

# CRISIS 1

*Advanced  
CRISIS*



**TOPIC:** California Secession

**CHAIRS:** Lily Van Fossen, Kai Succari

LAIMUN XXIX

*December 2-3*

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**Letter from the Secretariat**

3

**Introduction to the USG**

4

**Introduction to the Dais**

5

**Committee Description**

7

**Topic: California Secession**

8

**LAIMUN XXIX**

*December 2-3*

## Letter from the Secretaries-General

Dear Delegates,

On behalf of our entire staff, it is our pleasure to welcome you to Session XXIX of the Los Angeles Invitational Model United Nations (LAIMUN) conference. LAIMUN XXIX will take place on Saturday, December 2 and Sunday, December 3 of 2023 at the Mira Costa High School (MCHS) campus.

Our staff, composed of over 120 MCHS students, has been working tirelessly to make your debate experience the best it can be. You will find your dais members to be knowledgeable about the issues being debated and MUN procedure. We pride ourselves in hosting a conference that is educational and engaging, and we hope you take advantage of that as you prepare and debate.

At LAIMUN, we value thorough research and preparation. We ask that delegates write position papers following [these directions](#). The deadline to submit position papers to be considered for Committee and Research Awards is Friday, November 24 at 11:59 PM PT. The deadline to submit to be considered for Committee Awards is Thursday, November 30 at 11:59 PM PT.

We also encourage all delegates to read the [LAIMUN Rules of Procedure](#) for conference-specific information and as a reminder of points and motions that can be made during committee.

Feel free to reach out to our staff with any questions or concerns you may have. Delegates can find their chairs' contact information next to their committee profile and the Secretariat's email addresses on the staff page. Any member of the LAIMUN staff will be happy to assist you.

We look forward to seeing you in December!

Sincerely,

Akash Mishra and Lily Stern  
Secretaries-General, LAIMUN XXIX  
[secretarygeneral@mchsmun.org](mailto:secretarygeneral@mchsmun.org)



## Introduction to the USG

Dear Delegates,

Welcome to LAIMUN XXIX! I am Abby Simmons, your Crisis Under Secretary General, and with the help of Elliott Laffoon, the Crisis Director, we will be putting on this debate. We are both seniors here at Mira Costa and spent a lot of time researching these topics, so I can not wait to see what y'all have in store for debate!

When deciding on a topic, I wanted to choose something that would allow the delegates to develop a further understanding of their local community. I hope this topic inspires you to look more into California and become aware of the politics that impact you in this state. I hope that you will get as much out of this experience as possible and while I am committed to running a professional conference and expect our delegates to prioritize diplomacy, that should not hold you back from enjoying spirited debate in each committee. Our chairs intend to hold all delegates to high standards of research, solutions, speech, and diplomacy. With regard to directives, we have a strict no pre-written policy so all work must be created following the start of the first committee session.

If you have any questions, procedural or otherwise, you may direct them to [crisis@mchsmun.org](mailto:crisis@mchsmun.org). Please do not hesitate to contact us with any inquiries or concerns. We understand the unique nature of a crisis debate, and would be thrilled to go into further detail regarding procedure or additional explanations of your characters.

I can't wait to see what you have in store for December!

Best,  
Abby Simmons

## Introduction to the Dias

Hi delegates! My name is Lily Van Fossen and I'm a senior at Costa. I have been a part of Costa's MUN program for 4 years now, and have been to multiple travel and local conferences, with my favorites being NHSMUN, BruinMUN, and Berlin MUN. I love Crisis because of the creativity, spontaneity, and fast-paced environment that it offers, which sets it apart. This is my third year running Crisis at LAIMUN, and I have experience chairing and in backroom.

Outside of MUN, I'm the Team Captain of Mira Costa's Girls Varsity basketball team, and I'm a huge sports fan! My favorite teams are the Green Bay Packers (NFL), Chicago Cubs (MLB), and Golden State Warriors (NBA). In my free time, I'm an avid baker and reader, and I'm the co-president of the Read it and Weep mental health and book club. But of course, above all, I love being a part of Mira Costa MUN. I've met my best friends in this class and through this program have made many memories. Learning about the world through this program has really impacted my world perception and helped me to be more active in discussing social issues.

In this Crisis debate, Kai and I are looking for delegates who are creative and bring new ideas to the table. We specifically chose this topic in order to have a lively and exciting debate with the potential of heading in any direction! Outside-of-the-box thinking is encouraged, and embracing characters with energy and passion is what makes Crisis so fun. Please keep this in mind as you prepare, and we are eager to see what each and every delegate brings to the table.

Best of luck!

Lily Van Fossen

# ☛ LAIMUN XXIX ☛

Hello Delegates!

My name is Kai Succari and I will be one of the co-chairs for Crisis 1 this LAIMUN. I am a junior at Mira Costa and have been involved in the MUN program since freshman year. I've been to many local conferences and have been fortunate enough to go on travel trips as well, such as going to Washington, DC for WMHSMUN. Now I'm getting ready to chair LAIMUN, and am so excited to see you all! Go Costa!

Outside of MUN, I am on the Mira Costa Rugby Team. I started as varsity fullback since my freshman year and have also gone international to play rugby, including Italy. I was on the All Star Rugby Team for the Southern California Interscholastic Rugby Federation representing Mira Costa. I am apart of the Sending Sunshine Club here on campus and also volunteer at Habitat LA from time to time. On the weekends, you can catch me playing rugby, soccer, and various other sports, as well as at the beach hanging out with friends. I am also a huge fan of the UFC and love going to the gym whenever I can. I love watching television, listening to music, and food.

In Crisis 1, I would love to see a wide array of unique solutions that focus on the crises at hand. Make sure they are thorough and contribute to your end goal. Most importantly, have fun! Can't wait to see you all in committee!

Yours truly --- Kai Succari

## Committee Description

The year is 2052, California is an economic powerhouse and has decided that it is time to cut ties with the United States in the hope of becoming an independent nation. With a rise in alternative political parties, delegates will be forced to collaborate with one another in order to build a California that runs efficiently. Furthermore as an independent nation California will be forced to deal with its own economic, social, and political issues which means delegates will have to respond quickly to new information that arises during the debate. During the course of this fictional crisis we will be examining many very real issues such as policy disagreements, economic inequality, and our impact upon the environment. Delegates will examine their character's policy to determine which actions they are capable of carrying out in their attempt to create a new California. Delegates will assume a variety of roles ranging from CEO to Chairwoman of the San Manuel Indian Board, but each will be able to provide a different angle which will ensure the new California is one that promotes the interests of its citizens.

## Topic: California Secession

### I. Background:

In the United States, much of the public is divided by the two dominating political parties: Democrats and Republicans. With starkly different values and policies with very little common ground between the two parties, a lot of tension and conflict is present between the two. In the past, however, many Americans shared views pertaining to both Republicans and Democrats equally. Before the 21st century, 49% of Americans had “mixed” ideological views, having an equal number of conservative and liberal positions.<sup>1</sup> The number of Americans who are consistently conservative or liberal has doubled from 10% to 20% over the past two decades<sup>2</sup>. This has caused a huge issue of polarization within the nation and in turn, means that there is less that the two parties can agree on and less chances for them to cooperate on modern issues. To add, 27% of partisans from the Democratic side and 36% from that of the Republican believe that the opposing party is a threat to the nation’s well-being.<sup>2</sup>

Demographics play a huge role in political parties in the United States. With important active policies such as foreign affairs, immigration, and healthcare, we see many minorities lean heavily towards the Democratic side, who have a priority on these topics. While Democrats would rather focus on immigration, abortion, and healthcare policies, Republicans focus on terrorism, foreign policy, and taxes. The different priorities between the two parties is directly

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<sup>1</sup> *Consumer Federation of America*,  
<https://consumerfed.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/10/CA15-Keeter.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.pewresearch.org/politics/2014/06/12/political-polarization-in-the-american-public/>



related to how conservative the Republican party has stayed compared to the progressive Democratic party. Studies from the Pew Research Center have also shown that Democratic voters were also younger, more likely to have college degrees, less likely to reside in rural areas, and more likely to be religiously unaffiliated. In the past 4 elections, black, hispanic, and asian groups made up a significant percent of the total Democratic vote, while making up a pretty insignificant percent of Republican votes.<sup>3</sup> In the 2016 election and the 2018 midterms, 88% of republican voters were white<sup>3</sup>. At this rate, the animosity between the political factions and the growing polarization is only going to foster less cooperation. In order to solve the problems facing our nation, we must find a common ground and work together to make a better place for all demographics.

The United States is dealing with a large variety of hot button topics as of 2023. For instance, Roe vs Wade was controversially overturned in June of 2022 and has left absolute disarray in its wake, the climate change crisis continues to rage on, and recently ex-president Donald Trump has been arrested in Georgia on accounts of conspiring to overturn the 2020 presidential election. With all of this turmoil, it is not surprising to consider that the United States feels extremely divided, as any given American seems to hold a firm stance on all of these topics, and an alarming lack of tolerance for considering opinions other than their own has caused lots of polarization in our nation. Furthermore, the presence of social media has made it incredibly easy for misinformation to be shared and spread, further deepening bias and division.

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<sup>3</sup><https://www.pewresearch.org/politics/2023/07/12/demographic-profiles-of-republican-and-democratic-vote>

While our crisis debate takes place 30 years in the future, understanding the divisions occurring in America during 2023 can offer insight as to the ways in which our nation could continue to divide, and it shows the cracks in which civil rebellion could seep in. This can also be indicated by considering the movements of 2020, for example the Black Lives Matter Movement, during which Black Americans protested the racism and ignorance in America, with the catalyst being the death of George Floyd due to excessive police brutality. To trace back history even further, the Black Panther Party was another Black Power movement in the 1960's which was based in Oakland, California. Considering this, and the fact that several minority groups including African Americans, Asian Americans, Native Americans, and Latinx have histories of protests for basic rights that largely grew out of California, it is important to realize that these minority groups have deep personal ties to advocating for their autonomy within the state.

As one of the strongest blue states in modern times, it might be hard to believe that California was once actually heavily considered a red state until the 1990s. From 1952 to 1988, the state sided with popular Republicans such as Richard Nixon and Ronald Reagan. The big turning point for California was in 1994 with Proposition 187, which targeted immigrants by restricting undocumented immigrants from public services, education and healthcare. Prop 187 also called for teachers and healthcare professionals to report people thought to be undocumented immigrants to either the Immigration and Naturalization Services (INS) or the state Attorney General<sup>4</sup>. The proposition sparked much controversy as it led to the profiling and

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<sup>4</sup> <https://guides.loc.gov/latinx-civil-rights/california-proposition-187>

targeting of those who had “foreign” traits. Facing an economic recession, Prop 187 scapegoated undocumented immigrants and the Governor of California pushed for the speedy implementation of this bill. Even with its passing, Prop 187 was injected and underwent a legal review.

Proposition 187 was later ruled unconstitutional as it violated the 14th Amendment, which “protects individuals regardless of citizenship status.”<sup>4</sup> In the late 1990s, Prop 187 and others alike lost popularity following California’s economic boom.

Ever since the failure of Prop 187, the increase of Latinos and Asian-Americans in California led to the state leading more towards blue, combating anti-immigration agendas imposed by the other side. With the surge of minorities voting Democrat in the late 1990s, Democratic candidates have won every election since 1992 in California.<sup>5</sup> Since then, the state has been able to enact a lot of the party’s progressive policies state-wide, including those on civil and reproductive rights. As one of the most diverse states in the nation, minorities make up over 60% of the state’s labor force.<sup>6</sup> Today, California currently has 40 out of 52 representatives being Democrats, and two democratic senators. California continues to be a quintessential advocate for liberalism and progressivism in the United States.

## **II. Current Situation:**

Start Date: January 15, 2053

The start date for the committee will be January 15th, just 5 days before the inauguration of the new president of the United States. The 2052 election was the most controversial in

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<sup>5</sup> <https://www.latimes.com/projects/la-pol-ca-california-voting-history/>

<sup>6</sup> <https://socialmission.org/the-race-and-ethnicity-of-the-california-health-workforce>

American history as thousands of votes were tampered with by an unknown group of radicals. By tampering with swing states, the outcome of the election was drastically different from the projected win for Democratic candidate Kamala Harris. Californians were avid supporters of her campaign and overwhelmingly voted for the former Vice President. The unknown radicals used different methods to tamper with ballots and the election, including coercion and identity fraud. These radical's actions as well as lost votes caused a significant shift in the projected election results, sparking much conspiracies and outrage. The tampered ballots were discovered too late in the election process for a recount and thus were ruled lost, just 3 days before the electoral votes arrived in the Senate. Each election, more people decide to switch to absentee voting such as mail-in ballots, and with over 69% of ballots being done through mail-in and nontraditional ways,<sup>7</sup> the tampering present in the 2052 elections is something that Californians are indignant about. In 2016, 1.4 million, almost 4.0% of mail ballots were lost and uncounted in the end.<sup>8</sup> Each election, these nontraditional methods of voting have become more widely utilized by Americans. As mail-in ballots become more popular, they become much harder to regulate, leading to an elevated percentage of lost votes through this popular method.

Today, as inauguration draws closer, uprisings have sprung up in major cities across the greater Los Angeles county and around its capital, Sacramento. The conspiracies tied with the unknown nationals and the future of the President's Republican regimes spark a nationalist sentiment within California, fostering feelings of resentment towards the rest of the US, most

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<sup>7</sup><https://www.census.gov/library/stories/2021/04/what-methods-did-people-use-to-vote-in-2020-election>

<sup>8</sup> Stewart III, Charles. "Reconsidering Lost Votes by Mail." *SSRN Electronic Journal*, 2020, <https://doi.org/10.2139/ssrn.3660625>.

significantly towards the Republican-leaning states. Many Democrats felt that their beliefs related to abortion, healthcare, and the economy were in danger. As of the start date, protests have raged throughout California, stressing the notion of seceding from the United States.

There are a plethora of speculations of what this could mean for the United States, however as a booming economic power in itself and a large tech industry, many believe California is one state that could flourish as an independent country. California is also home to countless ports, including the Port of Los Angeles, which is leading the international community in TEUs (twenty-foot equivalent unit). TEUs are the inexact unit of cargo capacity in a shipping container and provide a rough estimate of the amount of imports and exports certain ports handle at a time. In 2021, the Port of Los Angeles handled 10.7 million TEUs and it is ranked first in the Western Hemisphere for container ports.<sup>9</sup> California not only contributes a vast majority to the US's shipping economy, it also is a front-runner in its agricultural economy as well, planting over  $\frac{1}{3}$  of the country's vegetables and  $\frac{3}{4}$  of its fruits and nuts.<sup>10</sup> Also, California contributed 14.2% to the total US GDP, the most out of every state.<sup>11</sup> While this proves California can thrive as an independent nation, it also shows the detrimental effects it might have on the remaining United States.

### **III. Topics To Consider:**

#### *A. Economy*

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<sup>9</sup> <https://www.portoflosangeles.org/business/statistics/facts-and-figures>

<sup>10</sup> <https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/Statistics/>

<sup>11</sup> <https://www.bea.gov/>

As of 2023, California is poised to overtake Germany as the world's 4th largest economy. Overtaking entire countries while in state status is no small feat, and California looks poised to only grow from here. According to Bloomberg, "The market capitalization of California companies in this business increased 731% the past three years, or 1.74 times more than their German counterparts".<sup>12</sup> The massive economic success of California can be largely attributed to the state's infamous reputation and undeniable appeal, which has led people to Golden Coasts ever since the Gold Rush of 1848 where everyday-men flocked West to strike it rich. In modern times, few are packing up pickaxes, but still the glitzy appeal remains. The film industry continues to flourish, with around 2,415,628 individuals<sup>13</sup> being employed in entertainment between 2009-2021. Another major draw to California is the notorious "Silicon Valley" tech industry. It is estimated that around 7.7% of California's workplace are currently employed in tech-related jobs, which makes it the largest tech-employed state in the entire United States. Furthermore, in 2023 there is projected to be a 2.8% increase in tech industry employment which roughly translates to around 42,000 new job openings.<sup>14</sup> Furthermore, companies headquartered in California will have to create international trade relations if California secedes in order to

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<sup>12</sup>Winkler, Matthew A. "California Poised to Overtake Germany as World's No. 4 Economy." *Bloomberg.com*, 24 October 2022, <https://www.bloomberg.com/opinion/articles/2022-10-24/california-poised-to-overtake-germany-as-world-s-no-4-economy>. Accessed 14 June 2023.

<sup>13</sup> Charles, Robyn. "California Film Commission Progress Report 2022 | Page 1." *California Film Commission*, <https://cdn.film.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/Progress-Report-2022.pdf>. Accessed 14 June 2023.

<sup>14</sup> "California tech workforce grows in depth and breadth: CompTIA releases year in review State of the Tech Workforce report." *PR Newswire*, 30 March 2023, <https://www.prnewswire.com/news-releases/california-tech-workforce-grows-in-depth-and-breadth-comptia-releases-year-in-review-state-of-the-tech-workforce-report-301785982.html>. Accessed 14 June 2023.

maintain a US market, which goes to show how complicated things would become if California were to secede, as this would likely throw off the economies of nations worldwide.

## *B. Agriculture/Food Supply*

Another sector in which California excels is agriculture. The rest of America is extremely dependent on California for their food supply, as the state accounts for a significant 12% of the nation's agriculture value.<sup>15</sup> Examples of primarily California grown crops include almonds, grapes, walnuts, lettuce, tomatoes, pistachios, and various berries. In fact, California grows almost half of all fruits and nuts consumed in the United States. Clearly, California is crucial to the food supply and agricultural economy of the US, with a recent report revealing that in 2021, California's agriculture production export value was estimated to be around \$22.5 billion<sup>16</sup>, and there are a variety of reasons for this. One factor is the generally temperate climate and sunny weather that can be found in most of the state's regions. Another factor is the state's large size, around 100 million acres, of which roughly 43 million acres are used for agriculture.<sup>17</sup>

## *C. Social Implications*

If California were to secede, there would no doubt be intense repercussions for both the state's residents but the larger US as well. One outcome that seems likely if such a drastic action occurred would be a civil war. Considering the violence of the American Civil War in the 1860s

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<sup>15</sup> "Agriculture Facts - Plant Sciences - Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo." *Plant Sciences - Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo*, <https://aepe.calpoly.edu/about/hortfacts>. Accessed 21 June 2023.

<sup>16</sup> "California Agriculture Statistics Review 2021-2022." *California Department of Food and Agriculture*, 6 March 2023, [https://www.cdffa.ca.gov/Statistics/PDFs/2022\\_Ag\\_Stats\\_Review.pdf](https://www.cdffa.ca.gov/Statistics/PDFs/2022_Ag_Stats_Review.pdf). Accessed 21 June 2023.

<sup>17</sup> "Agricultural Land Loss and Conservation." *California Department of Food and Agriculture*, [https://www.cdffa.ca.gov/agvision/docs/agricultural\\_loss\\_and\\_conservation.pdf](https://www.cdffa.ca.gov/agvision/docs/agricultural_loss_and_conservation.pdf). Accessed 21 June 2023.

(which was the bloodiest US war with an estimated death count of 520,000),<sup>18</sup> it is not unheard of for violence to reach extreme peaks over a war waged on ideological differences. A more recent example of such an instance is the Insurrection of January 6th on the US Capitol as a result of Donald Trump's urges, which saw an attempted coup and reckless destruction of American property and threats on people's lives. Thus, it is not far fetched to hypothesize that a potentially bloody war could be waged between California and the remaining United States. Yet, it is also possible for a civil war to occur within the state of California between those who wish to secede and those who do not. If secession enthusiasts begin to take actions that cause those wishing to remain with the US to feel threatened, extreme measures could be by both sides that would escalate the state into civil warfare.<sup>19</sup>

#### *D. Political Implications*

California has always been a political black sheep within the larger United States, with its very statehood occurring due to the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo, which ended the Mexican-American War in 1848.<sup>20</sup> The state has often been the home of significant political movements, especially in the 1960's, with Ceaser Chavez's boycott to improve wages and working conditions for farmers, and the Black Panther Party founded in Oakland which took an

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<sup>18</sup> O'Neill, Aaron. "United States: war fatalities 1775-2023." *Statista*, 11 April 2023, <https://www.statista.com/statistics/1009819/total-us-military-fatalities-in-american-wars-1775-present/>. Accessed 21 June 2023.

<sup>19</sup> Nuwer, Rachel. "What if California seceded from the US?" *BBC*, 8 April 2019, <https://www.bbc.com/future/article/20190221-what-if-california-seceded-from-the-us>. Accessed 21 June 2023.

<sup>20</sup> *California becomes the 31st state in record time*, <https://www.history.com/this-day-in-history/california-becomes-the-31st-state-in-record-time>. Accessed 21 June 2023.



aggressive stance at the forefront of the Black Power Movement.<sup>21</sup> Thus, California has earned a reputation of being radical and leftist, and the state has voted Democratic in every presidential election since 1992. This progressive stance remains in 2023, with Governor Gavin Newsom pleading to keep abortion legal in the state. Additionally, with 53 seats in Congress (40 Democrat, 12 Republican),<sup>22</sup> California has lots of influence in US politics, and if it were to secede then lots of that influence would leave with it, potentially causing a significant increase in Republican influence within US politics as a result.

#### **IV. Character Profiles**

##### **Kevin McCarthy**

Kevin McCarthy is an American politician who currently represents California's 20th congressional district, though has represented the 22nd from 2007-2013 and the 23rd from 2013-2023. He has been an important person in the Republican Party, serving as the House Majority Leader and House Minority Leader at different times in his career. Furthermore, he took over as the 55th Speaker of the House of Representatives in early 2023. Throughout his years in the Republican Party he has had significant importance in shaping their conservative policies and promoting their agendas, and with his effective communication and political skills, he has risen through their ranks rapidly. Though in recent times he has pushed some polarizing opinions and faced criticism, he still remains an important figure in Californian and American politics.

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<sup>21</sup> Wolfson, Bernard J. "TIMELINE: California Activists, Reformers and Radicals | SoCal Connected | News & Community." *KCET*, 30 March 2010, <https://www.kcet.org/shows/socal-connected/timeline-california-activists-reformers-and-radicals>. Accessed 21 June 2023.

<sup>22</sup> "California House Midterm Election 2022: Live Results and Updates." *NBC News*, 8 November 2022, <https://www.nbcnews.com/politics/2022-elections/california-house-results>. Accessed 21 June 2023.

McCarthy is working to stop California succession and would be instead trying to increase the US Government's influence in California.

## **David Hochschild - Head of California Energy Commission**

David Hochschild is an American environmentalist and public official, who is currently serving as the head of the California Energy Commission. Throughout his career he has been dedicated to combating climate change in California and promoting clean and renewable energy. He played a major role in implementing California's aggressive renewable energy goals, and also pushed for policies that promote sustainable energy and reduce greenhouse gasses. Furthermore, he was involved in multiple initiatives to accelerate the transition to a clean energy economy throughout California. His commitment to combating climate change and helping California have made him a well-known figure in the clean energy community, and a model for sustainable practices. He doesn't have any major opinions on California succession but would be swayed to whichever side supports his views on climate change

## **Dave McClure - Silicon Valley**

Dave McClure is an American entrepreneur and venture capitalist who made significant contributions to the startup environment. In 2010, he co-founded the renowned Silicon Valley accelerator, 500 Startups. He had an extensive background in technology and business, helping McClure become known for his expertise in growth hacking and his hands-on approach to mentoring early-stage companies. He has played pivotal roles in supporting and investing in

numerous startups, providing them with the necessary resources and guidance to scale and succeed. Though due to past controversy leading him to step down from his role at 500 Startups in 2017, McClure's impact on the startup community remains significant, and his contributions to entrepreneurship and innovation continue to be seen today. Due to his wealth and desire to invest in a new California government to benefit companies by lowering government interference and allowing greater use of natural resources, he may be inclined to support succession if his business goals are met.

### **Lynn Valbuena - San Manuel Board of Indians Chairwoman**

Lynn Valbuena is a prominent figure known for her impactful contributions in Native American affairs in California. As a Native American leader, she has been pushing for the rights and well-being of indigenous communities, working constantly to promote cultural preservation and empowerment. Valbuena has held important roles within the San Manuel Board of Indians, including serving as a tribal chairwoman, where she played a crucial role in advancing economic development, healthcare initiatives, and educational opportunities for tribal members. With her strong dedication to her heritage, Valbuena has emerged as an influential advocate, creating positive change and advocating for social justice on local, state, and national levels. Due to her desire to gain more land autonomy for the indigenous people in California she may support succession if she is able to obtain more land and rights for her people.

### **Maxwell Testrin**

An avid follower of Joel Kotkin, who studies the numerous demographic, social, and economic trends within the United States middle class. Using this information, Testrin can make a massive impact with the California middle class, with big influence in many regions of southern California such as Orange County, Bakersfield, etc., which will enable him to sway the political decisions in these SoCal counties. As a conservative economist, Testrin focuses on championing free markets, privatization, tax cuts, and reduced government intervention within the potential new California government. Maxwell will need to focus on making ties with like-minded leaders in order to achieve a high position within the state of California.

## **Kate Adams**

Katherine “Kate” Adams was born April 20, 1964 in New York City. In 1986 she earned a bachelor’s degree in comparative literature with French and German concentrations, which can give her an upper hand on dealing with negotiations between French and German country politicians. In 1990 she earned a law degree from the University of Chicago Law School. Since then, she has been in multiple law firms, giving her the advantage of having connections with multiple United States’ lawmakers. She joined Apple in 2017 and has been in numerous articles on the U.S.’s top 50 women in business. Kate Adams has a net worth of roughly \$160 Million dollars, and she has the available networking and assistance to use this money toward secret tech projects with lawmakers in the U.S. or with different countries around the world. At this point, Kate Adams is the CEO of Apple, which makes her an important person in technological

innovation because of Silicon Valley's world-renowned status for advancements in this technological field.

## **Stan Wayland**

As a contemporary of Tom Campbell, Stan Wayland is an advocate for The Common Sense Party of California, recently established in 2019. This party supports campaigns involving finance reform, voting reform, and increased government transparency and accountability. Furthermore, the Common Sense Party wants politicians who aren't corrupt or have corporate influences, but instead wants officials who are readily engaged and actively participating to make progress in California governance. Wayland was closely associated with Campbell and his ideas of the Common Sense Party of California, so they share many of the same supporters which can help Wayland bolster progress in his campaigns for California's new government. He should also find support with California's researchers and scientists through Campbell's relationship in the physics community with his renowned book on his Theory of Everything. If Wayland doesn't manage to start an early campaign, it will be hard for him to gain the support he needs to grow his power and influence in the powerful state of California.

## **Kamala Harris**

Kamala Harris served as the 49th vice president of the United States under President Joe Biden. Prior to her position of vice president, Harris was the Attorney General of California from 2011 until 2017 and a representative of California in the Senate from 2017 until 2021. During her time in the Senate, Kamala advocated for easier citizenship access for immigrants, inclusive healthcare, tax reforms, and numerous other liberal ideologies. A member of the Democratic Party, Kamala is the second African-American woman and the first South Asian American to serve in the Senate. Furthermore, she was the first woman to assume the role of vice president and the highest-ranking woman in the government in American history. She ran for president in 2020, attempting to become the first female president. She lost due to widespread support for the republican candidate, coming heavily from California. As a result, she believes the election was tampered with and is fueling further secession efforts with her distrust of the new American leadership.

## **James Taiclet**

James Taiclet is the president and CEO of Lockheed Martin Corporation, a prominent aerospace company responsible for many advanced technologies and systems. James first held a notable position in the company when he became a director on Lockheed Martin's board of directors in January, 2018. In March of 2021, he became chairman of the board after being promoted to president and CEO. Previously, James served as the president of Allied Signal before it went defunct in 1999. Taiclet earned a bachelor's degree from the US Air Force

Academy before serving as a pilot for six years in the air force. He went on to continue his education at Princeton University, earning a master's degree in public affairs, which ultimately led to his success in the aerospace industry. Under Taiclet's control, Lockheed Martin has defense contracts with the US and not California. Lockheed Martin has the decision to create new defense contracts with California. They can continue to assist the US by relocating out of California or through maintaining US connections from inside California.

## **Peter Thiel**

Peter Thiel is a German-American venture capitalist, political activist, and billionaire. At the time of writing, Thiel's net worth is nearly USD\$10 billion. His initial wealth came from co-founding PayPal in 1998, which he then served as CEO for four years until it was sold to eBay for USD\$1.5 billion. Thiel is also the first outside investor of Facebook. He purchased a 10.2% stake for USD\$500,000 in 2004 which he then sold for about USD\$1,033,000 in 2012. Thiel is self described as a conservative libertarian, meaning he believes in the combination of individual liberties and traditional values. A member of the Republican Party, Thiel has voiced his support for numerous candidates, both Republican and Libertarian. In the 2022 elections, he donated \$20.4 million to Republican candidates. In the 2052 elections, he continued his support for Republican candidates. Although he wishes for California to remain part of the United States, he will support secession granted it presents him with economic benefit.

## **Betty Yee**

Betty Yee is the current Vice Chair of the California Democratic Party. She assumed the position in May, 2021. She has also served as the Controller of California, a position in the Executive branch of California's government. In March, 2019, Yee announced that she would run for state governor in the 2026 election. She was victorious in the election and fulfilled her term as governor. Yee is also the vice president of California Women Lead, which is a nonprofit, nonpartisan group for females involved in politics. She voiced her Democratic values and beliefs of women empowerment when she supported Kamala Harris in the 2022 Presidential Election.

## **Lukas Wesley**

Lukas Wesley is an ecofascist from northern California whose ideology has been shaped after seeing the results of climate change threaten the natural ecosystem in the forests and rivers near his home. He was originally a brilliant academic who attended Berkeley to study chemistry and applied mathematics which has influenced some of his forms of protest. He was radicalized as a fascist during his childhood and has continued to preach the ideals of fascism and conservatism into his adulthood which has led to him gaining a small but significant political following of political extremists. He and his followers are dedicated to protecting the Earth through any means necessary, including violence, and ensuring that fascism becomes the dominant ideology during this politically tumultuous time.

## **Keith Rabois**

Keith Rabois is a highly influential figure in the technology industry, renowned for his



career as a serial entrepreneur, venture capitalist, and strategic advisor. With a notable track record of co-founding successful companies like PayPal and serving as an executive at LinkedIn and Square, Rabois has left a large mark on the tech landscape. His expertise in business strategy, product development, and investment has had a profound impact on shaping the broader entrepreneurial ecosystem. Known for his sharp insights and innovative thinking, Rabois continues to be sought after for his valuable contributions to both established companies and emerging startups. His major companies are headquartered in California, so he would like California to remain in the United States to allow them to remain in the Interstate Commerce Act. Contracts must be negotiated if secession happens. He will have larger investment power if California remains a part of the United States.

## **Joe Green**

Joe Green has made a significant mark as both an entrepreneur and a fervent political activist. He gained widespread recognition for co-founding Causes, a pioneering online platform that revolutionized social and political activism. With Causes, Green empowered millions of individuals to support and mobilize around causes they deeply care about, effectively harnessing the power of technology for social good. Beyond his entrepreneurial endeavors, Green has been actively involved in grassroots organizing and mobilization efforts, making him a key player in the realm of civic engagement. Through his dedication to empowering individuals and creating positive change, Green has inspired countless people to become active participants in shaping their communities and society at large.

## **Karen Ross**

Karen Ross is a highly respected figure in the field of agriculture and government. With a distinguished career, she has held the position of Secretary of the California Department of Food and Agriculture, where her expertise and leadership have been instrumental in shaping agricultural policies. Ross has championed sustainable farming practices, environmental stewardship, and the promotion of food safety. Her work has not only contributed to the growth and prosperity of the agricultural industry but also to the well-being of rural communities. By striking a balance between economic development and ecological sustainability, Ross has become a driving force in shaping California's agricultural landscape and ensuring a sustainable future for the state. Since California exports most of their fruits and vegetables domestically, she must focus on establishing international trade agreements to be prepared if California secedes. If California secedes, American access to produce would drastically decrease and become less accessible.

## **Louis J Marinelli**

Louis J Marinelli initially gained prominence as a leader in the movement advocating for California's independence from the United States, commonly known as "Calexit." His fervent efforts to spearhead the secessionist campaign sparked debates and conversations about the feasibility and potential consequences of such movements within the United States. Marinelli's journey has added nuance to the discourse surrounding self-determination and

raised important questions about the practicality and implications of secession in a modern political landscape. Currently, as secession efforts have gained momentum, he has gained power in California politics.

## **Montana Newsom**

Montana Newsom is the daughter of the famous and infamous Gavin Newsom. Her Father was the former Governor of California. She attended the University of California Berkeley, dual majoring in political science and rhetoric. She followed in her father's footsteps and joined statewide California Politics. Eventually she became Governor of California on November 22nd , 2048). She served as a fairly moderate democrat, using the connections her father forged to rule to hold onto power, all while attempting to prove her own political ability. Whether or not she relies on her dad's connections or her own, Montana will now have to weather the coming storm that California succession will be and the upcoming gubernatorial election in California.

## **Jessica Patterson**

Jessica Patterson is the chairperson of the California Republican Party, helping elect Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger, Mayor Rudy Giuliani, and Senator John McCain. She served as chairperson from 2019-2023, where she stepped down from the position upon the birth of her second child. Coincidentally, she began to build up contacts and yes men in order to build a political machine in her hometown of Simi Valley, an act which would be unbecoming of a

Republican chairperson. During her first term she was criticized by the wider republican party for being too “establishment”- namely that she focused on local California-Based issues like housing prices rather than national republican issues like abortions. She was not, in essence, far right enough for the wider republican party. She was forced to rectify this mistake when she won the chairmanship of the Californian Republican Party once more in 2049. Jessica will now have to walk on a knife’s edge between developing her regional power in Simi Valley and the wider Ventura valley area

## **Reid D. Milanovich**

Reid D. Milanovich was elected chairperson of the Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians on April 5th 2022. He has been the Band’s chairperson ever since. He has aggressively pursued his iteration of “Land Back” in which he wanted to return his occupied ancestral lands back to the hands of his tribe. During his chairpersonship, the Agua Caliente Band has gradually expanded it’s control over the Palm Springs area through monies gained from it’s casino, spa and tourism enterprises. He has de facto control of the greater Palm Springs area because of this. Milanovich will have to decide whether or not supporting the seceding California will be in the best interests of his Band or if the burgeoning country will lead to his Cahuilan fiefdom’s downfall.

## **Patrisse Cullors**

Patrisse Cullors is a political activist who founded Black Lives Matter in 2013 to

fight police brutalization of African Americans, all while being an avowed pacifist . She stepped down from her executive position in the movement in May 2021, but she still has power and has connections within the organization. She has not however remained on the sidelines while society in the United States deteriorates. Just before the election of Kamala Harris, Patrisse returned to the political theater. Patrisse backed Kamala Harris’s presidential campaign, all while asserting early that Kamala would never win because of the conservative nature of the presidential process. Cullors was right. But she believes that Black people would still be subjugated under this potential new California republic. So she fights now to preserve the work of Black Lives Matter in both the seceding California and the greater United States.

## **V. Guiding Questions:**

1. How might the desires and ideological differences between California’s vastly diverse population impact the state’s ability to form a united front against the rest of the US? (Consider beliefs held by Indian leaders vs. Republican Party members for example) And could these differences cause a civil war within California itself?
2. Considering the rest of the US’s reliance on California’s agriculture, how might its secession impact the nation’s food supply?
3. Would the secession of California cause other states in the US to consider following suit and pursuing their own sovereignty?
4. What repercussions would California face if its efforts to secede fail?

5. How hostile would the confrontation become? Consider if tensions could be resolved diplomatically, if they would heighten into a cold war, or become violent through militarization. Or could there be another outcome?
6. How might immigration/emigration change if secession were successful? (think Mexico to US vs. California, or from bordering US states such as Arizona or Oregon)
7. How would California's secession alter the economy of the remaining US and/or the success of tech corporations such as Apple, considering the impact of Silicon Valley?
8. How would California's secession alter the political landscape of the US?

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