

LIBERTARIAN LIFELINE



November Election Exhilarating, Exhausting, Empowering

We win some, we lose some, but we finally elected a Libertarian to office in Alameda County

Democracy is the theory that the common people know what they want and deserve to get it good and hard. Well, I can say now with some certainty that democracy *works*. At least it did on November 5, 1996. Not that I doubted it that much before, but my faith in the system had been seriously shaken during the California Primary last March, and I was inspired to get up off my butt and make sure the General Election went smoothly.

As a consequence of the problems we encountered during the primary, many Alameda County Libertarians decided that if they wanted something done right, they'd have to do it themselves. Quite a few of us volunteered to work at the polls on election day, and during the fifteen hours we spent from 6:00 a.m. when we arrived to open the poll to 9:30 p.m. when we delivered the ballot box to the collection area, we got a first-hand look at democracy in action. While Otto von Bismarck, the famous "Iron Chancellor" of Germany, once said that no one should watch the making of either sausages or legislation, the process of voting is a fascinating spectacle that should be observed by as many people as possible. Participatory democracy suffers when too few participate, and I think we've suffered long enough.

We won some, we lost some, but that's the way the cookie crumbles. Fifty-three percent of The People have spoken and proved for the most part that they really do know what they're doing when they cast their ballots. While Libertarians did not fare so well in the partisan contests, either locally or on the national scene, libertarian *issues* proved to be surprisingly

popular and have, with this one election, *already changed the face of politics in America*.

Case in point: the California Civil Rights Initiative, which the LP helped put on the ballot, is now the law of the land, though it will certainly be tested in the courts. Nevertheless, it was very carefully drafted to withstand such challenges and I'm confident it will eventually be upheld. The radical opposition to Proposition 209 has demonstrated their contempt for democracy by refusing to accept the voters' decision and trying to block the implementation of the CCRI. Face it, folks: you *lost!* Get used to it, because it's going to be happening more and more often. We Libertarians have had to accept such losses for so long, it's delicious finally to be able to cheer for our victory.

The Compassionate Use Initiative (Proposition 215) also passed by a comfortable margin, and should eliminate the need for Cannabis Buyers Clubs. Patients who need access to medical marijuana will now be exempt from the ridiculous laws that make a simple weed illegal. The Compassionate Use Initiative and a similar measure passed in Arizona are perhaps the most significant achievements in the struggle for personal freedom in my lifetime, and could well be the first fatal blow to be inflicted against the War on Drugs. Yes, Virginia, sometimes the good guys *do* win once in a while.

Proposition 218 has struck fear into the hearts of every city councilperson and county supervisor in California, closing the last loopholes carved out of Proposition 13 by politicians over the past 18 years. From this day forward, no more BADs, LLADs or PRADs can be imposed on California taxpayers without approval of at least 2/3 of the voters affected by the tax. Closer to home, this will require the city of San Leandro to place its recent business tax hike on the ballot for the voters to decide next spring, as well as its controversial 3% tax on gun sales (which is obviously an attempt to drive Trader's Sports out of town). It remains to be determined if the city will have to refund the money already collected from small businesses should the illegal tax be defeated. Keep your fingers crossed.

Perhaps the sweetest victory of all was in Livermore,

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where longtime East Bay Libertarian Party member Anne Lindl was elected to the School Board of the Livermore Unified School District. Anne came in first out of a field of five candidates with about 11,500 votes, 4,000 more than the closest competitor. Of course, this was a nonpartisan race, and Anne's political affiliation was less of a relevant campaign issue than her background as an educator, but her husband admits that the sitting Board members are already quite nervous about swearing her in on December 10. You can bet she'll provide a welcome voice of reason and fiscal responsibility to that body over the next few months, as well as a sense of pride and accomplishment to all East Bay Libertarians.

We extend our warmest congratulations to Anne and will be closely following her career on the School Board to demonstrate that Libertarians are not only electable, but *respectable* as well. ▣

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From the Chair

by Jeffrey Sommer

Dowhatthou wilt shall be the whole of the Law.

The results of the 1996 national election have been a triumph for the status quo. It would be a general lack of success this year. I will leave it to the voters to decide if they have gained by initiative, particularly here in California. I don't think it will make the bitterness much more palatable. I don't stand a chance.

It is my solemn word that victory will be ours, and no one can deny its message is powerful. At the moment, few of us remain firm and steadfast the time will come of our nation's very soul.

The Constitution and the rights of American citizens are held resolutely for individual genius and the progress of the people. The people may not have heard us clearly yet, but their desires realized.

Love is the law, love under will.

"Twixt the optimist and the pessimist
the difference is droll;
the optimist sees the doughnut,
but the pessimist sees only the hole"

-- McLandburgh Wilson

Multi-Team Contests in Multiple Arenas

Political Opinion by Kurt A. Schultz

Electing a Libertarian President will not be enough by itself, we will also need control of the Congress and the Judiciary. If the Libertarian Party has an entrenched, firmly-established base of Municipal, Regional and State partisan office-holders, then we'll have the foundation upon which to build a tri-tipped pyramid and we can create the three-way balance of power that we require for establishing 'Libertopia'. To accomplish this we will need to look beyond the arenas of Politics.

To give credit where I believe credit has been earned, I want to express my appreciation for the candidacy of Harry Browne. I knew about Mr. Browne long before I'd ever heard of the Libertarian Party and it pleased me to see him become the Libertarian candidate for President. He and I do have some differences of opinion, but if I could spend one of three wishes, I'd wish for him to become President of the United States.

Alas, I honestly believe it would avail us nothing.

As president, Mr. Browne would attempt a variety of things, things that the majority of Citizens would most likely view as "radical" or "outrageous", etc. Most of those things wouldn't get done, there would be obstructionism not only from Congress and the Judiciary, but also from the Corporate Sector and from John Q. Public.

We've seen it before, when a Republican President plays tug-of-war with a Democrat-controlled Congress. In this situation, as well as the converse situation, little of significance occurs (which, admittedly, isn't necessarily bad). The federal legislation which does get passed in these situations is legislation that is the result of political compromise, not the result of unblemished principle. But we, as Libertarians, do want to get things done - we want to remove laws. To remove laws will require a Libertarian majority in Congress.

I can envision a scenario wherein a Libertarian-controlled Congress, working with a Libertarian President, could still be made impotent by the decisions being made by residual Republican appointees in the Judiciary. I can see another scenario wherein a Demopublican Congress spoils the work of a Libertarian President that has the support of a Libertarian Supreme Court.

Along with a Libertarian President, we need a Libertarian majority in Congress and a Libertarian majority on the Supreme Court. To obtain this end, we will need mainstream media that is Libertarian. To obtain Libertarian Media, we will need Libertarian Educators to predominate in Academia.

The acceptance or endorsement by the media of a Libertarian Presidential candidate isn't going to happen as long as authoritarian schools produce authoritarian journalists

that become authoritarian editors who can give preferential treatment to authoritarian candidates. To offset the current authoritarianism in education, we need to inculcate Libertarian beliefs in schools, from kindergarten on up. Eventually, the Libertarian graduates will become Libertarian journalists and then Libertarian editors. Some of those graduates will take other professions, and we will begin finding them in offices all across the slate.

I expect that the last of the three powers that the Libertarians will control will be the Judiciary. Even if the Congress is mostly Libertarian and there has been a series of Libertarian Presidents, we will have to wait for Supreme Court seats to become available before a Libertarian President can appoint a Libertarian to the Supreme court; it will take even longer to obtain a majority. And where will a Libertarian President find a Libertarian to appoint to the Supreme Court?

Just as a Libertarian President needs to have a base of Libertarian office holders at the municipal, local, regional, state and federal levels, a Libertarian majority in the Supreme Court will need to have a base of Libertarian Judges spread throughout all levels of the Judiciary; municipal, local, regional, state and federal. In order to make an appointment to the Supreme Court, a Libertarian President will need to have a pool of experienced and talented Libertarians to draw from; if we can offer no Libertarian appointee, we cannot achieve a majority.

I suspect that having a Libertarian President elected could seriously damage the Party and the movement, UNLESS THE REST OF IT IS IN PLACE AS WELL. I can imagine voters (both from within the LP and from outside of it) thinking "Well, we gave the Libertarians a shot at it and they didn't do anything," (or perhaps "couldn't get anything done") "so lets try something else this time." To avoid having this happen, we will need to have at least some (if not all) of the other aspects also in place.

We do not (yet) do enough. I believe that the long-range planning should include the areas of Academia and the Judiciary, as well as the rather obvious Political arenas. My intent here is to not undermine the efforts and accomplishments of Libertarians. I am amazed by what has been accomplished. I am delighted that Harry Browne decided to run and I hope that he finds it within himself to run again next time. I believe that some day I may actually help vote a Libertarian President into office. I believe that it would be a whole lot better if we had a Libertarian Congress for that President to work with. To get there, we will need to infiltrate and control some non-political areas as well as political areas.

I hope that it comes to pass in my lifetime. □

IS THE PARTY DYING?

by Denise P. Kalm

Shivering on the corner of Civic and Ygnacio Valley Road on Election Night '96, clutching my "Greg Lyon for Congress" sign, I wondered where my fellow Libertarians were hiding. I thought of the fund-raisers, the precinct-walking, the gun shows; the same few members always showed up to work. Voting is great (thanks for the good turnout), but as long as our membership remains small, we must get the message out to others.

A large number of Libertarians sacrificed their time and money to run for office this year, but the results look the same year to year. The party isn't gaining in the polls, despite the co-opting of our message by the Demopublicans. So what happened? When even Clinton claims to be a Libertarian in some respects, why didn't our platform excite the populace?

The problem is two-fold. One is market penetration and the other is the feeling that Libertarians aren't offering anything concrete. The first we can readily fix.

We all enjoy meetings and conventions — opportunities for self-congratulation and mutual back patting. None of this serves to increase our membership or recognition factor. Taking on our small "I" Libertarian friends and unhappy Republicans is a necessity. Time spent talking to non-member voters is more valuable than endless wrangling over bylaws or memberships rules.

Look at what works for the Reform Party. The money adds credibility, but Reform candidates have committed supporters. Signs, bumper stickers and buttons show up everywhere. When a Reform Party candidate speaks, party members show up with friends and new supporters. The candidates don't have to stand alone on street corners. They don't march their precincts alone. Money does help, but voters are sheep; they follow a crowd. As long as we can't marshal the numbers for an event, we will continue to be

ignored, even with the unusually excellent slate offered this year.

Our second problem is more complex. The two major parties offer "something for nothing;" we offer only freedom. But is that strictly true? Many voters are one-issue supporters. The pollsters believe that many women support the Democrats primarily because of their stance on choice. Men are often attracted to the Republican Party because of its promises to reduce taxes and support business. We will give people ALL their tax money back, as well as choice in all aspects of life. But what do we do when we talk to people? Instead of taking a valuable lesson from the winners, we insist on getting people to accept the planks they don't like or understand, such as open borders or legalization of drugs. Our view of a free state is at least as scary to most voters as a socialist state.

No one is really 100% any party; even within the Libertarians, there is disagreement. It's time to sell ourselves as viable providers of answers. And to acknowledge the bald fact that much of what we dream about is impossible to enact overnight. What can we really do in the first 100 days? What part of that is attractive to disaffected Demopublicans? Stop selling the broccoli and bring on dessert!

Pushing our sizzle isn't lying, it's packaging. If we want to play the game, we have to understand the voters' fears and stimuli. Being a purest and demanding total acceptance of our proposals will get us a footnote in history, but not Congressional or Presidential positions.

We have four years before the next Presidential election to turn this around. It's time to decide. □

"We have forty million reasons for failure, but not a single excuse." --Rudyard Kipling

“Failure” Analysis and the November 1996 General Election

by Gregory K Lyon

The 1996 elections are over and I lost. Many people may consider my campaign a failure. After all, I received only 2500 votes and finished last in a race with five candidates. Even the Reform Party and the Natural Law Party candidates received more votes. And to be truthful, I was somewhat disillusioned election night. But, I remember what I said back at the beginning of the campaign. Winning elections is a numbers game. Receiving votes is a function of registered party members and the amount of money spent.

After analyzing the election, I consider my campaign to have been very successful. For three reasons:

First, of the five parties in the race, Libertarians have the lowest number of registered voters. That's right, even less than the Reform Party (about the same in Alameda County and nearly twice as many in Contra Costa) and the Natural Law Party (about the same in Contra Costa and more than twice as many in Alameda County).

Second, Ellen Tauscher, Democrat spent \$15 a vote, Bill Baker, Republican spent \$10 a vote, John Place, Reform spent \$9 a vote, and I spent only \$4 a vote. I am not sure what Valerie Janlois of the Natural Law Party spent since most of her money came at the end and the post election filings are not done yet. These numbers are only estimates based on the latest figures available. Final numbers will depend on post election campaign filings and final vote totals after counting absentee ballots.

Third, if you consider that there was only a 50% turnout, then of the approximately 1000 registered Libertarians in the district, only 500 voted. Assuming that they all voted for me, then 2000 of my votes came from non-Libertarians or four times the number of registered Libertarians

that voted. This is a very powerful message. We reached a lot of potential Libertarians.

Here is the negative. Support of Libertarians was almost non-existent. There were a few patriots that answered the call and I am truly thankful for their support. But, frankly, the response of Libertarians was very disappointing. Here are the numbers:

My campaign spent \$10,400. Of this - 28% or \$2,875 came from Libertarians; 14% or \$1,430 came from non-Libertarians; 58% or \$6,095 came out of my own pocket.

The money raised from Libertarians was spent primarily on raising the money from the Libertarians. In other words, none of the Libertarian money was actually spent on spreading our message.

The key now is to build on the success of my campaign and start converting registered voters to registered Libertarians. To do that we need help. How? One, the registered Libertarians need to join the party. This will help the party fund a registration drive in 1997 an off election year. Two, we need extra money and volunteers to reach out in 97 to register 4000 new Libertarians. Three - define our platform in a manner that the general population can understand and support. For instance -instead of legalizing drugs we should state that we want fight crime by ending the drug war; which, is a failure.

Here is my proposal for registering voters in 1997.

1) Set up registration tables throughout Alameda and Contra Costa Counties - cost \$0 it just takes volunteers willing to spend a few hours on a Saturday.

2) Run a full page ad in the San Ramon Valley Herald, Oakland Tribune, and Contra Costa Times with the world's smallest political ad and a statement from the local party - cost \$10,000

3) Open the communication channels via phone line, web page, mail, fax, and email. This information should be printed on business cards and distributed to all members of the local party for their use to advise people on how to contact the local party.



Smog II Constitution 0

by *Thomas L Testerman*

"We hold these truths to be self-evident...that all men are created equal." With these words our nations' founding fathers declared their independence and began the hard work of turning these words into truths. For the last two hundred and twenty years, this work has proceeded, sometimes quickly and often much too slowly, but considering these words we would never expect to see our government intentionally create, by law, classes within our society. Would we?

With the passage and implementation of Smog II, the California Department of Consumer Affairs, Bureau of Automotive Repair, State Air Resources Board, State Legislature and Governor Wilson have created three distinct classes of citizen within our great state. These classes are not determined by income, color, nationality, sex, age, or physical condition. Indeed, your "Representatives" have labored long and hard to revive a method of discrimination not seen since the end of the Civil War, LOCALE. With Smog II, the State of California legally discriminates against you according to where you live.

You as told by these "Representatives" that Smog II is needed to improve air quality. Why then are those areas with less pollution and lower population densities exempted from smog checks except at the time of vehicle sales? Is it not easier to prevent pollution than to recover from it? If an area suffers from pollution, does it matter if the problem is mild, moderate, or severe? Do we not attempt to prevent an increase in severity of the problem while working to decrease the pollution level by setting standards and testing requirements that apply to all vehicles and people equally across the board? Not in California!

In areas the state defines as "Change of Ownership" you need worry about testing only when you wish to sell your vehicle . . . maybe. In areas defined as "Basic Area" you will have your vehicle tested every two years or when sold just

as you do now . . . maybe. If your residence falls in what the state calls an "Enhanced Area," your testing occurs every other year, as in the "Basic Area," but "Roadside Sensors," engine class, past Smog Check results, vehicle family, or random selection using DMV records can result in this testing taking place in State Test Only/Referee Centers rather than regular independent Smog Check Stations.

All of these selections, with the exception of a Smog Test for the purpose of a vehicle sale, are based upon information obtained without your knowledge or permission; upon "past" violations or problems; or a selection process equivalent to kicking in your front door to see if today you are breaking the law in your home.

This is important to you the electorate, because while today you may not live in an "Enhanced Area," if tomorrow the EPA and California State Air Resources Board change their minds, you will. If so, you have 30 days to repair your car, whatever the cost, if it fails testing, or be prepared to pay fines of \$5.00 per day up to \$500.00 until it is fixed; and when it is finally repaired, it becomes suspect for further testing forever.

Smog II is not a problem of pollution. California was addressing that issue under the prior "Smog Check" program (It should be noted that the California Program was the model for the EPA program). Smog II is an issue of power and control; between the federal government and your state officials, and between your state officials and their constituency.

Today your state consists of those who are Enhanced, Basic, or waiting for Change of Ownership. Not citizens enjoying justice and equity under state and federal law, but vehicle owners waiting for political appointees, not elected representatives, to determine who they will be today. Is this a notion of laws governed by the electorate, or is this a nation of laws governing that same electorate? The prior example defines a Democracy, the second defines Tyranny. We could not, as citizens, conceive of our government usurping our Constitutional Guarantees. Could we?



Thanks to All Libertarian Poll Workers

by Marion McEwen

I want to thank all of you who took the time to be poll workers in last month's General Election. I hope you saw as I did that we need to volunteer as poll workers *at every election*. I encourage all of you to consider working the next election again and I hope more Libertarians will join us. Thank you for making the effort to support the election process and for spending the long hours at the polls. I would like to think that our volunteers helped make the difference in a more speedy reporting of the vote totals in Alameda County. Perhaps if we had more volunteers in Contra Costa County, the dismal reporting time they had would improve.

I had an interesting and enjoyable day as I

worked at a Hayward polling place. I hope your experience was as informative as mine. The most notable thing occurring at the polling place where I worked was the number of voters registered as other than Democrat who came out to vote. If all "minor" party voters, including Republicans, had voted for a candidate other than Bill Clinton, he would have won that precinct by the barest number of votes. The Democrats have the numbers of registered voters, but they do not have very many *real* voters.

This is good news for the other parties. It means that a strong voter registration effort could mean the difference in the next election. As a result of our volunteers working at the polls, we are all enthused about registration and will be concentrating our efforts in that direction.

Join us at the December meeting at Ricky's and tell us about your poll working experiences. We would enjoy hearing your observations and your ideas for increasing our registration base.

Again, thank you for your time and effort.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

(For those joining the LP as a voting member)

I hereby certify that I do not believe in nor advocate the **initiation** of force as a means of achieving social or political goals.

Libertarian Party

of California

20993 Foothill Blvd., #318
Hayward, CA 94541

Signature _____ Date _____

Name _____

Address _____

City, State & ZIP _____

(Optional)

Phone: _____ FAX: _____

email: _____

- ☐ Basic LP Membership
(includes *California Liberty + Lifeline*) \$25
- ☐ Household Membership
(for joint households) \$35
- ☐ National LP Membership
(add \$20 per person)
- ☐ Subscription only to
Libertarian Lifeline \$10
- ☐ Donation (Thank you!)

Please make checks payable to:
Libertarian Party of California

CALENDAR OF EVENTS **DECEMBER**

Thursday, December 12, 1996: Post-Election Politics Online Conference. South San Francisco Convention Center, South San Francisco, CA. A one-day conference to evaluate how the 1996 General Election was conducted and reported in cyberspace, featuring speakers such as Todd Lapin of *WIRED* Magazine, Moira Gunn of National Public Radio's *TechNation* program, Jessica Tulley from MTV's *Rock the Vote*, and other representatives from the California Voter Foundation, California Journal, Project VoteSmart, MS/NBC, the San Francisco *Chronicle*, the Associated Press, and ABC's PoliticsNow, among many others. Registration is a hefty \$190, but should be well worth it. For more information, contact Flying Kite Productions, Inc., 1010 S Street, Sacramento, CA 95814 or call (916) 443-3855, or point your browser to <http://205.177.10.11/main/caconfer.htm>

Tuesday, December 17, 1996: Alameda County LP General Meeting. Ricky's Sports Lounge and Steakhouse at 15028 Hesperian Boulevard in San Leandro (near BayFair Mall). Help us plan our activities for 1997 and meet our goals for the new year. We are also taking nominations for officers to be elected at the January meeting. Available offices include regional chair, vice-chairs, Executive Committee Representative, Secretary, Treasurer and Delegates to the State Convention (see below). Formal business will begin between 7:30 and 8:00 p.m. For more information, please call the LP Party Line at (510) 531-0760.

February 14-17, 1997: Libertarian Party of California Annual Convention. Beverly Garland Hotel, 1780 Tribute Road, Sacramento, CA 95815. For reservations, call 1-800-BEVERLY and make sure you mention that you are with the Libertarian Party to get the special Convention room rate.

Sunday Afternoons, 5:30 p.m.: The Libertarian News Hour on Free Radio Berkeley, 104.1 FM, hosted by East Bay LP Chair Jeff "Zippy the Yippie" Sommer, the voice of freedom on the airwaves originating from one of the last bastions of socialism in America, Berkeley, California.

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