



Highlights of LPC State Convention

San Mateo County libertarians make an impact!

by Linden Hsu

Robert Fliegler, Bob Green, Jack Hickey, and Linden Hsu attended the LPC Convention this year as Region 41 delegates. Jack also served as our delegate on the Platform Committee.

The business of amending the Bylaws was arduous yet entertaining. I recommend that anyone interested in debate or the political process attend the next convention. The amended text of the Bylaws can be found at <http://www.ca.lp.org/bylaws/>. Seven of the nine proposed Bylaws changes were approved. The following is a summary of the changes:

- Audit committee to audit LPC's financial records annually.
- Two-thirds majority of Executive Committee for ballot measure endorsements, with a simple majority to rescind.
- Increased restrictions on the distribution of member lists.
- Establishment of a Party Program.
- Reduction in floor speech time for the election of Party officers.
- Instant Run-Off Voting for Party officers.
- Increased limitations on the distribution of membership dues.

The most exciting part of the convention was the approval and subsequent implementation of instant run-off voting (IRV) for Party officers. According to the Bylaws, Bylaws changes take effect after the end of the convention. After seeing the near unanimous support for IRV, Robert Fliegler motioned for a two-thirds vote to suspend the rules in order to effect the change immediately. The subsequent

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LPSM contributes ballot arguments to June measures

by Robert Giedt

As mentioned in the March meeting notes below, the LPSM authorized Christopher Schmidt to write ballot arguments against San Mateo County tax and bond Measures A, B, C, D, and F for the upcoming June 5 election. This is an excellent chance to provide exposure for the LPSM and expose these flawed measures. Below is a quick rundown of the arguments (full text is at the LPSM's website at <http://www.LPSM.org/>).

County Measure A attempts to gather \$88 million for Sequoia Union High School District building repairs (on top of the \$45 million voted for in 1996). County Measure B tries to slip by a \$184/year Belmont/Redwood Shores school tax. Measure C wants \$10.6 million for the Millbrae Library when only a small number of their residents actually use the facility. Measure D shoots for \$14 million to construct a new library center in San Bruno. Measure F is an ambiguous property tax in Atherton that'll cost homeowners \$2,400 over four years.

Many thanks to Christopher for writing these rebuttals and let's hope the voters cast votes with their minds and their wallets. ☺

February & March meeting notes

by Linden Hsu

February Notes

All business was deferred to the March meeting.

March Notes

The main dinner club discussion item was election reform, specifically, instant run-off voting (IRV) and proportional representation. The conclusion was that IRV was more likely to happen first since IRV garners more support. Currently, several bills advocating or relating to IRV are working their way through the Assembly.

The tax and bond measures in the upcoming June 5th election held center stage at the March business meeting.

Ballot Arguments

We resolved that the LPSM oppose all local tax and bond measures on the ballot in San Mateo County for the upcoming election. (5-0-0) The offending measures are A, B, C, D, and F. We authorized Christopher to write the ballot

arguments against. (5-0-0) We spent good portion of the meeting coordinating a plan of attack and building a consensus (see the sidebar on this page for the complete story -Ed.).

Appointments

Congratulations to Steve Marsland, Christopher Schmidt, and Linden Hsu who were appointed as interim Judicial Committee Members. (5-0-0) The positions will be filled by election at the next central committee meeting.

Ordinary Business

The remaining meeting items were general housekeeping items. We approved a one-time newsletter publishing expense for \$50. (5-0-0) We authorized the purchase of another box of business card stock for approximately \$25. (5-0-0) We authorized a three month complimentary subscription of the newsletter as outreach to a libertarian-leaning writer. (3-1-1)

Upcoming Business

Some likely topics for the next meeting include voicemail options for our region, candidate support in the November election, and bylaws changes regarding candidate endorsements.

Miscellany

The "Liberty Communicator Course" (tapes from the Advocates for Self-Gov) are available for loan from the LPSM library. Direct inquires regarding these tapes and other materials to Christopher Schmidt. ☺

NEXT BUSINESS MEETINGS:

Thursdays, April 19, May 17
Hobee's Restaurant
1111 Shoreway Road
Belmont

(off Ralston on the bay side of 101)

Dinner (optional):
6:00-7:30PM in the dining room alcove

Business meeting:
7:30-8:45PM in the dining room alcove

Libertarian Party
Region 41-San Mateo County
<http://www.lpsm.org>

Chair
Jack Hickey – 650/368-5722
jackhick@cwnet.com

Vice Chair / Publisher
Christopher Schmidt –
650/369-6986
CVASchmidt@ACM.org

PGP fingerprints:
3689 0136 B3A0 08E7 D460 7099 7E89 016B
1769 110B F24F 3CF5 662B 3AB9 D7A2 C252 465F 2B87

Secretary
Linden Hsu – 650/594-1622
linden_hsu@yahoo.com

Newsletter Chair / Editor
Robert Giedt
spaceman@best.com

Treasurer
Margret Schmidt – 650/369-6986
schmidt@alum.calberkeley.org

Activities Chair
Bob Green – 650/574-7682
102527.3562@compuserve.com

Membership Chair
Bruce McKenzie
bruce@doublepup.com

Publicity Chair
Rob Fliegler
fliegler@fliegler.org

Database Chair
Ann Turner
APTturner@aol.com

Judicial Committee
Linden Hsu, Steve Marsland,
Christopher Schmidt

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overwhelming approval appeared to surprise Chair Mark Hinkle and other Party officers who were not certain of feasibility. Secretary Sandi Webb explained that it was possible even with the existing ballots. The Party was able to efficiently use IRV, thus saving (by my estimate) at least thirty minutes in run-off elections. For those interested in finding out more about IRV a non-partisan web site is <http://www.calirv.org/>.

The debate on the distribution of membership dues brought a sobering note to the convention. The discussion highlighted the Party's expected financial difficulties since major donations tend to decline during "off" election years. Currently, the fraction of member dues retained by the LPC does not fully cover costs for monthly publication of the state newsletter. Motions to raise dues amounts were defeated, so dues remain fixed at \$25 per year. A member's minimum dues are split as follows: Libertarian National Committee \$13.00, LPC \$4.80, Region \$7.20, with additional donations split according to a sliding scale. Two ways you can help: (1) donate (2) sign up for the on-line newsletter versus receiving a paper copy at <http://www.ca.lp.org/lpc-member-services.html>.

Nine of the fifteen proposed Platform changes were approved. The last six (more controversial) amendments were not addressed due to lack of time. Most of the changes

were clarifications and rewording in language. The text of last year's Platform can be found at <http://www.ca.lp.org/platform/>. The following is a summary of the changes:

- Oppose mandates to hire alcohol and drug abusers.
- Favor the use of age to determine criminal sentencing.
- Favor that enhanced prison sentences be reserved for violent criminals.
- Oppose civil asset forfeiture laws.
- Clarify the definition of rape.
- Favor truly free markets for energy.
- Oppose CA government attack on tobacco.
- Oppose special energy subsidies.
- Oppose government coercion (including taxes) on energy.
- Oppose the special designation of thought crimes.

I enjoyed the workshops and seminars and found them relaxing, entertaining, and informative. Two stood out. The "Claiming Our Political Marketshare" seminar given by Rob Latham certainly motivated me the most. It was about election systems and focused on instant run-off voting. Mark Selzer gave the other seminar "Temperament and Communication". It was about how temperament affects the motivations, values, and strengths of people. ☺



san mateo
libertarian
853 Middlefield Road #4
Palo Alto, CA 94301-2919
<http://www.lpsm.org>

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Membership Form
(includes membership in the national, state and local Libertarian Party)



The Libertarian Party
of San Mateo County

853 Middlefield Road #4, Palo Alto, CA 94301-2919

Please print:

Name: _____
Address: _____
City/State/Zip: _____
Phone: _____
E-Mail: _____

The Libertarian Party is the Party of Principle. To assure and affirm that our party never strays from its principles, we request our members to sign the pledge below. (Non-signers cannot vote on party business.)

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

Signature: _____

I choose to set my dues at:

- \$10 Local newsletter only *(signature/pledge not required)* _____
- \$25 Basic _____
- \$100 Sustaining _____
- \$250 Sponsor _____
- \$500 Patron _____
- \$1,000 Life _____

Plus an additional contribution to the San Mateo Region:

- \$ _____ Monthly Pledge _____
- \$ _____ One-time Donation _____

TOTAL: _____

Payment method:

- Check (payable to the Libertarian Party)
- Visa MasterCard

Credit Card #: _____ Exp. Date: _____

Name on Card: _____

Signature: _____