

## PUTTING CALIFORNIANS FIRST

AMERICA FIRST POLICY INSTITUTE

## Our Nation is a land of dreams, and nowhere has this dream stirred the imagination more than the great state of California.

California embodies the pioneering spirit that anything is possible and that ours is a country of boundless hope and opportunity. This is what drove men and women past the Rockies and the Sierra Nevada Mountains, on covered wagons and against all odds, toward this land of milk and honey. The land itself began to represent something unconquerable in the human spirit, something that was uniquely and undeniably American.

Later still, drawn by stories of gold speckling the riverbeds, small towns started to form among old Spanish outposts. Orange groves crept up the coast. Trains and automobiles arrived, and oil derricks began to appear. Earthquakes came, but the brave people of California rebuilt. The cities grew bigger and wider and the freeways broader, and the people, with the horrors of two world wars behind them, sought warmth and the ocean. This time, they were driven by different dreams, but the indomitable American spirit was still at the heart of them.

And yet, at some point in the last 40 years, California lost its way. Unfortunately, burdensome regulations, crippling taxes, high energy costs, and even higher crime rates have become the norm. And sadly, departing businesses and abandoned storefronts now mark what was once the land of plenty. On top of all this, California is now witnessing an increasingly intolerant culture war waged against those who do not subscribe to certain ideologies.

Based on the belief that there is still hope for turning things around, the America First Policy Institute (AFPI), a nonprofit, non-partisan research institute that educates lawmakers and the American public on the policies that put America first, has founded a state chapter in California. Building on AFPI's America First Agenda, AFPI-California is committed to the renewal of California. By embracing the policies that helped build California's economy, this state can once again experience a bright new chapter.

## We base our work on the following policies:

## **Emphasizing PUBLIC SAFETY for All California Families**

Our society is based on the rule of law, and yet California has seen a resurgence of violent crime as a result of failed policies. California families need to feel safe, whether they are in their homes or on their streets.

# Establishing Commonsense SOLUTIONS for the HOMELESSNESS Crisis

Something isn't working. Over-regulated housing markets, wasteful spending on programs that do not work, and mismanaged infrastructure projects have driven up housing costs. Drug addiction and substance issues that are enabled by fringe drug policies and rogue district attorneys exacerbate the issue.

## Making the California ECONOMY Work Again

The opportunities embodied by California should not be stifled by high taxes and burdensome regulations. The dream of succeeding in this state should be available to everyone. Companies have been leaving California at an alarming rate, but we are confident that the state can reverse this trend and restore its former economic greatness.

## Tapping Into Unparalleled ENERGY Capacity

California could be the very literal bedrock of energy production by focusing on its immense supply of natural gas and oil. To do so, the state must explore new pathways of energy independence, including nuclear power. Eliminating wasteful burdens on energy suppliers can be a model for increasing energy production for the rest of the country.

## **Ensuring EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES** for California's Children

California families must have access to the best educational systems, and children from all backgrounds should be able to attend a school of their choice. They should also be able to attend schools with curricula that will instill them with skills and keep them competitive for whatever the future holds.

For more information and policy recommendations, check out AFPI's website today!

LEARN MORE



## A Strategic Approach for California

To develop these strategies in California, AFPI-California brings key partners together who can help build out these policy prescriptions. California has a legacy of liberty and freedom-oriented thought-leaders, including academic institutions, think tanks, civic groups, and religious organizations. Many of these organizations can be counted on to help reverse the decline of this great state.

## WE WILL BUILD THE **AMERICA FIRST** MOVEMENT FOR CALIFORNIA THROUGH:

### Engagement

By connecting with California communities, we strengthen alliances and foster new relationships.

## Policy Development

We are building out an agenda that develops California-specific policies and solutions, tapping into best practices from academic experts, policy practitioners, and other thought leaders.

## Research Partnerships

By bringing together like-minded Californians, we work as a force multiplier for each other's work so that our assets go even further.

### **Events**

By regularly convening speakers and meetings across California, we reinforce the message that there are still many hardworking, honest, and thoughtful Californians who want to save their state.

By mobilizing these efforts, we are expanding upon the America First Agenda and addressing the needs of hardworking Californians.

IT IS NOT TOO LATE, AND IT NEVER WILL BE TOO LATE.

For an in-depth understanding of our work, please visit <a href="mailto:americafirstpolicy.com/state-chapter/america-first-california">americafirstpolicy.com/state-chapter/america-first-california</a>



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