



LETTER: Freedom in America, especially in Idaho

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Cato Institute, a conservative think tank, supported by the Kochs who support Republicans, issues their U.S. State economic and personal freedom report each year comparing states in regard to freedom.

Economic freedom lists help large corporations determine which states are best to move to, regarding how laws and regulations improve business. Not being a corporation, but instead a U.S. citizen, I am more interested in personal freedom.

Cato lists the following as determiners of personal freedom regarding states:

Incarceration and arrests freedom, gambling freedom, gun rights freedom, marriage freedom, educational freedom, cannabis use freedom, alcohol use freedom, asset forfeiture freedom, travel freedom.

Using the above freedoms and two I was not familiar with, Cato determined that Nevada is the freest state (personally, not economically), followed by Arizona, then Maine, then New Hampshire, then New Mexico, with California, Washington and Oregon being 11th, 13th, and 14th, respectively.

Their determination of the least free states, personally, not economically, are the least free at 50th, being Texas, the second least free state is Idaho, followed by Wyoming, Kentucky, and South Carolina.

So why are so many people wanting to move to the “free” state of Idaho when it is the second least free U.S. state? Maybe Californians need to move to Maine or New Hampshire or stay where they are in California.