



Written by [Staff](#) on June 18, 2018

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Inside Track

More Taxpayers Fleeing Illinois Than Any Other State

Thanks to the mass exodus of citizens from the Land of Lincoln, Illinois has dropped from the fifth most-populous state in the union to sixth, Breitbart reported May 22. This is largely because the state is taxing them out of their homes.

Over the last two years, more than 70,000 people have left Illinois for more tax-friendly climes such as Texas, Florida, and even South Dakota and Wyoming. In fact, Chicago is the only city in the United States that has consistently lost citizens over the last five years. The so-called “U-Haul index” rates Illinois as number one for outbound moving vans.

They are no doubt getting out while the getting is good. Many of the state’s 656 public pension plans are so far under water that the state passed a law allowing something called an “intercept,” which allows pension boards to raid a delinquent municipality’s state income tax funds. The municipalities of Harvey and North Chicago have already suffered the indignity, and the pain, of having funds siphoned off to make those delinquent pension-plan contributions.

But taxpayers are not just fleeing Illinois. With the passage of tax reform, high-income earners will no longer be able to take state and local tax deductions, making their cost of living in high-cost states such as California and New York even higher. Over the last 10 years, California has lost a million residents thanks to high taxes and high housing prices. The average California house now costs twice what the average U.S. house costs. The price of gas there is 30 percent higher than the national average and the local tax burden is 10 percent greater.

The exodus is eroding the tax base of Illinois and other states, while the generous welfare schemes in these states are inviting the poor to move there. This is a recipe for increasing the incentive to move for those who can. Those fleeing high-tax — usually deep blue — states such as Illinois are being drawn to low-tax states such as Wyoming, South Dakota, Texas, and Florida, which are typically bright red.

Southern Baptists Cut Ties With D.C. Baptists Over Homosexuality

The Southern Baptist Convention (SBC), the nation’s largest evangelical denomination, has severed ties with the District of Columbia Baptist Convention (DCBC) after the Washington, D.C., church group refused to discipline a church under its jurisdiction that had hired a pair of lesbian co-pastors.

In February, the SBC’s Executive Committee issued the DCBC a 90-day ultimatum to remove all congregations in its fellowship that “practice affirming, approving, or endorsing homosexual behavior,” *Baptist Press News* noted on May 22. The action came after one of the DCBC’s member congregations, Calvary Baptist Church in Washington, D.C., voted in January 2017 to install a lesbian couple as co-pastors.

Calvary, a 155-year-old congregation founded by abolitionists, had disassociated from the SBC in 2012, but was still part of the DCBC. But when the church called lesbian partners Maria Swearingen and Sally Sarratt co-pastors in 2017, the SBC’s Executive Committee charged that by failing to discipline the congregation, the DCBC had tacitly approved of the unbiblical actions of Calvary.



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After the DCBC failed to comply with the SBC's warning as of May 21, the SBC severed its relationship with the group. "The formal relationship between the SBC and the DCBC has come to an end," said D. August Boto, the SBC's Executive Committee president, in a prepared statement.

Boto said that the SBC's Executive Committee had "expressed deep regret over the need to take this action, but felt compelled to affirm biblical truth over organizational relationships." He added that the committee embraced a "willingness to consider resuming its relationship with the DCBC in the future," should the group act to remove Calvary Baptist from its fellowship.

However, while DCBC Executive Director Robert Cochran had earlier emphasized that the DCBC "has not affirmed, approved, or endorsed homosexual behavior in any way at any time," and that it "respects the official statements" on homosexuality by the SBC, he made it clear that his group had "no plans to disassociate" with Calvary Baptist Church, and had not discussed "the issue of homosexuality" with Calvary Baptist leadership.

Colleges: "Snowflake" Disability Now Gets You More Time on Tests

Is being a snowflake a disability? This is apparently the case at (pseudo)elite U.S. colleges, where up to one in four students are classified as "disabled" — often simply because they experience "stress and anxiety" — and are thus given special accommodations.

Disabled classifications have skyrocketed in recent years, with only a doctor's note necessary to be given the status (and then federal law dictates the person must be accommodated). At Pomona College in California, for instance, five percent of students fell into the category in 2014 — now 22 percent are classified as disabled.

This merely reflects other private colleges. As the *Wall Street Journal* reported May 24, "At Hampshire, Amherst and Smith colleges in Massachusetts and Yeshiva University in New York, one in five students are classified as disabled. At Oberlin College in Ohio, it is one in four. At Marlboro College in Vermont, it is one in three."

Students' coping mechanisms are now provided by colleges. The *Journal* again: "The rise in disability notes for mental-health issues has led to a surge in the number of students who take their exams in low-distraction testing centers, are allowed to get up and walk around during class or bring a comfort animal to school, among other measures." The latter can include being given twice as long to take exams.

In fact, schools go to ridiculous lengths to accommodate students. The University of Minnesota, for instance, administered 9,681 tests to students requiring extra time or those "low-distraction environments" — double the number in 2013. Not only has this made it necessary for staff to relinquish their offices for the "disabled" test takers, but during the past year the school actually had to rent 10,000 square feet of space at a local hotel for them.

This disability-over-meritocracy craze not only threatens to diminish the quality of future goods and services, but also our international competitiveness. After all, the Chinese already produce 10 times as many scientists as we do, and you can bet they're not coddling students with "safe spaces," low-distraction-environment rooms, and comfort animals.



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Boy Scouts Leadership Mandates Condoms for 2019 Jamboree

The Boy Scouts' 24th annual World Scout Jamboree is scheduled for July 21 through August 1, 2019, and global Boy Scouts leadership is mandating that condoms be "readily and easily accessible" for the event.

The theme of the 2019 jamboree is "Unlock a New World," and the event is being hosted by three international Scouting groups — Scouts Canada, the Asociación de Scouts de México, and the Scouts BSA. "These three distinct cultures will join together to host the world Scouting community in a celebration of cultural exchange, mutual understanding, peace, and friendship," the official jamboree announcement explains.

According to the mandate, issued by the World Scout Committee in the latest handbook of the World Organization of the Scout Movement, the group hosting the World Scout Jamboree (in this case Scouts BSA) must "ensure that condoms are readily and easily accessible for all participants and IST [staff] at a number of locations on the site."

As reported by *Charisma News* on May 21, "It appears the Jamboree guidelines were drafted after the 2015 World Jamboree in Japan in preparation for the 2019 event and were just recently released in an email."

More than 160 Boy Scouts organizations from around the world are expected to participate in next year's 12-day jamboree event in West Virginia, and with all the gender and sexuality changes in the wind, participants could include openly homosexual boys and adult Scout leaders, transgender and cross-dressing boys (and perhaps adults), and even an assortment of girls who have decided to join the once-respected organization.

In reality, this is not the first time that condoms have been made available at World Scout Jamborees. As reported by CNSNews.com in 2008, "Bangkok's public health ministry announced this week that condoms would be handed out to participants in the 20th World Scout Jamboree [in Thailand] on request.... A ministry spokesman was quoted as saying the aim was to prevent the spread of sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) such as AIDS, not to promote sexual activity."



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