Freedom is Back
America slowly returned to normal in 2021, recovering from the depths of the COVID-19 pandemic thanks in large part to the massive vaccine rollout developed under Operation Warp Speed.

As Americans slowly started back to work and school, PRIs work in 2021 was more important than ever before as we faced a new challenge from Washington. The new Biden Administration – with California Senator Kamala Harris as vice president – promised a 180-degree turn in policy toward increased spending, higher taxes, and more government control of our lives.

The Los Angeles Times proclaimed California was the “de-facto think tank for the Biden Administration.” In response, PRI launched the “Been There, Done That” campaign to educate the rest of the country about the negative consequences these blue state policy mistakes would bring, if adopted nationally – increased taxes and spending, bigger government with more mandates and regulations, and less freedom.

I was pleased to begin a new weekly health care column for Newsom in March called “The Pipeline,” alongside my regular health care columns for Forbes.com and the Washington Examiner and numerous op-eds published in newspapers across the country. In my writings, speeches, debates, op-eds, and media interviews, I wrote extensively about efforts by the Biden Administration to expand Obamacare. With the makeup of Congress, it would not be able to pass single-payer legislation or a public option, a government sponsored insurance plan to compete against private insurance plans. However, several states are pushing for single payer and adopting the public option. The public option is a steppingstone approach to single-payer health care.

When California Attorney General and former Congressman Xavier Becerra was nominated by President Biden as Secretary of Health and Human Services, I exposed his record as a lifelong advocate of government-run health care both at the national level and in California. Here at home, I educated Californians through op-eds and media interviews about what a proposal to create a new “Medicare for All” system with no private health care option would mean – higher costs, longer wait times, expensive new taxes, less access to care, fewer primary care doctors and specialists, and reduced innovation.

The Center for Medical Economics and Innovation, led by Dr. Wayne Winegarden, was a leading voice educating the public about federal and state proposals targeting prescription drugs. An issue brief I published in the fall of 2021 showed the American people were overwhelmingly opposed to a provision in the budget reconciliation bill that would limit their access to life-saving medications and new innovations. I was pleased to brief the offices of House Republican Leader Kevin McCarthy and House Energy and Commerce committee ranking member Cathy McMorris Rodgers on its findings.

In the Quantifying the Wrong Value series, Dr. Winegarden exposed the flaws in a common measurement used by government to determine a medicine’s value and showed how we can reform the drug pricing system to truly reflect how patients value a particular medication. He also published the first paper in the Coverage Denied series, which shows how the broken third-party health payment system hurts patients and exposes them to significant financial risk. Dr. Henry Miller, a former top official at the FDA, was frequently sought after for his comments on the development, testing, and rollout of COVID-19 vaccines and therapeutics.

With public schools struggling to reopen, the Center for Education analyzed the negative impact of school closures on student learning and promoted alternatives to help parents and students escape failing public schools. Center Director and Senior Fellow in Education Studies Lance Izumi published his latest book The Homeschool Room, exploring the rapid growth in homeschooling during the pandemic. The book shows why more parents dissatisfied with the status quo turned to homeschooling as an alternative to ensure their children’s individual learning needs are met.

As our economy slowly recovered, the Center for Business and Economics released the final papers in its Breaking Down Barriers to Opportunity series on entrepreneurship. “The Small Business Gig” showed how controversial laws like California’s AB 5 made it difficult for people to start or grow a business at home and provide for their families during the pandemic. “Promoting Economic Recovery Through Entrepreneurship, Not Government” documented how massive government spending and new programs designed to “help” small businesses recover actually hurt them.

The Center for the Environment launched the “Energy Reality Report,” a website and companion report to educate Americans about the benefits of competitive electric markets – lower costs, increased reliability, and cleaner power. We also scored a big victory in the U.S. Senate when Nebraska Sen. Deb Fischer – inspired by Dr. Winegarden’s research on electric car subsidies – led a bipartisan majority in taking the first step toward ending these “costly subsidies for the rich.”

The Center for California Reform published a new book on California’s homeless crisis, No Way Home (Encounter Books), which examines the root causes of homelessness including housing, poverty, and mental illness, and proposes realistic reforms with the greatest potential to reduce homelessness. With Californians voting on the recall of Gov. Gavin Newsom, PRI also released Saving California, featuring chapters written by me and nine other free-market scholars offering solutions for the state’s big problems, from crime to wildfires.

Though COVID-19 protocols precluded in-person events for much of the year, PRI hosted numerous virtual events featuring prominent voices like U.S. Reps. Young Kim, Connie Conway, and Lou Correa, former U.S. Rep. and Section 230 co-author (and former PRI board member) the Hon. Chris Cox, the Hon. Janice Rogers Brown, Liberty Energy CEO (and PRI board member) Chris Wright, and Andy Puzder, former CEO of Carl’s Jr. As in-person events resumed, we were fortunate to host noted author and Fox TV host Mark Levin at our Sir Antony Fisher Gala in San Francisco in October, and best-selling author Mollie Hemingway and honoree national talk show host Larry Elder at our Baroness Thatcher Gala in November in Newport Beach.

Thanks to the generosity of our friends and supporters, PRI scholars worked tirelessly in 2021 to promote market-based alternatives to the big government proposals emanating from Sacramento and Washington. Our team demonstrated how free-market ideas can make health care more affordable and accessible, provide more learning options for students, and empower individuals to climb the economic ladder through entrepreneurship – without sacrificing personal or economic liberty.

With your continued support, PRI will redouble its efforts in 2022 to inspire Californians and all Americans to advocate for much-needed change to restore the principles of liberty upon which America was founded.

Sally C. Pipes
President, CEO, and Thomas W. Smith Fellow in Health Care Policy
Notable 2021 Next Round Podcast Guests

Every week on PRI’s Next Round podcast, Rowena Itchon and Tim Anaya interview lawmakers, media commentators, policy experts and PRI scholars about the key issues facing California. Notable 2021 interviews and topics include:

- Congresswoman Young Kim
- Congresswoman Connie Conway
- Congressman Lou Correa
- University of Tennessee law professor and Instapundit founder Glenn Reynolds — America’s New Destiny in Space
- Sacramento County District Attorney Anne Marie Schubert — Rising Crime in California
- Debra J. Saunders — Covering the Trump White House
- Reason Foundation’s Robert Poole — President Biden’s “Infrastructure” Plan
- Gail Heriot — On her new book A Dubious Expediency
- Earth Day 2021 Special with Reason Foundation senior fellow Julian Morris
- The Hon. Pat Nolan — On California Crime
- Reason Foundation’s Adrian Moore — Saving California’s Infrastructure
- Melanie Kirkpatrick — On her new biography of Sarah Josepha Hale

2021 Highlights from PRI’s Right by the Bay Blog

PRI’s Right by the Bay blog provides daily free-market commentary on the major issues coming out of the State Capitol. In 2021, PRI scholars provided in-depth coverage and analysis of many public policy issues impacting Golden State residents, including:

- Rapidly-increasing California gas prices
- Increased crime in California’s major cities
- California’s single-payer health care legislation
- Legislation to address the state’s housing crisis
- Growing homelessness across the state
- How California would fare under the federal bipartisan infrastructure legislation
- Ongoing controversies with the High-Speed Rail project
- Debate over the 2021-22 state budget
Sally Pipes became a regular weekly columnist for Newsmax in March, with her column “The Pipeline” being routinely reprinted by nearly two dozen radio station websites across the country. She continued to publish her bi-weekly columns in Forbes and the Washington Examiner’s “Beltway Confidential” blog, and her op-eds were regularly featured in Real Clear Health, Kaiser Health News, and Issues and Insights.

She was heavily in demand for media interviews on Obamacare, single-payer health care, the public option, and other topics in the health care debate. In April, Pipes was a guest on Newsmax TV’s “National Report” to discuss her March Newsmax column on what the public gets wrong about the so-called public option. Her op-eds were also published in many national outlets including The Wall Street Journal, Boston Herald, Fortune, and Detroit News. Other television and radio highlights include regular appearances on Larry Elder’s nationally-syndicated radio show.

During the confirmation hearings of Xavier Becerra to become President Biden’s Secretary of Health and Human Services, Pipes shared insight about his record from his time as California attorney general in an interview on the “Just the News AM” television program on the America’s Voice cable network and in an interview in Healthcare Dive.

In California, as proponents of single-payer health care introduced another proposal (Assembly Bill 1400) to bring a “Medicare for All” style system to the Golden State, Pipes published an op-ed in March in the San Francisco Chronicle exploring how outlawing private health insurance would be bad for patients, doctors, and taxpayers. Her comments on the bill were also featured in stories by Capital Public Radio, California Healthline and Kaiser Health News, and in a Southern California News Group editorial.

Pipes gave numerous virtual and in-person speeches and presentations throughout 2021. She joined U.S. Senator Thom Tillis (R-North Carolina) for a virtual webinar on the Biden Administration’s policy agenda hosted by the John Locke Foundation. She spoke on a tele-townhall hosted by Americans for Prosperity on market-based health reforms featuring Congressman Chip Roy (R-Texas). She also discussed the potential for health care innovation through market-driven choices at a joint PRI-Goldwater Institute luncheon in Phoenix.
Publications:

- “Inherently Flawed: Why ICER’s cost-effectiveness models hinder our understanding of value,” Wayne Winegarden, Mar. 2021
- “Establishing a Two-Part Drug Pricing System to Promote Value-Based Pricing and Innovation,” Wayne Winegarden, Aug. 2021
- “Generating Drug Savings Through Competition,” Wayne Winegarden, Nov. 2021
- “Profiting from 340B,” Wayne Winegarden, Nov. 2021

The Center for Medical Economics and Innovation warned about the dangers of government drug pricing schemes. Sally Pipes published an issue brief in October revealing overwhelming public disapproval for provisions in the reconciliation bill that would cause patients to lose access to new life-saving medications. She gave presentations to senior staff to House Republican Leader Kevin McCarthy and House Energy and Commerce Committee ranking member Cathy McMorris Rodgers.

PRI also released the “Quantifying the Wrong Value” series by Dr. Wayne Winegarden, documenting the flawed methodologies of the ICER analysis used by government to determine a medicine’s value and proposing an alternate two-part drug pricing system quantifying separate values for innovation and production. The series received national television coverage on 60 Scripps Howard-owned television stations nationally. PRI co-hosted a July webinar with the Pioneer Institute exploring policies on drug value and whether ICER’s approach to determining drug value improved patient access and equity.

Winegarden released the first paper in the “Coverage Denied” series, which will propose reforms to fix the flawed third-party health care payment system that threatens health outcomes and exposes patients to huge financial risk. Another CMEI issue brief found that “340B hospitals” whose mission is to help the vulnerable were more profitable and provided less charity care than traditional hospitals.

The Center also promoted market-based policies to encourage innovation like biosimilars, gene therapies, and the COVID-19 vaccine. A November issue brief authored by Winegarden documented that patients could save up to $5.8 billion if biosimilars to Humira and Enbrel grew in market share.

In his regular op-eds and appearances on national radio shows hosted by Lars Larson and John Batchelor, Dr. Henry Miller analyzed the latest issues surrounding the development, testing, and distribution of the COVID-19 vaccines and therapeutics.
In November, Lance Izumi published his latest book *The Homeschool Boom*, which documents the dramatic rise in homeschooling in the U.S. in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic. Izumi promoted the book through interviews on the national cable news network Newsy, “The Chat” on KFDA-TV in Amarillo, TX, the KFBK Morning News in Sacramento, the California Charter Schools Association Podcast and national radio shows hosted by Lars Larson and David Webb. An op-ed by Izumi highlighting the book’s findings was published in over three dozen newspapers nationwide.

As students struggled to receive a good education as the COVID-19 pandemic dragged on, PRI released a brief authored by Izumi in January documenting how political interests, teachers’ unions, and legislators are thwarting new and existing charter schools. He discussed the brief on Harvard University School of Business’ education podcast, “Education Exchange” and numerous other radio and TV interviews.

As California schools struggled to reopen, PRI published a “Capital Ideas” brief by Izumi in March promoting the importance of schools swiftly reopening. The brief reviewed evidence showing that schools can safely reopen, analyzed data showing the impact of school closures on students, and evaluated the respective reopening plans. Izumi discussed his findings in interviews on “The Why” on the Newsy cable TV network, and on the popular “John and Ken Show” on KFI-AM in Los Angeles.

Izumi was a leading voice warning parents about legislation (Assembly Bill 1316) that would impose new charter school restrictions including denying full state funding to students attending independent study programs at non-classroom-based charter schools in California. The day after his widely read op-ed was published in the Orange County Register, the bill’s author pulled the legislation from consideration.

Izumi continued to promote his 2020 book *A Kite in a Hurricane No More*. As part of its National School Choice Week activities in January, PRI held a webinar on the book moderated by Izumi and featuring co-author Mia Giordano, Christine Zanello (PRI board member and Mia’s mom) and Barbara Arrowsmith-Young (the founder of the Arrowsmith Program that benefited Mia).
Publications:

- “Is California’s Economy on the Brink Due to Climate Change?” Capital Ideas, Kerry Jackson, Jan. 2021

Dr. Wayne Winegarden was frequently in demand for comment on the Biden Administration’s tax and spending proposals. In an April national TV interview on Fox Business Network, Winegarden argued that the Biden Administration’s capital gains tax proposal would accelerate the outmigration of jobs, investment and tax revenue from high tax states like California.

PRI released the final papers in its Breaking Down Barriers to Opportunity series. “The Small Business Gig” explores how the gig economy promotes small business growth and how laws like California’s AB 5 restrict people’s ability to become entrepreneurs and provide for their families. Winegarden discussed its findings on “NTD Business” on the national cable news channel NTD-TV, and the study received coverage in Center Square, RealClearPolicy, Smart Cities Dive and numerous California newspapers.

“Promoting Economic Recovery Through Entrepreneurship, Not Government,” released in November, found that government actions to “help” small business in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic – such as $5.9 trillion in authorized federal spending – worsened pre-pandemic burdens on entrepreneurship. Winegarden discussed the study’s findings in an interview on the nationally-syndicated Lars Larson Show, and in a debate on “Insight with Vicki Gonzalez” on Capital Public Radio in Sacramento.

Winegarden hosted a PRI webinar featuring New York Times bestselling author and entrepreneur Carol Roth discussing her new book The War on Small Business. The webinar aired several times throughout the summer on national television on C-SPAN’s “Book TV.” He was also quoted in a January U.S. News and World Report article on the economic impact of universal basic income, and in an April Forbes article on the negative economic consequences from a $15 minimum wage push.

PRI hosted a virtual debate in March on free speech and the role of social media in moderating online content between the Honorable Dan Oliver, chairman emeritus of PRI’s board of directors and former Federal Trade Commissioner under President Ronald Reagan and Bartlett Cleland, PRI’s senior fellow in Technology and Innovation and a top expert on tech policy. The debate was moderated by former Congressman Chris Cox, one of the original authors of Section 230, and garnered 24,000 online views.
In June, PRI launched the “Energy Reality Report” – www.energyrealityreport.org – to provide market-based perspective on policies impacting competitive electricity markets. The new website is regularly updated with news and analysis on policy, market, and technology trends that affect America’s ability to power homes and businesses with reliable, low-cost energy.

A companion study to the website, “Affordable and Reliable,” was published in September. Among its findings, states with competitive electricity markets saw cheaper energy prices, more energy infrastructure investment to improve efficiency and reliability, and greater emission reductions compared to states with monopoly electricity markets. Our research was covered by numerous publications including the Chicago Tribune, and an op-ed authored by Dr. Wayne Winegarden to promote the study was published in more than three dozen newspapers nationwide.

Citing Winegarden’s research on taxpayer-funded electric car subsidies, U.S. Sen. Deb Fischer (R-Nebraska) led the U.S. Senate in August to approve an amendment to the budget reconciliation bill “to ensure high-income individuals do not get government subsidies to buy expensive luxury cars” on a bipartisan vote.

Winegarden’s ongoing work on ESG (environmental, social, and governance) investing generated significant media interest. In March, he gave a television interview to BNN Bloomberg in Canada discussing his ESG research and the higher fees associated with ESG funds. His comments on ESG investing were featured in a March 2021 Wall Street Journal story, which was reprinted in several media outlets nationwide.

PRI continued to promote Winning the Water Wars by Steven Greenhut throughout 2021. Greenhut published an op-ed on California’s water challenges in a special April issue of National Review focused on California’s major problems and was interviewed by KPIX-TV in San Francisco on a Marin County push for new desalination plants. He discussed the book in interviews with Valley Public Radio in Fresno and KFBK-AM in Sacramento. In January, PRI published a Capital Ideas brief by Kerry Jackson exploring whether California’s economy was on the brink due to the state’s climate change policies, which was also reprinted in Issues and Insights and California Political Review.

The Center for the Environment reveals the dramatic and long-term trend towards a cleaner, healthier environment. It also examines and promotes the essential ingredients for abundant resources and environmental quality—property rights, markets, local action, and private initiative.
Publications:

- “Nickel and Dimed: Cell Phone Fees to Mattress Fees – How Californians’ Money is Really Being Spent,” Michael Thom, Feb. 9, 2021
- No Way Home, Wayne Winegarden, Kerry Jackson, Christopher Rufo, Joseph Tartakovsky, March 16, 2021
- Saving California: Solutions to the State’S Biggest Policy Problems, Edited by Steven Greenhut, August 2, 2021

In March, Encounter Books published No Way Home, a book on California’s homeless crisis authored by Kerry Jackson, Dr. Wayne Winegarden, Christopher Rufo, and Joseph Tartakovsky. It was an Amazon.com number one new release for mental health law books. The authors gave more than 30 media interviews and multiple presentations promoting the book’s findings.

In advance of the September 14 gubernatorial recall election, PRI released Saving California, edited by PRI Senior Fellow Steven Greenhut. The book offers realistic, market-based reforms by leading free market scholars to 10 of the state’s major policy challenges. An excerpt of the book was printed in American Spectator magazine, and Greenhut gave numerous media interviews promoting its findings.

PRI launched its “Been There, Done That” campaign in June to educate Americans about the negative consequences facing them if the California progressive agenda spread nationwide. The campaign includes a new microsite (www.pacificresearch.org/beentheredonethat) that is a one-stop resource featuring examples of how Americans would be negatively impacted by California progressive policies.

PRI’s work to create and advance policies that promote liberty and prosperity for all Americans would not be possible without its supporters. Thanks to the generosity of donors throughout the country, the Institute advanced policy reforms that encouraged entrepreneurship and job creation, free-market energy and environmental solutions, expanded educational opportunities, and improved access and choice in health care. We scaled existing programs and launched new ones to meet demand in California and nationwide for data-based, actionable solutions to our many challenges.

As we navigate the world post COVID-19, we must remain vigilant in defending our country from those who want to expand government control. With your partnership, the Pacific Research Institute vows to remain steadfast in promoting freedom-oriented policy solutions for a prosperous future.

How to Support PRI

Every gift to PRI counts. You can donate via check, stock, or wire transfer. To make a one-time or recurring online donation, visit pacificresearch.org/support-pri/. If you have questions or require additional information about stock or wire transfers, please contact PRI’s Development Department.

Membership

The Sir Antony Fisher Freedom Society recognizes PRI’s closest friends and most loyal supporters. Members of the Society contribute more than $1,000 each year and are key partners in PRI’s work to offer timely, market-driven solutions to policy issues important to citizens of our state and nation. The Society’s Young Leaders Circle gives young professionals access to special member events. For more information on the Society and to join, visit pacificresearch.org/join/.

Planned Giving

Including PRI in your estate plans provides you and your loved ones with several tax advantages and an assurance that your assets will go to an organization you know and trust. But more important, by making a planned gift to PRI, you are leaving a legacy to protect and renew freedom for generations. There are many opportunities to contribute to PRI’s mission, such as giving appreciated stock, making a gift to PRI from your individual retirement account (IRA), listing PRI as a beneficiary of retirement accounts and insurance policies, and including PRI in your will or trust.

Contact PRI’s Development Department

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(626) 714-7572
support@pacificresearch.org
Events

JANUARY 26, 2021
“How Students Can Overcome Learning Disabilities Through Science and School Choice”
2021 virtual National School Choice Week event featuring Mia Giordano discussing the PRI book A Kite in a Hurricane No More, moderated by Lance Inouye

FEBRUARY 4-5, 2021
3rd Annual PRI California Ideas in Action Conference (virtual event)
Featuring keynote speaker Congresswoman Young Kim

FEBRUARY 9, 2021
“Will Small Business Thrive in the Biden Administration?”
Virtual event with Andy Puzder, former CEO of CKE Restaurants, moderated by Dr. Steven Hayward

MARCH 2, 2021
Virtual debate on Section 230 with The Hon. Dan Oliver and PRI senior fellow Bartlett Cleland, moderated by The Hon. Chris Cox (original Section 230 co-author).

APRIL 6, 2021
“A Discussion with Charles R. Kesler on his new book, Crisis of the Two Constitutions”
Virtual event moderated by Dr. Steven Hayward

MAY 25, 2021
“Unleashing Innovation in Health Care by Embracing Free-Market Choices”
Arizona luncheon featuring PRI’s Sally C. Pipes and Goldwater Institute Director of Healthcare Policy Naomi Lopez

JUNE 29, 2021
Virtual event with Carol Roth on her new book The War on Small Business, moderated by Dr. Wayne Winegarden

JULY 19, 2021
“Policy Measures on Drug Value: Does ICER’s Approach Improve Patient Access & Equity?”
Virtual event co-hosted by PRI and the Pioneer Institute featuring PRI’s Dr. Wayne Winegarden and Pioneer Institute’s Dr. Bill Smith, moderated by Gunnar Esiason

JULY 20, 2021
“Bait and Switch: How the Wokerati Misleads the Public for Power and Profit”
Virtual event with The Hon. Janice Rogers Brown, moderated by The Hon. Dan Kolkey

OCTOBER 2, 2021
Annual Sir Antony Fisher Gala Dinner
Featuring keynote speaker and honoree Mark Levin
San Francisco, CA

NOVEMBER 4, 2021
“Canceling Cancel Culture”
Dinner and presentation with The Hon. Janice Rogers Brown, co-hosted by the UC Berkeley Public Law and Policy Program, Jack Miller Center, and Federalist Society
San Francisco, CA

NOVEMBER 13, 2021
Annual Baroness Thatcher Gala Dinner
Featuring keynote speaker Mollie Hemingway and honoree Larry Elder
Newport Beach, CA

DECEMBER 1, 2021
“Energy, Environment and The North Face”
Virtual event with Chris Wright, PRI Board Member and CEO of Liberty Energy, moderated by Dr. Steven Hayward

DECEMBER 9, 2021
Luncheon and book signing with Jason Riley on his new book Thomas Sowell: An American Maverick
Newport Beach, CA
Staff & Scholars

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Adjunct Scholars
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Richard A. Wallace

Christopher Wright
President and CEO, Liberty Resources, LLC

S. Christine Zanello
CEO, GCC Enterprises, Inc.
Pacific Research Institute was established in 1979, as a non-profit, non-partisan organization to champion freedom, opportunity, and personal responsibility. PRI’s mission is to provide practical, market-based solutions to the issues that affect each of us, every day. As we celebrate our mission, we thank our generous supporters who have helped us reach this milestone. We have had many victories in the battle of ideas. It has been a tremendous journey. With your future support, PRI will continue to fight for a freer and more prosperous future for California and the nation.