

photo is an altered “Now leaving California” sign. It reads: “Was it something we taxed?”

Here, a couple hundred members share California laws and regulations they find ridiculous or costly, affirming their and other members’ decision to leave. Mostly, though, they share stories of other Californians leaving California.

“I joined this group so I would at least have others to commiserate with,” said group member Melinda Temblador, who said she left “Commiefornia” because of “the high cost of everything, extreme moral decay and [being] pretty sick of bearing the cost of freeloaders for their free medical, free college, free free free stuff while I slave away staying awake at night wondering how I’m going to pay for my daughter’s college but the illegal next door gets it for free.

“If you sense a lot of anger on my part,” she wrote, “you would be correct. We absolutely made the best decision to flee. Have no regrets and are actively helping several family members to leave ASAP as well.”

Other group members echoed Temblador’s sentiments, adding that the state’s liberal bent left them feeling frustrated and isolated.

“I guess maybe it helps to solidify the fact we are not alone,” said Jonathan English Olmstead, who plans to leave California. “In this state, being a devoted Christian and Republican you feel as though you are the only one with these views.”

Not everyone is taking off for cheaper or greener pastures. Some have instead resorted to subletting or moving in with family to meet increased rental prices.

Raycheal Jarvis, a native of Marina in northern Monterey County, said she and her family, including four children, are living with her in-laws. Jarvis wanted to stay in Marina, “where neighbors still look out for one another,” but commuters to San Jose are snapping up properties at sky-high prices, she said. Jarvis is looking at other options, but so far, it seems the only place she and her family can afford housing is outside of the area.

“We don’t make enough to afford a home big enough to raise our family,” she said. □

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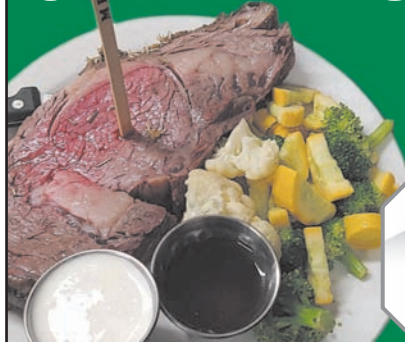
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