

# California Libertarian News

The Newsletter of the Libertarian Party of California

Volume IV, Number 1

April 1989

## READY FOR THE BIG ONE?



The post office tax protests this April 17 will be very different from those of past years. The entire weekend has been chosen as the time to kick-off the LPC Voter Registration Drive. So instead of simply giving folks a chance to blow off steam, as with signs that say "Honk If You Hate Taxes," we'll be letting them know they can do a whole lot more than honk. Which is why "Register Your Tax Protest: Register Libertarian" has been chosen as the theme for Tax Day 1989.

County coordinators and volunteers are planning various ways of staging the event. In some regions, efforts will be concentrated at a central post office, with demonstrations there designed to draw attention to one or two staffed registration tables. In others, the efforts will be diffused, with registration tables set up at many post offices. Contact your county/regional chair to learn what's being developed for your area. *An Important Note: Tax Day coordinators and/or county chairs should check with the postoffices to learn if and where tables can be set up. Don't wait till the last day to find out. Get permission from the postmaster ahead of time — in writing if possible.*

Literature, authored by David Bergland, is printed and ready for distribution. It's available through the office in San Jose (if you're in Northern California), or contact John Vernon if you live in the Southland.

Tax Day is only the beginning of a two-year effort, one which we hope will result in our statewide registration being doubled by 1990. Libertarians are responding enthusiastically to the challenge and creating a groundswell of support. In heretofore inactive areas of the state, newly motivated chairs are pledging support and vowing to double their county's Libertarian registration. Longtime activists are exploring ways to link their ongoing networking and political efforts with the registration drive.

If there were such a thing as a Richter Scale for political activism, and if we can maintain the momentum, we could eventually register an 8.6 on the scale. Already the tremors are being heard.

## Great Expectations

John Vernon

I've been involved with the Libertarian Party for 16 years, and I don't believe I've met anyone who upon first joining us did not hold expectations that our road to general acceptance by the public would be far easier and much faster than it has been. It also seems that often, the reality which accompanies the realization that not only did our presidential candidate not win but he got far fewer votes than we were betting on has thrown many a Libertarian into despair. What's needed here is a little perspective.

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## Paid Freedom Fighters Wanted

Randall Grindle

Help the Libertarian Party of California stay on the ballot, and we will pay you \$3.00 per qualified Libertarian registrant and/or party member that you recruit.

Here's the deal: You must sign on as a volunteer registration drive worker and commit yourself to one of three things each month: (1) either register two people from among your personal contacts; (2) put in two hours on a public registration table in your area; or (3) contribute \$6.00 a month in lieu of this work so a paid recruiter can do the job.

Once you have fulfilled your volunteer monthly quota of two registrants, we will pay you \$3.00 for each additional registrant or party member you recruit. We will supply you with all the instructions and materials you need to do the job. To collect your pay each month, you must submit copies of filled-out registration forms and/or membership forms for each person you sign up. These should be sent to the project headquarters: c/o Lake Co. L.P., P.O. Box 684, Lower Lake, 95457.

We also require that you submit a filled-in "World's

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# News and Events from the Regions

## Here and There

**MERCED COUNTY:** There are presently only 80 registered Libertarians in Merced Co., but the new chair Roy Shimp aims to change that. "I'm going to try to do my part for the registration drive and try to increase the number of registered Libertarians in the county," Roy told the *Merced Sun Star*, a local daily. Roy, a high school computer teacher, evidently has good contacts with the Sun Star, which ran a great article about him (with photo, no less), the Libertarian Party, and the recent Convention in Las Vegas. There was even a "plug" for our endorsement of AB 160. Looks like the LPC in Merced County is up and away. Roy's address is 2164 E. Bellevue Rd., Merced, 95340; phone number not received yet.

**ALAMEDA COUNTY:** After a lapse of several years Libertarians in the East Bay are reactivating their Supper Club. At the first meeting, Wayne Nygren will discuss various aspects of zoning within a community. That will be Monday, Apr. 10, at the Casa Carlita Restaurant in Hayward at 7:00 p.m. Call the Alameda LP number for more information: (415) 531-0760.

**REGION 67 (East San Gabriel Valley):** There's a major gun show coming up May 5-7 at the Pomona Fairgrounds, and Gail Lightfoot is issuing a call for any and all Libertarians who would like to help staff the booth. Libertarian literature on this subject is also needed — old position papers, pamphlets, whatever would be appropriate. Please contact Gail at (714) 623-1117 to find out how you can help.

## TEAM LIBERTY Revs Up

Region 65 chair Clark Marley, an avid motorcyclist, is looking for other Libertarian riders who are willing to help with his project: TEAM LIBERTY.

The basic idea is to contact as many motorcyclists, dealerships, repair shops and parts stores as possible and to let them know that our state Party Platform now includes the words: "We Oppose Laws Mandating Motorcycle Helmet Use." This is not only a strong statement, but a very useful recruitment tool, in light of the fact that Assemblymembers Richard Floyd (D-Hawthorne) and Bev Hansen (R-Santa Rosa) have both sponsored helmet bills agsin this year — AB 8 and AB 55 respectively.

The TEAM LIBERTY plan is to assign one liaison for each of our regions, preferably motorcyclists to assist the businesses, their employees and customers. Clark is planning on visiting every such store in the southern half of the state to

make the initial call, and he'll need the help of at least one Libertarian in each region to help with logistics and maintain contact later on. It is hoped that once the program is underway in the south, that Northern California Party members will adopt the TEAM LIBERTY project.

Without hardly any effort, this plan has already secured two new registered Libertarian voters and one Party membership in Region 65. With a concerted statewide effort, TEAM LIBERTY could net literally thousands of new registered voters within the state and dramatically increase our influence and media coverage over this high-profile, recurring issue of personal liberty.

Please help! Either call or write: Clark Marley, LPC-65, P.O. Box 2337, Santa Fe Springs, 90670; (213) 695-1979.

## "Clean Needle" Initiative Ready

The San Francisco LP has begun circulating an initiative asking the City and County of San Francisco to call upon the state legislature "to eliminate all sanctions, criminal, regulatory, or civil, on the manufacture, use, sale or other distribution of hypodermic syringes. . ."

15,000 signatures must be gathered by July 15 to put this initiative before the voters in the November election. Copies of the petition are available at Free Forum Books, 1800 Market St., San Francisco. They can be picked up in person, or call Mark Pickens (415) 864-0952 or George Meyer (415) 552-0838 to get petitions or for more information.

In *Golden Gate Libertarian* George Meyer writes, "The LPSF can be on the forefront of this important and controversial issue. Libertarians can be seen as being compassionate and concerned about this major urban problem. We can provide a voice for liberty and the free market in the current debate over solutions to the AIDS crisis."

George, who chairs the committee to place the initiative on the ballot, is a former National Coordinator for Libertarians for Gay and Lesbian Concerns and was the LP candidate for State Assembly (16th District) in 1988. He observes that while other "clean needle" programs include government monopolization of the needle supply, this campaign "will stress the importance of keeping the government out of the needle business. After all, they are the ones who got us into this mess!"

## April Hikes

**Bay Area:** Saturday, Apr. 8, 11:00 a.m., Pinacles National Monument about 35 miles south of Hollister. It's about a six-mile loop: from the Bear Gulch Visitor Center through the Bear Gulch Caves to a reservoir, then back along other trails. Great views are promised. Contact: Dave Wolen, (408) 378-3041.

**Los Angeles:** Saturday, Apr. 22, 9:45 a.m. Location not decided as of press time. For update call Alan Pendleton, (213) 392-2181.

**San Diego:** Saturday, Apr. 29, 9:45 a.m., a four mile hike down the beach from south Carlsbad past 50-million-year-old sandstone; then a picnic on the beach. Contact: Sara Baase, (619) 460-9136.

• **Important Disclaimer:** These hikes are not an officially sponsored activity of the Libertarian Party. Each person's safety is his or her responsibility. Beware of the bears.

*California Libertarian News (CLNews)* is the official newsletter of the Libertarian Party of California. Opinions and articles contained therein do not necessarily represent official Party positions unless so indicated.

Please send regional news, calendar items, photos, non-member subscriptions (see below), and other material to:

Sarah E. Foster, Editor  
777 Terrace 49  
Los Angeles, CA 90042  
(213) 259-9580

**Subscription and Advertising Rates:** Non-member subscriptions to CLNews are available for \$15 per year, bulk mail. Checks should be made payable to the LPC. Subscriptions are included as a membership benefit when you join the Libertarian Party of California (see membership form page seven). For advertising rates and specifications, contact Sarah Foster.



# Two Projects for Liberty

## LIBER/TV to Reach Out

LP founder David Nolan, in his keynote speech at the Convention, described television as the most powerful force in America today, in terms of shaping the social and political agenda. The average American watches nearly five hours of TV every day, and gets most of his or her information about the world through this medium.

To educate others about our principles and positions, we must begin to use television. As David puts it, "The bottom line is this: until Libertarian ideas are presented credibly and effectively on TV, we will continue to lose ground!"

Therefore, we need a series of superbly produced, Class A, visually compelling 30-second TV spots. These should be unabashedly human-interest-oriented, focusing on such issues as homelessness, the draft, gross violations of civil liberties; and, we must start gathering funds with the goal of buying control of a TV network. Although, this will take hundreds of millions of dollars, it's not impossible."

LIBER/TV is being set up to "start the ball rolling" on these two projects: Liber/TV spots, and the purchase of a network. Production of the issue-oriented TV spots will begin in 1990, to be used by Libertarians—including candidates — on a local basis. If there's enough money, we'll buy national air time before the 1990 elections.

Contributions are necessary. Although all donations are welcome, if you give \$50 or more, you'll receive a Progress Report at the end of six months and a year; give \$500, and you'll be consulted on an ongoing basis and be listed on the Board of Advisors. Your support is needed. For more information or to make donations contact: LIBER/TV, Suite 101-358 4330 Barranca Parkway, Irvine, 92714.



## Call To Action

For Libertarians and their allies who want to take part in political lobbying activities, a new non-partisan, grass-roots citizen action committee is being put together by Bruce Daniel, long-time activist in Placer County and State Coordinator for the Ron Paul Campaign. There's a specific goal: to promote liberty at the state level; therefore, the organization will oppose/support state legislation that restricts/expands liberty.

Since CTA is non-partisan, it will provide Libertarians an opportunity to reach out to "fellow-travelers" who would be willing to work with us on liberty-related issues, but reluctant to involve themselves with the Party.

Call to Action takes aim primarily at the State Assembly, because members of the Assembly (with small districts and two-year terms) are particularly sensitive to local pressure. An activist group can have more impact on these districts than on larger state or Congressional ones.

Plans are to employ a fulltime lobbyist in Sacramento, and a fulltime state coordinator to organize action by members in the Assembly districts.

For more information, or to sign on as a member (dues are \$25/year), contact Bruce Daniel, P.O. Box 165, Loomis, 95650; tele: (916) 663-2568.

## Victories Great and Small

It's been a banner month for Libertarian achievements and victories — at least five stunning "wins" in different areas, from local politics to the courts, including the U.S. Supreme Court! Clearly, Libertarians are starting to make things happen. If this keeps up we'll be registering 8.6 on the Richter Scale for activism even before 1990!

### Supervisors Get the Message

Last month, *CLNews* reported that LPC activist June Genis and the group she founded (ACCESS — Action for County Control on Establishing Supervisors' Salaries) had collected over 40,000 signatures in record time in a referendum of the San Mateo County supervisors' 24 percent pay-hike, which they gave themselves last December. June needed 19,715 valid signatures by Feb. 17 in order to force the supervisors to take one of two steps: rescind the pay increase or put it on the ballot for the voters to decide.

Faced with double the required number of signatures, on Feb. 21 the Board voted to abandon the plan. "I've heard a lot a personal comment in support, but that's been whispered in my ear," Supervisor Tom Huening told the press, "Here we have 40,000 people who have shouted."

"It's been a very unpleasant few months," said Supervisor William Schumacher, "with board members subjected to a lot of verbal harangues. Our timing was sure bad." (!)

### A Small Victory

Steven Currie

Lakeside taxpayers scored a small victory in March. In late January, the members of the Lakeside School Board District (in San Diego County) voted themselves life-time health coverage for board members with 12 years seniority. This coverage would have cost taxpayers over \$2,000 per member covered — \$100,000 in ten years.

Sparked by a letter in a San Diego newspaper, local Libertarians mounted a phone and petition drive against this move. In conjunction with some irate parents and a local PTA group, the Lakeside School Board was informed that this was not the best way to spend tax money. In mid-March, the Board rescinded their grab for more benefits. They may now receive health coverage, but only if they pay for it out of their own pockets — and not from the taxpayers.

It took surprisingly little effort to persuade the board to back down. There were less than 100 signatures and a letter from the local PTA president. A few people called the Lakeside School District Superintendent to express outrage.

Although it was a small victory, local school boards deserve monitoring for this kind of low-key money grabbing. It was reported, but not confirmed, that many school boards around the state receive this kind of quiet benefit — benefits that add up to millions of dollars over the years.

*continued on page 4*



# Victories Great and Small *(continued)*

## A Supreme Court Victory

Richard Winger

On Feb. 22, a few days after our state convention, the U.S. Supreme Court handed down a decision in the LPC's lawsuit on party structure. This is the first case in which a state Libertarian Party has won a victory in the U.S. Supreme Court.

The decision was unanimous. It held that California election laws which dictate that the LPC organize itself according to the election code plan written for another party (Peace and Freedom) are unconstitutional. The Court said the party has a right to write its own bylaws and determine its own organizational structure.

The case was filed in 1983 by attorneys James Brosnahan and Cedric Chao, of the prominent San Francisco law offices of Morrison and Foerster. The firm handled the case without charging for its services, and the costs have been enormous since the case has been argued and briefed five times. We owe the firm a big thank you.

Several Democratic County Central Committees and one Republican County Central Committee were co-plaintiffs, so the name of the case is San Francisco Co. Democratic Central Committee vs. Eu. The case also won the right for political party central committees to endorse candidates in primaries. An auxiliary lawsuit, Geary vs Renne, now pending in the U.S. Court of Appeals in San Francisco, is expected to win the right for party central committees to endorse candidates in non-partisan elections. A decision in that case is expected within a few weeks.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Since writing this article, a decision has been handed down in this second case. On Feb. 22 the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that the 1913 law that prohibits political parties in California from endorsing candidates is an infringement of the First

Amendment rights of free speech and free association. Justice Thurgood Marshall, writing for the court, said the endorsement ban "suffocates" free speech and "prevents parties from promoting candidates at the crucial juncture at which the appeal to common principles may be translated into concerted action, and hence to political power in the community."

## Judge Rules Against County

The three San Diego Libertarians (Pat Wright, Dick Rider and Steven Currie) have won their lawsuit against the County Board of Supervisors over the half-cent cent sales tax increase which was approved by voters in November, and intended to pay for new jails and courtrooms. The Libertarians challenged the tax hike on the grounds that it violated Propositions 13 and 62, with voters approving it by only a simple majority vote. In order to get around the two-thirds vote required under Prop. 13, the County had created a new entity, the San Diego Regional Justice Facility Financing Agency (RJFFA), which was nothing but the Board of Supervisors.

Due to conflict of interest, a change of venue was needed, so the case was heard in Riverside County. On March 23, Judge Burkhart ruled that Prop. 13 had been "purposefully circumvented" and that the RJFFA was formed "solely for the purpose of avoiding the strictures of Proposition 13."

The winning side promptly called a press conference, and this time the media was there. "Now the Supervisors can do what it should have been doing the past eight years," Dick Rider told the press. "They can build the jails with the money they already have."

The County is appealing the decision, but now the Libertarians will be helped by other sympathetic groups. It's a been a shot in the arm for the anti-tax movement as well as for the Libertarian Party of San Diego County. Just shows what can be done even on a shoestring budget.

## Great Expectations

*from page one*

Since the founding of the LP, the movement has steadily grown in the number of real adherents. Even in 1984 and 1986, when our vote totals declined dramatically, new people continued to register, thereby raising our core of registrants. 1988 was a very good year for the Libertarian Party. While only a few races were won, in California our vote totals increased by larger percentages than those of any other party. Votes for Libertarian Congressional candidates increased a whopping 69 percent per race. By my estimate, approximately 250,000 California voters cast a vote for at least one Libertarian candidate. With our current registration of 49,075, there are at least five times as many people who sometimes vote Libertarian as are registered with the Party — which brings me to the point of this piece.

The goal which has been adopted by the leaders of the Libertarian Party registration drive is to raise the LPC registration to 90,000 by November, 1990 — about double the present valid registration. Is that a big goal? You bet it is, but it's one I believe we can reach. We did it before in 1978, however our goal today is somewhat different.

In the next two years, we hope to find that quarter-of-a-million voters who sometimes vote Libertarian and persuade them to register with us, as well as those 16 percent of Americans who fall into the libertarian quadrant on the Nolan chart. We're beginning this effort the weekend of

April 15-17 using the theme, "Register Your Tax Protest: Register Libertarian."

Between now and April 15, I will attempt to visit every region that has a regular meeting, because there is not a more important activity for the Libertarian Party than on-going voter registration, and I want to encourage each of you to make a personal commitment to the effort.

1989 is a year to build upon the growth which we experienced in 1988. Launching our registration drive on April 15 will give those who agree with us a positive means to protest taxes by joining in our work for Greater Liberty. I welcome your participation in this essential activity. Your presence, your effort is needed NOW, as never before.

## Freedom Fighters

*from page one*

Smallest Political Quiz" card signed by the new registrant/member, which thereby certifies that he or she has scored more than 65 percent on the quiz. We want to be sure the registrants we pay for are Libertarians and will likely stay with us.

You can be free-lancing right now or join with others in the public organized registration drive in your area, such as the April 17 Tax Day activity at your local post office. To become a paid freedom fighter, write to the address above or phone me, Randall Grindle, State Registration Drive Facilitator, at (707) 994-4817.



# Lobbying for Liberty

## Urgent: Stop the Gun Grab

The strongest reason for the people to retain the right to keep and bear arms is, as a last resort, to protect themselves against tyranny in government. — *Thomas Jefferson*

SB 292 (David Roberti) and AB 357 (Mike Roos) which impose restrictions upon your Second Amendment right to keep and bear arms have both cleared their respective houses in the legislature in Sacramento. The Roberti Bill passed 27-12; the Roos Bill, 41-28. Each is now assigned to the other house, and upon passage will be merged into one bill.

Supporters are working swiftly to expedite a fast passage, but the opposition has also swung into action. This includes Libertarians who are particularly aware of the imminent danger these bills pose to our liberty.

The immediate task at hand is to write letters of opposition to the two committees where the bills are to be heard, and if at all possible, attend the hearings themselves. Organizers are hoping hundreds of ardent citizens who value liberty will make the trip to Sacramento for the hearings and to lobby their senators and assemblymembers. The dates have not been set — these could be as early as April 10, so there's no time to spare.

Committee chairs and addresses are:

Sen. Bill Lockyer  
Senate Judiciary Com.  
State Capital, Room 2187  
Sacramento, CA 95184  
(916) 445-5957

Hon. Larry Sterling  
Assem. Public Safety Com.  
1100 J Street, Rm. 404  
Sacramento, CA 95184  
(916) 445-3952

AB 357 will be heard in the Senate Judiciary Committee, SB 292 in the Assembly Committee on Public Safety.

Coalition building is high. On March 18, at virtually a moment's notice, L.A./Orange Co. Libertarians showed up at a rally (estimated 600 in all) at L.A. City Hall, called by the Liberty Coalition Against Crime. Those from the Libertarian camp included Orange Co. chair Richard Martin, Thomas Caldwell, Region 62 chair Bob Weber, and Sarah Foster. We were welcomed as participants — no need to downplay our LPC credentials — and Bob registered four attendees on the spot. The Liberty Coalition seems a good group to work

with. Contact LCAC, P.O. Box 7832, Mission Hills, 91346; tele: (818) 893-8497 or (818) 342-0559. They'll keep you apprised of just when that hearings are going to be. You can also call the committees yourself.

In San Jose, the Quicksilver Coalition has been formed, and LPC member Merritt Webb is particularly active. Full membership is for those who have had a letter supporting the right to bear arms published in the San Jose *Mercury News*, as Merritt has had, but there are many honorary members, including Brian Esterson and Karen Huffman. For more about Quicksilver, contact the San Jose LP office or Merritt Webb (408) 984-7435.

## Summer Internship at Reason

The Reason Foundation's Local Government Center is seeking a student intern for summer, 1989. He or she must be an upper division student in economics, political science, or related major. Interested? Send resumes to: Dr. Philip Fixler, Reason Foundation, 2716 Ocean Park Blvd., Suite 1062, Santa Monica, 90405.

## Directory

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Libertarian Party  
of California

1989

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# LOCAL EVENTS AND CONTACTS

COUNTY	DATE	EVENTS	CHAIR or CONTACT*	PHONE
Alameda	Mon., Apr. 10	Wayne Nygren: Zoning and the Community	Wayne Nygren	415/531-0760
Butte			Mark Sweany	916/345-9970
Calaveras			Tom Tryon	209/736-4845
Contra Costa	Tue., Apr. 11	Planning for Tax Protest and Registration Drive	Mike Rother	415/932-4993
El Dorado			Richard Akin	916/622-4785
Fresno			John Graham*	209/275-6220
Humboldt			Daniel Mosier*	707/822-7804
Inyo/Mono Counties		Call County Chair for Information	William Baucum	619/878-2288
Kern			Craig Gifford	805/832-6231
Lake/Mendocino/Napa Counties			Randall Grindle	707/994-4817
Los Angeles County (Regions 61-67)				
-61, San Fernando Valley	Wed. Apr. 12	Robert Poole: Privatization of Freeways	Phillip Myers	818/703-7056
-62, West L.A.	Thu., Apr. 20	George Smith: Arguing More Effectively	Robert Weber	213/204-0612
-63, Foothills	Tue., Apr. 18	Kim Goldsworthy: Introduction to Libertarianism	John Tuttle	818/242-5699
-64, Central L.A.	Wed., Apr. 26	Sarah Foster: The U.N. — a Fearful Master?	Don Meyer	213/463-5362
-65, Downey	Tue., Apr. 4	Discussion/Dinner Meeting	Clark Marley	213/695-1979
-66, South Bay		Call County Chair for Information	Cullene Lang	213/595-6266
	Tue., Apr. 4	Howard Maccabee: Holocaust Revisionism is Rot (Albert J. Nock Forum)	G. J. Higgins*	213/285-8171
-67, E. San Gabriel Valley				
	Thu., Apr. 27	Planning Session for May Gun Show	Gail Lightfoot	714/623-1117
Marin			Bob Bickford*	415/927-4814
Monterey			Bob Ratto	408/424-9346
Orange	Tue., Apr. 4	Business Meeting	Richard Martin	213/426-3069
	Thu., Apr. 20	Peter Gordon: Topic TBA (Liberty Forum Supper Club)	Jack Dean*	714/871-0371
Placer			Bruce Daniel*	916/663-2568
Riverside			Ron Holman	714/684-5218
Sacramento			David Henderson*	916/922-9973
San Bernardino			Ed Moss*	714/986-6677
San Diego	Tue., Apr. 27	Larry Smith: Another Look at the New Left	Dick Rider	619/276-7166
San Francisco	Wed., Apr. 12	Video: Title to be Announced	Jim Peron	415/864-0952
	Sat., Apr. 15	Greg Christainsen: The Truth About Hayek (Free Exchange)	George O'Brien*	415/731-3031
San Luis Obispo			David Bersohn	805/466-3963
San Mateo			Lyn Sapowsky	415/368-8148
Santa Barbara	Sat., Apr. 15	Mike King, Mike Earle: Land Use from Liber. Perspective	Bob Bakhaus*	805/965-2741
Santa Clara	Thu., Apr. 20	Meeting/Dinner at Coco's	Steve Alexander	408/554-1119
Santa Cruz			Bill Anderson	408/476-9753
Solano			Mark Moberg*	707/864-1673
Sonoma			Jim Oglesby	707/894-2658
Tehama			Ross Crain*	916/529-0853
Tulare	Apr. 12 & 26	Study Group Meeting	Roy Kendall	209/732-3237
Ventura	Tue., Apr. 11	Forum on Gun Control: Elliot Becket, Sandy Nelson, et al	Aaron Starr	805/583-3308
Yolo			Bryce Bigwood*	916/758-6219

DEADLINE FOR NEXT ISSUE: SATURDAY, APRIL 15

## California Libertarian News

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