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LARRY ELDER

1. Terminate Newsom's State of Emergency (government-imposed lockdowns, masks, tests, injections): YES

"When I win I will fight any and all vaccine and mask govt mandates at state and local level."

-- Larry Elder tweet, August 12, 2021 <https://twitter.com/larryelder/status/1425874330110599172>

"When I become Governor there will be no face mask or vaccine mandates -- any in place will be immediately revoked"

-- Larry Elder statement @larryeldershow on Instagram, August 10, 2021

<http://savecalifornia.com/blog/wp-content/uploads/LarryElder081021promisetorevokeCovidmandates.jpg>

"If I become governor, I will not be mandating vaccines for anybody, whether children or whether adults -- K through 12, college, graduate school, or beyond. That is a decision for individuals to make, for parents to make, not the government."

-- Larry Elder, "Elder In The Room: Mandatory Vaccines?" Pastor Jack Hibbs, August 6, 2021 (video at 1:28)

<https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=897293034193402>

Elder, who is vaccinated himself, said he would repeal mandates requiring state workers to get the coronavirus vaccine or face regular testing. He's not a fan of mask mandates, either. Earlier in the pandemic, he said, such mandates were put in place to prevent the state's health care system from being overwhelmed. "We're not even close to over-stressing them right now," he said. If people don't want to get the vaccine, he argued, "it seems to me that's their right." And if the state is aiming for ridding itself of the virus entirely before ditching masks and other restrictions, he said, residents will be in pandemic-mode "forever."

-- "Recall election: Conservative radio host Larry Elder on Gavin Newsom, COVID and whether Trump lost in 2020," San Jose Mercury News, August 3, 2021

<https://www.mercurynews.com/2021/08/03/recall-election-conservative-radio-host-larry-elder-on-gavin-newsom-covid-and-whether-trump-lost-in-2020/>

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“Newsom imposed the most restrictive COVID mandates in the country— and then proceeded to ignore them when it came to him. Californians lost their jobs, their businesses. Kids lost a full year of in-school education, all in defiance of the very science that Newsom and his cohorts said they would follow. I will make clear that I am the man to replace him. ... I will never use my emergency powers to confine and control any Californian without a clear, science-based explanation. We are adults who can think for ourselves and do not need to be pushed around by an arrogant governor.”

-- Larry Elder statement, <https://www.electelder.com/vision>

“I would not support a vaccine mandate; I would not support a mask mandate. I have been vaccinated; I believe vaccines work. I’m an old man; I have comorbidities; I support people to get the vaccine. But in California, virtually everybody who wants to get the vaccine has been able to get one; poor people can get the vaccine for free. So, a lot of people have made it their choice, rightly or wrongly, not to get a vaccine. And I think, in America, you ought to have that choice.”

-- Larry Elder on August 2, 2021, interview with McClatchy newspapers (video at 18:15) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oQWc_ttA4n8

“... and the way this man shut down this state, ignoring science, depriving you of our rights and liberties. I thought this was the land of the free and home of the brave. It’s going to be that again if and when I’m lucky enough to become governor.”

-- Larry Elder July 31, 2021 speech (video at 18:27) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4pHFyNSVUGE&t=735s>

Elder said that Newsom had adopted draconian policies during the coronavirus pandemic, closing small businesses and keeping public schools closed — while dining at the French Laundry and sending his kids to private school. He also opposed Newsom’s new vaccine mandate for state employees and healthcare workers, saying that while he himself had been vaccinated, the decision should remain up to individuals, and forcing people to be vaccinated did not make sense.

-- “Larry Elder Rallies Beach Crowd in L.A. to Recall Gov. Gavin Newsom,” Breitbart.com, July 31, 2021

<https://www.breitbart.com/politics/2021/07/31/larry-elder-rallies-beach-crowd-in-l-a-to-recall-gov-gavin-newsom/>

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2. Veto ALL the bad bills passed by the Democrat-controlled California State Legislature: ?

“When I was first asked to run for office, I said ‘No, thank you -- California is ungovernable.’ And by that, I meant we have a supermajority of Democrats in the Assembly; a supermajority of Democrats in the Senate. And I felt that if I were to veto something -- and I would veto a lot of stuff -- it would be overridden. I was wrong. I found out that a veto has not been overridden since the 1980s. And what happens, when, for example, Arnold Schwarzenegger vetoed hundreds of bills, he goes to the public; he talks about why he vetoed it; he explains it; and constituents phone their state senator and phone their state assemblyperson, and say ‘What were you smoking?’ -- and the veto is not overridden. And so, I have a lot more power than I thought. I also have the power to declare a statewide emergency; I have the power of a line-item veto; I have the power of appointing people on commissions -- maybe the commissions are the ones that are imposing the rules and regulations that make life much more difficult here in California; I have the power to appoint the regents once their terms are expired; and the power to appoint people on the Public Utilities Commission. So, there’s a lot of power that I’ll have even when dealing with a hostile Legislature.”

-- Larry Elder, August 2, 2021 interview with McClatchy newspaper editors (video at 40:38) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oQWc_ttA4n8

“We have supermajorities [of Democrats] in the Senate and in the Assembly. If I veto something, next thing you know they’re going to override it. What’s the point? And then I found out a veto has not been overridden since the early 1970s. ... What happens is ... they pass something stupid ... and then you go public, talk about why the bill was so stupid, next thing you know, the Senators’ phones start ringing, the Assemblypersons’ phones start ringing, and the constituents go ‘What were you smoking?’ And they don’t reintroduce the bill.”

-- Larry Elder July 31, 2021 speech (video at 6:03) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4pHFyNSVUGE&t=735s>

3. Including vetoing abortion expansion bills: YES

Elder thinks *Roe v. Wade* should be overturned and that the issue of whether a woman has the right to an abortion should go back to the states to decide. “It’s pitted Americans against Americans and, in my opinion, unnecessarily,” he said, adding that he doesn’t understand why anybody in California is worried since it’s a left-leaning state with an overwhelmingly Democratic legislature that is unlikely to pass new limitations.

-- “Recall election: Conservative radio host Larry Elder on Gavin Newsom, COVID and whether Trump lost in 2020,” San Jose Mercury News, August 3, 2021

<https://www.mercurynews.com/2021/08/03/recall-election-conservative-radio-host-larry-elder-on-gavin-newsom-covid-and-whether-trump-lost-in-2020/>

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“I’ve been asked my position on abortion. It’s real simple: I am 100 percent pro-life. I oppose the repeal of the Hyde Amendment, the amendment that says not one dime of taxpayers’ money should be spent on abortions. I’m a fan of adoption agencies. I want to make California a sanctuary state for the unborn.”

-- Larry Elder, “Elder In The Room” with Pastor Jack Hibbs, August 3, 2021 (video at 0:57)

<https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=224327662910246>

“Meanwhile the left-wing abortion extremism expressed by Hillary Clinton and Bernie Sanders gets a pass. After seven debates without the question ever coming up, Bret Baier, at the Fox Democratic town hall, asked Sanders and Clinton whether they support any restrictions on abortion. Sanders said, “It is wrong for the government to be telling a woman what to do with her own body.” Clinton, though somewhat more nuanced, also offered no restrictions. In short, Clinton and Sanders answered “no” and “no.” ... Democrats, of course, get to walk back extreme statements on abortion, but the Republicans, like Trump, cannot.”

-- Larry Elder column, “What Left-Wing Abortion Extremism?,” April 7, 2016 <https://larryelder.com/column/left-wing-abortion-extremism/>

4. Including vetoing LGBTQIA+ agenda bills: ?

“The number one social problem facing this country is not climate change. The number one problem in America is the growing number of children without a father married to the mother,” Elder said.

-- “Governor candidate Larry Elder promises to repeal COVID mandates at San Jose rally,” KRON Ch. 4, August 12, 2021

<https://www.kron4.com/news/bay-area/governor-candidate-larry-elder-promises-to-repeal-covid-mandates-at-san-jose-rally>

A search of Elder’s Twitter feed turned up several anti-LGBT tweets, including one where he voiced frustration with the portrayal of men in Hollywood. “Any roles for men not gay/transsexual/transgender/transvestite/cross dressers/bi-sexual or unsure? #GoldenGlobes,” he tweeted in 2016. After the Orlando Pulse Night Club shooting in June 2016, Elder tweeted, “If the #Orlando terrorist was gay, does that disqualify the massacre from being a hate crime?” He has needled Caitlyn Jenner, one of his rivals on the recall ballot, in the past. After Jenner came out as transgender in April 2015, Elder continued referring to her by her birth name and in a tweet wondered if she lost support from the LGBT community by identifying herself as a Republican. Elder also tweeted in 2017 about Playboy Magazine’s decision to feature a transgender model. “.@Playboy to feature its first ‘transgender’ Playmate?!? Jeez!!! If Hef weren’t dead, this would have killed him,” he wrote.

-- “A right-wing talk show host is leading the California recall election polls. Who is he?” Sacramento Bee, August 4, 2021

<https://www.sacbee.com/news/politics-government/capitol-alert/article253095738.html>

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“Under my supervision, someone like Jack Phillips, the owner of the Masterpiece cake shop in Colorado, would not be forced to bake a cake in violation of his religious principles, and a woman like Barronelle Stutzman will not be forced to make a floral arrangement in violation of hers.”

-- Larry Elder, “Elder In The Room” with Pastor Jack Hibbs, August 3, 2021 (video at 1:22)

<https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=224327662910246>

“I call myself an ally to human beings -- irrespective of their gender, irrespective of their sexual orientation. I don’t think it is fair for a male transgender athlete to compete against a biological female athlete. I just don’t think that’s fair. I believe even Caitlyn Jenner has the same position. At one time, Martina Navratilova had the same position until she got hammered by the LGBT community, and she then began to walk away from that position. So, I think that’s just common sense.

“... If she is in a transition from being a male to a female -- a transition that has been done by whatever medical intervention there is -- I see no reason why she ought not be able to use whatever bathroom she identifies as.”

-- Larry Elder, August 2, 2021, interview with McClatchy newspapers (video at 30:32) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oQWc_ttA4n8

[Regarding California initiatives reserving marriage licenses for a man and a woman, Proposition 22 in 2000 and Proposition 8 in 2008], “And in both cases, I voted in favor of same-sex marriage. Both cases, I was overruled” [by the voters].

-- January 2016 Larry Elder interview with Dave Rubin (video at 5:47) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=B4KOSINCPGg>

“Tolerance cuts both ways. What happens to a player who says, “I think homosexuality is a sin,” or, “Got no problem playing with or against him, but I don’t approve of his lifestyle”? Or a player who asks: “What’s all this business about ‘bravery’? What Collins does behind closed doors is his business. Why do I need to know about it?” ... Dr. Ben Carson, the neurologist and ObamaCare critic, accepted an invitation to speak at Johns Hopkins’ commencement. But after Carson stated his opposition to gay marriage, students and faculty protested. Carson withdrew. Jason Collins could teach Johns Hopkins a lesson in tolerance.”

-- Larry Elder column, “NBA Player ‘Comes Out’ — But Tolerance Cuts Both Ways,” May 2, 2013

<https://larryelder.com/column/nba-player-comes-out-but-tolerance-cuts-both-ways>

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“I support the right of homosexuals to marry, and support allowing gays and lesbians to serve openly in the military. Dr. Laura would, therefore, disagree with my position on “gay and lesbian matters.” But a campaign to prevent her television show?”-- Larry Elder, “Zero tolerance for Dr. Laura,” Townhall.com, July 28, 2000

<https://townhall.com/columnists/larryelder/2000/07/28/zero-tolerance-for-dr-laura-n1173258>

5. Advocate for private school choice for parents: YES

“I’m going to be a strong proponent of school choice. My understanding is that there very well might be a ballot initiative that would set up something like education saving accounts so that the money followed the child rather than the other way around, so parents are in charge of the education of their children.”

-- Larry Elder, August 2, 2021, interview with California newspaper editors (video at 4:22) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oQWc_ttA4n8

“If I’m lucky enough to become governor, I’m gonna be pushing school choice, so the money follows the child rather than the other way around.”

-- Larry Elder speech on July 31, 2021 (video at 11:17) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4pHFyNSVUGE&t=735s>

6. Oppose higher taxes, fees, and assessments, and work to lower them: YES

How can California have record budgets *and* tax hikes ... and yet pervasive homelessness? I pledge to overhaul our budgetary process, repeal the latest gas tax hike ...

-- Larry Elder, Recall Replacement Candidate Statements (Page 17), Official Voter Information Guide

<https://vig.cdn.sos.ca.gov/2021/pdf/complete-vig.pdf>

His “Ten-Point Plan” for transforming America calls for abolishing the IRS; passing a national sales tax; reducing government by 80%; ending welfare and entitlements, including Social Security, Medicare, and farm and tobacco subsidies; legalizing drugs; abolishing the minimum wage (which, he claims, undermines job creation for blacks, teenagers and entry-level workers); and eliminating corporate taxes.

-- Publishers Weekly review of Larry Elder’s 2000 book, “The Ten Things You Can’t Say in America”

<https://www.publishersweekly.com/978-0-312-26660-8>

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7. Deploy California's National Guard troops to guard California-Mexico border: ?

No information on Elder's position on deploying National Guard troops to the border is currently available.

8. Declare war against harmful "recreational" drugs: NO

A self-described libertarian, Elder is critical of the U.S. government's prosecution of the War on Drugs. "I am for the government getting out of it, both federally and at the state level," Elder said in an interview with conservative commentator Dave Rubin. Elder has said that he believes that drugs should be treated as a health problem, and not a criminal justice one.

-- -- "A right-wing talk show host is leading the California recall election polls. Who is he?" Sacramento Bee, August 4, 2021

<https://www.sacbee.com/news/politics-government/capitol-alert/article253095738.html>

"The drug war must be called off. Quite simply, it must be called off. For all sorts of reasons, not least of which is this: I own my body, not the state. If I choose to abuse my body, that is my call. That is not the state's call. We are throwing people in jail, many of whom have never committed a violent offense. Why? Because they dealt drugs."

Look, if we legalize drugs, the black market goes away. The analogy to Prohibition is right on the money. We outlawed alcohol—and by the way, at least the people who were Prohibitionists for alcohol did it with Constitutional integrity. They amended the Constitution. We have not amended the Constitution for this war on drugs. It is to me, an unconstitutional war being fought at the Federal level.

But the price would go down dramatically. The people that are pushing right now will have to find something else to do. The price will probably be no more expensive than a carton of cigarettes, and I don't know people who are bootlegging cigarettes, other than to steal them, because of the high taxes. If your argument is that if we tax it to the point where there's still a black market, I'm with you. So therefore, we shouldn't tax it to the point where there's a black market.

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But the price is going to go down. You will now not have the temptation of young people dropping out of school to earn a fast silly life selling drugs. Janet Reno estimates that around 50% of all street crime is directly or indirectly related to people robbing and maiming and stealing in order to support their habit. William F. Buckley, years ago, estimated that when you look at higher insurance costs, lost time from work, property being stolen, the amount of money that people are paying in excess of what they would pay if it were a fair market—we're probably spending about three or four-hundred billion dollars fighting this so-called war on drugs. So for all those reasons, we ought to call it off.

Will there be more people using drugs if the drugs are legal? Nobody really knows. My suspicion is not. When you look at young people and you poll them and ask them why don't you do drugs, at the bottom of the list is, "they're illegal." At the top of the list is, "they're stupid, my mom wouldn't like it, my dad wouldn't like it, I wouldn't like it, my friends don't do it." So I don't believe there's going to be a wholesale rush for people to do drugs. But if that is true, it's the price of the ticket. It's still my body. Why is it okay for the guy next door to come home and have a highball, but the guy next to him goes to jail if he has a joint. There's a problem here.

-- Larry Elder speech at The Independent Institute, August 14, 2001 <https://www.independent.org/events/transcript.asp?id=17>

9. Restore death penalty for convicted murderers: ?

"While ordinary Californians are struggling and suffering, Sacramento is releasing violent repeat offenders from prison, setting them free to stalk their next victims in our communities." -- Larry Elder, "It's time for common-sense action," August 7, 2021

<https://unitednewspost.com/news/us-news/its-time-for-common-sense-action-larry-elder/>

No specific information on Elder's position on the death penalty is currently available.