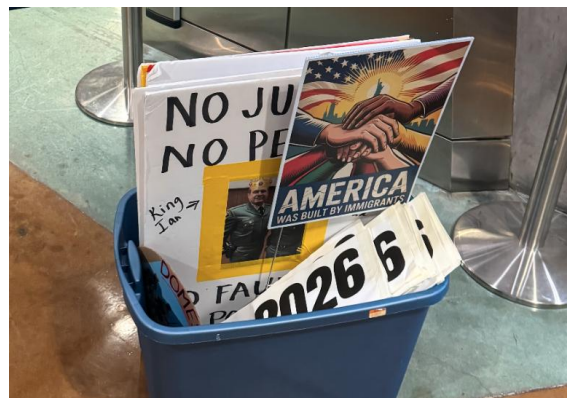
A good resource for ICE haters

ICE Haters were present several times when County Council advised the BoS that the law does not allow any subset of the public to be prohibited from public spaces such as lobbies and waiting rooms. According to County Council, it is possible to restrict people from entering nonauthorized spaces such as inner offices.



ICE haters are resolute in their desire to protect criminals

The BoS resolution restated County Council's position in a formal statement. The ICE Haters seem to have misread the resolution, because now they are saying the Sheriff is breaking the law by allowing ICE to enter the lobby of the jail.



Mass produced signs for faux grassroots ICE haters

Aside from not understanding the BoS resolution and not caring about our constitution, the ICE haters don't seem to fathom being respectful in public meetings. They continuously waived their mass-produced signs during serious

discussions about nonrelated issues and childishly positioned themselves behind speakers in order to get on camera. If this was some sort of attempt to appear threatening or purposely overbearing, it failed. The result was stupid annoyance.



A speaker on an unrelated subject gets the ICE hater sophomoric treatment

The ICE haters are complaining that 79 “of us” have been taken. They didn’t mention anything about federal warrants, nor did they mention anything about what was taken from the victims of many of those 79. Victims include women who have been assaulted and raped along with many people who endured violence.

One of the “demands” coming from the ICE haters is that the Board of Supervisors establish a “citizen oversight committee” to tell the elected (and highly qualified) Sheriff how to do the job.



Evidently, none of these folks have been crime victims

We are all for civil rights and due process, but we are also all for law enforcement removing dangerous law breakers from society whatever their nationality. We hope that none of the ICE haters become victims of violence or painful crime themselves, but we encourage them to become familiar with a few of those who have had traumatic, sometimes lifechanging, assaults from criminals.

Common Sense Buried in Bureaucracy

Supervisor Moreno requested a simple, common-sense amendment to the SLO County low-income housing regulations at the July 28 Bos meeting. She was met with a remarkable display of red tape bureaucracy.

She has a constituent who is building a multi-family four plex. The builder will comply with all conditions and requirements for the low income housing program. However, the current regulations require that the structure be condominium – with shared walls.



Moreno's request was that the shared walls requirement be waived or made optional when all other requirements are met. County Planning and Building staff reported that the change would not be a problem for staff.

The project that she is trying to assist in would not change in any way at all with the amendment except that the builder believes the end product would be more marketable as four stand alone units.

The majority of the board hemmed and hawed and attempted to refer the matter to the Housing Subcommittee. Moreno replied that it was a simple amendment and that she hoped the board could be nimble and accommodating rather than tie the request up in far too much discussion and wasted time.

It's hard to imagine what would cause any of the majority to want to delay such a good idea. They were clearly casting about trying to find a good excuse, but when they couldn't, they fell back to their love of slow, expensive and frustrating big government.

When the BoS next brings up the “housing crisis” as they often do, this example should be pointed out as precisely why we have a problem in the first place. We wish Moreno success in her efforts to bring this simple common-sense measure to reality – but we are not holding our breath.

Diablo Info Session

An overflow crowd attended the July 30 Information Session on the Diablo Canyon Power Plant. The program featured remarks from one of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission's plant inspectors, along with data rich reports from a UC Berkeley economist and an energy researcher from MIT. Garret Olsen from the San Luis Obispo Chamber of Commerce led a panel discussion with a Local IBEW union leader, a local builder and the County Superintendent of Schools. Each offered the kind of insights about the impacts of a potential plant closure that usually gets overlooked in most discussions about the issue.



A great deal of information was shared – almost all of it new to the dialogue of the plant's future. Surprisingly, members of the public who spoke (we are guessing that there were about 50) were about two to one in favor of extending plant operations. All of the college and high school students were in favor, as were a wide cross section of business people and community members.



**Diablo Canyon 2045:
Information Session**
Local and Statewide Implications

COUNTY of SAN LUIS OBISPO

Thursday, July 30, 2026
6:00 – 9:30 p.m.

**San Luis Obispo County
Katcho Achadjian
Government Center**
1055 Monterey Street
San Luis Obispo, CA

Livestream
(viewing only):
www.slo-span.org

PURPOSE
To gather stakeholders for an update on Diablo Canyon Power Plant.

PROGRAM

- Welcome and Opening Remarks**
 - SLO County Supervisor Dawn Ortiz-Legg
 - Matt Pentes, SLO County CEO
- Federal Oversight**
 - Mahdi Hayes, Senior Resident Inspector, Nuclear Regulatory Commission
- California's Only Nuclear Power Plant: Energy Reliability and Economic Impact**
 - Kate Ballantyne, Assistant CEO, SLO County Updates
 - Dr. John Parsons, Deputy Director of Research, MIT Center for Energy and Environmental Policy Research
 - Dr. David Roland-Holst, Executive Director, Berkeley Economic Advising and Research
- Diablo Canyon Power Plant Operations**
 - Maureen Zawalick, Senior Vice President & Chief Risk Officer
 - Tom Jones, Senior Director, Regulatory, Environmental, and Repurposing
- County Role in Emergency Preparedness and Response**
- Community Perspectives Panel**
 - Moderator: Garrett Olson, President & CEO, San Luis Obispo Chamber of Commerce
 - Panelists:
 - Aaryn Abbott, President, Abbott | Reed Inc.
 - Dr. Eric Prater, Superintendent, San Luis Coastal Unified School District
 - Robert Dean, Business Manager, IBEW Local 1245
- Public Comment**
In-person listening session only
- Adjourn**

This meeting will be streamed live on **SLO-SPAN** (www.slo-span.org) for online viewing.

Public comment will be accepted **in person only** during the designated public comment period.

This is an informational session.

www.slocounty.ca.gov

There were about a dozen Mothers for Peace speakers in opposition. Their messaging was mostly about fault lines, embrittlement and the cost of operations of the plant. There was also a contingency of parents who voiced frustration about budget cuts to their local schools as a result in a change to the Unitary Tax paid by PG&E ratepayers. They mostly seemed fine with continued operations as long as the tax revenues were restored.

COLAB's testimony thanked the BoS, their staff and the presenters for the new information that was offered. We then suggested that the information be provided

to our state legislators who will be the gatekeepers, choosing whether to pass enabling legislation that will permit the 20-year extension.

What is Right is Right

After 13 years of “David Vs. Goliath style litigation over property and water rights, David has prevailed. The “Quiet Title” litigation began in 2013 when nearly 800 property owners primarily located in the Paso Water Basin filed suit against the City of Paso Robles, SLO County, Templeton CSD, and San Miguel CSD claiming that those municipalities were violating their private property rights by seeking to regulate how they used the water under their own property.

The victory affirms that the overlay of a property has the ultimate control over the water under their property.

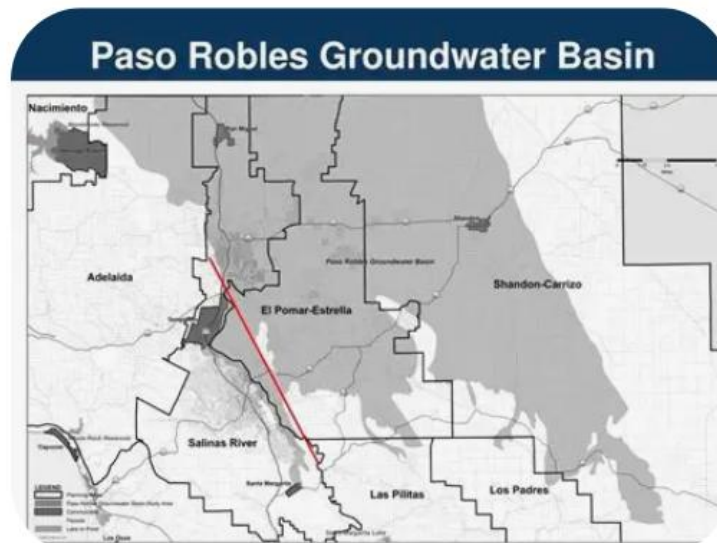
The term “quiet title” refers to clearing the title of the property from any undue encumbrances. In this case, the water agencies were attempting to claim control.



The above municipalities argued that the California Sustainable Groundwater Act (SGMA) created the authority that allowed them to regulate the groundwater in the basin. With that in mind, they spent many millions of dollars on the worthless defense that so many predicted from the start would never hold up.

These are agencies serving the public while spending millions of the public’s dollars to take rights away from the very same public. We hope that there is some sort of tally that sums up all of the millions that were spent, as well as a clear list of the failed attorneys that collected so many

of those dollars.



The agencies will probably (if ever challenged) say that the SGMA rules left them no choice but to fight for the prescriptive rights that they needed in order to manage the Paso Water Basin. That argument might have made some sense in the early stages of the litigation. However, at practically every juncture of the lawsuit, the agencies were unsuccessful. Prudent management of the process would have been to get out of the suit then and figure out some other way to address the groundwater issue.

Despite the victory, several questions remain:

What impact will this have on the Prop 26 “fee”?

Will PRAGA still be able to “just keep the lights on”?

Will this cut into the \$1.1 million that PRAGA is depending on through its new fee structure?

Will this decision protect landowners who were not part of the Quiet Title suit?

Will plaintiffs recover any of their legal expenses?

Will anybody working for the water agencies be held accountable for wasting so many millions of rate payer dollars?

This is a key property rights victory and should be celebrated by everyone who opposes big government efforts to take rights away from property owners.

Congratulations to Cindy Steinbeck, who led the coalition, and to Greg Grewal who kept the public informed about the issue.

This story will continue to unfold over the next few months, and we will try to bring you answers to these and a myriad of other questions that will arise.

FALL FORUM OCTOBER 21

Be sure to mark your calendar for our October 21 forum featuring Jon Coupal, President of the Howard Jarvis Taxpayer Association and leader of the Save Prop 13 ballot measure, Prop 43.

Jon will fill us in on all of the details of the campaign and what the measure does to protect taxpayers from the growing greed of tax and spend big government.





FALL FORUM



Wednesday, October 21st
5:30–7:30 PM



Thousand Hills Ranch
550 Thousand Hills Rd.
Pismo Beach, CA

SAVE PROP 13 - **KNOW WHAT WE ARE** **PROTECTING AND WHY**

Join Jon Coupal, President of the Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Association and California's preeminent tax fighter, for a discussion on the "Save Prop 13" ballot measure and the protections it would provide for California taxpayers.



Jon Coupal
President of HJTA



**BEER, LOCAL FINE WINES,
AND
HOT & COLD APPETIZERS
WILL BE SERVED**

RSVP'S ARE APPRECIATED BY OCTOBER 14TH

THERE IS NO CHARGE FOR THIS INFORMATIVE EVENT!
colabslo@gmail.com | (805) 548-0340



Driving note: *Thousand Hills Road is off Price Canyon Road. The entrance is somewhat hidden around a bend and may come up suddenly. Continue approximately one mile to the red-roofed barn on the right.*

Last Week

Are You a Disenfranchised Voter?

After the revelation two weeks ago that 3,313 votes cast in the June 2 election were disqualified and not counted, we expected some level of public outcry.

Crickets.

No newspaper coverage, no protests, no tv personalities reporting live.

Nothing!

Now, item 18 of the July 28 San Luis Obispo Board of Supervisors agenda reads:
Request to declare the County Clerk-Recorder's certified results for the June 2, 2026, Statewide Direct Primary Election.



Where is the outrage?

As irritating as it is that the BoS is about to certify an election where 3,313 votes were tossed, it is even more confounding that anybody who points this fact out or asks why it happened and what is being done to prevent it in the future will be treated as some sort of conspiracy geek.

Anybody who has concerns or doubts about our voting system is subject to an eyeroll followed by a patronizing explanation that everything is fine, the system works

perfectly, human error is not a factor and even though lots of people cheat at just about everything else in society, nobody ever abuses the voting system. Ever!!!

Yet here we have proof that the system is not perfect. Far from it.



Ready for certification

To add insult, the County Clerk filed her report that is under consideration for certification with the Clerk of the Board, but it is not included in the supporting documents with the BoS agenda. This is unlike any other business item. Perhaps its too lengthy, or perhaps it contains the data illustrating the 3,313 votes that were disallowed...

The item 18 agenda supporting documents read: “A copy of the Summary Report of Final Official Election Results and Statement of the Vote is on file with the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors.”

“Clerk’s Filed documents are not available for public viewing on the website. These documents are available for public review in the County Administrative Office and/or on departmental websites.”

That’s inconvenient for anybody interested in the details of the report.

Voters are led to believe that they can simply fill out their ballot in the comfort of their own home, drop it in the mailbox and rely on the Post Office to deliver their vote for counting. Sounds pleasant and easy, but no one is disclosing the unreliability of this lazy process. No one is warning that counting on the postal service could cost you your vote. No one is calling for an explanation or an assurance that it will not continue to happen every election.



Diligence?

According to the very same County Clerk who is silent on the issue, the following statistics illustrate the votes that were counted in the June 2, 2026 San Luis Obispo County Primary Election:

JUNE 2, 2026, STATEWIDE DIRECT PRIMARY COUNTY OF SAN LUIS OBISPO FINAL OFFICIAL ELECTION RESULTS

Elector Group	Counting Group	Voters Cast	Registered Voters	Turnout
Total	Polling	4,414	182,126	2.42%
	Vote by Mail	96,337		52.90%
	Total	100,751		55.32%

By those numbers, 100,751 voters were fortunate enough to have their ballots counted. However, there is no mention of the 3,313 ballots that were received but rejected for arriving too late, or with incorrect or missing signatures.

We can only assume three thousand three hundred and thirteen ballots tossed into the trash weren't enough to matter to most folks. So how many ballots need to be tossed before someone cares? 6,000? 12,000?



San Luis Obispo County is smallish to medium sized compared to the other 57 counties in California. We have to assume that ours was not the only county with this crummy outcome. So, how many Californian's were disenfranchised by this glaring glitch in the system?

It's one thing if a voter procrastinates and waits to the last minute to post their ballot. Deadlines need to be respected, and late posted ballots should not be counted. However, a fair number of those ballots were likely posted before election day but were handled slowly by the postal service and subsequently were postmarked too late.

We believe that 3,313 voters filled out their ballot because they wanted to vote. They assumed they were doing everything right and to this day, probably believe their vote was counted. Will anybody inform them as to how the system let them down and cost them their right to vote?

In our book, having to toss just one ballot is wrong. Do you know that yours wasn't one of those disqualified?

Bonta Battles Voter ID

In another election issue that you probably won't see covered in mainstream media, California Attorney General Bonta has exercised his right to define the ballot language for the expected 14 ballot measures for the November 2 General Election.

Among the measures is the Voter ID proposition. Bonta (and presumably his fellow liberal activists, are so worried about the popularity of the measure that he craftily worded the ballot language to confuse voters into misunderstanding what the measure does.

The attached stories on page 28 from the California Globe by Katy Grimes and by Megan Barth explains Bonta's actions in detail.

Bonta, and so many other liberal activists claim that Voter ID is unfair because there are supposedly voters who do not possess any sort of ID – and we don't want to disenfranchise any single voter. Well, how about the 3,313 San Luis Obispo County voters who were disenfranchised by the system? Multiply those by 58 counties and what do you get? Are those folks worth Bonta's consideration?



California Attorney General Rob Bonta

The California Voter ID initiative is very popular. Polling has it at a favorable rating of 70%. Signature gathering was easy because it is so popular. Simply put, it verifies that voters are eligible and only voting once. Only liberal activists have a problem with that.



Who doesn't have some form of ID?

Some legitimate voters are concerned that their vote may be cancelled out by an immigrant not legally registered to vote. This recent letter bolsters that concern.

Secretary

U.S. Department of Homeland Security
Washington, DC 20528



**Homeland
Security**

July 16, 2026

Shirley N. Weber, Ph.D.
California Secretary of State
1500 11th Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Secretary Weber:

The Department of Homeland Security is responsible for immigration enforcement and protecting election infrastructure. Both of these responsibilities are critical in my mission to protect the Homeland. I am writing to make you aware of the concerning results of a recent analysis of California's publicly available voter registration database information. Preliminary review of the records revealed **that there may be as many as 190,832 non-citizens** registered to vote in California. As an example, we found 81,336 California registrants for whom the name, date of birth, address and Social Security number match a non-citizen in our files. The most efficient way to ensure the accuracy of our findings is to work collaboratively on identity verification.

I hope that you share in the commitment to ensure that only U.S. citizens participate in our federal elections. Allowing just one non-citizen to vote cancels the vote of one U.S. citizen. States are responsible for voter registration, and the federal government is responsible for maintaining immigration records to enable verification of citizenship. Working together, we can more effectively protect U.S. elections.

My team is ready to support you and has resources available to enable you to positively identify the individual non-citizens registered in your state. We will assist you with the process and provide immigration records, pursuant to 8 U.S.C. § 1373, that will allow you to take steps to protect California voters and ensure that ineligible voters will not impact upcoming federal elections.

Please contact elections@hq.dhs.gov at DHS by July 30, 2026. We look forward to this collaboration as we work together to ensure free, fair and accurate elections.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Markwayne Mullin".

Markwayne Mullin
Secretary of Homeland Security

We wish Assemblyman DeMaio success in his lawsuit against Bonta and encourage anyone interested to support his efforts. Anytime transparency and accountability are stifled, it's time to engage.

Dude, Gimme a Tax Break

Everybody knows that taxation can be a real hardship for struggling businesses. Yet, ask any small business owner and they will tell you that their taxes (including fees for licenses and permits along with compliance costs) are constantly on the rise - unless you are in the cannabis business in San Luis Obispo County.



Item 6 on the July 28 BoS agenda reads “Introduction of an ordinance to establish the Commercial Cannabis Business Tax rate at six percent (6%) of gross receipts for Fiscal Year (FY) 2026-27, effective October 1, 2026, pursuant to County Code Section 3.05.050(b)(3); and setting a public hearing on August 4, 2026, to consider adoption of the ordinance.

The attached resolution reads in part:

WHEREAS, on June 5, 2018, San Luis Obispo County voters approved Measure B-18, which established a Cannabis Business Tax (“CBT”) in the unincorporated areas of the County and added Chapter 3.05 to the San Luis Obispo County Code (the “CBT Ordinance”); and

WHEREAS, the CBT Ordinance established an initial CBT rate of 4% of gross receipts, and automatic 2% increases each fiscal year starting July 1, 2020, up to a possible maximum of 10%; and

WHEREAS, on July 1, 2026, the tax rate increased from 6% to 8%;

WHEREAS, pursuant to County Code section 3.05.050(b)(3), the County Board of Supervisors may, at any time by ordinance, exempt or except different categories

of cannabis businesses from the CBT or establish different CBT rates for different categories of businesses, subject to the maximum rate imposed by the CBT. The Board finds that inherent in this authority is the ability to reduce the rate of the CBT by ordinance; and The Board of Supervisors of the County of San Luis Obispo, State of California does hereby ordain as follows:

In accordance with County Code section 3.05.050(b)(3) of the CBT Ordinance, the CBT rate for the balance of the fiscal year of 2026-2027 shall be 6% of the gross receipts. In accordance with County Code section 3.05.050(b)(4), testing laboratories shall continue to be exempt from the CBT.

This item presents a real conundrum for many. Cannabis is one of very few things that the BoS has discretion over for tax purposes. If they could, hopefully most board members would support lowering taxes on lots of industries. So, at least on this item, they can give local law-abiding businesses a break.

On the other hand, there are serious questions about whether the taxes paid by the cannabis industry truly cover the cost of enforcing the rules that regulate legal pot sales.

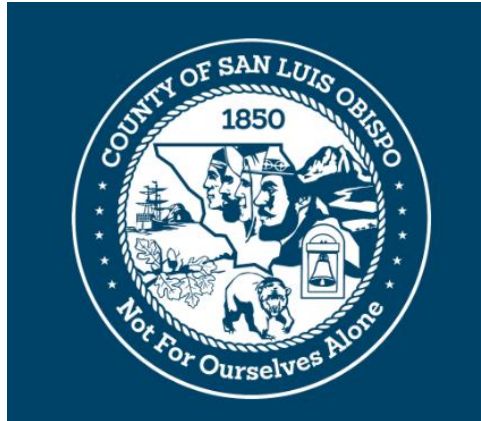
Local legal dealers say that it is very difficult to compete with illegal sales. They point out that their product is tested for health considerations and potency to ensure safe usage, but the illegal trade doesn't face any of those (costly and restrictive) safeguards. Legal dealers also have storefront rents and maintenance of their "dispensaries" to cover in their cost of doing business.

We would encourage every policy maker who supports the lower tax level for cannabis to think about all the other forms of business that would benefit from a tax break as well.

If you have a solution, or just an opinion, the 28th is your opportunity to share.

The recent retirement of San Luis Obispo County Health Director Penny Borenstein, along with some internal reorganization efforts within the County Department of Health is anticipated to foster change.

One of the biggest changes will be the new Director of Public Health, Suzanne Jed. Item 19 on the Bos agenda reads: Request to approve the employment agreement with Suzanne Jed, RN, MSN, to serve as the County of San Luis Obispo's Director of Public Health, effective August 2, 2026.



Very little information has been released about the new Director. Online bios of a nurse practitioner with the same name in Los Angeles provide an impressive professional background.

We look forward to learning more about the new Director and wish her the best in her new role.

Dial in and Dialogue

Don't forget that you can now participate in the Board of Supervisors meetings via zoom. It's audio only, so no need to dress up. You can speak during public comment times and are limited to three minutes.



It's a great way to have your opinion heard while avoiding the parking hassles of downtown SLO.

Zoom Link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86117844410?pwd=NPlYUIE3AGQqP8LRJXYURPqCijsvnQ.q9SDQ7CaxjwBaAo9>

Telephone: +1 786 635 1003

Meeting ID: 861 1784 4410

Passcode: 486471

When the Chair opens public comment, remote participants may request to speak by using the "Raise Hand" feature in the Zoom app or web browser, or by pressing *9 if joining by telephone. When it is your turn to speak, staff will call on you and unmute your microphone. Telephone participants may need to press *6 to begin your comments. Remote speakers will receive the same time allotment as in-person speakers. After the comment period ends, staff will mute the speaker.

Important for Remote Speakers: Members of the public who wish to provide remote public comment must listen to the meeting through Zoom. The County's website livestream and cable broadcast may have a delay, and participants listening outside of Zoom may miss when public comment is opened or when they are called to speak.

Your Opinion Needed

The July 30 evening briefing on the Diablo Canyon Power Plant is very important. As we covered last week, this will be both informative for attendees as well as hopefully convincing for our state legislators that our community wants and needs the proposed 20-year extension to operate.

Mothers for Peace will dust off their tired old predictions of gloom and doom while pretending to be more knowledgeable than the nuclear experts and scientists at the Nuclear Regulatory Commission. Jackson Brown might have joined them, but he is too busy using gobs of electricity performing concerts.



Mothers for Peace has answers and facts and...

The Sierra Club will invent some sort of data that says we have all the solar power we need and nuclear is now obsolete.



The Sierra Club's vision (and China's) of environmental solar power

It's up to the commonsense people in our community to bring the dialogue back to reality and enlighten Assemblywoman Addis and Senator Laird.

Fall Forum Save the Date Save Prop 13

One of the biggest single events in California's political history was the passage of Proposition 13 in 1978. It reigned in out-of-control politicians and saved countless homeowners from being forced to sell their homes in order to pay the escalating taxes.

Now, we are faced with having to "save Prop 13" with a ballot measure that will shore up many of the taxpayer protections that have been watered down from bad court decisions and deceiving legislation.

Jon Coupal is President of the Howard Jarvis Taxpayer Association and is leading the ballot measure campaign. He will be the speaker at our annual Fall Forum. The flyer below is our first draft, but we want you to have the information early to ensure you won't miss this very special event.



Wednesday, October 21st
5:30—7:30 PM
Thousand Hills Ranch
550 Thousand Hills Rd.
Pismo Beach, CA

FALL FORUM

THOUSAND HILLS
RD. IS OFF OF PRICE
CANYON. PLEASE
USE CAUTION, AS
THE ROAD IS
SOMEWHAT
HIDDEN AROUND A
BEND IN THE ROAD
AND IT COMES UP
ON YOU SUDDENLY.
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Why do California Democrats Hate Voters So Much?

Democrat lawmakers are openly and actively working against California voters and legal residents

By Katy Grimes, July 30, 2026

One party rule in California has all the power to pass any law and measure its wants, across the entire state.

The fundamentals in California are corrupted – not insurmountable, but corrupted.

Democrats hate voters, hate the people, and no longer work for them. Why do California's Democrat lawmakers hate the people who live in the state and who pay the exorbitant taxes and lawmakers' salaries?

Earlier this week, the Globe reported **California's Democrat Lawmakers Must Want Crime, Drugs and Homelessness to Increase**. Democrats are pushing a bill that creates a pretrial diversion program for retail theft (rather than prosecution), for shoplifting, forgery, and vandalism, allowing the offender's record to be wiped clean after completion, undermining Proposition 36. California voters overwhelmingly approved Prop 36 in 2024 to restore felony penalties for repeat theft and drug crimes. Prop 36 passed by 68%, and notably, passed in every one of California's 58 counties. That's a mandate.

Almost immediately, Democrats started scheming on how to undermine voters' wishes for the restoration of law and order.

It is notable that Latin mottos are centrally displayed in both chambers of the California Legislature reminding lawmakers of their purpose:

In the Assembly: ***LEGISLATORUM JUSTAS LEGES CONDERE***, which translates to "It is the duty of legislators to make just laws;" and

In the Senate: *EST CIVITATIS LIBERTATEM TUERI*, meaning “It is the duty of a Senator to guard the liberty of the Commonwealth.”

Is it too much to want to live without crime and violence in our cities?

Is it too much to expect that the duty of elected legislators is to make just laws and guard the liberty of the Commonwealth?

Prop 36 restored felony penalties for **repeat offenders** after a decade of disaster and rising crime under Prop 47. Fed-up voters demanded accountability for **smash-and-grab thefts, organized retail crime, and open drug dealing**. Californians were fed up with the dangerous, unstable, and volatile conditions in residential neighborhoods, shopping areas, parks, city streets, county streets, and downtowns after the Democrats’ criminal justice reform experiment failed.

It has become very clear that the Democrat supermajority in the California Legislature care more about themselves and their wicked funders than the people of California. With passage of AB 2108, Democrats would increase crime, drugs, and homelessness back to pre-Prop 36 levels, **we noted**.

Voters made their priorities clear by passing Proposition 36—especially as AB 2108 recalls elements of Proposition 47, which many voters believed Prop 36 would overturn. As the Globe has **reported** for years, **Proposition 47** passed in 2014 after being promoted under the deceptively worded “The Safe Neighborhoods and Schools Act” by then-Attorney General Kamala Harris. The measure reclassified a host of serious felonies to misdemeanors, including drug crimes, date rape, and all thefts under \$950, even for repeat offenders who steal under \$950 every day.

Prop. 47 also **decriminalized drug possession** from a felony to a misdemeanor, removed law enforcement’s ability to make an arrest in most circumstances, as well as removing judges’ ability to order drug rehabilitation programs rather than incarceration.

Voters merely wanted to make crime illegal again in California.

When Prop 36 qualified for the November 2024 ballot, Democrats and Gov. Newsom attempted to deprive Californians of the opportunity to make crime illegal again. Newsom tried to hijack the initiative with a “poison pill” that would have repealed other public safety laws as punishment for passing the measure.

Governor Newsom is one of the corrupt elitists, part of the ruthless, sadistic ruling class, beholden to the UN, EU, WEF, WHO and China. He doesn’t govern California for the people; he is helping to destroy it.



Ca Gov. Gavin Newsom meeting with Chinese President Xi Jinping on October 25, 2023 in Beijing (Photo: gov.ca.gov)

In June 2024, the California Supreme Court announced it removed the Taxpayer Protection Act from the ballot at Gov. Newsom's request. This proposition would have subjected any tax increase to a vote of the people. The California Supreme Court is as corrupt as the Democrat governors who appointed them – Jerry Brown and Gavin Newsom.

It has become “Us vs. California State government.”

If doubt remains, last week California Attorney General Rob Bonta was credibly accused of rigging the ballot language for Proposition 39, the **Voter Identification, Citizenship Verification, and Registered Voter List Administration Initiative**, just months before the November 2026 election, the **Globe reported**.

“The initiative, which gathered over a million signatures from Democrats, Republicans, and Independents after more than a year of petition circulation under previously approved wording, now faces what opponents call a last-minute rewrite designed to tilt public perception against it.”

That's how much they hate you, and how much they love their corrupt funders.

If you feel as if California has descended into Dante's Nine Circles of Hell, you'd be right. The fundamentals are corrupted by the Democrat supermajority.

California's Democrat politicians – everyone from the governor down to the most ardent leftists on local city councils and school boards – have abdicated their governing responsibilities to state and local agencies and nondescript boards and commissions, leaving politicians free to pass dangerous and unconstitutional legislation, which only serves to destroy what is left of the California experiment, once known lovingly as the California Dream.

Dante's Nine Circles of Hell describe California's descent into perdition: Limbo, Lust, Gluttony, Greed, Wrath, Heresy, Violence, Fraud, Treachery.

Here's how much they hate us:

Democrats are pushing a billionaire tax that is already accelerating the exodus of major employers from the state.

Democrats have also expanded the homelessness crisis into a funding scheme. After billions in taxpayer dollars have been poured into questionable nonprofits and NGOs, the problem of homeless drug addicts has only grown worse.

Democrats are attempting to sabotage the voter ID ballot initiative.

Democrats allow and promote boys in girls bathrooms – California's Mixed-Sex Bathroom Law Kicks In Just Before School Starts.

Democrats have created and now promote the disastrous public schools, and they hate your kids. Here is proof:

- California's Failing Schools: Everyone Gets a Trophy and 4.5 GPA
- California Bill Authorizes Public Schools to Celebrate Muslim Holy Days in Curriculum.
- Elevating 'Black English' to a Language in Schools Comes with Linguistic and Cultural Problems
- Newsom and California Democrats Scheme To Defang State Schools Chief, Anticipating Republican Win
- Sex and Porn in California Schools: One Million Sexually Explicit Books in School Libraries and English Lit Classes
-

Democrats hate legal citizens – especially Xavier Becerra, their nominee for California Governor: Cal Chamber Endorsed Candidate Xavier Becerra Prioritizes Illegal Street Vendors over Legal Businesses.

Democrats fail at running government so they create fake crises and climate lies: No Climate Crisis in California: Climate Change is Not Causing California's Wildfires. That's just a short list. You get the gist. It's why voting matters.



Katy Grimes

Katy Grimes, the Editor in Chief of the California Globe, is a long-time Investigative Journalist covering the California State Capitol, the co-author of *California's War Against Donald Trump: Who Wins? Who Loses?* and a contributor to "Taxifornia 2016."

A California native and Navy mom, Katy lives in Sacramento, CA.

Ringside: A Fact-Based Appraisal of California's 'Net Zero' Strategy

Even if worldwide photovoltaic output increased by another two orders of magnitude, we would also have to increase our electricity storage capacity by at least four orders of magnitude from what it is today

By Edward Ring, July 30, 2026

The Statistical Review of World Energy is arguably the most authoritative and comprehensive source publicly available for national and global energy statistics. And a funny thing happened between the report issued in 2024 and the report issued in 2025. "Renewables" as a percent of total energy consumed in 2023 was quietly lowered from 9.3 in the U.S. and 8.2 worldwide to only 5.9 and 5.2 percent, respectively (each edition shows reports the most recent two years of data). This is because in 2025, the energy economists who compile this data finally discontinued the practice of grossing up what "non-combustible" energy sources actually produced. The reporting used to reflect how much more energy input would have been required if that same energy were to come from less efficiently converted combustible fuel. Now at last, they just report how much energy these sources actually generated.

With the 2026 edition released and continuing this new and more accurate reporting method, the percentage of total raw energy consumed worldwide – *not* including the

United States – in the form of oil, natural gas, and coal was 87 percent; in the U.S. it was 83 percent. There are plenty of gigantic nuances to this story, starting with how this compares to 25 years ago.

Back in 2000, when the **Statistical Review** normalized units of energy into “MTOE” (million tons of oil equivalents), fossil fuel represented 89 percent of U.S. raw energy inputs. In the rest of the world, not including the U.S., fossil fuel delivered 86 percent of raw energy inputs – i.e., its share of total energy is actually slightly *greater* today than it was 25 years ago.

If you consider absolute quantities of energy, now reported in exajoules, or EJs, there has been an astonishing expansion of fossil fuel use worldwide in the last quarter century. Oil production is up 50 percent from 110 EJs to 165 EJs. Natural gas is up 79 percent from 66 EJs to 118 EJs, and coal is up 127 percent from 69 EJs in 2000 to 157 EJs in 2025.

How does the growth in renewables – biomass, biofuel, geothermal, solar, and wind – compare?

In 2000, the role of renewables was so negligible they weren’t tracked. But by 2025 total production has risen to 5.9 EJs in the U.S., or 6.3 percent of all energy; In the rest of the world another 29.6 EJs were produced, representing 5.8 percent of all energy. But can renewables increase to the point where they will replace fossil fuel?

To answer this, set aside the fact that energy is perfectly correlated with prosperity, and that per capita GDP in the U.S. is 3.6 times greater than in the rest of the world, or that per capita energy consumption in the U.S. is 4.3 times greater than in the rest of the world. After all, between 2000 and 2025, even though **U.S. population** grew from 282 million to 343 million, and U.S. GDP in inflation adjusted dollars **nearly doubled** from \$13.9 trillion to over \$24.1 trillion, total energy consumption actually dropped slightly, from 96 EJs to 88 EJs. Maybe the vast improvements in energy efficiency achieved in the U.S. since 2000 can continue, and be extended to everywhere else on earth. This is a huge assumption.

So just to maintain global energy production at 600 EJs per year, can the 518 EJs of energy produced in 2025 from oil, natural gas, and coal be replaced by renewables, or, more broadly speaking, by all “non-combustibles” which would add nuclear and hydroelectric?

To do this, we can rule out biomass, biofuel, and hydroelectric. These sources of energy are already maxed and can only deliver incremental increases. Wind energy is a resource hog, a visual and auditory nuisance, and it wreaks havoc on the local environment. Even if it could grow exponentially, it would come at an awful cost. Nuclear power, currently responsible for 5 percent of global energy, is a wild card,

as is geothermal and its emerging descendant, enhanced geothermal. And there are other emerging technologies that may be game changers including **advanced nuclear fission, artificial photosynthesis, space-based power, and fusion**. But what about solar energy?

It's important to take a good look at this, because California is relying on solar and battery installations as the foundation of its electrification, net-zero strategy. And in a state as wealthy and as sunny as California, solar can go a long way toward fulfilling those objectives. But it would be cavalier to extrapolate California's prospects to the entire world. The statistics are unequivocal and daunting.

The growth in solar (photovoltaic) electricity has been exponential. Worldwide photovoltaic output – converting terawatt-hours to exajoules – increased from 1.76 EJs in 2014 to 2.32 in 2025. Photovoltaic energy output is eleven times greater today than it was only ten years ago. But do we have the resources to accommodate another few decades of exponential growth?

Equally pertinent, total global battery storage capacity despite 60 percent per year growth over the past ten years, is still as of 2025 only equal to 1.2 terawatt-hours (ref. page 65 in the 2026 *Statistical Review*, “*Grid-scale battery energy storage systems*”). In the context of world energy, that's nothing. It takes 278 terawatt-hours to equal one exajoule. It's worth reflecting on this fact.

It means that even if worldwide photovoltaic output increased by another two orders of magnitude, because it would take that much to even begin to make a replacement level contribution to global energy production, we would also have to increase our electricity storage capacity by at least four orders of magnitude from what it is today (current worldwide storage capacity times ten-thousand still only equals 45 exajoules). Notice those battery farms going in all over? Imagine 10,000 of them where one of them now stands. That's what it will take, at a minimum, if the world's energy economy electrifies, and does so while relying on intermittent energy sources. Does the earth have the resources to sustain such growth, and what would be the environmental impact?

These are questions California's policymakers must answer if they are to credibly advocate, much less mandate, a net-zero future. Policies designed to rapidly phase out fossil fuels are based on wishful thinking, and everyone familiar with basic energy statistics knows this. If California is to set an example to the world, it would be more productive if it sets an example the rest of the world is willing and able to follow.



Edward Ring

Edward Ring is the director of water and energy policy for the California Policy Center, which he co-founded in 2013 and served as its first president. The California Policy Center is an educational non-profit focused on public policies that aim to improve California's democracy and economy. He is also a senior fellow of the Center for American Greatness. Ring is the author of two books: "Fixing California - Abundance, Pragmatism, Optimism" (2021), and "The Abundance Choice - Our Fight for More Water in California" (2022).

PROP. 13 RICHLY FUNDS LOCAL GOVERNMENTS WHILE PROTECTING TAXPAYERS

JON COUPAL

JULY 27, 2026

Two-thirds of California voters consistently tell pollsters that they think Proposition 13 is a good thing, but even with more than 48 years of constant support, Proposition 13 remains unpopular among politicians and bureaucrats who want higher property taxes.

But the limits that Prop. 13 imposes on property taxes can hardly be considered draconian. California ranks 18th out of 50 states in per capita property tax collections, belying the notion that it has “starved” local governments. True, even though California is not a low property tax state when compared to its number-one ranking in income tax rate, state sales tax rate, and gas tax, it's no wonder that our property tax appears moderate.

The secret about Prop. 13 hiding in plain sight is that it has been a boon to local governments. While providing security to homeowners, it simultaneously guarantees stable – and almost always increasing – revenue to local governments. Statewide, assessed value of property generally increases in the 4 to 5 percent range. And even in years when market values decrease, Proposition 13 acts as a shock absorber, stabilizing revenue because of the difference between taxable value and market value.

The 2% limit on annual increases in taxable value means that, for counties with historically big increases in market value, no overall reduction in tax assessments is

required even when market values are dropping. Proposition 13 has been characterized as “recession insurance” for local governments.

Recent figures for California’s County Assessors bear this out. California county assessment rolls released for the 2026–27 fiscal year show an average growth of 4.08% in assessed real estate and property values statewide. While individual property increases remain heavily insulated by Proposition 13’s 2% annual inflation cap, overall county roll increases have been propelled by property transfers (reassessments upon sale), new construction, and recovering business equipment values.

The way Prop. 13 stabilizes local government revenue, even in the midst of disasters, is striking. Los Angeles County Assessor Jeffrey Prang recently announced that, despite wildfires and economic uncertainty, the county’s assessment roll just posted its 16th consecutive year of growth: The 2026 Assessment Roll increased by \$96 billion, or 4.42 percent, over the previous year to reach a record \$2.272 trillion in total net taxable value. According to a press release issued by Prang’s office, “The increase will generate more than \$27 billion in property tax revenue to support vital public services, including public education, public safety, healthcare, libraries, parks, and other local government services throughout Los Angeles County.”

Similar increases in aggregate assessed value were seen throughout California. Data compiled by the California Taxpayers Association reveal an increase in Contra Costa County of 3.48 percent over the previous year; Sacramento County 4.93 percent increase over last year, largely attributable to \$1.3 billion in multifamily housing construction; and comparable increases in San Bernardino County, Santa Clara County, Sonoma County, and Ventura County. In fact, no California county reported a decrease in assessed values. This is all good news for local governments, but before Prop. 13, these increases would have been bad news for homeowners. That’s because prior to Prop. 13, property tax assessments were based on current market value and property was regularly reassessed. Some property owners saw their assessments jump 50 to 100 percent in just one year and their tax bills jump correspondingly – even if the gains in value were only on paper.

Unfortunately, praise for Prop. 13 rarely comes from local government officials, even those who know how Proposition 13 helps them. Homeowners, on the other hand, will continue to sing the praises of this iconic law for the simple reason that it keeps them from being taxed out of their homes.

Jon Coupal is president of the Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Association.

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