

California Freedom

December 2005

The official publication of the **Libertarian Party of California**

Three LP'ers Win in Special Election

The special election of Nov. 8 brought a measure—or four—of disappointment to us fiscal conservatives throughout California, when Governor Schwarzenegger's four reform propositions (74, 75, 76, and 77) failed. (For more on those, see **Richard Rider's** analysis of the statewide propositions, below.) But on the human front, three bright spots have shone through.

Three California Libertarians have won their bids for local office—one in Nevada County and two in Humboldt County.

Ted Brown, LPC's candidate coordinator, reports that

in Nevada County, Libertarian **Bill Thomason** was elected to the Truckee-Donner Resource Conservation District Board.

In Humboldt County, Libertarian **"Bill" Wennerholm** retained his role as Director of McKinleyville Community Services District, by placing an impressive second out of the seven candidates vying for only three seats. He earned 1,923 votes (19.91%), behind only Jeff Dunk (2,109 votes, 21.83%), and ahead of Javan Reid (1,735 votes, 17.96%), and Dennis Mayo (1,668 votes, 17.27%), Jim Fritz (1,033 votes, 10.69%), Jim Scherer (798 votes, 8.26%), and Jaime Christopher (377

votes, 3.9%).

One of Wennerholm's key planks in his campaign was to "maintain a fiscally sound District, with good business practices." Wennerholm's high level of activity in the community likely played a large role in his victory: since 2001 he has been serving on the boards of directors of both McKinleyville Senior Center and McKinleyville Chamber of Commerce. He is also a member of the Rotary and Kiwanis service clubs.

Also in Humboldt, Libertarian **Verne L. Skjonsby, Jr.** placed third of four, winning one of the three open seats as Governing Board Member at Pacific Union

School District, with 20.61% (518 votes). He'll be joined on the board by the first- and second-place candidates, David Kinzer (779 votes, 31%) and Matt Babich (759 votes, 30.2%). Rick Lindblom, a trucking supervisor, lost out, with 450 votes (17.91%).

LPC activist **Fred Mangels** of Humboldt reports that Skjonsby has held office previously, on the board of a recreational district in Arcata. Skjonsby is a retired teacher and businessman who taught middle school for eight years in the San Francisco area.

Unfortunately, another Libertarian, **Ed Musgrave**, MBA,

a community college instructor and former middle-school teacher, garnered only 11.73%—not enough in the four-way race for three open seats on the Governing Board of Arcata School District.

The LPC is looking for potential candidates for the 2006 elections! See page 4 for Ted Brown's update about who's on board and how you can get help in this very rewarding endeavor.

Congratulations to Thomason, Skjonsby, and Wennerholm on their victories. We wish them good luck as they start their terms in elective office. ●

■ Election 2005

Why the Voting Results Were Not a Disaster

by **Richard Rider**

Chair, San Diego Tax Fighters

Overall, for fiscal conservatives, the state propositions voting results were disappointing. But the adverse consequences are not as bad as many might think.

All state props. were voted down. Truth be told, the good initiatives would not have been that good, while a couple of the bad initiatives would have been very bad.

Three of the four "reform" initiatives (Props. 74, 75, 76



Photo: Elizabeth C. Brierly

and 77) were wuss measures that would have had few positive results. Consider:

Prop. 74—Extending teacher tenure timeframe. In reality, most *incapable* teachers can be weeded out under the present two-year probationary period. The problem is that, once *any* employee gets lifetime tenure while being paid the same regardless of performance, then *some* previously motivated teachers will slack off and become lazy in their performance.

It's human nature. Imagine if you were suddenly in the same position—you get paid the same, regardless of how diligently you work, and you can no longer be fired or demoted, except for criminal activity. The temptation to slack off would be enormous.

Prop. 74 would have delayed that probationary period for three extra years, but the resulting drop-off in some teachers' performance would then start up after that timeframe, and it is impossible to know during the probationary period which teachers will be the slackers.

Prop. 75—Unions must get government employees' permission to use their union dues money for politics. This measure *was* important. It would have provided choice for workers, and this option would have resulted in a significant reduction in the amount of money that *public* employee labor unions could use to carry out their socialist agendas. Private sector unions would not have been affected—a point often overlooked in the debate.

The good news about this proposition is that the labor unions had to spend an astonishing amount of money to defeat this measure. And, of the four measures, this one was easily the closest vote.

Indeed, in San Diego County, Prop. 75 *did* pass with almost 58% of the vote! But the Democrat bastions of Los Angeles and San Francisco carried the day.

This measure should be put back on the next ballot for another try. At the very least, putting it back on the ballot would drain union political money that otherwise would be spent to buy more politicians and more socialist ballot measures.

Which reminds me—Republican Party leaders are as dumb as a grove of stumps. They should put such union-critical issues on the ballot in every election. It costs maybe \$2 million to put a California proposition on the ballot, and then the unions have to spend 10 to 30 times that much to defeat it. Without that massive spending on disinformation, these measures might very well pass. The unions simply can't risk losing.

Other examples of issues that drive public employee unions crazy are school vouchers or tax credits, contracting out government functions, and pension reform. Put a brace of these propositions on the ballot, and draw every cent the unions can steal from their members to these battles, yielding them little left over to buy their favored politicians.

Prop. 76—State spending limit. This weak measure was not of much value—though not as bad as last year's "Balanced Budget Act" (I co-wrote the ballot argument against that charade). In this liberal state, it will be very hard to get the state budget under control. This measure would not have done

much to help. As they say, it was "better than nothing"—but in truth it was a weak reform at best.

Prop. 77—Redistricting handled by judges. While the redistricting would have been a fundamental improvement in election fairness, it may actually have harmed the limited government advocates. Be careful what you wish for....

With the current, gerrymandered, solid Democrat and Republican districts, candidates can be elected with strong views, one way or the other. If the districts are "competitive," the result will be the election of mostly moderates, who then can work together to pass more laws. Believe me, absent opposition, moderates would take us down the same socialist road, with only a somewhat slower speed limit.

With gerrymandered districts, on the state level we find some solid fiscal conservatives in office—such as Tom McClintock and Ray Haynes. I don't think they'd survive in "fair" districts where to win one must substantially moderate one's viewpoint to gain the "independent"

INSIDE

Our year in review **2**

LPC monitoring integrity of touch-screen voting **3**

Committee formed to aid congressional campaigns **3**

Government revenue in Calif.: the simple truth **5**

Entrepreneurship and immigration **6**

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All news stories, editorials, and announcements are due six weeks prior to the month of publication:
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• March 2006: Due 1/18/06
• April 2006: Due 2/18/06

Advertising orders and artwork are due eight weeks and four weeks, respectively, prior to the month of publication. We reserve the right to refuse advertising.

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FROM THE CHAIRMAN

As 2005 comes to a close, I look back with pride at all that the LP of California has achieved. Thanks to our members, County LP leadership, and your hard-working Board of Directors, what we've accomplished is worth recounting.

This year, we're especially proud of the following:

• Under the guidance of Web Site and Infrastructure Committee Chair, **Kevin Takenaga**, our web site (at www.CA.LP.org) has dramatically improved in many ways, especially in its look and feel.

• *California Freedom* continues to be a high quality publication under editor **Elizabeth Brierly's** stewardship, as well as **Muffet Brown's** graphic design skills. Thanks go also to cartoonist **Batton Lash**, and to all our contributing writers and photographers.

• Our Executive Director, **Dave Ruprecht**, has improved our visibility, and increased our fundraising and membership levels, while single-handedly running our office.

• Kevin Takenaga has also developed a voter and member da-

tabase for Libertarian candidates and for us to grow the Party.

• We are on the way to our most successful annual convention in recent memory, with bookings far beyond those of any convention this early! (Don't miss out.)

• Member Communications Chair **Bruce Cohen** sent over 100,000 e-mail messages to subscribers in support of the Libertarian Party. (If you aren't receiving these, please sign up.)

• **M Carling** deserves a good deal of thanks for our membership campaign, which has yielded better results and more members than we expected. We hope to keep doing this well in the future.

• As **Richard Newell**, Media Relations Chair, reports in this issue, *The Libertarian Perspective* series celebrates its first six months. Newell has metamorphosed our vision of a writers' bureau into a consistent, professional series of informative articles distributed to media throughout the state.

Each and every board member has contributed to a successful

year for the Party, and I want to thank them all for their hard work and wonderful results!

Looking forward to the new year, I invite you to join us in this success. There is so much we can do, but I'd like to talk to you about candidacy. Running for office is one of the most fun endeavors you can undertake in politics. It also yields the best return on investment—in both time and money. The media and the voters pay more attention to what we do and say during election season than at any other time.

Consider running for office as a Libertarian. We are looking for people to run for local office especially. Winning a City Council seat, Board of Education post, or other local office gives you the opportunity to make a big difference in the real world.

Certainly, we'd like to have a full slate, with a Libertarian candidate on every ticket in California. If you want to run



Photo: Elizabeth C. Brierly

a serious campaign for office, please let me know so I can help you. The real-world benefits of more wins on our scoreboard can't be ignored. Practical politics and how to govern once you win are important parts of what we do as Libertarians.

That is why we've booked Reason Foundation's VP of Research **Adrian Moore** as the keynote speaker for our Liberty at Sea convention. Moore will speak about that very topic: *Once You've Won, What Next? How to Govern: Practical Politics in the Real World of Local Elections*. Moore is no stranger to success, having helped build Reason Foundation into one of the most respected think tanks in the world.

Please join me at this wonderful convention, not only for the fun, sun, and dining, but for Moore's inspiring talk. If you haven't signed up yet, do so soon. Some of our room allotments have sold out. Some of the prices have risen slightly, so please reserve with a small deposit.

Thank you for your support. You make our success possible!

—Aaron Starr, Chairman

Election

continued from page 1

swing votes.

With the two-thirds' vote requirement for passing the state budget, a group of such fiscal hardnoses can have some limiting impact on state spending. If redistricting had passed and we got almost all moderates in the legislature, spending would skyrocket, and taxes would inevitably follow. If this redistricting had passed, gridlock would have broken—a very bad thing, as we have seen with Republicans in charge at the federal level.

The last three state propositions ranged from *not good* to *really awful*:

Prop. 78— "Voluntary" drug discount program. It is just another government program messing up the medical business. And such "voluntary" programs often become not-so-voluntary shortly thereafter.

Prop. 79— State price-fixing of drugs, and lawyers' lawsuit heaven. This baby was dangerous. Not only would it not have worked for patients (proven in Maine, where the same program has failed even partially to deliver on its promises), it would have opened a new field for lucrative lawsuits whenever a drug company prof-

its are "unreasonable"—with absolutely no definition of what level of profits is deemed excessive. The lawyer doesn't even have to go find a plaintiff—such a deal! Fortunately, this measure got hammered by the voters.

Prop. 80— Reregulation of electricity industry. Oddly enough, the voters had no enthusiasm for this con game. I think that, more than anything else, voters opposed everything else, so why not oppose this final measure as well? Good for them! This proposition could have been disastrous to both our wallets and to the state's economy, but it never was taken seriously.

Now for Some Good News

Perhaps the best news for all Californians was a little-noticed local proposition on increasing the sales tax in National City a full one percent—raising it to 8.75%, the highest in the county. The public employee labor unions put together a massive push for this tax.

In addition to spending big bucks on mailers, the unions sent teams out into neighborhoods to double- and triple-team voters while canvassing door-to-door. The National City politicians all strongly advocated this tax increase.

The city has a Democrat ma-

jority in registrants. The hypocritical *San Diego Union-Tribune* endorsed the proposition (while attacking Frye for advocating a half-percent temporary sales tax increase for the city of San Diego). The proposition's tax opposition did little more than file a very amateurish "No" ballot argument, signed by a single individual.

But when the time came to vote, citizens of National City

The good news is that the labor unions had to spend an astonishing amount of money to defeat this measure. [Prop. 75]

voted 57% *no*! Even though it needed only a simple majority to pass, the measure failed dramatically. Even though the citizens were told that most people paying the sales tax would be from outside National City, the voters weren't buying the pitch.

Perhaps people are starting to catch on that any tax increase by *any* California juris-

diction in this day and age is for one thing only—overpaid government employees. *That* is why the unions worked so hard to pass this measure—their huge pay and pension benefits were threatened.

National City voters sent a powerful message that should be heard throughout California. No matter what the state and local politicians call their coming tax increases (and they *are* coming!), citizens are not likely to vote for these taxes which, when all is said and done, are for our elite government employees and *not* for the taxpayers.

So even though politics seems badly rigged—to favor the Big Government advocates, sometimes it is the citizens who will have the final say. The mandated vote to establish higher taxes is our final bastion against the spending insanity currently infecting our politicians and Establishment media.

Gird your loins. ●

RICHARD RIDER is Chairman of San Diego Tax Fighters, and this year ran for Mayor in San Diego's special election. A long-time Libertarian activist, Rider was the LPC's 1994 candidate for Governor, and in 1998 garnered 16% of the vote in his race for San Diego Tax Collector. He can be reached at RRider@san.rr.com.

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|--|---|
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* Special offer, available if you have never been an LPC member

The Libertarian Party is the party of principle. To publicly affirm what we believe – and to ensure that our party never strays from our principles – we ask our members to proudly sign this statement:

I certify that I do not believe in or advocate the initiation of force as a means of achieving political or social goals.

SIGNATURE REQUIRED FOR MEMBERSHIP ONLY

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LPC-2005-12-01

Coalition Building

Keeping 'em Honest

by **Dave Ruprecht**

Executive Director, LPC

Your California Libertarian Party has formed a coalition with Black Box Voting to inspect and monitor the Diebold voting machines used in six of our counties.

Jim March of Black Box Voting approached me in mid-October, because he thought that the Libertarian Party would make a good partner in enforcing California Election Code 15004. This code gives special rights to political parties to inspect voting machines and systems, before and during an election.

This is important and necessary work to ensure that all votes are counted accurately—in the special election of November 8 and beyond. I in-

vite you to visit their web site, at www.BlackBoxVoting.org, to learn about voting irregularities they have uncovered in the past. Especially alarming is the report by Harri Hursti (under "Latest Finds"), called "Security Alert: July 4, 2005—Critical Security Issues with Diebold Optical Scan Design."

Partly because of the rush of the special election, and partly because of stonewalling by Registrars of Voters, for this election we were able to work only with San Joaquin County—and even that was a challenge. Their Registrar, Debra Hench, had told me that all our inspector needed to show was a photo ID. When Jim March arrived for the inspection, he was told they also needed to see documentation that he was a "qualified data processing specialist or engi-

neer"—not stuff a techie normally carries around with him.

Luckily, during the hour-and-a-half stand-off, Assistant Secretary of State Brad Clark telephoned about an unrelated item, and when he heard of the problem, advised the Registrar to allow the inspection. Special thanks to Brad Clark for his wisdom in this matter, as well as to staffers for Senator Debra Brown, who also made calls in our behalf.

The inspection went smoothly, and the data are being processed as of this writing.

We are proud of our new coalition, and we're eager to expand the effort to "keep 'em honest" in all future elections. As Bev Harris wrote in the introduction to her book, *Black Box Voting: Ballot Tampering in the 21st Century*, "No time to waste. We have a republic to defend." ●



Letter to the Editor

Alabama Sets Standard in Fighting Eminent Domain

As of August 3, 2005, the first state of the United States has responded to the *Kelo vs. New London, Connecticut* case decided by the U.S. Supreme Court in June, 2005. The lawmaking branches of the state of Alabama have acted unanimously to reduce the coercive taking powers of the state. In the legislature, 102 representatives and 35 senators

made legislation that governmental bodies "may not condemn property for the purpose of retail, office, commercial, industrial, or residential development." The governor signed this into law without hesitation. It is worth noting that Alabama has nearly a million more citizens than Connecticut, so this law reduces coercion in many more lives.

When I registered as a Libertarian thirty years ago, reducing the coercive power of government in individuals' lives was and is to me the focus of

the Libertarian Party. The people who acted in Alabama would probably say that they acted to be loyal to the original meaning of the Constitution of the United States of America. Their work in this regard I believe is profoundly libertarian and worthy of recognition.

I petition the national Libertarian Party to recognize publicly as soon as possible this libertarian act of the 2005 Alabama lawmakers with a special award.

—R.G. Williams
Auburn

Bylaws Report Ready for LPC Convention in February

On November 20, 2005, the LPC Bylaws Committee held its second public meeting of the year, and adopted a Report to be presented to the February convention of the Libertarian Party of California. The work was done in advance to ensure that everyone, including convention delegates, will have ample time to consider all the proposals, which may be found at: www.CA.LP.org/bylaws.

The Bylaws Committee is composed of **M Carling** (Chairman),

• **M Carling**
Bylaws Chair



Photo: Elizabeth C. Brierly

Allen Hacker, the Honorable **Frank Manske**, **Ray Strong**, and **Dan Wiener**.

Feedback can be sent to M Carling (M@CA.LP.org) or to any other member. At the start of the convention, the committee will meet again to make final updates to the Report. ●

—Contributed by M Carling

New Committee Will Aid LP Congressional Candidates

In response to a motion by Californian **M Carling**, the Libertarian National Committee (the board of directors of the national LP) approved the use of the Libertarian name by a national party committee, to be formed according to rules to be agreed upon by seven trusted LP activists.

The Libertarian National Congressional Committee (LNCC) was incorporated in mid-November by elected County

Manager **Ben Brandon**, LNC member **M Carling**, 1980 presidential candidate **Ed Clark**, LNC member **Admiral Michael Colley**, California's 2004 candidate for U.S. Senate **Judge James Gray**, LNC member and former National Chair **Dr. James Lark III**, LNC member and former National Treasurer **Bill Redpath**, and LNC member and Indiana State Chair **Mark Rutherford**.

The seven Incorporators

agreed upon Articles of Incorporation, setting the fundamental rules by which the LNCC will be operated, and named as the initial board of directors Ben Brandon, M Carling, Admiral Michael Colley, National Chair **Michael Dixon**, Dr. James Lark, Virginia Membership Chair **Marc Montoni**, LNC Alternate Rep **Chuck Moulton**, and Bill Redpath.

Marc Montoni said of the committee's purpose, "If you

want your contribution to go to the best candidates, but you don't have the time to find them yourself, let the LNCC help." He added that the committee's volunteers review every campaign to make sure contributors' donations will go to good bets.

Members of the LNCC will elect a new board at the national convention, to be held in July, 2006 in Portland, Oregon. The initial board unanimously approved bylaws written by M

Carling and general counsel Bill Hall. These bylaws define the purpose of the LNCC to be the election of Libertarians to Congress, once we already have Libertarians serving in Congress, and, in the interim, the election of Libertarians to state legislatures.

More information about the committee may be found on the web at www.LNCC.org. ●

—Contributed by M Carling

■ Poli-Tips

Issues are the Issue!

An important component of any campaign strategy is issue development. Knowing the district and what issues motivate voters is essential in developing a strategy for winning elective office.

What are the issues of your next campaign likely to be? The issues might seem obvious to you, but are they really the issues about which people in the district are concerned? Identifying the most effective issues and incorporating them into a campaign message may not be as easy as you think.

There are many ways to identify the key issues of a campaign. None are foolproof. Here are some possibilities:

"Gut Feel": One method is relying on your "gut feel." This isn't very scientific, and often it doesn't work very well. A candidate may feel in his gut that an issue is important, simply because it is important to him. Is "juvenile crime" really an issue on which you can focus the campaign? Maybe; maybe not.

Coffee shop chatter: Many public officials have a favorite spot they go to "listen to the people." It may be the local coffee shop, or it may be outside church after services. But is this chatter an accurate measurement of the entire community's attitudes?

Media tracking: Another way to identify the issues is to track the media. What are the most reported stories in local newspapers and on local radio and television? Tracking the media for a few months prior to the beginning of a campaign can help the candidate discover the issues that at least seem to be resonating with people in the district.

Polling: In virtually every campaign for Congress and statewide offices, campaigns hire polling firms to find out what issues people are concerned with. This is fine, but a word of warning: make sure you hire a good pollster who knows how to ask the right questions that really probe what voters think. If pollsters simply ask voters what they are concerned with, or if they ask them to rate issues, such as education, crime, etc. by importance, virtually every poll will come to the same conclusion: voters are concerned with education,

crime, taxes, and jobs. (Only the order changes, depending on the state of the economy and the perception of crime.) Before commissioning a poll, make sure you work with the pollster to develop a good set of questions.

If the campaign cannot afford a poll, discuss the issues with as many friends, associates, and potential voters as possible to get a "feel" for the important issues. Also, don't fool yourself by talking only to people who believe as you do. Talk with people who have opposing ideas, too. You may find that there is common ground on which you can appeal to a broader spectrum of voters, or you may find a better way to express your ideas so as not to alienate those who disagree with your position. Remember that the issues are probably not the same as in the last race, nor will they be the same in the next race. Issues in a community are often dynamic, changing with every election cycle.

Determining the issues is the first step; developing them is the next. Issue development means to put some "meat on the bones" of the issues so that the voting public can understand why the issue is important, and what you plan to do about it if elected.

If you're an incumbent, you have the advantage in developing the issues of the campaign, because you have a record on which to run. Hopefully, it is a positive record—one filled with many accomplishments for your constituents. If you do have a good record, make sure that your issues, and not those of your opponent, are the ones on which the campaign is run.

For example, crime might be one of your issues (three is the best number of issues—not too many; not too few), but

Knowing the district and what issues motivate voters is essential

the campaign has to be about more than opposing crime. If you are in the state senate, you might have introduced or passed some specific legislative proposals, such as "three strikes and you're out," that could resonate with voters. If you are the sheriff, you might have been successful in gain-

ing support for construction of a new jail. That should be one of your campaign issues—but don't wait until the campaign begins to make citizens aware of this success.

Most campaigns (even presidential races) are run on three issues. The public will not absorb more, and the candidate

likely can't become an expert on more. Identify the three primary issues for the race and become an "expert" on those issues by reading everything available on both sides of the issue. As an incumbent, you should actually be an expert. ●

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Use this Outline to Develop Your Campaign Issues

In a few words, describe each issue in your race and answer the questions. Be candid and honest with your answers, and never fool yourself. Just because an issue feels good to you (probably because you have good knowledge and opinion about it) doesn't mean it is a good political topic. The little that your potential voters see of you will revolve around these issues, which hopefully will become your identifier.

Issue Title: _____

Description: _____

Question 1: Is this issue very important to your constituents? ____ Yes ____ No

Question 2: What is your opponent's likely stand on this issue? _____

Question 3: Are you prepared to debate this issue? ____ Yes ____ No

■ Election 2006

Libertarian Candidates Step Up for Campaign '06



by Ted Brown

Chair, LPC Candidate Recruiting

Now that the special election has come and gone, it's time for us to plan for Election 2006.



More California Libertarians have been announcing their candidacies for the 2006 election.

On the statewide front, **Donna Tello**, a tax accountant from San Diego County, will be running for State Controller, and **Joel Smolen**, an investment analyst from Monterey County, will be taking on the race for State Treasurer. Both will be campaigning against increases in government employee pensions, increased bond financing, and the overall terrible economic condition of state government.

Tello and Smolen are just two of the 65 candidates who have decided to run (as of this writing). Profiles of all our statewide candidates will appear in upcoming issues of *California Freedom*.

But with 165 as the total number of seats available, we have more work to do. The

first day to take out petitions to run is December 30, so anyone contemplating a run for statewide offices, State Senate, State Assembly, and U.S. House, should decide soon. If you are interested in running for any office, please contact me at (626) 286-6124 or at

TedBrown1776@Hotmail.com. ●

TED BROWN has run for public office more often than any other California Libertarian and has served as LPC Chair. He has been our prime candidate recruiter since 1988. Currently he serves our LPC Executive Committee as chairman of the Platform Committee and Candidate Coordinator.

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It's County Convention Time

Your county LP convention is not only for choosing your local LP leaders, but it's where you may be elected a delegate to the LP of California annual convention (being held February 24-27; see page 7 for details). Here is convention information for those counties reporting in at press time.

San Diego

January 28, all day; Marina Village Conference Center (1936 Quivira Way, San Diego). For info: www.SDLP.org; or contact County Vice Chair **Michael Metti** at Metti2@Cox.net, or at

(619) 697-3075.

San Francisco

January 14, 3-6 P.M., Round Table Pizza (16th Ave. & Geary Blvd., San Francisco). For info: (415) 775-LPSF or www.LPSF.org; or Chair **Marcy Berry** at AMarcyB@Hotmail.com.

San Luis Obispo

January 17, time and venue TBD. For info: Chair Gail Lightfoot at SLOcoLP@AOL.com.



Santa Clara

January 10, 6 P.M., Golden Wok (895 Villa Street, Mountain View). For info: www.SC.CA.LP.org; or Chair Allen Hacker at (650) 465-7387, or Vice Chair **Allen Rice**, at AMRCheck@Yahoo.com.

For convention information of counties not listed here, check with your local officers directly. Visit the LP of California web site, at www.CA.LP.org. Under "Organization," click first on "Counties," and then on the name of your county. ●

Spotlight on San Diego

At their last convention, the LP of San Diego landed **Harry Browne**, two-time LP Presidential candidate, as their keynote speaker. What inspirational libertarian will they surprise us with in 2006? That is yet to be revealed, but what they can announce is that their convention on Jan. 28 will feature appearances by **Jim Babka**, president of Downsize DC and host of the radio talk show *Culture Repair*, and **Mark Selzer**, LPC's Southern Vice Chair and host of the *Libertarian Alternative* television program. Also in store is a reprise by last year's dynamic emcee **Richard Rider**, 2005 mayoral candidate and President of San Diego Tax Fighters.

This all-day event will be held at the Marina Village Conference Center. For more information, contact County Vice Chair **Michael Metti** at Metti2@Cox.net or at (619) 697-3075.

● **Mark Selzer at conference in Atlanta on October 14.**



Photo: Elizabeth C. Brierly

The Simple Truth about Government Revenue, Post-Prop. 13

by **Jon Coupal**

President, Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Association

On June 7, 1978, a woman called Los Angeles City Hall for assistance. After 11 rings, she was greeted by a female voice.

"What took you so long to answer the phone?" the first woman asked.

"Proposition 13," the second woman responded.

It was the day after the passage of Proposition 13, and already the blame game by government employees and big government advocates had begun.

Over the years we have seen Proposition 13—which put limits on annual property tax increases and requires voter approval for most new local taxes—blamed for everything from a rise in hate crimes to the O.J. Simpson verdict.

Governments at all levels have seen a net increase in revenue since the passage of Proposition 13.

Especially vitriolic in their condemnation of Proposition 13 have been representatives of the education community, who claim that things were so much better before the tax-limiting measure. One physical education



instructor even blamed Prop. 13 for the loss of school equipment. It seems that his students who were putting

the shot were losing the shot in tall grass because, according to him, Proposition 13 did not provide enough money to mow the lawns.

Pining for the "good old days" has been taken to an art form by former Sacramento *Bee* editor Peter Schrag, whose book, *Paradise Lost*, speaks in glowing terms of California government's pre-Proposition 13 accomplishments.

But now we know it's all a bunch of hooey.

A just-released study of the most recent data available, conducted by the Newport Beach-based Center for Government Analysis (CGA), shows that—even after allowing for inflation and population growth—governments at all levels have seen a net increase in revenue since the passage of Proposition 13. In many cases, the increase has been significant.

According to the CGA study:

- Revenues for every category of government in California increased when adjusted for inflation and population growth between FY 1977-78 and FY 2002-03.

- Total state government revenues adjusted for inflation and population growth grew well over 25% from FY 1977-78 to FY 2002-03.
- County government revenues

in California, adjusted for inflation and population growth, grew 8.43 percent from FY 1977-78 to FY 2002-03.

- City government revenues in California, adjusted for inflation and population growth, grew over 20 percent from FY 1977-78 to FY 2002-03.

- K-12 school district revenues per student, adjusted for inflation, increased over 30 percent between FY 1977-78 and FY 2002-03.

- Special district revenues in California, adjusted for inflation, grew over 160 percent.

- State expenditures for K-12 education, adjusted for inflation and population growth, grew almost 99 percent between FY 1977-78 and FY 2002-03, while health and welfare expenditures grew over 48 percent.

- County expenditures for health and sanitation, adjusted for inflation and population growth, increased over 38 percent, while public protection expenditures increased over 61 percent.

- City expenditures for police protection, adjusted for inflation and population growth, increased almost 59 percent between FY 1977-78 and 2002-03, while expenditures for sewerage and sanitation increased over 301 percent.

[You can read this study (in PDF format), at www.HJTA.org/CGA-HJTA-P13-Report.pdf.]

The myths about the "harmful" effects of Proposition 13 have been repeated so many times that some will greet these facts with disbelief. But this work only confirms and updates previous studies by

academicians, including Gary Galles of Pepperdine University, and John Kirlin when he was with the USC School of Public Administration.

It's time to stop the whining. These are the "good old days," and we should work to make better use of the substantial revenues that taxpayers already provide to government. ●

Jon Coupal is an attorney and president of the Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Association, California's largest taxpayer organization, with offices in Los Angeles and Sacramento.

Reprinted with permission; originally published the week of October 31, 2005 by Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Association. See HJTA's web site for more information: www.HJTA.org.

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Entrepreneurship and Immigration

by Joe Cobb

Chair, LP of Orange County

The spark of the free market system is entrepreneurship, the creation of new businesses. Most new businesses fail to make a profit, and fold after a year or so, but those that catch the favor of consumers grow and become successful. Studies of employment trends show that most new jobs formed in the U.S. are by smaller business enterprises. The rate of new business formation is an important measure of the dynamic process of economic growth.

A new study of entrepreneurial activity by the Kaufman Foundation, the Index of Entrepreneurial Activity, is the first study to measure business start-up activity for the entire U.S. adult population at the individual owner level. The data are derived from the monthly Current Population Survey (CPS), a national population survey conducted by the U.S. Bureau of the Census and the Bureau of Labor Statistics. The first report in what will be an annual series was published in September.

Professor Robert W. Fairlie of U.C. Santa Cruz developed the Kauffman Index. "There are very few large national datasets other than [this] that provide information on recent trends in entrepreneurial business creation," he says. Other studies have looked at new businesses after a year or more of success, but the new study draws on individual household data for adults between ages 20 and 64. It analyzes the percent of the adult U.S. population of non-business owners who start a business as their main job each month.

From 1996 to 2004, the study finds that an average of 0.36 percent of the adult population created a new business each month. The average rate of entrepreneurship was 0.36 percent in 1996 and 0.35 percent in 2001, and rose to 0.40 percent in 2004. Although the trend has been upward since recovery from the 2001 recession, Fairlie hesitates to suggest an upward trend.

New business ventures are launched by both men and women, but the rate among the population for men is higher, at an average of 0.46 percent over the nine years, while the average rate for women was

The Libertarian Perspective's op-ed columns are sent via e-mail weekly to over 2,000 news media professionals in California.

If you know of any reporters, editors, publishers, or other parties who might be interested in receiving *The Libertarian Perspective* and Libertarian Party of California press releases, please have them subscribe to our media list by entering this URL in a web browser and following the instructions provided: TinyURL.com/df3uy.

Libertarian Party members are also welcome to join the list and receive our media e-mail missives!

only 0.28 percent. The rate of entrepreneurship also increased in the early 2000s for men, but not for women. The male entrepreneurship rate was 0.43 percent in 2001, and rose to 0.50 percent in 2002.

The study also found that immigrants have substantially higher rates of entrepreneurship than native-born individuals. The average rate of entrepre-

neurship for immigrants was 0.46 percent, compared to 0.35 percent for the native-born. The Latino rate of entrepreneurship increased from 0.38 percent in 1996 to 0.48 percent in 2004, which was higher than the white, non-Latino rate of 0.39 percent.

Western states in the U.S. have a generally higher rate of entrepreneurship than other regions of the country, but this trend may be correlated with the higher proportion of immigration in the West. The entrepreneurship rate in the West increased from 0.42 percent in 2001 to 0.49 percent in 2004, but entrepreneurship also increased significantly in the South, from 0.35 percent to 0.41 percent. The construction industry has the highest rate of entrepreneurship of all major industry groups, which is an industry particularly open to immigrant labor.

Kauffman Index of Entrepreneurial Activity is basically a statistical analysis of the people who create new business, but other economists have looked at entrepreneur-

ship and drawn similar conclusions. Thomas Sowell of the Hoover Institution, for example, studied patterns of immigration around the world. He observed that the very decision an individual makes to move to another country is itself a very entrepreneurial act, requiring a kind of spirit which those who stay where they were born do not have. Immigrants often arrive in a new country without the credentials or education needed to move up in established businesses, so their incentive is greater to start their own. Many new immigrant businesses also hire other immigrants, taking advantage of common employment difficulties.

Thomas Sowell's work on immigration patterns in his book *Migrations and Cultures* (1996) found a remarkable similarity in the kinds of new businesses specific immigrant groups established in the different countries to which they migrated. These business patterns often reflect cultural advantages that are absent in the population of the new lands to which immigrants move.

An individual who creates a new business is an unusual person. The choice to go it alone in the marketplace is a courageous act, particularly with the high probability of failure, yet many entrepreneurs who do not succeed the first time are back at it within a few years. ●

JOE COBB received degrees in economics, having studied with Nobel Laureates Milton Friedman, George Stigler, and F.A. Hayek. He has testified several times before the House of Representatives Ways & Means Committee, and is a past president at National Assn. of Business Economists. Among other noteworthy appointments, he held the prestigious John M. Olin Senior Fellowship at the Heritage Foundation, and has served as Chief Economist for the Senate Republican Policy Committee. Cobb's writings on why "The Income Tax Must Go!" are posted on line at www.JoeCobb.com.



Originally published Oct. 31, 2005, as installment 24 of *The Libertarian Perspective* series. You can read more of these "perspectives" of the Libertarian Party of California at www.CA.LP.org/perspective.shtml.

"The Libertarian Perspective" Celebrates a Half-Year of Op-Eds

by Richard Newell

LPC Media Relations Chair

As I write this, the 26th installment of *The Libertarian Perspective* op-ed column is being sent via e-mail to over 2,000 media professionals around the state of California. You may ask, "What is *The Libertarian Perspective*?" It is a weekly op-ed column currently authored by eight distinguished Libertarian writers, each taking turns. In 700 to 750 words, each column discusses an issue of the author's choosing, from a libertarian perspective. We are in the fourth cycle now, and the quality of writing has been superb.

The LPC has been able to



Photo: Elizabeth C. Brierly

compile a list of e-mail addresses for more than 2,000 reporters, editors, and publishers in the print media business in California, with the majority in news-related publications. For 26 weeks now, they have received *The Libertarian Perspective* like clockwork—no later than 8:00 A.M. every Tuesday morning. Special thanks go to **Bill Holmes** and **Dan Minkoff** for making large contributions to our media database.

The LPC has created a public-domain license similar to the Creative Commons license, except that it makes it even

easier for any newspaper or web site to reprint *The Libertarian Perspective*, without requiring any additional legal paperwork. Though mainly published in smaller, news-starved newspapers around the state, we recently had a column reprinted in the *Ventura Star*. The columns also now provide the bigger part of the content on the LPC's own web site, www.CA.LP.org, giving a broad view of Libertarianism to the visitors there, and they also occasionally provide content for county LP newsletters, and *California Freedom*. It is not at all surprising any more to see one of our columns turn up on a web site or 'blog when doing a web search.

Topics have been as varied as the authors; from the govern-

ment failures in New Orleans following Hurricane Katrina, to gay marriage, and from the public and private pension crises that threaten to bankrupt our cities and the taxpayer-funded Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation (PBGC), to the War on Drugs. One of my favorite columns was in the wake of the Supreme Court's decision in the *Kelo vs. New London* case about eminent domain abuse, with the catchy title "'Liberal' Justices turn back the clock...to the year 1215." I hope you all saw it.

Whatever the topic, the libertarian message is always subtly present. Each column demonstrates not only how government is never the answer, but how it is often the cause of the problem in the first place. One of the columns by LPC Northern Vice Chair **Lawrence Samuels** points out how the government succeeds by failing: the greater the failure, the larger the subsequent budget increase awarded the offending department. Of



Neal Donner



Fred Foldvary



Anthony Gregory



Lawrence Samuels



Thomas Sipos



Adam Summers

Our Writers

(not pictured: Richard Rider & Joe Cobb)

Anything within Reason

Report on the Dynamic Cities Conference

by **Dave Ruprecht**
LPC Executive Director



In early November, the chairman of LPC's Infrastructure and Web Site Committee, **Kevin Takenaga**, and I attended the Dynamic Cities Conference, a weekend sponsored by Reason Foundation (www.Reason.org). Appropriately, the event, which focused on how policies based on freedom and choice make a city great, took place in one of America's most dynamic cities, Las Vegas.

I believe most of you are familiar with the wonderful work that Reason Foundation carries out. Although fiercely apolitical, Reason is dedicated to advancing free minds and free markets. Approximately 200 liberty-loving individuals from around the country gathered for this three-day celebration. The speeches and panel discussions were exciting and thought provoking—believe me, no dry rhetoric here. In fact, the opening session featured Libertarian Drew Carey of television fame, sharing his unique brand of humor in nearly an hour of politician-bashing fun for which we should have paid a stiff cover charge to enjoy. Later that night, many of us were treated to *Fashionistas*, the very popular and ground-breaking Vegas show created by Libertarian John Stagliano. Afterward, Mr. Stagliano graciously hosted a reception for us.

The next two days were jam-packed with information. The speakers and panelists were eclectic and fascinating. They included Adrian Moore, Reason's Vice President of Research, who will be speaking at our own convention in February. Logan Darrow Clements of Freestar Media spoke on his move to use the *Kelo vs. New London* Supreme Court decision to turn Chief Justice David Souter's home into "The Lost Liberty Hotel." Then Burt Rutan, the designer of SpaceShipOne, spoke of the dynamic world of private space travel, as opposed to NASA, with its abysmal safety record and \$100 billion dollar appropriations. Speaking of transportation, the founder of Reason, Robert Poole, shared his very libertarian take on the nuts and bolts of why privatizing urban transportation is so much more desirable than the current Big Government-run systems.

It was such a treat to hear so many like-minded experts, as well as regular folks, discussing everything urban—from schools to gaming, from post-communistic Prague to business-friendly Vegas, from limiting government to "misguided megaprojects." To top it off, on Saturday evening we were treated to the Libertarian "bad boys of magic" Penn and Teller.

I strongly encourage you to keep informed of upcoming events at Reason, and attend as many as you can. ●

who, no doubt, have other things they could do with their time besides pen columns for The Libertarian Perspective. Our current roster consists of **Joe Cobb, Neal Donner, Fred E. Foldvary, Anthony Gregory, Richard Rider, L. K. Samuels, Thomas M. Sipos, and Adam Summers**. You can find short biographies of each on our web site at www.CA.LP.org/bios.shtml. Special thanks also go to **Jacqueline Estrada**, who professionally edits the column each week, and Dan Minkoff, who has filled in for Jackie the few times she wasn't available.

We are always looking for additional skilled writers. If you think you are up to the task, please contact me at RNewell@CA.LP.org. ●

■ LPC Convention 2006 Don't Miss the Boat

This is it! The LPC's 2006 convention will be held Feb. 24-27, 2006, and this time we'll be doing something completely new: sailing on a luxurious cruise liner, for a convention and vacation in one.

The "Liberty at Sea '06" convention will commence with our departure at 5:30 on Friday evening from the San Pedro harbor on Royal Caribbean's recently redesigned *Monarch of the Seas*.

While on Saturday the ship is making its way to sunny Ensenada, Mexico, we'll take care of convention business, capped off by keynote speaker **Adrian Moore**, V.P. of Research at Reason Foundation. This accomplished libertarian advisor to all levels of government will reveal how we can best operate in local office; his talk on "Once You've Won, What Next? How to Govern: Practical Politics in the Real World of Local Elections" is sure to be enlightening. (For more on Moore, see page 8.) On Saturday evening we'll be free to partake of the ship's abundant night life, including shows, dancing, gambling, and dining galore.

On Sunday, a vacation in Baja's oldest community, Ensenada, will be the order of the day. Ensenada offers something for everyone—from hiking to wine tasting, from scenic tours of the coast to enjoying the city's lively cantinas, from shopping to visiting museums. After our day ashore, it's time to catch any shipboard entertainment we missed last night—or just to engage in our annual, luxuriously long conversations with Libertarian friends and colleagues, both old and new.

On Monday morning, the ship will dock once again at San Pedro harbor.

Our business agenda will be as follows. Before sailing on Friday, the Bylaws, Platform, and Program committees will meet from 12:00 to 4:00 to finalize their reports to the convention delegates. At 4:00,

RICHARD NEWELL has been active in the Libertarian Party for 25 years, during which time he has run for office twice, including in Calif. for U.S. Congress in 1982. He is an At-Large Rep to the LPC Executive Committee, and chair of its Media Relations subcommittee. Newell is also chair of Outright Libertarians of the San Francisco Bay Area. Professionally, Newell is a director of marketing at a Silicon Valley start-up company.

credentialing of delegates will begin. On Saturday, we'll have a business session from 7:00 A.M. to noon; break for lunch; and then resume our business at 1:30 until 6:00 P.M., when the convention will officially close. On Sunday, the newly elected Executive Committee will convene from 5:00 to 7:00 P.M., when they will set their objectives and subcommittee assignments for the coming year.

Fees for the entire excursion, including cabin, all meals, on-board entertainment, port charges and taxes, and of course, the LPC convention, start at just \$299 per person (double occupancy). This is a deal, and LPC's cabins are selling quickly, so get on board for what promises to be the most fun and relaxing LPC convention in recent memory.

For more information or to register, call 1(800)422-0711 or fax 1(727)527-3228 (organizer Continuing Education, Inc.). Mention the Libertarian Party of California for our special rates. Don't miss the boat! ●

Request for Bids on 2007 LPC Convention

The Libertarian Party of California is seeking bids for the state party convention to be held in the first part of 2007.

If you are interested in organizing and managing a political convention, please contact State Chair Aaron Starr, at StarrCPA@PacBell.net, for more information and to arrange to submit your proposal. You must have the necessary knowledge, experience, and skills to put on a convention, and you must be capable and willing to assume the financial risks involved. Of course you will also be able to reap any financial rewards.

Bids for locations closer to northern California than southern California will be heavily favored. The LPC will attempt to select a location and convention contractor as early as possible in 2006, so as to provide maximum lead time. ●

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With so many Libertarians in California, this could yield several hundred Network transactions each year.

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Op-Eds

continued from page 6

course, as Libertarians, we know that in most matters, the government can't help but fail.

By publishing rational, well-argued opinion pieces every week, we keep our name in front of the media, building brand awareness for the Libertarian Party. We also show the media professionals that the Libertarian Party has important things to say, and that we can present our ideas well. This builds credibility with the media for our candidates, LPC press releases, and other party activities.

We owe a great debt of gratitude to our dedicated team of volunteer writers and editors,

What Does the Public Think about Libertarians?

by **Richard Newell**
LPC Media Relations Chair

What does the public think about the Libertarian Party? Yeah, we wanted to know too—and we are talking to them.

Despite the breakup of the East Bay Libertarian Party (EBLP) into separate Alameda and Contra Costa county organizations for Libertarian Party of California administrative purposes, the EBLP has not stopped working closely together. The EBLP lives on as an independent, unofficial organization overlapping the two counties and providing joint activities. One of the most exciting activities going on at present is a survey to determine how the LP “brand” is doing in the East Bay.

A major project of the EBLP has been to conduct retreats, called “EBLP Success Planning conferences,” about once each quarter. Long-term strategic goals are considered dur-

ing these day-long meetings, away from the pressing business and tight agendas required for the regular monthly LP business meetings. Contra Costa Libertarian **Jim Eyer** moderates discussions which range from ways to build membership and how to improve communications, to what we can do to elect more Libertarians to office. Action items of each subcommittee are worked on between the retreats. Make no mistake: this not a debating society discussing the LP stand on issues; it is all about how to become a more effective political party.

Alameda marketing professional and Libertarian **Guy Smith** (www.SiliconStrat.com, <http://GunFacts.info>) devised a thirteen-question survey in which the respondents rank how well they agree with statements such as, “I know a lot about the Libertarian Party,” “I view the Libertarian Party favorably,” and, “the Libertarian Party platform is close to what most people believe.” Volunteer

survey takers across the county stand outside budget and up-scale supermarkets on a pre-selected weekend, and attempt to get a near equal number of men and women to fill out the survey. While it is too soon to report results, the initial data are interesting and presented more than one surprise. We are excited at the chance to scientifically measure the brand the LP has obtained with respect to the general public, and to use these results to target our scarce resources more effectively.

We are interested in broadening the base of the survey outside the EBLP to include other counties in California. **Bruce Cohen** has agreed to help coordinate any interested Southern California counties, and Guy Smith will work with all Northern California counties. The goal is to obtain enough results to make the conclusions statistically significant. If you are interested in helping, please e-mail Guy Smith, at Guy@SiliconStrat.com, or Bruce Cohen, at BCohen@CA.LP.org. ●

What’s Up this Week?

For the latest activities, discussion groups, meetings, parties, and demonstrations of the Libertarian Party of California, and to link to your local region’s site, visit our web site:
www.CA.LP.org



Freedom Summit

This libertarian conference presented a great breadth of speakers: **George Smith** on atheism; **James Bovard** on “The Bush Betrayal,” **Karen Kwiatkowski** on “Our Inscrutable Iraq Policy”; **Brian Wowk** on the latest in cryogenics; **Christopher Heward** on “Government Sponsored Science: Is it a Good Idea?”; and keynote speaker **David Friedman** (right) of Santa Clara University on “Market Failure: the Case for and Against Government.” The fifth annual Freedom Summit was put on by cofounders **Marc Victor** and **Ernest Hancock**, and was held Nov. 11–13 in Phoenix, Arizona.



- Longtime LPC activist **Laura Stewart** (right) of Santa Clara County participates in a talk by **Jane Shaffer** on “Raising Libertarian Children.”

Photos: Elizabeth C. Brierly

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California Freedom

The Libertarian Party of California is pleased to present **Adrian Moore of Reason Foundation** as keynote speaker at our 2006 convention!

“Let the Free Market Rule!” “Energy Crisis: Who Can Keep California Turned On?” These are the kind of studies Adrian Moore is known for. He oversees all of Reason’s policy research, and conducts his own research on privatization, government and regulatory reform, air quality, transportation and urban growth, utilities, and more.

Moore regularly advises federal, state, and local officials on ways to streamline government and reduce costs, and has testified before Congress. In 2002, he was presented with a *World Outsourcing Achievement Award* for his work showing governments how to use public-private partnerships and the private sector to save taxpayer money and improve the efficiency of their agencies.

Moore is co-author of *Curb Rights: A Foundation for Free Enterprise in Urban Transit*, and his work has been published in the *Los Angeles Times*, *Orange County Register*, *The Independent Review*, *Economic Affairs*, *Public Policy and Management*, and more.

Don’t miss hearing this champion of liberty at LPC’s annual convention! Feb. 24–27, 2006. See page 7 for details.



INSIDE

- Our year in review **2**
- LPC monitoring integrity of touch-screen voting **3**
- Committee formed to aid congressional campaigns **3**
- Government revenue in Calif.: the simple truth **5**
- Entrepreneurship and immigration **6**