

- » [News Flash](#)
- » [Advertise in Print!](#)
- » [Send Us News!!](#)
- » [Email Pavel](#)

Tuesday, October 26, 2010 6:38:44 am PDT

[Login / Register](#)

Text Size:

search...

[CITIES](#) [COMMUNITIES](#) [GOVERNMENT](#) [POLITICAL](#) [BUSINESS & FINANCE](#) [ENVIRONMENT](#) [SPORTS](#) [LIFESTYLE](#)



TOP NEWS STORIES

- With budget in place, critics turn to Prop 25
- Whoremongering: The real problem with Jerry Brown's "whore" episode
- Brown challenges Whitman to justify capital gains tax cut
- Hispanic vote crucial for Whitman in November
- Proposition 23 – good or bad for California's businesses?

Most Recent News

With budget in place, critics turn to Prop 25
Monday, 25 October 2010

In light of the recent overdue budget's passage through the state senate, it is little wonder Proposition 25 has been gaining attention. Currently, California is the only state that requires a two-thirds majority vote to pass the state budget. Prop 25 would change the...[Read more...](#)

Click image below to preview our print edition.



Why Texas is eating California's lunch

Political - California

BY MICHAEL M. ROSEN

MONDAY, 25 OCTOBER 2010 07:23

Guest Commentary

MARSHALL, TEXAS—Even in this small, quaint East Texas town, 20 miles from the Louisiana border, everything seems larger than life.

From the endless rolling hills to the massive German shepherds that gave chase during my ill-advised runs in the countryside to the heaping portions of barbeque at the Country Tavern in nearby Kilgore (where I, keeping kosher, settled for a huge green salad), stuff in Texas just seems bigger.

Politics, too, looms larger and more potent here than elsewhere. A former judge and the first Republican to represent this district since Reconstruction, Rep. Louie Gohmert is the kind of conservative that makes Glenn Beck and Sarah Palin seem squishy.

Among his more notable achievements, he voted against both TARP and the stimulus; he supported a [two-month tax income tax holiday](#) for all Americans; he co-sponsored [legislation](#) that would compel all presidential candidates to make available certified copies of their birth-certificates; he went on national television to decry the scourge of "[terror babies](#)," or the Islamist equivalent of anchor babies born to foreigners in the U.S.; and he [accused](#) the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention of seeking the power "to force you to eat more fruits and vegetables."

It's not just the politicians who embody supercharged conservative values, but the grassroots activists too. Earlier this year, a [billboard](#) in Marshall made national waves, asking passersby, simply: "Voted Obama? Embarrassed Yet?"

Another billboard just outside my hotel was all black with the following message scrawled in bright yellow writing: "Had Enough of: Stimulus...Bailouts...Homosexual Marriage? Then Vote Republican." There didn't seem to be anyone in particular who approved that message.

But what's really big in Texas nowadays is economic recovery, especially compared to California. The Bureau of Labor Statistics reports that more than half of the net new jobs created in the United States over the past 12 months originated here in Texas: 119,000 out of 214,000. Amazingly, during those same twelve months, California shed 112,000 net jobs—almost the same number that Texas created.

While Californians have been afflicted by a 12.4% unemployment rate—nearly three points above the national average—Texans enjoy an [8.1% rate](#), a point and a half below the U.S. as a whole.

So how has the Lone Star State done it? Simple: lower taxes, less spending, and a friendly business climate.

Unlike California and many states in the union, Texas has no state income tax. So while states like Washington, which also has no such tax, are entertaining ballot measures that would actually [add a state income tax](#) in the middle of a recession, Texas has remained blissfully free of such a levy. And while Texas imposes an oil severance tax, which we in California still (thankfully) [don't have](#), the burden it imposes pales in comparison to our cumulative tax load.

Furthermore, the state government in Austin spends much less than comparably-sized states. According to the Texas Public Policy Foundation, the state's budget in 2008 amounted to 17.3% of GDP, five points less than the nation

Search the MLS!
Free Home Info
SanDiegoAllHomes.com
Community and School Reports

Search the MLS!
Free Home Info
SanDiegoAllHomes.com
Community and School Reports

Ads by Google

[Property Tax](#)
[Prop 19](#)
[Prop A](#)
[Income Tax Rates](#)
[Unemployment Tax](#)

Popular

- [Is marijuana the right medicine for California's budget?](#)
- [California's 10% sales tax has arrived](#)
- [Boxer pulls ahead in polls as Calif. senate race closes in](#)
- [Long way to go for water bond until November ballot](#)
- [Q&A with Steve Cooley, Attorney General candidate](#)

Comments

Why Texas is eating California's lunch
JUST TO BE CLEAR -- DURING THAT 2000 THROUGH 2007 TIME FRAME, CALIFORNIA LOST A NET 1.1 MILLION PEOPLE TO OTHER STATES. SO E...
San Diego County gasoline price ends 19-day streak of rising prices
CALIFORNIA HAS THE HIGHEST GASOLINE TAX (AVERAGING 67.4 CENTS/GALLON) IN THE NATION, 4 CENTS ABOVE SECOND PLACE HAWAII (JULY,...
Panelists debate SD recycling, waste and fate of Miramar Landfill
HMMM. WASNT GREGORY CANYON LTD. ONE OF THE FUNDERS OF THE OPPOSITION TO AB 737, WHICH WOULD HAVE REQUIRED STRATEGIES BE DEV...
Prop. 23, California's global warming and unemployment showdown
LET US NOT POINT FINGERS, BUT BE A GOOD EXAMPLE. THIS IS HOW WE MAKE THIS COUNTRY GREAT. PROP 23

IS NOT FOR CALIFORNIA. WWW....

as a whole and eight points less than the Golden State. **Spending per capita** in California is 33% greater than in Texas. Indeed, it's difficult for the legislature to spend much when it **meets only every other year**.

But most impressively, the state goes out of its way to recruit businesses to its precincts. Governor Rick Perry famously takes "hunting trips" in California for businesses sick and tired of our deadly combination of high taxes and absurd regulation. Even Sen. Dianne Feinstein's husband recently **moved** workers from the Orange County office of his CB Richard Ellis real estate company to Dallas.

According to the Claremont Institute's William Voegeli, between 2000 and 2007, California lost 1.1 million people while Texas absorbed 500,000 new arrivals. And whereas California for the first time in more than 100 years will likely not receive a new congressional seat after the 2010 decennial redistricting, Texas is set to **gain as many as four new congressmen**.

So sure enough, Texas isn't just big, it's getting bigger, and at the expense of states like our own. Until we turn things around quickly in California by learning from the Lone Star state, Texas will keep eating our lunch.

Michael M. Rosen, a News Room contributor, is an attorney in Carmel Valley and the Secretary of the Republican Party of San Diego County. The views expressed are his own.



Email This Set as favorite

Trackback(0)

TrackBack URI for this entry

Comments (1)

...

Just to be clear -- during that 2000 through 2007 time frame, California lost a NET 1.1 million people to other states. So even after counting all those folks who doubtless moved to CA during that time frame, we lost 1.1 million MORE. Indeed, according to my source, from 2000 through mid 2008, we lost a net 1.4 million people. <http://www.mdp.state.md.us/msd...able5.pdf>



The departures slowed in 2008 only because people couldn't sell their homes.

These are not welfare kings and queens departing. They are the young, the educated, the productive, the ambitious, the wealthy (such as Tiger Woods), and retirees seeking to make their pensions provide more bang for the buck. The irony is that a disproportionate number of these seniors are retired state and local government employees fleeing the state that provides them with their opulent pensions – in order to avoid the high taxes that these same employees pushed so hard through their unions. And once they move out of California, our state can no longer tax their California-paid pensions.

Richard Rider, Chair, San Diego Tax Fighters, October 25, 2010

Write comment

You must be logged in to post a comment. Please register if you do not have an account yet.

Ads by Google

- [Local Tax](#)
- [Sales Tax](#)
- [California Ballot Prop](#)
- [California Proposition](#)
- [Obama Taxes](#)

HOME NEWS FLASH SIGN UP LINKS CONTACT US ARCHIVE ADVANCED SEARCH

SDNR Categories

- San Diego Region
- Government
- Political
- Business & Finance
- Environment & Resources
- Sports
- Fun

About SDNR

- About Us
- Contact Us
- Terms of Use
- Privacy Policy

Partnerships

Advertise with Us

SDNR Feeds

- SDNR RSS
- News Flash
- News Feeds