



# LOBERO THEATRE

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### Decorated Political Columnist, Lecturer & Author Dan Walters Helps Launch Spotlight Santa Barbara's New Speaker Series

**Thursday, February 5, 2026, at 7 PM**

*Santa Barbara, CA, January 5, 2026* – The historic Lobero Theatre is proud to be hosting Spotlight Santa Barbara's newly envisioned speaker series. Launched by Public Policy Professor and Montecito Water District Board Member **Brian Goebel** and *Montecito Journal* Community Voice contributor **Jeff Giordano**, Spotlight promises to introduce nationally recognized thought leaders that "provoke thought and inspire change."



The series will begin on **February 5** with **Dan Walters**, the most decorated and widely syndicated columnist in California history. Dan will draw on his decades of political and social insights to discuss the hottest topics facing CA politics today: "CA Politics: Past, Present & Future." For years, Dan has offered his analysis concerning California's political trends, and for the past eight years his weekly column has been published in *CalMatters*. His articles have been carried in *The Wall Street Journal* and *TIME* magazine, and he has appeared on CNN and Fox News. Dan and is also the author and co-author of *The New California: Facing the 21st Century* and *The Third House: Lobbyists, Money and Power in Sacramento*. A provocative and engaging political centrist, Dan promises an enlightening and entertaining evening to kick off our election year.

**Topics will include:** the **Trump**-**Newsom** Wars; Newsom's **Oil** "flip-flop," Local **Housing** Mandates, the **Governor's** Race, the Democratic Party's "**Generational Rift**," and more!

This will be an interactive event hosted by Spotlight and **Bill Macfadyen**, the publisher of *Noozhawk*, an event Sponsor. "We're excited to have someone as deeply embedded in CA politics as Dan Walters to kick things off for Spotlight," said Brian Goebel. "While our series aims to bring a global perspective to politics, journalism, history, and culture, there is no single person that we admire more than Dan Walters when it comes to California," added Jeff Giordano.

Spotlight's quest to expand Santa Barbara's public square will continue with upcoming events tentatively planned in April, May, and October of 2026. They intend to bring diverse and well-known voices to our community, some of whom will be announced at the February 5 launch.

#### **ABOUT SPOTLIGHT**

Spotlight Santa Barbara is a speaker series which seeks to strengthen our community by provoking thought and inspiring change in what has, unfortunately, become a highly polarized public square. We want to get people to talk with each other, not past each other. We want to foster community and maybe — just maybe — find common ground built on common sense. Learn more at: [www.Spotlightsb.com](http://www.Spotlightsb.com)

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**Calendar Editors, please note:  
Thursday, February 5, 2026, at 7 PM**

#### **DECORATED POLITICAL COLUMNIST, LECTURER & AUTHOR DAN WALTERS HELPS LAUNCH SPOTLIGHT SANTA BARBARA'S NEW SPEAKER SERIES**

The most consequential and widely syndicated columnist in California history, *CalMatters*' own Dan Walters has offered his sometimes-controversial insights concerning CA's political and social trends for decades. He has appeared in the *WSJ*, *TIME* and on CNN, Fox News, and Capital Public Radio. Topics will include the Trump-Newsom wars, CA's Oil "flip-flop," housing mandates, the Governor's race, the Dem party's "generation rift," and much more. The event will be hosted by Brian Goebel from Spotlight Santa Barbara and Bill Macfadyen the Publisher of *Noozhawk*, an event Sponsor. <https://www.lobero.org/events/spotlight-sb-dan-walters/>

Tickets for Spotlight SB: Dan Walters - Lobero Theatre are on sale now via the Lobero App, at Lobero.org and at the Lobero Box Office 805.963.0761. Section A tickets are \$73, Section B tickets are \$54, Section C tickets are \$35. (*Ticket prices include a per ticket Lobero Facility Fee; other fees may also apply.*)

Tickets purchased online or by phone are subject to a web/phone order fee of \$3.00 per ticket. To avoid this fee, tickets can be purchased in person at the box office.