

April 23, 2018

There has been a lot in the news lately regarding the social issues plaguing California and they are many. Homelessness, Opioid epidemic, Immigration, gun control, the marijuana industry, sanctuary cities and the move of number cities and Orange County voting to opt out of the sanctuary city mandate from the State of California.

All of these issues has lead to renewed discussions regarding the possibility of splitting California into two or more states. If you look at the electoral map from the 2016 election you will find the evidence of how diverse California actually is.

The map reveals that approximately 8 to 10 coastal counties are heavily democratic and the rest off the state votes predominantly Republican. The coastal counties that vote Democrat have the largest population and dictate the politics of the state, but the argument is that a vast area of the state with its own diverse interest are not heard. That is one reason why you see the recent move away from state law, regarding sanctuary cities, by Orange County and many surrounding cities.

There have been many models of how to split the state; such as breaking it into six separate states or as simple as drawing a line from west to east through the center of California and naming them Northern and Southern California. The best option I've seen is separating the state based upon the electoral map from the 2016 election.

Basing such a separation upon political ideologies seems to benefit all those affected. Liberal leaning communities would not see much of a change politically, but the conservative communities would. Those vast geographic areas of the state would then be able to govern based upon the needs and issues affecting their communities. Makes sense!

But of course this would not happen over night and there would be a lot of issues to deal with in the separation of government. The effort required for such an undertaking would be great but not impossible if the people request it to happen.

Remember we are a republic and the right of every citizen is embodied in the writings of our constitution. All voices need to be heard and it seems as though they may not be here in California. Some may point to other states that have similar issues but that is for them to determine when and if the time comes. California's destiny needs to be determined by California's and our politician's need to be sensitive to that or the call for splitting the state will continue.

One other thing the model of splitting the state based upon the electoral map places Sacramento County with the liberal coastal counties. I guess that makes sense due to the type legislation coming out Sacramento over the years. This has been Mike Downey for community comment.