



san mateo county

# libertarian

the newsletter for the Libertarian Party of San Mateo County

spring 2012

image: Robert Santorelli

## message from the chair

*By Harland Harrison*

I am honored to have been reelected **Chair of the San Mateo County Libertarian Party**. Thank you for the confidence in me which you have expressed. I am pleased to congratulate the newly elected officers of the LPSM Executive Commission, and look forward to working with them, and with all of you, in 2012.

Please join me in giving a special welcome to our new member, **Lois Garcia**. Lois comes to us from Santa Clara County, where she has been active in the **LP of Santa Clara County**, and has served as an Alternate on the Executive Committee of the **LP of California**. Now a resident of Redwood City, Lois joined the LPSM and is already making a tremendous difference. She has resuscitated the LPSM newsletter which you are reading now, and has been elected our new **Vice Chair**. Welcome, Lois!

This year, 2012, will be especially challenging for the LP in California. The new election rules of **Proposition 14** mean that we no longer have guaranteed positions on the November General Election ballot. To maintain our ballot status, we will need to increase and maintain the number of registered Libertarians. That becomes easier, however, because voters will no longer need to stay in any particular party to vote for Primary Election candidates.

I look forward to working with you in 2012.

**For Liberty,**  
**Harland Harrison**

Chair, Libertarian Party of San Mateo County

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## the ignominious measure H

*Lois Garcia*

On November 8, 2011, San Mateo County voters witnessed the finale of a drama that began 10 years earlier with the passage of **Measure C**.

Measure C allocated \$207 million in tax revenues to the **San Mateo Community College District (SMCCD)** for completion of a list of campus improvements. The SMCCD took several months at undisclosed expense to compile the list of requirements and projected cost. In 2005, voters approved **Measure A** for another \$468 million, for a subset of the projects that had been submitted four years earlier. These projects should have been completed and funded through Measure C.

A report published by the SMCCD in August 2011 to justify **Measure H** listed some of the same projects from ten years earlier. \$675 million dollars had not been enough to complete repairs and renovations that had been estimated at \$207 million. Measure H asked voters to approve an additional \$564 million for the school district. None of the funds were earmarked for teachers or expanded class offerings for students. The Measure H campaign took in \$410,000, of which over \$100,000 was donated by construction companies.

**Don Pettengill**, LPSM Treasurer, and **Christopher Schmidt**, LPSM Database Chair, wrote and submitted the ballot argument against Measure H and obtained the co-signatures for the argument. They worked closely with **Donna Bischoff**, a community volunteer and College of San Mateo student. As ballot author, Don controlled the rebuttal argument, which he handed off to Donna. Donna also created a powerful website against the measure, <http://votenoonmeasureh.wordpress.com/>.

One group that was notably absent from the fight against Measure H was the **San Mateo County Republican Party (SMGOP)**. They declined the opportunity to sign the argument against Measure H, and did not help the opposition efforts. A member of the SMGOP Central Committee at the time, **Virginia Chang Kiraly**, signed the ballot argument in *favor* of Measure H.

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**Harland  
Harrison**



**Lois  
Garcia**



**Gary  
Tutin**



**Don  
Pettengill**



**Christopher  
Schmidt**

## **LPSM officers**

*Christopher Schmidt*

At the January 17, 2012  
Annual Meeting of the  
Libertarian Party of San Mateo  
County, we elected the  
following officers for the  
coming year:

### **executive committee**

**Chair**, Harland Harrison

[chair@lpsm.org](mailto:chair@lpsm.org)

**Vice Chair**, Lois Garcia

[vicechair@lpsm.org](mailto:vicechair@lpsm.org)

**Secretary**, Gary Tutin

[secretary@lpsm.org](mailto:secretary@lpsm.org)

**Treasurer**, Don Pettengill

[treasurer@lpsm.org](mailto:treasurer@lpsm.org)

**Database Chair**,

Christopher Schmidt

[schmidt@lpsm.org](mailto:schmidt@lpsm.org)

### **executive committee**

#### **alternates**

Jack Hickey

Tom Lippman

Fred Graham

Paul Lazaga

### **judicial committee**

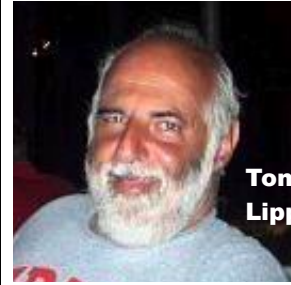
Christopher Schmidt

Jack Hickey

Paul Lazaga



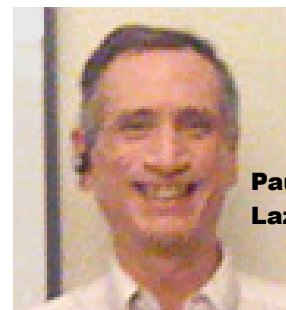
**Jack  
Hickey**



**Tom  
Lippman**



**Fred  
Graham**



**Paul  
Lazaga**

*Are you an  
LPSM member?  
If so, have you  
thought about  
taking an active  
role in the  
LPSM?*

**You?**

Measure H was defeated last November, but the truth is that a simple majority of voters (53.1%) voted "yes" to handing the San Mateo County Community College District over a billion dollars, despite the SMCCCD's questionable money management. Only 46.9% of voters voted "no", just enough to beat the 55% majority required to pass Measure H. San Mateo County can expect to see another multimillion dollar measure from the SMCCD.

*measure H,  
continued from page 2*

**you should know...**

- Prior to 2001, districts needed two-thirds approval to pass local general obligation bond measures. More than 40% of local school bond ballot questions failed.
- In November 2000, California voters passed Proposition 39. Proposition 39 reduced the supermajority needed to pass a bond issue ballot question from 67% to 55%. Since the passage of Proposition 39, districts have had the choice of whether to seek two-thirds or 55% approval.
- 80% of local school bond ballots that rely on the 55% approval have succeeded.
- Statewide bond measures require a simple majority to pass.

**references**

- <http://votenoonafternoon.wordpress.com/>
- <https://www.shapethefuture.org/elections/results/>
- <http://www.smccd.edu/accounts/smccd/departments/facilities/>
- November 2011 Sample Ballot & Official Voter Information Pamphlet
- [http://ballotpedia.org/wiki/index.php/School\\_bond\\_elections\\_in\\_California](http://ballotpedia.org/wiki/index.php/School_bond_elections_in_California)
- [http://www.almanacnews.com/story.php?story\\_id=12271](http://www.almanacnews.com/story.php?story_id=12271)

**san mateo county libertarian party**

**I'm Joining the Libertarian Party of California!**

**Yes!** I want to become a member of the Libertarian Party of California.

- \$25 Dues
- \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Additional one-time gift
- \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Monthly Pledge (\$10/month minimum; counts as dues)
- \$2,000 Life Membership

Mail completed remittance form to (and make checks payable to):  
**The Libertarian Party of California**  
 14547 Titus Street, Suite 214 - Panorama City, CA 91402-4935  
 office@ca.lp.org - (818) 782-8400 - www.ca.lp.org

**The Libertarian Party is the Party of Principle.** To publicly affirm our belief and ensure that our party never strays from our principles, we ask members to proudly sign and date 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 \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

- Check or money order enclosed. Monthly pledgers please include a voided check to authorize automatic monthly payments.
- Or: Please bill my  Visa  MasterCard  AmEx  Discover

ACCT # _____	EXPIRES _____
SIGNATURE FOR CREDIT CARD PAYMENT _____	HOME PHONE _____
MEMBER/DONOR NAME (PRINTED OR TYPED) _____	WORK PHONE _____
NAME ON CREDIT CARD (IF DIFFERENT) _____	EMAIL ADDRESS _____
OCCUPATION _____	EMPLOYER _____
ADDRESS _____	ADDRESS 2 (APT #) _____
CITY _____	STATE _____ ZIPCODE _____

Notice: Federal law requires political committees to report the name, address, occupation, and employer of each donor whose contributions total more than \$200 in a calendar year. Political contributions are not tax deductible.

SM41-1/10

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## **proposition 14:**

### **"Top Two Candidates Open Primary Act"**

*by Lois Garcia*

Proposition 14, passed in June 2010, changed the primary election process for congressional, statewide, and legislative races. All candidates running in a primary election will appear on a single ballot. Voters can vote for any candidate, of any party. Only the top two candidates receiving the greatest number of votes in the primary will be eligible to run in the general election. The proposition was not a cost cutting measure, as the State Legislative Analyst noted that the proposition would have "No significant net change in state and local government costs to administer elections."

"The problem with (Proposition 14) is third parties are not usually the top two vote-getters. What happens to Libertarian ideas and Libertarian candidates after the primary? We're done," said National Libertarian Party Chairman, **Mark Hinkle**, at a rally last year in Grass Valley. Only the Republican and Democratic parties are likely to see their candidates run, and ballots representing a single party are likely.

Prior to Proposition 14, a political party qualified for inclusion in a California primary election if, at the most recent election for state governor, any one of the party's candidates won at least two percent of the statewide vote; if the party had at least one percent of registered voters declare with the party; or if the party filed a petition for qualification signed by at least ten percent of California's registered voters. Proposition 14 eliminates these methods of qualification. Proposition 14 also prevents candidates from running as "independents" or "write-ins" at the general election.

In November 2011, the **Libertarian Party of California** allied with members of the **Democratic, Green, and Peace and Freedom parties** to file a lawsuit (**Rubin v Bowen**) against the measure. The lawsuit stated that, "Because Prop. 14 effectively denies voters their fundamental right of choice by precluding



**many thanks to  
Nick O'Shea for  
the member  
outreach!**

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*proposition 14,  
continued from page 5*

small party candidates from the general election ballot, the Act violates the rights of voters under the First and Fourteenth Amendments of the U.S. Constitution and should be overturned." Under Proposition 14, ballot access can be denied to candidates who receive as much as 33 percent of the vote.

The measure also provoked anger in political party leaders across California because, under the new law, any candidate can claim an affiliation ("preference") for any party. Voters will have no way of knowing from the ballot whether or not a candidate is espoused by the party for which the candidate claims a preference. Candidates can also choose not to disclose their political party.

The hearing for Rubin v Bowen, originally scheduled for February 7, 2012, has been postponed to allow the sitting judge time for additional briefing.



**The January 2012 California Secretary of State Report of Registration shows Libertarian voter registration in California grew again, the 5th consecutive increase. LP voter registrations have climbed steadily over the past three years.**

### **you should know...**

- 21.2% of California registered voters state no political party preference.
- Calaveras, Sierra, and Trinity counties have the highest concentrations of registered Libertarian Party voters.
- 30.46% of registered voters in San Francisco decline to state a party preference.

### **references**

California State Law, Elections Code, Section 5100

<http://www.smartvoter.org/2010/06/08/ca/state/prop/14/>

<http://www.sos.ca.gov/elections/2012-elections/june-primary/pdf/new-open-primary-info.pdf>

<http://www.sos.ca.gov/elections/ror/ror-pages/154day-presprim-12/>

<http://www.theunion.com/article/20110806/NEWS/110809825/>

<http://blogs.sacbee.com/capitolalertlatest/2011/11/california-lawsuit-proposition-prop-14-alameda-superior-court-green-libertarian-peace-and-freedom-party.html>

<http://www.scribd.com/doc/73509546/Prop-14-Complaint>

<http://ca.lp.org/blog/archives/1937>

<http://www.ballot-access.org/2012/01/31/california-legislature-passes-bill-eliminating-write-in-space-from-general-election-ballot-for-congress-and-partisan-state-office/>

<http://www.californiachoices.org/ballot-measures/proposition-14>

source:

<http://ca.lp.org/blog/archives/2323>

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## california redistricting

*by Lois Garcia*

Last year, the **Citizens Redistricting Commission** released new maps for **California Congressional, State Assembly, State Senate and Board of Equalization districts**. Of the 14 commissioners, five are Democrat, five are Republican, and four are independent ("decline to state"). The stated goal of redistricting is to keep communities intact. What constitutes a "community" in California for the purposes of redistricting is left for the commissioners to decide.

Special interest groups submitted their suggestions for new district boundaries. The citizens commission also heard testimony from individuals from different self-identified communities. The commission reportedly stopped accepting input before the process was complete due to the sheer volume of public response.

Redistricting is of vital political importance. How and where districts are drawn can determine if your community can elect representatives of choice to sit on your local school board, city council, state legislature and Congress. Redistricting can be used to eliminate a voting majority by dividing groups of people with similar political beliefs into different districts. Redistricting can also be used to eliminate competition by drawing in more voters of a particular type and thus creating a majority.

**Foundation for the Future**, a non-profit group devoted entirely to the issue of redistricting, says, "*The Foundation for the Future has assembled the top experts in America to help Democrats get organized for the fight of the decade; the fight that will determine Democratic fortunes in your state and in Washington, D.C. for years to come: Redistricting!*"

An article from **Elise Cooper** in **American Thinker** expresses this sentiment: "It appears that as long as humans are involved in any minute way, redistricting is going to be partisan, and the loser will be the individual citizen in each state."

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*CA redistricting,  
continued from page 7*

### **you should know...**

- San Mateo County is currently divided across districts.
- The final redistricting maps are available at:  
<http://swdb.berkeley.edu/gis/gis2011/>
- You can find the 2010 political party breakdowns by district at:  
<http://www.redrawca.org/>

### **references**

Jean Merl, Los Angeles Times, February 10, 2012

[http://www.ballotpedia.org/wiki/index.php/Redistricting\\_in\\_California](http://www.ballotpedia.org/wiki/index.php/Redistricting_in_California)

[http://www.americanthinker.com/2011/09/redistricting\\_chaos\\_partisan\\_gamesmanship\\_in\\_california\\_and\\_arizona.html](http://www.americanthinker.com/2011/09/redistricting_chaos_partisan_gamesmanship_in_california_and_arizona.html)

<http://www.cavotes.org/issues/redistricting-implementation>

<http://wedrawthelines.ca.gov/>

<http://www.propublica.org/>

<http://www.thefoundationforthefuture.org/>

#### **LPSM supper club & business meeting**

IHOP Restaurant  
510 El Camino Real, Belmont

**6:30-7:30pm** Dinner/Conversation  
everyone welcome

**7:30-8:45pm** Business Session  
dues-paying members only

**held every third Tuesday  
of the month  
January - October**

**libertarian party of san mateo county**  
**PO Box 745**  
**Belmont CA 94002**