

SALEM MEDIA GROUP

KDOW-AM

Palo Alto - San Francisco – San Jose

**KDOW-AM
PUBLIC FILE**

**Quarterly Issues &
Programs Report**

First Quarter 2024

(For the period covering January 1st, 2024 – March 31st, 2024)

Compiled By Craig Roberts
Prepared for the Public Inspection File April 1st, 2024

KDOW-AM
Palo Alto - San Francisco - San Jose
Quarterly Issues & Programs Report

This report contains an overview of the public affairs programs and announcements aired by KDOW-AM Radio for the quarter just ended. For 75 years now, KDOW-AM has demonstrated a firm commitment to serve its listeners by airing in-depth interviews with newsmakers, community activists and community leaders in an effort to address matters that affect the quality of life here in Northern California.

KDOW-AM airs a program that runs at various times during the weekend during peak listening hours called ***“Money Pulse”***, hosted by broadcast veteran Craig Roberts. Locally produced, the program seeks to address areas of interest and concern to those living in both our community of license as well as the surrounding areas well within the reach of our signal addressing issues related to personal finance and money management insights with the nation’s leading financial advisors.

In addition, KDOW-AM airs a weekly public affairs program called ***“Life!Line with Craig Roberts”***, which is presented each Sunday morning. Locally produced, the program seeks to address areas of interest and concern to those living in both our community of license as well as the surrounding areas well within the reach of our signal.

Topics and areas of concern addressed by the program include, for example, health matters (early cancer detection, treatment and prevention) education (home schooling, funding of public education and comprehensive student/teacher performance guidelines) women’s issues (menopausal treatment, breast cancer awareness, employment) and issues of concern to minorities (bi-lingual education, immigration issues, racism), among dozens of other topics.

Issues to be addressed are culled out from a vast list of local activists, listener feedback and interview requests from local and regional community leaders.

Additionally, the program provides opportunities for listeners to speak out on topics of concern, as well as the chance to speak directly with experts and community leaders on a variety of topics that affect the quality of life for them and their families.

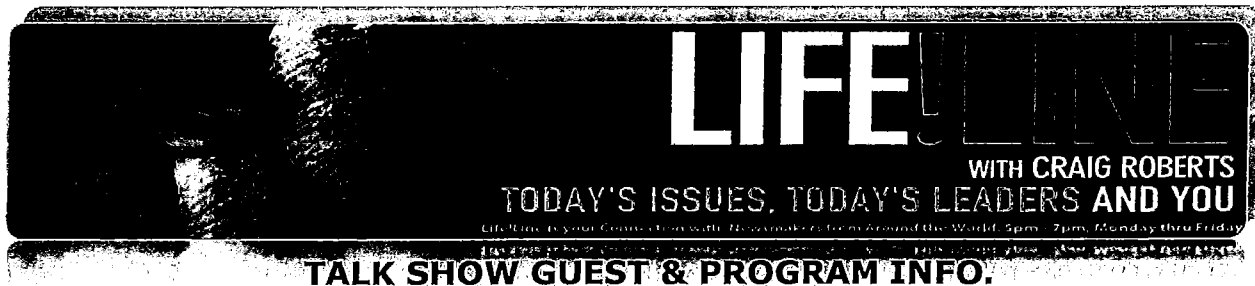
The station also airs messages of thirty to sixty seconds in length throughout its broadcast schedule provided to us by a number of community-based and government-based organizations. Subjects in the recent past have included but are not limited to crime reduction, recycling program awareness, senior issues, assistance programs for parents of children with learning disabilities and immunization programs for people at risk (elderly/HIV/children).

The following is a list of problems, needs and interests compiled from over two hundred interviews from a diverse list of community leaders throughout the Bay Area and Northern California.

Problems Needs and Interests

1. Minority Challenges (discrimination, housing, employment, education).
2. Problems of the Elderly.
3. Youth and Education.
4. Unemployment, Finances and the Economy.
5. Gender Challenges (women suffering discrimination, employment problems, and domestic violence).
6. Environment.
7. Urban Problems (overcrowding, urban blight).
8. Housing.
9. Health & Covid-19 Pandemic.
10. Crime and the Criminal Justice System.
11. Voters Rights & Elections

The following pages list some of the programs that have dealt specifically with the afore-mentioned list of issues and problems. In addition, because of the nature of our basic programming philosophy and program content, many of our programs often address one or more of these issues on a daily basis. Included is a multiplicity of issues confronting American society today, particularly those dealing with crime, drug and alcohol abuse, racism, sexism, ethical and moral conduct, sexual mores, familial relationships, education, international relations, and terrorism.



PROGRAM DATE: Tu., January 2, 2024 (or the weekend of)
PROGRAM/SEGMENT TIME: 5:05-5:45pm

Guest: JOYCE CORDI

Bio from her website:

- > Publisher, Reimagine America
- > Joyce Cordi offers context rather than commentary on government dysfunction based on her 30 years of hands-on experience managing business transformation activities.
- > She was a candidate for Congress from California's 15th Congressional District in 2008, urging voters TO FIRE CONGRESS, elect more business people and fewer lawyers, while accumulating the largest vote total of any opponent ever against the well-funded incumbent.
- > A native Californian, Joyce is a long-time proponent of environmental protections – believing that it is not inconsistent for business to be ethical, responsible, and profitable – simultaneously.

Issues Discussed: Voters in this election cycle; how to fix what's broken

CONTACT #: [REDACTED]

b/u:

ReimagineAmerica.org or www.JoyceCordi.com

NOTES, unedited, straight from Joyce...

Voters are ANGRY!

- Angry about choices offered
- Angry re: Process for determining general election candidates
 - most of so-called "swing states" have citizen initiatives heading to Nov. 2024 ballot
 - All involve some amount of Alaska model with GE rank choice voting --

Between 58% and 70% of probable general election voters don't want promised rematch between Biden and Trump —

BUT are any significant number of those voters enthused about voting in primaries — to push one of prospective GOP pigmy candidates into first place

- Nicki Haley ???
- No Labels threat

> Immigration:

We need major reform!!!!

But right now we need drastic triage:

Estimates of 3 to 6 million illegal entries this year alone -- equals half the population of Ohio!
Our labor market does not need, cannot absorb this influx and our social safety net is approaching collapse!

--California considering health insurance for illegals

--4 year wait for asylum hearing creates "mixed status" families that can't be deported -- we need new rules!

> Economy? Do you have a crystal ball?

- Interest
- Disrupter
- Natural disaster
- Global economic weakness
- Major geo-political shock
- Immigration
- Production versus consumption



**TALK SHOW GUEST & PROGRAM INFO.
5P-7P**

PROGRAM DATE: Wed. Jan. 10, 2024 (or the weekend of)
PROGRAM/SEGMENT TIME: 5:05-5:30m

**In observance of National Human Trafficking Awareness and Prevention Month*

Guest: **DR. MARCEL VAN DER WATT**

- > Director of the Research Institute at the National Center on Sexual Exploitation
- > Internationally recognized for his research and work as a former sex trafficking police investigator.

Issue Discussed: His article (below) about pursuing the sex buyer; A path to end human trafficking – possible or no? HOW?

CONTACT #: [REDACTED]
b/u: [REDACTED]

www.EndSexualExploitation.org

Give sex-buyers the attention they deserve
BY MARCEL VAN DER WATT, OPINION CONTRIBUTOR

To solve the global problem of sex trafficking, it is time to hold not only traffickers to account, but also the people who create, enable and perpetuate this problem: sex-buyers.

Although sex-traffickers enjoy the lion’s share of the global community’s scorn, it is sex-buyers— overwhelmingly men who purchase sexual access to the bodies of women and children—who deserve far more of the outrage and should receive a much larger share of frontline law enforcement’s responses. After all, traffickers may be the ones who pocket the money that is generated from sex trafficking operations, but it is sex-buyers who pay it.

Sex-buyers constitute the critical missing link in most responses to sex trafficking. They are responsible for inflicting incalculable amounts of trauma on those caught up within systems of prostitution. Those systems prey upon the acute vulnerabilities prevalent among poor and marginalized communities.

Not only is the link between systems of prostitution and sex trafficking on full display in the most recent Global Report on Trafficking in Persons, but sex-buyers boldly tie the knot between them. For instance, sex-trafficking victims were found in typical prostitution venues such as legal brothels (10 percent), unofficial brothels (9 percent), night/strip clubs (10 percent), bars (14 percent), and sauna or massage parlors (9 percent). Sex trafficking victims were also exploited in outdoor public settings (11 percent) and in private and hidden venues (36.5 percent).

No matter the setting, there is a sex-buyer behind every transaction. Sex-buyers continue to evade the glaring headlines concerning “open air prostitution markets” in Brooklyn and the “scourge” of prostitution in Queens, New York. Yet, reported sex-buying incidents in more than 2,690 cities and counties in the U.S. confirm that prostitution is a demand-driven reality and document the plenteous harms perpetrated by sex-buyers across the country.

Evidence from research into sex-traffickers arrested for trafficking minors and the nature of sex-buying in the online sexual exploitation marketplace augment these insights into the problem of consumer-level demand. Whether intentionally engaging in sex with trafficked women and children or simply disregarding intuitive indications of harm in the online or offline sex trade, sex-buyers oxygenate the perpetration of sex trafficking crimes. It is futile to try to distinguish between men’s demand for victims of sex trafficking from men’s demand for commercial sex acts.

A growing number of reports worldwide further confirm this ominous reality. In New Zealand, sex trafficking is significantly under-reported and under-detected in the sex trade. This is not surprising, since New Zealand Police are constrained by legal limitations on their ability to proactively screen for sex trafficking victims “within the legal commercial sex industry.” While New Zealand’s Prostitution Reform Act continues to serve as a paragon for those pushing for the full decriminalization of prostitution — a policy that removes laws criminalizing sex-buying — the country’s lowered ranking to Tier 2 in the U.S. State Department’s Trafficking in Persons Report for the third consecutive year, raises questions concerning the fleeting promises of permissive prostitution laws.

In Germany, a country widely called “the brothel of Europe,” a study revealed that 55 percent of sex-buyers admitted to having observed or paid a pimp/sex trafficker and “very rarely” reported trafficking to the authorities. Even though acknowledging they have witnessed sex trafficking, only 1 percent of 96 German sex-buyers reported the suspicion of sex trafficking to authorities.

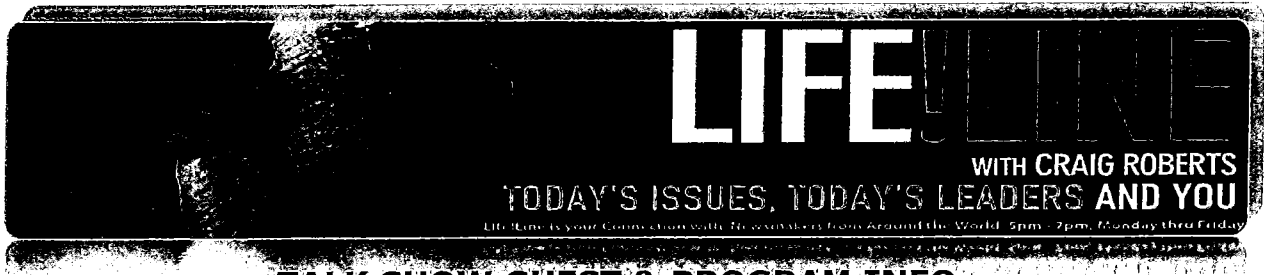
The piece entitled “Raped, Forgotten, Lost,” published in Der Spiegel, provides an in-depth look into the “fatal mistake” that is Germany’s 20-year-old legal sex trade. Its prostitution law, which was ostensibly intended to protect women, has emboldened countless sex-buyers who mete out abuse and violence without compunction.

The country’s permissive laws benefit the perpetrators and abandon the victims. A South African study also reveals the grave outcome when sex-buyers are permitted to flourish in a *de facto* decriminalized legal environment and when brothels, cocoons for sex trafficking operations, are deeply embedded in communities.

In one case, a U.S.-based live “camming” website was implicated in a South African prosecution and conviction of two child sex-traffickers. The account used to exploit the child victim had more than 6,000 logins by sex-buyers from across the globe to view the victim over the two-year period during which she was exploited.

Efforts to reduce sex trafficking and other forms of commercial sexual exploitation must move beyond the apprehension of sex traffickers. Law enforcement’s use of well-established demand-reduction tactics and the imposition of fines on sex-buyers, can not only facilitate accountability for perpetrators and an equitable outcome for those trapped in systems of prostitution, but also generate revenue streams that fund support services for people who seek to exit.

Without the demand for prostitution, there would be no market forces producing and sustaining the roles of sex traffickers. Simply put: no buyers, no business. The U.S. and its global allies in the fight against sex trafficking would do well to confront the role of sex-buyers in fueling sex-trafficking crimes and creating an endless cycle of harm and misery. Radically shrinking, with a view to eliminating sex-trafficking crimes, is not a pipe dream. It can be done.



**TALK SHOW GUEST & PROGRAM INFO.
5P-7P**

**PROGRAM DATE: Wed. Jan. 10, 2024 (or the weekend of)
PROGRAM/SEGMENT TIME: 5:35-6pm**

Guest: **SUSAN SHELLEY**
> President of Communications for the Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Association

Issue Discussed: UPDATE on protecting Prop 13/ACA1 efforts

CONTACT #: [REDACTED]
b/u:

www.HJTA.org www.Reinstate58.hjta.org

California's Proposition 13 still sparking clashes Cal-Matters

IN SUMMARY

Proposition 13, an iconic tax limitation measure passed by California voters 44 years ago, is still generating legal and political skirmishes.

California's famous – or infamous – Proposition 13, passed by voters 44 years ago, sought to impose limits on state and local taxes.

The initiative, and several followup measures, imposed a direct cap on property taxes, created voting thresholds that made it more difficult to enact other taxes, and curbed the use of tax-like fees.

Although voters have rejected direct assaults on Proposition 13, politicians and pro-tax interest groups such as public employee unions have fought legal and political skirmishes with the anti-tax movement over what kinds of revenue-increasing instruments can be used to skirt constitutional restraints.

One potential clash is Gov. Gavin Newsom's proposed financial penalties on oil companies that exceed still-to-be-specified limits on their profits. He initially proposed a tax on those profits, but a tax would require a two-thirds legislative vote, so Newsom substituted financial penalties which, at least theoretically, would require only a simple majority vote.

However, the petroleum industry is branding the penalties as a tax, hinting that if Newsom's measure becomes law, a legal challenge will be mounted on its constitutionality.

"A fee imposed on the industry as a commodity going to the government, that is going to look and act like a tax," Kevin Slagle, spokesperson for the Western States Petroleum Association, said. "We know windfall taxes have been tried nationally and don't work. What we need to do is focus on better public policy."

A couple of years ago, the state Supreme Court handed pro-tax groups a major victory, declaring that although special purpose taxes proposed by local governments require two-thirds approval by voters, such taxes proposed by initiative ballot measure need just simple majority support from voters.

Writing the 5-2 majority opinion, Supreme Court Justice Mariano-Florentino Cuéllar declared, "Multiple provisions of the state constitution explicitly constrain the power of local governments to raise taxes. But we will not lightly apply such restrictions on local governments to voter initiatives."

The decision validated some local initiative tax measures that had failed to get two-thirds votes and touched off a flurry of new tax proposals using the initiative process, one of them being a highly controversial tax on property transfers of \$5 million or more in Los Angeles.

In November, Los Angeles voters approved Proposition ULA by a nearly 3-to-2 margin – a clear majority but short of a two-thirds vote. It would generate between \$600 million and \$1.1 billion a year for low-cost housing, rent relief and programs to battle homelessness.

The city's newly elected mayor, Karen Bass, is counting on the funds to help fulfill her pledge to alleviate the nation's worst urban homelessness crisis.

However, if the tax is to take effect, its advocates must prevail in a lawsuit filed last month by the Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Association – named for Proposition 13’s late author – and local real estate interests, contending that the tax is prohibited by the state constitution and Los Angeles’ city charter.

The suit argues that “great and irreparable harm will result to plaintiffs, and to all Los Angeles property owners in being required to pay unconstitutionally imposed taxes,” adding, “Similar harm will occur to all Los Angeles residents in the form of increased rent and consumer prices resulting from the tax increase on all property sold (or value transferred) above \$5 million.”

Given the huge amounts of money involved, it’s likely that the legality of the transfer tax will eventually reach the state Supreme Court and it could wind up on the same docket as a challenge to Newsom’s oil profits penalties.

Thus the never-ending saga of Proposition 13 enters a new phase.

ISSUE: *Assembly Constitutional Amendment 1 (ACA 1)*, the proposed constitutional amendment that would make it easier to raise local taxes for anything labeled “infrastructure” and for certain public housing projects.

ACA 1 is a direct attack on Proposition 13. It would change the state Constitution to cut the percentage of votes needed to raise special taxes, dropping it from the current two-thirds required under Prop. 13 to only 55%. That makes it much easier for tax-raisers who want to take more and more of your money. "Infrastructure" can be anything government wants to do.

ACA 1 will be heard in the Assembly Local Government Committee on Wednesday, July 12. You can help defeat this dangerous measure.

You may want to call your own representatives in the Assembly and the Senate and urge them to oppose ACA 1. You can look up their names and contact information at FindYourRep.Legislature.ca.gov.

History and Impact of Proposition 13

On June 6, 1978, California voters overwhelmingly approved Proposition 13, a property tax limitation initiative. This amendment to California’s Constitution was the taxpayers’ collective response to dramatic increases in property taxes and a growing state revenue surplus. Proposition 13 (or “Prop. 13”) rolled back most local real estate assessments to 1975 market value levels, limited the property tax rate to 1 percent plus the rate necessary to fund local voter-approved bonded indebtedness, and limited future property tax increases to a maximum of 2% per year.

Prior to 1978, real property was appraised cyclically, with no more than a five-year interval between reassessments. Since property values were systematically reviewed and updated, assessed values were usually kept at or near current market value levels. In contrast, under Proposition 13, properties are reassessed to current market value only upon a change in ownership or completion of new construction (called the base year value). In addition, Proposition 13 generally limits annual increases in the base year value of real property to no more than 2 percent, except when property changes ownership or undergoes new construction. Essentially, Proposition 13 converted the market value-based property tax system to an acquisition value-based system.

Under Proposition 13, similar properties can have substantially different assessed values based solely on the dates the properties were purchased. Disparities result wherever

significant appreciation in property values has occurred over time. Longtime property owners, whose assessed values generally may not be increased more than 2 percent per year, tend to have markedly lower tax liability than recent purchasers, whose assessed values tend to approximate market levels.

ACA-1

from PluralPolicy.com

Bill Details:

A resolution to propose to the people of the State of California an amendment to the Constitution of the State, by amending Sections 1 and 4 of Article XIII A thereof, by amending Section 2 of, and by adding Section 2.5 to, Article XIII C thereof, by amending Section 3 of Article XIII D thereof, and by amending Section 18 of Article XVI thereof, relating to local finance.

Bill Summary

(1) The California Constitution prohibits the ad valorem tax rate on real property from exceeding 1% of the full cash value of the property, subject to certain exceptions. This measure would create an additional exception to the 1% limit that would authorize a city, county, city and county, or special district to levy an ad valorem tax to service bonded indebtedness incurred to fund the construction, reconstruction, rehabilitation, or replacement of public infrastructure, affordable housing, or permanent supportive housing, or the acquisition or lease of real property for those purposes, if the proposition proposing that tax is approved by 55% of the voters of the city, county, or city and county, as applicable, and the proposition includes specified accountability requirements. The measure would specify that these provisions apply to any city, county, city and county, or special district measure imposing an ad valorem tax to pay the interest and redemption charges on bonded indebtedness for these purposes that is submitted at the same election as this measure.

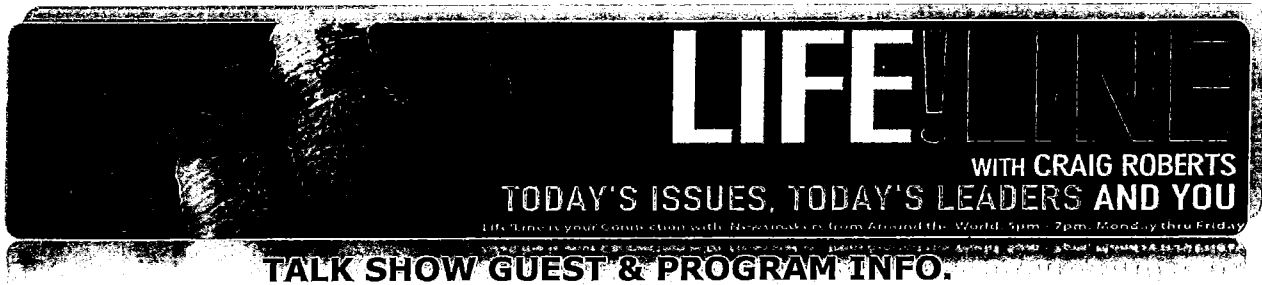
(2) The California Constitution conditions the imposition of a special tax by a local government upon the approval of 23 of the voters of the local government voting on that tax. This measure would authorize a local government to impose, extend, or increase a sales and use tax or transactions and use tax imposed in accordance with specified law or a parcel tax, as defined, for the purposes of funding the construction, rehabilitation, or

replacement of public infrastructure, affordable housing, or permanent supportive housing if the proposition proposing that tax is approved by 55% of its voters voting on the proposition and the proposition includes specified accountability requirements. This measure would also make conforming changes to related provisions. The measure would specify that these provisions apply to any local measure imposing, extending, or increasing a sales and use tax, transactions and use tax, or parcel tax for these purposes that is submitted at the same election as this measure.

(3) The California Constitution prohibits specified local government agencies from incurring any indebtedness exceeding in any year the income and revenue provided in that year, without the assent of 2/3 of the voters and subject to other conditions. In the case of a school district, community college district, or county office of education, the California Constitution permits a proposition for the incurrence of indebtedness in the form of general obligation bonds for the

construction, reconstruction, rehabilitation, or replacement of school facilities, including the furnishing and equipping of school facilities, or the acquisition or lease of real property for school facilities, to be adopted upon the approval of 55% of the voters of the district or county, as appropriate, voting on the proposition at an election. This measure would expressly prohibit a special district, other than a board of education or school district, from incurring any indebtedness or liability exceeding any applicable statutory limit, as prescribed by the statutes governing the special district.

The measure would also similarly require the approval of 55% of the voters of the city, county, city and county, or special district, as applicable, to incur bonded indebtedness, exceeding in any year the income and revenue provided in that year, that is in the form of general obligation bonds issued to fund the construction, reconstruction, rehabilitation, or replacement of public infrastructure, affordable housing, or permanent supportive housing projects, if the proposition proposing that bond includes specified accountability requirements. The measure would specify that this 55% threshold applies to any proposition for the incurrence of indebtedness by a city, county, city and county, or special district for these purposes that is submitted at the same election as this measure.



5P-7P

PROGRAM DATE: Thu., Jan. 11, 2024 (or the weekend of)
PROGRAM/SEGMENT TIME: 5:05-5:15pm

Guest: **JONATHAN KELLER**
> President, California Family Council

Issues Discussed: parental notification proposal blocked from being heard

CONTACT #: [REDACTED]
b/u:

www.CaliforniaFamily.org

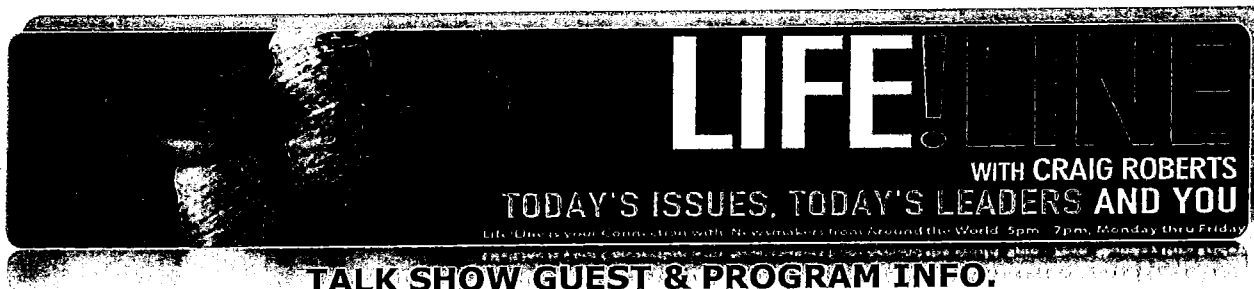
CA Legislative Leader Still Refuses to Allow Hearing on Parent Notification

California Assembly Education Committee Chair Al Muratsuchi is still blocking public debate at the state capitol over parent notification in schools despite polls showing the voters overwhelmingly support it. Last year, Assemblyman Bill Essayli introduced AB 1314, a bill requiring public schools to notify parents if a child starts identifying at school as a gender that does not align with the sex listed on his or her birth certificate.

The legislation was assigned to the Assembly Committee on Education, but Muratsuchi refused to set the bill for a hearing. This week there is an opportunity for him to change his mind before Friday's deadline. But Muratsuchi is still refusing.

"Nothing good comes out of keeping secrets from parents," Essayli told a crowd gathered outside the state capitol last week. "Nobody loves their children more than their parents. If children are struggling with their identity; if they are struggling with anything at school, they need their parents. To isolate them from their parents is to do them harm."

"Unfortunately, this legislature is so arrogant, they are so pompous, they refuse to even give my bill a hearing," he complained. "They don't even want to take a vote. That's how little regard they have for the people of this state."



TALK SHOW GUEST & PROGRAM INFO.

5P-7P

PROGRAM DATE: Thu. January 18, 2024 (or the weekend of)

PROGRAM/SEGMENT TIME: 5:05-5:30pm

Guest: DR. CLEMENTINE MSENGI

> Faculty of the Center for Doctoral Studies in Educational Leadership at Lamar University in Beaumont, Texas.

> Author of the soon-to-be-released (Jan. 23), *SPARED: Escaping Genocide in Rwanda and Finding a Home in America – a True Story of Hope and Resilience* (Credo House Publishers)

> survivor of the Rwandan genocide (her parents and some of her siblings were massacred in this genocide)

> In 2003, she received a fellowship from the Echoing Green Foundation and founded a nonprofit organization designed to help refugees and immigrants adjust to American culture and contribute to the well-being of the local community.

> Dr. Msengi has garnered a number of awards, **including the Outstanding American by Choice Award from the Department of Homeland Security.**

Issues Discussed: surviving/escaping the Rwandan genocide; lessons learned about faith, family, community, war and resilience.

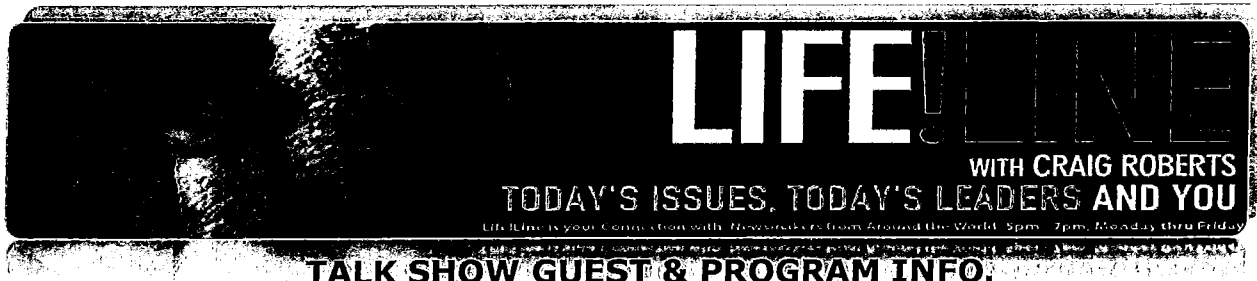
CONTACT #: Zoom – [REDACTED]

b/u: [REDACTED]

www.DrClem.com

Talking points:

Question: The title of your book, 'Spared,' is very powerful. How did you come up with this name? "Thank you. I could not think of another title more fitting for the story I tell in this book. In the midst of the Rwandan genocide, where over one million lives were tragically lost, 'Spared' reminds me of the fragility of life and the need to be grateful for the gift of life. As I remember those who were not spared, this title serves as a reminder to me to be grateful that I am here and have been spared from many things that could have taken me down. I believe many people will relate to some of my experiences as they too may have been spared from their own challenges in life."



TALK SHOW GUEST & PROGRAM INFO
5P-7P

PROGRAM DATE: Wed., January 24, 2024 (or the weekend of)
PROGRAM/SEGMENT TIME: 5:05-5:45pm

Guest: JOHN SMITHBAKER

- > Founder of *Fathers in the Field*
- > Author of *"Man Enough to Forgive"* (Dunham Books)
- > His passion and focus are to help men recapture their divinely assigned roles of Pastor, Provider and Protector in the home, as well as in the Church. Standing in the gap for the fatherless and challenging men to defend those under their care is a call on his life from the Heavenly Father. As a gifted leader, Smithbaker combines his personal experience and straightforward style to connect with men impacted by the wounds of fatherlessness, helping them recognize their God-given, mission-oriented purpose in life.

Issues Discussed: how rampant fatherlessness has brought this country to where we are now; calling on men to be strong, courageous and counter-cultural; first-hand insights and encouragement for men who have similar life experiences and father wounds, highlighting the need for forgiveness.

CONTACT #: [REDACTED]

b/u: n/a

www.ManEnoughToForgive.com

From his website:

John J. Smithbaker Releases Book to Address the No. 1 Societal Issue of Our Time: Fatherlessness

'Man Enough to Forgive' and Companion Workbook Helps Readers Fulfill Their Mission-Oriented Purpose Through Forgiveness

Author, speaker and founder of Fathers in the Field, John J. Smithbaker, has written "Man Enough to Forgive: Healing the Wounds of Fatherhood Abandonment," to challenge men to break the cycle of fatherlessness and pursue biblical forgiveness.

TALKING POINTS:

The issue of fatherhood abandonment is an ever-growing concern in our culture. The social problems that plague our nation today – divorce, crime, suicide, mental health, addiction, etc. – are all either directly or indirectly related to **fatherlessness**. These issues are not only destroying society but the entire family unit.

Take these statistics for example:

1. 72% of adolescent murders are committed by fatherless children
2. 60% of rapists come from fatherless homes
3. 67% of state prison inmates come from fatherless homes
4. 30% more likely to abuse drugs and/or alcohol
5. Children from fatherless homes are dramatically more likely to commit suicide
6. Children from fatherless homes are twice as likely to drop out of school

Passionate about restoring the family and helping men understand their unique purpose in life, as ***a fatherless boy himself, John provides first-hand insights and encouragement for men who have similar life experiences and father wounds, highlighting the need for forgiveness.***

Today, John is calling on men to be strong, courageous and counter-cultural. He believes that “*men were born for a glorious and mission-oriented purpose, but too many fall short or have lost their way due to the pain and consequences of being fatherless.*” By addressing fatherlessness at a heart level, we can break the cycle and help others find healing.



TALK SHOW GUEST & PROGRAM INFO.
5P-7P

PROGRAM DATE: Tu. Jan. 30, 2024 (or the weekend of)
PROGRAM/SEGMENT TIME: 5:05-5:45pm

(SOHL Month)

Guest: **WESLEY J. SMITH**

- > Senior Fellow at the Discovery Institute's Center on Human Exceptionalism
- > Among the world's foremost critics of assisted suicide and utilitarian bioethics.
- > Host, Humanize Podcast
- > In 2004 he was named by the National Journal as one of the nation's top expert thinkers in bioengineering for his work in bioethics.
- > In 2008, the Human Life Foundation named him a Great Defender of Life. His Human Exceptionalism blog, hosted by National Review Online, is one of the premier blogs dealing with human life and dignity.

Issue Discussed: Chinese scientists create a mutant coronavirus strain that attacks the BRAIN and has a 100pct kill rate in mice even as they admit there is a risk it spills over to humans. What in the world?? Where does science need to draw the line? Ethics?

CONTACT #: [REDACTED]

www.Humanize.Today

www.Discovery.org

Chinese scientists create a mutant coronavirus strain that attacks the BRAIN and has a 100pct kill rate in mice even as they admit there is a risk it spills over to humans.

- Eight rodents infected with the pathogen 'surprisingly' died within eight days
- **Critics of the study said: 'This madness must be stopped before [it is] too late'**
- **READ MORE: World leaders meet to thrash out plan to protect against 'Disease X'**

Chinese scientists have been experimenting with a mutant **coronavirus** strain that is 100 percent lethal in mice — despite concerns such research could spark another pandemic.

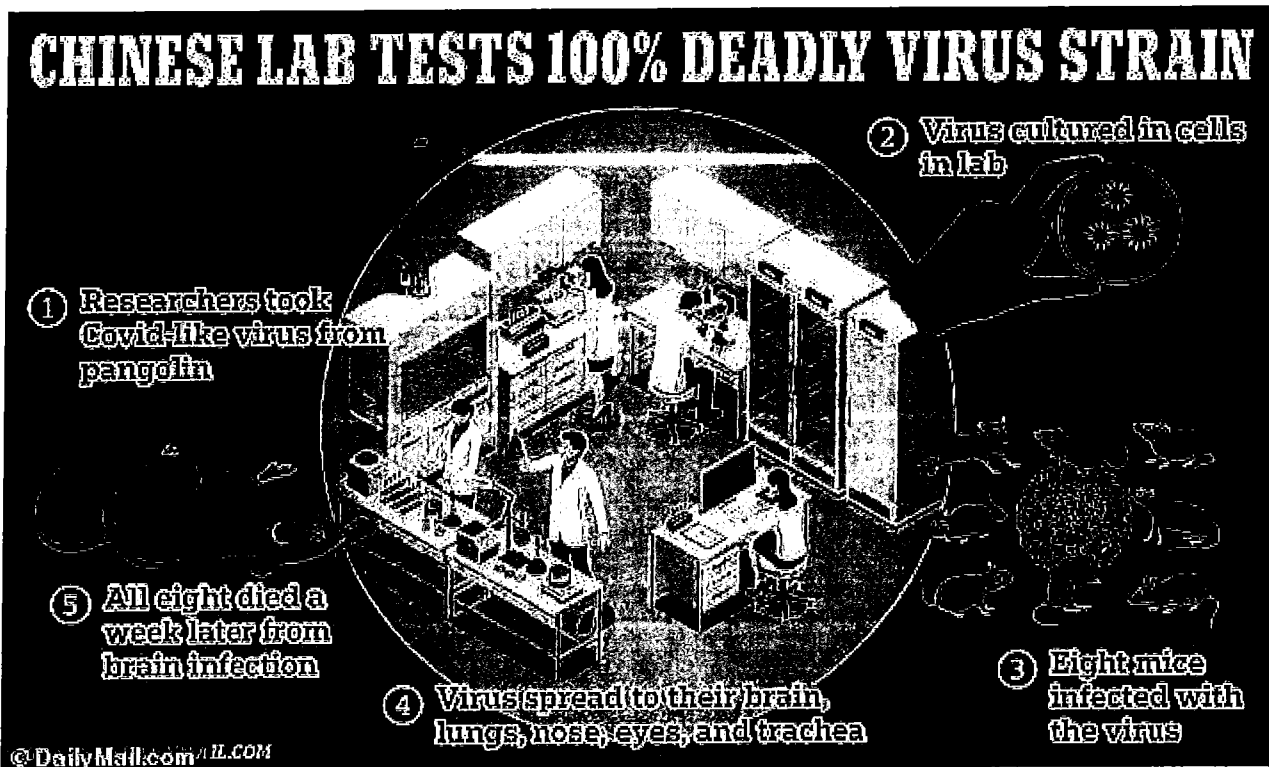
Scientists in Beijing — who are linked to the Chinese military — cloned a Covid-like virus **found in pangolins**, known as GX_P2V, and used it to infect mice.

The mice had been 'humanized', meaning they were engineered to express a protein found in people, with the goal being to assess how the virus might react in humans.

Every rodent that was infected with the pathogen died within eight days, which the researchers described as 'surprisingly' quick.

The team were also surprised to find high levels of viral load in the mice's brains and eyes - suggesting the virus, despite being related to Covid, multiplies and spreads through the body in a unique way.

Writing in a scientific paper that has not yet been published, they warned the finding 'underscores a spillover risk of GX_P2V into humans'.



Scientists in Beijing — who are linked to the Chinese military — cloned a Covid-like virus found in pangolins, known as GX_P2V, and used it to infect mice. Every rodent that was infected with the pathogen died within eight days, which the researchers described as 'surprisingly' quick

The virus was discovered in pangolins in Malaysia - scaly mammals that are known harborers of coronaviruses and were heavily speculated to be the intermediate host that passed Covid from bats to humans

Professor Francois Balloux, an infectious disease expert based at University College London, wrote on Twitter (X): 'It's a terrible study, scientifically totally pointless.

'I can see nothing of vague interest that could be learned from force-infecting a weird breed of humanized mice with a random virus. Conversely, I could see how such stuff might go wrong...'

Professor Richard Ebright, a chemist at Rutgers University in New Brunswick, New Jersey, told DailyMail.com he wholeheartedly agreed with Professor Balloux's assessment.

He added: 'The preprint does not specify the biosafety level and biosafety precautions used for the research.

'The absence of this information raises the concerning possibility that part or all of this research, like the research in Wuhan in 2016-2019 that likely caused the Covid-19 pandemic, recklessly was performed without the minimal biosafety containment and practices essential for research with a potential pandemic pathogens.'

According to the study, carried out by the **Beijing** University of Chemical Technology, the virus was discovered in 2017 prior to the Covid outbreak.

It was discovered in Malaysia in pangolins - scaly mammals that are known harborers of coronaviruses and were heavily speculated to be the intermediate host that passed Covid from bats to humans.

The researchers cloned the virus and stored multiple copies in the Beijing lab, where it continued to evolve.

It is unclear when the newly surfaced study was conducted. But the researchers said it was possible the virus had undergone a 'virulence-enhancing mutation' in storage, which made it more deadly.

For the new research, eight mice were infected with the virus, eight were infected with an inactivated virus and eight were used as a control group.

All mice infected with the virus died. They succumbed to the infection between seven and eight days after being infected.

Symptoms included their eyes turning completely white, rapid weight loss and fatigue.

Researchers found 'significant amounts' of the virus in the rodents' brains, lungs, noses, eyes and windpipes.

By day six, the viral load had 'significantly decreased' in the lungs, but the animals' brains had shrunk and there were 'exceptionally high' virus levels in their brains.

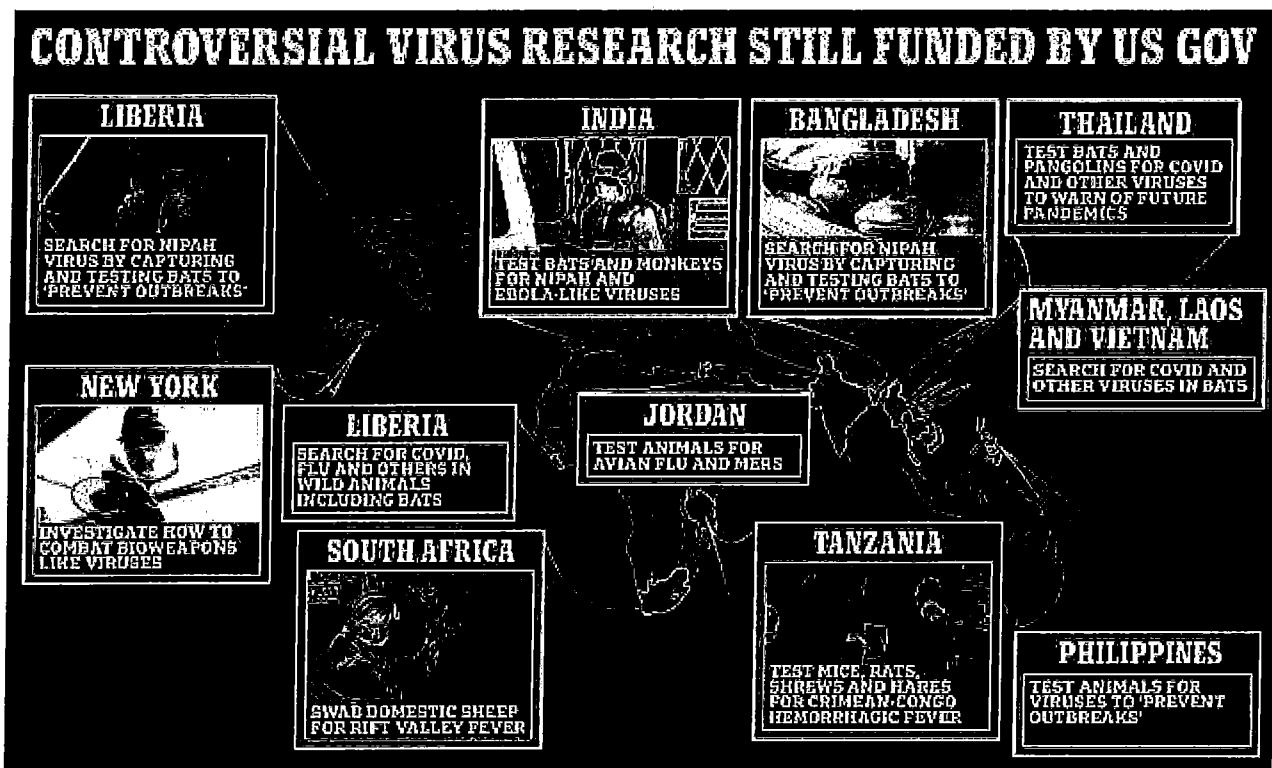
The results suggest that the virus infects via the respiratory system and then migrates to the brain - unlike Covid which causes lower lung infections and pneumonia in severe cases. However, there have been examples of Covid being found in brain tissue of severely sick patients.

'Severe brain infection during the later stages of infection may be the key cause of death in these mice,' the researchers said.

They concluded: 'This is the first report showing that a SARS-CoV-2-related pangolin coronavirus can cause 100 percent mortality in hACE2 mice, suggesting a risk for GX_P2V to spill over into humans.'

However, the original strain of Covid also killed 100 percent in mice in some studies, meaning the new results may not be directly applicable to humans.

Dr Gennadi Glinsky, a retired professor of medicine at Stanford, said on social media: 'This madness must be stopped before [it is] too late.'



The above shows the grants awarded to EcoHealth Alliance from the US Government that are currently active. EcoHealth, which originally focused on conservation, now works around the world to investigate the origins of viruses, map where they have spread and analyze them to find out where the next outbreak could occur

DailyMail.com exposed in 2022 how similar research virus-manipulation research was being carried out by Boston University.

Researchers were found to have created a new Covid strain that had an 80 percent death rate among mice.

It sparked nationwide debate about whether the experiments were an illegal form of research known as 'gain of function' - which involves purposefully making viruses more deadly or infectious to study their evolution.

The Biden Administration tightened rules around such research in October 2022, but the definition of gain of function remains contested.

Dr Christina Parks, a molecular biologist from the University of Michigan, said the Chinese study was 'classic gain of function, whether they tell you it is or not.'

One of the Chinese researchers was Dr Yigang Tong, who trained at the Academy of Military Medical Sciences, a Chinese military medical research institute run by the People's Liberation Army.

Dr Tong studied there between 1988 and 1991 for a master of science and then again between 1997 and 2000 for a PhD.

He also co-authored a paper in 2023 with 'bat woman' Zheng-Li Shi, who helps run the Wuhan Institute of Virology (WIV).

The WIV has been designated the most likely source of the Covid pandemic by the FBI and US Department of Energy in what has been dubbed the 'lab leak' theory.

Researchers there, with US Government grants, were performing gain of function experiments on coronaviruses in the months leading up to the Covid outbreak.

The virus first emerged miles away from the WIV, where researchers were known to be working on coronaviruses found in bats.

It comes as Dr Peter Daszak, head of the New York based non-profit EcoHealth Alliance, which funded controversial experiments in Wuhan which some fear started the pandemic, presented the discovery of a never-before-seen virus with 'almost' as much potential to infect humans as Covid.

Dr Daszak, a friend of Dr Anthony Fauci, the ex-chief medical advisor to the US President, revealed his team have already found one bat coronavirus of considerable interest.

'We found a lot of SARS-related coronaviruses, but one in particular we found was quite common in bats where people were commonly exposed,' he told the WHO event, attended by MailOnline.



TALK SHOW GUEST & PROGRAM INFO.
5P-7P

PROGRAM DATE: Wed. Jan. 31, 2024 (or the weekend of)
PROGRAM/SEGMENT TIME: 5:05-5:30pm

Guest: **SIMONE LEDEEN**

> Sr. Fellow at the Strauss Center

> Former Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Middle East Policy, where she was responsible for US defense policy for Bahrain, Egypt, Israel, Iran, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Oman, Palestinian Authority, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Syria, United Arab Emirates and Yemen.

Issue Discussed: the death of 3 U.S. servicemembers, and what needs to happen next with Iran

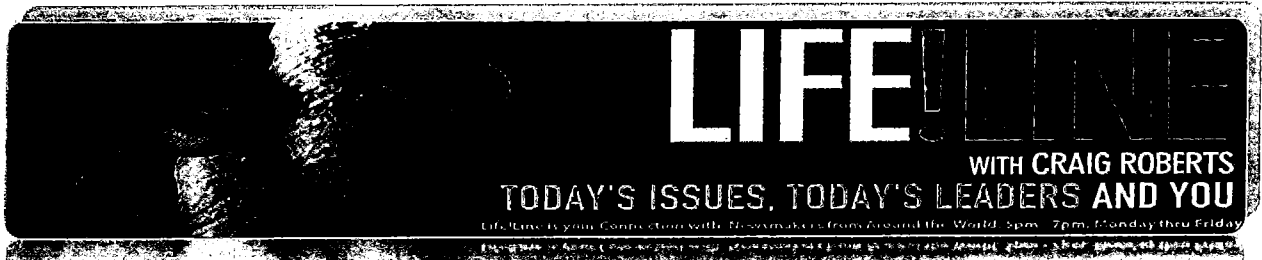
CONTACT #: [REDACTED]

www.Humanize.Today

www.Discovery.org

Talking points:

- Since Oct. 7th, there have been 157 attacks on U.S. assets, and the Biden Administration's route of deterrence has only further emboldened Iran. Appeasement has been escalatory.
- The U.S. is at a turning point where it is time to take action directly toward Iran and not against its proxies. The U.S. has to set a "red line."
- Iran's denial of responsibility for the attack on U.S. servicemembers has been their continued strategy to use proxies to deny any involvement. It cannot continue.



TALK SHOW GUEST & PROGRAM INFO.
5P-7P

PROGRAM DATE: Thu. Feb. 1, 2024 (or the weekend of)
PROGRAM/SEGMENT TIME: 5:05-5:30pm

Guest: **JAMES CZERNIAWSKI** (CHUR-NOW-SKEE)
> Senior policy analyst in Technology and Innovation at Americans For Prosperity

Issues discussed: the latest Nanny State proposal to “protect” kids form social media; explicitly criminalizing unsolicited robocalls that use voices made with AI

CONTACT #: [REDACTED]
b/u:

www.AmericansForProsperity.org

In the latest Nanny State proposal to “protect” kids form social media, California legislators are proposing a bill that would require social media companies to shut off their algorithms designed to make their feeds as gripping as possible for users under 18.

This is a terrible idea, according to James Czerniawski, tech policy expert at Americans for Prosperity (story below).

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To protect kids, California might require chronological feeds on social media

A proposed California law would require social media companies to make chronological feeds the default for users under 18.

Social media companies design their feeds to be as gripping as possible, with complicated algorithms shuffling posts and ads into a never-ending stream of entertainment.

A new California law would require companies to shut off those algorithms by default for users

under 18, and implement other mandated tweaks that lawmakers say would reduce the negative mental health effects of social media on children.

The bill, dubbed the Protecting Kids from Social Media Addiction Act by its author, state Sen. Nancy Skinner (D-Berkeley), was announced at a news conference with California Atty. Gen. Rob Bonta on Monday, alongside another proposed law that would tighten privacy protections for minors.

“Social media companies have the ability to protect our kids,” Skinner said. “They could act; they have not.”

One of the act’s key provisions is making a chronological feed the default setting on platforms, which would show users posts from the people they follow in the order that they were uploaded, rather than arranging the content to maximize engagement.

This change would show young users “the things that they want to see, as opposed to the addictive algorithmic feed that is presently being fed to our children,” Bonta said.

The act would also require the default settings on social media apps to mute notifications between midnight and 6 a.m., cap use at one hour daily, and remove the visibility of “like” counts. Parents — and in practice, most likely, the children using these apps — would have the ability to change these default settings.

Assemblymember Buffy Wicks (D-Oakland), who introduced the bill to tighten privacy protections for minors, said changing the settings can yield big benefits for children.

“We know there are some kids that will change the default setting,” Wicks said, “but the default setting is a very powerful tool.”

The new bills are just the latest in a string of legislative and regulatory actions taken by California lawmakers and lawyers in recent years aiming to change how social media companies do business.

In October, Bonta’s office filed a lawsuit against Meta, the parent company of Facebook, Instagram and WhatsApp, alongside 32 other states, alleging that the company designed its apps specifically to addict young users while misleading the public about the adverse effects of these “harmful and psychologically manipulative platform features.”

Portions of internal company documents included in that lawsuit show that Meta knew that more than a million children under 13 were using Instagram, while company officials publicly stated that underage users were not allowed on the platform. The suit also alleges that Mark Zuckerberg, the company’s chief executive, personally vetoed a proposal that would have banned filters that simulate the effects of plastic surgery, despite pushback over the negative effect on girls’ mental health.

Bonta's office also won a \$93-million settlement in a case against Google last year, which alleged that the company had deceived users by collecting their location data for ad targeting and other applications after they had opted out.

But a prior law intended to rein in social media companies' treatment of young users ran into trouble in the courts last year. A federal judge in San Jose issued a temporary injunction against the California Age-Appropriate Design Code Act in September, ruling that the law likely violates the 1st Amendment rights of the tech companies that it seeks to regulate.

The law, which was co-authored by Assemblymember Wicks and signed into law in 2022, would require companies to provide privacy protections to children by default. The court found that enforcement of these provisions could either require more data collection — to verify the age of certain users — or limit the content that adult users were allowed to see. Bonta's office is appealing the decision.

The lawmakers at the Monday news conference cited research published by the U.S. surgeon general last year as evidence of the harms that social media use inflicts on minors. That report found that "adolescents who spend more than three hours per day on social media face double the risk of experiencing poor mental health outcomes," nearly half of adolescents said that social media made them feel worse about their body image, and a majority saw "hate-based content" on a regular basis.

"Profit is being made off of our kids and at expense of their well-being," Skinner said Monday. The new law "is designed to prevent these very preventable harms."

Last week, New York City became the first city to officially declare social media to be a public health hazard (stpry below).

"We need a conversation that acknowledges kids will have access to this technology and it's about social media literacy efforts as well as connecting parents to the tools at their disposal to tailor their kids' online experience," James said in a recent press statement. "We shouldn't repeat the mistakes of similar conjecture that were used when discussing video games, rock and roll, TV, and radio. More research, more tailored and targeted solutions are needed."

NYC first to designate social media as environmental toxin

New York City declared Wednesday that it's the first city to issue an advisory officially designating social media as an environmental toxin.

Driving the news: In response to the danger social media poses to the mental health of young people, the city's Department of Health and Mental Hygiene issued an advisory identifying unrestricted access to and use of social media as a public health hazard.

The department urged parents and caregivers to delay giving children access to a smartphone or social media until at least age 14.

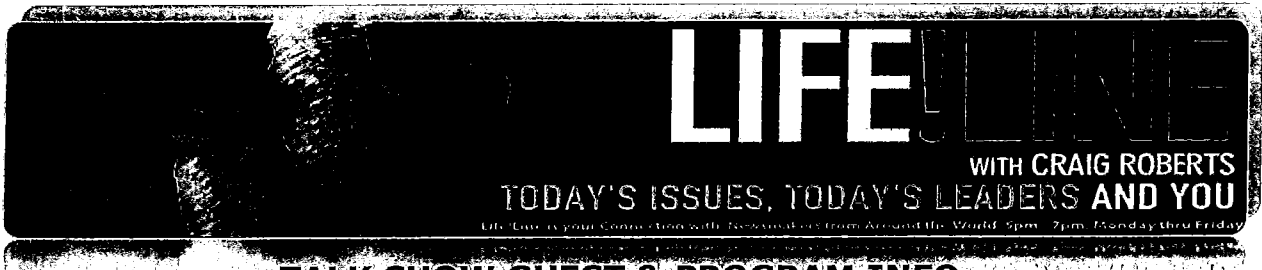
They also urged federal and state policymakers to expand on legislative proposals that protect youth from "predatory practices by social media companies."

The big picture: Social media companies are increasingly being blamed for historically high rates of depression, suicidality and other mental health issues in youth, Axios's Tina Reed reports.

States and local governments, as a result, are increasingly pursuing legislation and legal action.

What they're saying: "We won't let Big Tech endanger our kids," NYC Mayor Eric Adams said in his State of the City speech Wednesday.

The advisory urged all New Yorkers to "advocate to hold social media companies accountable and advance reform that protects youth from harmful and predatory practices."



**TALK SHOW GUEST & PROGRAM INFO.
5P-7P**

PROGRAM DATE: Tu. Feb. 13, 2024 (or the weekend of)
PROGRAM/SEGMENT TIME: 5:05-5:15pm

Guest: **SUSAN SHELLEY**

> President of Communications for the Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Association

Issue Discussed: UPDATE on protecting Prop 13/ACA1 efforts

CONTACT #: [REDACTED]
b/u:

www.HJTA.org

www.Reinstate58.hjta.org

Assembly Approves Two Constitutional Amendments Threatening Taxpayers' Rights

Dec. 2023

The Assembly approved two constitutional amendments September 6 that would impact taxpayer protections and the vote requirements needed to approve new taxes.

ACA 1 (Aguiar-Curry) proposes lowering the vote threshold from two-thirds to 55 percent to pass infrastructure-related local bonds and special taxes. This would strip taxpayers of the two-thirds vote requirement established by Proposition 13 to prevent local governments from increasing taxes in response to Proposition 13's property tax limitations.

ACA 1 needed at least 54 votes to clear the Assembly, and was approved with a 55-12 vote.

The measure now moves to the Senate. If it receives at least 27 votes in the 40-member house, it will be placed on the ballot in 2024 and a majority vote in a statewide election will determine its fate.

“ACA 1 will lead to higher taxes – including higher property taxes to repay local bonds – and a higher cost of living in California,” CalTax President Robert Gutierrez said. “Proponents claim their goal is to develop more affordable housing, but their proposal would actually make everything in California less affordable by paving the way for major tax increases.”

CalTax noted that ACA 1 directly attacks section four of Article XIII A of the California Constitution, established by Proposition 13 – the requirement that a two-thirds vote of the electorate is needed to increase local special taxes. (The other three sections establish a maximum uniform tax rate of 1 percent of real property’s assessed value; require acquisition-value assessments, in which the value of locally assessed real property is based on the purchase price or appraised value at the time of a change in ownership or new construction, plus an increase for inflation not to exceed 2 percent annually; and require a two-thirds vote of the Legislature to increase state taxes.)

On September 7, supporters of the measure amended SB 789 (Allen and Wiener) to place ACA 1 on the November 2024 ballot if it is approved by the Senate. ACA 1 includes language stating that its provisions apply to local measures that appear on the ballot in the same election, so the lower vote threshold would be in effect for the November election. Local officials are likely to view this election as favorable for tax measures.

The second measure approved by the Assembly is ACA 13 (Ward), which would require any statewide initiative that changes any vote requirements to receive the same votes in support as the vote requirement specified in the initiative.

ACA 13 was introduced in the last weeks of session in direct response to the Taxpayer Protection and Government Accountability Act, an initiative proposed by the California Business Roundtable that has qualified for the November 2024 ballot. The initiative would require statewide voter approval of all legislative tax increases, a two-thirds vote for all local special taxes, and a public vote for municipal fees.

Assembly Member Vince Fong said ACA 13 is a misguided attempt to change the rules of a pending election because of a policy disagreement.

“Direct democracy is a fundamental part of our state, history, and constitution,” Fong said. “Just because one doesn’t like an idea doesn’t justify changing the rules.”

ACA 13 was approved with a final vote of 57-19, and now goes to the Senate.

If approved by at least two-thirds of the Senate, ACA 13 will appear on the March 2024 ballot. If approved by a majority of voters in that election, the rules would change for the Taxpayer Protection Act – which qualified for the ballot in 2022 – and the initiative would need a two-thirds vote for passage in November. ACA 13 would not require ACA 1 to be approved by a 55 percent vote, because ACA 13 applies only to measures placed on the ballot by the public (additionally, it applies only to measures that increase vote thresholds, not those that decrease them).

ISSUE: *Assembly Constitutional Amendment 1 (ACA 1)*, the proposed constitutional amendment that would make it easier to raise local taxes for anything labeled "infrastructure" and for certain public housing projects.

ACA 1 is a direct attack on Proposition 13. It would change the state Constitution to cut the percentage of votes needed to raise special taxes, dropping it from the current two-thirds required under Prop. 13 to only 55%. That makes it much easier for tax-raisers who want to take more and more of your money. "Infrastructure" can be anything government wants to do.

ACA 1 will be heard in the Assembly Local Government Committee on Wednesday, July 12. You can help defeat this dangerous measure.

You may want to call your own representatives in the Assembly and the Senate and urge them to oppose ACA 1. You can look up their names and contact information at FindYourRep.Legislature.ca.gov.

From the CA.gov website:

History and Impact of Proposition 13

On June 6, 1978, California voters overwhelmingly approved Proposition 13, a property tax limitation initiative. This amendment to California's Constitution was the taxpayers' collective response to dramatic increases in property taxes and a growing state revenue surplus. Proposition 13 (or "Prop. 13") rolled back most local real estate assessments to 1975 market value levels, limited the property tax rate to 1 percent plus the rate necessary to fund local voter-approved bonded indebtedness, and limited future property tax increases to a maximum of 2% per year.

Prior to 1978, real property was appraised cyclically, with no more than a five-year interval between reassessments. Since property values were systematically reviewed and updated, assessed values were usually kept at or near current market value levels. In contrast, under Proposition 13, properties are reassessed to current market value only upon a change in ownership or completion of new construction (called the base year value). In addition, Proposition 13 generally limits annual increases in the base year value of real property to no more than 2 percent, except when property changes ownership or undergoes new construction. Essentially, Proposition 13 converted the market value-based property tax system to an acquisition value-based system.

Under Proposition 13, similar properties can have substantially different assessed values based solely on the dates the properties were purchased. Disparities result wherever

significant appreciation in property values has occurred over time. Longtime property owners, whose assessed values generally may not be increased more than 2 percent per year, tend to have markedly lower tax liability than recent purchasers, whose assessed values tend to approximate market levels.

ACA-1

Bill Details:

A resolution to propose to the people of the State of California an amendment to the Constitution of the State, by amending Sections 1 and 4 of Article XIII A thereof, by amending Section 2 of, and by adding Section 2.5 to, Article XIII C thereof, by amending Section 3 of Article XIII D thereof, and by amending Section 18 of Article XVI thereof, relating to local finance.

Bill Summary

(1) The California Constitution prohibits the ad valorem tax rate on real property from exceeding 1% of the full cash value of the property, subject to certain exceptions. This measure would create an additional exception to the 1% limit that would authorize a city, county, city and county, or special district to levy an ad valorem tax to service bonded indebtedness incurred to fund the construction, reconstruction, rehabilitation, or replacement of public infrastructure, affordable housing, or permanent supportive housing, or the acquisition or lease of real property for those purposes, if the proposition proposing that tax is approved by 55% of the voters of the city, county, or city and county, as applicable, and the proposition includes specified accountability requirements. The measure would specify that these provisions apply to any city, county, city and county, or special district measure imposing an ad valorem tax to pay the interest and redemption charges on bonded indebtedness for these purposes that is submitted at the same election as this measure.

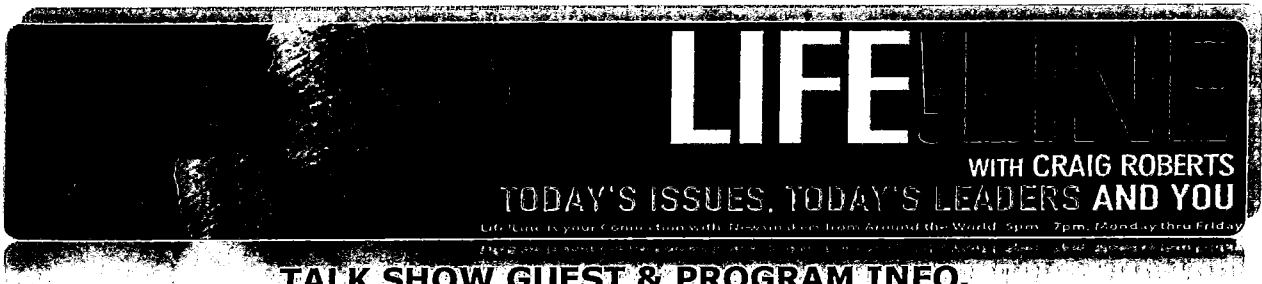
(2) The California Constitution conditions the imposition of a special tax by a local government upon the approval of 23 of the voters of the local government voting on that tax. This measure would authorize a local government to impose, extend, or increase a sales and use tax or transactions and use tax imposed in accordance with specified law or a parcel tax, as defined, for the purposes of funding the construction, rehabilitation, or replacement of public infrastructure, affordable housing, or permanent supportive housing if the proposition proposing that tax is approved by 55% of its voters voting on the proposition and the proposition includes specified accountability requirements. This measure would also make conforming changes to related provisions. The measure would specify that these provisions apply to any local measure imposing, extending, or increasing a sales and use tax, transactions and use tax, or parcel tax for these purposes that is submitted at the same election as this measure.

(3) The California Constitution prohibits specified local government agencies from incurring any indebtedness exceeding in any year the income and revenue provided in that year, without the assent of 23 of the voters and subject to other conditions. In the case of a school district, community college district, or county office of education, the California Constitution permits a proposition for the incurrence of indebtedness in the form of general obligation bonds for the

construction, reconstruction, rehabilitation, or replacement of school facilities, including the furnishing and equipping of school facilities, or the acquisition or lease of real property for school facilities, to be adopted upon the approval of 55% of the voters of the district or county, as appropriate, voting on the proposition at an election. This measure would expressly prohibit a special district, other than a board of education or school district, from incurring any indebtedness or liability exceeding any applicable statutory limit, as prescribed by the statutes governing the special district.

The measure would also similarly require the approval of 55% of the voters of the city, county, city and county, or special district, as applicable, to incur bonded indebtedness, exceeding in any year the income and revenue provided in that year, that is in the form of general obligation bonds issued to fund the construction, reconstruction, rehabilitation, or replacement of public infrastructure, affordable housing, or permanent supportive housing projects, if the proposition proposing that bond includes specified accountability requirements.

The measure would specify that this 55% threshold applies to any proposition for the incurrence of indebtedness by a city, county, city and county, or special district for these purposes that is submitted at the same election as this measure.



TALK SHOW GUEST & PROGRAM INFO.
5P-7P

PRE-TAPE DATE: Wed. Feb. 14, 2024 (or the weekend of)
PRE-TAPE/SEGMENT TIME: 5:05-5:30pm

* in observance of Valentine's Day

Guest: **MELISSA HENSON**

- > Vice President of the Parents Television and Media Council
- > noted expert on entertainment industry trends and how the impact of entertainment affects children and the American popular culture at large.

Issue discussed: Hollywood's anti-marriage messaging is showing up all over/in our culture today as they continue to push harmful, and, more explicit messaging, into programming aimed at youth today; how that has affected a whole generation of relationships and what we can do to fix it.

CONTACT #: [REDACTED]
backup: [REDACTED]

www.ParentsTV.org

Twitter: @ThePTC

What Is Love? Hollywood Hasn't Got a Clue

Melissa Henson | Feb 13, 2024 Townhall.com

A 2008 Parents Television and Media Council study found that sex in the context of marriage was at that time either non-existent on prime-time broadcast television, or depicted as a burdensome, rather than as an expression of love and commitment. Across the broadcast networks, verbal references to non-marital sex outnumbered references to sex in the context of marriage by nearly 3 to 1; and scenes depicting or implying sex between nonmarried partners outnumbered scenes depicting or implying sex between married partners by a ratio of nearly 4 to 1.

We are seeing the impact of Hollywood's anti-marriage messaging show up in our culture today.

In 2007, the year in which the data for that analysis was collected, 42% of women aged 15-44 were married.

By 2022, that share dropped to 37%, amounting to some 3.1 million fewer marriages. In 1970, 17% of adults 18 and over had never been married. Today it's 31%.

Fewer young people anticipate getting married and having children, and fewer young people believe that having a good marriage is important. Recent data from the Pew Research Center tells us that only one in four adults believe that having children is "extremely" or "very" important to a fulfilling life.

Why have so many young adults fallen out of love with love?

Although there may be several factors, Hollywood has played its part. We are seeing the fruits of TV's toxic attitude toward love, monogamy, and marriage. I don't think it's a mere coincidence that the generation that grew up watching the programs that denigrated marriage and family are now disinterested in getting married and starting families.

I am encouraged that there are young adults speaking out about how they are increasingly turned-off by hook-up culture that Hollywood is constantly trying to sell them.

"Katie," a 23-year-old young woman who embraced "hookup" culture when she went to college told BuzzFeed News, "It feels like we were tricked into exploiting ourselves [and] tricked into thinking it was our idea... I would say I gathered this mostly from media, *Sex and the City, Girls* — HBO somehow did a number on me — books, social media... You read a lot about [sex positivity] on Tumblr, you read a lot about it on Twitter when you were in high school, [and] it gets really ingrained in your brain that you need to be comfortable having sex with someone you're not committed to. I think in my feeble 18-year-old mind, it was probably not what I needed to hear."

As toxic as TV content was 15 years ago, it has only gotten worse in the years since.

HBO's "Naked Attraction" tells us that the first and really the only thing that matters in choosing a romantic partner is what they look like naked.

HBO's "The Idol" tells teens sex has to be manipulative, dangerous, and even cause physical harm to be exciting.

HBO's "Euphoria" depicted college freshman choking his high school-aged girlfriend during sex — an encounter eerily similar to one "Katie" described to *BuzzFeed News*: "There's people I've hooked up with where they just immediately choked me and I was like, this was not discussed, I don't know you... I've had some kooky experiences with men where I was open to [hooking up] at first, then realized, *I'm in a place that I don't know, I don't know how old you are, I don't know your name, I'm blackout drunk*, and that's obviously not fun."

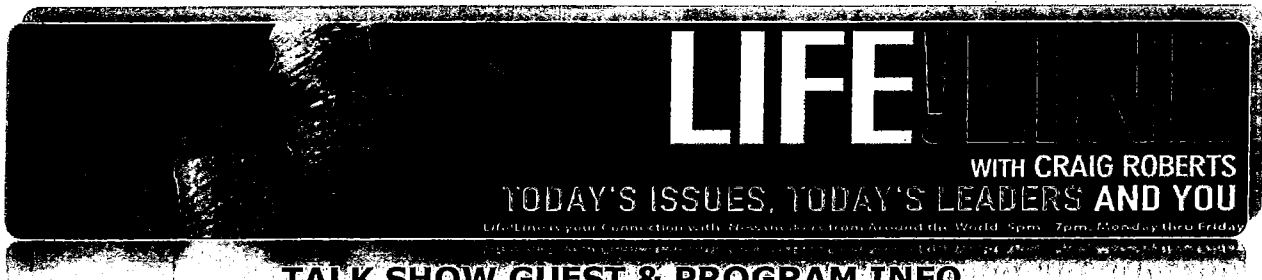
"Katie" is not alone in thinking Hollywood did a number on her. More and more young people aren't buying the version of "love" – i.e. hookup culture – Hollywood's been trying to sell them. A recent survey from UCLA's Center for Scholars and Storytellers found that a majority of teens want to see fewer stories about dating and more stories about friendship (51.5%), and a near majority (47.5%) said that sex isn't needed for the plot of most TV shows and movies.

Mass media has been called a "sexual super peer" -- meaning that teens look to the media for cues about how they are expected to behave.

If the media is telling them that as teens, they are expected to be sexually active, have multiple partners, and engage in high-risk sexual behavior, that's what teens are likely to believe. And yet, studies show that sexually active adolescents are at high risk for depression and suicide, and that early sexual experience among adolescents is associated with other high-risk, behaviors like drinking alcohol and drug use.

And yet Hollywood is continuing to produce and market hyper-sexualized content to teens; despite the fact that a majority of teens say they don't want it, despite the fact that exposure to sexualized media content is strongly associated with earlier initiation of sexual behavior in teens, despite the fact that sexually active teens are at risk for mental health challenges, and despite the fact that America's teens are experiencing an unprecedented mental health crisis.

Hollywood is out of touch, and not delivering what audiences actually want. Worse, the sexualized content they are pushing on kids is doing them harm and it's causing young people to take a dark view of relationships, dating, and marriage.



PROGRAM DATE: Wed. February 14, 2024 (or the weekend of)
PROGRAM/SEGMENT TIME: 5:35-5:45pm

Guest: **ELAINE PARKER**
> Chief Communications Officer, Job Creators Network (JCN)

Issue discussed: last week the Congressional Budget Office released its latest national fiscal outlook. The Key takeaway: **"The United States is on the verge of a debt spiral unless it immediately gets its fiscal house in order,"** writes Alfredo Ortiz, CEO of Job Creators Network (JCN), in an new op-ed.

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www.JobCreatorsNetwork.com

US Faces 'Unsustainable' Spiral of Rising Debt and Interest Costs

Paying the Cost

When the US borrows money, just like any debtor, it needs to pay its loans back with interest. The national debt is \$34 trillion and rising. Soon, America will need to spend more each year paying interest on the debt than it spends on national defense.

Former Treasury Secretary Robert Rubin told Bloomberg TV recently that the economy is "in a terrible place," and Black Swan author Nassim Nicholas Taleb warned that "a debt spiral is like a death spiral."

"We are in a spiral now—it's a slow spiral, but it's still a spiral—of rising debt and rising payments on the debt," Phillip Swagel, director of the Congressional Budget Office, told me for the Big Take DC podcast. "The situation is unsustainable."

Swagel and Bloomberg reporter Liz McCormick join the Big Take DC to discuss the rising debt load and what it would take to rein it in.

The CBO projects the annual interest on the debt will hit \$1.4 trillion by fiscal 2033 and \$5.4 trillion by fiscal 2053

But leaders in Washington keep kicking the issue down the road. There are plenty of complaints, warnings and promises to do something, but federal spending rarely comes down with each budget or temporary funding patch.

Borrowing money isn't necessarily a bad thing. In 1790, Alexander Hamilton wrote that debt was the price of liberty. Unlike a household spending more than it's bringing in, it's OK for the US government to live with a bit of red ink.

But Congress can't seem to rein it in. Fights over spending and the federal debt limit often bring the government to the brink of a shutdown or a default. But a solution is elusive and the fights themselves are damaging.

The only way out of this debt spiral is for Congress to balance the budget by making some hard decisions about spending and taxes. But hard decisions are hard to come by in a deadlocked Congress.



**TALK SHOW GUEST & PROGRAM INFO.
5P-7P**

PROGRAM DATE: Wednesday, February 28, 2024 (or the weekend of)

PROGRAM/SEGMENT TIME: 5:05-5:30

Guest: **JON COUPAL**

> President, Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Association

Issue Discussed: Prop 13/ACA1

CONTACT #: [REDACTED] (landline)
Backup [REDACTED] (cell).

www.HJTA.org

Gov. Newsom's silly arguments against the Taxpayer Protection Act don't stick

By JON COUPAL | PUBLISHED: February 17, 2024 at 7:05 a.m. | UPDATED: February 19, 2024 at 6:01 p.m.

Last week, the organizations sponsoring the Taxpayer Protection and Government Accountability Act (TPA) filed their response to the governor and Legislature's lawsuit, which seeks to remove the overwhelmingly popular measure from the November general election ballot.

The Taxpayer Protection Act will close court-created loopholes in Prop. 13 as well as providing additional taxpayer safeguards:

- Empower voters with the right to approve or reject all new state taxes as well as local taxes.
- Increase accountability and transparency so politicians spend our tax dollars more efficiently, and ballot titles for tax increases are clear and truthful.
- Stop government agencies from imposing "hidden taxes" disguised as fees imposed by appointed bureaucrats.

The organizations that are sponsoring and defending the Taxpayer Protection Act include the Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Association, the California Business Roundtable and the California Business Properties Association, which collectively represent tens of thousands of homeowners, businesses large and small, and owners of commercial real estate. These groups were supported by several "friend of the court" briefs from over a dozen local taxpayer associations.

The lawsuit by Gov. Gavin Newsom and Democrat leadership, backed by public employee unions, calls for the nearly unprecedented step of using the courts to deny voters their constitutional right to vote on this duly qualified initiative, a commonsense taxpayer protection and accountability measure. They are using a series of political, not legal arguments, to ask the California Supreme Court to remove the measure from the ballot.

The legal brief from the pro-taxpayer coalition exposed the abject lack of legal merit in the arguments from the governor and his allies in the Legislature. Specifically, the attack on the Taxpayer Protection Act fell far short of meeting the extremely high threshold the California Supreme Court has established for removing duly qualified initiatives from the ballot before voters exercise their constitutional right to vote.

The lawsuit against TPA is chock full of frivolous political arguments to support their position that California voters should not have the right to vote on future taxes. If the lawsuit proves anything it's that the tax-and-spend progressives who control California are scared to death that TPA will pass. And that fear is well founded as evidenced by polling showing that its provisions are supported by a majority of Californians.

Previously, the governor and Legislature's attorneys complained that "the [Taxpayer Protection Act] reduces the Legislature's spending power... and increases the power of State and local voters to reject taxes and charges."

To which we responded, "Yeah, that's the point."

TPA is desperately needed because the state has gone from a \$100 billion surplus to a \$60 billion deficit, with multiple years of projected shortfalls on the horizon. Combined with the state's ongoing cost-of-living crisis, California voters should have the right to vote on future taxes to ensure their voice is heard on when and how new revenue is raised and spent.

The governor, legislative leadership and public employee unions' arguments make it clear that they oppose the voters having this right, and instead want the power to raise unlimited taxes for unlimited spending, without any say from the voters who are paying those taxes.

This week's legal filings in defense of the Taxpayer Protection Act demonstrate how TPA builds upon previous voter-approved taxpayer protection measures like Propositions 13, 218, and 26, which serve as a much needed check on higher taxes and spending.

Given the weakness of the anti-taxpayer arguments against TPA, we are cautiously optimistic that the lawsuit seeking to remove it from the ballot will fail and that voters will be given the opportunity they deserve to vote on this critically important measure.

A decision from the California Supreme Court is expected before the end of June.

ISSUE: Assembly Constitutional Amendment 1 (ACA 1), the proposed constitutional amendment that would make it easier to raise local taxes for anything labeled "infrastructure" and for certain public housing projects.

ACA 1 is a direct attack on Proposition 13. It would change the state Constitution to cut the percentage of votes needed to raise special taxes, dropping it from the current two-thirds required under Prop. 13 to only 55%. That makes it much easier for tax-raisers who want to take more and more of your money. "Infrastructure" can be anything government wants to do.

ACA 1 will be heard in the Assembly Local Government Committee on Wednesday, July 12. You can help defeat this dangerous measure.

You may want to call your own representatives in the Assembly and the Senate and urge them to oppose ACA 1. You can look up their names and contact information at FindYourRep.Legislature.ca.gov.

**From the CA.gov website:
History and Impact of Proposition 13**

On June 6, 1978, California voters overwhelmingly approved Proposition 13, a property tax limitation initiative. This amendment to California's Constitution was the taxpayers' collective response to dramatic increases in property taxes and a growing state revenue surplus. Proposition 13 (or "Prop. 13") rolled back most local real estate assessments to 1975 market value levels, limited the property tax rate to 1 percent plus the rate necessary to fund local voter-approved bonded indebtedness, and limited future property tax increases to a maximum of 2% per year.

Prior to 1978, real property was appraised cyclically, with no more than a five-year interval between reassessments. Since property values were systematically reviewed and updated, assessed values were usually kept at or near current market value levels. In contrast, under Proposition 13, properties are reassessed to current market value only upon a change in ownership or completion of new construction (called the base year value). In addition, Proposition 13 generally limits annual increases in the base year value of real property to no more than 2 percent, except when property changes ownership or undergoes new construction. Essentially, Proposition 13 converted the market value-based property tax system to an acquisition value-based system.

Under Proposition 13, similar properties can have substantially different assessed values based solely on the dates the properties were purchased. Disparities result wherever significant appreciation in property values has occurred over time. Longtime property owners, whose assessed values generally may not be increased more than 2 percent per year, tend to have markedly lower tax liability than recent purchasers, whose assessed values tend to approximate market levels.

ACA-1

from PluralPolicy.com

Bill Details:

A resolution to propose to the people of the State of California an amendment to the Constitution of the State, by amending Sections 1 and 4 of Article XIII A thereof, by amending Section 2 of, and by adding Section 2.5 to, Article XIII C thereof, by amending Section 3 of Article XIII D thereof, and by amending Section 18 of Article XVI thereof, relating to local finance.

Bill Summary

(1) The California Constitution prohibits the ad valorem tax rate on real property from exceeding 1% of the full cash value of the property, subject to certain exceptions. This measure would create an additional exception to the 1% limit that would authorize a city, county, city and county, or special district to levy an ad valorem tax to service bonded indebtedness incurred to fund the construction, reconstruction, rehabilitation, or replacement of public infrastructure, affordable housing, or permanent supportive housing, or the acquisition or lease of real property for those purposes, if the proposition proposing that tax is approved by 55% of the voters of the city, county, or city and county, as applicable, and the proposition includes specified accountability requirements. The measure would specify that these provisions apply to any city, county, city and county, or special district measure imposing an ad valorem tax to pay the interest and redemption charges on bonded indebtedness for these purposes that is submitted at the same election as this measure.

(2) The California Constitution conditions the imposition of a special tax by a local government upon the approval of 23 of the voters of the local government voting on that tax. This measure would authorize a local government to impose, extend, or increase a sales and use tax or transactions and use tax imposed in accordance with specified law or a parcel tax, as defined, for the purposes of funding the construction, rehabilitation, or replacement of public infrastructure, affordable housing, or permanent supportive housing if the proposition proposing that tax is approved by 55% of its voters voting on the proposition and the proposition includes specified accountability requirements. This measure would also make conforming changes to related provisions. The measure would specify that these provisions apply to any local measure imposing, extending, or increasing a sales and use tax, transactions and use tax, or parcel tax for these purposes that is submitted at the same election as this measure.

(3) The California Constitution prohibits specified local government agencies from incurring any indebtedness exceeding in any year the income and revenue provided in that year, without the assent of 23 of the voters and subject to other conditions. In the case of a school district, community college district, or county office of education, the California Constitution permits a proposition for the incurrence of indebtedness in the form of general obligation bonds for the construction, reconstruction, rehabilitation, or replacement of school facilities, including the furnishing and equipping of school facilities, or the acquisition or lease of real property for school facilities, to be adopted upon the approval of 55% of the voters of the district or county, as appropriate, voting on the proposition at an election. This measure would expressly prohibit a special district, other than a board of education or school district, from incurring any indebtedness or liability exceeding any applicable statutory limit, as prescribed by the statutes governing the special district.

The measure would also similarly require the approval of 55% of the voters of the city, county, city and county, or special district, as applicable, to incur bonded indebtedness, exceeding in any year the income and revenue provided in that year, that is in the form of general obligation bonds issued to fund the construction, reconstruction, rehabilitation, or replacement of public infrastructure, affordable housing, or permanent supportive housing projects, if the proposition proposing that bond includes specified accountability requirements.

The measure would specify that this 55% threshold applies to any proposition for the incurrence of indebtedness by a city, county, city and county, or special district for these purposes that is submitted at the same election as this measure.



PROGRAM DATE: Tu. March 12, 2024 (or the weekend of)
PROGRAM/SEGMENT TIME: 5:05-6pm

Guest: **JOE MURRAY**

> a Tennessee educator, attorney, and a former speechwriter for Patrick Buchanan. He is the author of "**Take Back Education**"

Issue Discussed: NATO. What is it? Who are they? Why are they?

CONTACT #: [REDACTED]
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NATO OVERVIEW

Formed in 1949 with the signing of the Washington Treaty, **NATO is a security alliance of 30 countries from North America and Europe.**

NATO's fundamental goal is to safeguard the Allies' freedom and security by political and military means.

NATO remains the principal security instrument of the transatlantic community and expression of its common democratic values. It is the practical means through which the security of North America and Europe are permanently tied together. NATO enlargement has furthered the U.S. goal of a Europe whole, free, and at peace.

Article 5 of the Washington Treaty — that an attack against one Ally is an attack against all — is at the core of the Alliance, **a promise of collective defense.** **Article 4** of the treaty ensures consultations among Allies on security matters of common interest, which have expanded from a narrowly defined Soviet threat to the critical mission in Afghanistan, as well as peacekeeping in Kosovo and new threats to security such as cyber attacks, and global threats such as terrorism and piracy that affect the Alliance and its global network of partners.

In addition to its traditional role in the territorial defense of Allied nations, NATO leads the UN-mandated International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) in Afghanistan and has ongoing missions in the Balkans and the Mediterranean; it also conducts extensive training exercises and offers security support to partners around the globe, including the European Union in particular but also the United Nations and the African Union.

MEMBER STATES

The NATO Alliance consists of 30 member states from North America and Europe.

Article Five of the treaty states that if an armed attack occurs against one of the member states, it should be considered an attack against all members, and other members shall assist the attacked member, with armed forces if necessary.

Over the past two decades, the Alliance has developed a network of structured partnerships with countries from the Euro-Atlantic area, the Mediterranean and the Gulf region, as well as individual relationships with other partners across the globe. NATO pursues dialogue and practical cooperation with many partner countries and engages actively with other international actors and organisations on a wide range of political and security-related issues.

At present, NATO has 32 member countries. These countries, called NATO Allies, are sovereign states that come together through NATO to discuss political and security issues and make collective decisions by consensus.

- NATO was created by 12 countries from Europe and North America on 4 April 1949.
- Since then, 20 more countries have joined NATO through 10 rounds of enlargement (in 1952, 1955, 1982, 1999, 2004, 2009, 2017, 2020, 2023 and 2024).
- Article 10 of the North Atlantic Treaty sets out how countries can join the Alliance. It states that membership is open to any "European State in a position to further the principles of this Treaty and to contribute to the security of the North Atlantic area".
- Any decision to invite a country to join the Alliance is taken by the North Atlantic Council, NATO's principal political decision-making body, on the basis of consensus among all Allies.

**TALK SHOW GUEST & PROGRAM INFO.
5P-7P**

**PROGRAM DATE: Thu. March 14, 2024 (or the weekend of)
PROGRAM/SEGMENT TIME: 11:00am**

*WEST
DURCH*

Guest: MARK TONEY
> Executive Director, **TURN** (The Utility Reform Network)

Issue discussed: Last Thursday, the California Public Utilities Commission approved a rate hike that will increase PG&E bills by roughly \$5 a month. That's on top of the 13% increase in January. A third hike is in the works.

NOTE: PG&E has said it expects total rate hikes in 2024 will total about \$50 more per average customer.

CONTACT #: ZOOM
b/u: [REDACTED] cell

RATE ↑ JAN

www.TURN.org

*PUC 2ND RATE HIKE
2.24 b 25% ↑*

TURN

OUR WORK

For 50 years we have challenged California's powerful energy and telephone companies, saving consumers and small businesses millions, standing up for vulnerable Californians, and demanding reliable service and livable communities.

TURN'S MISSION

TURN champions the cleanest energy and highest quality phone service at the lowest prices possible for residential customers, low-income households, and small businesses through legal advocacy at the California Public Utilities Commission, state and federal policy development, and community organizing throughout California.

TURN'S HISTORY

TURN began at the kitchen table of pioneering consumer advocate Sylvia Siegel, a fierce advocate who was tired of seeing her electric bills go up year after year, and realized all Californians were getting ripped off by a Public Utilities Commission that rubber-stamped rate hikes. She taught herself the complex laws and rules of utility rates and quickly learned how to use them to the benefit of the public, rather than corporate profits.

In the past 50 years, TURN has identified and exposed corporate waste and lack of oversight, and driven common sense public policy to protect all Californians. TURN has grown into an organization known and trusted nationally for our expertise in energy and telecommunications issues, and our commitment to renewable energy that is affordable for everyone.

It's the only store for dozens of miles. PG&E's latest rate hikes could put it out of business (Source: Cal-Matters)

IN SUMMARY

High electric bills consumed 65% of a rural grocery store's profit last year. Owners say they may close the store because of PG&E rate hikes.

Twelve years ago, when Tammy and Tim Babcock saw businesses closing in rural northeast California and families moving to bigger cities, they purchased the Big Valley Market in Bieber, with the hope of revitalizing the dying town.

Since then their grocery store has become crucial to the day-to-day lives of residents in the surrounding communities, especially to the 200 or so people living in Bieber, about 250 miles north of Sacramento.

But the store is struggling to survive. Tammy and Tim Babcock blame recent rate increases in their electric bill.

In 2023 the Babcocks paid Pacific Gas & Electric nearly \$40,000 for electricity — about two-thirds of the store's annual profit, Tammy Babcock said. This year rates for businesses their size will grow by 17%, the utility said.

"I called PG&E and I said 'Are you trying to put us out of business? Are you trying to kill small town America?'" said Tammy Babcock, 62, as she stood in the store she works outside jobs to sustain.

As major California utilities like PG&E seek higher energy rates this year — in part to pay for upgrades and safety improvements — business owners like the Babcocks say that it's pushing already struggling businesses toward closure. If that happens to the Babcocks' market, the surrounding neighborhoods and towns would suffer.

The California Public Utilities Commission, which regulates utilities, approved the latest rate hike in November. At the time, the commission said it was to ensure that PG&E maintains a "safe and reliable energy system." The rate hike, which took effect on Jan. 1, affected tens of thousands of residential and business customers.

For PG&E's more than 764,000 business owner accounts, rates will rise this year 17 – 21%, depending on size and type of business.

Residential electric rates have nearly doubled in California over the last decade. About 1 in 5 customers, some 2.4 million, are behind in utility bills by an average of \$744, said the Public Advocates Office, the consumer arm of the utilities commission.

Small town struggles with rate hikes

In Bieber, which has very little industry, the median annual household income is about \$46,000, according to the U.S. census.

The Babcocks' market sits below the verdant Big Valley Mountains, which overlook four small towns: Nubieber, Bieber, Lookout and Adin. Fewer than 2,000 people live in this flat farmland.

The store is the main place to buy water, rice, bread and other necessities. The closest Walmart is in Susanville, more than 67 minutes away, and the closest Safeway is in Burney, about 44 minutes away.

In addition to selling groceries, the Babcocks also serve ready-made meals at two tables.

Just before noon in January, six people walked into the Big Valley store and Tim Babcock seated them as his wife went back and forth to the kitchen, serving them tacos.

The regulars, who have known each other for years, watched Fox News on the store TV and discussed community issues.

One of the customers said that if the Big Valley Market were to close, he would have to drive 52 miles east to get milk and other necessities in Alturas. Another customer said she'd have to drive at least 19 miles to get fresh fruit in Fall River Mills.

To generate outside income, the Babcocks operate a hay business and cater weddings, funerals and hospital events, they said.

"We are trying to sustain our business and make a place for the people in the valley so they don't have to drive back and forth long distances," Tim Babcock said. "They can't even afford gas."

Kathlin Meyer, 73, said she visits the Big Valley Market at least three times a week. It's the place where she feels most like part of a community, she said, after her move from Fortuna in 2006.

Like Tammy Babcock, Meyer is a cancer survivor. Last year, during Meyer's chemotherapy, the Big Valley Market delivered food to her house.

"If we close, people have to cross over a mountain, and in the winter the road is covered with ice and snow," Tammy Babcock said. "We have to help take care of our people, our senior citizens."

Tim Babcock added that if the electric bills continue to increase, the Big Valley Market would have to close. Tammy Babcock then recited how much they have paid in recent months, holding a list of the store's electric payments.

In January they paid nearly \$3,000 toward the store's PG&E bill. They made two payments because they couldn't afford the entire amount immediately. In December, the Babcocks paid nearly \$3,000. In November, it was nearly \$4,000.

With the approved rate hike, this year the Babcocks expect to pay more than \$40,000.

Getting regulators' permission

Republican state Sen. Brian Dahle, who is from Bieber, told CalMatters recently his office receives many calls from people complaining about electric bills and that the state should hold utilities accountable.

PG&E initially made an official available to answer CalMatters' questions but did not answer follow-up questions about programs that could have helped a small or medium-sized business like the Big Valley Market.

"Energy rates were adjusted for all customers to fund investments in the coming years," the utility said, "to pay for permanent wildfire risk reduction, critical gas and electric safety and reliability work and capacity upgrades to support new business connections and California's bold clean energy goals."

Like the Big Valley Market, medium-sized business customers will pay an average of 17% more this year, PG&E said, while small businesses will pay 21% more, agricultural businesses will pay 19% more and large businesses will have a 3.5% increase.

“PG&E is committed to providing ways for its business customers to save energy and money and has a variety of programs and tools available to find the best rate and to save money on their energy bills,” PG&E said. It listed a dozen programs, including monthly “budget billing,” loans to replace equipment, and “economic development rates” for some businesses that are 12% to 25% less.

But PG&E also is seeking another overall rate increase for this year. In June PG&E requested rate hikes to reimburse the utility \$688 million for wildfire safety work it had completed.

State regulators earlier this month issued a counter proposal that would allow the utility giant to collect \$516 million from customers. A typical residential customer’s bill would go up \$4 to \$6 a month during the first year, although the lowest-income customers would pay \$3 or \$4, according to the commission’s proposal.

Mark Toney, executive director of the consumer group the Utility Reform Network (TURN), noted that if this relief is approved, the utilities would immediately start collecting it.

“PG&E shouldn’t automatically be getting this money without a field inspection to make sure they did the right work in the right locations with the right result, and they certainly should not be getting advance payment,” he said.

The commission is scheduled to vote on that on March 7.

California lawmakers’ objections

Gov. Gavin Newsom appoints and the state Senate confirms all five members of the Public Utilities Commission, where they sit for staggered six-year terms.

Earlier this month, Republican lawmakers introduced a bill that would force state regulators to cut electricity rates across the board by at least 30%.

Assemblymember Joe Patterson, the Republican from Rocklin who introduced the bill, noted existing law gives state regulators authority to fix utility rates and charges at a “just and reasonable” price.

“I went to the CPUC website and I looked at what their mission statement said and, honestly, they don’t even list affordability as their goal,” he said. “How is that possible? I am not saying they don’t think of it when discussing issues, but it should be their priority.”

Lawmakers from both parties, meanwhile, are contesting a separate proposal from the state’s three major investor-owned utilities that would levy fixed rates on residential customers based on their income.

A monthly fixed charge for PG&E's low-income customers, for instance, would be as low as \$15, the utility said, and no more than \$30, while moderate-income customers would pay about \$51 and customers in the top 25% of earners would pay a fixed \$92.

Sen. Scott Wiener, a Democrat from San Francisco, said the utilities' proposal would place an unacceptable burden on middle class Californians while removing incentives to conserve energy.

"Californians already pay some of the highest electric bills in the nation and should not be forced to arbitrarily pay more to cover for a private utility's poor business decisions," Wiener said in an email.

Justin Ong, chief policy advisor at the commission's Public Advocate's office, said the average monthly rate for PG&E customers is higher than all other utilities in the state due to the rate hike approved in November.

"We're still really strong supporters of the fixed charge because it's one of the only ways to reduce rates," Ong told CalMatters.

The commissioners who approved the PG&E rate hikes in November will decide on the fixed charge proposal in July. If that plan is authorized, it would be implemented in 2026, Ong said.

'We want to keep rural America alive'

A few blocks away from the Big Valley Market, Williams Wells, 55, picked up restaurant food for his mother, whose heart problems prevent her from taking care of herself. Wells said he moved to Bieber from Sacramento to help his 78-year-old mother, but that has become extraordinarily expensive. The breathing machine she needs has been plugged in 24 hours a day for the past six years, he said.

"My mom only receives \$400 from Social Security and I work three jobs to be able to take care of her," Wells said. "I sleep with no heat, and we still pay over \$300, and we have seen it go over \$700. If it keeps going up, we'd probably be homeless."

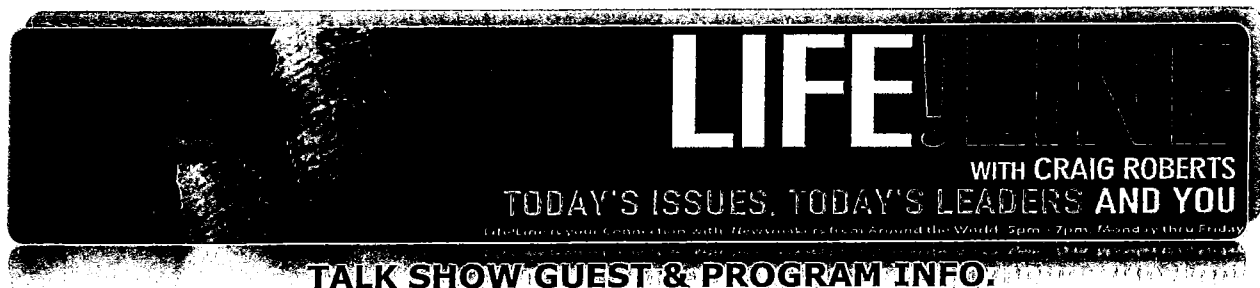
Besides him, the streets in Bieber were empty. Many storefront windows were broken or boarded up. The town of 146 homes was quiet.

Except inside the Big Valley Market, Tammy Babcock was cutting pork into chops while her husband unpacked boxes and filled shelves.

They were preparing for a busy evening. A basketball game was scheduled at the Big Valley High School, a few blocks away. Whatever the Babcocks earned that night would likely go toward the next electricity bill, Tim Babcock said.

"We don't want to move into the city, we are not that kind of people. But these energy rates ain't helping, right?" said Tim Babcock.

"It's a struggle, but we want to keep rural America alive."



5P-7P

PROGRAM DATE: Tu., March 19, 2024 (or the weekend of)

PROGRAM/SEGMENT TIME: 5:05-6pm

Guest: JOYCE CORDI

Bio from her website:

> Publisher, Reimagine America

> Joyce Cordi offers context rather than commentary on government dysfunction based on her 30 years of hands-on experience managing business transformation activities.

> She was a candidate for Congress from California's 15th Congressional District in 2008, urging voters TO FIRE CONGRESS, elect more business people and fewer lawyers, while accumulating the largest vote total of any opponent ever against the well-funded incumbent.

> A native Californian, Joyce is a long-time proponent of environmental protections – believing that it is not inconsistent for business to be ethical, responsible, and profitable – simultaneously.

Issues Discussed: topics below

CONTACT #: [REDACTED]

b/u:

ReimagineAmerica.org or www.JoyceCordi.com

TOPIC SUGGESTIONS, unedited, straight from Joyce...

Follow-up to our conversation on Russia

- Brave Russian protesters
- Occupied Ukraine voted at gun point
- Poland's announces plans to (re)build bomb shelters in Warsaw and other major population centers
- Following Putin's "victory" speech leaders of breakaway portions of Georgia and Moldova rush to Moscow to kiss ring of this would be "Peter the Great" imperialist.

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TALK SHOW GUEST & PROGRAM INFO.

5P-7P

PROGRAM DATE: Wed. March 20, 2024 (or the weekend of)

PROGRAM/SEGMENT TIME: 5:05-6pm

Guest: **JERRY GHIRARDO, CPA, MBA**

> Owner, Ghirardo CPA

> Jerry lives in Novato with his wife Laura and their daughter Cristina and son James Edward.

Issues Discussed: All things taxes during tax season

CONTACT #: ZOOM

b/ [REDACTED]

www.GhirardoCPA.com

v [REDACTED]

SUGGESTED TOPICS/TALKING POINTS

1. **SPRING** [REDACTED] *into the actual*

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

2. TAX COMPLIANCE

Q. What is the best approach to income tax compliance and reporting?

- Be proactive, get organized, file timely and pay taxes on time.
- Take advantage of every opportunity to pay the least amount of tax legally required.
- Report all taxable income but be sure to maximize deductions and tax credits.

3. TAX PLANNING FOR INDIVIDUALS

Q. What are some of the tax planning opportunities for individual taxpayers?

- Filing status, dependents – makes a difference
- Standard deduction vs. itemized deductions
- Timing and amount of itemized deductions including bunching strategy

Mortgage interest, property taxes, cash and non-charitable contributions, medical but must exceed 7.5% of gross income

- Rental properties – maximize deductions, claim depreciation on the tax basis of buildings, improvements and personal property

Types of investment income:

- Max 20% capital gains rates on long term investments
- Same for qualified dividends
- Timing of capital gains and losses – tax loss harvesting.

Tax exempt investments – T-bills are state tax free, Muni bonds can be fed and state tax free

- IRA contributions – traditional, non-deductible and Roth IRA's
- 401k or 403 b employee deferrals

* Gain exclusion on sale of principal residence - \$250k for single and \$500k for married couple

* Tax deferred exchanges on the disposition of real property investments or rental properties.

* Green credits – solar, energy efficient equipment and improvements, electric vehicles

Tax planning for businesses

Depends in part on the type of business:

- Sole proprietors – self-employed individuals
- Limited Liability Companies – single member or multiple member LLC's
- S-corporations
- C-corporations
- Partnerships – general or limited
- Cash vs accrual basis of accounting
- Opportunities to defer income and/or accelerate deductions – be careful not to manipulate income
- Capture all deductions – auto expenses, travel, miles, supplies, business meals, home office when relevant
- Purchase fixed assets and claim accelerated depreciation in first year – Section 179 and/or bonus depreciation

Types of fixed assets – computers, furniture, equipment, land improvements, building improvements, vehicles

> Claim Section 199 extra deduction for “Qualified Business Income” (QBI) – maximum 20% extra deduction

> Utilize retirement vehicles:

- SEP-IRA
 - 401k
 - Solo 401K
- Can often defer until the following year and still claim deduction

5. Passthrough Entities – CA PTE withholding

Don't passthrough entities have specific tax advantages?

- Avoid's double taxation
- Can manage. Reduce self-employment taxes

- LLC's, Partnership and S-corps can pay state taxes on taxable income each year allocated to the owners.

This payment provides a federal deduction and is treated as a state tax credit for the owner.

6. Fraud prevention

- **How can you protect against identity theft, fraudulent returns?**
 - Get IRS Identity Protection Pin
 - Update the PIN each year
 - Use IRS website
 - Use encrypted messages and documents or secure portals are even better

7. Tax problems

- **How to deal with delinquent taxes?**
 - Face the music – be proactive
 - Get help from a tax professional
 - Set up an installment plan
 - Submit an offer in compromise
 - Stay on track with payments.
 - Respond to all tax notices timely
 - Utilize TaxPayer Assistance