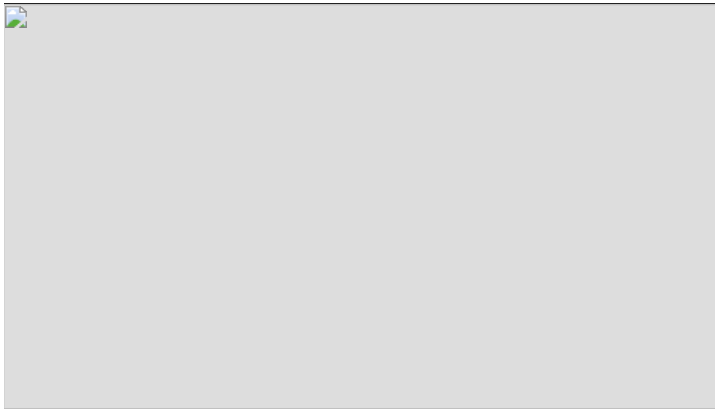



New California declares 'independence' from California in bid to become 51st state

EVEN CALIFORNIANS CAN'T STAND SILICON VALLEY'S ASSHOLES!

USA TODAY [NETWORK](#) [Josh Hafner](#), USA TODAY



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*(Photo: New California /
USA TODAY)*

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The founders of New California took an early step toward statehood Monday with the reading of their own Declaration of Independence from California, a state they describe as "ungovernable."

Their solution: Take over most of current-day California — including many rural counties — and leave the coastal urban areas to themselves.

"The current state of California has become governed by a tyranny," the group, led in part by vice chairman Robert Paul Preston, declared in [a document](#) published online.

The split would look something like this, per the group:



"After years of over taxation, regulation, and mono-party politics the State of California and many of its 58 Counties have become ungovernable," the group said in a statement, citing a "decline in essential basic services" including education, law enforcement, infrastructure and health care.

The group, organized with a council of county representatives and various committees, hopes to model their split after the state of West Virginia. That's according to [CBS](#), whose [Sacramento affiliate](#) filmed the reading in a sparsely crowded conference room.