

Report Card on Gavin Newsom and John Cox

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1. Repeal 2017 gas tax/DMV fee hikes

Gavin Newsom: **NO**

John Cox: **YES**

Cox is focusing on what he calls the “forgotten Californians.” He helped champion a ballot measure that would repeal the gas tax increase, spending \$250,000 toward the effort to put the issue before voters on Nov. 6. He also handed out water bottles to voters in line at a DMV field office in Sacramento last month in an attempt to burnish his image as a man of the people.

“Do Gavin Newsom and John Cox even want the same job? Their visions of California’s governorship radically differ,” Los Angeles Times, September 21, 2018

<http://www.latimes.com/politics/la-pol-ca-campaign-issues-california-governor-race-20180921-story.html>

GOP gubernatorial candidate John Cox strolled up to the stack of 12 boxes in front of the Los Angeles County registrar-recorder’s offices in Norwalk on Monday and placed his hands on top of his party’s hope for success in 2018. The boxes, stacked four across and three high, contained 211,000 signatures for an initiative to repeal recent increases in California’s gas tax and vehicle fees. Cox says the effort has gathered more than 940,000 signatures from registered voters to put the measure on the ballot — far more than the 585,407 signatures that are required. The aim: to bring out the party’s base to the polls this November and help candidates in tough congressional and legislative races down the ticket.

“John Cox begins California barnstorm with the delivery of gas tax repeal signatures,” Los Angeles Times, April 30, 2018

<http://www.latimes.com/politics/essential/la-pol-ca-essential-politics-updates-john-cox-begins-california-barnstorm-1525132480-htmlstory.html>

Cox is chairman of the group that collected signatures to put the question before voters in November. He has made rolling back the increases — and requiring voter approval for any future hikes — a centerpiece of a campaign focused on reducing taxes and regulations. Newsom supports the gas tax increase, saying repeal would end critical road construction happening across the state and take away the jobs that accompany them.

“Gas Tax, Trump, Housing Drive Race for California Governor, U.S. News & World Report,” October 6, 2018

<https://www.usnews.com/news/best-states/california/articles/2018-10-06/gas-tax-trump-housing-drive-race-for-california-governor>

Newsom said he was supportive of the recently-adopted \$52 billion gas tax hike to build up the state’s infrastructure.

Ceres Courier, March 30, 2017

http://www.ontheissues.org/Governor/Gavin_Newsom_Tax_Reform.htm

Newsom opposes Prop 6. He discounts polls showing support for the gas tax repeal.”

“In sit-down interview, Gavin Newsom discusses where he stands on issues ahead of election,” ABC7 Los Angeles, October 23, 2018

<https://abc7.com/politics/gavin-newsom-discusses-where-he-stands-on-issues-ahead-of-election/4542771/>

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2. Oppose higher taxes and fees

Gavin Newsom: **NO**

John Cox: **YES**

Newsom's biggest goals, on homelessness, health care and education, would be expensive, and Brown has warned the state can expect an economic downturn. To pay for government-financed single-payer health care alone, for example, Californians would be on the hook for huge tax increases to cover the estimated \$400 billion price tag.

"Where California would head if Gavin Newsom is governor," June 6, 2018

<https://www.sacbee.com/news/politics-government/capitol-alert/article212649649.html>

"Is Prop. 13 on the table?" moderator Scott Shafer asked, referring to the 1978 ballot measure that limits property taxes to the value of a home when a buyer moves in. "Everything is on the table," Newsom responded.

"Gavin Newsom, John Cox Spar on Housing, Criminal Justice in Wide-Ranging Debate," KQED San Francisco, October 8, 2018

<https://www.kqed.org/news/11697413/gavin-newsom-john-cox-spar-on-housing-criminal-justice-in-wide-ranging-debate>

John Cox wants to slash the California income tax—abolish it, if possible. Maybe you disagree, but he thinks he can convince you. "I don't know why Texas and Florida have no income taxes and we do," he said, during a recent conversation at CALmatters. "Texas, you know, is growing. Florida is growing. They're getting tons of businesses and tons of people moving there that we could use here in California."

"Republican Governor Hopeful John Cox Promises to Slash California's Income Tax," Times of San Diego, April 22, 2018

<https://timesofsandiego.com/politics/2018/04/22/republican-governor-hopeful-john-cox-promises-to-slash-californias-income-tax/>

So what could California do to avoid driving so many businesses, jobs and taxpayers to other states? The answer is complicated. California's historic Proposition 13 is politically untouchable, since it offers its greatest protections to people who own homes, including many senior citizens. Our sales taxes already are among the highest in the nation. We've just jacked up vehicle license fees and fuel taxes. Some states have looked at extending sales taxes to services in exchange for eliminating income taxes, a notion that makes many taxpayers wary. Others have looked at transaction fees, but those too engender fear among taxpayers that they'll end up paying more. Yet clearly we need a response to the new federal cap on state and local tax deductions, or California will be sending tens of billions of dollars more annually to Washington D.C. ... The reason our politicians posture instead of act is because too many of them are beholden to special interest lobbyists who treat the California tax code as their personal playground, carving out exemptions, subsidies and gifts of corporate welfare to campaign donors. I would like to see the income tax significantly reduced, along with matching reductions in spending. That is unlikely to happen with huge Democrat majorities in the Legislature and existing statutory obligations. Those majorities are part of the status quo, a system rife with special interest corruption where money talks and principles walk.

"California needs to stop being Washington's cash cow" by John Cox, Sacramento Bee, December 28, 2017

<https://www.sacbee.com/opinion/op-ed/soapbox/article191887564.html>

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3. Less prison time for convicts, eliminate bail incentive to show up for court

Gavin Newsom: **YES**

John Cox: **NO**

Businessman John Cox and state Assemblyman Travis Allen are both vowing to repeal most of Brown's signature criminal justice reforms and others backed by voters, including Proposition 47, the 2014 ballot measure that made some theft and most drug possession charges misdemeanors. That measure has helped reduce the populations in county jails, and allowed thousands of people with past relevant felonies to petition the courts to have their records cleared. Any changes would need to be approved by voters. Critics blame Proposition 47 for the slight increase in property crimes seen statewide since 2014 and the large spikes in some big cities. "I'd take a very different approach than Jerry Brown's," Cox said in a statement to KQED. "On day one as governor I would act to end the sanctuary state law, I will also advocate for full repeal of Prop.47 and AB 109 to remove the criminal element plaguing our streets."

Staking out a more progressive position is Newsom. He has embraced criminal justice reforms, pushing gun control and marijuana legalization at the ballot box and speaking out in favor of bail reform, which lawmakers are currently considering. In a statement to KQED, Newsom said he would go even further than Brown, and took a swipe at Villaraigosa, who has accepted money from people in the bail industry. "I think the governor should be commended for his leadership fighting for sentencing reform, and, unlike my opponents, I was a vocal proponent for Brown's efforts at the ballot box," he said. "But we can't stop there. I was proud to lead efforts to roll back the racist war on drugs, and unlike Antonio Villaraigosa, I believe strongly that our next governor should lead efforts to eliminate the discriminatory cash bail system and take on the private prison industrial complex. Bail bondsmen and the for-profit prison industry should have no place in California's future. "

"What Will Jerry Brown's Departure Mean for Criminal Justice in California?" KQED San Francisco, May 22, 2018
<https://www.kqed.org/news/11669703/what-will-jerry-browns-departure-mean-for-criminal-justice-in-california>

California Governor Jerry Brown signed into law a historic bill ending the state's cash bail system, which penalized people without significant wealth who were accused of crimes. Under a cash bail system, those awaiting trial could be released from custody if they were able to front money as insurance against their running away. The bail amount was set by a judge and was usually relative to the seriousness of the crime and the risk of flight by the individual. Those without enough cash to fund bail in full could take out a bond with an insurance company, which provided the money but for a premium: a percentage of the total amount paid for by the defendant. Bail money would be returned if a defendant showed up in court as expected. ... But reacting to SB 10, John Cox, the Republican candidate for California governor in the November midterms, wrote on Twitter, "The Sacramento political class continues its practice of turning bad guys out on our streets & snubbing their noses at millions of Californians who are wondering how much longer they can put up with this."

"Cash bail reform Senate Bill 10: California Governor Jerry Brown signs new law," Newsweek, August 29, 2018
<https://www.newsweek.com/california-jerry-brown-cash-bail-reform-law-1093860>

Sacramento has started dismantling this law along with other pro-victim measures enacted over the years. Violent crime is now up 4 percent over 2016 – which was 10 percent higher than 2015 – and this is 20 percent higher than the national median. In my home of Orange County, California, crime is up more than 20 percent. In addition to Prop. 47, Brown and his colleagues Lt. Governor Gavin Newsom and former state Attorney General Kamala Harris have backed laws like AB109 in 2011, which transferred a segment of felons to county jail instead of prison; and Prop. 57 in 2016, which gave a get out of jail free card to a large class of prisoners.

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“Capture of alleged serial killer is proof that Sacramento shouldn’t dismantle DNA efforts,” The Daily Caller, May 7, 2018

<https://dailycaller.com/2018/05/07/serial-killer-capture-is-proof-that-sacramento-shouldnt-dismantle-dna-efforts/>

Visiting Fresno for the first time since the primary election, California gubernatorial candidate Gavin Newsom expressed support for a state law that local law enforcement leaders say has increased crime. In fact, Fresno Police Chief Jerry Dyer directly blamed Proposition 47 for the recent homicide of Nick Kauls. Kauls, a 17-year-old San Joaquin Memorial High School student, died after being shot in the head in his Fig Garden neighborhood June 24 during a robbery attempt. Investigators arrested Joseph Antonio Espinoza for the homicide. Dyer said that absent Prop. 47 Espinoza would have been in jail for drug possession before the homicide and not involved in a deadly crime spree. While Newsom said he did not have enough information to talk about the Kauls shooting directly, the lieutenant governor did say that he backs Prop. 47, the ballot measure that reclassified some felonies to misdemeanors to help alleviate prison overcrowding. “There have been a number of independent studies that don’t subscribe to that point of view,” Newsom said, referring to the argument that Prop. 47 has resulted in more crime.

-- “Newsom in Fresno: Supports Prop. 47 and Gas Tax,” GV Wire, July 17, 2018

<https://gvwire.com/2018/07/17/newsom-in-fresno-supports-prop-47-and-gas-tax/>

4. \$100 BILLION “bullet train”

Gavin Newsom: **YES**

John Cox: **NO**

Gavin Newsom, the Democratic lieutenant governor and the leading contender to succeed Mr. Brown, has offered conflicting views of the project over the years; he has at times come close to opposing it outright, though in this campaign he has said he supported it, while expressing concern about costs and engineering challenges. By contrast, his Republican opponent, John Cox, has pledged unequivocally to abandon the project if elected.

“A \$100 Billion Train: The Future of California or a Boondoggle?” New York Times, July 30, 2018

<https://www.nytimes.com/2018/07/30/us/california-high-speed-rail.html>

If elected governor, Gavin Newsom would commit himself to finding public funding for high-speed rail in order to see the imperiled project to completion, the gubernatorial candidate said Wednesday.

“Gavin Newsom commits to high-speed rail,” Sacramento Business Journal, October 19, 2016

<https://www.bizjournals.com/sacramento/news/2016/10/19/gavin-newsom-commits-to-high-speed-rail.html>

Transportation: Cox opposes the High Speed Rail Project in contrast to his opponent Gavin Newsom. He believes that we can better invest in roads, highways and more efficient transit projects.

“John Cox for Governor”

<https://johncoxforgovernor.com/my-policy-agenda/>

“The train to nowhere represents the biggest point of departure between me and my opponent in this race,” said Cox, adding that the project is a “monument of corruption and unproductive spending.” Cox said he supports mass transit and transportation infrastructure, however he believes in improving airports and highways to improve mobility in the state. Although the project has provided more than 3,000 full-time jobs in Fresno County, Cox said it’s not a reason to continue

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funding the project.

“High-speed rail is ‘biggest point of departure’ between gubernatorial candidates, Cox says,” Fresno Bee, September 27, 2018

<https://www.fresnobee.com/news/politics-government/politics-columns-blogs/political-notebook/article219124595.html>

5. Increase “Obamacare” / Socialized Medicine

Gavin Newsom: **YES**

John Cox: **NO**

“Guaranteed health care for all.”

Gavin Newsom primary election victory speech, June 6, 2018

<https://www.sacbee.com/news/politics-government/capitol-alert/article212649649.html>

Democratic Lt. Gov. Gavin Newsom imagines guaranteed health coverage for anyone — regardless of their income, medical history or immigration status. ... For example, Newsom is an advocate of single-payer, and endorsed a bill — which stalled in the state legislature last year — that would have created a government-run health care system for all Californians.

Gavin Newsom Vs. John Cox On Health Care, October 24, 2018

<https://californiahealthline.org/news/listen-gavin-newsom-vs-john-cox-on-health-care/>

“The staggering price tag for the Democrats’ plan to provide “health care for all” would cost California \$400 billion a year to create a state-funded universal health care system — more than double the \$180 billion annual state budget. California residents will be required to pay significantly increased taxes — as much as 50 percent or more — to the state to cover health care costs, rather than individuals being able to make their own decisions to buy from private insurers who have to compete for their business. The real motive behind Los Angeles-area Democrat Sen. Ricardo Lara’s Senate Bill 562 is to provide health coverage to everyone in the state, whether they are here legally or not. It’s just another very expensive welfare program for people who do not pay into the system. Competition always produces better results — state-run health care will have no competition and no accountability. Costs will soar, and quality health care will diminish. In other words, single-payer health care is a sure way to destroy the California economy, and send more residents fleeing to lower-tax states. We’d be driving jobs and productivity out of California, while bringing those seeking free health care into California.”

“Health care for all? More like how to destroy California,” John Cox, Orange County Register, June 1, 2017

<https://www.ocregister.com/2017/06/01/health-care-for-all-more-like-how-to-destroy-california/>

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6. Increase parental choice in education

Gavin Newsom: **NO**

John Cox: **YES**

The frontrunner, Democratic Lt. Gov. Gavin Newsom, earned the state teachers union's endorsement after telling it in a questionnaire that he does not want to increase the number of charter schools in California. (His spokesman said Newsom wants to pause new charter approvals until there's agreement on conflict-of-interest rules.) ... Unions behind Newsom have set up campaign funds to support him, to date raising \$1 million from the California Teachers Association and more than \$3 million from other labor groups.

"Billionaires vs teachers union: Charter school fight amps up race for California governor," CalMatters, May 16, 2018
<https://calmatters.org/articles/billionaires-vs-teachers-union-a-fight-over-charter-schools-amps-up-race-for-california-governor/>

At a forum organized by Advancement Project California three weeks ago in Sacramento, Lt. Gov. Gavin Newsom, former Los Angeles Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa, State Treasurer John Chiang and former State Superintendent of Public Instruction Delaine Eastin all said they want to bar for-profit charter schools from operating in California. Their comments come at a time when charter schools now serve 1 in 10 public school students in California, and the charter school sector has become the target of a high-profile Kids Not Profit campaign by the California Teachers Association, which is pushing for more transparency in how charters operate and spend public funds. In opposing for-profit charters, the candidates appear willing to go further than Brown, who has opposed legislative efforts to ban for-profit schools from the state. Two years ago, he vetoed a bill, AB 787, that would have done just that. In his veto message, Brown said, "I don't believe the case has been made to eliminate for-profit charter schools in California." He also worried that the bill would make it difficult for nonprofit charter schools to contract with for-profit providers of a range of educational services.

"Leading gubernatorial candidates oppose for-profit charter schools in California," EdSource, October 25, 2017
<https://edsources.org/2017/charter-schools-in-california-could-face-more-oversight-under-next-governor/589386>

"I certainly want a much better education system, but I know that an education system is not going to improve until we give people a reason to improve, and that reason is competition," Cox said. He would foster that competition through support for charter schools and by providing parents with vouchers they could use to send children to private schools. "We need to give parents all over the state — in the inner city, in the barrios — we need to give those parents the same choice of an education that wealthy parents have," Cox said.

"GOP candidates for governor say California schools need changes, not more funding," EdSource, May 7, 2018
<https://edsources.org/2018/gop-candidates-for-governor-say-california-schools-need-changes-not-more-funding/597417>

"I believe that Charter schools are certainly part of the solution and I support them. For me the question is more about need to provide more school choice to parents and thus allow them to give more opportunity to their kids in the classroom."

John Cox for Governor, "My Policy Agenda"

<https://johncoxforgovernor.com/my-policy-agenda/>

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7. Pro-abortion (killing pre-born babies)

Gavin Newsom: **YES**

John Cox: **NO**

Newsom said that wasn't the only bill on which he and Brown disagreed. He said he would have signed a bill to require public universities in California to offer abortion pills on campus. Brown vetoed the measure, saying such services are "widely available" to students at off-campus clinics. "I would have supported that. I have long supported that," Newsom said. "I subscribe to Planned Parenthood and NARAL's position on that."

"Gavin Newsom splits with Jerry Brown on SF drug injection, abortion pills," October 3, 2018

<https://www.sfchronicle.com/politics/article/Gavin-Newsom-splits-with-Jerry-Brown-on-SF-drug-13275997.php>

"I think anybody who has a rape and incest exception to abortion really hasn't thought it through. Killing the baby is not going to absolve the crime of rape," Cox said at the Conservative Political Action Conference in Washington 12 years before he finished in second place in the California primary. Cox made the comment shortly before announcing an unsuccessful campaign for president. He also said he was "100% and proudly pro-life and I offer no apologies for it."

California's lieutenant governor, formerly the mayor of San Francisco, boasted during the gubernatorial primary campaign about his efforts to raise money for Planned Parenthood to increase access to abortion and other healthcare services for women. Newsom also has called for the state to increase Medi-Cal reimbursement rates to healthcare providers, including Planned Parenthood, and to provide a permanent \$100-million allocation for reproductive healthcare from the money raised by Proposition 56, the tobacco tax increase approved by voters in 2016. Newsom said California's next governor needs to be a leader in defending abortion rights throughout the country. "There's a deliberative effort to roll back reproductive rights in the country, to attack women, to demean women," Newsom said during a candidate forum sponsored by NARAL Pro-Choice California in January.

"Abortion debate surfaces in California governor's race," Los Angeles Times, July 7, 2018

<http://www.latimes.com/politics/la-pol-ca-john-cox-gavin-newsom-governor-abortion-20180707-story.html>

8. Protect religious freedom from 'LGBT' attacks

Gavin Newsom: **NO**

John Cox: **YES**

"Religious Freedom" which has nothing to do with religion and everything to do with a license to hate/discriminate

Gavin Newsom's official Twitter page, July 20, 2016

<https://twitter.com/GavinNewsom/status/755891804533207040>

What connects every one of us is the desire to love and be loved. For a business to deny you something as simple as a cake because you love someone of the same sex is wrong. This is a move backwards, and a move toward discrimination, hatred, & inequality.

Gavin Newsom's official Twitter page, June 4, 2018

<https://twitter.com/GavinNewsom/status/1003703501468327936>

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In his 2004 State of the Union, President George W. Bush lambasted “activist judges” for redefining marriage. He threatened to back a constitutional amendment to define marriage as between a man and a woman. Newsom, who listened to the address from the House of Representatives gallery as a guest of Rep. Nancy Pelosi (D-San Francisco), has said that was the moment he knew he had to do something. Soon after he told his chief of staff, Steve Kawa, who is gay, that he intended to issue marriage licenses to same-sex couples. In a municipal quirk — as mayor of San Francisco, both a city and a county — he had authority to do so. Kawa said his reaction was stunned silence. He and others among Newsom’s senior staff initially had reservations. Opponents of same-sex marriage said Newsom was flagrantly ignoring the will of Californians. “Mayor Newsom lied when he swore to uphold the law,” Randy Thomasson, who runs Save California, a socially conservative group, said in an interview. “When he raised his right hand, it was almost like he was giving one finger, figuratively, to the people.” The California Supreme Court halted the weddings on March 11, and the court later nullified those marriages that had been performed. Newsom was chastised for not following the law as written; one justice said he had “created a mess.”

“When Gavin Newsom issued marriage licenses in San Francisco, his party was furious. Now, it’s a campaign ad,” Los Angeles Times, May 15, 2018

<http://www.latimes.com/politics/la-pol-ca-gavin-newsom-gay-marriage-20180515-story.html>

Newsom is appearing in a first grade textbook that critics call propaganda. The textbook, being tested in the Elk Grove Unified School District, refers to then-San Francisco mayor Newsom’s 2004 decision to order the city-county clerk to issue marriage licenses to same-sex couples. “Gavin said that people could marry who they choose. Sometimes, Gavin helped marry people. Some marriages were not between a man and a woman. He made sure that people’s rights were respected,” the textbook reads in part.

“First-grade textbook hails Democrat as ‘champion’ of gay rights. Some say it goes too far,” Sacramento Bee, September 25, 2018

<https://www.sacbee.com/news/politics-government/capitol-alert/article218937505.html>

“I believe that religious freedom is a fundamental human right. America should be steadfast in supporting the rights of individuals to express their religious beliefs in every corner of the world. I am a baptized, born-again evangelical Catholic who believes we need to embrace people of all religious beliefs. The religious freedom guaranteed by the Constitution does not mean freedom from religion, or that religion must be banished from public discussion.”

John Cox, 2008 Presidential website (cox2008.com), July 2, 2007

http://www.ontheissues.org/2016/John_Cox_Principles_+_Values.htm

IL: What is your position on the federal marriage amendment?

Cox: I am the only candidate that has come out strongly on the support of marriage [by holding a press conference in support of the federal marriage amendment.] It’s ironic, since I am divorced and remarried. My first marriage was annulled. I believe in the institution of marriage and I love being married. I approach it very practically. Again, to the extent that politicians try to impose their religious beliefs on others, I think we lose in this country. We have a strong history of independence of religious beliefs and that’s going back to our history when different faiths came here for their own religious freedoms.

“Interview with John Cox, Part 2,” Illinois Leader, November 24, 2003

<https://illinoisreview.typepad.com/illinoisreview/2003-interview-with-john-cox-part-2-.html>

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9. Invite in Illegals

Gavin Newsom: **YES**

John Cox: **NO**

“San Francisco is the only universal healthcare plan for all undocumented residents in America. Very proud of that,” Newsom added, “And we proved it can be done without bankrupting the city.” Newsom said the effort needs to be led by the “governor’s office” not the state legislature. “The executive needs to lead it,” said Newsom. “ObamaCare would not have happened if it was just exclusively a legislative fiat,” he continued. “That said, Nancy Pelosi did a magical job of organizing it, but it required the concerted efforts of the president of the United States.” Newsom has offered support for a single-payer health care plan, a popular stance with progressives, but has raised concerns about the challenges California would face in moving to such a model.

“California gov candidate backs universal healthcare for undocumented immigrants,” The Hill, August 28, 2018
<https://thehill.com/homenews/state-watch/404036-dem-calif-gov-candidate-government-should-give-undocumented-immigrants>

Campos proposed and the city passed an ordinance that said the city would report juveniles once convicted of violent felonies, but Newsom vetoed it. When a majority of the board later overrode his veto, Newsom simply ignored the ordinance. Campos said he’s prodded Newsom about his position on the issue in recent years. “It sounds like he was admitting a mistake, and I give him credit for that,” Campos said. “He has more power and standing to criticize Trump if he can admit that a mistake was made.” Republican John Cox, Newsom’s rival in the governor’s race who has touted his endorsement by Trump, criticized Newsom as a flip-flopper. “As usual Gavin Newsom wants it both ways. As San Francisco mayor, Newsom policy reported undocumented youth to ICE — he was for it before he was against it,” Cox said in a Facebook post July 3.

“Gavin Newsom reported young immigrants to ICE as mayor. Now he says he was wrong,” Sacramento Bee, July 19, 2018
<https://www.sacbee.com/news/politics-government/capitol-alert/article215092135.html>

Allen, the conservative populist legislator, was the only candidate on stage who proudly embraced President Donald Trump — who is widely unpopular in California — and his policies, including building the border wall and cracking down on illegal immigration. Eastin pounded the issue of education and its importance to the state’s future, while Chiang repeatedly portrayed himself as the most qualified candidate, the one who has held three elective financial offices in California. On the issue of immigration — and sanctuary cities — both Republicans and Democrats went on the attack, training their fire on Newsom. Allen raised what has become a mantra for Republicans around the nation — the murder of Kate Steinle, the young San Francisco woman who was shot to death by an undocumented immigrant who had been repeatedly deported. He placed her death at the foot of “Gavin Newsom and California Democrats.” Newsom forcefully responded it was “offensive to politicize the tragic death” of Steinle, calling it “a complicated issue,” and said Allen’s charge was “shameful.” Cox called for the building of the border wall, saying that as governor, he also would reverse what he called “Gavin Newsom’s sanctuary state law,” saying it was about “MS-13 and other people who have committed crimes.” Newsom won cheers when he vowed on the issue of sanctuary cities, “I’m going to push back against John Cox, Travis Allen and Trumpism.” “Our ability to live together and oppose together is what makes California great, and I will always stand for those values,” he said. He called for “comprehensive reform at the federal level,” and vowed, “Until that happens, we will defend our immigrants.” Every Democratic candidate rejected the idea of a compromise to build Trump’s border wall — even one advanced by Democrats to make a deal on DACA students. “The wall is a monument to stupidity,”

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Newsom said to cheers.

"Newsom under attack in California governor debate," Politico, May 8, 2018

<https://www.politico.com/story/2018/05/08/california-governor-newsom-576777>

John Cox knows that illegal immigration is not a victimless crime and is costing taxpayers millions! We need to prosecute these individuals aggressively! He will work with the federal government to enforce the law, repeal California's sanctuary state, and build the wall. #Share #IllegalImmigration

John Cox for Governor official Facebook page, March 5, 2018

<https://www.facebook.com/JohnCoxforGovernor/posts/john-cox-knows-that-illegal-immigration-is-not-a-victimless-crime-and-is-costing/573261233049262/>

Immigration: Fixing a Broken System

John Cox flatly rejects Gavin Newsom's "sanctuary state" policies that have allowed violent criminal aliens to escape prosecution. Cox favors what he calls "smart immigration" that favors those with skills needed to fill specific worker shortages instead of competing with Americans for jobs. He also supports securing the border to stem the flow of illegal guns and human trafficking that's plaguing our inner cities.

John Cox for Governor website, "My Policy Agenda"

<https://johncoxforgovernor.com/my-policy-agenda/>

10. Normalize recreational drugs

Gavin Newsom: **YES**

John Cox: **NO**

This past November, Newsom also proved he's a serious force to reckon with when it comes to passing groundbreaking legislation. Having started California's Blue Ribbon Commission on Marijuana Policy in 2014, he campaigned for five months and got Proposition 64, legalizing adult use of marijuana in the state, passed, with 56 percent of voters in favor.

"The Reefer Revolution: Democratic Rising Star Gavin Newsom Explains Passing Prop 64 With the Music Industry's Help," Billboard, January 19, 2017

<https://www.billboard.com/articles/news/magazine-feature/7662284/gavin-newsom-prop-64-legalization-marijuana>

Cultivators, retailers and others have given Newsom's campaign more than \$300,000, according to a Los Angeles Times analysis of public records. As part of his aggressive fundraising drive, Newsom has become the first California gubernatorial candidate to solicit large sums from the cannabis industry — far eclipsing his rivals. Though pot businesses' contributions are only a fraction of Newsom's \$14-million war chest, the cannabis industry's open pursuit of political influence shows how a once-underground business is becoming a part of the establishment. So far, donors with a tie to the plant have given more to candidates for governor than all other farmers in the state's agriculture industry combined.

"The cannabis industry has a clear favorite in the race to be California's next governor," Los Angeles Times, July 27, 2017

<http://www.latimes.com/politics/la-pol-ca-newsom-cannabis-20170727-story.html>

Gavin Newsom, Democrat

Newsom is the only Democrat out of the four that claims he's never smoked pot. In fact, he "hates the stuff." That said,

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Report Card on Gavin Newsom and John Cox | SaveCalifornia.com, October 2018

Newsom was at the forefront of the cannabis movement, hopping aboard the legalization train early on. That foresight has paid off. Newsom has received the most money from the marijuana industry of any candidate running Tuesday.

John Cox, Republican

Cox is also opposed to recreational marijuana, though he says he does support medical use. Cox would like to see a system that treats pot use as a medical ailment rather than a crime, however. He made headlines recently when he went so far as to suggest marijuana users should be hospitalized for addiction.

“Where do the candidates for governor stand on cannabis?”, California Marijuana Policy, June 2, 2018

<http://calmarijuanapolicy.org/2018/06/where-do-candidates-governor-stand-cannabis.html>

Marijuana bosses are moving beyond “medicinal marijuana” and now want to usher in a FULL-BLOWN marijuana culture to forever change society. They want the next generation to think it’s “normal” to “get high.” Studies show marijuana is a gateway drug to cocaine and meth. Teens and young adults are especially at risk from today’s potent, mind-altering marijuana, which can permanently damage their developing brains and young lungs. If pot is legalized, your health and auto insurance will likely cost more because increased addictions, accidents, and drug rehab will burden all Californians. “Drugged driving” will become commonplace. It will be a new “right” to get high on marijuana at work, even in transportation jobs. Marijuana legalization means cities and counties can OK selling pot in grocery stores and permit marijuana operatives to buy thousands of acres of farmland.

“Legalizing Marijuana is a bad idea,” Marijuana Harms Families, September 2016

<http://marijuanaharmsfamilies.com>

California AB186, which attempted to legalize safe injection drug sites, was fortunately vetoed by Governor Brown. In so doing he proclaimed “.....enabling illegal and destructive drug use will never work. The disadvantages of this bill far outweigh the possible benefits.” Based on actual experience at similar sites in Canada, one can easily agree. While the stated intent of the bill was to reduce overdose deaths, experience in Toronto showed a 63% increase (303 deaths) from 2016 to 2017. In all of Ontario, there were 1,265 overdose deaths in 2017. British Columbia has had the same outcome, with a 61% increase in overdose deaths from 414 to 780 overdose deaths for the first nine months of 2017. In all cases of safe injection sites, it created a neighborhood filled with criminal activities, drug addicts, drug dealers, homeless people and abandoned needles. The same could be expected in San Francisco if a safe injection site is allowed. California already has a huge homeless problem. We can’t afford more. We applaud the Governor’s decision to veto this bill, but now we are equally concerned about Gavin Newsom, who is threatening to reverse this action if he becomes governor. During most of his time as Lt. Governor, Newsom led the effort to legalize marijuana, another dangerous drug. In so doing he violated his oath of office and traded his inherent responsibility to protect the people for campaign financing for his political future. The money came largely from in-state drug money and out-of-state billionaires with evil intent. Together they spent \$33 to \$35 million to get voters to buy the lie that Prop 64 would be beneficial to this state. In reality it has the potential to destroy California. Should Newsom become governor, he will be working for those who are marketing addiction to our youth, not the people. This poses a dire threat to our youth, natural resources, public safety and the future of our once great state.

“Gavin Newsom unwisely favors safe injection sites,” Stop Pot, October 20, 2018

<http://www.stoppot.org/2018/10/20/gavin-newsom-unwisely-favors-safe-injection-sites/#more-7726>

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