

# California Freedom

December 2004 The official publication of the Libertarian Party of California

## Election Results Favor State Races Good results on many propositions

by Ted Brown  
LPC Candidate Coordinator

Election 2004 turned out not to be as close as Election 2000, but concerned voters gave a much smaller vote total to alternative presidential candidates anyway. Libertarian Presidential candidate Michael Badnarik appears to have received about 390,000 votes nationwide, a few more than Harry Browne in 2000. Badnarik ran third in California, with 40,893 votes, less than half of the 89,000

registered Libertarians in the state. Judge Jim Gray, in his U.S. Senate race, won 175,457 votes, or 1.7% of the total.

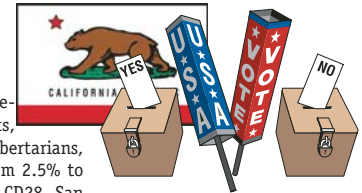
The vote on ballot propositions followed the Libertarian position more times than not, with eight agreements and six disagreements. Most significantly, voters defeated Proposition 62, the so-called Voter Choice initiative, which would have ultimately forced alternative parties off the ballot in California. Propositions 67 (a telephone tax hike) and 72 (health insurance requirements) also failed.

A review of the congressional and state legislative races showed mixed results. Overall, Libertarians fared better in the state legislative races.

Libertarians were running in 24 of the 53 U. S. Congressional districts. Three of those races were two-way, with one establishment party not fielding a candidate: CD32 (San Gabriel Valley), CD33 (Hollywood), and CD41 (rural San Bernardino County). Libertarians Leland Faegre, Bob Weber, and Peymon Mottahedeh won 15.1%, 11.3%, and 16.9% respectively. In

three-way races between Democrats, Republicans, and Libertarians, our totals ranged from 2.5% to 5.5% (Kelley Ross in CD28, San Fernando Valley), averaging 3.5%.

In eight races, there were other third-party candidates running as well. In those races, our totals ranged from just 1.1% to 2.1%, showing that we do far worse when voters have the opportunity to split the third-party vote. In all of those cases, the Green or Peace & Freedom or American Independent Party candidate



garnered more votes than the Libertarian.

Libertarians ran in 12 of the 20 State Senate districts up for election this time. There was one two-way race, in SD21 (Glendale, Pasadena), where Bob New won 21.9%. In the three-way races, the range was 2.9% to 5.4% (Dan Fernandes in SD29, San Gabriel Valley), aver-

• See **Results** page 4

## The Badnarik Campaign in Perspective

by David F. Nolan  
Co-Founder, Libertarian Party

As I write this, the final figures aren't known yet, but it appears that Michael Badnarik received close to 400,000 votes out of about 120 million. This represents a small numerical increase over Harry Browne's 2000 showing (384,429), but a small decrease in *percentage* (0.33% vs.

0.37%). Thus, for all practical purposes, this time's showing was a repeat of last time's.

On one level, this represents quite an achievement. The Badnarik campaign had to start almost "from scratch" after the LP's national nominating convention in Atlanta, Georgia, and had less than half as much money as the Browne 2000 campaign. The election was highly polarized, and perceived as extremely close. As a result, the percentage vote for all third-party candidates was only 0.9%—the lowest since 1984. Ralph Nader, anointed by the media as "the alternative candidate," saw his vote total plunge to one-sixth of his 2000 showing. At last count, he was ahead of Badnarik by fewer than 25,000 votes, although that could change in either direction.

Clearly, the Badnarik team did something right. Just "holding our own" in an election like the one just passed is admirable. But looking past that, to the bigger picture, there is reason for concern.

The high-water mark for

Libertarian Presidential campaigns was set in 1980. Ed Clark received 920,049 votes (1.065%) after spending \$3.65 million, including \$2 million contributed by Clark's wealthy running mate, David Koch. That was a lot of money in those days. Presidential campaign spending has increased approximately eightfold since then, and Badnarik was outspent by the Republicans nearly 400:1 in 2004.

**We might do better to focus on areas where we can have a real impact: local, state, and Congressional races, ballot initiatives, etc.**

Since 1980 our fortunes have waxed and waned. The

Libertarian vote total has alternately risen and fallen in every succeeding national election, never rising above 500,000, while our percentage has bobbed around between 0.25% and 0.50%. At this point it's hard to believe that we're ever going to break through at the national level until and unless we can attract a "star" candidate.

By "star" I do not mean someone like that tired old sad-sack, Ralph Nader. The liberal media may love him, but Ralphie is a nonentity to most Americans. Nor do I mean any of the various Libertarians who have sought our nomination in the past.

At minimum, it will require a candidate like Gary Johnson, the former Governor of New Mexico, who probably could garner 5% in a Presidential race. Even better, someone like H. Norman Schwarzkopf, who was at one point reportedly toying with the idea of running on our 2004 ticket. I do believe that if he had run, Schwarzkopf might possibly have won. Certainly, he could have gotten



• LP Presidential candidate Badnarik celebrates with supporters on election night in Austin, Texas.

15% to 20%.

Of course, any big-name candidate will want to run on his own terms, and I have no idea whether Mr. Johnson or General Schwarzkopf are actually very close to being consistent libertarians. Getting millions of votes would be nice, but they would have to be votes for the kind of society our party seeks, or they're meaningless.

Which brings us back to our "stuck under 500,000 votes" dilemma. We can continue to pour time, energy, and money into Presidential campaigns as long as we want to, but we should do so with an awareness that we're not going to pose

• See **Perspective** page 3

## INSIDE

Meet our new Executive Director! **2**

Should California go its own way? **4**

Libertarians strike election gold mine **6**

How we can each maintain LPC momentum **7**

LPC victorious in Mt. Diablo Health Care race **8**

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# "My Fellow Libertarians..."



## FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

**M**y fellow Libertarians..." That has a nice ring to it, doesn't it? Wouldn't it be great to hear that in a nationally-televised victory speech on November 3? We're not there yet—but we will be.

I feel it's my job and the job of every committed Libertarian to work toward that goal. How? Well, as with every worthy goal, there are a gazillion small steps that lead to it. Just in the few years since I tore up my Democratic Voter's Registration Card at our national convention and was asked to read our Party Platform for the attendees, I've noticed a marked change in people's reaction when I tell them I'm a Libertarian. Fewer blank stares, and many more "Oh yeah, you're the guys who

want to..."

Our message is getting out there and the more that people hear it, the more our Party grows. The bigger we get, the more we can change the course our country is taking.

It takes volunteers and it takes money. We have some wonderful volunteers in California, starting with our tireless Executive Committee and Chairman Aaron Starr. Volunteers like Amanda Austin and Alex Truberg who helped me research all the state's newspapers for our upcoming Writers' Bureau (more about that later). We have generous Libertarians who pledge monthly so that we can increase the important work of getting our message out, as well as finding and supporting worthy candidates.

If you're able to volunteer even one hour a week, or if you can pledge five, ten, twenty dollars a month, I urge you to contact me by phone at

(877) 884-1776, or by e-mail at [Director@LPC.org](mailto:Director@LPC.org).

Two of the projects we're currently working on are Outreach, wherein we have been increasing our membership through personal contact and inquiries to the state or national party, and Operation Breakthrough, which has been very successful in getting qualified and enthusiastic Libertarian candidates elected to offices all over California.

Our Writers' Bureau is very exciting for me. We have lined up some wonderful Libertarian writers to provide articles to the LPC. Each week, we will submit one of their columns to the Op/Ed editors of every newspaper in California. Some of those articles will target small business owners, who we feel will be most receptive to our libertarian message of stop-

ping government from meddling in and regulating their important work. Some will be subtle "muse pieces"—think Dave Barry writing about everyday matters, but from the Libertarian perspective.

I am very excited about the direction in which the Libertarian Party of California is headed. As the third largest Party in the state and nation, we are running and electing better candidates every election; people are listening to us and seeing us as a viable and attractive alternative to the "lesser of two evils" dilemma. However, we all need to participate to keep our momentum going and growing.

I am thrilled to be a part of this movement as we grow our membership and increase awareness of our message.

*Dave*

Dave Ruprecht  
Executive Director

## Can-Do Candidates: LPC Successes on Nov. 2

### FROM THE EDITOR

**L**ibertarian candidates for office won several elections on Election Day, adding to the dozens who were elected or appointed to office earlier this year—and working toward the goal of increasing individual freedom by getting Libertarians elected to public office"—this according to *LP News* (12/04).

California was no exception. We saw notable victories by Frank Manske, newly elected to the Mt. Diablo Health Care District board (see page 8 for the story), and Kate O'Brien, re-elected to Rancho Simi Recreation and Park District board (also see page 8).

We're pleased also to report these other California Libertarians' victories in their campaigns: In San Diego County, Mr. Robert Mendez won for Vista Irrigation Division No. 2, as did Ms Linda Strom for Lakeside Community Planning; in Humboldt County, Mr. Phillip Leavitt won a seat on the Carlotta Community Services District Board; in Yolo County, Mr. Laural Kieny won a seat on the Esparto Community Services District Board; and in San Luis Obispo, Oceano Community

Services District incumbent Mr. Vern Dahl was re-elected and joined by fellow Libertarian Mr. Jim Hill.

Congratulations to these freedom fighters—in their new roles they're sure to make an even bigger difference to their communities.

A hearty "thank you" goes to all the LPC candidates who extended themselves in the name of liberty during this exciting and controversial election season, helping keep that magical word, "Libertarian," peppering the ballot (or the C.R.T., as the case may be). Regional activists who volunteered for either ballot measure or candidates' projects this year are encouraged to keep up the momentum, and to spice up their activism with a new action or two—see Mark Selzer's creative suggestions in his new series on ideas for volunteers (page 7).

Keep up the good work, everyone!  
Toward liberty!

*Elizabeth C. Briery*

Elizabeth C. Briery, Editor

## Shopping for a home?

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Albert J. Segalla, Realtor  
Chair, Gold Country Libertarians



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# Letter to the Editor

## Government's Answer to Terrorism: Potemkin Security

The great American cynic H.L. Mencken once said, "The whole aim of practical politics is to keep the populace alarmed (and hence clamorous to be led to safety) by menacing it with an endless series of hobgoblins, all of them imaginary." Osama Bin Laden gave our *politidioticians* the ultimate bogeyman "terrorists." Terrorists are behind every tree, until you look there, and then, like Heisenberg's electrons,\* they are somewhere else.

Government has the perfect answer to terrorists: Potemkin security.

- Conspicuous T.S.A. airport inspectors impede our travel, but when tested miss two-thirds of the contraband.

- Conspicuous Immigration service that suspected several of the 9/11 hijackers but let them into the country anyway.

- Conspicuous Border Patrol officers at checkpoints along busy highways far inland, but spread way too thin anywhere near the border.

- Conspicuous new laws like the U.S.A. PATRIOT Act, or Campaign Finance Reform Act—much sound and fury signifying only a compromise of the Bill of Rights.

Potemkin, the Russian General who built fake villages to impress Czarina Catherine the Great gave all politicians the ultimate tactic. To use the

public's money to put on a great show of accomplishment is far more politically useful than actually accomplishing something. After all, a problem actually solved has lost its bogeyman potential.

You could build a school or highway in six months, but it's politically advantageous to stretch it out for six years, the whole time prominently displaying the sign: "Your tax dollars at work. -Dewey Takem, Mayor."

Even our elections have become more show than substance, with more interchangeable candidates than we can possibly scrutinize, running for more offices than we can name. Choose between Tweedledee, Tweedledum, and Tweedledummer. Democracy service that suspected several of the 9/11 hijackers but let them into the country anyway. when they really amount to a tax increase or a barrel of pork; usually both.

\* *The Uncertainty Principle of physicist Werner Heisenberg (1901-1976) states: "The more precisely the position of an electron is determined, the less precisely the momentum is known," i.e., you can know where it is or what it's doing, but not both.*

-Ken Obenski  
San Diego

## Perspective

*continued from page 1*

any real threat to the two major parties running candidates like Michael Badnarik, Harry Browne, or even the somewhat better-known Ron

Paul. If we view our Presidential campaigns as an exercise in outreach and education, and gauge our efforts and expectations accordingly, we

are not likely to be disappointed.

Conversely, if we are not willing to accept that reality, we will do better to depart the Presidential arena and focus on

areas where we can have a real impact: local, state, and Congressional races, ballot initiatives, and other contests where the playing field is closer to being level. ●

### Viewpoints: What's YOUR Take?

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

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# Welcome Aboard!

The LPC is pleased to welcome 79 individuals who joined the ranks of our Party of Principle during September and October. They include attorney Daniel Brownstone, restaurant manager Greg Carpenter, merchant mariner Gary Dahl, real estate agents Quetzal Grimm and Jeffrey LeBoff, sound technician Bud Raymond, university student Edward Ronquillo, geologist Aaron Hanson, legal assistant Jamee Lynch, and Amtrak conductor William Waterhouse.

We hope you'll all participate soon in a local LP meeting or event and introduce yourselves to your new political family!

### New Members during September:

- Stephan Cunningham . . . . .Pasadena
- Rick Dane . . . . .Chico
- Aaron Hanson . . . . .Truckee
- Jamee Lynch . . . . .San Jose
- Kelly Rayment . . . . .Los Angeles
- Vibeke Seymour . . . . .Tustin
- Allen Willey . . . . .Twenty-nine Palms
- Shacoby Woods . . . . .El Monte

### New Members during October:

- Bobby Ables . . . . .Trona
- Geoffrey Akerlund . . . . .Los Altos
- Michael Baffico . . . . .Los Angeles
- Daniel Brownstone . . . . .San Francisco
- Matt Carlson . . . . .Penngrove
- Greg Carpenter . . . . .Westminster
- David Chang . . . . .Castro Valley
- Edward Benton Colley . . . . .Laguna Niguel
- Spencer Michael Crawford . . . . .Campbell
- Gary Dahl . . . . .Pasadena
- Steven Delatorre . . . . .Upland
- Russell Diehl . . . . .Irvine
- Ryan Dobbins . . . . .Thousand Oaks
- Robert Dove . . . . .San Ramon
- Todd A. Eakin . . . . .Northwalk
- Stephanie Gibson . . . . .Lake Forest
- Kate Goodnight . . . . .El Macero
- Mark Goodson . . . . .San Diego
- Dennis Gorman . . . . .Undisclosed Location
- Quetzal Grimm . . . . .Redwood City
- Justin Hall . . . . .San Diego
- Nicolas Hall . . . . .Manhattan Beach
- William Johnson . . . . .Pasadena
- Sean Jones . . . . .Sacramento
- Christopher Kerry . . . . .Sunnyvale
- Duane Koenig . . . . .Santa Rosa
- Jeffrey LeBoff . . . . .Huntington Beach
- Laura Lee . . . . .San Bernardino
- Dan Livermore . . . . .Lake Elsinore

- Robert Lukacs . . . . .Winnetka
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- Capt. Tuuli Messer-Bookman . . . . .Benicia
- Andrew Miller . . . . .Visalia
- John Mullany . . . . .Pt. Richmond
- James Nelson . . . . .Goleta
- Katherine Nyden . . . . .San Rafael
- Michael Pillard . . . . .Torrance
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- Brandon Riseling . . . . .Chino
- Nikolai Rochnik . . . . .San Mateo
- Edward Ronquillo . . . . .Paramount
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- Christopher Spurlock . . . . .Benicia
- William Aaron Stanford III . . . . .Redondo
- Kevin Starinieri . . . . .Folsom
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- Steven Steiver . . . . .Venice
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- Steve Trachta . . . . .Long Beach
- Andrea Walker . . . . .Lake Forest
- Tamisha Ward . . . . .Anaheim
- William Waterhouse . . . . .Walnut Grove
- Cindy Weinstein . . . . .Van Nuys
- Jason Wilburn . . . . .Redwood City
- Deborah Wolfe . . . . .El Granada
- Samuel Ziegler . . . . .San Jose



David F. Nolan was the prime mover behind the 1971 founding of the Libertarian Party. He earned a political science degree from M.I.T., and his career has included work in publishing, advertising, and marketing. Nolan was the Party's first national chair, and in 1996 he received the Party's first Thomas Jefferson Award for lifetime achievement in advancing the cause of liberty. He originated the "Nolan Chart," a two-dimensional map that has replaced the left-right linear political spectrum in showing how different political systems relate to one another.

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## ■ Opinion

# It's Time for California to Go its Separate Way

by Ted Brown

LPC Candidate Coordinator

California Independence is an idea whose time has come.

A look at the 2004 electoral map shows that the West Coast and the Northeast are out of synch with the rest of the country. Apparently there are millions of people in the South who will vote as a bloc and select the president in future elections.

Californians do not think the same way southerners do, to say the least. We have different cultural views and also a frontier mentality. California is where people come to reinvent themselves. The southern states are places they leave behind. Sadly, these social conservatives and mostly economic populists plan to keep telling us how to live our lives in the voting booth.

California has 36,000,000 people and the fifth largest economy in the world. We have a seacoast and an international border with Mexico. We have a culture distinct from that of the rest of the country. It's time for California to become



an independent nation, and it's time for Libertarians to lead the way.

The main objection to secession is that it has been tried before, with well known results. What if Lincoln had just let the South secede? From the end of the Civil War until now, that region, with its poverty, ignorance, violence, and racial segregation, has been an embarrassment to the rest of the country. Now with its vote totals in 2000 and 2004, the

### If left on its own, California would be a big winner.

South has proven itself the backbone of the Republican Party, the new majority party in the country. Do we really want to be governed by a bunch

of backward, populist, evangelical, prudish, warmongering Alabamans and Georgians?

The Libertarian Party can gain interest and publicity by leading the charge for California's independence. It's the kind of issue most people wouldn't think about, but once it blips onto their radar, they could identify with it. The plan cuts across the political spectrum. People give me a positive response when I mention the idea. Two recent letter writers to the *Los Angeles Times* suggested California detaching itself from "flyover country."

If left on its own, California would be a big winner. We'd no longer pay federal income taxes or other federal taxes, or adhere to federal regulations. California would have state taxes and regulations, but not nearly so onerous. California would not have a belligerent foreign policy, like the rest of the "Lesser 49." Our young people wouldn't be sent to foreign wars. Foreigners, long nurturing a love affair with us for Hollywood and Disneyland, would see Californians as fellow Bush-haters. California's foreign policy would be directed, for trade purposes, toward Asia, not to Europe and the Middle East. We wouldn't have to worry about an Ashcroft-style Justice Department. Medical marijuana will be "NORML" here without U.S. drug laws and border patrols in play.

Of course Libertarians wouldn't run the new Republic of California. But we would benefit like the rest of the state from throwing off the yoke of the federal government. California is usually run by liberals, Democrats, unions, and other "blue state" types. But so is Washington, D.C. (Those groups might be out of power currently, but their economic policies are fed by the Republicans, who expand fed-

### This idea gives a great "in" on radio talk shows and elsewhere.

eral spending and violate our personal liberties.) So things can't get worse, but they can get better! After all, how likely is the California Congress to subsidize tobacco farmers and Texas oil producers?

Libertarian leadership of the California independence movement would get us nationwide publicity. We would advocate this as a peaceful, ballot-box driven movement, to avoid federal sedition laws and the U.S.A. PATRIOT Act. We don't want to overthrow the federal government, after all—we just want California to go its separate way, just as scientists have long predicted will happen any-

way because of the San Andreas Fault.

This idea gives a great "in" on radio talk shows and elsewhere to prove our case that federal policies are driving Californians away; the Golden State sends far more of its gold (tax dollars) to Washington than we get back in services; and we don't appreciate the social attitudes of the "red (neck) states." This could be our ticket to a media "free lunch" in 2005 and in the 2006 elections.

If Washington objects to losing the right to destroy its golden goose at will, and protests that we've always had 50 states, let's propose statehood for the District of Columbia, and make it an even swap. Then we wouldn't even have to change the flag.

Viva California! Divided We Stand! ●



*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 grow libertarian pioneers throughout the state. Currently he serves our LPC Executive Committee as chairman of the Platform Committee and Candidate Coordinator. You may contact him at TedBrown1776@hotmail.com.*

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## Results continued from page 1

aging 4.2%. There were two four-way races where we won 2.0% and 2.7%. Peace & Freedom Party candidates beat us in both races.

There were Libertarians running in 35 of the 80 State Assembly races. There were five 2-way races: AD10, AD18, AD43, AD51, and AD79. The range was 14.6% to 24.5%. The best vote-getters were Cullene Lang in AD10 (24.5%), and Dr. Sandor Woren in AD43 (23.4%). In 3-way races, the range was 2.2% to 8.7%, with an average of 4.4%. The best vote-getters were Laura Brown in AD49 (8.7%), George Reis in AD69 (7.3%), and Maureen Keedy in AD63 (6.7%). In the two 4-way races, our tally was 5.3% and 4.7%, still high, under the cir-

cumstances. The best vote totals in general were in the S.F. Bay area, the San Gabriel Valley, and Orange County.

There was only one balance-of-power race this time: San Diego's 78th Assembly District. The Republican beat the Democrat by 2,537 votes, while Libertarian Josh Hale received 3,947 votes. Usually there have been several of these close races, but due to lopsided voter registration in most districts, they are becoming rarer and rarer.

Overall, it seems that voters were more comfortable with Libertarian positions and candidates in California races than in federal races. This is worth examining while we prepare for the 2006 statewide elections.

### Candidate Vote Totals

#### Congress (by district):

3. D. A. Tuma - 3.3%
9. James Eyer - 3.1%
12. Harlan Harrison - 2.0% (Green also running)
13. Mark Stroberg - 4.3%
14. Brian Holtz - 3.6%
16. Markus Welch - 2.7%
17. Joel Smolen - 1.1% (Green and P&F also running)
23. Michael Favorite - 2.6%
26. Randall Weissbuch - 3.5%
27. Kelley Ross - 5.5%
29. Ted Brown - 2.1% (Green also running)
32. Leland Faegre - 15.1% (2 way race)
33. Bob Weber - 11.3% (2 way race)
35. Charles Tate - 2.1% (AIP also running)
36. Mike Binkley - 2.0% (P&F also running)
37. Herb Peters - 4.7%

• See **Results** page 5

■ Activism

# “Losertarians” No More LPC Activists Learn to Use Elections for More than Getting Votes

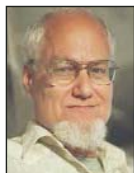
by **Robert Bakhaus**  
Chairman, United Against Tax Abuse

As political scientists will tell you, there are primarily three stages to creating electoral campaign victories: ballot access, mass communications, and turning out the vote.

Libertarian Party activists have pretty much mastered the “ballot access” stage, at least at the federal level. Even if New Hampshire did fail to get the 3,000 signatures needed to put Badnarik on their ballot this year, it was the third presidential election in a row with almost complete nationwide ballot status.

But LP activists are still highly frustrated about the mass media’s indifference to our presidential campaigns. Despite Badnarik being on twice as many ballots as Nader, Nader got all the “third party” coverage. And no television outlet showed Badnarik’s name on their scoreboards, although they carried him on their on-line databases.

As to “turning out the vote,” forget about it. Generally LP candidates can’t eke out more than 2% in a three-way race.



• **Robert Bakhaus**

It’s why we’ve earned the nickname “losertarians.”

But, some LPC activists are losertarians no more! They’ve discovered that election day offers far richer pickings than failed candidacies. Polling places are gold mines of registered voters on election days. If LPC’ers stay outside the 100-foot electioneering-restricted area, they can solicit signatures for libertarian

## Polling places are gold mines of signatures for libertarian petition measures.

petition measures. Santa Barbara County activists have discovered that placing libertarian reforms on local ballots by petition is a much more effective investment of scarce resources than “full slates” of paper candidates. In fact, in the case of Sunsetting Local

Taxes, ballot access is cheap, eventual election victory is inevitable, and the impact for freedom is perpetual. Compare that to those paper candidates who sweat blood, get no significant vote total, and burn out all too quickly.

Case in point: the November 2nd petitioning of four “Freedom Riders” at two polling places in San Luis Obispo County’s town of Pismo Beach. In about four hours, these two pairs of novice petitioners from Santa Barbara County obtained over 300 valid signatures by asking voters walking to the Pismo Beach polls to sign a petition to “Sunset All Local Taxes” in that town. They quit at 300 signatures, only because they needed a mere 172 valid ones to put the proposal on the next general election ballot. As petition drive leader William “B.J.” Wagener put it, “We almost regretted quitting, it was so much fun. We’ll never go door to door begging for petition signatures again.” As fellow petitioner and former LPC Chair Gail Lightfoot put it, “Being a candidate is old school. Petitioning at the polls for libertarian ballot measures is the thing to do.”

Of course, there are a few basic caveats for successful



there is an election day in the final month of your 180-day petitioning period. This is not only a great way to finish off a petition drive, but it helps you generate volunteer petitioners by exploiting the natural rise in electoral fever that builds before any election.

Be sure to photocopy those petitions before turning them in! It’s important to keep records, and you might as well get to know your petition signers. They’re your future constituency.

Become a “Freedom Rider” for grassroots petitioning in your region by subscribing free to the “Freedom Rider” list maintained by United Against Tax Abuse, on line at [www.silcom.com/~taxabo](http://www.silcom.com/~taxabo). ●

*Robert Bakhaus is Chairman of United Against Tax Abuse (UATA), a web-based grassroots libertarian lobby “publishing, petitioning, and litigating for a libertarian reformation of tolerance, civility, and equity.” UATA’s web site ([www.silcom.com/~taxabo](http://www.silcom.com/~taxabo)) was featured in the June issue of California Freedom. Bakhaus has been an activist in the LPC for years, and you may reach him via e-mail at [Taxabo4@AOL.com](mailto:Taxabo4@AOL.com).*

**“We almost regretted quitting, it was so much fun.”**

–William “B.J.” Wagener,  
San Luis Obispo petition drive leader

are your best prospects. Then there’s the long-range planning needed to time the start of your petition drive so that

## Results continued from page 4

- 41. Peymon Mottahedeh – 16.9% (2 way race)
- 46. Keith Gann – 1.8% (Green also running)
- 48. Bruce Cohen – 2.9%
- 49. Lars Grossmith – 2.5%
- 50. Brandon Osborne – 1.1% (AIP and Green also running)
- 51. Michael Metti – 3.2%
- 52. Michael Benoit – 3.2%
- 53. Adam Van Susteren – 1.6% (Green also running)

### State Senate (by district):

- 1. Roberto Leibman – 3.2%
- 2. David Rhodes – 2.7% (P&F also running)
- 9. Peter Von Pinnon – 2.0% (P&F also running)
- 11. Allen Rice – 4.0%
- 13. Michael Laursen – 4.1%
- 17. John Ballard – 4.0%
- 21. Bob New – 21.9% (2 way race)
- 23. Colin Goldman – 5.1%
- 25. Dale Ogden – 2.9%

- 29. Dan Fernandes – 5.4%
- 35. Timothy Johnson – 4.7%
- 39. John Murphy – 4.6%

### State Assembly (by district):

- 1. Ken Anton – 5.4%
- 3. Robert Burk – 3.3%
- 5. Melissa Manfre – 3.8%
- 7. F. Aaron Smith – 2.9%
- 9. Gale Morgan – 5.4%
- 10. Cullene Lang – 24.5% (2 way race)
- 11. Frank Manske – 4.9%
- 12. Chris Maden – 6.0%
- 13. Jonathan Marvin – 4.9%
- 14. Kevin O’Neal – 4.7%
- 18. Ronald Colfer – 16.5% (2 way race)
- 19. Miles Gilster – 2.8%
- 24. Zander Collier – 5.2%
- 33. Gary Kirkland – 5.3% (Green also running)
- 41. Ronald Koffler – 4.4%
- 43. Sandor Woren – 23.4% (2 way race)

- 47. Peter De Baets – 4.4%
- 49. Laura Brown – 8.7%
- 51. Daniel Sherman – 16.1% (2 way race)
- 53. Ethan Boivie – 4.7% (P&F also running)
- 54. John Sterne – 2.6%
- 59. Fritz Ward – 3.8%
- 63. Maureen Keedy – 6.7%
- 66. Jack Lee – 2.4%
- 67. Norm Westwell – 6.3%
- 69. George Reis – 7.3%
- 70. Mark Baldwin – 3.6%
- 72. Brian Cross – 3.6%
- 73. Andrew Favor – 5.2%
- 74. Paul King – 3.1%
- 75. Richard Senecal – 2.2%
- 76. Jennifer Osborne – 4.5%
- 77. Virgil Hall – 2.9%
- 78. Josh Hale – 3.1%
- 79. Eli Conroe – 14.6% (2 way race)

For statewide ballot proposition results and how they compared with official LPC positions, see page 7. ●

- Oracle Database administration
- MySQL development
- Oracle Forms migration
- SQL & PL/SQL coding
- Python

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# The Root Cause of War

Photo: Elizabeth C. Brierly



• L.K. Samuels

by **L.K. Samuels**  
Co-Chair, Monterey County  
Libertarians for Peace

*"If men want to oppose war, it is statism that they must oppose. So long as they hold the tribal notion that the individual is sacrificial fodder for the collective, that some men have the right to rule others by force, and that some (any) alleged "good" can justify it—there can be no peace within a nation and no peace among nations."*

—Ayn Rand

I am right; you are wrong; and you will do as I say!" This attitude, essentially a belief in one's own moral superiority, is the root cause of war.

The authoritarian mindset demands enforcement. However, opinions are subjective, and points of view vary. Why should one rule over another? Why should any individual be compelled to follow the convictions of another? And yet, governments and community leaders routinely force their prejudiced opinions on

others with little or no recourse. They believe they are right and therefore everyone else is wrong. They have succumbed to the Machiavellian notion that "ends justify the means," contending that any violent act—murder, robbery, and so forth—is permissible, provided that their end goal is a "greater good."

Whether a particular opinion is good or bad is immaterial—nobody should impose their convictions on another. True, some ideals are superior to others, but this gives no legitimate authority to commit aggression.

The best road to peace is to allow citizens to structure their own lives. When citizens are denied this freedom, conflict flares. History is littered with examples. The Peasant War in Germany in the 16th century, often cited as a religious war, erupted due to heavy taxes and inflexible policies. Each German

prince demanded that only one religion exist within his domain. The decrees forced peasants of unrecognized or outlawed religious groups to pay taxes for the upkeep of the state-sanctioned church. The German peasants were outraged at paying for a religion not of their choosing. Bloody war soon erupted.

In their infinite wisdom, governments habitually impose their policies on society. This aggression often leads to conflict and civil discord. Only a small, unobtrusive government ("minimist" or "night-watchman government") can reduce inter-societal conflict. Only a free society where citizens freely choose their own personal and economic lifestyles can ensure

**The best road to peace is to allow citizens to structure their own lives.**



Cartoon by Batton Lash, www.exhibitpress.com

a peaceful way of life.

War is aggression. If the authority-elite achieves supremacy in their own nation, their power-lust often over-spills borders in the form of invasion. Until voluntarism is embraced, there will be no let-up of warring on both domestic and foreign battlefields.

Monterey County Libertarians for Peace was founded to stress the importance of peace in the libertarian community and to affiliate with an alliance of organizations called Monterey County Peace Coalition. Many libertarians in the County were distressed to discover that many of the organizations in the local Peace Coalition were not for the full

range of peace. In fact, some seemed to be anti-peace. We wanted to show that libertarians are for true peace since they are for an aggression-free society that seeks peace and nonaggression on both a domestic and foreign level. We also are connected to the national Libertarians for Peace, operated by Carol Moore. See their web site at: [www.libertarians4peace.net/](http://www.libertarians4peace.net/) •

L.K. Samuels is a long-time libertarian activist. He founded Freedom Watch ([www.freedom1776.com](http://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](mailto:LawSamz@hotmail.com).

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- ★ **Judge James Gray**, 2004 candidate for U.S. Senate and author of *Why our Drug Laws have Failed and What You Can Do About It*
- ★ **Gary Nolan**, 2004 candidate for LP presidential nomination
- ★ **Kate O'Brien**, California elected Libertarian

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Tel: (310) 642-1111

For the convention agenda, visit [www.CA.LP.org/conv/2005/](http://www.CA.LP.org/conv/2005/)

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# 101 Actions a Volunteer Can Take\*

\*Let's start with 10...First in a Series



by Mark Selzer  
Southern Vice Chair, LPC

Volunteers are the lifeblood of the Libertarian Party. But they can become burned out or bored with a task that does not challenge them or fit their interests. This series of articles will both identify some of the actions that need to be taken to keep the momentum going, and provide volunteers ideas of tasks that they might enjoy, or something new to work on to shake up their activism a bit. Of course, we wouldn't want to forget the election too quickly, so this month, the first four actions are all about getting into public office.



**1 Find out what offices are available to file for in your area.** Your county's registrar of voters can tell you what is available. Look for both partisan and nonpartisan offices. Many can be won just by filing for them. Some small cities even have offices that must be appointed because no one filed for them. This varies greatly from state to state.

**2 Find out what offices are available for appointment each year.** Some government offices are appointed. Sometimes they will appoint those who simply wrote a letter asking to be appointed. Find out whether there are any in your area by calling or writing the offices of the local city council

or other local politicians.

**3 Become a partisan candidate.** Having a partisan Libertarian appear on the ballot is invaluable. It raises both Party recognition and registration. You can run full-time or just do it to get the word "Libertarian" onto the ballot. Make sure to use your campaign to seek more registrants and Party members; take advantage of the free publicity. We need to run—and win—more of these offices.

**4 Become a nonpartisan candidate.** Running a nonpartisan campaign can also be used to promote Libertarianism. If you have a chance to win—or do win—the press will report you are a Libertarian and you have more chances of winning a nonpartisan office. Some lower level nonpartisan offices can be won by just putting your name on the ballot. This will vary from state to state.

**5 Write a letter to your local paper.** Letters sections are the most read part of papers and periodicals. Have a contest at your local meeting where whoever gets his or her letter printed has their bill for their meal picked up by the Party.

**6 Become an officer in the Party.** Annual elections are coming up in most regions, and at the state convention in February. Each area of the Party has positions to fill. Find a role that fits the time you have available and your skill set. Try not to overextend; this can lead to burnout.

**7 Thank registered Libertarians.** Call them and thank them for being registered as a Libertarian! Ask them to join

the Party as a dues-paying member and invite them to the meetings and to get more involved. Increasing involvement and awareness at any level is a victory.

**8 Start a libertarian musical group.** If you are musically inclined, start a musical group and perform songs promoting Libertarianism. This could be anything from a church choir called "Liberty Singers" to a punk rock band called "The Objectivists."

**9 Public access TV.** This is free TV time given away by your local cable company. Usually they provide a venue in which to produce shows. Find your most personable and photogenic colleague to host a interview show or just rebroadcast Libertarian speeches or conventions. A good pre-produced Libertarian show from another area can also be put on as well. All LPC regions are welcome to rebroadcast my program, *The Libertarian Alternative* (see [www.LibertarianAlternative.org](http://www.LibertarianAlternative.org)).

**10 Flyer design and writing.** Libertarians need flyers to hand out at Earth Day, gun shows, anti-war rallies and the like, and sometimes a specific issue won't be addressed on the national LP's web site. For instance, you could make a flyer to hand out at Republican meetings that says, "Stop the Creeping Threat of Socialism"; show some graphs and charts revealing the Republicans are spending even more on social programs than the Democrats; and hand out an application for LP membership. The sky is the limit. Post your new flyers on the LPC web site, so other re-

gions' activists can download them and follow your lead at events in their own neighborhoods.

In next month's installment: translators, Toastmasters, and ticking off the opposition! ●

Mark Selzer is an internet business owner. Active in the LPC since 1998, he ran for State Assembly in 2000 and has served as the LPC's Southern Vice Chair since 2001. He lives in Hollywood and hosts a cable access television talk show called "The Libertarian Alternative." He can be reached at [Liberty64@JPS.net](mailto:Liberty64@JPS.net).

## Nominations Due by Dec. 31



Three is the magic number. Advocate libertarianism in any of the following ways three times in 2004, and you may qualify for this year's Lights of Liberty awards:

- Get a letter published in a non-Libertarian publication
- Work at an Operation Politically Homeless booth
- Give a speech to a predominantly non-libertarian group

Awards will be given to all Libertarian activists who qualify.

To apply for the award, submit your name (or the names of others who engaged in outreach activity) by Dec. 31 to: [www.TheAdvocates.org/lights.html](http://www.TheAdvocates.org/lights.html), [Lights@TheAdvocates.org](mailto:Lights@TheAdvocates.org), or (800) 932-1776. ●



## Statewide Ballot Measure Results

Proposition	LPC Position	Result
1A Protection of Local Government Revenues	No position	83.6% Yes
59 Public Records, Open Meetings	Yes	83.4% Yes
60 Election Rights of Political Parties	Yes	67.5% Yes
60A Surplus Property	Yes	73.2% Yes
61 Children's Hospital Projects. Grant Program	No	58.1% Yes
62 Elections. Primaries	No	54.0% No
63 Mental Health Services Expansion. Tax on >\$1 Million	No	53.6% Yes
64 Limit on Unfair Business Competition Lawsuits	Yes	58.9% Yes
65 Local Government Funds, Revenues. State Mandates	Yes	62.5% No
66 Limitations on "Three Strikes" Law. Sex Crimes.	Yes	52.8% No
67 Emergency Medical Services Funding by Telephone Tax	No	71.8% No
68 Non-Tribal Commercial Gambling Expansion	No Position	83.9% No
69 DNA Samples. Collection. Database. Funding	No	61.9% Yes
70 Tribal Gaming Rights. Contributions to State	No	76.4% No
71 Stem Cell Research. Funding. Bonds	No	59.1% Yes
72 Health Care Coverage Requirements	No	50.9% No

Green: Voters agreed with LPC! Red: Voters disagreed with LPC.

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## ■ LPC Convention 2005

### Official Notice: Bylaws Committee Report

On November 21, the LPC Bylaws Committee adopted its Report to the 2005 Convention. The meeting was held at the Sheraton Gateway Hotel at the Los Angeles Airport—also the site of the upcoming annual convention, to be held on February 18–20, 2005—and opportunities were provided for public comment.

This followed the adoption at its August meeting of the Committee's Draft Report which has been published at [www.CA.LP.org](http://www.CA.LP.org). All regional officers were asked to read the Draft Report, let their local members know about it, and send feedback to the committee.

Based on the feedback received, the committee adopted its Report early so that members would have abundant time to deliberate before the convention. The Committee will be meeting on Friday, February 18, at 1:00 P.M. to consider public comments and possibly amend its Report.

Please have a look at the Report at: [www.CA.LP.org/bylaws/2005DraftBylawsReport.pdf](http://www.CA.LP.org/bylaws/2005DraftBylawsReport.pdf)

The first set of proposals is composed of "no debate" items regarding noncontroversial technical corrections. The second set of proposals was developed in cooperation with our legal counsel and is needed to comply with campaign finance laws.

The remaining proposals cover a variety of topics, including:

- a major clarification of how we elect representatives to the Libertarian National Committee;
- the operation of the Judicial Committee;
- allowing the convention to seat additional delegates;
- clarifying the rules by which we elect delegates to national conventions;
- opening up participation in the Bylaws, Platform, and Program Committees and ensuring that their work is available for review well before each convention;
- permitting and requiring Executive Committee minutes to be published on the web site;
- allocating convention delegates based on voter registrations; and
- a rewrite of the Party's Purpose.

Members, please help out by reviewing these proposals! The Bylaws Committee values your feedback and needs it right away.

—M Carling  
Chairman, Bylaws Committee

## LPC Regional Officer Elections

LPC's regional annual elections are a time for you advocates of individual liberty, free markets, and limited government to enjoy each other's company, elect delegates to the state LP convention (Feb. 18–20), and to set your region's direction for the coming year. Here a few regions announce their annual conventions. If your region is not listed here, please inquire with your regional officers. ●

Region	Date	Time	Venue
East Bay	Contact: Terry Floyd, <a href="mailto:TLFloyd@LMI.net">TLFloyd@LMI.net</a>		
San Diego	1/29/05	All day	TBA
Contact: Michael Metti, (619) 697-3075 or <a href="mailto:Metti2@Cox.net">Metti2@Cox.net</a>			
San Luis Obispo	12/16/04*	5:00 P.M.	Corner View, San Luis Obispo
	1/13/05*	5:00 P.M.	Corner View, San Luis Obispo
Contacts: Gail or Richard, (805) 481-3434 Gary, (805) 466-2742			
Santa Clara	1/13/05	6:00 P.M.	Hong Fu Restaurant, Cupertino
Contact: Cathi Brown, <a href="mailto:Cathi@MoonShaddow.com">Cathi@MoonShaddow.com</a>			
Ventura	Contact: Michael Lambole, <a href="mailto:MLambole@Juno.com">MLambole@Juno.com</a>		

\*Members are encouraged to attend both meetings to participate fully in regional officer nominations & elections.

## ■ Election 2004

### Shut 'em Down! Phase 1 Complete

by Frank Manske  
Director-Elect, Mt. Diablo Health Care District

Scott Wilson has done it! He has engineered the LP's first victory in the "Shut 'em Down" campaign to close the Mt. Diablo Health Care District.

I joined in the cause, attending meetings for more than a year, and already have been

working myself into the board's activities.

Of the six candidates vying for the three positions, I finished in the top three and thereby gained our Libertarian foothold.

Preliminary results from the Nov. 2 election:

R. I. Chenoweth	35,214 (23.9%)★
Grace Ellis	28,421 (19.3%)★
Frank Manske	22,818 (15.5%)★
Ted Rowe	21,342 (14.5%)
Al Prince	20,161 (13.7%)
Scott A. Wilson	19,291 (13.1%)

Results are being updated at [www.Co.Contra-Costa.ca.us/depart/elect/frame14.htm](http://www.Co.Contra-Costa.ca.us/depart/elect/frame14.htm).

A great victory for liberty! But we mustn't rest. We will



• Frank Manske

need two good candidates in 2006. As reported in the November, 2003 issue of *California Freedom*, our winning a ma-

## ■ Election 2004

### O'Brien Re-Elected

by Aaron Starr  
Chairman, LPC

Kate O'Brien, an elected Libertarian and my significant other, has been re-elected to the Rancho Simi Recreation and Park District board of directors.

It was by a margin of only three votes that O'Brien first won her seat in 2000. In 2004, she has received more votes for this position than has anyone else in the history of the District; this is especially noteworthy since this year did not produce a record in voter turnout.

Here are the results (yet to be certified):

Kate O'Brien	33,014 (32.7%)
Mark Johnson	26,431 (26.2%)
Elaine Freeman	19,593 (19.4%)
Marcie Kraft	11,248 (11.1%)
Nina Casanova	10,312 (10.2%)
Write-in votes	360 (0.4%)

It appears that O'Brien has earned nearly 33% of the vote and over 6,500 more votes than her nearest opponent. Considering that each voter could cast up to three votes for the three seats, the overwhelm-

ing majority of the electorate cast at least one vote for O'Brien.

One opponent, Marcie Kraft, made a campaign issue out of O'Brien's Libertarian Party political affiliation, and in particular, attacked her record of voting against tax increases and accepting funds from the state government.

Apparently voters disagreed with Kraft, as evidenced by their having awarded O'Brien nearly three times the number of votes given to Kraft.

This District of 113 square miles is bounded by the Ventura County line on the east and south, west to the edge of the city limits of the city of Moorpark, and north to the Oak Ridge area of the Santa Susana mountains. It serves a population of approximately 130,096 residents. The web address of the District is [www.RSRPD.org](http://www.RSRPD.org), and those wishing to extend well wishes to Kate may e-mail her at [KateOBrienPE@CS.com](mailto:KateOBrienPE@CS.com). ●



• Kate O'Brien

## ■ Regional Elections

### Harry Browne to Speak at San Diego LP Convention

On January 29, the San Diego LP will be hosting none other than Harry Browne, two-time Libertarian Presidential candidate, author, and financial advisor.

Serving as Master of Ceremonies will be Richard Rider, whose dedication, determination, and quick wit have made him the heart and soul of SDLP.

Mark Selzer, host of "The Libertarian Alternative" television series will be there with his crew conducting interviews and filming for upcoming shows on cable television across

California.

This all-day event, replete with breakfast, a luncheon, and a dinner event, can be attended in its entirety or just for the time that suits you best. For those of you with friends thinking about or even questioning the ideas of the Libertarian Party this event is not to be missed! So mark your calendars for this special day.

Announcement of times, location, and other speakers will be made in January's *Liberty* newsletter, and invitations will be sent to all members of SDLP.

For more information, contact Michael Metti at [Metti2@Cox.net](mailto:Metti2@Cox.net). Hope to see you there! ●



majority of seats on the board will be key to accomplishing Wilson's mission of shutting the District down entirely.

If you're interested, start attending the District's meetings right away.

Fun times ahead! ●