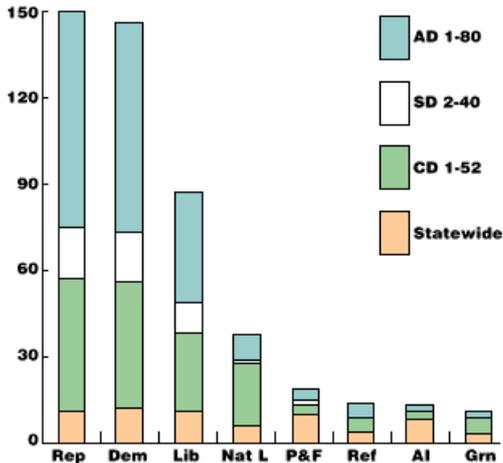# Off to the races!

Libertarians dominate California third parties for Fall

by Bernie Jackson

In California, the Libertarian Party is fielding more than twice as many candidates as any other third party in the 1998 races for statewide, congressional, and state legislative offices. In fact, there are only slightly fewer Libertarian candidates than all other third parties combined. Examining the number of races covered, rather than the number of candidates, the same two observations still hold. (See chart below.)

The Republicans and Democrats have nearly equal coverage, with Republicans running candidates in 150 of 164 races, and Democrats running in 146.

Libertarians have covered 87 races, 58% as many as the Republicans. The Natural Law Party follows, with 38 races, or 25% of Republicans' coverage, and Peace and Freedom is next with 19 races, or 13%. Bringing up the rear are the Reform Party, the American Independent Party, and the Green Party--with 14 (9.3%), 13 (8.7%), and 11 (7.3%), respectively. Many Californians would be surprised at the Green Party's and Reform Party's fringe status, given the name recognition these parties have. Celebrity presidential candidates (Ross Perot and Ralph Nader) appear to have attracted media attention out of proportion to their parties' actual following. The Green Party has been called particularly strong in California, yet the California Green Party is dead last in fielding candidates, covering less than 1 in 12 races this year.

There are several Libertarian candidates involved in two-way races. Those facing only Democratic opponents are: Kennita Watson (Board of Equalization #1), Ken Aaroe (18th Congressional District, or "CD18"), David Graham (40th State Senate district, or "SD40"), and Christopher Maira (39th State Assembly district, or "AD39"). Facing only Republican opponents are: Jonathan Richter (CD19), Bruce Acker (CD25), Thomas Reimer (CD46), and Maureen Lindberg (AD63).

The following Libertarians face only one major-party candidate but have other third party opposition: Jerry Douglas (CD28), Michael Everling (CD31), Kenneth Valentine (CD41), Daniel Muhe (CD48), Lynn Badler (CD52), Paul King (SD38), Al Carlan (AD54), and Donald Rollins (AD73).

The above data was compiled from the California Secretary of State's official roster, as of March 15, 1998.

Report on Tom Lantos' "Town Hall" meeting

by Lacy Nelson

On Saturday, March 21, Congressman Tom Lantos of the 12th Congressional District held one of two Town Meetings at San Mateo's City Hall to report on current congressional issues and to give residents in his district a chance to voice their concerns. The main topics at hand included: A Balanced Budget, Problems of Child Labor, Improving Child Care, Strengthening Education, and the High Tech Industry.

He credited the Balanced Budget to Clinton's deficit reduction program in 1993; the balanced budget agreement adopted in 1996; and a strong national economy. However, after some research I came up with some interesting numbers; when Clinton took office in 1992 the federal budget for that year was approximately 1.4 trillion dollars, while the budget for 1997 is estimated to be approximately 1.8 trillion. During the same period there were huge cuts in defense spending. Defense accounted for almost 20 percent of the 1992 budget, while making up only an estimated 13.5 percent of the 1997 budget. If defense spending would have continued at 1992 percentage levels we would have spent 372 billion in 1997 instead of the estimated 248 billion which was spent, a difference of almost 125 billion dollars. Reflecting on these numbers may cause one to wonder where the difficulty was in balancing the budget, considering the increased annual revenue of 400 billion dollars and a 6.5 percent annual decrease in defense spending over the past five years. Unfortunately, it

seems our federal government holds a Masters degree in spending.

Lantos, after announcing that there was going to be an estimated 9 billion dollar surplus this year--the first of its kind in who knows how long--seemed eager to begin spending on the Next Generation of governmental programs. He emphasized the "need" to increase the Head Start and after school care programs as well as a long list of initiatives to improve our nation's elementary and high schools. He supports legislation that would tighten-up on unsafe child labor, then went on to say we needed to increase tax credits for child care and to support federal grants that would be matched by state funds to promote improvements in early learning. He also voiced strong support to extend a tax credit for the high tech industry, which allows firms to claim a credit towards research and development expenditures. His reasoning was: "Our nation's economy is driven by innovation and new technology, and it is essential that we take steps such as this to encourage research and new product development." Now our government is in the motivation business.

Here's the real question. As a nation, do we really need to encourage research and development in our high tech industry? The high tech industry willingly invests in R&D on their own as a hedge against their competitors. And what exactly is unsafe child labor? Tom Lantos said it is delivering pizzas in 30 minutes or less or leaving your child at a shopping center to sell candy. Should you be able to receive a tax credit because you chose to use child care? Would you like to have a government agency taking care of your child after school lets out? And what about our public schools, are you satisfied with the job our government has done with them? Are you confident they will do better next time around? Lantos made note of how beautiful our neighborhood malls were by comparison with the condition of our public schools. He claimed we needed to spend more money on our schools to get them in the condition they deserved to be, but are our schools really low on money or just low on practical management?

There have been a number of recent studies which estimate that an average of 45 percent of our income goes towards federal, state, and local taxes. Considering that, along with current trends in government spending, might have you pondering the possibility that before too long we may all need a government program to survive.

New e-mail mailing lists for San Mateo libertarians

by Robert Giedt

To facilitate better and speedier communication between interested libertarians in San Mateo County, we've created three Internet e-mail mailing lists. All three are open for anyone to join:

`LPSM-excomm@lists.best.com` subscribe (see below)
> This moderated mailing list was set up so that members of the Executive Committee can discuss upcoming business in between regular monthly business meetings.

`LPSM-announce@lists.best.com` subscribe (see below)
> This moderated mailing list will be used to broadcast official SMLP announcements, special events or other items of specific interest.

`LPSM-misc@lists.best.com` subscribe (see below)
> This unmoderated mailing list is designed for everyone to talk about libertarian issues in San Mateo County.

To subscribe to any of the lists mentioned above, just send an e-mail to `LPSM-excomm-request@lists.best.com`, `LPSM-announce-request@lists.best.com`, or `LPSM-misc-request@lists.best.com` (as appropriate) with the word `subscribe` in the *body of the message*.

These mailing lists should be available by the time you read this newsletter. Additional info about the list and about subscribing and unsubscribing can be found at the LPSM Web site: http://www.california.com/~lpsm/

March meeting notes

by Christopher Schmidt

March's meeting was well-attended and we worked through almost all of a lengthy agenda (deferring only the Judicial Committee election to April's meeting). These were the highlights:

March's social event review

We reviewed the "Tom McKean Birthday" get-together, held three days earlier. Attendance was good: 23 adults and a few children enjoyed the snacks, drinks, and Steve Marsland's presentation, which was well-received. Steve reported that several people asked for copies afterwards! More encouraging: Barbara Less said that another 13 people had planned to attend (schedules permitting), so we can expect more fresh faces at future functions. We liked the location's convenience and ambiance, so we plan to hold more events there.

"Community Connection"

Steve and Barbara reported that three women volunteered to serve as a "community connection", which would establish more personal contact with local Libertarians. The executive committee voted 700 to authorize the new subgroup and charge Barbara (as Activities Chair) with its direction. Later in the meeting, pursuant to Frank Minishak's membership development plan, we authorized the "community connection" volunteers to spend up to $100 to contact expired members.

Membership report

Frank presented a plan for doubling paid membership in 1998 from 140 to 280. Because of the cost of the direct-mail portion of the program, we decided to start with the cheaper components and revisit direct-mail if and or when money is raised specially to fund it. Frank circulated copies of an excellent outreach flier (*Your Parents' Politicians Are Not Your Friends*), which he had obtained from the Liberty Council. He will include copies in future inquiry response packages.

Frank reported that he will be moving out of the county later this year, so the position of Membership Chair will need filling. Volunteers?

Steve Marsland's State Assembly campaign

Steve reported on his campaign for State Assembly. Initially a "paper candidate," he has decided to take it a step or two further-laying the foundation for a serious bid in '98, 2000, or '02, depending on the rate of buildup of organizational resources and on political opportunities that may present themselves. Bernie Jackson noted that both statewide and locally other small parties have retreated from running candidates for legislative office, leaving the LP the largest player in the "3rd party" landscape *[see article above]* . We discussed the possibility of Steve's getting the endorsement of other parties' central committees since, combined, they have but a single candidate in San Mateo County. Steve will proceed to investigate the technical requirements of securing the nomination of the Green Party as well as our own.

SMLP e-mail mailing lists

Robert Giedt announced that his Internet service provider will provide him with user-maintainable e-mail mailing lists free-of-charge, so he will be creating three lists for use by San Mateo County libertarians *[see article above]*.

Creating LP chat rooms on America Online

David Graulich said he plans to create a trial libertarian Internet "chat room" on America Online to see if there is interest among regular "chat" participants.

Placing LP literature in voter registration areas

Finally, Bernie called a few of the 150 locations in the county that offer voter registration forms to the public to inquire whether they would offer Libertarian Party info as well. Only one in his test sample was interested, but with 150 in the game, it would seem worthwhile to identify the cooperative locations. He is seeking a volunteer to work through the list. This would be a good self-contained project anybody interested?

Volunteer for Tax Day protest in Palo Alto

Stephen J. Holly is planning a Tax Day protest April 15 at the Palo Alto post office (between University and Embarcadero) from 5 pm to Midnight. If you're interested in carrying a sign or helping out, you can contact him at sholly@unix.sri.com or through his voicemail at 650/859-5818.

Next meeting of the LP of San Mateo County:

Wednesday, April 15
Prime Time Athletic Club
1730 Rollins Road, Burlingame (between Broadway and Millbrae Avenue)
Informal chat/dinner: 6:307:30pm in the café
Business meeting: 7:309:00pm in the multipurpose room.
Business agenda:

1. Election of Judicial Committee/Chair (postponed from March's meeting).
2. Additional planning for May social event--"Meet the Candidates"
3. Additional items as necessary.