# CALIFORNIA NATIONAL PARTY SI HANDBOK

Hal Lohr, Ash Seiter & Sean Forbes

# WELCOME

# **Welcome to the California National Party!**

By joining the California National Party (CNP), you've taken a bold step toward shaping California's future. We are more than just a political party—we are a movement of passionate Californians committed to self-determination, democracy, and real solutions for our communities.

This guide will introduce you to who we are, what we stand for, why California should be an independent nation, how independence can be achieved, and what you can do to help. Our goal is to empower you with knowledge and inspire you to take action. The fight for California's future starts with you!

For more information, please visit our website: VOTECNP.ORG

# CONTENT

-		
	WHO	

- 4 WHAT WE FIGHT FOR & OUR CORE VALUES
- 7 THE FIFTEEN PRINCIPLES OF CALIFORNIA
- 10 WHAT YOU CAN DO
- 11 PARTY MEMBERSHIP & CHAPTERS
- 13 FAQS
- 15 APPENDIX 1: A NEW STATE CONSTITUTION
- 18 ONE SHEET FLYER



# **WE ARE CALIFORNIA**

# A MOVEMENT FOR A STRONGER, INDEPENDENT CALIFORNIA

The California National Party (CNP) was founded in 2015 to provide a California-centric, progressive, and bold alternative for California voters disillusioned with the broken federal two-party system and toxic national political environment. A party of activists and passionate Californians, in-line with our unique values and culture, with a sole focus on improving the lives of Californians. The CNP's name and purpose were partly inspired by the Scottish National Party, a social democratic, civic nationalist, center-left party that advocates independence for Scotland.

The CNP advocates for a free, prosperous, and independent California. We believe Californians deserve a better government that represents our values and priorities—without interference from the United States Government.

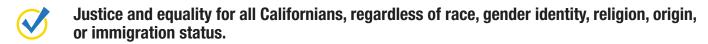
Our mission is clear: TO FORM A FULLY SOVEREIGN AND SELF-SUFFICIENT NATION OF CALIFORNIA THROUGH ALL NONVIOLENT, LEGAL, CONSTITUTIONAL AND DEMOCRATIC ACTIONS.

This is not a fringe movement—Californians are waking up to the reality that independence is not just possible, but necessary. In a recent poll commissioned by the Independent California Institute, *over 60%* of Californians said they believe the state would be better off if it peacefully seceded.

As of the printing of this handbook, The California Republican Party claims only 24% of registered voters in California. This makes the notion of an independent California vastly more popular among California voters than the Republican Party as a whole.



# WHAT WE FIGHT FOR







A fair economy that supports workers and small businesses—not corporations & CEOs.

Stronger civil rights and social justice protections across the state.

Control of our tax dollars and a fair share of federal spending.

The right to govern our own land and resources, including transferring federal lands to state and local authority.

Policy decisions based on California values, not outdated federal mandates.

Victory in legal and policy disputes with the U.S. government.

A peaceful, legal path to independence, including a federal system within California that empowers local communities.

(see <u>CALIFORNIAREVOLUTION.INFO</u> & Appendix 1 on Page 15).

# OUR CORE VALUES

# **WE ARE PRO-DEMOCRACY**

Californians deserve to live in a modern, just, fair and free democracy with fair representation. Right now, our citizens are not being heard in Washington. We are underrepresented in the Senate (by a factor of six) and in the House of Representatives where the voice of Californians' has been drowned out by a rigged system of gerrymandering and intentional voter disenfranchisement. We are shortchanged in federal funding, and ignored by political elites. The voices, votes and values of Californians matter!

## We stand for:



**Equal representation for all Californians** 



Election reform and an end to gerrymandering



Reforming California's government using modern successful democracies as a model

# **WE ARE PRO-CALIFORNIA**

CALIFORNIANS WANT OUR SOCIETY TO MOVE FORWARD, but being part of the United States is holding California back. From healthcare, to the environment, to even spending our own tax dollars, Californians can't get anything done without asking permission from an uncaring, often hostile, American federal government. In truth, California is effectively already a separate "Nation State," caught in an awkward and obsolete situation. Our state is a global powerhouse, yet Washington takes billions in California tax dollars and redistributes them to less productive states. It's time to put California first!

IT'S NOT CALIFORNIA'S JOB TO FIX AMERICA. Between big money donors and US political institutions like the Senate and Electoral College, small rural states have supersized political power over the lives of California voters. Californians are stuck with a federal government that has no incentive to fix the system, so the ongoing abuse of a rigged system of money and power is constantly used against the interests of Californians. Small states and big donors broke America for their benefit and all Californians can do with the current US system is sue in court or protest in the streets.

ALL STATES ARE NOT CREATED EQUAL. California is the most populous and wealthiest state in the U.S., with the third-largest landmass and the most diverse landscapes and ecosystems in the country. Our economy rivals entire nations and surpasses all except China, Germany, and Japan. We don't need help paying for government services—in fact, most states rely on federal subsidies funded by California taxpayers.

With nearly 40 million residents and unmatched prosperity, Californians deserve the right to make decisions for ourselves. It makes far more sense to keep our tax dollars and policy-making here at home, rather than sending them to a federal government that redistributes our wealth and dilutes our voice. And if small rural states despise California's values, culture, and people as loudly as they claim, why should we keep paying them to undermine everything we stand for?

# WE'RE NOT ABOUT CALIFORNIA INDEPENDENCE AT ALL COSTS. (BUT...)

Californians are consistently harmed by America's policies on health care, immigration, taxation, the environment, federal land management, recreational drugs, civil forfeiture, banking, and many other issues. The best solution for this is to move control of these policies from Washington DC to Sacramento and to the counties of California. We are fighting for that, one policy, one piece of federal land at time. California is being treated like America's wallet and yet "just another state." We see no reason for California to keep acting like a team player when we're clearly not part of the team. The U.S. cannot honestly claim to even be a real democracy when Californians, as 1/8th of all U.S. citizens, are second-class voters in an increasingly hostile America.

We believe that California represents the promise of America, as it is written and understood, better than the United States as a whole. Californians understand that our diversity is our strength, and as the other states become more and more intolerant, California has become a beacon for those seeking liberty and opportunity. We believe California can and should lead the way forward—rather than waste our taxes and energy trying to save a country that rejects our help and is rapidly undoing decades, even centuries, of hard-won progress. We believe that we are on the right side of history.



# THE FIFTEEN PRINCIPLES OF CALIFORNIA

## PRINCIPLE 1

It is the intent of the People of the State of California that California become a fully functioning sovereign and autonomous nation.

# **PRINCIPLE 2**

California, while currently a state, has evolved into a nation in its own right, and it is in our best interest as Californians to act accordingly and to run our nation-state as a nation-state, even before full independence from the Federal Government.

# **PRINCIPLE 3**

California has always been an evolving country and has a rich history as:

- 1. a collection of diverse and thriving pre-Columbian indigenous communities.
- 2. the province of New Spain in the Spanish Empire.
- 3. the state of Alta California in the Republic of Mexico.
- 4. the independent nation of the Republic of California.
- 5. most recently, a state in the United States of America.

# **PRINCIPLE 4**

California constitutes a geographically distinct and coherent nation-state, defined by natural borders including mountains, deserts, and coastline. These physical boundaries reinforce California's identity as a subcontinental landmass with a unified territorial character.

# **PRINCIPLE 5**

California's internal cohesion is strengthened by an interconnected network of rivers, valleys, and shared infrastructure. This integration creates an economic and environmental interdependence that requires governance scaled to the full scope of the state's unified systems.

## **PRINCIPLE 6**

Californians share a distinct set of values that form the foundation of a unique national identity. These California values include:

- 1. A forward-looking commitment to personal, social, and societal improvement.
- 2. Respect for science, innovation, creativity, and higher education.
- 3. Belief in inclusion, equality, and the ability of people from all backgrounds to live and work together in harmony.
- 4. A deep commitment to expansive, participatory democracy.
- 5. Responsibility for protecting California's natural environment and contributing to the health of global ecosystems.

# PRINCIPLE 7

California is one of the largest economies in the world and a global leader in technology, healthcare, entertainment, agriculture, renewable energy, and education. Our state is already an influential player on the world stage, especially in the global effort to combat climate change.

# **PRINCIPLE 8**

California consistently contributes more to the federal government than it receives in return—an imbalance equal to the size of the entire state budget. These lost revenues should rightfully be used to address California's critical needs, including infrastructure repair, environmental restoration, healthcare, affordable housing, and expanded educational opportunities for all Californians.

# **PRINCIPLE 9**

California already manages most of its tax revenue, including funds returned from the federal government. Since state and local governments are responsible for administering the majority of federal programs, there is no barrier to Californians fully managing our own fiscal affairs. In contrast, many states do not have the means to manage large nation-sized budgets.

# **PRINCIPLE 10**

California's citizens are among the most politically underrepresented populations in any modern democracy. This democratic deficit is rooted in entrenched Constitutional structures, making meaningful reform at the federal level highly unlikely. Key examples of this disenfranchisement include:

- 1. The continued use of the Electoral College, which significantly diminishes California's influence in presidential elections, despite its population size.
- 2. Disproportionate representation in the U.S. Senate, where California—home to one-eighth of the U.S. population—holds only one-fiftieth of the seats, giving Californians just one-sixth the repre sentation of the average American citizen.
- 3. Partisan gerrymandering, which gives a minority of voters in small and rural states a supermajority advantage in the House of Representatives, thereby diluting California's otherwise proportionate showing in the chamber.

## PRINCIPLE 11

California's path to autonomy must be peaceful, rational, and mutually beneficial. A healthy democracy cannot allow large, diverse states like California to remain second-class participants in national governance. While concerns about coastal or urban dominance are valid, the answer lies not in suppressing representation but in recognizing California's evolution into a nation-state. Creating a separate political structure for California would ensure full representation for Californians while allowing smaller states to maintain theirs.

## **PRINCIPLE 12**

If Californians wish to live in a true democracy, there are only three viable paths forward:

- 1. Fundamental reforms to the U.S. system, including abolishing the Electoral College, reorganizing the Senate, outlawing gerrymandering, and guaranteeing the universal right to vote.
- 2. Significant autonomy within the U.S., including the establishment of a separate California Supreme Court, so federal rulings have limited impact on state governance.
- 3. Full independence for California, allowing the state to govern entirely on its own terms.

# **PRINCIPLE 13**

The people of California call on their state representatives—their only truly accountable leaders—to safeguard their political, civil, and human rights. California's elected officials must act as the primary guarantors of these rights, especially in the face of threats from domestic or foreign actors seeking to exploit our resources, weaken our democracy, or undermine civil society. Establishing this national responsibility is essential to protecting all Californians.

# **PRINCIPLE 14**

To establish a capable and sovereign California nation-state, the people call upon the Governor to lead formal negotiations toward greater self-determination and autonomy from the federal government. At the same time, the State Legislature must actively pass legislation transferring key powers and responsibilities to California's state, regional, and local governments.

# **PRINCIPLE 15**

Any final settlement establishing California as a fully sovereign and autonomous nation must be ratified by a vote of the people. Such a settlement shall not take effect until it is approved through a statewide referendum, honoring California's longstanding tradition of direct democracy.

# WHAT YOU CAN DO

# REGISTER WITH THE CNP

To become a qualified political party, we need more registered members. You can register online **@ www.sos.ca.gov/elections/voter-registration**. If using a paper voter registration card, you will have to handwrite **CALIFORNIA NATIONAL PARTY** in the "Other" field.

If you're not ready to register with the CNP, you can join the Peace and Freedom Party, where we have a caucus. votecnp.org/california-national-liberation-caucus/

## **BECOME AN ACTIVE PARTY MEMBER**

We are a volunteer organization and rely on the generous support of our party members to organize events, promote initialtives, and cover expenses. Your support is greatly appreciated!

- 1. Sign up for the party here: votecnp.org/membership/
- 2. Select the membership appropriate for what you are able to contribute. (see PAGE 11 for details)

# **CONNECT WITH YOUR LOCAL CHAPTER**

Our party is growing fast! We have chapters of party members all over the state and abroad. Find your closest CNP chapter, connect, make new friends, and get involved locally! votecnp.org/chapters/

# **VOLUNTEER YOUR SKILLS**

Everyone has something to contribute. Whether you're great at social media, organizing events, or knocking on doors, we need your help! **votecnp.org/volunteer/** 

# **SIGN PETITIONS & SUPPORT POLICY CHANGES**

Be part of the movement for real change in California. See what issues we're fighting for and add your name to petitions that matter. **VOTECNP.ORG** 

# **ATTEND EVENTS & PROTESTS**

Join in-person rallies, protests, and public meetings to show your support and connect with fellow activists.

Join our mailing list for regular updates! You can also find information for upcoming events by following us on social media.

We are on all major platforms @vote\_CNP



# CNP MEMBERSHIP

# CENTRAL COMMITTEE MEMBER \$25 PER MONTH / \$250 ANNUAL

Receives a metal membership card, a welcome letter, a bumper sticker, and a 20% discount on all website merchandise.

# **PARTY MEMBER**

# \$15 PER MONTH / \$160 ANNUAL

Receives a membership card, welcome letter, bumper sticker, and a 10% discount on all merchandise.

# **STUDENT MEMBER**

\$8 PER MONTH / \$75 ANNUAL

Receives the same benefits as Party Members.

# **AUXILLERY**

Contribute to building California's future.

\$5 PER MONTH / \$50 ANNUAL

# PARTY CHAPTERS

# CONNECT WITH CNP MEMBERS IN YOUR COMMUNITY

votecnp.org/chapters/



































#### O: ARE YOU CALEXIT?

**#Calexit is a hashtag, so depends on what you mean by it, but Yes!** We are also #newcalexit, #freethebear and many others related to California Independence.

#### 0: DO WE THINK CALIFORNIA WOULD BE BETTER OFF AS AN INDEPENDENT COUNTRY?

**Yes!** Until then, other ways forward could include policy carve-outs for California, keeping more California tax dollars in-state, and re-democratizing the United States. Basically, if it improves Californians' lives and gets us closer to living in a real, modern democracy, we support it.

## O: SHOULD CALIFORNIA UNILATERALLY DECLARE INDEPENDENCE AND START A WAR?

**No!** We have no Civil War fantasies. War benefits no one.

#### O: COULD CALIFORNIA REALLY SECEDE?

**Yes!** With the consent of the states, which can be defined in various different ways. Does this mean by constitutional amendment? A simple up down vote in Congress? We would have to work out those details, but the Supreme Court case "Texas v. White" made it clear that only unilateral secession was illegal, but secession could occur with the consent of the states (which was never codified, just the principle was enshrined).

Note: The UN however only requires recognition by most other nations in a kind of "If we see you as a country, then you are one." criteria.

# **Special Historical Note:**

In the 20th century, countries have split up without a shot fired and with zero bloodshed. The Soviet Union ended in 1991 without a civil war, despite a history of political violence, oppression, secret police and massive armed forces. Czechoslovakia dissolved into two new countries in 1992 during the so-called "Velvet Divorce." Singapore was expelled from Malaysia without bloodshed back in 1965. West Germany reunited with East Germany without a third world war. Countries do split up without an American style Civil War like that in the 1860s, which was nearly two centuries ago.

#### O: SHOULDN'T WE FIX CALIFORNIA FIRST BEFORE TRYING TO BE OUR OWN COUNTRY?

**Yes!** We believe that is absolutely necessary to reform our current system to provide better representation, services, and opportunity to our citizens. Working with other organizations with similar California values, as well as lobbying our current CA representatives is also part of the CNP's efforts to create a better future. We also want to fix how our nation-state is governed, and convene a new constitutional convention for the state of California (see californiarevolution.info) to run California as the nation-state it is, and not like lowa or another state.

## Q: WHY ARE WE WORRYING ABOUT U.S. POLITICAL LAWS WHEN WE'RE LEAVING?

Because we understand that current U.S. laws and policies affect Californians and their quality of life **today**. Independence doesn't happen overnight, and ultimately, we want peaceful relations with the U.S. as our neighbor and trade partner.

#### O: SHOULDN'T WE ALL JUST WORK TOGETHER TO GET THE DEMOCRATS BACK IN POWER?

Why? It hasn't really worked for us in decades. Would that get Californians fair representation in the Senate? Give California a fair share of federal spending? End mass deportations? Return government lands, stop the wars, stop off shore drilling, ensure LGBTQ rights, fix gun laws, restore voting rights, end the housing shortage, reduce income inequality, stop police violence, grant women equal pay & the right to chose what's best for their own bodies, help the Veterans, stop fracking, create jobs, restore net neutrality, etc. etc. etc.? In other words, all the things the U.S. government fails to get done year after year after year regardless of who's in power. Democrats at the federal level want your vote, your money, and maintaining the status quo, but don't really care any more about California than Republicans do.

# Q: SHOULDN'T WE JUST FOCUS ON VOTING FOR INDEPENDENCE & TRUST EVERYTHING WILL SORT ITSELF OUT?

**Maybe!** But we might want to lay some groundwork first. California institutions can be unwound from American ones, but it's not simple or quick. We can unwind them now, so that independence becomes largely a formality.

## Q: WHAT ABOUT CALIFORNIA'S DEBT?

California has debt around 17% of California's Gross Domestic Product. That's much more manageable than a U.S. national debt topping \$28 trillion, or 125% of GDP! Should we go down with that ship? California, as a donor state opposes U.S. policies like unending war and corporate welfare that contribute the most to the U.S. debt. Californians can argue honestly that we've paid our fair share and see no need to pick up anymore of the bill for the poor spending choices of the U.S.

## O: WHAT ABOUT WATER FROM THE COLORADO RIVER?

The Colorado River provides about 10% of California's freshwater—a manageable reduction if needed. Southern California is already investing in desalination, stormwater capture, and infrastructure upgrades to increase local water supply. California is also part of a seven-state water compact that guarantees our share of the river. Any future agreement during an independence negotiation would require Southern California's approval, making it highly likely that our rights would be preserved—possibly formalized in a multinational treaty between the U.S., California, and Mexico. Moreover, the lower stretch of the Colorado River flows entirely along California's border with Arizona, meaning the U.S. couldn't easily block access or prevent California from using water within its own territory.

# Q: IF CALIFORNIA SECEDED, WHAT WOULD WE DO FOR A MILITARY?

California could maintain a strong, modern, and cost-effective military by spending just 1% of our GDP on defense—in line with countries like Canada and Mexico—instead of the 10% (over \$1 trillion) the U.S. currently spends. Our focus would be on supporting veterans and investing in smart, globally sourced defense technology, not enriching out-of-state contractors. Right now, California taxpayers contribute an estimated \$72–\$120 billion annually to U.S. military spending. At 1% of GDP, we'd still invest around \$24 billion, which is more than three times Mexico's defense budget, but much less than we do as part of the U.S.

California would have a world-class military. We would negotiate U.S. base leases just like many sovereign nations do and strategic mutual defense alliances.

Unlike the U.S., California doesn't need to project global military power to feel secure. We have no imperial ambitions and are generally respected worldwide for our diversity and tolerance. In truth, many abroad distinguish Californians from Americans—often more warmly. It's not uncommon to hear: "What's wrong with the rest of America?"

# **APPENDIX 1**

# A NEW STATE CONSTITUTION

California is a diverse state with unique needs and challenges in different regions. Giving more power to local counties and regions can help address these issues more effectively. Let's work towards a more decentralized approach to governance in our great state. Let's have a new California Revolution with a new state constitution written by a new constitutional convention.

A New State Constitution for a nation-state: What the New Constitution Would Do.

- **1. Rename the State to "California Confederation" or other voter approved name.** California is a de facto nation-state due to the population being larger than Canada, and the economy rivaling Germany.
- **2.** The state will be divided into seven regions encompassing multiple counties (see below). Each region will have a Regional Governor, Regional Lt. Governor, and Regional Assembly. Every region of this size has all the same powers as the current state government except for the following enumerated rights of the state. All Regional Assemblies votes incorporate proportional representation to end the duopoly of the Democrats and the Republicans.
- **3.** All agencies are devolved to the new Regional levels. The National Guard is maintained as a statewide agency, under Sacramento, as well as the California Highway Patrol and any other existing state-wide law enforcement agencies as well as the administration of the prison system.

NOTE: The Regions will have power over: drug enforcement, gun control, income tax rates, sales tax rates, gas tax rates, electricity infrastructure, and housing regulations. The Regions do not have any control over any issue concerning a "fundamental human right". Only Sacramento and the voting public do. The Regions would be virtually states within the state.

What are fundamental human rights that the State will have control over?

- Healthcare and abortion access.
- Civil rights and LGBTQ rights.
- Education (K-12 and Higher education).
- Voting rights.
- Regulation of prisons.
- Water rights.
- Housing.
- Food.
- Fighting wildfires.
- Public transportation (and roads).

- **4. Dissolve the State Senate. Enlarge the State Assembly** to equal the Canadian Parliament as a whole (440 members) due to equivalency in population between California and Canada.
- **5.Establish that the State Assembly can only approve, disapprove legislation** relating to fundamental human rights. The State Assembly cannot set a statewide income tax. The State Assembly can supervise the state's bureaucracy, and approve the state's overall budget. The state budget is supported by contributions from the Regions through a formula based on average income levels per capita approved by the State Assembly (Note: Modeled on the European Union).
- **6.Establish and Elect Board of Directors to take the role of the current State Executive Branch**. The Board of Directors, numbering 7 individuals, are elected at large by all of California. The State Assembly assigns what portfolio of the state government is assigned to which Director (Attorney General, Treasurer, Controller, Insurance Commissioner, etc.) (Note: Modeled on the Swiss Federal Council).
- 7. Create a Chair position as a mostly ceremonial head of state to replace the Governor. The Chair represents the state as a whole. The Chair cannot veto state wide legislation, it can only refer it to the State Supreme Court for judicial review. The Chair nominates members of the judiciary and can issue pardons and commutations. The Chair position is rotated amongst the members of the Board of Directors every year. A Vice Chair position is also rotated amongst the members of the Board of Directors, and would become the Chair the next year. The Vice Chair serves akin to the Vice President of the United States to take charge in case of the death or incapacitation of the current chair.

# What are the proposed Regions of California?

Jefferson, North California, Silicon Valley, Central California, East California, West California, and South California. The regions are broken down by counties:

**JEFFERSON**: Butte, Del Norte, Glenn, Humboldt, Lassen, Mendocino, Modoc, Plumas, Shasta, Siskiyou, Tehama, and Trinity.

**NORTH CALIFORNIA**: Amador, Colusa, El Dorado, Lake, Marin, Napa, Nevada, Placer, Sacramento, Sierra, Solano, Sonoma, Sutter, Yolo, and Yuba.

**SILICON VALLEY**: Alameda, Contra Costa, Monterey, San Benito, San Francisco, San Mateo, Santa Clara, and Santa Cruz.

**CENTRAL CALIFORNIA**: Calaveras, Fresno, Kern, Kings, Madera, Mariposa, Merced, San Joaquin, Stanislaus, Tulare, and Tuolumne.

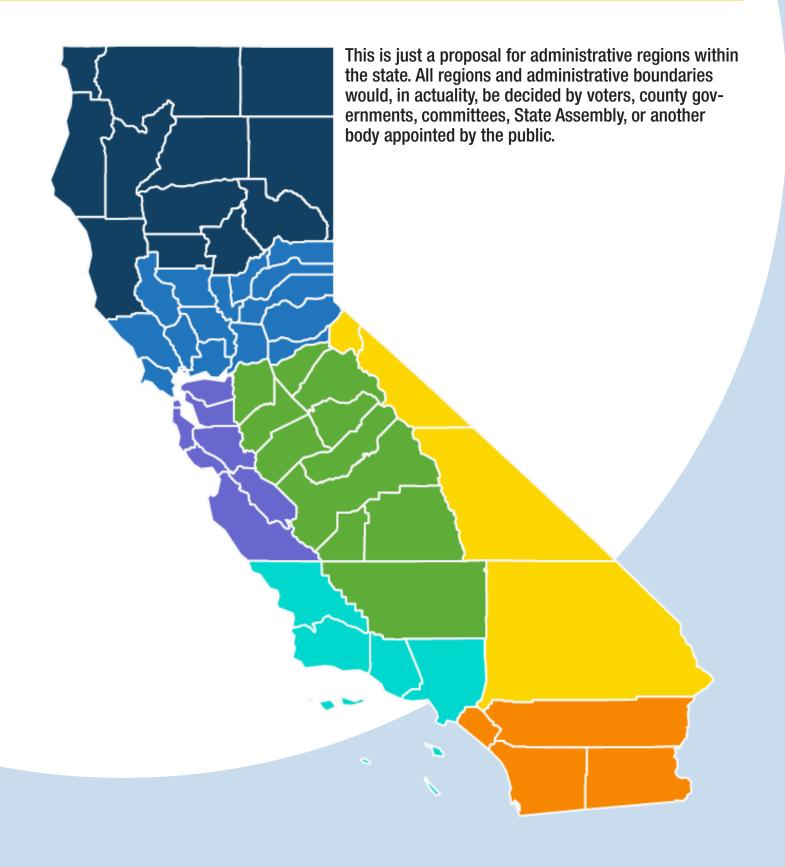
**EAST CALIFORNIA**: Alpine, Inyo, Mono, and San Bernardino.

WEST CALIFORNIA: Los Angeles, San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, and Ventura.

**SOUTH CALIFORNIA**: Imperial, Orange, Riverside and San Diego.

**SEE MAP ON NEXT PAGE** 

# REGION MAP





## **Fellow Californians**,

#### This nation was born from secession.

The Declaration of Independence isn't just a founding document — it's a justification for breaking away from a government that no longer represents the people. Our founders believed that when a government becomes destructive to the rights and well-being of its citizens, "it is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new Government." That time has come for us.

California is no longer just a state. We are a global power, a cultural engine, a nation in everything but name. Yet we remain tethered to a federal system that stalls our progress and stifles our values.

#### VISION VS. GRIDLOCK

While we push forward on climate change, equality, innovation, and inclusion, we are constantly pulled back by a federal government mired in partisanship and paralysis. We are forced to compromise with ideologies we did not vote for, and that actively work against our core values.

## **PAY MORE. GET LESS**

California contributes far more to the federal budget than we receive. Last count, it was \$38 Billion. We're subsidizing policies we don't believe in, bailing out states that attack our rights, and watching our infrastructure and education systems suffer while our wealth is redistributed inefficiently through the federal government to 34 states that can't manage their finances.

#### **BUILT TO LEAD**

We already have what most aspiring countries can only dream of: a world-class economy (larger than all but a handful of nations), vast natural resources, top-tier universities, a thriving tech sector, major ports, and a global identity. We could establish our own currency, foreign policy, and military — all while maintaining peaceful trade and travel agreements with the U.S. and our neighbors.

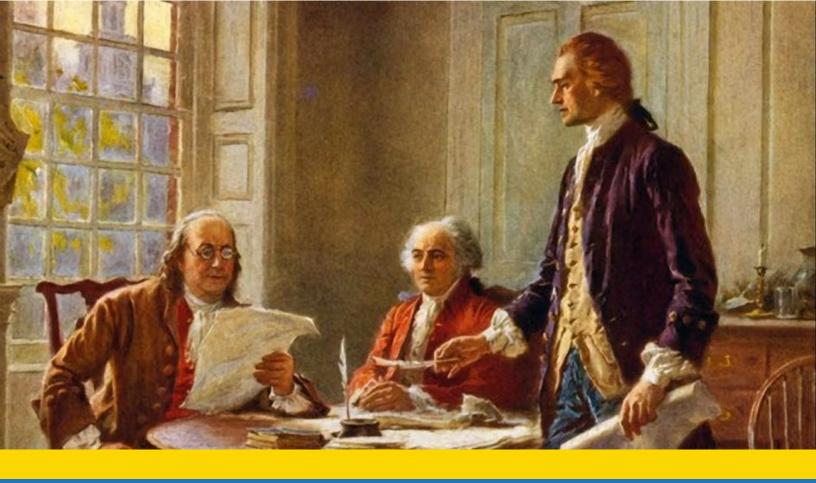
#### THIS ISN'T RADICAL — IT'S FOUNDATIONAL

Secession isn't new. It's American. The colonies didn't beg for reform; they chose independence. California is now in a similar position. We are governed by forces that don't speak for us and never will. It's not betrayal, it's evolution. And we're not alone. Right now, Independence movements are active in Texas and New England.

#### **LET'S BE THE FUTURE**

We aren't trying to divide America out of anger. We're trying to build something new out of necessity. We can forge a nation that reflects the future — environmentally responsible, economically powerful, technologically advanced, and socially inclusive.

The time has come. For liberty. For justice. For California.



# Declaration of Independence, In Congress, July 4, 1776

"WHEN in the Course of human Events, it becomes necessary for one People to dissolve the Political Bands which have connected them with another, and to assume among the Powers of the Earth, the separate and equal Station to which the Laws of Nature and of Nature's God entitle them, a decent Respect to the Opinions of Mankind requires that they should declare the causes which impel them to the Separation.

We hold these Truths to be self-evident, that all Men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness—-That to secure these Rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just Powers from the Consent of the Governed, that whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these Ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new Government, laying its Foundation on such Principles, and organizing its Powers in such Form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their Safety and Happiness."

