

Red State Blues  
By Sid Dinerstein  
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Trouble. You wouldn't know it. And it doesn't make sense. But it all adds up to Trouble. Consider this: The healthiest states in the Country are all Red. The sickest are all Blue. So you have good government, low taxes, budget surpluses and, generally, sunny skies in Florida, Colorado, New Mexico, Nevada and Virginia, to name a few. You want dark skies? Try Blue States like California, New York, New Jersey, Connecticut and Massachusetts, for example.

So, what's the problem? All those unhappy gotta-get-out-of-town Blue Staters are moving to the greener pastures of the Red States. Californians are going to Nevada, Colorado and New Mexico; New Yorkers to Florida, Michiganders to the Carolinas. And you're thinking: "This is a good thing. More people. More Congressmen. More Electoral Votes." Not so fast, Little Grasshopper. Here's the skunk at the picnic. To this day, with the Internet, 24/7 cable news, million dollar campaigns and politics as the national hobby (or is it "obsession?"), the eternal truth is this: The single biggest determinant of how people vote is how their parents voted. In other words, they come to escape the Blues and wind up voting (drum roll, please) BLUE. They leave the high crime, high tax, union controlled Blue States and come here to vote for Wexler, Aaronson, Frankel and Klein; waxing nostalgic for the high crime, high taxes and union control they left behind.

And, all of a sudden, healthy Red States like Florida, Colorado, New Mexico and Nevada are looking Purple, the toss up color. So my message is this: We won. People are voting with their feet every day. And their feet are going from Blue to Red. But often their heads get left behind. And their ballots go from New York Blue to Florida Blue. And, so, if you are reading this screed you have a job to do: Forward this to all your new neighbors. We've already won their feet. Let's go for their hearts and minds.