

# CALIFORNIA NATIONAL PARTY

# 2024 PLATFORM

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## Preamble

Seven years since the founding of the California National Party (CNP), the growing necessity for California's independence has never been more evident. In the face of mass disenfranchisement, a global pandemic, an seemingly perpetual brink of a financial crisis, and the ever worsening disaster of climate change, it has become increasingly clear that Californians cannot rely on the United States to guarantee our safety or prosperity.

Two years ago, the CNP's platform noted the many structural injustices facing California: the taking of our tax dollars to pay for states that openly vilify us; our structural underrepresentation in the Senate; our irrelevance in the presidential election process; and the lack of control over our social, economic, and political future. None of these things have changed, nor has the electoral success of "the lesser of two evils" ameliorated rejection of logic and embrace of fascism leaving California an island in the sea of disintegrating basic civil and human rights. The CNP asks all Californians to look honestly at their lives and futures with these questions in mind:

Is a country, in which your citizenship does not guarantee equal protections or rights throughout its entirety, really a country deserving to govern You? Can California do better? Can we address our own problems if we can work together as Californians, and not as members of distant and dysfunctional political systems? Do we have the courage to accept the international importance that we already possess?

It is time for California to become ever more independent, to develop its own politics, its own California dream, and for us to build our own California nation—a California that is an international partner that cooperates, not dominates; a global power that is also a responsible economic and environmental actor; and a national identity unconnected to gender, sexuality, ethnicity or religion, but is unified by a shared historic project. The people of California are approaching a momentous choice: whether we will be forced to live by the unpredictable decisions of a government over whom we have no control, or instead take responsibility for ourselves and the inheritance that we will leave to future Californians. The CNP is founded on the belief that Californians will make the right choice.

## Plank Summaries

### Civil and Human Rights

Protection for all people from discrimination and harassment. Guaranteed reproductive rights and care. Programs to address structural racism and the exploitation of First Nations. Inclusion and protection of seniors, people with disabilities, those dealing with housing insecurity, and other populations vulnerable to abuse and exploitation.

### Disaster Relief

California needs sufficient disaster management and relief. The California Office of Emergency Services should be restructured with respect to public accountability and expanded in its roles to ensure efficiency when time is of the essence. Those affected by disasters and pandemics should not be forced into dire economic situations. Measures to ease tax liabilities and monthly housing costs must be taken during such emergencies. A national insurance scheme for earthquakes should be created so that this coverage is no longer a luxury. The California government should take responsibility for public health matters in the realm of national biosecurity, whilst leaving internal domestic policies to local governments.

### Economy

Universal basic income (UBI) and tax reform, including a negative income tax. A California public bank with accounts for all residents, overseeing an Office of Innovation to spur future technologies and Equity Fund for investment in community-owned businesses. Net neutrality, copyright reform, worker protections, regulation and protection of the legal cannabis industry. Oil extraction tax, with a reduced state gas tax.

## Education

Free preschool, smaller class sizes for K-12, programs to ensure college accessibility to all students, a California History requirement, and bilingual education for all. Guaranteed transfers from high schools and community colleges for good students, and reduction in the cost of postgraduate degrees. Funding for the arts, increased support for educators, as well as paid family leave.

## Fire, Forests, and the Environment

Make California Carbon Neutral. Do critical forest and wildlands restoration work necessary to reduce risk of wildfires. Restore fisheries from kelp forest to salmon runs. Collaborate with community organizations and tribal governments to update guidelines for maintenance of public lands. Restore native species and curb invasives. Begin efforts to mitigate sea-level rise. A transition toward a circular economy where possible. Bans on pollinator--killing pesticides.

Water:

Creation of a California-wide master plan for water usage. Rationalization of water rights. Investments in sustainably powered desalination, recycling, and rainwater collection. Preserve our groundwater reserves and stop collapse of aquifers.

Rural California:

Creation of a massive jobs program to restore fisheries and wildlands. Renovate and expand roads and trains linking rural communities. Invest in infrastructure like high speed internet everywhere and closing gaps in cell phone coverage across rural California. Expand the knowledge economy to rural areas to create high paying jobs outside urban centers. Bring back sustainable logging and fishing jobs over time as fishery and forest restoration work progresses.

## Healthcare

Simplify existing medical programs in California into a Medi-Cal-for-all system. Greater healthcare access for rural communities and all other traditionally underserved communities in California, with emphasis on preventative care. Tax credits for caregivers to sustain multi-generational communities.

## Housing and Infrastructure

Expand access to housing and improve housing affordability, with an emphasis on mixed-use development near transit corridors. Improving public transportation, including high-speed rail. Transition to post-carbon energy generation. Break up Pacific Gas and Electric (PG&E) and Southern California Edison (SCE), replacing them with a California owned transmission grid and locally controlled distribution grids. Build desalination capacity to generate freshwater. Ban real-estate speculation that takes existing housing off the market and drives up housing costs for all Californians. Institute a vacancy tax in metro cores.

## Immigration

Humane immigration policies, no wall, no use of state employees for federal immigration enforcement, and expanded guest worker programs formulated by each county to meet its

needs. Creation of a California residency permit program regardless of United States immigration status.

Justice for Native Californians (First Nations):

Focused investment in native communities in order to address historical and contemporary inequality. Transition the administration of federal lands back to indigenous populations. Political and economic self-determination for California's indigenous nations. Partnership with tribal governments to respectfully co-develop programs to address local needs, as well as wildlands restoration, fire abatement, and other areas where indigenous communities can provide critical leadership

## Law and Electoral Reform

End corporate personhood. Campaign finance reform with contribution limits by individuals and corporations. Instant runoff voting. Convert the Senate to proportional representation, and add members to the Assembly. Give more power to counties and encourage them to work together on common regional challenges.

Protection of privacy and "right to be forgotten" from public sites. End mass government surveillance, particularly those targeting members of specific ethnic or religious groups. Criminal justice reforms, especially the bail system, with the elimination of qualified immunity and transfer of funding to non-police agencies. Gun regulation by county with a state licensing system, similar to automobiles. Decriminalize recreational drugs and ban civil forfeiture.

## Path to Independence

Protect and expand California's existing autonomy with increasing moves toward true sovereignty. The transfer from the federal government of all land within California's borders. Implement a California national service program. Call a constitutional convention to improve the California Constitution in ways that encourage and build toward independence for the California Republic with the consent of the United States.

## Civil and Human Rights

The California National Party (CNP) believes that one of the fundamental roles of a democratic government is to protect the civil and human rights of all citizens. We are committed to creating a nation that ensures all Californians have an opportunity to reach their full potential. The CNP will work tirelessly to ensure equal opportunities for every citizen regardless of their place of origin, religion, gender identity, sexual orientation, race or ethnicity, disability, or background. This commitment to justice must be the backbone of California and reflected in its policy and actions.

## Rights of Women

The ability of women to become leaders in their communities is fundamental not only to the

empowerment of women but also to the creation of a fair and just society for all citizens. Uplifting women in all their roles in a community—from their employment to their private lives—is crucial for creating a culture in which every person matters. Only in such a society can every Californian be treated fairly and achieve success in their lives. To address this long history of inequality, the CNP will do the following:

- Work tirelessly to strengthen and protect the right to safe and legal abortion on demand and without apology in California.
- Commit to eliminating violence against California's women and to recognizing the fundamental right of all citizens to protection from violence or abuse, domestic or otherwise.
- Establish stricter laws regarding violence towards women, as well as programs initiated to prevent violence against women, with an emphasis on faster court processes.
- Support programs including educational and preventive initiatives, especially those that serve women at risk of sexual and domestic violence.
- Encourage recognition of domestic violence as a public health issue requiring mental and physical health interventions.
- Facilitate the awareness—through public education, mandatory workplace training, zero-tolerance penalties, and other means—that the harassment of women in public physically or verbally (such as catcalling) has a negative impact on the women involved and on a culture that tolerates such behavior.
- Require businesses likely to encounter trafficking to provide their employees with training on how to recognize the signs of human trafficking and how to report those signs to the appropriate law enforcement agency.
- Enforce current laws against the exploitation of sex workers, while legalizing sex work, so workers can report abuses without fear of legal penalty. The CNP also supports regulation and taxation of the voluntary sex work industry.
- Support equitable access for women of all ages to training, jobs, promotions, capital and support in the creation of businesses.
- Require that all businesses formed or operating in California with 50 employees or more provide bi-annual reports to the California government certifying the general equity and pay equality conditions in their workplace.
- Encourage and provide resources to women, particularly LGBTQ+, women with disabilities, and from historically marginalized ethnicities, religions, and economic backgrounds, to run for public office. We promote and emphasize the need for equal representation in public office from local levels to the highest state and federal levels, including within police forces and the judiciary.
- Require that all educational materials used in classrooms in public and private schools include women's history and promote gender equity.
- Require across-the-board acceptance and equality of trans-women as women, along with respect for and use of preferred pronouns for all individuals.

## Abortion Rights and Medical Equity

Medical science and healthcare have historically focused on the needs of men, to the detriment of women's health, as well as that of transgender and gender-nonconforming individuals. The CNP fights to ensure that all Californians have access to healthcare that serves their unique needs. The CNP will:

- Support the long-established policy that it is a woman's right to control her reproductive choices and will work to keep abortions safe and legal in California.
- Require that birth control must be covered by all insurances, regardless of whether it is funded by and procured through a woman's employer—including employers who object to birth control or abortion—or through individually obtained plans.
- Preserve confidential, unrestricted access to affordable, high quality, culturally sensitive health care services, including the full range of reproductive services, contraception and abortion, without requiring guardian, parental, or partner's consent or notification, or government intervention in any reproductive decision.
- Require that all health insurers, health providers, and employers not charge differing plan rates due to sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, religion, race or ethnicity, disability or background.
- Ensure equal access to appropriate healthcare for patients from the trans and gender-nonconforming communities in line with the patient's gender expression and sexual orientation.
- Require sex education in school curricula in California, including education on sexually transmitted diseases and contraception methods, for all schools receiving public funds.
- Require pharmaceutical companies to test the efficacy and safety of all drugs, not specific in use to the physiology of birth-gender, using participants from diverse genders in research studies, not just men.

## LGBTQ+ Rights

The CNP recognizes and embraces the fundamental equality of all human beings. The LGBTQ+ community is integral to California, but has historically been excluded from this ideal by society. In California, there must be a zero-tolerance policy for any discrimination against people for the sole reason of personal attraction, identity, or self-image.

- Members of this community will be treated with the same respect and consideration, under the law, as any other citizen by employers, teachers, law enforcement, politicians, business owners, and any others.
- Crimes against the LGBTQ+ community will be treated in the same respect as crimes against anyone else, with the exception of crimes motivated by derision or hatred against LGBTQ+ people as a group, which then will be treated with hate crime enhancement.
- Denial of services to LGBTQ+ people, based on their identity, in healthcare, purveyance of consumer goods, or adoptions and guardianship, shall be illegal..
- Marriage and personal relationships between consenting adults must be recognized, so long as they are not of an incestuous, malicious, or fraudulent nature. The



government, private institutions, and personal entities should have no right as to the regulation of gender, sexuality, or identity derived from such orientations within unions.

- California will be a safe haven for members of this group to take refuge from persecution and endangerment by their countries of origin, and future California embassies in those countries will serve likewise.
- Preferred pronouns for all individuals will be honored, respected and used by all California governmental offices, and all official government paperwork will include “Other” options under the “Sex” heading, besides just “Male” or “Female”.
- Trans rights are human rights and all gender identities must be respected and legally protected in California.

## Addressing Structural Racism

While progress has been made in California over the last century in reducing racism and other forms of bias, much work remains to be done. Where structural bias exists it is the duty of the state to identify and remedy it, so as to develop a system that does not unfairly discriminate and guarantees equal access to justice.

The CNP will work for a California that guarantees equality of opportunity for all, regardless of their place of origin, religion, gender identity, sexual orientation, race or ethnicity, disability, or background.

- The CNP supports legislation that ensures equal pay for equal work, legal protections against discrimination, and robust mechanisms for addressing harassment as well as other symptoms of racism, sexism, and other forms of cultural and/or religious bias.
- Collecting and categorizing information is necessary for good policy decisions, but this requires that the data not be either poorly analyzed or remain uncollected in the first place. Using disaggregated demographic data for all California residents, broken down to recognize additional ethnic categories beyond the simplistic ones currently in use, will provide more data necessary to produce solutions.
- Because institutional racism is compounded by a broad lack of diversity in local and state government employment, California should implement affirmative action hiring initiatives for executive- and mid-level positions across all state and county agencies.
- The CNP supports all efforts by Black Californians, Japanese Californians, First Nation Californians, communities affected by the so-called “War on Drugs” and other groups seeking justice and reparations from the United States federal government and is committed to paying California's share for these crimes.
- Upon independence, the CNP is committed to addressing the historical wrongs suffered by specific racial and ethnic communities. We will begin this process by establishing a committee of experts drawn from different fields to recommend a fair and feasible manner in which to address these historic injustices.
- Police violence is a problem for all Californians, but especially for many historically marginalized groups such as Black and Latinx Californians. The CNP will address

this problem through several measures, as laid out in the "Policing Reform" section of our Rule of Law plank.

- Marriage and personal relationships between consenting adults must be recognized, so long as they are not of an incestuous, malicious, or fraudulent nature. The government, private institutions, and personal entities should have no right as to the regulation of race, ethnicity, or place of origin within unions.

## First Nation Californians

While California has a deplorable history of discrimination and hostility toward many different groups, the perpetration of government-backed theft and genocide against the indigenous First Nations population has been unique and horrifying. Reparation for this historic injustice, as well as ending it in its current institutionalized and societal forms, is the responsibility of all Californians. The CNP respects the sovereign rights of First Nation Californians and will work for California to exert pressure on the United States government to do the same.

- First Nations' lands must be doubled in size in order to provide some compensation for past crimes. Where possible, this returned land will come from 45% of California currently controlled by the United States government. If any present owners must be displaced, which will be avoided wherever practical, they will be paid fair market value for their land by the California government.
- California must form an office that will recognize official tribes independently of the federal Bureau of Indian Affairs' Office of Federal Acknowledgement, so California can begin providing services and assistance to tribes long unrecognized and neglected by the United States.
- The California delegation to the United States federal government must strenuously defend the rights of First Nation Californians. If our representatives are unable to guarantee that the US federal government will safeguard the rights, health, or safety of First Nation Californians, it is the responsibility of the California government to actively protect them as all other citizens.
- Upon independence, First Nation Californians will have the option to either re-assert their right to sovereignty and complete self-rule, or to voluntarily join the Republic of California, as determined by a vote of each group's members.

## Land Repatriation and Justice for First Californians

California's first peoples have survived multiple genocides committed by the Spanish, Mexican, and American governments. The fact that they continue to survive and thrive is a testament to their strength and resilience. First Californians personify the best of the Californian spirit - the refusal to give up, the will to create a better world, and the determination to carry their traditions and values forward with them while moving boldly forward into the future. The California National Party is committed to being a strong ally to and advocate for the rights of first peoples and uplifting their leadership.

- In recent years, many first Californians have made tremendous strides in regaining control of their historic lands and re-asserting stewardship of them. We salute and support these efforts and pledge the support of the CNP as an organization for efforts to return lands held by the government of California and the US federal government to first peoples.
- Even so, poverty rates for first peoples within California are unacceptably high and average almost 35% - double the rate for peoples of immigrant descent and significantly higher than the US average. Once California's high cost of living is factored in, the numbers are even worse. California must work in partnership with first national governments to create a comprehensive plan to reverse this situation and drive investment and opportunity to first communities.
- The future independent California we hope to help create must be one where first Californians are equal partners. We salute efforts already under way in many parts of northern California in particular to actively involve first national governments in the administration of controlled burns and the restoration of wild lands, and hope that such projects can provide a model for future collaborations. We seek to explore and co-develop many more such programs with first national leadership.
- California's first nations have the same fundamental rights to self determination as the nation of California. They must have the power to create, alter, or abolish the forms of governance that seem best - and determine their own rules for citizenship - without interference from an American government whose only claim to legitimacy is the legacy of conquest and genocide.
- The CNP also supports reparations to first Californians for the horrors they have endured, from the Missions to scalp bounties to residential schools and more. This is a moral debt that must be paid. We propose the creation of a self-sustaining investment fund, seeded by a one-time tax on all property in California since all of California is historically first nations land. The assets of this fund will be invested in a diversified portfolio of Californian companies, and the revenue will be used to seed investment in first communities. The fund will be administered collectively by the governments of first nations and used to alleviate poverty and create opportunities for first Californians.
- Further, we pledge to continue improving our platform and proposals to make sure the interests of the first Californians are safeguarded.

## Community Inclusion

For too long, vulnerable segments of society such as seniors, people with disabilities and chronic illness, the housing insecure, and others have faced discrimination in our communities, ranging from denial of services and employment to open hostility. They are especially vulnerable to victimization, marginalization, social isolation, and physical harms, often leading to further social stigma and exacerbating underlying health issues. The CNP will work to assure that all Californians are treated with dignity, respect and equity while prioritizing policies that keep people in their homes and their communities whenever possible.

- The CNP supports enacting a Californians with Disabilities Act (CDA), which will build upon existing California statutes to provide protection that exceeds the United States' Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990. This will protect the rights of people with disabilities in the workplace, public accommodations, and governmental programs, services and activities.
- Other California laws that protect the rights of people with disabilities, such as the Fair Employment and Housing Act, will be harmonized with the CDA, or left in place and bolstered. Education about the rights of people with disabilities and enforcement of the CDA will include a public sector compliance office so that civil litigation is not the only method to achieve access and justice.
- Robust tax credits will be given for small businesses seeking to become accessible to people with disabilities and comply with the law.
- Upon independence, California will enter into the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD), an international treaty that was rejected by the United States Senate. Until then, we support California's voluntary compliance with the CRPD and advocate for the United States to enter that convention.
- The CNP recognizes the contribution and unique needs of our elder citizens and will allocate resources to senior employment issues, housing, quality of life, and to the prosecution of individuals and organizations convicted of victimizing or exploiting seniors.
- Recognizing the correlation between mental illness, poverty, and housing insecurity, particularly in minority communities, the CNP is committed to ending the use of police and jails as the primary means of addressing mental illness. In particular, ending the use of private prisons will reduce the financial incentive to incarcerate people with drug addictions, many of whom are undiagnosed and unmedicated.
- Programs that "solve" homelessness by bussing homeless people elsewhere are morally reprehensible and must be banned.
- Programs that support communal inclusion, like In-Home Supportive Services, must be funded at adequate levels to assure that people with disabilities can reach their potential and safely remain in their homes if they choose to do so.
- Policies within social safety net programs that treat beneficiaries as suspects must be eliminated. Though preventing fraud and abuse is an important part of any program, being impacted by a disability is not a crime.
- Support generous tax credits for families caring for aging relatives or family members with chronic illnesses or disabilities, so people can remain with their communities.

## Disaster Relief

A fundamental duty of a government is to protect its citizens, particularly during times of unexpected crisis. To this end, the following sections are the CNP's positions in matters of disaster relief.

## California's OES

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has proven itself both incompetent and extremely political in its failed responses to the Paradise fire, various emergencies particularly in Puerto Rico, as well as failing New Orleans during Hurricane Katrina. Enough is enough!

California must expand the role and funding of the California Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES) in such a way that we are no longer solely reliant on FEMA for disaster response, financial assistance during crisis, and crisis recovery. We must have our own organization in place to implement best practices for disaster response in any emergency.

Unlike FEMA, Cal OES must put people over politics, fairness over monetary gain, and prevention and mitigation of harm to the public. In order to separate essential services from partisan office, Cal OES will be separated from the direct control of the Governor and into the hands of trained and accountable professional emergency personnel.

## Tsunami and Flood Response

Although rarer in California but not unheard of, floods are another destructive threat, usually as a secondary symptom of other disasters. They can be caused by earthquakes, storms, neglect or intentional breakage of urban water infrastructure, inadequate drainage systems, and impermeable surfaces. Deserts and recently burned areas are especially susceptible to flash floods, while coastal areas are always at risk from the ocean waves produced by tsunamis.

Cal OES will respond to such events with best practices to mitigate harm and work seamlessly with our American friends apolitically, taking only the public good into consideration.

## School Emergency Planning

Each school, both public and private, will work with Cal OES and local fire marshals to create an emergency plan for various challenging situations. Online learning will optimize a quick return to class for students during emergencies that destroy buildings or require social distancing.

Other emergency plans shall include backup facilities to ensure a safe return to school for all students in short order after any and all emergency events.

## Rent, Mortgage, and Tax Holidays During Severe Crisis

For large-scale disasters including major earthquakes and pandemics, banks will be required to allow a mortgage payment holiday which will enable landlords to grant tenants a rent holiday for the necessary duration of any applicable crisis.

All California citizens will be eligible for low-interest loans from the California Public Bank to bridge any period of crisis including such events as pandemics, wildfires, earthquakes, major floods, and any other event that substantially impacts a large number of California citizens' ability to generate income.

California will also consider and implement, when necessary, tax holidays to allow citizens a chance to rebuild their lives during any major crisis without having to worry about income taxes.

## Public Health Emergencies

Viral and bacterial outbreaks are often challenging to contain, and require us to have detailed action plans long before novel pathogens strike.

California's first objective, during any such crisis, must be to start screening people from possible hot zones when arriving through international ports of entry. Then gradually, if the outbreak has grown in other countries, screen all citizens and quarantine them for an appropriate length of time to minimize any outbreak in California.

Any attempts to hoard consumable goods will be stopped immediately with strict regulations. If absolutely necessary, rationing based on family size and economic situation such as employment status, etc., should be implemented. Anyone caught hoarding, profiteering, or price-gouging will have supplies confiscated and will be levied with a heavy fine and/or jail time.

When an outbreak throughout California becomes inevitable, we must set in motion a well-developed business rescue plan to support all businesses and their employees for the duration of the crisis. The Public Bank will be obliged to offer low-interest relief loans in case of any unexpected emergencies, regardless of credit score. All essential business employees must be guaranteed hazard pay on top of their normal wages.

Whilst we respect the state's role in biological security, response to pathogens is a local public health issue. We support the utilization of face coverings and associated mandates as tools for local public health authorities but respect their discretion as the decider in these matters. County public health agencies are often the first responders to pathogen emergencies, as such they should be supported by the state through logistics and funding. Vaccination mandates in schools are a traditionally accepted matter decided by the state's Department of Education, and as such are not delegated inherently to local school boards.

While younger children lack critical thinking skills that serve as the basis for making medical decisions, youths 12 years and older should have their right to obtain a vaccination without parental permission, as is current state law for certain medications and vaccines, expanded to include all vaccines and medications regardless of full approval or emergency approval shortcuts.

## Earthquakes

California is prone to earthquakes, big or small; however, all structures and citizens are vulnerable to its destructive force. Despite having drill routines in place, and the infrequency of huge earthquakes, we still need to have strong plans for rescue and recovery if the 'big one' hits.

All schools, hospitals, government offices, and private offices must have three annual earthquake drills. We will draft a national plan for all citizens to have copies of. All drills will be updated biannually to have the best plan and to limit the number of casualties.

Another safeguard is to have a national earthquake insurance plan for all citizens. This will be funded via taxes and no citizen will need to be worried about paying out of pocket for any damage that has been caused. We must fund the study and development of early warning technologies. We will also recommend annual inspections on major buildings in all cities, due to small earthquakes happening all year round, to see if there are any small cracks that need to be repaired.

## Economy

California is a dynamic and diverse global economic power. However, despite possessing one of the largest GDPs in the world, Californians suffer from a high rate of poverty and income inequality that lowers the quality of life across all areas of society. Our economy must evolve in a way that ensures our continued global prominence while also creating a better quality of living for all Californians. Our people, government representatives, and policies must recognize and appreciate the size, scope, and importance of our economy before it can truly serve our people and reflect our values. If we continue to think of California's economy as merely a subset of the economy of the United States, we will be unable to solve the complex problems that we face.

Many of California's economic woes stem from our unfair treatment by the United States federal government and we will work immediately to get a fair deal. Currently, we receive far less from the federal government than we contribute in taxes each year. California's taxpayers can no longer be expected to subsidize other states and reckless federal spending while our own needs go unmet. Trade wars, instigated by business interests 3,000 miles away, harm both farmers in the Central Valley and technology companies in Silicon Valley alike. Ultimately, the California National Party (CNP) believes that independence is necessary for California to effectively confront our economic problems with real solutions. Until then, we are working to assure that California's prosperity improves the lives of all our citizens.

## Taxation and Universal Basic Income

The CNP supports a simplified tax code that combines a negative income tax for the most economically vulnerable; a progressive tax on wages, investments, and inheritances above a specific baseline, and a top marginal rate of 50%; a tax on net wealth in excess of \$50 million to encourage investment instead of over-accumulation; a 22% corporate tax rate; and monthly universal basic income (UBI) payments to all California citizens beginning at the age of eighteen or upon legal emancipation.

Under the UBI system proposed, all Californians would receive \$600 a month, equivalent to 40 hours worked at minimum wage (\$15 per hour, regardless of income level). In addition to this, we also propose a negative income tax, under which Californians with an annual income below a specific baseline amount will receive a guaranteed tax return. Together, these two approaches can reduce the burden on social welfare and help begin the replacement of the scandal-prone

Employment Development Department (EDD).

Wages up to \$40,000 a year will be untaxed, while those earning below a regionally set threshold would receive a tax credit for half the difference between their County's median income (CMI) and their full pre-tax annual income from wages (AI).—The formula can be visualized as  $(\frac{1}{2}\text{CMI} - \text{AI}) \div 2$ .—When combined with monthly UBI disbursements of \$600, all individuals with California residency as defined in our Immigration plank would have an estimated average annual guaranteed minimum income of \$29,725. This would ensure that food, housing, and other basic needs are accessible to all Californians. The general increase in the quality of life and the resulting decline in crime, homelessness, and other consequences of poverty will bring benefits to all Californians. Tax refunds and UBI disbursements would be deposited into each citizen's account in the California Public Bank as outlined in the coming section.

The CNP also proposes progressive taxes on inheritances above \$2 million left to individuals from estates of California residents, as well as net wealth that is not being infused back into the California economy. Inheritances of \$2 million and under will not be subject to the progressive tax. After that, brackets will be at every \$6 million increment, starting at 11% and increasing by 5% every bracket with the highest bracket of 56% (10 brackets in total). Inheritances left to non-special-needs trusts will be subject to a flat 12% tax in excess of \$2 million but less than \$10 million; 15% in excess of \$10 million but less than \$20 million; 18% in excess of \$20 million but less than \$30 million; and 21% in excess of \$30 million. Special-needs trusts will not be taxed until funding reaches \$3 million, after which they shall be taxed 10% per \$1 million in excess. We do believe there should be credits for use as charitable donations or for the purposes of maintaining non-liquid assets also inherited. Wealth that lays stagnant for the sole purpose of accumulation benefits no one, including the accumulator. As such, the CNP proposes a tax to incentivize reinvestment and the "trickling down" of wealth in California by means of a tax on wealth in excess of \$50 million. This tax would apply to corporations to encourage sharing excess profits with employees and individuals to give more to charity or invest in the California economy. Tax incentives would ensure that the money would stay within California or have a benefit for California in some way. We propose using the same brackets as the inheritance tax proposed with a starting point at \$50 million.

While California remains under the federal tax and welfare system, we propose the immediate enacting of UBI, a progressive tax on inheritances in excess of \$2 million, and a progressive tax on net wealth above \$50 million, as well as negotiations with the United States to alter our taxation relationship with the federal government, as laid out in the "Securing Autonomy" section of our Autonomy and Independence plank.

## California Public Bank

The CNP supports the creation of a state-owned California Public Bank (CPB). Such a public bank would provide an alternative to high-interest payday loans and check-cashing businesses that charge exorbitant fees for basic services and are primarily used by people with fewer



financial resources. It would also provide access to banking services for industries that are legal in California but remain illegal or over-regulated in the United States.

- All California residents would automatically have an account with the California public bank, with the tax refunds and UBI payments described above directly deposited into these accounts.
- In addition to holding California's reserves of gold and other precious metals, this bank would manage the Innovation and Equity Funds described below and provide loans and financial services to new, community-based California businesses.
- At least one branch will be located in each county which, along with secure electronic banking access, will ensure that all Californians have access to low to no-cost banking services in their local communities.
- This bank will be subject to independent audits every 5 years.

## California Innovation Fund

The CNP advocates for the creation of an Office of Innovation, under the California Public Bank, to administer an Innovation Fund that will provide funding for scientific research and technological development. California will then retain patents on technology created, license those patents to businesses that pay taxes in California at a discount in order to encourage tech companies to locate here. The profits from these patents would then be applied towards an endowment for the fund to help it grow and become self-sustaining over time. We support funding for such projects as:

- Research aimed at improving desalination and clean energy technologies that are critical for California's long-term resource security.
- City and county developed publicly-owned broadband services, designed to be woven together in order to create a California-wide system of public broadband that should seek to be the fastest and most affordable broadband in the world, especially emphasizing increased connectivity in underserved rural areas.
- Development of autonomous vehicles and any required infrastructure changes, as well as thorough studies that can result in sensible regulations and legislation regarding their use.
- Investigating ways to leverage technology to make all levels of California government more responsive, efficient, and democratic.

## Support Community Business

The CNP supports policies that encourage the development of businesses from within our own communities. In particular, policymaking should focus on communities that have historically suffered from policies that have too often been motivated by racial or class prejudice, resulting in unequal pay, unequal education, hiring discrimination, historical disinvestment, and capital flight. To make economic opportunity available to all Californians, the CNP will work toward the following goals:

- Encourage entrepreneurship among working-class communities, fund free public classes on how to start and run a business successfully, and offer counseling on obtaining financing, including through the public bank.
- The public bank will also make micro-credit loans available to individuals who complete courses or have equivalent experience and can produce a viable risk-assessed business plan, as well as meet other reasonable requirements.
- Develop special economic zones and other ways of encouraging more economic growth in rural areas, if requested by the local community. These zones would provide tax incentives to encourage businesses to form in and relocate to economically disadvantaged areas of California.
- Create a California Equity Fund held by the public bank whose mandate is to provide financing, counseling, and logistical support to workers who want to buy their workplaces and turn them into worker-owned and operated cooperatives. These businesses would be owned by the employees, not the government, and the loans would be paid back with interest to cover administration costs. Such worker-owned businesses are more likely to pay living wages, are less likely to downsize, and would not export jobs.
- Work in partnership with our neighbors in Mexico, Oregon, Nevada, and Arizona to develop shared economic zones in California border towns and encourage economic development. These zones will cover 90 miles of our northern, eastern, and southern borders in order to reduce migration inflows to California and create a mutual prosperity zone to the benefit of all stakeholders.
- Implement robust tax breaks and credits for locally owned small businesses in historically disadvantaged communities, as well as the creation of a hedge and/or sovereign wealth fund specifically for reinvestment in such communities, via the publicly-owned California Public Bank.
- Institution of Medi-Cal for All, which would reduce the need for employer-provided insurance.

## Labor Rights

The nature of employment is undergoing a radical shift in the 21st century. Nowhere is this felt more strongly than in California, where many new technologies are born. Labor laws and practices must keep up with this rapidly changing world and opportunities must be provided to workers to retain their employability. The CNP believes:

- The California government must support and defend the right of workers in all industries to organize unions and advocate for their collective interests. The CNP endorses the implementation of a “Card Check” Act whereby a majority of employees in a bargaining unit signing authorization forms may have automatic union representation instead of the current, corporate corrupted system of “election”.
- Probationary periods for non-government workers must be regulated to a statutory maximum of 25 shifts worked.
- Employers must provide their full-time, year-round workers at least three weeks of paid vacation each year.

- Employers must provide: their full-time salaried employees with a minimum of seven annual paid sick days; their full-time hourly employees with a minimum of five of annual paid sick days; and their part-time, year-round employees with a minimum of four annual paid sick days. Employers should not be able to use a verified call-out due to illness of the employee, or person under their guardianship, which has been documented by a healthcare professional as cause for termination or intimidation.
- The practice of “Re-Entry Level” job postings (advertisement of open positions as entry level whilst requiring previous experience in essentially the same job position as a minimum qualification) must be banned.
- The planned 2023 minimum wage hike in California must be adjusted for inflation to \$20 an hour.
- As technology renders whole industries obsolete, workers must have the opportunity to re-train in order to seize new opportunities. Support for mid-career retraining must include investment in adult education, existing CalWORKS programs, and community college courses, particularly STEM, to help people change careers and move into fast-growing sectors of the economy. Public-private partnerships will be created to help place graduates of these programs into the workforce.
- After enacting Medi-Cal for All, UBI, and negative income tax, studies should be undertaken on the benefits, costs, and consequences of transitioning to a 7-hour workday or 35-hours work week. Such a "share the work" policy would provide more jobs with shorter hours for more Californians, reducing long term unemployment which results in skill loss and life disruption for both individuals and families.
- The creation of independent Economic Sector Councils such as the currently enacted Fast Food Sector Council that was passed in February, 2022 in California to set industry-wide minimum standards. Appointing the council members for four-year terms will be California’s governor, speaker of the Assembly, and the Senate Rules Committee. Other sector councils for other parts of the economy would be established to address issues of: workers safety, wage theft, low wages, and harassment.
- The California National Party supports transitioning as many companies as possible to employee ownership such that many workers eventually take control, through the issuance of new stock, of 20% stakes in the country’s largest companies, while mandating that employees elect 45% of corporate boards of directors. This would end the domination of the economy by the major companies and result in workers having more of a voice in their day to day lives.

## Right to Leisure

Californians have been left behind when it comes to holidays and personal time compared to the rest of the developed world. Frequently workers are being forced to spend unpaid overtime, or to work on traditional and national holidays without discussion. Many times regular workers come home exhausted, with the only outlets being television, internet, alcohol, or recreational drug use in order to decompress after a back-breaking schedule.

The CNP believes:

- Workers have the right to refuse to work on legal holidays, provided that the work is not classified as essential (such as gas stations, grocery stores, pharmacies, etc.)
- Employers must provide their full-time, year-round workers with at least three weeks of paid vacation each year.
- Workers shall be considered to be full-time at 32 hours per week.
- Establish a non-profit agency to develop and subsidize recreational activities for working and middle-class Californians and their families who traditionally could not afford the extra expense. Such an agency would help organize getaways and vacations as well as amateur sports and games. This will help many Californians have a chance to enjoy a well-rounded life full of fun and entertainment instead of just pure drudgery that has to be numbed by thoughtless entertainment and intoxicants.
- Increase and expand recreational centers for all ages across all of California.
- Expand the number of legal holidays throughout the year to celebrate the wide range of cultural diversity and historical legacies that permeate throughout California, and to provide time for reflection of our joint American and California experiences.

## Cannabis Industry

Cannabis must remain legal for use by adults in their own homes throughout California, and this right must be recognized by every county. The California Public Bank will engage in transactions with the cannabis industry as it would with any other legal and legitimate business. However, counties and cities will retain the right to restrict or ban sales, disallow public consumption, limit or even refuse permits for commercial operations, and set local tax rates, in addition to the California tax, to fund local programs. Like all sectors of the agriculture industry, cannabis growers, processors, and distributors must follow employment, environmental, and business law at both the California and county level. Counties can call on assistance from the California government to enforce compliance of county laws regarding such violations.

## Oil Extraction Tax

Historically, California has been a major oil-producing region and the oil industry supports over 15,000 California jobs. However, a variety of factors have led to its decline in recent decades, including the threat of climate change which has caused California and many parts of the world to reduce fossil fuel consumption. California's geology is not suited to modern horizontal drill techniques which, combined with the thicker nature of our crude oil, places us at a competitive disadvantage in the modern market. It is an economic reality that the oil industry in California is declining; however, short-term demand for petroleum both in California and abroad is likely to continue and therefore the CNP calls for an increased oil extraction tax on annual gross revenue. Such a tax would be tiered, up to a maximum of 20%, based on volume. We also support greatly increased fees on idle wells, so that they are either used or plugged. The revenue raised from this tax would be used to build a post-petroleum future for communities that have historically relied on the oil industry, through such policies as:

- Tax incentives for new businesses to form in, or relocate to oil regions, which will diversify local economies, especially in related industries such as biofuels and green energy.
- Adult retraining programs for those in the petroleum industry in partnership with new and relocated industries, emphasizing local hiring.
- Cleanup of communities whose health and environment have been compromised by irresponsible actors.
- Litigation against petroleum companies that have been negligent at any phase during or after extraction, as well as paying for the plugging and clean up of many abandoned sites for which the people of California will likely be forced to pay.
- California should offer funding in the form of tax credits, as well as additional grants and share buyouts, for the retrofitting and remediation of refineries in California to Desalination Plants and Hydrogen Refineries.

## Reduced State Gas Tax Replaced by Oil Extraction Tax

Transportation patterns, and the resulting consumption of fossil fuels, differ in important ways between rural and urban areas. Rural areas are more dependent on automobile use than urban areas, with less access to mass transit. Many of these areas also have a lower median income level compared to more urbanized regions. As such, the current system of a flat, California-wide gas tax is a clear form of regressive taxation that disproportionately impacts these communities. The CNP therefore proposes:

- The California government will disperse additional funds to counties for construction and development of transportation infrastructure based on factors such as population, demonstrable need, frequency and volume of both local and transient use, etc.
- Counties and larger cities would set their own local gas sales tax to be used for local transportation infrastructure programs, with matching funds provided by the California government. Smaller counties will form regional transit agencies, pooling together funds and resources.
- County taxes will be set by each Board of Supervisors, which can be more responsive to the transportation needs of the community and directly accountable to voters. Areas with fewer transportation developments and greater automotive needs can keep their taxes low, while areas requiring, for example, greater mass transit spending, can increase their local tax to raise funds and discourage unnecessary driving.
- Replace most of the existing gas taxes with a fossil fuel extraction tax that will only impact oil producers and not consumers because oil is an internationally traded commodity, and this tax would not impact the global price. Earmark such funds for helping transition California off of its addiction to oil and toward renewable energy systems.

## Intellectual Property and Media

In less than a century, media has gone from newspapers, radio, and newsreels to constant real-time information via the internet. The way this information is produced, disseminated, and consumed has developed dramatically, yet many laws regarding media have remained unchanged. The CNP believes that allowing corporate conglomerates to exercise oligarchic powers over information is bad for our culture and our democracy. We therefore support:

- Limits on the number of radio and television stations that a single entity can own, with reforms in the way licensing for radio and TV stations is carried out to make it easier for people to start community radio and television stations. When all media is owned by a few corporations, minority voices are silenced and there is no freedom of the press.
- Net neutrality as a way to foster independent media and limit the control that gigantic, highly integrated corporations have over the information that makes its way into our homes and minds. Since the internet is now the primary avenue for the consumption of news and entertainment, equal access to internet bandwidth is crucial.
- Copyright reform to end indefinite extensions which favor monopolistic practices and create unnecessary barriers to entry into the market instead of spurring innovation. Artists and makers should be protected and allowed to legally profit from their creations, but over time laws have evolved to favor perpetual corporate profits at the expense of novelty.
- Create a California Arts Fund similar to the standards of the European Union to fund public arts which have significant economic and cultural benefits over the long term.
- Development of a California Broadcasting Corporation along the lines of the current British Broadcasting Corporation that is a democratically managed non-profit radio and television service free of direct government oversight in order to provide non-partisan news as well as artistic entertainment for the people of California.
- Mandate that California radio and television stations that broadcast over publicly-owned airwaves must play at least 20% music or other locally produced content by people from their local region, in order to ensure local artists have a chance at exposure. Media consolidation has created significant barriers to entry for artists and musicians and has resulted in a much less competitive media market, ultimately harming both artists and the industry itself.
- Overhaul of patent law to encourage and reward innovation instead of erecting unnecessary barriers to entry. This includes reinstating limits on copyright, restoring the original constitutional guidelines, and eliminating copyright extensions as noted above.

## Social Media

The rise of Twitter, Facebook, and other social media platforms have created online forums that can both spread misinformation, hate speech, and insidious propaganda. At the same time,

these platforms can act as a valued means of communication for many voices to be heard in ways that would be considered impossible in ages past and to provide a sense of community for those who may face isolation. Government control and regulation of social media is anathema to the freedom of speech and the rights of private property, but private corporate control over all means of social media is no solution and in fact a detriment to society at large. Therefore, the California National Party proposes the creation of a transparent, non-profit, democratically managed Facebook- and Twitter-like online forum to provide a space for all persons of all beliefs to share videos, stories, online polls, etc. provided that strictly defined “hate speech” and clauses against the incitement of violence are in place. Online moderators will be guided by an elected Board of Trustees to oversee this new online forum, and no longer will Big Tech have a pure oligopoly over one of the greatest forces of communication ever seen in human history. Companies over a certain size will be prohibited from advertising, allowing for locally owned small businesses and cooperatives in California to have the ability to promote themselves.

## Education

It is the responsibility of each generation to educate the next and California has the opportunity to provide a world-class education for our children. The first step is to recognize that education should not be run like a business, nor should curriculum be determined solely by economic value. The California National Party believes that the education system must provide not only the skills necessary to work and live in the increasingly technology-driven 21st century, but also the ability to think critically about complex contemporary issues, recognize the events and lessons of the past, develop means of self expression, and understand the functioning of the human and natural world.

Additionally, all levels of public education must have a California Studies component that covers our national history, government, culture, geography, and art. College and university students would be required to pass a class in California politics and history to receive their degrees, just as is presently required for United States government and history. This will allow young Californians to recognize the accomplishments and failings of those who came before them, gain a real understanding of the political system under which they live, and celebrate the richness and diversity of their California identity.

## Family and Child Care

The decision to start a family is a right open to all people equally, and the future path of a child’s education is often strongly influenced by the care given in the early years of life. As cost-of-living increases have skyrocketed in California, it is more important than ever that structural economic inequalities that prevent many people from starting families and raising children be lessened. To accomplish this, the CNP supports the following policies:

- Companies with more than 50 employees will be required to provide unpaid, job-protected leave for family and medical reasons with continuation of group health insurance under the same terms and conditions as if the employee had not taken leave. This includes twelve workweeks of leave for the birth and care of a child in its

- first year.
- Employers with at least five employees must give employees a reasonable period of leave (generally six to eight weeks, but no more than four months) for disability relating to pregnancy, childbirth or related conditions.
  - Paid paternity leave for all parents and guardians, including adoptive parents, regardless of gender, and the same percentage of wages no matter what the size of the company.
  - Employers must also provide full-time workers at least one week of paid sick leave each year so that all workers can stay home when they or family members are ill.
  - Adoption agencies must not be permitted to discriminate against any potential parents for reasons of race, religion, age, gender identity or orientation, economic status, marital status, social values, or political persuasion. Only the ability of parents to provide loving, healthy, stable and education-rich environments should be used to vet potential adoptive and foster parents.
  - For international adoptions, California will negotiate to set policies which follow the laws of the child's native country, while maintaining our own levels of tolerance and standards for safety. Since these vary greatly between the almost 200 different nations in the world, each application will be carefully considered on a case-by-case basis.
  - Ensure that quality cost-free or low-cost child care is available to all Californians, regardless of employment, insurance, citizenship status, or any other factors.
  - Establish Childcare and Education Savings Accounts (CESA) through the California Public Bank into which California deposits funds for each child in the household to be used by their caregivers exclusively for child care, regardless of income including an auditing system to ensure proper use of funds.
  - Promote proper training, certification, equipment, facilities and employment of child care professionals in all areas where they are needed.

## Pre-K through High School

California must develop educational standards for history, math, language arts, and science classes using material crafted independently of the American market. Such study areas must focus on the variety of contributions to global, North American, and Californian history made by people of diverse ethnic, political, and gender backgrounds as well as empirical, evidence-based scientific theories. We will promote self-exploration and self-identification at all levels in all schools, providing means and resources for all children to become educated thinkers, responsible citizens, and well-rounded human beings. To this end, the CNP advocates the following policies:

- Expansion of the current public school system to include non-compulsory full-day kindergarten and free full-day preschool for three- and four-year olds.
- Limiting Pre-K - 12 class sizes to 25 students per teacher, which requires hiring more highly qualified teachers and building more real classrooms, not just trailers.
- Emphasizing the development of critical thinking skills and the practice of evaluating evidence, questioning, and exploring "outside the box".



- Accomplishments of our ancestors should be celebrated and historic injustices acknowledged. We must establish comprehensive California-wide issue education standards for primary, secondary, and tertiary public and private schools to think critically on past and present issues regarding race, ethnicity, and gender.
- Science courses must be based on facts currently and widely accepted by the global scientific community in such fields as biology, astronomy, environmental geography, etc. with investment in STEAM fields, and emphasis on historically underrepresented groups.
- Educate all students in both English and Spanish, the two primary languages of the Western Hemisphere, with a goal of bilingual fluency.
- Additional resources must be devoted to teaching languages of increasing global importance through a combination of in-person and online instruction, so students are not limited by local resources. Funding must be increased for elective foreign language instruction at all levels of public education.
- Courses in topics essential for the modern world, including but not limited to: fine arts, music, technology, citizenship, smart money use, conflict resolution, family studies, personal health, and cyber-safety should be required, from kindergarten through high school. Additionally, sex education will be included, starting in 6th grade.
- Incentivization of study abroad programs in secondary schools that are fully accessible to all students, regardless of socioeconomic status.
- Rather than rely on the uncertainties of local property taxes, income from which often goes into the general fund, school districts should instead be provided a specific education fund, with a set level from a variety of local government income sources.
- Mandatory proof of all required childhood vaccinations under California law before admission to all public schools, including public charter schools. Annual flu shots, age-group-appropriate COVID-19 vaccinations/boosters and HPV inoculation for all students will be recommended but not required. Individuals who choose not to vaccinate their children may enroll their children either at private schools or in structured and certified homeschooling programs.

## Charter Schools

California will continue to establish, support, and fund public charter schools that fulfill the requirements set in place by the California Charter Schools Association. These schools are tuition-free, open to all students, accredited, accountable to national education standards and put the needs of students over the needs of any bureaucracy.

The quality of their educational services will be maintained by the oversight of local school boards. They will be publicly funded through fundraising, donations and non-profit organizations. All families will be afforded complete control over school choice, location and presentation of material. A full spectrum of models will be represented by these schools, including brick-and-mortar classrooms, online-only courses, independent study, GED (General Educational Development) certificates, and blended programs.

The CNP supports several existing policies regarding charter schools. First, those charter schools that are demonstrably closing the achievement gap are granted a streamlined renewal, with the ability to be renewed for up to seven years. Second, any consideration of the fiscal impact of a new charter school petition must be balanced with the academic needs of the students who are going to be served. Third, a five-year transition should remain for non-core charter school teachers to secure appropriate certification.

The CNP will also ensure that charter schools whose petitions, for either establishment or renewal, are denied will be permitted to appeal to the Board of Education for reconsideration.

## College and University

The California Community College system must be securely funded. It not only serves as the first step in many paths to higher education but also provides an avenue for those seeking employable vocational skills. As the economy evolves, the role of community colleges as providers of adult retraining programs is increasingly important. All community colleges should be free for California residents, regardless of immigration status, as defined in the Immigration plank. Students seeking further academic, rather than vocational, training can transfer to the CSU or UC system tuition-free if they meet certain requirements.

The CNP proposes the following policies and standards:

- Creation of a supervised and regulated apprenticeship program combining academic course work with paid, on-site, job training for both blue-collar and white-collar employment, leading to an Associate's Degree and job placement.
- Guarantee admission to a California State University (CSU) campus for all students who fulfill certain class requirements with at least a 2.5 GPA in academic classes within a given time period and who do not already possess a Bachelor's degree. Students with a GPA of 3.3 or higher would also have the option of enrolling in the University of California (UC) system.
- Assure that every community college has transfer agreements with at least one CSU and one UC.
- Tuition for transfer students will be covered in subsequent academic periods so long as the above GPAs are maintained.
- Other students, not meeting the above requirements, or already possessing a Bachelor's degree would still be permitted to apply to the CSU and UC system.
- Tuition costs for California residents should be reduced from their current level and capped.
- Student fees and acceptance policy for non-Californians would remain unchanged, with admission priority given to California residents who meet the above requirements.

Students graduating from a California high school with a 3.3 GPA for CSUs and 3.5 GPA for UCs can enter university directly if they wish and will have tuition waived if they maintain those GPAs for their freshman/sophomore years. They will thereafter be subject to the GPA

requirements for transfer students. Since many students will likely opt to transfer through the local tuition-free community college system, building the skills necessary for college success in the process, freshman/sophomore classes at CSUs and UCs will be smaller and more effective.

California will undertake an expansion of the community college system, especially in rural areas, and see to it that, just as each county should have a county hospital, each county with a population over 50,000 should have its own community college. Smaller counties will be unified into districts emphasizing distance learning, with the option of physical classes held at locations in each county. Smaller expansions of the CSU and UC system should also cover greater geographic diversity in places historically underrepresented academically. We propose new campuses in Redding, Visalia, and the Coachella Valley region.

For post-graduation, California must reduce tuition for graduate degrees at CSUs and UCs, with an optional program to waive or reduce tuition in exchange for a period of employment in county hospitals, district attorney and public defender offices, the California public education system, etc. depending on the degree.

## Supporting Educators

Students can only be successful if educators are given the resources necessary for their students' success. For too long California has failed to fund and support educators at adequate levels, while administrative costs, especially in higher education, have rapidly increased. California must refocus its emphasis on retaining the workforce that is educating the next generation of Californians. The following steps will help to make the California educational system more responsive to the needs of Californians:

- Schools, colleges, and universities in California should be run by administrators who are also educators with teaching experience, not politicians or non-academic managers. Ongoing training, including leadership skills and professional development, must be accessible so that all teachers can stay up to date on new knowledge and provide the best quality instruction, while also creating a path for teachers to move into administration.
- There should be a moratorium on increased administrative spending, and particularly an end to increasing senior administrator pay and a cap on the percentage of education budgets allocated for administrative staff, until tuition costs and pay issues for educators are resolved.
- Support local school districts in creating a materials fund for teachers.
- Guarantee high-performing teachers the ability to move from one district to another, while maintaining seniority and pay grade, and provide a mechanism by which teachers can maintain residency inside the communities where they teach. California's current costs of living have made this increasingly difficult.
- Teachers must be guaranteed academic freedom and have their performance evaluated using a review standard that includes peers, superiors, and students to ensure quality instruction, with teacher input on how such evaluations are constructed.

- Overhaul teacher retention and review policies, to support new teachers and keep them working within the K-12 system.
- When new standards are proposed by California's Education department, they must work with the affected educators and administrators to construct and approve curricula matching those standards before the adoption of the program.
- Ensure consistent standards of quality between districts, with a maximum funding difference of 15% per student between school districts, allowing flexibility to provide higher salaries in more expensive areas while guaranteeing that no schools are left underfunded.
- Increase funding of new teacher salaries with a focus on underserved areas, with an explicit ban on using increased funding for administrator and veteran teacher salaries, or for facilities costs.
- Replace the tiered system for CSU and community college lecturers as limited-time contract workers with one that secures for them normal, full-time employment with set course load and benefits.

## Fire, Forests and the Environment

California's natural beauty and wealth of resources are well known throughout the world. Few places possess our geographic and ecological diversity. It is the responsibility of all Californians to preserve our home for future generations while managing what we have in a way that enables stable growth and a prosperous society. To accomplish this, the California National Party supports policies that emphasize sustainability and waste reduction at all levels of production, transportation, distribution, and consumption. Activities with potential public health consequences and environmental impact should be guided by the principle of the least toxic alternative, which presumes that toxic substances will not be used as long as there is another way of accomplishing the task. As much as possible, California should seek to develop a circular economic model, which emphasizes the elimination of waste, and the reuse of resources.

Humanity presently faces an environmental crisis on a global scale. Rising sea levels and coastal erosion, extreme weather events, and extended periods of drought as a result of climate change affect the lives of all Californians. Historically, California has been a leader in developing policies to address this crucial issue, but too often we face resistance from a United States government that frequently refuses to accept the magnitude and gravity of this existential threat. To produce policies that can be respected and imitated, to implement ideas learned from the experience of other nations, and to be an honest and respected member of international climate agreements, California must have the freedom to shape our own environmental agenda.

- By 2026, all products sold in containers requiring a CRV deposit, as of January 1st 2020, must be replaced by refillable glass and/or non-petrochemical-based polymer containers. Bottle deposits will be increased to 10¢, if not already. Companies must accept their used empty containers and use them for refilling.
- By 2026, all single-use plastics not meant for use in sterile environments (excluding kitchens and food preparation sites) must be replaced by non-petrochemical-based

- polymers or reusable containers.
- By 2024, Corporations shall be liable for environmental damages caused by their packaging.
- By 2028, companies must offer a free-to-use system for consumers to return used packaging for proper disposal, reuse, and/or recycling.

## Climate

The CNP recognizes climate change as the greatest challenge ever faced by humanity. Minimizing the impacts and mitigating the worst effects of climate change require substantial changes to our culture and society. California is uniquely positioned, and a global leader in the environmental realm. Our public policies will reflect an awareness of climate change and the need for a sustainable existence. Adjustments to our lifestyle will not always be easy or cheap, but our collective progress is essential to avoid an ecological apocalypse in our lifetimes.

Reducing the carbon footprint of every household, factory, and farm is the most important and most difficult task before us. To minimize climate-related natural disasters such as floods, hurricanes, and wildfires, we must rethink the way we live, work, and travel. With this as our organizing principle, we advocate for the following policies:

- Current science shows that humanity must hit Carbon neutrality by the mid-2030's to limit climate change to two degrees and prevent catastrophic cascade effects that could threaten human existence. California must accelerate efforts to do our part to avoid this rapidly approaching catastrophe. This must become a guiding principle for all public policy in California.
- Using the best in current science and engineering, California must create and swiftly implement a master plan to mitigate flooding along our coastline and rivers, particularly the Sacramento/San Joaquin Delta. This plan must include a thorough review of the feasibility of many possible options, including managed retreat from coastlines, seawall construction to combat coastal erosion and a lock system near the Golden Gate. Care must be taken that, in doing so, we avoid unforeseen negative consequences to our rivers and other waterways.
- California cities will be encouraged to join the C40 Cities Climate Leadership Group, an international network of cities that seeks to 'collaborate effectively, share knowledge and drive meaningful, measurable and sustainable action on climate change.'
- Revise official building codes to prioritize sustainability and safety by using fire-resistant and locally sourced materials wherever possible.
- Corporations and manufacturers should be held responsible for the environmental impacts of their products, taking into account their entire lifecycle, from production, packaging, transportation, all the way to disposal and decomposition. California must implement a system whereby companies bear the full price of environmental costs. We will also seek to establish a circular economy with the goal of zero waste by 2050.
- Property tax deductions and other incentives will be enhanced for owners who add

- solar energy generation to their properties.
- Commit California to run on 100% renewable energy by 2040 through greater use of decentralized solar generation, geothermal, tidal wave, and more efficient energy storage.
- Reduce the environmental impact of transportation as a contributor to greenhouse gas emissions, as laid out in our Housing and Infrastructure Plan.

## Defend California's Biological Distinctiveness

Sixty percent of the plant species native to California grow nowhere else; as such, our nation is biologically unique. Since the days of early Spanish colonization, however, that biological uniqueness has been under attack. Today, the proliferation of non-native species that are not well suited to our unique climate is a major driver of forest fires, and habitat loss has cut the bottom out of the food web for thousands of species. Monarch butterflies are on the verge of extinction; bird populations are down by 70% relative to historic numbers; and other species have been similarly affected. California is at a tipping point, and we must act quickly! The very existence of our unique biosphere hangs in the balance and any failure to act dooms us to a future of extinction and wildfires.

- We need a California-wide program to restore the native biosphere by removing invasive species, replanting locally appropriate endemic species, and repairing damaged ecosystems making them more resilient against invasives. This program will create jobs, restore wilderness, reduce the incidence of forest fires, and protect our heritage as Californians.
- This issue is not limited to rural areas. Many HOA's in California actually classify our native plants as weeds and fine people for planting them! Such rules must be abolished, and building codes updated to require new developments and all government-owned lands to landscape with locally appropriate native plants.
- Parks and government buildings should likewise be required to use native plants, and the sale of non-native plants for non-agricultural use should be taxed to raise money for this effort, while highly invasive species like english ivy and pampas grass should be banned entirely.

## Rivers, Forests and Wild Lands

- The legacy of the Gold rush and large-scale logging across rural California, particularly in the north, is still felt today. While these industries were critical to developing California's early economy, the failure to clean up after the fact has left many rural areas with significant legacies of industrial pollution.
- Logging & mining also did lasting damage to our river systems and destroyed our once-flourishing salmon fisheries - as rivers were deliberately straightened and leveled to make them better for floating logs, the salmon hatcheries were destroyed. Destroying the salmon, in turn, devastated our fishing industry. This damage is reversible, but it will take meaningful investment to do so.
- Forest and river ecosystems are deeply tied together, and along with the restoration

- of our rivers, we must restore our forests. Ninety-eight percent of our old growth forests were cut in less than a century, and many of the small patches that are left are in danger. A program of careful science-led reforestation could reconnect the corridors used by wildlife, stave off extinction, and restore California's natural splendor. Over time, sustainable logging in these forests can provide long term stable employment in rural communities that were left flat by the boom and bust of clearcutting,
- Recent years have also seen the catastrophic collapse of California's Kelp forests due to climate change, invasive purple sea urchins, and the lack of sea otters that would eat urchins along most of their historic range. The kelp forests provide some of the most productive fish habitats in the world. Along with forest and river ecosystems, California must act immediately to mitigate the damage and restore the kelp forest before the losses become permanent. Reintroducing otters (and other species) and rebuilding interconnected forest, river, and marine habitats will be a critical part of this effort.
  - California is a world economy and we can afford to fix this damage and preserve the natural bounty that is our shared birthright. Doing so will help mitigate the impacts of climate change and create jobs throughout rural California - both in the actual restoration of rivers and wildlands and in the revitalization of our fishing and logging industries.
  - Reserves of geothermal Lithium are currently under exploration in the contaminated region of the Salton Sea, once the reserves are proven California must:
    - Firstly, ensure that the full remediation of the contaminated region is an environmental and healthcare priority.
    - Secondly, that all material extracted from these untapped geothermal brine reserves would benefit California first economically. This could entail taxes on extraction and/or fees on claim leases.
    - Thirdly, the simultaneous use of this geothermal brine extraction in the production of geothermal energy must be explored.

## Water

With more than 800 miles of coastline, California has a unique role to play in the protection of marine resources. The Pacific ocean and coast are crucial for our economic development and environmental concerns. Balancing these will be an ongoing issue for any future government, as will the question of who should have access to the coastline. As this is a shared resource susceptible to exploitation, California will seek to reinforce the long-lasting peaceful alliances with our Pacific neighbors, to ensure the continued viability of the ocean as a rich source of food, as well as its inherent integrity as a biome. In particular, the CNP supports undertaking the following policies:

- We support a permanent moratorium on the extraction of fossil fuels from the seabed, both to avoid short-term damage to the environment and as part of our move towards a post-petroleum energy system.
- There is a huge artificial island made of plastic trash in the North Pacific. Plastic does

not biodegrade, it just breaks down into smaller particles over time. Scientists are now discovering microplastics in everything from rain water to breastmilk. To address this, California should mandate the equal development and use of biodegradable plastics everywhere practical. Use of non bio-plastics in places where it can contaminate our water supplies, for example microplastics in facial scrubs, should be banned outright.

- Whales, dolphins, seals, and porpoises provide essential ecosystem services in terms of nutrient cycling and maintenance of the species balance. Sadly, many of these populations are at risk due to the degradation of their habitat and overfishing of their prey. To ensure their survival, practices that endanger these animals, such as indiscriminate commercial fishing and the use of low-frequency sonar, should be heavily regulated. On land and at sea, to provide an adequate food source for orcas, viable wild salmon populations will be favored, within reason, at the expense of economic interests. Over time as salmon habitat restoration progresses and populations rebound (see above), commercial fishing will be allowed to resume and even expand.
- In accordance with California precedent, established by the Spanish and dating back to Roman times, the portion of the land covered by the sea at high tide will be held in trust by the state for the benefit, use, and enjoyment of the public. This will ensure that all citizens have reasonable access to coastal areas by prohibiting the fencing of private beaches.
- Encourage greywater systems to help reduce the amount of water used by businesses and households.
- Create a commission that will study how to replenish groundwater sources across California.
- Management of California's rivers must ensure sustainable use for irrigators, wildlife, and other consumers of water. Towards this end, we encourage the removal of obsolete dams, close monitoring of water quality, and an ongoing dialogue with industrial, residential, and agricultural consumers to appropriately balance use and preservation.
- Strengthen and expand protected coastal areas, fisheries, and protected species while incentivizing non-polluting innovation of sustainable aquaculture industries.

## Rationalization of Water Rights and Usage

- California has licensed the use of more water each year than what actually is accumulated from rain. This is unsustainable, and therefore we need a top-to-bottom rationalization of water rights and usage.
- The overdrawing of wells is collapsing and destroying aquifers in the Central Valley and rural areas, which eliminates capacity for long term storage. Laws prohibiting this practice must be given teeth and enforced. Failing to do so is a death sentence for many rural communities, both inland and on the coast, that are reliant on aquifers to provide water.
- The siphoning off of rivers is killing salmon, which was—and could be again—a massive industry if rivers were restored.



- The biggest consumer of water isn't people, but rather agribusiness growing water-intensive crops for export.
- Many countries, notably Portugal and Spain, legally mandate dry farming for specific crops in specific climates. This produces higher quality and more flavorful produce at the cost of volume. California should explore the costs and impacts of such mandates, particularly for export crops.
- Investment in large-scale desalination is critical for the future of California as climate change moves us towards longer, hotter, and drier summers—especially since most of our population lives along the coast—but it is not sufficient! Updates to California's municipal building codes and planning processes must incorporate rainwater collection and water storage, to the greatest degree practical. Such technologies are ancient and have been used successfully for thousands of years.
- Where possible, fossil-fuel-stranded assets should be repurposed to desalination and other similar tasks.
- Desalination must be made as energy efficient as possible via California funded research and development, and all related adverse environmental impacts must be mitigated to the highest degree possible.
- In real terms, California is in trouble because we have never had a coherent plan for how to handle water. Each effort has been approached piecemeal utilizing disconnected and dysfunctional approaches that have helped some whilst seriously harming others.
- We propose a coordinated national approach to water usage wherein the biggest sources and consumers of water for each county are identified, and a rational long-term plan is created to guarantee water sovereignty for the nation of California. This plan must support efforts to restore rivers and waterways, protect fisheries, and end the destruction of our aquifers. Once formulated, this roadmap for water sovereignty must become a core tenet for development across California.

## Rural Northern and Inland California

People in rural northern California are consistently underserved by the current government and - while urban areas contribute the majority of the taxes - they consume even more of them. This is fundamentally exploitative and inflames tension and mistrust between our communities. The government of California must serve all Californians.

- Rural California, particularly in the north, needs major investments in infrastructure; from high-speed internet to transportation (both roads and trains), schools and more. These investments are critical to help keep our rural communities thriving. The CNP supports a program of targeted investment in all of these areas, and includes programs targeted to rural communities in all related platform planks.
- We will create a program for low-interest startup loans, to be distributed through the California Public Bank, aimed at funding the creation of new worker-owned cooperatives. Data clearly shows that worker-owned businesses pay better wages, give more back to local communities, and do not outsource jobs as they grow. This combination makes them ideal for revitalizing and providing stable long-term

employment and opportunity.

- Where worker-owned cooperatives are impractical, the nation bank may act as a matchmaker for traditional businesses to find financing via private capital.
- The CNP also pledges to actively restore traditional industries in rural California—including logging and fishing—through dedicated restoration efforts. In the meantime, local residents should be given priority in the hiring process for restoration efforts.
- California should also explore programs to help businesses that may be tempted to leave California, due to the high cost of our urban areas, relocate to economically depressed communities inland or in the north.
- Finally, the CNP strongly advocates political decentralization post-independence. From gun control to economic development, local communities across California should be in the driver's seat. California is radically diverse ethnically, politically, geographically, and economically; and there is no single blueprint for success. By embracing this diversity and empowering local communities to self-manage, we can create a more robust and dynamic economy and nation for all Californians.

## Agriculture

Agriculture is a nearly \$50 billion industry in California, the largest in the United States. We are a unique contributor to agriculture in North America and around the world due to the high quality and wide variety of crops grown here, in particular fruits and nuts. Many of these crops, especially wine grapes, are highly sensitive to small changes in the environment and could be devastated by climate change. Modern, large-scale farming is an energy and labor-intensive exercise, and California should continue to lead the way in developing sensible regulations to protect farms, farmworkers, and the environment. Specifically:

- California's great diversity of climates, soils, and growing seasons gives us a unique opportunity to emphasize smaller-scale, locally based agriculture which minimizes the energy usage, ecological footprint, and supply chains necessary to feed Californians. Such sustainable, preferably regenerative, practices that respect our soil and water make possible future generations of California farmers.
- The impact of land management techniques such as no-till, low-till, crop rotation, and the use of cover crops will be evaluated in terms of greenhouse gas emission or absorption, incentivizing practices that incorporate atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> back into the soil.
- Support nutrient bookkeeping regulations requiring farms to demonstrate they are not polluting surface waters through the application of excess fertilizer.
- While transgenic foods are recognized as safe by the vast majority of scientists, many people strongly object to their consumption. Therefore we support a system of labeling where GMO products are labeled in order to facilitate informed consumer choices regarding the food we eat.
- In recognition that our food supply is increasingly controlled by a small group of large corporations, the rights of small seed companies and individual farmers to develop plant varieties that are well-suited to their local conditions and market demands must

be protected. California should continue to regulate this field in a manner consistent with the International Convention for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants.

- Ban neonicotinoids and other bee-killing insecticides to save bee populations and slow insect die-offs which have caused insect populations to fall by 75% of their biomass over the last three decades.
- Cellulose from plants can be used to produce biodegradable plastics. As such, the CNP advocates for schemes that involve the redirection of plant biomass as agriculture by-product/waste to resource for single-use plastics alternatives.

## Conservation

California is a biologically diverse place with many rare and endemic species, due to our topography, the wide variety of micro-climates, and natural barriers to migration. The CNP believes that preserving our biodiversity is important not only from an ethical and aesthetic perspective, but also for ecological, economic, and medicinal reasons. We believe that it is possible to harmonize human activity with conservation, resulting in thriving human communities within thriving natural ecosystems, and so we call on California's lawmakers to do the following:

- Incorporate into environmental policy the economic value of ecosystem benefits such as pollination, flood control, carbon sequestration, and the natural control of pest species.
- Begin proceedings to turn over all federal lands in California to the government of California. The federal government has failed in their duty to protect and preserve our wild spaces, and our domestic park service could do a far better job without their interference.
- Preserve and expand public lands in response to climate change, while allowing for sustainable development.
- Responsibly regulate the harvest of wildlife both on land and at sea.
- Provide financial incentives for the preservation of habitat on private lands
- Support ongoing research to detect and eradicate invasive species before they become a threat and support local communities in their efforts to combat invasive plants and animals that harm the native ecosystems.
- Place an immediate and permanent ban on fracking within California. Fracking encourages dependency on fossil fuel technology, endangers our water supply, and causes earthquakes.

In particular, healthy forests are essential for healthy streams and water systems, which in turn support our fisheries. They also provide critical carbon sequestration and habitat for endangered species, and California's wild places draw millions of tourists every year. To protect and preserve them for the indefinite future, we advocate that:

- California should end clear cutting, strip mining, and the privatization of public lands so that public resources are available for the public.
- Our forest management system should rely on selective logging to reduce fire risk, instead of cutting down entire sections of forest and replanting with monoculture.

# Healthcare

The people of California cannot rely on solutions to our healthcare issues to come from the federal government. Instead, we must work to develop our own independent California healthcare network that will reliably operate regardless of events in Washington, D.C. At present, Californians are burdened with a healthcare system that prioritizes profits over patients. The two major political parties, who continue to accept massive contributions from the insurance and pharmaceutical industries, have a direct financial incentive to maintain the status quo.

One of the core values of the California National Party (CNP) is that healthcare should be a guaranteed civil right for all Californians, and we therefore support efforts to move California to a universal single-payer healthcare system, and we will work to educate Californians about the benefits of such an approach.

## Implementation

As part of the move away from the dysfunctional federal healthcare system, California must end the medical segregation of public health care and consolidate all federal, state, and local healthcare administrations into one unified public system, to be called the California Healthcare System, or CHS. This Medi-Cal-for-all type system will vastly reduce the cost of hospital administration by combining Medicaid, Medicare, the Veterans Administration, workers compensation, Indian Health Services, and many others into one universal system.

We propose an initial program of expanding Medi-Cal, which currently provides healthcare service to one-third of our population, to all Californians, including vision, dental, and mental health services. Care would be provided by private hospitals and practices who would then charge a fee-for-service to the CHS at rates negotiated by the government. Similar to the Canadian system, the CHS will be administered at the county level in line with policies and goals developed at the California level, which will reduce costs and simplify administration.

The astronomical prices of prescription drugs are a primary driver of rising healthcare costs. The CHS should serve as the primary negotiator for medication prices for all insurers and hospitals to help control healthcare costs, specifically through sourcing prescription drugs internationally so as to bring our costs in line with the global average. To further reduce prescription drug costs, we also propose a restriction on pharmaceutical advertising within California to the extent possible under federal law, with a complete ban on independence.

As time goes on California will develop its own system with lessons learned from that experience and informed by the practice of similar nations. Such possible approaches include a public hospital network to compete with the private sector, a national health insurance program with private supplements available through employers or individual purchase, and other policies that foster the ultimate goal of providing access to quality healthcare for all Californians.

## Underserved Communities

Healthcare is a civil right and, as such, all Californians must have equal access to it. Historically, healthcare has been inadequately provided to communities marginalized for reasons of race, ethnicity, age, income, disability, and sexual or gender identity, as well as to less densely populated rural areas. To counteract these long-standing failings, the CNP proposes:

- Construction of a hospital in each county, or in smaller counties a clinic if they choose.
- A managed care system that is all-encompassing, focusing on preventative medicine and healthy living, reducing expensive emergency care.
- A return to using house calls and/or telehealth and video conferencing for family medicine to limit cost, especially in rural communities.
- Neighborhood clinics, nutritional assistance, and other health necessities to historically neglected communities and identities, including multilingual healthcare service.
- Establishing a system for giving current and potential parents and guardians basic childrearing resources and information about birth control, pregnancy, and early childhood development.
- Tax credits and access to healthcare training for caregivers of elderly and disabled family members to help maintain strong, multi-generational communities.
- Denial of reimbursement through the CHS to doctors and clinics who refuse patients based on their race, gender, sexuality, disability, religion, or other status unrelated to health.

## Medical Education and Malpractice

California should make healthcare education free for California residents, forgive existing medical and nursing school debt, and have college students enroll in a CHS Program for Medical Professionals early in their secondary education. This will facilitate the implementation of a more reasonable pay scale. California must increase the number of doctors by opening additional medical schools and having larger graduating classes.

California needs to implement limited liability insurance for doctors, have the state be partially liable for medical mistakes within the public system, and conduct research as to exactly how many unnecessary deaths and other medical errors are occurring presently. Regular reports on medical malpractice and how to reduce it will maximize the ability of Californians to pursue healthy lifestyles.

## Housing and Infrastructure

The last several decades have seen a rapid growth of California's population and economy; however, investments in necessary infrastructure have failed to keep up. A severe housing shortage faces Californians and among other infrastructure issues are interwoven. The influx of

people and businesses requires improved access to water and energy resources, higher density housing along major transit routes, along with more efficient transportation which would allow workers to more easily commute while living near jobs or in more affordable outlying regions. It is time to invest in California and create the modern infrastructure needed to provide a high standard of living for our citizens, as well as to provide the foundation for continued economic expansion and business competitiveness.

## Corruption

California has an urgent need to make major investments in our physical infrastructure. Unfortunately, graft, waste, and bureaucratic inefficiency have made the cost of doing so prohibitive and have undermined public faith in our ability to complete these projects. Rebuilding the public trust will make it possible for us to achieve our goals and create the long term infrastructure our state needs to succeed.

- California must implement strict accountability for cost overruns. Contractors who habitually underbid and then overcharge should be banned from bidding on future projects.
- Failure to meet quality standards, for instance by using cheaper or sub-standard parts, shall result in the offending party having to pay twice the cost of repairs back to the State. In the case of ongoing projects, this will be applied as a credit to the State against the cost of the project
- Any official or officer of the State who stands to personally benefit from any public works program should be recused from all decisions having to do with that project. Failure to recuse oneself should be made a criminal offense with a fine not less than four times the profits gained. Offenders should be immediately removed from office and barred from ever holding office again.
- Financing for all public works shall be provided by the National Bank or Credit Union of California, not by any private bank, and private parties will not be allowed to profit off said financing.
- A series of appropriate incentives based on percentages of the project as a whole shall be created for contractors who meet or exceed quality guidelines and completion timetables. These incentives are to be paid out upon completion of the project, and are subject to repayment if quality issues that were not immediately obvious later become apparent; within a reasonable window of time.
- The California Judiciary shall have the authority to dismiss frivolous lawsuits relating to the implementation of public works plans. All disputes about the payment of such bonuses and fines will be subject to arbitration.

## Housing

The rising cost of housing poses an existential crisis for many longtime California residents, favoring wealthy newcomers and real estate speculators while forcing many low and middle-class Californians to leave. To make California more livable for everyone, the California National Party (CNP) supports a series of reforms, guided by the following principles in developing its

housing policy:

- No one in California with a job should be unable to afford housing within a reasonable distance of that job. Housing will be acknowledged as a civil right and incorporated into the California Constitution.
- California should remove unnecessary institutional barriers in zoning codes, funding programs, and lending practices, as well as commit itself to the promotion of economic diversity in communities throughout the state.
- Affordability must be ensured by facilitating the production of housing at a variety of price points and housing formats, either through market mechanisms or state-funded construction.
- Communities throughout the state differ substantially in their housing needs. Policies adopted at the state level should recognize this and allow for as much local control over housing policy as is practical, while also taking steps to prevent the capture of local housing decisions by narrow unrepresentative interests.
- The State should take steps to ensure that available housing is not left idle, but is put to use housing Californians.
- The State should assist homeowners and businesses throughout the state with making the physical adaptations necessary to deal with the long term recurrence of COVID-19 and other airborne diseases.
- Add a 25% tax on profits from 'flipping' which takes affordable housing off the market and makes it more expensive. Flipping to be defined as reselling a house at a significant profit within one year of buying it.
- Hundreds of thousands of homes in California are purchased by speculators who leave them empty, taking housing off the market and driving up prices. This is an immoral misuse of a precious resource that harms Californians looking for a home. Implementing a punitive tax of 15% of assessed value annually on homes left empty for more than six months would force these homes back onto the market, driving down prices. This policy has been implemented in comparable markets globally and been highly effective. Exceptions shall be made for homes deemed unfit for habitation.

California can incentivize sustainable development by only providing funds for redevelopment if certain density, mixed-use, and affordable housing requirements are met. In particular, projects featuring three or four stories of residential atop first-floor retail will be encouraged in cities and urban areas. This will facilitate car-free living on a human scale and create a large number of affordable homes. With fewer individual yards, it will be necessary to increase funding for the creation and maintenance of parks and other urban green spaces. In addition, state funds for highway construction and maintenance should be tied to local governments reaching their new housing targets and will be withdrawn if such targets are not met.

Additionally, California should learn from housing policies that have been effective in other states and nations. In particular, Singapore has had success with the promotion of large scale government-funded housing construction, and Tokyo has had success with substantial liberalization of zoning laws to permit a variety of housing forms to be constructed throughout

the city, substantially lowering the cost of housing. California has always been open to ideas from other places and, with regard to housing policy, we can take the best ideas from everywhere.

The CNP advocates for the following specific housing policies as soon as they can be practically implemented:

- Streamlining of building permits and environmental review in urban areas to support urban infill while avoiding displacing residents, with a special focus on the construction of high-density housing near transit corridors. Environmental reviews should be more efficient and should protect the environment without becoming an instrument of economic exclusion.
- Discourage the racial segregation of neighborhoods and promote diverse communities, through means such as focused investment into infrastructure, parks, schools, and public services such as street cleaning in historically marginalized communities.
- California will seek to end the creation of 'poverty islands' in public housing by propagating economic diversity and affordability in all neighborhoods.
- Rent control should be used as a mechanism to stabilize at-risk communities while being paired with measures designed to promote the construction of new housing.
- As the best farmlands and wildlife habitats are frequently also the most likely to be usurped by residential use, we encourage zoning policies that preserve and enhance forests, greenspace, and working farms.
- The California public bank, described in our Economy plank, will invest in both small- and large-scale local and regional projects, public and private, that are deemed to be serving the public good, including public housing projects.
- Create a housing security fund, operated like social security, where every resident pays into their own account through a progressive payroll tax, to be used as a form of transferable equity to secure housing, subsidizing lower-income individuals to a minimum standard.
- Take steps to encourage housing density near jobs and transit, such as eliminating parking minimums, discourage or restrict building height limits in core areas, the promotion of walkable neighborhoods, and encourage or require mixed-use zoning.
- Require large scale developers to coordinate with municipal road expansion timelines to assure sufficient transportation is available to new communities and thereby reduce traffic concerns.
- Encourage prefabrication especially for residential structures.
- Enable individuals to build or modify their own homes with fewer constraints.
- Encourage the changing of laws and ordinances governing the demolition of older buildings in favor of mid- and high-density housing. Whilst historical buildings are charming sites, areas may benefit more from efficient and increased capacity in housing instead of just updating interiors which can sometimes result in fewer available units.
- Add a 25% tax on profits from 'flipping' which takes affordable housing off the market and makes it more expensive. Flipping to be defined as reselling a house at a



significant profit within one year of buying it.

- The State shall establish a department, and a fund, for assisting homeowners and businesses with adapting their physical structures to be more resilient in the face of future COVID-19 resurgences, primarily by increasing ventilation capacity. These costs will pay for themselves through reduced future medical costs.

## Water

Water usage and accessibility is a key issue for every Californian no matter their job, political views, or place of residence. Therefore, investment in water infrastructure, such as moving water from coastal desalination plants to rural farming communities, is needed to ensure access to water at reasonable prices for all communities and farms. To this end, the CNP advocates for the following policies:

- Urban rainwater collection should be the norm and will be incentivized in all new construction, urban and rural, where possible.
- Rural water use for California's world-class agricultural industries will remain a top priority while incentives will encourage cultivators to use dry farming methods, water-efficient techniques, and select more location-appropriate crops.
- State buildings will try to utilize the majority of their rooftop space for environmentally, socially beneficial, and productive purposes. Examples include green roofs and gardens, solar collection, skylights, and public spaces.
- Green roofs and other water-saving technology should be incentivized in all new residential buildings, with the state matching funds for upgrades to existing buildings.
- Incentives for water-efficient landscaping practices should be made available, and community standards be established according to local requirements.
- The government must sponsor research and development of desalination technology so that California can become a regional water broker.
- Water-intensive luxury amenities, such as golf courses, should have their water use be taxed substantially.
- California will take steps to ensure communities are not rendered uninhabitable and, where necessary, will relocate communities that must be relocated due to the various impending impacts of Climate Change.

## Energy

California's energy policies must emphasize the need to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and enhance sustainability. The CNP supports initiatives to:

- Shift from gasoline to zero-emission vehicles as soon as possible in both the public and private sectors, through a combination of mandates and incentives.
- Become 60% renewable by 2027.
- Double the energy efficiency of existing buildings.
- Create decentralized energy generation through the promotion of individually owned

- wind and solar units.
- Fast-track upgrades to California's building codes to incentivize green building technology, including making it mandatory for all new structures.
- Promote decentralized in-stream hydroelectric power that does not interfere with natural water flows or ecosystems.
- Partner with industry in the promotion of a green innovation economy that can benefit California both economically and environmentally.
- Ensure that the California PUC will have its commissioners elected by the public as well have its powers expanded over utility rates and public transportation.

Many failures of California's energy policy can be tied to Pacific Gas and Electric (PG&E) and SoCal Edison. For decades, from the Hinkley groundwater contamination to recent electricity grid-caused wildfires, PG&E has shown itself to be an irresponsible corporate actor. Often its five million customers in the northern two-thirds of California have been forced to pay for the company's mistakes to protect the interests of its investors. Californians should no longer be forced to pay—financially, environmentally, and far too often through personal loss—for PG&E's incompetence. The CNP therefore supports the following plan to bring control over energy to local communities:

- The California government should initially transfer PG&E to state control through civil forfeiture, and shortly thereafter devolve many functions to counties and regions. In the meantime, California should use this period to upgrade the system, including the burying of electrical lines wherever possible.
- The high voltage transmission grid, which spans across California and beyond, would remain a publicly administered utility.
- Power generation itself and the lower voltage distribution grid would be transferred to the local level (county or regional, depending on circumstances). They could then determine, based on their specific needs and desires, whether to institute a public utility such as Sacramento Municipal Utilities District (SMUD) in Sacramento, a local customer cooperative, or private enterprise, with oversight by the California Public Utilities Commission.
- As much as practical, current employees should keep their jobs, salary, and pension status during and after the transition.
- Over the long term, SoCal Edison should likewise be brought under public control.

## Transportation

Car-oriented transportation infrastructure was the American dream in the 1950s, but is the nightmare of California, present and future! Efficient and widely accessible transportation is crucial to California's future economy and habitability. Transportation is a driver not only of economic growth but of class mobility. Vibrant and diverse communities can only exist if the individuals in those communities have easy access to transportation that can take them to jobs, shopping, and recreation. Transportation is also crucial to maintaining a productive industrial base, in which raw materials and goods can easily be moved to where they are needed. Finally, any transportation system must take into consideration environmental concerns and the

increasingly serious consequences of climate change. The CNP advocates for the following transportation policies:

- Investment in diverse transportation strategies to end the freeway gridlock in our cities with a policy that focuses on the needs of each region, based on geography and population density. Such a policy should give special emphasis to congestion pricing, which is one of the most demonstrably successful means of reducing gridlock.
- Supporting a commission to investigate the feasibility of solar roadways, sidewalks, and bicycle paths.
- Increased development and expansion of light rail in urban cores to encourage density and reduce congestion, along with intercity rail to encourage mass transit commuters from outlying suburbs.
- To increase the sustainability and viability of rail transit systems, we will encourage such systems to build housing on land next to train stations owned by the transit agency that they can then derive rent from and use as a funding source for continued rail expansion, as is common in other countries such as Japan.
- Bay Area Rapid Transit (BART) needs a near-complete overhaul of its system, from the way it's funded and governed all the way to refitting the rail infrastructure to a gauge more widely interconnectable with other railways.
- California should encourage cycling through a variety of measures, such as dedicated lanes separated from car traffic by a hard boundary, implementation of secure bicycle storage, and the deployment of bicycle rental fleets where feasible.
- Regional transportation should be consolidated with the goal of increasing efficiency and removing bureaucracy, especially in areas with a number of uncoordinated transit agencies.
- We support high-speed rail, and greater rail connectivity in general, across California, similar to the Japanese rail systems. This includes the efforts by the California High-Speed Rail Authority to establish an initial working system by 2025. Rural areas should be attached to this by a modern rapid-transit system (bus-trains, Light Rail, and Autocoach) consolidated around regional hubs.
- Special efforts should be undertaken to ensure that historically impoverished neighborhoods are connected to jobs and educational opportunities via public transport.
- Exploring the feasibility of expanding maritime infrastructure along the coast, including upgrades to existing piers and harbors, along with the construction of new floating harbors for a variety of uses such as ferry service, cruise vessels, and support for offshore renewable energy facilities.
- In order to help public transit recover from the COVID-19 pandemic, the state should invest in dramatically improving ventilation systems on all forms of transit, which will reduce the risk of disease transmission aboard these systems.
- In order to increase the safety of public transit, unarmed transit security guards should be deployed to buses and subways, especially at night.

# High-Speed Rail & Mass Transit for All of California

California used to have some of the best public transit in the world, but it was privatized and ripped out by Americans in order to break the transit unions and sell more cars. This was a disaster.

Freeway systems are overcrowded in the south and underdeveloped in the north, costing billions of dollars a year in lost productivity as people waste time in traffic. This is a major quality of life issue for our whole nation.

- Underdeveloped and windy roads, in rural areas in particular, are dangerous and cost lives, as well as limit economic growth in rural communities. For example, it currently takes two hours on windy dangerous two-lane roads to go less than 34 miles from Ukiah to Mendocino. There used to be a train line, but the tunnel collapsed and was never rebuilt. This is unacceptable.
- Climate change is an existential threat to all life on earth, and to California in particular. Cars are a leading contributor to carbon emissions, and while electric cars are better, their supply lines are far from clean. Even if we switched entirely to electric cars, plastic particulates from tires are a major source of pollution.
- We must therefore shift away from infrastructure based on cars and towards a sustainable modern transit system that reflects our values as Californians. We need a rail system that makes owning a car optional - anywhere in California.
- Doing so will dramatically improve quality of life for millions of Californians, prevent thousands of needless deaths every year, and bring investment and activity to rural communities across California. It is also absolutely essential to cut our carbon emissions and prevent catastrophic climate change.

## Automobile Infrastructure and the Future of Fuel Sources:

- The carpool scheme in the past had economic benefits. However, it has since become an inefficiency. Express Lane schemes which incorporate pay-for-speed and pay-per-rider elements serve as a greater incentive in our present day. Freeways of four or more lanes could utilize 24-hour pay schemes in which the fastest lane could have a minimum speed of 80 mph for use and charge a toll of \$1 per mile for a single rider, \$0.70 for two riders, \$0.50 for three riders, and \$0.35 for four+ riders. The second fastest lane could have a minimum speed of 70 mph and charge a toll of \$0.50 per mile for a single rider, \$0.30 for two riders, \$0.10 for three riders, and free for four+ riders. Trailers would be banned from these lanes.
- The gas tax must be replaced by mileage fees. For gasoline and natural gas-powered vehicles, a basic fee of \$0.03 per vehicle per mile driven, with trailers counting as a separate vehicle. For diesel powered vehicles, \$0.02 per vehicle per mile driven, with trailers counting as a separate vehicle at \$0.03 per mile. Hybrids would receive a \$0.02 discount for the first 7-years of use, then \$0.01 for five years after. All electric and other fuel vehicles would be charged \$0.01 per mile. Reporting would be done through an app which would require a photo of the odometer and Vehicle Identification Number (VIN) to be taken before pumping gas. The app would

- produce a QR code to be scanned by pump or attendant before pump will activate. Auto shops will also be required to report odometer and VIN to the state.
- Rail has been proven to be the most efficient way to transport goods over land. The state must do what it can to drive the expansion of rail along routes currently mainly served by interstates. Combined with allowing triple trailers for semi-trucks on certain roads, this will increase freight efficiency.

## Immigration

The immigration policy of the United States, under which California is currently obligated to operate, is causing irreparable harm to the families of our undocumented neighbors as they are ripped from their homes, detained indefinitely without legal recourse, and too often sent back to countries they barely know. This broken system has also caused us economic harm, as farmers and other businesses struggle to find workers to replace the productive and hardworking employees that are often abruptly and indiscriminately deported by the federal government. The threat of deportation is also used by businesses that employ undocumented workers to break efforts at unionization and drive down wages, which harms all working class Californians. There is no adequate path to U.S. citizenship for the many undocumented people who have lived in California as law-abiding and productive community members for many years, nor does the federal government provide enough visas for temporary guest workers to keep up with the demands of California's economy.

This kind of immigration enforcement does not serve the interests of California. For at least 200 years, California has been an important destination for international immigration. Any California government will honor the fact that people from around the world come here to begin new lives as Californians. The California National Party (CNP) recognizes that California's history includes episodes of xenophobia and intolerance, and we are committed to not repeating the mistakes of the past.

## A Fair and Humane Immigration Policy

We support the design and implementation of immigration policies that are consistent with the fair and humane treatment of immigrants. No matter how immigrants came to be in California, they are human beings who deserve to be treated as such. The principles and goals that underlie such a policy include:

- The inherent dignity and equal and inalienable rights of all people must be at the foundation of immigration law and policy.
- Upholding family unity should be a priority of all immigration policies.
- Create a process for undocumented immigrants who have lived in California for a significant number of years to earn their legal status and eventual citizenship.
- Protect workers and provide efficient channels of entry for new migrant workers.
- Guarantee due process protections for all immigrants.
- Align immigration enforcement with humanitarian values.

- Emphasize the protection of refugees and other vulnerable migrants.
- Freedom of movement must be maximized for all individuals, within practical limits.
- Immigration policies should be free from discrimination and uphold equality.
- Every immigration policy, strategy, and institution must be accountable to the affected individuals and local communities. Local communities should be directly involved with immigration and border policy-making, as well as with enforcement reviews.

## Welcoming Immigrants

California's unique global position allows it to welcome diverse peoples and cultures from all over the planet. For this reason, the CNP advocates for the implementation of the following policy goals:

- California will seek to issue visas allowing foreign nationals to enter, work, study, and reside in California, either with the cooperation of the United States federal government or upon our independence.
- California's economy needs to retain highly-educated individuals and other skilled professionals who originate from other nations.
- Undocumented child immigrants are children, thus they do not have the same decision-making capacities as adults. As such, they must be treated as children.
- California shall guarantee the right to healthcare, legal representation, and public education for all children in California regardless of immigration status.
- The CNP opposes the construction of any wall along the southern border of California. If such a wall is built, we will work for its removal.
- California shall seek to modify free trade agreements to ease the movement of people and goods across borders, especially with regard to Mexico, Canada, and the Pacific Rim nations.

## Actions California Can Take Now

Even though a California that lives under the federal government cannot adopt the immigration policies the CNP believes are fair and just, there are several actions we can undertake now. These include ensuring that all residents, including undocumented immigrants, have access to state services, beginning a system of residency permits, developing responsible guest worker programs, and continuing a policy of non-compliance with federal immigration authorities when their actions threaten law-abiding members of our communities.

- California should develop a residency program for anyone who has lived here for five years continuously and who can affirm that they intend to remain in California indefinitely. This residency would allow such individuals to legally work and live in California indefinitely as well as vote in local and California elections.
- Residency would only be open to individuals who have not been convicted of a serious crime in California during that period, or who have been convicted of such a crime but have applied for and been granted amnesty.
- All California government agencies will be instructed to respect these residency

permits, to never turn over any holder of such a permit to federal immigration agents, and to not detain or otherwise interfere with any Californian who holds a duly issued residency permit.

- No language requirement shall be imposed to obtain a California residency permit nor later for Californian citizenship. Upon independence, anyone holding a California residency permit will be issued full citizenship in the California Republic.
- California must create a rational guest-worker program operated by the counties in order to best meet their needs. These programs will be coordinated by a state-wide agency to which each county shall submit a proposal that outlines its guest worker labor needs. Counties can also choose to not seek any guest workers if they have no such needs.

## Law and Electoral Reform

The California National Party (CNP) is fundamentally opposed to the two-party system of the United States and instead exists to establish political structures and practices that resist the corruption, disenfranchisement, and polarization that have afflicted past governments. Minority opinions must be given a real and equitable public voice, while negotiation, compromise, collaboration, and inclusiveness should form the basis of political discourse. To bring effective representation to Californians, the CNP will work to reform government and elections at all levels, from city councils to the legislature, in order to produce a healthy and robust democracy that better responds to the needs of its citizens.

## Campaign Finance

Perhaps the longest-standing flaws in the United States political system are the methods by which parties and campaigns are privately financed, resulting in a concentration of political power based on wealth. The CNP endorses strictly limiting private financing of candidates, political parties, and other political entities.

- Corporations are not equivalent to human citizens and are not entitled to the same free speech rights as individual Californians, who are real humans and not aggregate business entities. While Californians are subject to the United States Constitution, the CNP supports efforts to overturn the Citizens United ruling, and upon independence we will end equal application of free speech rights to corporations, recognizing the political rights of human beings over artificial corporate entities.
- Governments have the mandate to limit or prohibit contributions and expenditures by both individuals and corporations that could create an excessive imbalance of influence on the election of a person to an office or the outcome of an initiative, proposition, or referendum.
- All political parties should be guaranteed equal access to the media to promote their party or specific candidates, as would independent candidates polling over 1%.
- All levels of government from local to California elections must record all permissible political contributions and expenditures in at least one central registry of such

transactions that shall be free and available to be searched by any person. This will combat attempts to hide contributor identities, which provides a conduit for corporate and individual wealth to disproportionately influence elections and legislators.

## Voting

The CNP supports the adoption of ranked-choice or STAR voting for all California-wide candidate elections and will work for its adoption in county and local elections. In ranked-choice voting, voters rank candidates by preference on their ballots. If no candidate wins a majority of first-choice votes, the candidate with the fewest first-choice votes is eliminated and their votes redistributed to each voters' second choice until one candidate attains a majority. The name stands for "Score then Automatic Runoff", referring to the fact that this system is a combination of score voting, to pick two finalists with the highest total scores, followed by a "virtual runoff" in which the finalist who is preferred on more ballots wins. It is a type of cardinal voting electoral system. Such a voting system:

- Encourage candidates to build a coalition of support and avoid negative campaigning because they may need voters to consider them as their 2nd or 3rd choices.
- Results in a winning candidate supported by the majority of voters.
- Provides more choices to voters while minimizing strategic voting.
- Saves money when it replaces primaries or runoffs.

To ensure the integrity of California elections, the CNP supports hand counting of paper ballots in smaller counties and municipalities. Larger locations, for circumstances in which hand counting is not feasible, must exclusively use non-proprietary open-source voting (OSV) platforms with the production of paper ballots on devices that are never connected to any computer network.

Both counting methods must be directly observable by witnesses. Vote-counting machines must display an active tally showing the ballot, and the tally increases for each result. The tally process must be captured by video and posted live as well as kept available for review by anyone who wishes to verify the count. Vote counting machines would not be permitted to count faster than the video can capture accurately.

All OSV hardware and software used for gathering, aggregating, and reporting votes to elect public officials need to be secure, accessible, auditable, and transparent, as well as allow all voters the opportunity to cast a ballot regardless of physical abilities. Because the source code is publicly viewable, claims about its integrity and security are independently verifiable as compared to "secret" proprietary software. Such a system would include:

- A touch-screen voter station where the voter selects their choices.
- A human and machine-readable printed ballot that the voter would review for accuracy.
- A scanner to capture the ballot's image as well as to record the voter's selections.



## Local Government

It is a guiding principle of the CNP that, as much as is practical, decisions that are exclusively local in scope should be made by the people and elected representatives of that area. While there are undoubtedly many policies that must be universal throughout California—such as civil rights, environmental protection, and resource management—for too long power has been increasingly centralized in Sacramento. The complexity and diversity of California requires the recognition that different regions face many localized needs and obstacles. To make local government more accountable to the needs of all its residents, the CNP will support the following actions:

- Reform medium to large city councils, Boards of Supervisors, and other local elected bodies to mixed-member representation, made up of both local district members as well as at-large members, allowing the voice of both the neighborhood and community as a whole to be heard.
- Support county efforts to formulate and restructure their government in ways that best suit the local constituency.
- Bring greater representation to unincorporated and rural areas within county governments since the Board of Supervisors and other county officials are the most immediate governments for these areas.
- Develop different models of county governance when appropriate, such as a separate elected executive office in large counties, provided they are in compliance with California electoral law and are not disenfranchising groups of voters or designed to give undue power to certain parties, organizations, or industries.
- Support the right of counties, especially less populated rural ones, to construct regional plans for issues such as transportation, or to merge together into larger counties if they so desire.

## California Legislature

At present, each member of the 80-person Assembly must represent roughly half a million human beings, while those of the 40-person Senate represent nearly a million. Many members are forced to represent multiple counties across diverse regions, with boundaries drawn not based on the shared interests of the population, but with the interests of the two-party system in mind. This is, in fact, representation in name only. To combat this erosion of effective democracy in the California government, the CNP supports a voter-approved amendment to the California Constitution to enact the following reforms:

- Increase the size of the Assembly to enable each member to represent, and be more directly accountable to, a smaller group of Californians with shared economic, social, and geographic conditions. Rather than fix a number of members, each member must represent no more than 100,000 people. As of 2020, this would set the number of Assembly members at 396.
- Increase the size of the California Senate to 50 members with elections by Party List Proportional Representation, the most common form of proportional representation

internationally. In this system, all Californians would either vote for a party, each of which would produce an ordered list of candidates, or an independent candidate who must receive 2% of the total vote to be seated. Parties would receive one Senator for every 2% of the vote. This allows smaller parties that have supporters throughout California, but which are not concentrated in any one place, representation proportional to their following.

The American two-party system is deeply dysfunctional and has created alienation, mistrust, and extreme polarization. This is not sustainable.

The two party system is a direct result of the American 'winner take all' approach to elections. Nations that use Proportional Representation, by contrast, all have vibrant multi-party systems, and every nation that has made the change has had a multi-party system within 3 election cycles. In cases where Direct Elections make the most sense, they should be conducted using Ranked Choice Voting.

While we are confident in the value of our own proposals, we are mindful of the fact that no political party has a monopoly on good ideas and so we strongly advocate a multi-party system. A century ago there was a robust movement in California for Proportional Representation, but it was crushed by the American political parties because Proportional Representation produces multi-party systems - and because the cities and counties using it had begun to elect people of color and reformers. We believe that reclaiming that lost momentum is critical to creating a California where everyone is represented in government.

The CNP therefore advocates the following immediate changes to the structure of California's government:

### Changes to structure of County governments

- Rationalization of County borders so no county has more than 5 million or less than 1 million residents, there are 50 counties total, and (to the greatest degree possible) county borders correspond to watersheds and other natural environmental borders.
- Proposals for new borders to be defined by a non-partisan group of independent experts and submitted to the entire electorate of California to pick a favorite.
- County governments to be elected using proportional representation and given broad powers over economic development, gun control laws, and more.

### Change to structure of California Legislature

- Change State Senators to be elected per county. The counties should use direct elections for the Senate seats using Ranked Choice voting. Senators should be immediately recallable via a vote of no confidence from their county board. Each County gets one Senator.
- Merge the State Senate and Assembly members into a single legislative body
- Increase the Assembly seats to 200 and implement Statewide Proportional

Representation for those seats.

- Implement Proportional Representation for all other elected legislative bodies across California, including cities and counties.
- The office of Governor and all other directly-elected offices should be elected via Ranked Choice Voting.
- Californian members of the United States House of Representatives and Electoral College to be elected using state-wide Proportional Representation.
- Californian Senators in the United States Senate to be immediately recallable and replaced via a majority vote of no confidence from the California Legislature.

Additional changes:

- Legally enshrine the principle of localization into the California Constitution so it can be enforced via judicial review. Sovereignty flows from the bottom up - not the top down - and local communities should be in the driver's seat. Unless there is significant benefit to planning across a larger region (as with water, transportation, fire prevention, etc), all governments should be as local as possible.
- Ban paid signature gatherers that currently allow wealthy interests to purchase laws through gaming the initiative process.
- Remove artificial barriers to entry and make it easier for new parties to compete by lowering the threshold of signatures and reducing fees to certify as a party, run for office, or file a ballot initiative.

Taken together, these proposals will rapidly transition California to a vibrant and competitive multi-party democracy where all Californians are fairly represented and able to hold their representatives accountable.

## Privacy

The CNP opposes the unparalleled intrusion by agencies of the United States government, often with the assistance of corporations, into the privacy of millions of Californians. This violation by federal authorities has accelerated since the so-called "War on Terror" began two decades ago, accompanied by a rapid expansion of surveillance and related technologies. As this technology, much of it developed and controlled by unaccountable corporations, becomes increasingly pervasive, personal information becomes more readily available, making it difficult for citizens to maintain their privacy.

The Constitution of the state of California affords stronger protections of personal privacy than that of the United States, and many of our citizens feel that attacks on our basic rights and on our ability to control disclosure of information about our private lives have gone too far. Therefore, the CNP opposes mass government surveillance programs as well as similar non-governmental actions taken by corporations, on their own behalf or in concert with the government, which impinge upon personal privacy.

- We oppose all government demands for manufacturers of software and electronic devices to include encryption "backdoors" which undermine security and violate the

- right to privacy of consumers, contributing to the rise of a surveillance state.
- California should immediately end its compliance with mass surveillance programs conducted by any federal agencies, or their foreign and corporate allies.
  - End targeted surveillance of members of specific ethnic or religious groups, especially in relation to the “War on Terror,” the vast majority of whom have no connection to terrorism. No valid rationale exists to allow the continuation of this surveillance, which has not made Californians safer from terrorist acts.
  - We support the “right to be forgotten,” as pioneered by the European Union’s General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) law. All citizens should have the ability to have one’s personal information as well as any other content, such as electronic messages or photographs, deleted and removed from any publically-accessible website, server, or database upon request, with greater protections than under the current California Consumer Privacy Act.
  - California must provide protection for whistleblowers, journalists, and others who expose corruption.
  - We advocate stronger restrictions on the power of credit reporting agencies and the situations in which a credit report can be obtained. Specifically, potential employers should not be able to demand a credit report unless it has a direct bearing on job performance or if there is a security risk.
  - We support the regulation of personal, commercial, and governmental drones as necessary to preserve personal privacy.

## Gun Rights and Regulation

Gun policy should be based on the recognition that different areas of California have varying issues and social attitudes related to firearms. The vast majority of gun-related crimes take place in two dozen California counties, while many have had few or no violent gun crimes over the course of several years. Current gun laws are imposed statewide based on the needs of the urban majority, but many rural Californians - who live alongside dangerous wildlife and may not even have a local police department - have very different needs than people in Los Angeles or San Francisco. Local communities should be able to set reasonable gun laws that work for them.

Therefore, the CNP supports the following changes:

California-wide gun laws should be reduced in number and scope, and greater regulatory power given to individual counties. Those with more restrictive policies must respect the rights of other counties to have more permissive laws, and vice versa. City laws may be more but not less restrictive than county laws.

- Statewide restrictions that have been shown to be ineffective and do not make people safer should be abolished. This includes the handgun roster and restrictions on cosmetic features like pistol grips or adjustable stocks on rifles.
- At the same time, if specific counties want to ban specific features, models, or types of guns or implement longer waiting periods; they should be able to do so in order to

reflect local needs and values.

- Bringing prohibited items across county lines or buying or selling a prohibited weapon will be a felony and any individual convicted of doing so would be required to surrender all their firearms and be ineligible to operate a business that sells firearms or own and carry firearms unless and until that felony is expunged by a court of law.
- May-issue concealed carry permits allow sheriffs to deny the right to bear arms to anyone for any reason. While in theory the goal is to prevent problematic individuals from gaining access, real world data shows that it has most often been used to prevent ethnic, racial, or religious minorities from exercising their rights. Other times, it becomes a form of class-based discrimination where only the wealthy can get approved. Limiting the exercise of rights by race, ethnicity, faith, or class is abhorrent. Therefore, California should change to a will-issue framework where anyone with the required training and a clean record is free to exercise their rights on an equal footing.
- We support the existing California-wide ban on fully automatic weapons. Restrictions on semi-automatic weapons, ammunition restrictions, magazine capacity restrictions, and handgun laws should be defined by each county.
- Real world data shows the 10-day waiting period for purchase of a first firearm measurably reduces violent crimes of passion, but waiting periods for additional firearms do not. Therefore, the 10-day waiting period on firearm purchases should apply once for each type of firearm a citizen purchases (First rifle, first pistol, etc.) and be waived for subsequent purchases.
- All law enforcement exemptions to gun control rules should be abolished. The law must apply to everyone equally.
- Like a driver's license, those applying for a firearms permit would be required to pass a written exam and demonstration of skill and responsibility.
- Sellers should be able to sell to buyers who reside anywhere in California, as long as the sale conforms to local regulations for the county where the buyer has their primary residence (the one listed on their drivers license or IR card).
- California should post signs at points of entry to inform visitors of our gun laws and the penalties for trafficking weapons. Those from outside of California will have an option to place non-compliant firearms in an armory (gun check) for a fee for the duration of their visit. This facility and licensing regime shall be self-funding and should have a negligible cost to California.
- California should increase the minimum age to buy ammunition and firearms to 21.

We also defend many currently existing California gun laws, such as:

- Castle doctrine for purposes of self-defense within one's home, vehicle, or other legally occupied space.
- Red flag laws, establishing Extreme Risk Protection Orders, by which police or family members can petition a court to confiscate weapons for a certain period of time from those deemed a threat to themselves or others.
- While California remains part of the United States, our laws must adhere to the interpretations of the Second Amendment handed down from the Supreme Court of

the United States.

## Policing Reform

While many police officers are dedicated civil servants, enough are corrupt and abuse their power without sufficient oversight that there is a need for communities to be able to maintain oversight of those authorized by the government to use lethal force. The CNP believes that California should:

- Provide state-level guidance and legal authority for community oversight of police in municipalities. The Office of the Attorney General shall have an independent inspection unit reviewing and enforcing the standards of jurisdictions, reviewing exercises of deadly force and citizens' complaints about violations of practice standards and human rights.
- Establish a California-wide code of conduct and certification program for police and sheriffs across California, and a database of all qualified officers that are eligible to be employed.
- As part of this certification process, establish state-level penalties for individual officers who do not adhere to guidelines, including decertification (which would ban them from ever again working as a law officer in California) and criminal penalties where appropriate.
- In order to enforce these state-wide guidelines fairly and uniformly, make internal affairs a statewide bureau with the power to investigate and, where appropriate, prosecute corruption within any Californian police department. Rooting out corruption is essential to rebuild public trust in police and enable the majority of good cops to do the critical work they have been entrusted with.
- In the event that an investigation warrants criminal prosecution, it must eliminate qualified immunity in cases where officers have significantly deviated from the state-wide guidelines and rules of conduct.
- For new recruits, require a minimum of an associate's degree, preferably in Criminal Justice, that include at least four classes on racial issues.
- For current police officers, implement new and ongoing training that addresses implicit bias and historical causes of inequality.
- Realize that police are not social workers or mental health counselors and expecting them to respond to situations where they do not have the required training to succeed is a recipe for disaster. To the greatest degree possible, calls that do not require an armed response should be diverted to other agencies; along with the funding to support them. This includes expanding and modernizing emergency medical and psychiatric response systems and teams in every jurisdiction in California. Procedures and practices should be implemented in which behavioral health professionals are easily available to de-escalate confrontations, either alongside or instead of law enforcement officers, as appropriate.
- Increase funding of emergency medical and fire response systems, including salaries and fringe benefits that will make those public safety positions competitive with police.

- For all police misconduct cases in California, change laws so the costs of these cases are paid for by a police union fund and/or insurance system, not California tax payers.

## Correctional and Bail Reform

The CNP opposes a penal system that disproportionately incarcerates and punishes the poor. Members of historically marginalized communities, especially Black, Latinx, and First Nation Californians, are disproportionately arrested, tried, and convicted for crimes. This system results in even non-violent and low-level offenses destroying far too many lives. The CNP believes that California must:

- Allow people convicted of crimes to vote, and reinstate that right to the many from whom it has been stripped.
- End indefinite and bail-contingent pre-trial detention and abolish the for-profit bail industry.
- Ban civil forfeiture, which is the confiscation of assets by law enforcement without due process, as this practice creates perverse incentives for law enforcement.
- Decriminalize the use of all recreational drugs and establish adequately funded substance abuse treatment programs and rehabilitation clinics in every county in conjunction with the California-wide hospital system laid down in our Healthcare plank. Substance abusers who violate laws will be directed to drug courts.
- Implement evidence-based standards to dramatically improve outcomes for individuals involved in the justice system due to substance use and mental health disorders, employing evidence from studies of addiction, pharmacology, behavioral health, and criminal justice to transform how the justice system responds to people in crisis.
- Provide amnesty and criminal record expungement of all convictions for drinking in public, drug possession, and low-level possession for sale.
- Expunge all juvenile criminal records of all individuals who, following their release, reach the age of 21 or have five consecutive years without any criminal indictments.
- Disincentivize overcharging by District Attorneys and issue a state mandate to focus prosecutions on violent and white-collar crimes.
- Expand Public Defender offices and make their salaries and staff levels equivalent to those of prosecutors.
- Work to increase the availability of comprehensive educational and training programs for the formerly incarcerated to enhance life and job skills.
- Decrease funding of the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation, while increasing funding of probation and parole systems.
- Establish a dedicated statewide re-entry and anti-recidivism body separate from the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) that incorporates both job training and trauma-informed therapy into its services.
- Mandate all probation and parole contracts for anti-recidivism, substance abuse treatment, and mental or physical healthcare services go to the Departments of

Education, Public Health, or Health and Human Services.

## Judicial Funding and Access

Equality under the law requires not only good laws but access to the judicial system. Despite this, the court system of California is too often left underfunded and ignored. This delays trials, results in urban overcrowding, and forces rural residents to travel additional miles, spending many hours to gain access to the justice system. This fiscal uncertainty in one of the largest judicial systems in the world is unacceptable. Basic duties of the court system, such as adjudicating cases both criminal and civil, have become monumentally backlogged. To meet the need for all Californians to have access to their judicial system, the CNP supports:

- A minimum funding mandate that the allocation for the judiciary be no less than 1.5% of the annual California budget.
- In times of economic surplus, the budget may set aside funds beyond this 1.5% minimum to be stored in an exclusive judicial fund to be tapped for unforeseen projects, new infrastructure, or to make up for shortfalls in later budgets during times of economic decline; this fund must be used only for the judiciary, and not spent on other government expenses.
- Increased emphasis on new courthouse infrastructure, such as improvements in the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliance and construction in rural counties, both of which have been long delayed.
- An end to layoffs and stagnant or unpaid wages to court officers and workers such as interpreters, court clerks, and judges.

## Path to Independence

Californians cannot rely on the United States federal government to secure our well-being. We consistently suffer hardships while our revenue is used to fund projects throughout the United States and push for its interests—military, economic, and geopolitical—around the world. The constitutionally defined structure of the federal government ensures that in terms of both electoral and representative power, our voices in California are effectively silenced. We must turn our attention from power struggles nearly 3,000 miles away to developing solutions that work for us. No one will look out for the interests and security of California unless we do so for ourselves.

The CNP will work for policies that strengthen California while simultaneously laying the groundwork for ever-greater autonomy, self-determination, and ultimately a peaceful electoral path to independence. As part of that path we will seek recognition by the United Nations, the United States, and other actors in the international community. This will require the consent and cooperation of the United States. California must prepare to enter good faith negotiations with the federal government to produce a mutually agreed-upon path for the peaceful separation of our respective nations.



## Securing Autonomy

The present reality is that California is part of the United States. Until California can begin working with the federal government for full independence, the CNP supports California's right to make decisions within our own borders that best serve the needs of our people, and we will work with all other Californians to secure these rights by:

- Defending our laws that represent the interests and desires of the majority of Californians, including regulation of the legal cannabis industry, maintaining our decades-long history of stricter automobile emission standards, as well as offering public services and legal protection to all Californians regardless of United States immigration status.
- Beginning the transfer of low-level federal responsibilities to California, such as the post office and the administration of rail and bus transportation, which could be efficiently combined within our borders to be a comprehensive postal and public transportation network, facilitating intra-California commerce and travel.
- Negotiating a change to California's federal tax status so that all individual and corporate taxes would be collected by the California Franchise Tax Board, which then transfers payments to the Internal Revenue Service (IRS). As greater responsibilities are undertaken by the California government, deductions would be made from California's federal tax payment, resulting in both increased obligations and revenue in California with reduced spending and income for the federal government.
- Where possible, engaging in negotiations and agreements on matters of economic and environmental importance directly with international actors as befits our status as one of the world's largest economies.
- Working with other interested parties, especially the Pacific and Rocky Mountain states, to enact a federal policy of "right of first refusal" for the transfer or sale of federal land within state boundaries. This law would prevent the federal government from selling land or extraction rights within our borders without first offering it for sale to California.
- Demanding the transfer of all land in California from the federal government, as stated in our Environment plank.
- Not facilitating the shielding of war criminals, including corporate, government, and military officials, on behalf of the United States or anyone else. Upon independence, California will join the International Criminal Court.
- As an immigrant nation, working with international partners to the extent possible, especially neighboring nations, to develop an approach to mitigate the global challenges caused by millions of displaced people.
- Creating a national security taskforce to study the issue of how best California can emerge stronger and more independent from the impending collapse of the US. This task force shall be modeled on the Canadian national security taskforce of the same purpose.

## Return of Federal Lands

The CNP calls for the transfer of all federal lands to California and its First Nations to be used to meet our water, energy, and recreational needs.

At present, the federal government controls 45% of California territory. Although much of this is forests and parklands, it also includes many of our dams, canals, and reservoirs, as well as geographic areas necessary for renewable energy production. This is a uniquely western problem in that the federal government owns nearly half the land of the 11 contiguous western states, whereas east of the Rocky Mountains only 4% of the land is federally held. The CNP seeks to coordinate with neighboring states to secure sovereignty over our own respective territories.

Such lands would subsequently be administered at the city, county, First Nation, or California level depending on a number of factors, including historic use, projected infrastructure needs, environmental concerns, and existing contracts and treaties. Any conflicting land claims would be resolved through the California court system, with the California Supreme Court having the final say in all land disputes.

## Constitutional Convention

Even before independence, California is greatly in need of a new constitution. The present one, first ratified in 1879, is now one of the longest and most convoluted in the world. A modern, organized constitution that clearly defines and protects the rights of Californians while establishing specific powers for the government would benefit all Californians.

- Delegations for the convention will be sent from California's Counties and First Nations with the goal of creating the legal framework and delineation of powers to form a new, effective California government.
- The CNP supports enshrining in this constitution electoral and institutional systems that better represent Californians, as stated in the Law and Electoral Reform plank.
- This document will become the supreme law of California if and when it is approved by a referendum passed by a 60% majority.
- All individual rights enshrined in the current California constitution and US Bill of Rights must be carried over. To that, we must add constitutional protections for reproductive freedoms, marriage equality, and explicit guarantees of legal equality for ethnic, racial, and religious minorities. There must be no doubt that in California personal liberties - the "right of the soul to breathe" - are respected for all.
- Until such time as a new constitutional convention is called, the CNP will work to remove Art. III, Sec. 1 of the California Constitution, which states that "California is an inseparable part of the United States of America, and the United States Constitution is the supreme law of the land." This clause is replicated in no other state constitution and was placed there by American settlers as an explicit attack on California's independence movement.
- Upon independence, we call for a convention to adapt this constitution as necessary

for an independent republic, while retaining all the rights and guarantees listed above.

## Citizenship

California is unique and its people are historically, culturally, and politically distinct. This growing sense of identity and nationhood has been developing for centuries. However, it will only be with complete independence that our government will be able to ensure the recognition of full civil rights to all those who make California their home.

- Before independence, California will enact a residency program open to anyone who has resided in California for five years continuously and intends to remain, regardless of federal immigration status, as stated in our Immigration plank. Native-born Californians and U.S. citizens will be encouraged to register for residency as well in an effort to produce a unified, legally recognized California identity.
- Californians who otherwise meet residency requirements but are serving outside California in the Armed Forces of the United States will retain the right to apply for residency and ultimately citizenship.
- Upon independence, all persons born in California, as well as legally recognized California residents, will be eligible for California citizenship should they desire it. No person shall ever be forced to accept the Californian citizenship to which they are entitled.
- California will work with the federal government on behalf of both those who wish to renounce their U.S. citizenship, as well as those who wish to retain dual citizenship with the United States if possible.
- Negotiation with the United States will be necessary to ensure freedom of movement for residents of border communities who rely on cross-border commerce.
- After independence, new arrivals to California who intend to remain indefinitely may apply for residency after two years and citizenship after five years of residency.

## Military and National Service

The military needs of an independent California Republic can best be served through a highly organized national militia with a core professional army, emphasizing military participation by the citizenry. This model will save billions of dollars per year, build a sense of national pride and identity, and ensure our defense.

- All California nationals will be expected to perform two years of national service upon reaching the age of eighteen unless exempted or deferred for medical, physical, or educational reasons. This may be completed through service in our armed forces or through working with public agencies or community-oriented programs.
- College students may defer their national service until graduation, when they will be expected to perform the required two years. Similarly, those with a medical deferment will be periodically reevaluated on a case-by-case basis.
- Members who select military service will remain in the California reserve service until

the age of forty or upon being granted a legal deferment. Reservists will be expected to report for two weeks of paid training every year. Those who wish to become reservists later in life may do so after completion of two years of national military service.

- California will maintain a small standing military of naval, air, and ground forces, consisting of those seeking a professional career in military service. This cadre of experienced soldiers will form the core of California's national military in the event of large-scale mobilization.
- The CNP supports maintaining friendly relations with the United States based on the principles of cooperation and supporting the goals of economic growth and common defense.
- California will allow a reasonable transition of military base control from the United States, as well as be open to negotiating agreements and leases for continued uses of these bases.
- Recognizing the economic importance of the military in many regions of California, emphasis will be placed on repurposing closed United States military installations to serve the California military.

## Independence

The ultimate goal of the CNP is the peaceful, democratic, and negotiated separation of California and the United States. As California grows in domestic complexity and international influence, it is increasingly crucial that Californians recognize the need to develop the tools necessary to confront the problems facing our nation, as well as to become full, responsible partners in the international community.

- To achieve a stable and lasting independence clearly requires the consent of Californians in all the different economic, geographic, and political regions of our home. We support referenda presented to the people of California in favor of independence and will seek the support of not just a simple, but a clear and substantive majority of voters throughout all areas of California.
- Upon the public approval of such a referendum, the CNP will demand that our federal representatives for California in Washington, D.C. begin negotiations for a smooth and peaceful transition to independence. If they fail to do so, we will seek to replace them with representatives who will.
- The CNP asserts that the right for states to petition for independence "through consent of the States" is already recognized in constitutional law through the ruling *Texas v. White* (1869) and therefore does not require a constitutional amendment. Viewing statehood as a legislative act, we argue that it can be undone in the same manner, through the majority approval of both houses of the legislature of the United States and presidential consent.
- During this period of negotiation for independence, the CNP supports looking at an approach that includes a change of status within the federal system away from full statehood toward modified commonwealth status, while developing phased and progressive steps of growing autonomy toward independence, as was done with the

United States' former colonial possessions of Cuba and the Philippines.

- If the federal government of the United States refuses to negotiate with California regarding independence, in opposition to the stated preference of our citizens through a vote, the CNP will support efforts for California to work with the United Nations to be recognized as part of the Compact of Free Association with the United States. This international agreement, which has existed for decades with several sovereign states in the Pacific, obligates the United States "to promote the development of the people of the Trust Territory toward self-government or independence as appropriate to the particular circumstances of the Trust Territory and its peoples and the freely expressed wishes of the peoples concerned."
- Until such a referendum supporting independence is passed by the people of California, the CNP will continually work to inform and educate all Californians as to both the benefits and necessity of independence in order to create effective solutions for our people.