



Written by [Staff](#) on September 6, 2022

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## Inside Track

### California to Phase Out New Gas-powered Cars by 2035

On August 25, the California Air Resources Board (CARB) moved to completely phase out new gasoline-powered vehicles by the year 2035 in the Golden State. The group of unelected bureaucrats voted to approve the Advanced Clean Cars II plan, which demands that all new vehicles sold in the state must be “100% zero-emission” by 2035.

CARB consists of 14 voting members, 12 of whom have been appointed by climate-alarmist governors Gavin Newsom (D), Jerry Brown (D), and Arnold Schwarzenegger, a Republican. Two other voting members represent what CARB refers to as “environmental justice communities.” The environmental justice members are appointed by California’s far-left Legislature, one by the House and one by the Senate.

Board Chair Liane Randolph, appointed in 2020 by Newsom, hailed the new rules as “ground-breaking.”

“Once again California is leading the nation and the world with a regulation that sets ambitious but achievable targets for ZEV (Zero Emission Vehicle) sales. Rapidly accelerating the number of ZEVs on our roads and highways will deliver substantial emission and pollution reductions to all Californians, especially for those who live near roadways and suffer from persistent air pollution,” Randolph said.



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Approximately 16 percent of new cars sold in California during the first quarter of 2022 were electric. By 2026, the plan dictates, one-third of all new vehicles sold in the state will be electric.

California accounts for approximately 10 percent of the U.S. car market, but has nearly 43 percent of all electric vehicles.

On August 24, Newsom trumpeted the coming plan that he first announced in 2020.

“The climate crisis is solvable if we focus on the big, bold steps necessary to stem the tide of carbon pollution,” Newsom claimed. The governor said the plan represents “the action we must take if we’re serious about leaving this planet better off for future generations.”

“We will be the first jurisdiction in the world to require all new cars to be sold to be alternative fuel



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cars,” Newsom boasted to reporters.

— James Murphy

## New Polling Shows America Becoming Less Liberal

Over the last five years, the number of voters identifying themselves as “liberal” has dropped from more than a third to just a quarter, according to the results of a Morning Consult poll released August 18.

In 2017, 34 percent of those polled claimed they were either “very liberal,” “liberal,” or “somewhat liberal.” Five years later, that number has dropped to 27 percent, a 20 percent decline. As Eli Yokley, a senior reporter at Morning Consult, expressed it, “The left is losing the battle for the minds of the American electorate.”

The shift is happening across nearly every demographic. The share of black Republicans identifying themselves as “conservative” jumped from 37 percent to 58 percent, while Hispanic Republicans declaring themselves as conservative rose from 48 percent to 66 percent.



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The share of young people — ages 18-34 — who identify themselves as liberal has dropped more than any other age group. And, even more surprising, the share of Democrats identifying themselves as liberal dropped from 60 percent to 55 percent.

Buried in the study was additional cause for optimism: The share of those who declared themselves as “moderate” in their politics, along with those who really don’t know what they are, has grown from 30 percent to 35 percent.

That’s the third of the electorate who typically carry the day in elections. If efforts to educate that large swath of moderates or “don’t knows” back to America’s founding principles are even modestly successful, then the American Republic has an increasingly favorable chance of being restored.

The shift in voters’ attitudes reported by Morning Consult is a welcome sign. It reflects not only the “awakening” of many to the threat of tyranny stalking the nation, but also the decades of real education on why America is unique in all of human history. More and more people are seeing through the false promises of liberals.

— Bob Adelman



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## **GOP Report: Biden Lied About Afghanistan Withdrawal**

In August, Republicans on the House Foreign Affairs Committee issued a devastating report that shows the Biden administration repeatedly lied about the botched U.S. withdrawal from Afghanistan and its ensuing consequences.

Biden's top advisors knew what would happen if the United States pulled out so quickly; i.e., that the Taliban would quickly defeat Afghan forces. As well, the Biden State Department failed to prepare for the withdrawal. But Biden ordered it anyway.

Worse still, the State Department is stonewalling House Republicans and refusing to answer questions and provide information about the disaster.

Although Biden said the unconditional withdrawal from the country "was based on many factors," committee Republicans believe "none of these claims were accurate," and that Biden knew they were inaccurate when he announced the withdrawal in April last year.



AP Images

In fact, U.S. military leaders and NATO allies favored a "continued conditions-based deployment in Afghanistan," and believed the best course was gradual withdrawal and "keep[ing] an advisory and counterterrorism mission in place that consisted of 2,500 U.S. military personnel along with 6,000 mostly NATO forces."

Biden's diplomats "agreed" with the approach, but the "president opted to reject their advice, instead pursuing an unconditional withdrawal, and citing the need to deploy 'tens of thousands' [of] additional U.S. troops to pursue the conditions-based approach."

The U.S. military, the summary continues, did not agree with Biden's claim, and, even worse, the "administration's own internal assessments understood that the Afghan military would be unable to defend the country from the Taliban without American air support, military advisors, and contractors."

Officials "repeatedly" warned Biden that the Taliban would prevail, and that al-Qaeda and other terrorists would resurface.

The summary also details the administration's poorly planned evacuation of Afghans. As well, the Taliban has released militants and terrorists from prison who "now have the ability to train freely and to



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potentially access the over \$7 billion of U.S. supplied weapons, ground vehicles, and aircraft they seized.”

— R. Cort Kirkwood

## Florida School District Places an AR-15 in Every School

A spokesman for the Indian River County School District in Florida told a local news outlet August 12 that they had installed enhanced safety measures at the start of the school year.

Those enhanced safety measures include providing each school with an AR-15 semi-automatic rifle available instantly in the event of a threat. And the local sheriff warned potential shooters they are prepared to meet any threat. Said Indian River County Sheriff Eric Flowers:



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If they're coming at us with an AR-15 we're gonna return with the same or greater firepower.... If something were to happen ... [the resource officers] would have ready access to that AR-15 and their shield to be able to respond immediately.... Our folks are there to protect the kids. Our folks are bringing guns, they're the good guys. When bad guys show up with guns, they're gonna find our guns. They're gonna find out that we're well prepared and that we're prepared for that threat. Us bringing guns to campuses only keeps the schools safer. We've seen what's happened in Parkland. We've seen what happened in Uvalde. Our folks are not gonna stand by and wait for something bad to happen to kids in Indian River County.... Our folks are not gonna be running backwards to get a shield, running backwards to get a rifle. They're gonna go directly at the threat and the teams that come in behind them can bring in that additional gear as they're responding.

The move by the Indian River County School District, with more than 15,000 enrolled students, has national political implications. It strengthens the reputation of Governor Ron DeSantis, who has consistently supported the Second Amendment, and it's a direct challenge to the current anti-gun agenda at the federal level.

— Bob Adelman



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