

California Freedom

April 2004

The official publication of the **Libertarian Party of California**

■ Election 2004

Libertarian Victory at the Polls!

by **Bruce Cohen**
LPC Executive Committee Member

Every single Libertarian candidate and voter won in this election. Showing up and participating was a big win for us all.

As Libertarians, being the only significant third party in the race, participation was its own reward. Each election, we prove that we can win in many ways other than by being the number one vote-getters. We influence public policy, sway the results of ballot initiatives, and garner a tremendous amount of press.

The most interesting races to California Libertarians on March 2 were the contested presidential and senatorial primaries, along with the four statewide ballot initiatives.

Propositions 57 and 58 passed surprisingly easily. This was a lesson in the power of celebrity, and demonstrative of Governor Arnold's popularity.

Proposition 56 failed, and it's a good thing, too! For Californians this was the single most dangerous of the four propositions, and would have handed our legislature a virtual *carte blanche* to raise taxes. If we had to choose just one ini-

tiative to beat, 56 was the one! Proposition 55 squeaked by narrowly, prompting Orange County Libertarian candidate Andrew Favor to comment, "If every California Libertarian had voted on election day, and convinced one friend to join him in also voting 'no,' Proposition 55 would have been defeated." Libertarian voter turnout by

percentage didn't quite keep up with the Democrats or Republicans, but beat out the other parties.

In the Libertarian presidential primary, Gary Nolan's efforts paid off handsomely, where he came away with a "blowout" win in a three-way race. It was Russo, however, who won the straw poll of party



Photo: Elizabeth C. Briery

• **LP presidential candidates (L to R) Aaron Russo, Gary Nolan, and Michael Badnarik spoke at the LPC convention March 12-14. Nolan won the March 2 California primary election, but Russo won in the straw poll of California convention delegates on March 14.**



Libertarians spoke at a press conference hosted by the California Civil Rights Alliance at the Commonwealth Club in San Francisco on Feb. 13. Invited were candidates scoring well on CCRA's survey about the USA PATRIOT Act, including Libertarians Zander Collier, up for State Assembly District 24 (above right), and Presidential candidates Gary Nolan and Aaron Russo. Suddenly unable to attend, Russo dispatched former LPC Chair Mark Hinkle (above left) to relate Russo's speech to the press, including SF's KGO radio. Also speaking were SF mayoral candidate Matt Gonzalez, and presidential candidates Peter Camejo (Green) and Dennis Kucinich (Democrat).

activists at the LPC convention. March 2 statewide results:

Nolan . . . 58.8% Winner!
Russo . . . 24.8%
Badnarik. 16.4%

In the U.S. Senate race, James Gray won convincingly.

Gray . . . 57.2% Winner!
Lightfoot .42.8%

For both Gray and Nolan,

• See **Victory** page 5

■ Election 2004

Voters All Over the Map on March 2

by **Ted Brown**
Chair, Candidate Recruitment, LPC

The March 2 primary election is now history. I have good news and bad news. The good news is that Proposition 56 went down in defeat. Though government employee unions tried to frame it as a reform measure, in reality it would have made it far easier for the Legislature to raise taxes and pass higher state budgets. California is saved—for the moment.

Sadly, the other measures passed, though Proposition 55—the school construction bond—just barely eked out its victory. Voters overwhelmingly approved Gov. Schwarzenegger's Propositions 57 and 58 to sell more debt—in the form of bonds—to pay off existing debt, and to enshrine this policy in law. The governor hinted at draconian budget cuts if this pair of measures failed—just what Libertarians were hoping for. That's because we know

• See **Mixed Results** page 4

CA Libertarian Official Breaks Own Record

One of the longest-serving Libertarians in public office in the country, Tom Tryon, was reelected on March 2 to his position as Calaveras County Supervisor.

This will be his sixth term as one of five supervisors in the county of 41,000. He won 54.5% of the vote, beating out challenger Trudy Lackey.

Tryon thinks he was reelected to the non-partisan post because of his "long history and clear record" in service to the county. "People know what they're getting."

Tryon said his biggest challenge over the next 4 years will

be continuing the county's strong financial position, after voters approved a \$15 billion bond to pay off state debt. "I think we are in fine financial condition, absent the state taking funds from us," he said.

Tryon looks forward to running again at the end of that time. He has been interested in politics since he was in grade school. "I guess that fire still burns," he said. "I still care very much." •

Excerpted from LP News Online.



Photo: Elizabeth C. Briery

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California Freedom

Vol. 2 • Issue 4 • April 2004

California Freedom

is the official monthly newspaper of the Libertarian Party of California. Opinions, articles, and advertisements published herein do not necessarily represent official party positions unless so indicated.

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SUBMISSION DEADLINES

All news stories, editorials, and announcements are due six weeks prior to the month of publication:

- June 2004: Due 04.20.04
- July 2004: Due 05.20.04
- August 2004: Due 06.20.04

Advertising orders and artwork are due eight weeks and four weeks, respectively, prior to the month of publication. We reserve the right to refuse advertising.

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So Who Won the Contested Race? The LPC!



FROM THE CHAIR

I was wrong. Yes, it's true. When I first heard that the LPC was to have a contested primary for the U.S. Senate race, I cringed.

I said to myself, "It's a waste of valuable resources having two Libertarians battling it out in a primary. That same energy could be used better in the general election. We have Congressional races left unfilled. I'd rather have two candidates promoting our message in the general election."

But after watching what unfolded this year, with the race between Gail Lightfoot and Judge James Gray, along with the other few contested races, I've come to realize the opposite: a contested primary is actually very good for us. A contested primary compels our candidates to start campaign-

ing much earlier. The experience of debating one another, raising money, and organizing volunteers is invaluable. Knowing that you don't have a lock on the primary, and knowing that the way you run your campaign can realistically result in your defeat or your victory,



forces you to take the race seriously and to consider election strategy. Even the media took notice: At least one weekly newspaper, in Ventura County, endorsed one of our candidates in the March primary.

The candidates and the Party have come out ahead because of this experience. Never have I seen such excitement for a candidate so early in the election cycle. And I sincerely hope that we will see more high quality contested races in the future. Thank you, Gail Lightfoot and James Gray.

Now it's time to focus on the general election. Nominated candidates who have been en-

dorsed by the Convention or by the Executive Committee are encouraged to submit photographs and campaign information to the webmaster so that we can provide information to the public on all of our candidates. Content is subject to editing, and photos should be of the candidate dressed professionally.

I'm encouraged by the reaction to my March column. I wrote about our plan to recruit libertarian-thinking elected officials who belong to the other political parties. Some of you have responded to my latest letter to the membership asking for pledges contingent on us succeeding in getting more elected officeholders. (Rifle through your large stack of unopened mail for the letter which pleads, "DON'T, repeat DON'T, send any money!!")

If you and enough other members agree to make pledges for this project, we could start an ambitious mailing campaign to elected officials in as few as 60 days. It's up to you! Once we have 200 members each willing to pledge \$10 for every elected

official who joins our party, we can move ahead with this project.

* * *

Are you a great writer? Many newspapers, especially weeklies, are looking for good op-ed pieces. I'm working with our new webmaster, Bruce Dovner, to form the Libertarian Party of California Writers' Bureau. We will create a spot on our web site where newspaper editors can request inclusion on a weekly distribution list of op-ed pieces and where column writers can submit their work.

The focus will be on California politics, and part of each column should emphasize how governmental policies affect small business owners, a core constituency of ours. We're looking for at least five great writers who will take turns writing a weekly column. Contact me if you'd like to be a part of this, and possibly have your column printed in newspapers throughout the state.

Toward liberty!

Aaron Starr, Chairman

All Marriage Must be Gay



FROM THE EDITOR

As a linguaphile, I have both fun and frustration with the shifting sands of English. The word "gay" connotes—among other things—"joyous and lively, merry," and was adopted by homosexual Americans in what I imagine to have been an assertion of their right to choose their own self-description.

California and Massachusetts are at the forefront of the gay marriage licensing controversy. Gavin Newsome, the newly elected mayor of San Francisco, a city well known to be homosexual-friendly, has gone on a gay-marriage-licensing binge. Governor Schwarzenegger has asked California Attorney General Bill Lockyer to put a stop to the city's illegal

activity. But in flouting state law, Newsome may in fact be adhering to, even upholding, the U.S. Constitution's "equal protection" clause.

On March 14, delegates to the LPC's annual convention reinforced the Party's belief in marriage contracts being a private matter by approving a new platform plank called "Government Discrimination":

As long as government is licensing marriages, it shall not discriminate on the basis of sexual orientation. The state shall decouple the rights and privileges currently accorded to licensed marriages in favor of private contractual arrangements between consenting individuals.

This new language reinforces long-established Libertarian principles already delineated in our "Marriage" plank:

We support the rights of individuals to form private relationships as they see fit, either by contract or by mutual agreement. We regard marriage as one such private relationship. The State of California should not dictate, prohibit, control, or encourage any such private relationship. To im-

plement this principle, we advocate: ...The right of all consenting adults to form marriage contracts without regard to gender, sexual preference....

All along, we've been saying to the government, "keep out." The matter is best left to churches, and to individuals capable of exercising the free will granted them as human beings.

President George W. Bush, upon proposing a Constitutional Amendment restricting states to a definition of "marriage" as being a union between one man and one woman, has been lambasted by *The Economist* (Feb. 26):

So at last it is official: George Bush is in favour of unequal rights, big-government intrusiveness and federal power rather than devolution to the states.

Of course, Libertarians knew that all along.

How is it that the tenets of the U.S. Constitution, designed to limit the power of the fed-



eral government while protecting individuals' and states' rights, continue to be so sorely overlooked, ignored, and misinterpreted? The amendments legalizing the income tax (16th) and then banning alcohol (18th) violated our right to liberty and to the pursuit of happiness. Bush's proposal would further encroach on citizens' rights—the very ones held sacrosanct in the Bill of Rights. Bush swore to uphold this Constitution, and its principles are what we Libertarians are fighting to preserve.

The Economist goes on to assert that "to call for a constitutional amendment is...a difficult...move..." Thank goodness! We're all counting on the steep ratification requirement to stop bad amendments in their tracks.

A constitutional amendment mandating states' constraints on churches' and couples' definition of "marriage" would be about as silly as a constitutional amendment mandating that all marriages must be gay. Er—that is, joyous and lively, merry.

Toward greater liberty!

Elizabeth C. Brierly, Editor

■ Coalition Building

A New Recall: Help Get "3 Strikes" Fix onto Ballot

Immediate help from Libertarians is needed by Citizens Against Violent Crime in their fight to bring sense to the unjust "3 Strikes" law.

This vague law resulted in California imposing sentences of 25-years-to-life for non-violent crimes such as drug possession.

CAVC's ballot initiative, "Amend 3-Strikes," aims the law at violent crime, and replaces unjust life sentences for petty offenses and victimless crimes with reasonable, less costly sentences.

There may still be time to get the initiative onto the November ballot, help save thousands of dollars and thousands of lives—all at once. Join CAVC on their final signature-collecting weekend of April 3-4. Joe Klaas, CAVC

chair and Polly Klaas's grandfather, explains:

"Our goal is to find 100 people who'll devote four hours to collect 100 signatures.

Join CAVC on their final signature-collecting weekend of April 3-4.

"With the deadline approaching, we must ensure we have the 600,000 signatures needed to qualify for November. While we've collected more than half needed

[as of March 15], we still have a long way to go.

"Every signature not only gets us closer to our goal—it helps save the campaign money that can then be used to communicate our message to voters.

"To sign up, visit www.Amend3Strikes.com/volunteer.htm,

or call 1-866-3Strikes. We will provide petitions, training, and locations. You won't knock on doors; you'll go to swap meets, theaters, and other places with crowds.

"We are asking a lot, but we wouldn't ask if the need and the opportunity weren't so great." ●

Letter to the Editor

Recourse for Activist Judges



How about impeachment for judges who violate their oath of office? This would be tried in the Senate.

Beyond this, Alexander Hamilton said it quite well in Federalist Paper No. 29:

If the representatives of the people betray their constituents, there is then no recourse left but in the exertion of that original right of self-defense which is paramount to all positive forms of government, and which against the usurpations of the national rulers may be exerted with infinitely better prospect of success than against those of the rulers of an individual State. In a single State, if the persons entrusted with supreme power

become usurpers, the different parcels, subdivisions, or districts of which it consists, having no distinct government in each, can take no regular measures for defense. The citizens must rush tumultuously to arms, without concert, without system, without resource; except in their courage and despair.

I never signed that "don't believe in the use of force" [pledge] because I know there are times and places where the use of force is the only recourse, like when this country was founded.

—Steven Moses
Santa Ana, CA

Opinions: Everybody's Got 'Em!

Have YOUR voice heard right here at *California Freedom*. Send us your letters to the editor, op-ed articles, reports on local LP events, photos, or even report on the latest book you've read about politics or economics.

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Work for Liberty —and Money! WANTED: OFFICE MANAGER

The Libertarian Party of California needs a new Office Manager! The job entails part-time work, one to three days a week. Pay is \$10 per hour. This job provides excellent experience for a business career and looks great on a résumé. Hours are flexible, and the office manager can set his or her own convenient schedule.

Requirements:

Must be reliable and trustworthy. A basic understanding of accounting is a plus. Self-motivation and ability to keep on track without supervision are essential. Professional and courteous telephone presence. Solid understanding of computers, and ability to troubleshoot basic computer problems. Must be able to travel to the main LPC office in Van Nuys.

Responsibilities:

- Handle all funds going through the state office.
- Document and input revenue to computer programs and make bank deposits, as well as process all outgoing money such as bills and monthly regional dues payments. (Check-signing and oversight will be provided by the LPC Treasurer.)
- Heavy work with MYOB accounting software.
- Send out monthly statements.
- Process monthly credit card transactions and bank drafts.
- Monthly bank account reconciliation.
- Occasional customer service duties, to help solve problems for pledgers and members.
- Occasional projects involving heavy data processing or hand-addressing mailings. Such projects may arise on short notice, but usually can be completed on a flexible schedule.

Experience is welcome but not necessary, as training will be available. The current Office Manager will assist with the transition and be available to answer questions as needed.

To apply:

- contact the LPC via e-mail at Office@CA.LP.org
- telephone LPC Chair Aaron Starr at (805) 583-3308



Welcome Aboard!

During February, 31 Californians signed up for liberty by joining the L.P. New members include patent attorney David Pressman, private investment manager Jason Jenkins, John Hanson from the U.S. Navy, retirees Robert Johnson and William Morfeld, dentists Lynne Shepard and Todd Young, and Saket Vemprala, a student at U.C. San Diego. Thanks and welcome to all the new members joining us in the Party of Principle!

Jose Aguilar	.Los Angeles
Brian Aiello	.Sacramento
Steven Barber	.Livermore
William Barcikowski	.Anaheim
Michael Dubin	.Castro Valley
John Hanson	.San Diego
Mo Harlow	.Crestline
Scott Haworth	.Bakersfield
Barbara Herbert	.Alameda
Michael Jacobowitz	.San Leandro
Jason Jenkins	.Los Angeles
Robert Johnson	.La Mesa
Dennis Lapham	.Foresthill
Jim Machado	.Arcadia
Camden McConnell	.Pittsburg
Joseph Mijares	.Pasadena
William Morfeld	.San Diego
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Jeanette Troub	.Oxnard
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■ Election 2004

Ballot Endorsements: Worthwhile or Worthless?

by Richard Rider

Chair, San Diego Tax Fighters

A troubling aspect of today's California democracy is how groups endorse ballot propositions without ever asking to hear both sides of an issue. This problem was brought home to me this March, as I co-wrote ballot book opposition arguments to both a state and a city proposition.

Three taxpayer groups—including mine, San Diego Tax Fighters—co-wrote the ballot arguments against Proposition 58, the misnamed "Balanced Budget Act." This proposition served only to legalize Proposition 57's \$15 billion bailout bond. The touted budget reforms were smoke and mirrors, designed to get the public to authorize Prop. 57 without even *knowing* it (they left that crucial fact out of the legislative analyst-written bal-

lot summary).

Now that the election is over, it is starting to dawn on the press that such is the case. There are indeed no spending limits in Prop. 58, nor any restrictions on raising taxes. As the legislative budget process proceeds, these shortcomings will become even more evident.

So who knew? Well, we opponents did. We said so in our ballot arguments, unchallenged by the other side.

Mind you, I'm not complaining about the lopsided spending on the Proposition 56 and 57 measures. The other side spent millions and millions of dollars, and we spent nothing. Such



• Richard Rider has taken sides on many ballot measures.

is the nature of politics, and, while I wish we could have raised some significant money, we didn't. My beef is with the endorsing groups—groups who usually endorsed before the advertising blitz even started.

Sadly, hundreds of groups throughout the state routinely endorsed Propositions 57 and 58 without hearing from opponents. Frankly, we opponents were astonished at how few

Sadly, hundreds of groups routinely endorsed Props 57 and 58 without hearing from opponents.

queries we received from such groups, and the handful of speaking engagement offers.

Given that this mega-state has over 35,500,000 people—about the same total as the Eastern Seaboard states from Delaware through Georgia—it is hard to comprehend such little honest inquiry into this issue. Yet we opponents received less than a total of 20 queries from the press, civic groups, labor unions, business groups, homeowners' associations, planning boards, and other political jurisdictions.

So how meaningful are all the endorsements we see for propositions? Not very. What these endorsements usually reflect is who is on which side of the issue politically—rather than some reasoned decision on the issue made after due deliberation.

Most groups who endorse such measures are seeking



When was the last time a public employee labor union opposed a tax increase?

favors from government, or trying to avoid making political enemies, or have their own political agenda. When was the last time a public employee labor union opposed a tax increase or a bond measure?

Locally in San Diego, Bruce Henderson and I led the opposition to Proposition C, the increase in the Transit Occupancy Tax from 10.5 percent to 13 percent. We found that, between us, we received requests for interviews or presentations from maybe three groups—including "informative" political forums. This total does not count media queries and shows—they were more numerous.

Yet dozens of groups took a position on Prop. C, with almost all favoring this tax increase. Many groups did indeed receive a briefing on the proposition—but only from proponents.

So the next time you see that some organization has endorsed (or, on the odd occasion, opposes) a tax increase or an expansion of government, ask them whether they asked to hear both sides. You'll hear either lame excuses or embarrassed silence. ●

Richard Rider is a longtime Libertarian activist and president of Economy Telcom, contributing to the LPC based on sales of its long-distance telephone service. He was the LPC's 1994 candidate for Governor, and in 1998 garnered 16% of the vote in his race for San Diego Tax Collector. He can be reached at RRider@san.rr.com.

Mixed Results

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that the only way to reform the state budget is to cut spending.

Libertarians were able to vote in several contested races. The presidential primary was a "beauty contest," meaning that it doesn't bind our convention delegates. Gary Nolan defeated Aaron Russo and Michael Badnarik in the primary. It's unknown how much Libertarian voters knew about any of the three candidates. Mr. Nolan benefited, of course, from sharing the last name of Libertarian Party founder David Nolan.

A primary vote that did count was in the U.S. Senate race. Judge James Gray defeated Gail Lightfoot 57% to 43% for the chance to take on incumbent Senator Barbara Boxer (a Democrat) in November. Gray is running on a platform of opposing the "War on Drugs," and hopes to bring this important issue to the forefront in the upcoming race. Ms. Lightfoot has run for U.S. Senate twice before.

Every single vote really does count!

The other Libertarian primary was in Santa Clara County's 13th State Senate District. John Webster, who ran in 1996 and 2000, was challenged by Michael Laursen. As of this writing, the race is too close to call. On election night, Mr. Webster led by two votes, but provisional ballots had not yet been counted. The final tally should be available by the next issue. This just goes to show that once in awhile, every single vote really does count!

Seventy other Libertarian candidates ran unopposed to win the Party's nomination, and will go on to Congressional, State Senate, and State Assembly races throughout the state in November. ●

Ted Brown not only has run for public office more often than any other California Libertarian—with 13 races under his belt—but has served as LPC Chair. He has been our prime candidate recruiter since the 1988 election, helping to cultivate libertarian pioneers throughout the state.



And now I see with eye serene
the very pulse of the machine.

—William Wordsworth

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Chair, Gold Country Libertarians



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■ Election 2004

Santa Barbara County LP Defeats School Bond Issue



by **Robert Bakhaus**
Chair, United Against Tax Abuse

Most within the March 2 election results from California, with almost all of its historically huge statewide bond and tax proposals passing, is a blip of good news from a local LP chapter. The Santa Barbara County LP defeated Measure V in Santa Maria, a proposed \$98 million in bonds for local school construction. It would have required 55 percent voter approval to take effect, and acquired just 50.26 percent.

The Santa Maria Joint Union High School District had already used the power of eminent domain to drive an elderly woman from the property on which they wanted to build, and then they had hired a political consultant to advise them on how to win the bond election to fund their building projects. But because "electioneering" is an illegal use of taxpayer money, the advisor was set up with a private group of volunteers to run his campaign. Further, the Santa Maria educators had already abused the taxpayers by using a previous bond issue to build a virtual Taj Mahal for their administrators rather than the elementary school they had promised.



Given this stew of corruption, Santa Barbara County Libertarian Party chairman William "B.J." Wagener decided to interview Melvin Phipps, the author of the ballot argument against the bond measure, on Wagener's public access television show. Not only did he conduct the interview, but he first took video camera in hand and toured the palatial administrative building, showing how previous bond monies had been wasted, lavished on creature comforts for public school administrators. Needless to say, Wagener's hate mail has been running 10 to 1 against his "unfair," "biased," and "abusive" pre-election coverage. While pre-election polls had

shown the bond measure possibly losing, the public ire against Wagener's program, *On Second Thought*, gives a strong indication that it was his exposé that really clinched its defeat.

The Libertarian Party of Santa Barbara County conducts its activism with an eye to lobbying for libertarian policy, rather than with delusions of actually electing LPers to partisan offices. They emphasize public access television series rather than campaign debate sound bites, petitions to sunset existing taxes rather than merely voting against tax increases that parasites put on the ballot, and litigating at the drop of a hat to enforce laws against electioneering, conflict of interest, and so forth. As party Secretary, I am fond of bragging that since we stopped worrying about candidates and started worrying about issues, we've not lost one campaign. Grassroots lobbying is a winning strategy for libertarians. More about Santa Barbara County LP's unique lobbying strategy can be found at www.Silcom.com/~taxabo. ●

Robert Bakhaus has been an activist in the LPC for 25 years. He may be reached at Taxabo2@AOL.com.

Fans of rational resistance to the "elected tyranny" of our increasingly unlimited majoritarian government are invited to visit Bakhaus's web site, **United Against Tax Abuse**, at www.Silcom.com/~taxabo/, and/or to subscribe to his free list-serve by sending a blank e-message to: LibertarianSociety-Subscribe@YahooGroups.com

Victory

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their relentless campaigning in California paid off handsomely. The investment in shoe leather by both campaigns, and Gray's statewide mailing seem to have been the most pivotal factors in their wins. ●

■ Campaign 2004

Repeal the Failed War on Drugs! Candidate Gray Speaks at U.C. Berkeley

by **Lawrence Samuels**
LPC Northern Vice Chair

Judge James Gray brought his campaign for U.S. Senate to the University of California at Berkeley on March 10—the very campus where the modern libertarian movement first started during the heyday of the mid-1960's Berkeley Free Speech Movement. Invited to campus by Jason Murray, the president of Cal Libertarians, Gray found his speech event had been combined with two other organizations on campus: Students for Sensible Drug Policy, and DanceSafe.

The judge repeated his attacks on the "failed and hopeless war on drugs" to over 60 students. He advocated decriminalizing marijuana and holding people "accountable for their actions, instead of what they put in[to] their bodies." He mentioned the impossibility of controlling drugs in a free society, citing the lesson learned by an outback town in Australia. Citizens of this desert town four hundred miles from the next settlement attempted to stop all illegal drugs once and for all. They were so isolated that most citizens were convinced that they could search every car and person who entered their town for illegal substances. The result: the town residents soon noticed that young people were wearing soup cans on a string around their necks. To their horror, they discovered that teenagers were using the cans to sniff gasoline in order to get high. Judge Gray asked, "How far do we go? Should we also ban gasoline?"

Hold people accountable for their actions, instead of what they put into their bodies.



• **James Gray, Candidate for U.S. Senate**

The judge acknowledged the dangers of any drug, legal or illegal, arguing that he is more concerned about safety. "I told my children that I would come and pick them up if they found themselves in a car with people who were drunk or high on drugs. No questions asked. Safety is more important."

The students responded well to Judge Gray's speech, including the non-libertarians from Students for Sensible Drug Policy who later that evening premiered *Generation E*, a documentary film about the RAVE Act, Harm Reduction, the attack on youth culture, and the war on drugs. ●

Lawrence Samuels is a long-time libertarian activist. He founded Freedom Watch, on the web at www.Freedom1776.com, and is editor of the very handy book, Facets of Liberty: A Libertarian Primer. Samuels works as a realtor, and this year is serving the LPC as Northern Vice Chair. He can be reached at LawSamz@Hotmail.com.



Cal Libertarians:
www.OCF.Berkeley.edu/~callib/news.shtml

Judge James Gray for U.S. Senate:
www.JudgeJimGray4Senate.com

Bruce Cohen joined the LPC Executive Committee in 2003 as the representative of the Orange County LP. He also has served as Chair of the LPC's Awards and Recognition Committee.
Rick Root contributed to this article.



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LP on the Rise in Butte County Elects Supervisor Over Incumbent

by **Bruce Cohen**
Awards & Recognition Chair

The Libertarian Party of Butte County, with help from Lawrence Samuels, Northern Vice Chair, is getting things done!

In their very first magazine, they proudly announce their recent accomplishments, proving once again that the road to success is built with members, votes, and money.

It's exciting to see how active and effective they are, with their presence being felt everywhere in their commu-



• **Lawrence Samuels**
LPC
Northern Vice Chair

nity, which runs from the eastern banks of the Sacramento River up into the foothills of the Lassen National Forest. This area is home to about 200,000 people and the towns of Chico, Oroville, and Paradise. Butte LP'ers have embraced positive activism, running booths at many community events, supporting candidates, and taking positions on ballot propositions, all in concert. They have successfully grown their membership, increased their registered voter base, increased subscribers to their e-mail list and fattened their treasury. They've held speaker events; gotten on TV; been covered in the newspaper; held officer elections; and yes, had candidates elected. All in a month.

Most notably, Bill Connelly was elected as Supervisor against the entrenched incumbent!

Butte County Republicans and Democrats had better watch out, because the Butte Libertarians aren't kidding around! The best of luck and all the success in the world to the Libertarian Party of Butte County! To offer help or congratulations, contact Regional Chair Casey Aplanalp at (530) 894-8434. ●

Bruce Cohen joined the LPC Executive Committee in 2003 as the representative of the Orange County LP. He also has served as Chair of the LPC's Awards and Recognition Committee. Cohen makes his living as a real estate agent, and he speaks Japanese. He can be reached by phone at (949) 813-8001, and by e-mail at BruceDCohen@Cox.net.



• **Bruce Cohen**

Web Watch Grow the LP: a place to find ways to



grow the Libertarian Party

www.GrowTheLP.org

A very practical resource for Libertarians, *Grow the LP* is a web site which shares with visitors, "What You Can Do Now" and "Outreach Ideas." It motivates us with its simple and enthusiastic slogan, "Be the Solution!"

The site features an "idea forum," where visitors can browse activism ideas from fellow visitors. Tips are offered for both writing and distributing letters to the editor, and how to start a Drug War rally in your area. Also provided is a link for activists and speakers to locate a Toastmasters communication and leadership club near them.

One of the site's more urgent items this month is an appeal to join LP branches around the country for our abhorrent IRS tax deadline on April 15. Conveniently, the link leads visitors to LPC's own web page

describing our "Annual April Protest Against the Income Tax and Big Government."

Another prominent appeal this month focuses on the site's theme of growing the LP: "One of the main reasons people have not yet joined the Libertarian Party is that we haven't asked them. They don't have to be Libertarians to be 'Supporting' members. Make a pledge to yourself to ask one person a week to join the LP. It is a great way to stay in touch with us. They'll get three newsletters every month for only \$25 year (less than 7 cents a day). Just do it; Just ask." ●

ATTENTION WEB SURFERS!

California Freedom is looking for other web sites of interest to your fellow Libertarians. Please submit to Editor@CA.LP.org.

Fund Raising

Calendars Can Raise Cash for Campaigns



Here's a sneak peek at Miss July, LPC's own Kate O'Brien.

Running through March of 2005, the calendar still offers eleven months of elegance—if you order now!

It's not too late for your campaign to stock up on the *Ladies of Liberty 2004* calendar, the hottest fund raising tool in the Party.

Sixteen libertarian ladies from all over the U.S. display retro style glamour in this calendar, designed by North Carolinian Rachel Mills to raise funds for libertarian causes.

Candidates: contact calendar brainchild Rachel Mills at Rachel@RachelMills.com for your campaign's bulk orders.

For individual retail orders, contact one of California's Ladies of Liberty: O'Brien at KateOBrienPE@CS.com, phone (805) 583-3308, or Elizabeth Briery, March 2005, at ElizabethB@Netgate.net. ●

For the latest activities, discussion groups, meetings parties and demonstrations of the Libertarian Party of California and to link to your local region's site, note our new web site URL: www.LPC.org



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■ Election 2004

Each Voter—and Every Word—Counts

by **Mike Laursen**
Candidate for State Senate

As I write this, I still don't know who won my Libertarian primary race for Calif. Senate District 13.

On election night, it appeared that my opponent, John Webster, had won by two votes, but the vote tally keeps shifting as absentee and provisional ballots are counted.



• **LPC Candidate John Webster campaigning at Silicon Valley Taxpayers' Association on Feb. 10.**

Here's the history of the suspenseful vote tallies:

March 2 (Election Night)	Laursen 247	Webster 249	Behind by 2
March 5	Laursen 259	Webster 258	Ahead by 1
March 10	Laursen 270	Webster 268	Ahead by 2
March 12	Laursen 276	Webster 275	Ahead by 1
March 16	Laursen 283	Webster 278	Ahead by 5
Vote Count Percent			
	MICHAEL LAURSEN	283	49.30%
	JOHN WEBSTER	278	48.43%
	Write-In	13	2.26%
	Total	574	100.00%

I'm ahead by a scant five votes—less than half of the 13 write-in ballots counted so far. The final result of the race will be known by March 30. If you harbored any doubts, clearly, every single voter counts.

This extraordinarily close race—the closest for state office in the entire California primary—caught the attention of local papers like San Jose *Mercury News* and *Metro*. I

found myself, with no experience being interviewed, figuring out how to deal with reporters more interested in my opponent's legal problems—which make for a sensational story—than in talking about my candidacy and the issues.

Luckily, I had been warned about Rule #1: "There is no such thing as an 'off the record' remark. Anything you say to a reporter may end up in print."

From the three interviews I've done now, and from experiences shared by fellow Libertarians who were interviewed for the same stories, I've learned a few things about talking to reporters:

- A reporter may pretend to know less about the story, or exaggerate his sympathy for your side of a controversy, to draw remarks from you. It's best to plan in advance what you want to say, what you don't want to say, and where you'd like to steer the conversation.
- The interview will cover much more ground than will ac-



• **Candidate Mike Laursen campaigning at LPSCC convention on Jan. 8.**

tually appear in print. My phone interview with the *Mercury News* reporter lasted about 20 minutes. I painted a balanced picture of my views of my opponent; discussed my own merits; said great things about other local Libertarian candidates; and gave a libertarian view on several current political topics. Upon reading the article, I discovered that the reporter had completely focused on my opponent and "cherry picked" quotes from myself and other local Libertarian leaders to enhance the story he wanted

to tell. Now I know that every word counts—it is best not to make even one statement which, quoted alone, would misrepresent your position.

- Finally, no matter what you do, the reporter probably won't get all the facts straight. If you've ever been eyewitness to a newsworthy incident, and later read about it in the newspaper, you are no doubt familiar with the phenomenon. It's true what they say: "Don't believe everything you read." ●

Mike Laursen has been a member of the Libertarian Party since 1980, when he first reached voting age. Laursen earned a Computer Science degree from UCLA, and works as a software engineer at Adobe Systems. He is Secretary of the LP of Santa Clara County and an Alternate Representative to the LPC Executive Committee.

Mike Laursen's campaign web site is VoteLaursen.org.

John Webster's campaign site is www.JWebster.com/senate13.htm.



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Government Mandated Notices: The Federal Election Commission requires political committees to report the name, mailing address, occupation, and employer for each individual whose contributions aggregate in excess of \$200 in a calendar year. The IRS requires us to print "contributions are not tax-deductible" on all fund raising appeals.

■ Campaigning Communications Strategy Tips



One of the most important elements in any campaign is the formulation and implementation of an appropriate and affordable communications strategy. The key to spending campaign resources in the most productive manner is based on following these three guidelines:

1) Develop low-end, medium, and high-end communications budgets and trigger the appropriate one in the final few weeks of the campaign.

2) Develop the campaign theme, message and "look" in plenty of time to get materials and media prepared and ready to use at the optimum time. All materials and ads should present the same theme and message.

3) Resist the urge to do "a little bit of everything." Instead, determine which types of media will produce the most bang for the buck among various voter groups and stick with those. (Please don't waste hundreds or thousands of dollars on refrigerator magnets and other gimmicks.) Make sure each of the three budgets maximizes the amount of money available. For example, the low-end budget might use mail or yard signs entirely, whereas the high-end budget might focus exclusively on radio and television.

Campaign Timeline

Here is an example of a communications timeline.

- **6-8 months before the election** - Research all of the possible communications media available, including audience and costs. This includes everything from the cost of cable television spots and radio to the cost of printing yard signs and bumper stickers. Using the cost figures and audience information gathered, develop three budgets, based on your best guess as to the minimum, medium and greatest amount of money the campaign will raise. Also determine theme, message and "look" (colors, etc.) of the campaign and have a professional photographer take a lot of photos of the candidate and family.
- **5-7 months prior to election** - Print handouts and first mail piece. Develop scripts and shoot video for television ads. If using yard signs and/or "big boards," determine locations and have signs printed.
- **2-3 months prior** - Produce television and radio spots and purchase airtime based on lowest projected budget. Deliver yard signs; organize erection of big boards.
- **1-2 months prior** - Have signs spring up throughout district "overnight" as soon as permitted.
- **1-month prior** - Determine appropriate budget and unleash media barrage 2-4 weeks before election day (buy media time from election day backwards).

One of the most difficult things for any campaign is to stick with a communications plan, rather than react to everything the opponent is doing or to everything friends and neighbors are suggesting should be done.

Make three good communications plans, choose the appropriate one a few weeks from election day and stick to it! ●

Poli-Tips (Volume 1, Issue 10, February 26, 2004): Reprinted with permission from Politically-e, Inc. Poli-Tips is a bi-weekly service of Politically-e, Inc. and is intended to promote good political practices, both in running for office and serving the public. Politically-e, Inc. provides affordable political software and a la carte services to political candidates across America in districts of all sizes.

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San Jose, CA
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- Clockwise from top left: One delegate donned this tie tack attacking taxation. Cheeky San Francisco delegate Starchild advocated gays' rights to legal marriage. Al Newman's provocative "Tyranny Response Team" jacket evokes images of aggressive DEA agents. To Newman's left is presidential candidate Michael Badnarik.

Watch for full "coverage" of the LPC convention in our May issue!

It's Never Too Early to be Libertarian!



- Kai Brown, son of Jerry and Cathi Brown of Santa Clara County LP, was fascinated by the program at this year's LPC convention. This snapshot was captured just before he "devoured" it. His mother, a certified performer of Confidential Marriages, indicates that 8-month-old Kai is not yet a member of the Party simply because he hasn't mastered holding a pen, thus can't yet sign the Party's oath barring initiation of force. Well, Kai, we're ready when you are!

In Memoriam

Michelle Kurtz
Former LPC Officer



As we were about to go to press, we were saddened to learn that on March 14, long-time Libertarian Michelle Kurtz had passed away after at least a three-year battle with breast cancer. She was 53, and is survived by her parents, Robert and Hildegard Kurtz of Rolling Hills Estates, Calif.

Our friend had served as both secretary and treasurer for the Libertarian Party of California. She had also volunteered her services as treasurer for a number of political campaigns for various offices, including State Senate, State Assembly, Los Angeles Mayor, and City Council. Kurtz had been the campaign treasurer for all of the races of former Simi Valley City Council member Sandi Webb. In the fall of 2001 Kurtz had declared

her candidacy for the office of California State Controller, but was compelled to step out of the race due to her illness.

Kurtz was a California native, born and raised in the Los Angeles area. She received her Bachelor of Science degree from UCLA in Chemistry and Bacteriology, later changing careers and becoming a CPA. She ran her own accounting practice in the San Fernando Valley.

Kurtz's energy in volunteering with the LP carried over to her medical battle, which she fought much longer than her doctors had expected.

A memorial service will be held on March 27. For details please contact Kate O'Brien at KateOBrienPE@CS.com.

Michelle Kurtz and her Libertarian energy will be missed greatly. ●