

January 15, 2018

2018 is upon us with a great deal of promise for the new year with changes locally, statewide and at the federal level. Some changes are good and needed while others may not be so good, depending on each individuals perspective on the matter. At any rate we enter the new year with changes to the rules that we lived with in 2017.

Here in Humboldt County we will see the implementation of the recreational use of Marijuana along with the opening of dispensaries and the demands for production of the product. There will be many issues that will arise from this new aspect to the industry that will have many struggles along the way.

The State of California will also be dealing with the marijuana issue along with a multitude of other changes. One that comes to mind is the designation of California as a sanctuary state in opposition to federal law regarding illegal immigration.

The new designation greatly inhibits Law Enforcements ability to work with federal agencies in regards to the legal status of foreign nationals. This will place a burden on communities throughout the state, which would allow violent offenders to stay in our communities.

Many polls of Californians reveal that a majority do not agree with the Sanctuary State designation. It will be interesting to

see how this plays out over the next year and how this impacts our counties and cities.

Another interesting change for lawful gun owners is the inability to purchase ammunition online and have it delivered to your home. As of January 1st, it will no longer be permitted in California and all ammunition must be purchased at a store.

It is also important to note California is one of the highest taxed states in the country, which has resulted in a large number of middle class individuals leaving the state for more tax friendly worker friendly states such as Texas.

On the federal level one of the biggest changes is in the tax legislation passed in December. Most Americans will see a reduction in their tax burden and will actually keep more of what they make. This should also effect large corporations with increased growth and productivity.

I saw a report on CNN recently where they chose 3 separate households from New York, New Jersey and California. CNN brought in a tax analyst, who went over each of the individuals taxes from 2016 and found that under the new legislation each would pay less taxes. Each of these states represent the highest taxed states in the country.

So look forward to 2018, despite the good or the not so good changes the year brings. This has been Mike Downey for community comment.