

The Californiafication of New Mexico

Buckle your seat belts, New Mexicans and get ready. You're about to go for a social engineering ride, down the mountain, courtesy of the great state of California. Thanks to decades of Liberal rule, California is deeply in debt and awash in other social problems. A 2017 study revealed that the state and its communities owe over \$1.3 trillion. That's the amount California will admit to though some sources say it's closer to \$2.3 trillion as unfunded long-term pension liabilities amount to \$1 trillion on their own. Incredibly, there are 4 million current pension beneficiaries, a number that continues to grow and which exceeds the total population of 22 states.

According to recent studies, California is also among the highest taxed states in the nation. It has the highest income tax rates, the top rate being 13.3%. The next closest top tax rate is in the State of Oregon at 9.9%. (Oregon does not have a sales tax.) California has the 10th highest sales tax in the nation. What is remarkable about the California income tax isn't just that it has the highest rate, it is how little income it takes (just above \$52,000), to qualify for paying it. Given the high cost of living and wages in the state, that means many Californians are subject to that rate. On the other hand, for more than a decade, fewer than 150,000 of California's 35+ million people pay half of all of its income tax!

Couple high state taxes with high property taxes and rising housing costs and it's easy to understand why residents are packing up and leaving California for lower-cost states. To quote a Forbes article, "Little wonder, the demographer Joel Kotkin concluded that "the state is run for the very rich, the very poor, and the public employees."

California has become more politically leftward leaning...and it shows.

California has taken off its mask of 'reasonable Liberalness' and shown its true ideological colors in the way it pushes back in the courts at anything that the conservative Trump Administration proposes. Its leaders are the water-carriers for California's ultra-liberal policy. Elected officials like CA's new Governor, Gavin Newsom, wants free healthcare for all, no matter the state can't pay for it. Activists like California Attorney General Xavier Becerra and Senator Kamala Harris (who is now running for the Democratic Party's nomination for President in 2020) want to 'export' California's social and economic practices to the rest of the nation. *Warning! New Mexico beware.* Your recent elections have put you squarely in the path of this Liberal tornado. As a totally 'Blue' state you are now ideally ideologically positioned to become New CaliMexico an off-site Petri dish for California-style diversity, political correctness, income redistribution, higher taxation and a general loss of individual liberty (especially for Conservatives, Libertarians and Republicans).

It is thought that California will attack the very demographic that has been its biggest supporter over the decades: the wealthy 1%'ers. These folks can expect a raid on their fortunes along with a new package of 'service taxes' on lawyers, accountants, hairdressers, gardeners, etc. to pay for the nearly \$400 billion/year that a free statewide healthcare system would cost taxpayers. Other user fees (surcharges) are expected to increase dramatically. One of them is for 'administrative costs' for state and/or municipal services.

How can you keep Californians in California after they've seen the handwriting on the wall?

Many Californians love their state. And it's that love that keeps them there. They are like the frog that sees the warm water of the pot as soothing and doesn't notice that the temperature is gradually being turned up until it reaches the boiling point, eventually killing him. There is another group that wholeheartedly supports the efforts of Newsom, Becerra, Harris, Waters, et. al. They are the true believers and they will eventually be the only ones left in California after the Conservatives have left.

The danger for New Mexico is obvious. It is already a poor state. It already has high crime rates and bad schools. But it also has a concentration of its own 1%'ers (principally in Santa Fe) who are convinced that the status quo needs Californification and are prepared to work to that end. With a new Democrat governor, a Democrat-dominated legislature, all-Democrat Washington, D.C. representation, Democrat mayors in Albuquerque and Santa Fe AND a new pot of money earned from oil and gas revenues to play with, they are determined to change New Mexico's status quo. And the left-leaning media will support them.

Elections have consequences, but they don't always guarantee outcomes. We have choices and we should all learn from the failed social and economic policies of California and vow not to make the same mistakes, ourselves.

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