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JOHN COX

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

“San Francisco’s new vaccine mandate is ridiculous. It’s time for the government to stop intruding into every aspect of Californians’ lives and forcing more and more burdens on small businesses. As Governor I’ll take every step possible to end mandates and keep businesses open. We need to focus on personal responsibility and safety.”

-- “John Cox Blasts San Francisco Vaccine Mandate,” August 12, 2021

<https://www.facebook.com/BeastJohnCox/photos/a.389533634755357/1464522923923084/>

Had you been governor in March 2020, what would you have done to protect public health against the novel coronavirus? COX: The complete and total shutdown of our state was Draconian and is something many Californians will never recover from. As governor, I’d follow the science and balance the needs of students, workers and small businesses so they can learn and succeed. Any rules implemented, I would have followed myself. I never would have celebrated a lobbyist’s birthday dinner at The French Laundry, flaunting the very rules that were created. ... How would you represent the interests of all Californians — and not just those who made the recall election possible?

COX: A governor is governor for the entire state – not just those who elected him or her. That’s one of the major problems with Gavin Newsom. He’s governed for the special interests while closing small businesses and causing millions of Californians to lose their jobs. As a businessman, I know that all Californians are like my customers. I serve them all.

-- “What say Cox, Faulconer, Jenner and Ose?” Times of San Diego, June 7, 2021

<https://timesofsandiego.com/politics/2021/06/07/what-say-cox-faulconer-jenner-and-ose-top-gop-rivals-in-recall-tackle-tough-qs/>

“Like all power-hungry politicians, Gavin Newsom refuses to give up power after he seizes it. It’s clear Newsom’s actions aren’t about following the science or doing what’s best for California. It’s about doing what’s best for him. So now he claims California is open, but the mask mandates and his ‘emergency powers’ remain. Gavin Newsom is Lucy, and California is Charlie Brown.”

-- John Cox statement on June 4, 2021 <https://twitter.com/BeastJohnCox/status/1400949447492653056>

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2. Order schools to stop masking children or let parents decide: NO

(video at 14:25) “I would favor local authority on this as much as possible.”

(video at 15:21) MODERATOR: “Again, I didn’t get your view -- yes or no -- to the idea of local school districts being able to impose mask mandates.” COX: “I answered at the beginning -- I said I think local schools should have the ability to do it.”

-- John Cox, California Governor Recall Debate in San Francisco, August 19, 2021

<https://www.kron4.com/news/california/school-choice-vaccine-mandates-and-the-latino-community-highlights-from-the-recall-debate/>

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

No specific promise from John Cox is known, but given his many public policy statements over the past 15 years, he is more likely than not to veto bad bills. The database-driven site On The Issues has computed that John Cox is a “Libertarian-Leaning Conservative”:

https://www.ontheissues.org/John_Cox.htm

4. Including vetoing abortion expansion bills: YES

“I will stand for the rights of the unborn. I am proudly pro-life without exception, from conception to natural death. If there is a question about protecting life versus protecting someone’s personal choices, we should ALWAYS resolve it in life’s favor. We should embrace the broadest possible definition of life, and err on the side of protecting it. Government has a role in defining life as a fundamental right. ... “We believe in the right to life. We need to talk to the American people about responsibility. You know, in 1955, my mother already had a child. She conceived me, and my real father walked out. If abortion had been legal in 1955, I wouldn’t be standing here before you today. This is personal to me. It’s about responsibility. My mother took responsibility for me. She’s glad she did, and I’m glad she did, and my children are glad she did. And that’s what we need to talk about on this issue, with the American people. I, too, will make sure I appoint judges that don’t make the law, but will interpret it only. We need to end the reign of the activist judges, and restore some sanity to the right to life.”

-- John Cox on Abortion, OnTheIssues.org

https://www.ontheissues.org/Governor/John_Cox_Abortion.htm

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5. Including vetoing LGBTQIA+ agenda bills: YES

Q: What do you intend to do to counteract the homosexual agenda?

A: You know, this is a free country, and we have to respect people's freedom to do what they want to do. But you know what? We don't have to sanction it. We don't have to sanction behavior. We don't have to support it financially. And we don't need to put more rights that will create more litigation in this country. The last thing we need in this country is more litigation from rights.

Q: What about the homosexual agenda?

A: I don't know that we help ourselves when we try to moralize to a large part of the country that is not a believer like us. I think we need to use common sense. We certainly need to stand up for the proper behavior, we absolutely need to do that, but we need to use common sense, and talk about the fact that we can't open the floodgates to polygamy & bestiality & all kinds of other things. Kids, hold your ears.

-- John Cox's answers at the 2007 Values Voter Debate as reported by OnTheIssues.org

https://www.ontheissues.org/Governor/John_Cox_Civil_Rights.htm

6. Advocate for private school choice for parents: YES

"Instead of more mandates, we should be giving parents greater choice when it comes to schools. Increase school vouchers and options would let parents take charge of their child's education and choose the best school and rules for their family. And it would increase competition for public schools, raising the bar for everyone."

-- "John Cox Opposes Vaccine Mandate for Teachers," August 11, 2021

<https://www.facebook.com/BeastJohnCox/photos/a.389533634755357/1463696574005719/>

"The real problem here is the introduction of politics in our education system. I am an absolute advocate for giving the parents the power of education. Let's put every dollar we spend into a backpack and give it to each child and give the parents the power. The parents learned, during the management of this pandemic, who has the real power in the public schools. And that's the teachers' unions bosses, not necessarily the teachers -- the union bosses. CRT and all the other things that go along with it, and ethnic studies, and all these things are just a symptom of the politicization of our schools. My mom was a teacher in the public schools, I was a school board president, I've been a teacher, I understand what it takes to teach, and we've put politics too much -- we need to teach reading, writing, and arithmetic. I toured Folsom Prison and most of those inmates were from L.A., and they had high school diplomas, but couldn't read past the third-grade level.

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That's criminal. And that's what we're doing with our children and our future. We have got to stop it. Get the politicians out of the school system."

-- John Cox, August 4, 2021 debate at the Richard Nixon Presidential Library (video at 23:48)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QwEMO-K22uQ>

"I am a school choice advocate and supporter of charter schools--parents and students deserve a choice in their students' education. I will also promote merit-based pay for teachers and administrators, and I will push to end tenure. I want teachers to be paid more, but that higher pay must be tied to actual results."

-- Campaign website JohnCox.com, as retrieved February 15, 2021 by OnTheIssues.com

https://www.ontheissues.org/Governor/John_Cox_Education.htm

"...reopen public schools immediately to ensure that students are in extracurricular activities, interact with their peers and learn in a classroom. The mental, physical and emotional health of our children rank as a top priority. If not, California should offer emergency funding for parents to send their children to an open private school or a public one of their choice that has reopened."

-- John Cox opinion piece, "I want to recall and replace Gov. Gavin Newsom because I won't make problems worse like he does," San Diego Union-Tribune, February 12, 2021

<https://www.sandiegouniontribune.com/opinion/commentary/story/2021-02-12/opinion-john-cox-california-governor-candidate-newsom-recall>

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

John Cox

@BeastJohnCox

.@GavinNewsom spends taxpayers' money like it's a game - one I call "Gavinopoly". When I'm governor, I will slash taxes and be smart with Californians' money. That's the way I've operated as a CPA and in my own business.

-- John Cox tweet, August 12, 2021 <https://twitter.com/BeastJohnCox/status/1425869305850130436?s=20>

"Recall candidate and 2018 GOP gubernatorial candidate John Cox announced his \$30 billion tax cut proposal on Thursday following a preview of his plan during Wednesday's recall candidate debate. According to Cox, income tax in the state would be cut by 25% for everyone regardless of income or what tax bracket they are under. Under this system, California's highest income tax payers, those who make more

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than \$1 million a year, would see their income tax percentage fall from 13.3% (12.3% plus an added 1% mental health services tax) to roughly 10%. For those making around \$50,000 a year and paying an 8% rate, this would fall to 6%. As personal income tax amounts to \$123.3 billion of California's \$175.3 billion in total state income, Cox is proposing massive cuts amounting to \$30 billion from California's budget, including the elimination of California's long delayed high-speed rail program, ending the recently passed healthcare law expanding Medicare to illegal immigrants over 50 and several other areas he deems as 'wasteful spending'. "I will implement the largest tax cut in CA history: \$30 Billion. That's more than double any other proposal. It's a 25% across the board cut. It will put \$30 Billion back into the hands of Californians. After all, it's their money, not the government's," tweeted Cox on Friday. "Californians should benefit from tax cuts, not select corporations. Corporate loopholes in California are sometimes big and obvious and sometimes they are smaller and barely noticed, but they all add up. I will eliminate them."

-- "Recall Candidate John Cox Announces \$30 Billion Tax Cut Proposal," California Globe, August 7, 2021

<https://californiaglobe.com/section-2/recall-candidate-john-cox-announces-30-billion-tax-cut-proposal>

"We also need to reduce the tax burden. I'm going to be announcing a 25 percent across-the-board tax rate cut for every Californian -- the largest tax cut in the history of this state. Because this state taxes people too much and regulates people to death."

-- John Cox, August 4, 2021 debate at the Richard Nixon Presidential Library (video at 39:16)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QwEMO-K22uQ>

"California government spending is rife with waste, fraud and abuse. As a Certified Public Accountant, John Cox knows how to find wasteful and ineffective spending. He'll squeeze every penny he can out of state government, in order to return more money to the taxpayers. Hundreds of millions and even billions of dollars could be saved by rooting out waste, fraud and abuse from California government."

-- Campaign website JohnCox.com, "Slashing Taxes"

<https://johncox.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/08/John-Cox-for-Governor-Slashing-Taxes.pdf>

With some of the highest taxes in the country, CA is chasing away businesses and innovators. Every Californian, regardless of income, race, or geographical location has felt the ridiculous strain of tax policy in our state. I will reduce California's sky-high sales taxes, vehicle license fees, and gasoline taxes. Taxes, along with housing costs, drastically impact the cost of living in California.

-- Campaign website JohnCox.com, as retrieved February 15, 2021 by OnTheIssues.com

https://www.ontheissues.org/Governor/John_Cox_Tax_Reform.htm

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John Cox, the Republican candidate for governor, was a leader of the gas-tax repeal effort and put \$250,000 of campaign funds into the repeal effort last year. He mentions the gas tax at almost every campaign stop.

-- "Gas-tax repeal made California ballot because of GOP. Then GOP walked away," San Francisco Chronicle, October 3, 2018

<https://www.sfchronicle.com/politics/article/Gas-tax-repeal-made-California-ballot-because-of-13279638.php>

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

Republican John Cox has said that he would continue construction of a border wall between the U.S. and Mexico in order to address California's drug crisis. Cox is one of 46 candidates vying to unseat the state's Democratic Governor Gavin Newsom in the upcoming California recall election. Cox made his comments during a Wednesday evening debate featuring four of the recall candidates. One of the debate's moderators asked all the candidates what they would do to stop drug cartels from bringing an "avalanche of cocaine and deadly fentanyl" into the United States. "We, first of all, need to end the sanctuary state nonsense of the state. We need to have the local police able to interface with ICE [U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement] as well as the Border Patrol," Cox responded. "We absolutely need to build a wall along our southern border, all the way. It's there in parts of San Diego, but it's got to be all the way across this border."

-- "Recall Candidate John Cox Calls for Border Wall to Stop California's Drug Crisis," Newsweek, August 4, 2021

<https://www.newsweek.com/recall-candidate-john-cox-calls-border-wall-stop-californias-drug-crisis-1616404>

"We first of all need to end the sanctuary state nonsense in the state, we need to have the local police able to interface with ICE as well as the Border Patrol. We absolutely need to build a wall along our southern border, all the way. It's there in parts in San Diego, but it's gotta be all the way across this border."

-- John Cox, August 4, 2021 debate at the Richard Nixon Presidential Library (video at 17:51)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QwEMO-K22uQ>

Some of the widest differences — particularly between the Democrats and Republicans — were on immigration. The Republicans supported Trump's plan to build a wall on the U.S.-Mexico border and the Democrats opposed it. The Democrats supported California's sanctuary state laws and the Republicans promised to overturn them shortly after taking office. Cox said "this border wall needs to be built. It's not about grandmothers being pulled out of their homes. ... I don't want to live next door to MS-13" gang members."

-- "Gavin Newsom catches it from all sides in California gubernatorial debate," San Francisco Chronicle, May 9, 2018

<https://www.sfchronicle.com/bayarea/article/Gavin-Newsom-catches-it-from-all-sides-in-12899356.php>

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9. Declare war against harmful “recreational” drugs: YES

“This issue about the drugs coming across our borders -- and I might also add the human trafficking as well as the guns -- is personal to me. I have a 16-year-old daughter. Last night, I was at her high school in an all-parent seminar, talking about the incidence of drugs in her wonderful school. It affects everybody in every neighborhood. And if you don’t think so, I hope you never have to find out. We need to stop the dithering, we need to solve this problem -- as I think only a businessman would: Go right to the heart of it. We first of all need to end the sanctuary state nonsense in the state, we need to have the local police able to interface with ICE as well as the Border Patrol. We absolutely need to build a wall along our southern border, all the way. It’s there in parts in San Diego, but it’s gotta be all the way across this border. We don’t have these problems in Canada -- because they can enforce their law; they’re not corrupt. But unfortunately, we have problems with our neighbor to the south. They can’t run their country and interdict this stuff. And we gotta make sure we protect our children at all costs.”

-- John Cox, August 4, 2021 debate at the Richard Nixon Presidential Library (video at 17:51)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QwEMO-K22uQ>

10. Restore death penalty for convicted murderers: NO?

Republican John Cox, a San Diego County businessman, conservative activist and former radio talk-show host, said he opposes capital punishment as a Catholic and a fiscal conservative. He said life without parole is a fitting punishment for murder and costs much less than the death penalty system. But as governor, Cox “would not interfere ... with a lawfully passed and administered death penalty statute or sentence,” said spokesman Matt Shupe.

-- “5 of 6 candidates for California governor oppose death penalty,” San Francisco Chronicle, December 24, 2017,

<https://www.sfchronicle.com/news/article/5-of-6-candidates-for-California-governor-oppose-12453926.php>