

California Freedom

July 2005

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

Hottest CA Race in 2005: Rider for Mayor

by **Edward Teyssier**
Chair, LP of San Diego

"Only in San Diego would we expect a Libertarian to be in the front of the pack."

—Michael Marcotte
News Director, Radio Station
KPBS, San Diego

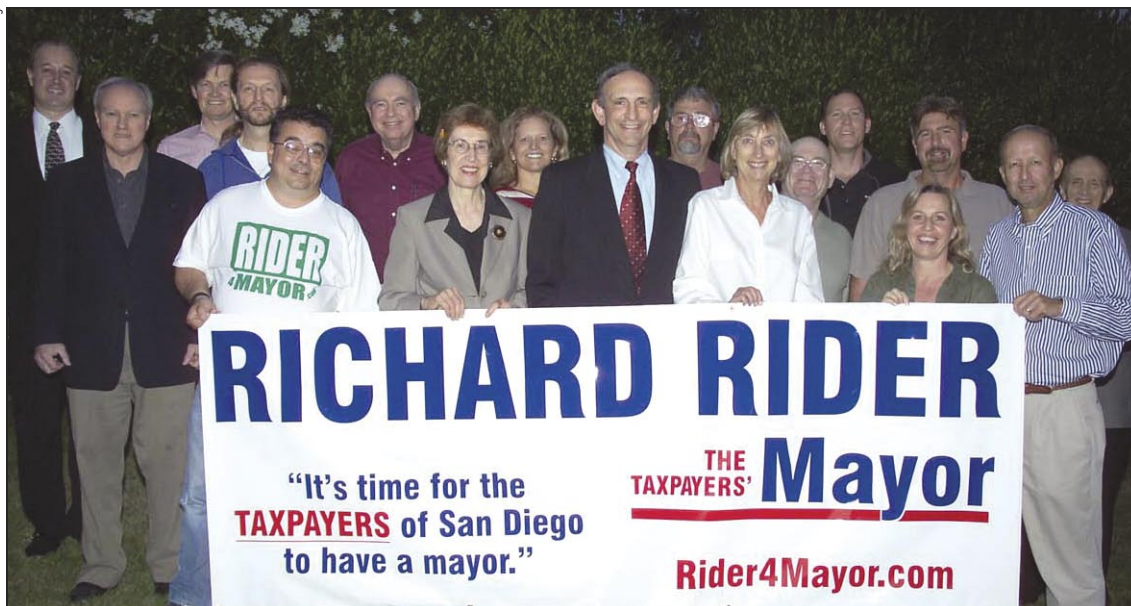
As food services officer for the Naval Station, the young Navy Supply Corps Lieutenant was concerned that the bananas at the galley were spoiling rapidly. They could not be stored for more than a week without going bad. Even when the fruit didn't spoil, it wasn't up to par.

The year was 1971; there was a war being fought in Viet Nam; and the young officer was Lt. Richard Rider. The fruit problem was of particular concern on board the Navy's ships, where efficient storage of fresh produce is always of prime importance.

At that time, it was just common knowledge that keeping bananas in refrigeration would cause them to turn black. But after doing some experiments, Rider found he could keep the fruit chilled in such a way that it would neither turn black nor spoil. The Navy gave him a "Beneficial Suggestion" award and a check for \$300.

Being able to analyze problems, think clearly, and to devise creative, and sometimes counter-intuitive solutions is

Photo: John Brady



• Rider (center) is flanked by his mayoral campaign team and enthusiastic supporters; San Diego. 6/2005

In 1998, he ran for San Diego County Treasurer/Tax Collector in a six-way race, covering a county bigger than Rhode Island with 2.9 million inhabitants, and still received a very respectable 15.7%.

Under Rider's advice and guidance, the SDLP has grown to be one of the largest Libertarian regions in the country. More important than just its size is the fact that the SDLP is one of the least contentious, best-organized regions anywhere. The SDLP often gets compliments from other regions, citing how the SDLP is such a well-run organization where everyone pretty much gets along with everyone else. In this regard, the SDLP contrasts favorably with

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typical of Richard Rider.

On another occasion, Rider noticed that the enlisted men were more interested in eating fast food, off the base, than in eating in the huge Navy dining hall he managed. Rider studied the hamburgers and sauces used

by the fast food chains and, working with the Navy's cooks, came up with recipes which roughly duplicated the same size and taste of hamburgers offered by McDonald's. This saved the sailors money and, more important, it improved morale, because it showed the sailors that someone in the chain of command cared.

After being honorably discharged from active duty in 1972, Rider remained in the Navy Reserve, retiring as a Commander after a total of 26 years of service. He established roots in San Diego, and began a career in financial planning. He also became active in the San Diego Libertarian Party (SDLP).

Proven Leadership

In his private life, as in his military career, Rider continued his stream of achievements. Everything Richard Rider does, he does well. In every group he joins, he becomes a leader. In particular, Richard Rider is known throughout San Diego as the spokesperson for the SDLP. The media know to "contact Rider" for the "other" perspective on taxes, and many other Big Government issues.

Rider served for many years as Chair of the SDLP. In 1992, he ran for San Diego County Board of Supervisors, and garnered 19.4% in a six-way race. He came in third, and just barely missed getting into the runoffs. In 1993, he was appointed to the County Social

What LPC Leaders are Saying about Rider for Mayor

Aaron Starr, Chair: "We are all excited about the caliber of candidate that Richard Rider is. He will deliver our message of freedom very effectively! I donated the max of \$300 and I hope everyone else will donate as much as they can."

Dave Ruprecht, Executive Director: "This is one of the most electrifying opportunities to get a Libertarian elected to a major office in our state! Richard Rider is putting himself on the line for us, and he deserves the support of every Libertarian."

Bruce Cohen, Southern Vice Chair: "Libertarians across the country are thrilled we have in Richard Rider a candidate with a real shot at winning a major election."

Mark Johnson, LPC Activist: "Even though Rider is running in San Diego and I'm in San Jose, his energy and potential got me excited enough to work on his campaign. No matter how he does in this election, he's raised the bar for all Libertarian races in California."

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LP at Whole Earth Festival



Photo: Lawrence Samuels

• For several years, the Libertarian Party has participated in the Whole Earth Festival at U.C. Davis. Often, volunteers from Sacramento County LP and Butte County LP help out. Organizing this year's LP booth were LPC Northern Vice Chair Lawrence Samuels and D.A. "Art" Tuma (pictured above, left), Chair of the LP of Sacramento. Collaborating with Tuma in both working the crowds and in adjacent booth placement was the Parliament Party's Jimmy Ogle (above, right). According to Samuels, "the Parliament Party tries to bring all the political parties together—but mostly the third parties." The festival was held May 6–8, and its mission is "to envision and create a community driven festival of education, music, and art." For more on the event, visit WEF.UCDavis.edu.

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Help Us Get More Elected Libertarians ...Make \$20,000!



FROM THE CHAIR

The Libertarian Party of California is willing to pay up to \$20,000 to the first person who can deliver to us a complete list of the estimated 28,000 elected officials in California.

I believe this list to be so vital to our party's future that I will personally pay for \$5,000 of this cost.

You see, I'm certain that among the thousands of elected officials in California, a small number share our libertarian principles. I want to offer

these elected officials—many of whom I believe are angry or disillusioned with the Democrat or Republican Parties—a chance to become leading officials in our party and to have our full support.

For over a year, I've been trying to obtain a list of the over 28,000 elected officials in California. I've hit nothing but road blocks.

So, I'm making an offer that I'm hoping someone out there can't refuse.

If someone can compile this list for us, we can have our elected Libertarians send personal, colleague-to-colleague letters to these elected officials, telling them

why they belong with our party and why they should join us.

If this approach works, we could have scores of elected Libertarian officials whom we could tap to run for higher office, to spread our message of Liberty.

I believe there are many elected officials here in California who are sick and tired of the antics of their party—and who are ripe for the picking!

I'm sure that many "limited government" Republicans are sick of the massive government spending allowed by their party here in California.



And I'm sure that many Democrats are disillusioned with their party's lack of support for freedom of speech and choice.

I'm also sure that there are many libertarian-thinking elected officials who would simply like a larger role in their party—a larger role that the Libertarian Party can offer them!

But first, I need the list.

I won't bore every reader with all the details. If you're interested in compiling this list and making up to \$20,000 advancing individual liberty in California, contact me as soon as possible (*StarrCPA@PacBell.net* or (805) 404-8693), and I'll give you the ground rules.

—Aaron Starr
Chairman

Politicians Shooting Blanks at Crime



FROM THE EDITOR

"A well regulated Militia, being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the people to keep and bear Arms, shall not be infringed."

—U.S. Constitution,
Amendment II;
ratified Dec. 15, 1791

"A bullet, being necessary to the efficacy of an Arm, and the Constitution protecting our right to bear Arms, our bullets shall not be engraved."

—Elizabeth C. Brierly, 2005

Californians' handgun bullets may not be blank for much longer. On April 26, in what appears to be yet another vanity-fueled pursuit of our officials to look politically pretty, California politicians Bill Lockyer, Joe Dunn, and Don Perata announced a bill to mandate that, as of July 1, 2007, all handgun ammunition carry a unique serial number engraved on the casing of each cartridge and on the bottom of every bullet (SB 357).

From every possible perspective, this bill is misfiring.

Both NRA and the Sporting Arms and Ammunition Manufacturers' Institute, Inc. (SAAMI) point out that Lockyer has made ludicrous claims—despite facts, truth, or human nature—in support of the bill. He and the bill's co-authors have underestimated the cost,

and safety, and overestimated the crime-fighting powers, of this harebrained scheme.

Cost. The estimate of just 1/2¢ per bullet to laser-engrave each number appears to be a gross misjudgment. Says SAAMI, "It would cost hundreds of millions...for firearms manufacturers to redesign their production facilities to incorporate laser engraving." It'll take time for manufacturers to recoup start-up costs of retooling production lines and retraining workers, before the per-unit cost settles down. So that 1/2¢ cost—even if accurate—would translate into a far greater price hike at retail, which in turn could suppress demand and slash revenues.

Safety. The bill would make us *less* safe—not more. First, there's production line jeopardy. SAAMI assesses as an example, "The presence of a laser on the assembly line process close to propellant could be an explosives hazard."

Second, on the law enforcement side of the safety equation, police officers' firearms training could suffer. Californian Duncan Hunter, chairman of the Armed Services Committee in the U.S. Congress, has said the proposal would drive up the price of ammunition, and would lead to "a reduction in cartridges available for target practice, [leaving] our... law enforcement personnel vulnerable...on

America's streets."

Fighting crime.

To SAAMI's knowledge, "there is not one independent study...demonstrating any value in serialization. In fact, the enormous costs to implement such a system would draw funds away from proven crime fighting initiatives....Many in law enforcement oppose this bill because there are no proven law enforcement benefits." For example, Anthony Craver, Sheriff-Coroner of Mendocino County, says, "This is not a way to reduce gun-related crimes....this is just one more way to make gun ownership in California more difficult for honest people."

Politically pretty proposals have myriad dodges for motivated bad guys. For example, criminals could disassemble their rounds and reload them (a common practice among hobbyists to save money)—*after* having removed the serial numbers. Criminals using semi-automatic handguns, which expel shell casings when fired, could switch to revolvers, which don't. Target ranges regularly clean up customers' shells; those could be reloaded, thereby effectively masking ownership, if not invalidating all traceability outright. Those determined to procure unmarked ammunition would purchase it from out of state or on the black market. Can you say "prohibition" and "organized crime"?

Motivated bad guys will find a way to circumvent whatever system we construct. If guns

aren't permitted on airliners, terrorists will substitute box cutters. If a serialized bullet could really be traced reliably to the criminal who used it, in no time flat, criminals would hit upon other, more anonymous weapons to perpetrate their evil deeds.

So is it only to appear tough on crime that these politicians proposed this bill? Gun Owners of California goes so far as to say that "SB 357 is truly motivated by a subversive desire to see all guns removed from...California. What other reason could there be, when the [crime-fighting] goals cannot be matched up to conclusive studies, and [when] actual realities prove the goals unrealistic?"

Indeed, it makes no sense. In which other activities are participants forced by law to fund others' misuse of their equipment? Scuba divers in northern California carry knives, to aid in escaping from kelp. Are honest scuba divers forced to pay for knife tracking? What about rock climbers funding I.D. threads woven through rope that could be used to hang someone? What about thirsty people funding tracking of disposable glass soda bottles that could be used to strike someone's head?

Urge your legislators not to blank out our gun and ammunition rights! They need to recognize the fallacy of prohibition, the state of California's economy, and most important, the sanctity of our Constitution.

—Elizabeth C. Brierly
Editor

Letters to the Editor



Fight the Power, Smartly

I could relate well with Jascha Lee's "Opinion" article ("Fight the Power!" May 2005, page 8). He is right on point in his assertion that most people don't take the time and effort to fight the traffic ticket system. If one is going to take the time and effort to fight an unjust ticket (in my experience, most of them are), it helps to have some ammunition on your side.

In my opinion, that ammunition is Nolo Press's *Fight Your Ticket in California*, by David Brown. Especially effective is his Informal Discovery Request. That request does two things: it puts the cop on notice that you probably know more about the system than 99% of his victims and that he may be in for some cross-examination. When I have cross-examined a cop, I request that my case be heard last, so that I may take 30 to 45 minutes for my case. This guarantees that the cop may be in court for the whole three hours, thereby cutting his ticket production by approximately 7% for that week. You will force the cop and his boss to make the decision to contest either your one ticket or the six or seven he could otherwise issue during that time.

Since money is the name of the game, this can be quite effective. In my town, the average cop makes nearly \$150,000 (in-

cluding benefits). A little math shows that the three hours the cop spends in court on your ticket costs his employer over 200 FRN's (federal reserve notes). If he is a city or county cop, most of the fine will go not to his agency, but to the state.

I have used this Pre-Trial Discovery Request in four cases so far. Three out of four were wins. In the case we lost, the cop had told his boss that he had no notes. Unfortunately for the defense, he lied to his boss and did show [his notes] at trial. The defendant did not know how to handle that situation. Since then, I have learned how to handle that scenario. If that were to happen again, the defendant could ask for sanctions against the cop and his department, and attack the cop vigorously in cross-examination.

—Al Newman
San Jose

"Fair Tax" is an Oxymoron

The history of taxation is a history of injustice. There has never been a fair tax, and there probably never will be. Calling a national sales tax "The Fair Tax" doesn't make it fair, and Libertarians should be wary of the claim.

A sales tax makes the federal government a partner in every retail transaction, and you know that once their hand is in it, their nose will be, too. Do

we really want the IRS invited to patrol every swap meet, farmers' market, and garage sale?

Fat cats who avoid income tax will find ways to avoid a sales tax too, like making their big purchases in countries that don't impose the same tax.

"Shall I go shopping in Tijuana, or pay 30% extra in San Diego, Windsor, or Detroit?" A 23% "fair tax" plus 7% state and local taxes equals 30%!

"Should I buy my yacht in Florida and pay \$60,000 extra, or buy the same yacht in Panama?" A federal luxury tax bankrupted boat-related businesses, and threw thousands out of work a generation ago.

Sales taxes encourage black markets, because a 30% discount is hard to resist. Prices will depend on whom you know. Not that a black market is completely bad; they often make up for inadequacy in over-regulated markets. Unfortunately, black markets operate outside the law, and therefore can become ruthless, like the illegal drug market. As more business is driven off the books, *polioditics* will push the tax higher "to recover the lost revenue." This will result in an escalating tax rate for the ethical market, and drive more traffic to black markets.

All taxes have the potential for abuse, but a simple, hard-to-evade, relatively fair tax could be levied on energy at the source, *e.g.*, mine mouth,

port of entry (POE), wellhead, or possibly, refinery. It's hard to hide a coal mine or super-tanker. Far fewer tax collectors would be needed; most people would never have to deal with one at all. The tax would not be invisible, however, because it would be reflected very obviously in energy purchases, like fuel, raw material, and electricity. Imports could have the tax based on the energy involved to burn them up or melt them down. Energy is included in the cost of everything, and the richer people are, the more they are inclined to use—disproportionately more. They travel more; buy more; waste more; and have bigger everything.

I won't even begin to detail the problems with an income tax, whether progressive, or a so-called flat tax. Any Libertarian can recite the litany, [starting with] "don't tax productivity." All taxes affect behavior. An energy tax would encourage businesses to hire people to save energy, instead of consuming energy to reduce payroll! If you must tax, tax consumption.

—Ken Obenski
San Diego

You Too Can Enforce the "Brown Act"

I certainly appreciate the lavish attention your tabloid has recently given my successful lawsuit against the Isla Vista Parks and Recreation District ("LP Success in Brown Act Lawsuit," May 2005, page 1). But I think your coverage is failing to stress the most important point.

Sure, it's exciting when a libertarian wins something. In fact, if you count "out-of-court settlements," we've won at least five other cases here in Santa Barbara over the past 20 years. But the understressed point is that *your readers can use our lawyer(s) for free to do the same thing*. The only needed ingredient is volunteer LP investigators.

The Brown Act, California's "open meeting" law, is enforceable by any registered voter in California, no matter where it is provably violated. Any of us can sue at no personal expense, on behalf of ourselves and the LP, if we have enough evidence to prove in court that some Brown Act-covered legislative body in Sacramento, or another in Los Angeles, or another in Refugio, violated the law.

That means that you have 3,000+ readers who need to understand the Brown Act, among other "good government" laws,

and do some simple investigating. They need to get out to the meetings of their local school board(s), utility district(s), city council, county supervisors—whatever legislative body they care enough about to monitor.

Once you recognize a Brown Act violation of some substance (*e.g.*, no materials printed for the public, no prior announcement of the meetings being held, public officials laughing at the Brown Act from the podium, etc.), you should contact me at Taxabo4@AOL.com with the broad details. I'll give you feedback on whether you've got the goods. And if you do, I'll take the evidence to our lawyer(s), and we'll go to court. Eventually we'll win, and to your credit, you've got your first case of enforcement of good government.

There are quite a few "good government" laws going unenforced. There are countless violations being perpetrated daily. With privately enforced litigation of these neglected laws, the LP can build, economically, a reputation for holding government accountable—a reputation as big as the ACLU ever had. The only costs are the time and energy monitoring the increasingly criminal beast. If your readers are up for that, we can supply you with winnertarianism articles out the yazoo for years to come.

—Robert Bakhaus
United Against Tax Abuse
LP of Santa Barbara County

Lawyers Shouldn't be the Lawmakers

My hat is off to Ali Meyer ("What You Don't Learn in High School"; June 2005, page 5). What a bright young person! I'm very glad she is leaning toward freedom in her beliefs.

If she needs a project, here's one for her. At 83 years of age, I cannot carry a banner much longer. I wish her well in her life's endeavors.

Today, our lives are much too controlled by legal activity. There is an underlying reason for this—our legislatures are controlled by lawyers. A dreadful conflict of interest exists when people create laws which must then be argued about or adjudicated by the people who created them. We must find a way to keep lawyers out of law-making bodies.

Perhaps Ali will have some thoughts on this and could suggest, or even work on, a process to achieve this goal.

—Richard Zacher
Oceanside



Welcome Aboard!

The Libertarian Party of California would like to welcome heartily these 31 new Libertarians who joined the Party of Principle during May. They include scientist Jeremy Creed, journalist Christa Jeannin, Derek Jensen, an investment banker, Vincent Oliver, a teacher, and university library assistant Matthew Van Norman. We hope to be able to greet each of you in person soon, perhaps at an upcoming county party meeting, or at an outreach booth at a festival this summer. Welcome aboard!

Allen Carman..... Santa Cruz
Roland Clay Fresno
Galina Cotler La Jolla
Jeremy Creed..... Thousand Oaks
Emily Date San Francisco
Laurent Easterday Atascadero
Robert Erickson Los Altos
Edward Fine San Francisco
Ann Gardner..... Ventura
Francis Gay Piedmont
Jarrod Michael Gonza Los Angeles
Richard Greger..... Tustin
Franklyn Hellam Seaside
Ralph Hoffman Danville
Christa Jeannin Sherman Oaks
Derek Jensen..... San Francisco

Brian Jones Gold River
Joseph Mather Napa
Vincent Oliver..... Union City
Jason Piecuch..... Atwater
Richard Pitbladdo..... Greenbrae
J.F. Ray Pasadena
Alexander Reymond..... Redondo Beach
Seth Rubinstein Walnut Creek
Charles Schmitter..... Panorama City
Bernice Starrett San Jose
Van Treska San Diego
Matthew Van Norman Buena Park
Taylor Walker..... Pasadena
Lorenzo Womack..... Rohnert Park
Rommel Woolfe..... Long Beach

■ Commentary

Public Employees—the New Aristocracy?

by Jon Coupal and Richard Rider

After years of having their way in the political arena, public employee union leaders are now on the defensive—victims of their own success.

Throughout California, opulent public employee pensions are draining city and county treasuries, as obligations exceed the jurisdictions' ability to pay without massive tax increases.

But the labor bosses overreached. Some government entities are approaching the abyss of bankruptcy, because of their inability to fund their pension obligations. These horror stories, such as San Diego, where pension costs have increased by as much as 1,000% in just a few short years, have awakened Californians to the threat both to taxpayers and to public services.

A pension reform initiative filed by the Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Association, and a nearly identical legislative bill, certainly got the attention of

union leaders. But when the governor, in his "state of the state" address, announced that he would fight the unions on this issue, union headquarters around the state went to "DefCon 3." The disinformation campaign began.

Union bosses claim that this proposal would take away existing pensions. *Wrong!* The modest goal is to stabilize government budgets by replacing defined pension benefits (a guaranteed pension amount) with defined contributions (a guaranteed payment amount toward a worker's pension)—only for workers hired after July 1, 2007. Current retirees and employees under defined benefit plans can keep them if they want. *Period.*

But that is not the only distortion coming from union leadership. Here are some of the old canards about public pensions that have been trotted out by those defending the status quo:

Fallacy: Government employees are driven by some higher calling to serve the public. Their self-sacrifice should be

rewarded.

The Truth: Most public employees go into government work because it pays quite well, has great job security, and offers a host of generous benefits. James Buchanan won the Nobel Prize in Economics in 1986 for his research demonstrating that public employees and politicians, rather than working for "the public good," work in their own self-interest—just like everyone else.

Fallacy: Since government employees are paid far less than their counterparts in private businesses, they are entitled to additional compensation in the form of medical and retirement benefits that will provide security in their golden years.

The Truth: Several decades ago, public employees were indeed paid less than their private-

sector counterparts. No longer. Today, government employees in most job classifications earn considerably more than those in the private sector doing similar work. They have even better job security than before, and they enjoy many far superior benefits—including a pension which can exceed the salary they earned while working.

Fallacy: Generous pension benefits are essential for government to recruit and retain quality workers.

The Truth: Historically, few public employees quit government positions after a few years on the payroll. Furthermore, most "public servant" occupations have far too many qualified applicants per job opening. Hence, it is clear that taxpayers overcompensate government workers who are already strongly motivated to hold on

to their jobs.

In the coming months, those with a vested interest in the status quo will use their substantial financial resources to spread disinformation about pension reform, and to instill fear in the hearts of current retirees and employees. But the truth is on our side. ●



Jon Coupal



Richard Rider

JON COUPAL is President of the Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Association (www.HJTA.org). RICHARD RIDER is Chair of San Diego Tax Fighters and candidate for Mayor in San Diego (www.Rider4Mayor.com).

Photo: Elizabeth C. Brierty

■ Commentary

Perchlorate Politics Take Taxpayers to the Cleaners

by Wayne Lusvardi

Treasurer, Foothills L.P. Chap.63

Public and private water agencies in southern California are involved in an absurd race to shut down water wells, and erect costly new treatment plants to remove from drinking water a chemical called perchlorate.

Perchlorate is not a poison and does not cause cancer. The health concern is that perchlorate (one molecule of chloride and four molecules of oxygen) will block the absorption of iodine in the thyroid gland, resulting in mental retardation in children. The concern is not totally unrealistic, as very high doses of perchlorate (1000 mg) were once used to treat hyperthyroidism, which is now treated with radiation or surgery.

Perchlorate is a natural salt once used in ancient Chinese fireworks. It was used in World War II as a catalyst in rocket fuel and in munitions. Perchlorate has been dubbed as dangerous "rocket fuel" that has been purportedly dumped into our drinking water and has infiltrated crops, cows' milk, and human milk. Perchlorate has been detected in 350 water wells in

California, 90% of which, however, are at an infinitesimal 10 parts per billion (ppb) or lower. For facts about perchlorate, see www.CouncilOnWaterQuality.org/facts/ppb.html.

Perchlorate clean-ups have all the trappings of "legal plunder."

Water agencies and companies are absurdly shutting down local water wells and paying five to ten times the price for imported water supplies from the Colorado River Aqueduct, which has the same concentration of perchlorate as the so-called contaminated water wells (6 ppb). Water agencies continue to add to water disinfectants, such as chloramines (chlorine and ammonia), that are toxic to goldfish, while perchlorate is not. And ridiculously, starting in 2006, fluoride will be added to Southern California water at 1,000 ppb, far above the miniscule 6 ppb for perchlorate. And just like perchlorate, high doses of fluoride were also once used to treat hyperthyroidism. More absurdly, it has been recently discovered that 64 to 113 ppb of perchlorate may be inadver-

tently "brewed" in water tanks and pipelines from mixing chlorinated drinking water with low level electrical charges, such as are found on devices that protect steel water tanks and pipelines from rust.

Presently, perchlorate is not regulated. However, the California health advisory standard has not been set by science, but has been set at the same level at which perchlorate is found in the Colorado River Aqueduct (6 ppb). The E.P.A. has a safety standard of 1 ppb maximum. Recently, the National Academy of Science has recommended a standard of 24.5 ppb, using a safety factor of 10, which means the real safety level should be no more than 245 ppb. Last year, a prestigious panel of scientists at U.C. Irvine recommended a safety level of 100 ppb. A large health study conducted in Chile, where perchlorate occurs naturally, found no higher incidence of birth or intellectual deficits than normal.

There are many natural thyroid-blocking substances in the human diet. Eating a 3.5-ounce serving of Brussels sprouts has the same iodide-inhibiting effect as consuming 2 quarts of drinking water with 8,000

• See **Perchlorate** page 5

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Conundrum of the Blue and Gray

Turning Battleground into Common Ground

by Marc Solomon

Coastal District Chair, LP of Orange County

This year, I served as Music and Sound Director on a play that has just closed its run in Los Angeles. It was about the Civil War—or the “war between the states,” as I had grown to call it—and the impression in the minds of the American public of today’s South and the meaning of its symbols. Does the rebel flag, the “stars and bars,” stand for racism or for freedom?

When I started this project, I had no idea how much of an effect this work would have on me. Even having read two volumes on the subject, my government-educated mind somehow still ignored the fundamental disconnects between the popular impressions of the Civil War and the realities of that period.

The “war” was started over economics. The issue of slavery appeared only after the North coincidentally lost most of its battles. As a further economic punishment against the South, Lincoln issued the misunderstood (or misinterpreted) document known as the Emancipation Proclamation. It freed the slaves in the seven Southern slave-holding states, but neglected to free the slaves in the eight Northern slave-holding states. What is it that we are “taught”? That it was wholly about the noble cause of freeing the slaves. Without having to make the requisite statement about the evils of slavery, as every Libertarian understands, we can move on to examine the deeper philosophical issue in the techniques used by Lincoln to win back, by force, the rebel states. To the playwright, John Ahlin, I owe a great deal of gratitude. He provided an even, level-headed explanation of the

differences in perception. Our television-fed electorate sees this only in terms of literally “black” and “white.”

This experience taught me several things.

First, our Constitution failed to describe the process for a state to peacefully secede.

Second, slavery was used as an emotional crowbar, to fulfill Lincoln’s desire to extend the reach of the federal government. It is certainly a question of serious debate as to how this process peaceably could have been conducted, or avoided. But, as the play pointed out, and as **Michael Badnarik** would point out, it is the people who’d created the government; therefore, the people had a right to leave the government.

Third, the action of the federal government, in establishing market-control taxation and penalties against the southern states, precipitated that region’s apparent desire to secede; it wasn’t some notion they had just thought up.

Fourth, the South had no desire to destroy the North: all the South wanted was free and fair trade.

Fifth, in response to the actions of free people, Lincoln attacked. The shooting war started by the federal government was caused by fiscal aggression started by the federal government.

Hey, I guess government isn’t the answer.

What is the story that government schools tell us about this period? That the South was evil; that the South and only the South had slave owners; that the South wanted to destroy America; and that only the strong arm of Abraham Lincoln saved the Union. Most libertarians now recognize that the modern era of federal explosion of power began with the unilateral actions of Lincoln. He was allowed to wage war and kill Americans in protection of the federal government. The armies of the South were formed to repel invaders. Very few members of the confederate army were slave owners. The states created the Union, and the people who created the states were attacked, because of their desire to no longer be part of it. Was the choice they made of their own free will a response to intolerable economic pressure, or the actions of a dastardly few? If you were edu-

cated in a government school, you never would have had the chance to ask these questions. You’ll never get to reason it out for yourself, perhaps finding different answers or different solutions, instead of the federal government’s use of force. The guarantee of redress of grievances was not given to the South. Therefore, they chose to leave.

How often have we seen this repeated in our recent history? The federal government never backs down, never leaves, until there is bloodshed. Of course, now we can cite Ruby Ridge, Waco, and every other attempt by the government to make peace by killing.

Imagine a lone Libertarian, amid all these left-wing actors and theater people. Imagine being part of this play actually being produced by the same people. Even more amazing was that they wholly embraced it and produced a fantastic piece of theater. This was a lesson about the possibility of dialogue between the left and us. As much as they desire government

intervention at all levels of our lives, they appear to be uniform in their respect of bodily freedom and abhorrence in the use of war, no matter at whom it is directed. Often, we Libertarians think we don’t know where or how to begin the conversation, where to break down the walls to make new friends and allies, and find some common ground. I found that the voice of freedom can be found in the most unsuspected places, and I am grateful and energized by the notion that it is still possible.

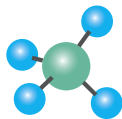
Wondering how the play ended? The characters realized that the blue side fought for the word “United,” and the gray side fought for the word “States,” and both, in their own way, stood for Liberty.

“Gray Area,” written by John Ahlin, and produced by the Virtual Theatre Project, ran six weeks at a theater in Los Angeles this spring. It is not currently being staged elsewhere. ●

A dyed-in-the-wool libertarian since the age of 16, this year MARC SOLOMON is serving as Coastal District Chair for the Orange County LP. Along with his career in aerospace engineering and technical marketing, Solomon has been President of Geckosonic, Inc., a production house for music and audio for film and theater, since 1997.

Perchlorate

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ppb of perchlorate, not the 6 ppb found in drinking water. Mustard, horseradish, broccoli, and soy milk also fall into the same category. Present perchlorate policy has put the cart of political patronage before the horse of science.

Nonetheless, there is political capital to be gained in claiming to protect women, infants, and the unborn from vague but scary-sounding health threats, by setting such strict perchlorate health advisory standards. Passing pollution downstream, and \$5 billion in southern California clean-up costs upstream to the federal government and to private corporations, is a wasteful but politically popular chemical mix. Clearly, the few real “hot spots” of perchlorate should be dealt with, but by less expensive containment or bio-remediation. And a simple prenatal regimen of vitamins would be much more cost-effective.

To those who may accuse me of saying that pollution must be O.K. as long as you can take a pill for it, let them come forth with irrefutable proof of public health benefits from such costly clean-ups, when perchlorate is now being found nearly everywhere in both the natural and man-made environments. Why

do we see no media pressure for public water agencies to perform evaluations to determine how much of the perchlorate emanates from their own water facilities?

Cleaning up low-level perchlorate from all water wells is an absurd task, when perchlorate is even now being found in “natural” vitamins and dietary supplements. Perchlorate clean-ups have all the trappings of what French economist Friedrich Bastiat called “legal plunder.” As Bastiat wrote: “Now, legal plunder can be committed in an infinite number of ways...All these plans as a whole—with their common aim of legal plunder—constitute socialism...If you find this socialistic doctrine to be false, absurd, and evil, then refute it. And the more false, the more absurd, and the more evil it is, the easier it will be to refute.” ●

WAYNE LUSVARDI worked for the Metro Water District of Southern Calif. for 20 years, and has been published in many academic and professional journals, including *Privatization Watch*. He is a regular columnist at *ChronWatch*. Lusvardi resides in Pasadena, where he is Treasurer of the Foothills LP. He may be reached at WLusvardi@Yahoo.com.



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■ Youth Commentary

Be Proud of Your Party!

by Ali Meyer

High School Student

I was just reading *California Freedom's* "ten tips" to expand the Libertarian Party ("101 Actions a Volunteer Can Take," four installments, 12/04-3/05). I noticed that they are all very much the same, in that they recommend casually dropping the fact that you're a libertarian. As though it's wrong. And as though that's not going to cause any awkwardness.

Here's my take on encouraging just the opposite: be proud of your party!

"And then casually drop that you're a libertarian." How many times have we heard this? And it's in the middle of a community service project, while you've been making small talk for hours, to show that libertarians are really, honestly, nice people.

By being more confident, you won't inspire any suspicion or misgivings, and the Libertarian Party will actually seem like a force to be reckoned with.

Strike me down now, but I don't like community service. My small talk is garbage. And what I really object to is that libertarians feel they need to conceal their identity in order to be accepted. Whatever happened to having pride in your political views?

It seems that being a libertarian is like a social defect,

something you earnestly have to hide until the crucial moment when you divulge it to your closest friend.

Why not begin a conversation with, "Hi, I'm Ali, and I'm a libertarian"? The secrecy and awkward dropping of it only makes it seem even more wicked and inappropriate for conversation. But if you come right out with it, knowing that there's nothing wrong with your political affiliation, your fellow

listeners won't be so wary. So be proud of your party!

Think worst case scenario: they're—god forbid!—a Republican. And they like President Bush! So, what better way to explain your views than through an impassioned debate? And, to placate the libertarians fearful of that dreaded knee-jerk reaction, the fierce opposition will realize just how witty and articulate you are, and they will become libertar-



ians on the spot.

O.K., maybe not.

But you'll get your views out there. By being more confident, you won't inspire any suspicion or misgivings, and the Libertarian Party will actually seem like a force to be reckoned with.

Plus, you don't have to do any community service.

So be proud of your party! Say it loud and clear. Leave no room for doubt. No more "casually dropping" that dreaded word, libertarian. ●

ALI MEYER, 15, attends an all-girl private school in Los Angeles. She first heard of the Libertarian Party during a debate in history class, when a substitute teacher remarked that her arguments sounded libertarian. Meyer is writing prolifically during her summer break, while also doing volunteer work at a local hospital.

■ Opinion

Let's Get Our Heads Out of the Cloud

by Augustus "Dave" Suiter

Executive Committee Member,
LP of San Bernardino

I recently purchased **Michael Cloud's** book, *Secrets of Libertarian Persuasion*.

Being one of those Libertarians aching, and longing, and searching for ways to win others over to Libertarianism, I had to read this publication. Written by the man who won the 2000 Thomas Paine Award as the best Libertarian communicator in America, and promoted by the Advocates for Self-Government, this book was the supposed Rosetta Stone for conducting Libertarian dialogue.

When I completed reading the book, I was left with negative feelings, ranging from frustration to out-and-out anger. How Mr. Cloud had won the 2000 Thomas Paine award was—and is—beyond my comprehension.

Thomas Paine was obviously not afraid of a fight. He wrote about the tyranny of the government, and the need for freedom and independence from that government. He wrote in a clear and concise manner easily understood by all, and in doing so, placed himself in the position of being labeled a rabble

rouser and a revolutionary.

Michael Cloud, on the other hand, writes about compromise, avoiding conflict, and how to be slick and sly with the use of words. Comparing Cloud to Paine is like comparing a used car salesman to a revolutionary. It just can't be done.

Rather than motivating me to run out and sell Libertarianism, Mr. Cloud's book motivated me to reevaluate my Libertarian philosophy, and question some of the recent rhetoric being promulgated by state and national representatives of our party.

Mr. Cloud and some party leaders suggest that we need to create a political demilitarized zone (D.M.Z.) for political and social issues which are dividing our party. Endless no-win arguments over such things as abortion, immigration, school vouchers, and the death penalty divert our attention and energies from our true mission. Their suggested solution is to call a truce, agree to disagree, and concentrate and work on those issues we do agree on.

When such reasoning is moved from the theoretical world to the real world, we discover that their political D.M.Z. would consist of a rather large list of political and social issues that are dividing not only our party, but our entire nation. To their basic list we would have to add the war in Iraq, the Homeland Security Act, the privatization of social security, the War on Drugs, and the systematic dismantling of the Bill of Rights.

If we place all of these issues into the closet—the political D.M.Z.—our monthly meeting might consist of discussing the need for street repairs and street lights.

I reasonably believe that

Libertarian philosophy and the party's principles can lead us to solutions for all of the supposedly unsolvable political and social issues of the day. For our party not to take a stand on these issues, and to fight openly against governmental actions that violate our principles, is counterproductive to expanding our political base, and detrimental to Libertarians running for office. A candidate without a political party's backing is like a lone wolf in the wilderness, howling at the moon.

If we place all divisive issues into the closet, our LP meetings might consist of discussing the need for street lights & repairs.

Recent rhetoric regarding illegal immigration is a perfect example of an issue libertarians should take a stand. Neither the open border advocates, nor the closed border, deportation advocates, have addressed the root causes of illegal immigration. The root causes of illegal immigration are government and business policies that subjugate the workers of Central American and South American countries. Since their policies appear to be in direct opposition to libertarian concepts related to individual liberty, a political and social stand appears justified. Many immigration problems could be resolved by ensuring that trade agreements benefit the workers of nations being traded with.

Too often, present and pending trade agreements benefit multinational corporations that control both the market and the wages.

Additional immigration problems could be eliminated if our government would stop the practice of aiding and abetting the creation of despotic regimes which terrorize and kill their own countrymen.

By avoiding taking a stand and speaking out against such policies, we give the impression of supporting them, or simply going along with the existing corruption.

One of our party goals is to get libertarians elected to office. When roughly 49 percent of Californians are Latino, yet we fail to acknowledge their problems and concerns, and give them no alternate solutions, we eliminate any possibility of winning a major political race in this state.

We must get our heads out of Michael's cloud, and bring the major political and social issues out of the closet (the political D.M.Z.). These issues must be confronted head on, in an intellectual and analytic manner, designed to find the root cause of the problems and develop—within a libertarian framework—solutions to the problems. When, in the course of our efforts, we identify business and governmental policies which deprive people of liberty and blatantly abuse their civil and human rights, we need to take a stand and speak out against them. To do otherwise is not libertarian. ●

AUGUSTUS "DAVE" SUITER is a retired educator, residing in the city of San Bernardino. He currently serves on the Executive Committee of the Libertarian Party of San Bernardino.

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Rider

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some other regions and some other state parties, where the membership, although smaller, can be marred by bickering and in-fighting.

Rider is a master at getting people to work together. Much of the harmony of the SDLP is due to Rider's insight and counseling. Richard is skilled at tempering both enthusiasm and disappointment.

The San Diego Tax Fighter

Under Richard Rider's leadership and guidance of the SDLP, the word "libertarian" has become well recognized to most of San Diego County's inhabitants, largely because of the taxes he has saved them. In San Diego, the names "Rider" and "Libertarian" have become practically synonymous with the phrase "no new taxes." Rider has fought consistently against measures for new or increased taxes and bonds. Often, the SDLP is the only opposition to these measures. Richard Rider has been the author and signer of nearly every anti-tax ballot argument which has appeared on San Diego voters' ballot books for the last 20 years.

Rider's anti-tax efforts have been felt throughout the state. The case of Richard Rider, et al., vs. County of San Diego, (1 Cal. App. 4th 1) became the landmark tax lawsuit of the nineties, as it established a legal precedent which has saved taxpayers throughout the state an estimated \$14 billion to date, by limiting or preventing "special" tax increases passed without a 2/3 vote.

But Anti-tax Slogan Incarnate is only part of Richard Rider's public persona. Great leaders have vision—the ability to know what is important now, and what will either grow or diminish in importance in the future. Whether it's a ballot argument, a talk to a local group, or a speech to a large audience, Rider explains and instructs, and his vision comes through. Some of Rider's predications have been especially remarkable in the context of subsequent history.

In 1992, the City of San Diego proposed Proposition "N," which was to promote more spending on a new downtown library building. Rider wrote a ballot argument which was nothing short of prescient. Among other points, he argued that huge expenditures on big library buildings were unwise, because "soon, children and students

would be doing their research with computers." That's exactly what's happening. Remember, this was 1992—years before the word "Internet" would become a household word. Rider clearly demonstrated vision in predicting that on-line resources would soon make most library functions obsolete. This is just one example of his well researched and well considered ballot arguments.

In 1995, the San Diego City

re-election support, in addition to boosting their own salaries and pensions.

In 2000, Rider spoke out against these excessive salaries and pensions at a City Council meeting. But at that time, the media simply ignored it. If they had listened to him, much of the present problem would never have transpired.

Then, in the last few months before the last mayoral election, the news broke that the



• Richard Rider (center) speaks with Libertarians Batton Lash and Jackie Estrada at the 2005 convention of the LP of San Diego, where he was a featured speaker. 1/29/05

Council made a new contract with the San Diego Chargers football team. The most notorious of the terms in the contract was a "seat guarantee," which allowed the Chargers to make more money by *not* selling a ticket than by selling a ticket. Applying his understanding of basic economics to the terms of the City-Chargers contract, Rider concluded it would be a fiscal disaster for the city. To back up his conclusions, he made numerous predictions, such as the amount of money the City would lose, and that, without any economic incentive to sell tickets, the Chargers would be a losing team for the duration of the seat guarantee. Also, he asserted that the San Diego Padres, the city's pro baseball team, would want their own baseball stadium.

At the time, every one of these predictions was either denied or scorned by either the City Council or the Chargers. Now, ten years later, history has shown that Rider was correct on every point!

Presently, the City of San Diego is mired in a new financial debacle, its magnitude almost incomprehensible. For the last decade, the City Council has consistently overpaid city employees and increased pension commitments, without any consideration of how to fund that largesse. The agreement was made between the City Council and the City Employee unions to secure the politicians'

city had been unable to complete its audit. So excessive were these deals, that the city's auditor was not able to issue a favorable report. The credit rating was downgraded—sharply. While the incumbent succeeded in getting re-elected, it was only by the slimmest of margins. So upset were the voters that a recall seemed imminent, and the mayor resigned in disgrace, effective July 15.

Time is of the Essence

Now, with a special election called for on July 26, Richard Rider is running for mayor. Clearly, whether it is bananas or football stadiums, Rider has the background and capability of solving small problems with insight, as well evaluating large-scale, long-term projects based on sound economics. He is able to get talented and highly opinionated people to work well together. And, he's a tax fighter! These are exactly the talents needed in San Diego's next mayor.

But will he win? It's a distinct possibility!

The Media Take Notice

Consider how the local press and radio are describing Richard Rider as one of the leading candidates.

Newspaper reporter Greg Moran said, "I'm intrigued by Rider's candidacy in a way, in that he is very familiar to San Diego voters. His message of shrinking government—priva-

tizing it—has a better chance of that message resonating with people now."

This has been Rider's message for a long time now. It is the basic Libertarian message, and it "resonates" because people are coming around to the reality that government really does not work.

KPBS radio reporter Alison St. John said, "Well, he has run for office before and not gotten very far, but he makes the point this time that I am not a fringe candidate this time, because of the extraordinary circumstances. My message may be more popular to the general public.' And you know he has said that he is basically going to keep taxes down. No one else has the same record that I have of managing to challenge taxes."

"The Taxpayers' Mayor"

In fact, Rider is the *only* candidate in the race who is promising to veto any new or increased taxes. In fact, every plank in Rider's campaign platform is based on sound economics and Libertarian principles.

KPBS News Director Mike Marcotte said, "You have to admire Rider I guess, you know, coming off the sidelines where he is free to be a critic, and jumping right into the fray.

Only in San Diego would we expect a Libertarian to be in the front of the pack."

The Libertarian Party Connection

It's interesting that, if nothing else, Rider is constantly being identified with the Libertarian Party. None of the other candidates' party affiliations are being touted in this way. Clearly, how Richard Rider does in San Diego will have profound consequences for Libertarian candidates everywhere.

Perhaps Greg Moran summed it up best: "He has had a very consistent message over the years and you kind of wonder if this is sort of *his* time....It seems that all of the forces have kind of come together."

Indeed!

Can Rider Win?

Richard Rider is the right man, at the right time, at the right place, to be the next mayor of San Diego. Here's why.

This is a six-way race among the major candidates. Rider was in a similar six-candidate race in 1992 when he ran for County Supervisor (about the size of a Congressional district). With far less name recognition,

• See **Rider** page 8

RICHARD RIDER FOR MAYOR Special Election July 26

"It's time the taxpayers of San Diego had a mayor!"

Richard Rider, May 27, 2005

"Only in San Diego would we expect a Libertarian to be in the front of the pack."

KPBS TV, May 27, 2005

Dear Libertarian,

There is an astonishing opportunity for Libertarians to back a candidate who might very well win a major election.

Richard Rider is definitely running to win. The press is treating him as one of the frontrunners. Check the www.Rider4Mayor.com web site to learn more.

In the first reporting period, ending June 11, the campaign already has banked over \$120,000! But, in this high profile race, more is needed to ensure victory. This is a showcase race that will benefit our party no matter what the outcome!

Richard Rider, longtime LP activist, former LP candidate for Governor and well-known taxpayer advocate, is a frontrunner in the special election for Mayor of San Diego. As you may well be aware, San Diego is on the brink of bankruptcy, with the current mayor resigning in disgrace. In stark contrast, Richard Rider has saved San Diegans over \$3.3 BILLION with his tax fighting efforts—clearly he would be "The Taxpayers' Mayor."

If you want to help a meaningful LP campaign that could really win, now is the time. Dig out your checkbook, and write the campaign a personal check (\$300 max per person). Send to:

Richard Rider for Mayor
10969 Red Cedar Dr.
San Diego, CA 92131

or

Go to the web site to contribute by credit card (though checks are preferred). It is unlawful for a contributor to be reimbursed by any organization, business or similar entity for a contribution supporting or opposing a City candidate.

www.Rider4Mayor.com

Paid for by Richard Rider for Mayor, Campaign ID no. 1277232



LP Condemns Supreme Court Ruling Against Medical Marijuana

Washington, D.C., 6/18/05:

In a 6-3 ruling by the U.S. Supreme Court, the federal government will continue to arrest and prosecute sick and terminally ill Americans who use marijuana for medical purposes. The decision supersedes state laws and the votes of citizens that allow the medical use

of marijuana.

While the people of California and other states voted for the right of sick and dying patients to use marijuana as a medical treatment, the Supreme Court's ruling permits the federal government to ignore the recorded decisions of an electorate.

Currently, ten states allow

residents to grow and use marijuana for medical purposes. The court ruling, which was pushed forward by the Bush administration, not only lacks compassion for the sick, but is also a clear encroachment upon states' rights.

Libertarian Party Executive Director **Joe Seehusen** stated, "This ruling is not only a blow to the elderly, sick, and terminally ill, but also represents the

further decline of states' rights." Mr. Seehusen continued, "It is important that the American public does not minimize this issue by believing that it only affects 'pot smokers,' as it is a much deeper debate involving the intrusion of the federal government upon the states, the power of the prescription drug lobby, and the growing limits on individual freedom."

The Libertarian Party is a

long-standing advocate for individual liberty, and believes that Americans should be responsible for their own actions, and, in this case, be able to use alternative forms of medication outside the realm of insurance companies and the pharmaceutical lobby.

Working with like-minded groups, the LP will help craft federal legislation that will assist individuals needing medical marijuana to pursue treatment methods without fear of arrest and prosecution by the federal government. ●

Kubby Motion Denial may be Victory

On May 16, a Placer County judge refused to hear a motion by **Steve Kubby**, LPC's 1998 gubernatorial candidate, who uses marijuana to control the symptoms of adrenal cancer. Kubby believes he can establish compelling evidence that county authorities committed fraud to obtain a search warrant against him.

While he was running that campaign, authorities received an anonymous letter about Kubby, prompting them to delve into a six-month investigation.

Attorney **Bill McPike**, accor-

ding to Kubby "the winningest medical marijuana attorney" in Calif., wrote in his brief that county authorities "willfully and knowingly misled the magistrate" when they testified about the alleged statements from the DEA.

In Canada, Kubby is allowed by law to grow enough marijuana to keep himself healthy. But what about his court travails in the U.S.? "My legal advisors tell me that [the May 16th] decision is a victory for several reasons...this exonerates me by the failure of the district attorney's office

and of the court to refute or deny by affidavit evidence the evidence before them. Second, this provides standing for me to sue Placer County officials civilly. And third, under Canadian law I am now free to pursue business and travel opportunities."

"Nobody is safe if police can make up evidence, prosecutors can lie, and the court is willing to cover it up," Kubby said. "I'm outraged as a Libertarian that anyone in our party was targeted like this... and I want [those] responsible for these illegal political acts held accountable." ●

Excerpted from *LP News*, June 2005 ("Steve Kubby motion denied in CA court," by J. Daniel Cloud). See www.Kubby.org for more information.

Rider

cont. from page 7

volunteers, and funding, Rider received 19.4% of the vote, missing the runoff by only a few percent.

With the only Democrat in this mayoral race predicted to win the primary with about 38% of the vote, Rider will battle the four Republicans for 2nd place—the other placement that will enter the runoff. Second place will be won with 18% to 23% of the vote—well within Rider's vote-earning capability. Whichever candidate nabs second place will likely be endorsed by the other four candidates, giving that person the favored position to win the runoff election.

According to the most recent poll, Rider has been identified as the third most recognized candidate. In the first campaign financial report, Rider was the

third highest fund raiser, and had the second highest level of funds in the bank—about \$120,000. And this was before his fund-raising mailing had gone out!

For further updates, and to support this most promising campaign, visit the Rider for Mayor campaign web site, at www.Rider4Mayor.com. ●

Edward Teyssier is founder & president of Microwave Solutions, Inc., a high-tech design & manufacturing company. It was in business that he learned how thoroughly government doesn't work. He has served as Chair of the LP of San Diego for over 5 years. In addition to the degrees he holds in Engineering & Computer Science, Teyssier recently passed the bar, and seeks to represent clients involved in Libertarian-related causes.



Mobilizing Now for the Next Election



by **Joe Cobb**

Chair, LP of Orange County

One of the jobs we need to do, as leaders of the Libertarian Party, is to get our candidates on the ballot for every election. This requires circulating petitions for our candidates.

Always a thankless job with too few volunteers, carrying clipboards and knocking on doors to get signatures is a time-consuming and sometimes frustrating task. Yet there are ways to make it faster and easier.

Five years ago, when I was running for Congress in a district which overlapped Orange and San Diego counties, I participated in the very successful petition mailing project of the LP of San Diego (SDLP). **Ed Teyssier**, the very able leader of the SDLP, devised a computer program which sorted through the historical voting data you can obtain, free, from your Registrar of Voters, to find



the registered Libertarians who had voted most often in both general and primary elections.

We mailed blank petitions, with a letter of instructions how to sign them as a "circulator" (different from merely signing the petition), to the people most likely to return them. It worked magnificently.

In Orange County, the next election, we used the same tactic, and again, it worked like a charm to get our candidates on the ballot at the lowest cost.

This year, Orange County's 48th Congressional District will have a special election, to replace SEC-nominee Chris Cox, and we will be starting immediately to telephone our registered Libertarian database. The names and telephone numbers are available from the Registrar of Voters.

We intend to get a verbal commitment in advance from our registered voters to sign and return the petitions. If time

is too short, the verbal commitments will allow a very efficient method of driving to each house, while phoning from the car *en route*, to gather signatures.

It is a good idea anyway for each local LP group to make contact with our members and supporters, and calling people to ask if they will be willing to sign a future petition is such an easy thing to phone to ask.

We're going to do it. We'll keep you informed how well it works. ●

JOE COBB received degrees in economics, having studied with Nobel Laureates Milton Friedman, George Stigler, and F.A. Hayek. He has testified several times before the House of Representatives Ways & Means Committee, and is a past president at National Assn. of Business Economists. Among other noteworthy appointments, he held the prestigious John M. Olin Senior Fellowship at the Heritage Foundation, and has served as Chief Economist for the Senate Republican Policy Committee. Cobb's writings on why "The Income Tax Must Go!" are posted at on the web at www.JoeCobb.com.

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