

THE FUTURE OF FEDERALISM AND FOREIGN POLICY

A CALIFORNIA 100 ISSUE ROADMAP FROM RESEARCH TO ACTION

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Federalism is a system of governance where the same geographic territory or policy domain is controlled by at least two levels of government. In California, some policy domains are shaped simultaneously by four levels of government: international, national, state, and local. California faces two fundamental governance problems related to federalism in the next century. Within its boundaries it must improve its ability to coordinate state and local government bodies to solve pressing problems such as climate change, water, housing, and health. With its welter of local governments, its tradition of only partly thought-out populist solutions, and growth of restrictive regulations affecting almost any action, California faces gridlock and inaction.

Outside its boundaries, California has the opportunity to re-establish its position in the American federal system and in the world. California is the fifth largest economic in the world and its population is larger than about 200 countries. Within the United States, California ranks very high in population, economic output, tech innovation, environmental sustainability, racial diversity and inclusive policies, and yet it is dramatically under-represented at the national level because the U.S. Senate counts California the same as it does Wyoming and Vermont, the nation's smallest states by population and economic output, respectively. Within these constraints, California must consider how it will define itself and interact with other states, with the federal government, and with jurisdictions outside the United States in order to advance its distinct vision of governance to solve the state's problems.

FROM RESEARCH TO ACTION

What will these challenges and opportunities in federalism and foreign policy mean for current and future generations of Californians, and how can we make sure that California's future remains innovative, resilient, inclusive, sustainable, and equitable?

In June 2022, the California 100 Initiative released a policy and future scenarios report on federalism and foreign policy, developed jointly by researchers at Stanford's Bill Lane Center for the American West and California 100. The team conducted extensive primary and secondary research to examine possible scenarios and policy options for future-focused action, paying detailed attention to water scarcity under worsening conditions of climate change.

"The challenges of extreme weather spill across jurisdictional boundaries and will test the resource adequacy and resilience of water and energy systems," said **Bruce Cain, lead researcher on the Future of Federalism and Foreign Policy report, and director of Stanford's Bill Lane Center for the American West.** "California needs to develop more coordinated decentralized governance systems to deal with the climate challenges that lie ahead."



FUTURE SCENARIOS

Other key takeaways from the California 100 report include a consideration of policy options that improve federalism and foreign policy under **four future scenarios** that center around whether or not the collective challenges facing California (on matters such as water scarcity, forest fires, and immigration scarcity) are severe or mild, and where or not there are high or low levels of coordination and collaboration across government agencies at the local, state, national, and international levels.

In a context where collective challenges are severe, the scenarios range from a patchwork of separate and unequal policy responses across local jurisdictions where interagency collaboration is low, to greater centralization of power at the state level to deal with growing emergencies on a range of issues. In a context where collective challenges are relatively mild, the scenarios range from parochial ineffectiveness to solve chronic problems that

Whatever the scenario, the research commissioned by California 100 indicates that we should refrain from “doing nothing” as a default or fall-back option. In order for California to perform better under these various scenarios, the state will need to consider, research, and enact solutions that advance **innovation** (such as flexible governing agreements that maintain transparency and accountability), **resilience** (such as the ability of communities and jurisdictions to respond better to health, environmental, and financial shocks), **inclusion** (such as enabling collaborative processes that are inclusive of jurisdictions as well as people and communities), **sustainability** (addressing environmental, economic, and human sustainability goals), and **equity** (with well-resourced policies that eliminate disparities by race, income, gender, and other markers of social disadvantage).



Artist rendering of future scenarios in federalism and foreign policy
Source: California 100

THE CALIFORNIA 100 ROADMAP

The California 100 report on policies and future scenarios is the first step in a multi-stage process that is designed to inspire and engage Californians—from a variety of sectors and all walks of life—to build a stronger future for current and future generations. In the summer of 2022, our expert and intergenerational Commission will conduct a series of listening sessions throughout the state, to solicit feedback on the ideas generated by our research and to generate additional big and bold ideas for consideration by public and private agencies, as well as by everyday Californians. We will also be generating insights from our policy innovation projects throughout the state that cover a variety of topics, and our deep engagement on questions of science and technology as they relate to a variety of issues, including federalism and foreign policy.

In early 2023, we will take these various policy ideas and scenarios, and engage in a process of deliberative democracy featuring a representative cross-section of California residents. The goal of this deliberative exercise is to understand the conditions under which Californians from various walks of life can come to agreement on the long-term challenges facing the state and, importantly, the kind of bold and visionary solutions we need to put the state on a stronger trajectory for the next century.

California 100 will also be engaging intentionally with young Californians, who have the most to gain or lose in the coming century. Our team members will engage young people throughout the state, including in high school and college settings, and will organize a statewide youth summit that will produce a manifesto for the future of California.

Finally, in Winter and Spring 2023, our intergenerational Commission will draft a vision and strategy document for the future of California, based on briefing materials that build on insights from the various streams of work. California 100 will then launch a culminating event in early summer 2023 that serves as the formal launch of the vision and strategy document and, importantly, also brings together leaders and partners from our various streams of work and prior engagement.

Our culminating event in the summer of 2023 will:

1. Showcase the pressing need for California to prioritize long-term futures,
2. Build an ambitious yet achievable vision and strategy that are grounded in rigorous research and community engagement, and
3. Inspire others to do the same, providing tools that a variety of partners (including policymakers, government agency officials, business leaders, activists, researchers, and next-gen leaders from various sectors) can use to build their own aspirational visions and strategies for California's long-term success.

ABOUT CALIFORNIA 100

The California 100 Initiative envisions a future that is innovative, sustainable, and equitable for all. Our mission is to strengthen California's ability to collectively solve problems and shape our long-term future over the next 100 years. California 100 is organized around 15 policy domains and driven by interrelated stages of work: research, policy innovation and engagement with Californians. California 100's work is guided by an expert and intergenerational Commission. Through various projects and activities, California 100 seeks to move California towards an aspirational vision—changing policies and practices, attitudes and mind-sets, to inspire a more vibrant future.

California 100 staff members compiled this roadmap document, drawing on research in two publications—a Policies and Future Scenarios Report and a Facts-Origins-Trends Report—by authors from Stanford's Bill Lane Center for the American West. The two publications are part of California 100's larger research stream of work, built in partnership with 20 research institutions across the state.

California 100 sponsored grants for data-driven and future-oriented research focused on understanding today and planning for tomorrow. This research, anchored in California 100's 15 core policy domains, forms the foundation for the initiative's subsequent work by considering how California has gotten to where it is and by exploring scenarios and policy alternatives for what California can become over the next 100 years.

The California 100 Initiative is incubated through the University of California and Stanford.

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To learn more about the future of federalism and foreign policy in California, visit the California 100 website at California100.org, where you will find our detailed reports on the topic, and more information about our research partners.

