

California Freedom

February 2009 — The official publication of the **Libertarian Party of California**

Winning Elections

Plan for Libertarian Victory

by **Bruce Dover**

The key to Libertarian electoral victory is party identification and voter registration growth.

In virtually all partisan elections, the vote almost always breaks along party lines, with Libertarians and other non-establishment parties splitting the non-establishment voters. To attain the vote totals of the Democrats and Republicans will require the voter registration and party identification percentages of the Democrats and Republicans.

How long will it take?

Conceivably, Libertarians can win elections with 34% of the vote, assuming a roughly even split of the vote between the Democratic and Republican parties, with the smaller parties taking their usual split.

Therefore, if the vote breaks down along party lines, an LP voter registration of around 34% should start bringing us victories, again assuming the Democratic and Republican voter registration stays roughly equal, and no other smaller party's registration outstrips

ours.

The table below shows projected LP voter registration percentages for the next 50 years, given different initial growth rates. The "victory zone" percentages are given in bold. The numbers represent Los Angeles County LP reg-

istrations, but the idea can be emulated by other county and state LPs.

The table assumes the initial rates of increase of voter registration will decrease as the pool of potential Libertarian registrants is used up. It also assumes the pool of potential

Libertarian registrants to be a maximum of 40% of all registered voters and will tend to level off at 40% over time. This pool includes libertarians and libertarian-leaning potential converts, both currently registered to vote and those who can potentially be registered.

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Libertarian Voter Registration Percentages, over time, as a function of different starting growth rates (left column).												
Initial (starting) growth rate	1	5	10	15	20	25	30	35	40	45	50	
5%	0.47%	0.49%	0.59%	0.8%	1.0%	1.2%	1.5%	1.9%	2.4%	3.1%	3.8%	4.8%
10%	0.47%	0.51%	0.7%	1.2%	1.9%	3.0%	4.6%	6.9%	10.1%	14.3%	19.1%	24.0%
15%	0.47%	0.53%	0.9%	1.8%	3.5%	6.6%	11.5%	18.3%	25.7%	31.8%	35.8%	38.0%
20%	0.47%	0.56%	1.1%	2.7%	6.3%	13.0%	22.6%	31.4%	36.6%	38.8%	39.6%	39.9%
25%	0.47%	0.58%	1.4%	4.0%	10.5%	21.8%	32.7%	37.9%	39.5%	39.9%	40.0%	40.0%
30%	0.47%	0.60%	1.7%	5.8%	16.2%	30.4%	37.8%	39.6%	39.9%	40.0%	40.0%	40.0%
33%	0.47%	0.62%	1.9%	7.0%	20.1%	34.2%	39.0%	39.9%	40.0%	40.0%	40.0%	40.0%
35%	0.47%	0.63%	2.0%	8.0%	22.9%	36.1%	39.5%	39.9%	40.0%	40.0%	40.0%	40.0%

Percentage increase is itself assumed to decrease as the pool of potential Libertarian registrants is used up.

Party of Foreign Non-Intervention

End Aid to Israel and the World

by **Andrew Davis**

Since its creation as a Jewish state in the late 1940s, Israel has been one of the main sources of tension and unrest in the Middle East. Now, more than 50 years later, Israel once again finds itself at odds with its Palestinian neighbors, forcing the hand of the United States to show where it stands on one of the most polarizing issues in modern history.

The tension between Jews and Arabs in the Middle East goes back thousands of years, and there is no easy solution to the issues in the Israeli/Palestinian dispute. Many U.S. presidential administrations have tried to act as brokers of power or arbiters of peace without any success.

Libertarians aren't foolish enough to think we have the

answer to solve the Israeli/Palestinian conflict. However, we do realize that steps can be taken by the U.S. to remove itself from injury in the conflict, and perhaps begin the process of longterm stability in the region.

The biggest of these steps is to eliminate all economic and military aid to Israel and all other foreign countries.

It's the general opinion of Libertarians that as far as the U.S. government should be involved, Israel should look out for its interests so long as its actions are not subsidized by the American taxpayer and Israel does not look to the U.S. for assistance. However, because Israel is the top recipient of foreign aid (aside from Iraq), it is reasonable to assume that some of the money given to

it by the U.S. in foreign aid is used to either directly or indirectly support Israeli military operations.

Therein lies the problem.

There are several complications with U.S. foreign aid going to Israel. One, it makes the U.S. culpable for the actions of Israel that many times come with international condemnation. Secondly, it opens up the U.S. to cries of extreme bias in favor of Israel—a main catalyst for terrorism against U.S. interests at home and abroad.

Critics of removing foreign aid from Israel cite that this is the U.S. turning its back on a staunch ally. However, this couldn't be further from the truth. The U.S. is not "giving up" on Israel by removing foreign aid as much as it is



adhering to a principle of non-intervention in Israel and across the world as well.

Israel will still be a trading partner with the U.S., and will benefit greatly from this trade. Additionally, Israel has a strong and effective military along with nuclear arms to deter aggression.

The United States's top priority needs to be the United States, and our billions of dollars of foreign aid to Israel have hurt our national security and international standing. "Contrary to the warnings of the do-something buffs, U.S. interventions in the Middle East have likely unleashed more anti-American terrorism and more pressure on

energy markets than they have prevented," says Leon Hadar, a research fellow in foreign policy studies at the Cato Institute.

In essence, the interests of Israel are not always those of the United States.

However, it is not an analysis of what we have gotten

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

Advertising orders and artwork are due eight weeks and four weeks, respectively, prior to the month of publication. We reserve the right to refuse advertising. All contributions subject to our editorial guidelines.

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From the Editor

Due to space limitations from all the articles, I'm abstaining from writing a column this month. However, I'm not getting many Letters to the Editor. Only one this month. I want more!

Hint: We have a state con-

vention in April. If you have any ideas for platform or by-laws changes, now is a good time to email your suggestions: editor@ca.lp.org.

I'd like a platform plank that would support property owners' right to own and use cell

phone blockers. Right now, they're illegal in the U.S. due to phone company lobbying.

Property owners should decide if they'd like to block cell phones on their premises, provided that the blocking signal won't extend beyond

their premises. The use of cell phone blockers can be posted, and people can decide whether they wish to enter a theater, building, coffee house, etc. that blocks cell phone signals.

~Thomas M. Sipos

MA LP Chides LNC

by George Phillies

The Massachusetts LP State Committee, having read in detail of events at the December LNC meeting, has passed a resolution responding to the LNC actions. The resolution was drafted by a committee of the whole, and passed without objection.

The resolution as passed reads:

"Whereas, the Libertarian Party of Massachusetts and five other state affiliates of the national Libertarian Party urged the Libertarian National Committee—in the words of the Libertarian Party of Nevada—to drop its vendetta against Angela Keaton and—in the words of the Libertarian Party of Tennessee—turn its attention to proper and necessary Libertarian Party business such as membership growth, finances, campaigns, advancing public policy in a libertarian direction, and increasing awareness of Libertarianism, and,

"Whereas furthermore, the Libertarian Party of New Hampshire categorically and unambiguously informed the Libertarian National Committee that the charge against Keaton related to New Hampshire was totally false and devoid of merit, and

"Whereas furthermore, the Libertarian National Committee took no notice in its meeting of these recommendations, and

"Whereas furthermore, the actions of the Libertarian National Committee drove National Committee At-Large member Angela Keaton to resign from the Committee, and

"Whereas furthermore, the Libertarian National Committee passed a new budget providing nothing for Affiliate Support, Ballot Access, Brand Development, Campus Outreach, or Lobbying, and next to nothing for Candidate Support, therefore

"Mindful of its historical leadership role within the libertarian movement, a role readily traced back to the battles of

Concord and Lexington and the abolitionist movement, not to mention Massachusetts's record as the first state to abolish slavery, legalize gay marriage, and its recent success in decriminalizing marijuana possession, the Libertarian Party of Massachusetts therefore resolves:

"First, we counsel the Libertarian National Committee that, for the good of the Party, the Libertarian National Committee should ensure in appointing Keaton's replacement that the replacement is as anti-war and as socially liberal as Ms. Keaton, so that the balance on the National Committee between the party's various factions and interests is not altered and continues to reflect the mixture of votes cast at the most recent National Convention, and

"Second, we urge supporters of the libertarian political movement to respond to the Libertarian National Committee's actions by redirecting your future donations away from the Libertarian National Committee. Donate instead to libertarian groups that do real politics and political education, such as your state Libertarian Party, and national groups such as Freedom Ballot Access and the Advocates for Self-Government."



George Phillies is Treasurer of the Massachusetts LP. His email: phillies@4liberty.net.

From the Office LPC Ups Its Fundraising

by Beau Cain

Our party's operation center in Panorama City has embraced a new task: producing fundraising social gatherings. County LP officers can take advantage of our new focus and arrange to co-host fundraisers with the state party by contacting Beau Cain at office@ca.lp.org.

• Recent Successes

From September through December of 2008, the LPC sponsored fundraising socials each month in different locations. There were elegant dinners in September and November in Pasadena and Burlingame, and lively receptions each month in Los Angeles, San Juan Capistrano, Fullerton, and Burlingame.

Headliners for these events included LP luminary Ed Clark, Orange County columnists and journalists Steven Greenhut and Art Pedroza, and LPC activist Lynne Gravel Mosier. All of them stressed the importance of challenging the two major parties and their failing social and economic policies. Greenhut and Pedroza offered the added excitement of signing their voter registration forms to be counted as Libertarians.

• Near Future

The LPC sponsored a very successful fundraising reception in Fullerton on January 24th, and is preparing to repeat that success in Monterey County, February 28th. The LPC is also planning its annual state party convention in Visalia, April 24th through 26th. Retired OC Judge Jim Gray headlined both fundraisers. Ed Clark has agreed to headline a second event in Monterey County later this year.

The two Monterey County events are jointly sponsored by the Monterey County LP and the state party. Logistics from these events will be available to other county LP officers

who wish to sponsor their own fundraising events.

Other events are being planned for Beverly Hills and Sacramento/Yolo Counties featuring notable successful California Libertarians.

• Fun With a Purpose

Donations collected at these events are used for either the LPC's general operations or to support LPC candidates' campaigns. Donations are collected separately in accordance with the Fair Political Practices Commission's guidelines. Donors can also specify that their gifts be used for specific purposes, such as printing, postage, membership cards, future events, and LPC literature.

Check with your county's LP if you wish to help produce an enjoyable fundraising social event. Or contact Beau Cain at office@ca.lp.org, or 818-782-8400.



Beau Cain is the LPC's Secretary. His email: office@ca.lp.org.

"The more corrupt
the republic, the more
numerous the laws."

~ Tacitus



Letters to the Editor

Horse Ride for Liberty

As one of six declared Libertarian presidential candidates for 2012, I will begin my campaign with a Cross Country Horse Ride. My trip will begin on May 3, 2009, and I will return home by Christmas. This is an opportunity to see this great nation and meet the people along the way, in an old fashioned way.

To describe me in just one word, it would have to be "Eccentric." For I follow a path not set down in history. I consider myself a "Jill of All, Master of None." I have experienced more in this short life than most do in a complete lifetime. Gaining understanding and compassion for all people's plights and adversities faced through the ages.

Since my healing began in June of '06, I have been receiving messages and visions of things to come. I have experienced many, many things deemed impossible by rational thinking and explanations of things.

Yes, I face much adversity along this path He has put me upon, but I welcome the challenge. For I fear no one, seen or unseen, for I see them all. I could stand before all the top shrinks in the land, and when His words are done with them, they will all feel about one inch tall.

Two years ago, I told friends and family to stock up on dry goods and canned goods, pay off their debts or they will not make it through what is to come. I have had visions of towns as ghost towns a year prior to the foreclosure problems. I see changed landscapes, some from fires, quakes, and floods that will continue to grow in numbers. But seeing the sides of mountains blown out does not look like natural disaster.

I began saying in December of '07 that it would be Obama as our next President; that this is the way time must play out. I then began saying early in '08, that the Great Depression will look like child's play with what is to come.

I have never wanted to be in politics my entire life, but since He restored me in life and my earlier memories as well, I will follow His direction no matter what others may think.

I do not do this for my self, but for His Unconditional Love for All His children. For the Book that was sealed by Daniel, kept from

future generations to preserve the Truth of His Words and Ways, is the Book I know and the book I teach from.

I cannot make you believe anything that I reveal, why you were given "Free Will." I can only pray that as time marches on, you will come to know His Truth. For I will not falter, bend, or sway by the consensus of any group.

If your Faith is strong enough to know that All Things Are Possible when He Has a Hand In It, then stand strong and become as self-sufficient as possible and He will see you through what is still to come.

I humbly ask your support in this endeavor for All of Humanity. (See: www.Joy4thepeoplesvoice.com) Decide now or follow my exploits first. But don't wait too long to climb on board. All you need is Faith and Hope, for Peace will be restored forevermore when all is said and done.

God Bless His Children of the World! He Kept His Word!

— Barbara "Joy" Waymire
Calaveras County, CA

YOUR Letters Welcome!

But we can't publish what we don't receive.

Please submit your letters to:

editor@ca.lp.org

Your \$\$\$ Buys Liberty

LPC activists are fighting statist repression and speaking truth to power—but LPC dues don't cover all expenses.

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California Freedom
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Libertarian Victory

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As of this writing, the LP voter registration percentage in L.A. County is 0.47%. Assuming a 33% initial rate of increase, the 34% threshold is reached in less than 20 years!

There are approximately 18,000 LP registered voters in L.A. County; 33% of 18,000 is 6,000, the number per year necessary for an increase of 33%. There are approximately 84,000 LP registered voters in California; 33% of 84,000 is about 28,000, the number per year necessary for an increase of 33%.

Twenty years is less than one generation. That's within the lifetimes of most of us. We can achieve a libertarian political revolution in less than one generation!

How?

1. **Party websites** should engage in sales and persuasion, rather than merely provide information. A voter registration page should enable visitors to register with the Secretary of State.

2. **Radio ads** during drive time can refer listeners to party websites, and to a local phone number or 800 number, from where a voter registration packet is mailed to prospects.

3. **Direct mail** solicitations can be sent with voter registration form enclosed.

4. **College libertarians** should be paid by the party to go door-to-door and staff booths, so as to solicit voter registration, leave information, and answer questions.

5. **Party volunteers** should do likewise, but we wouldn't pay ourselves for it.

During the 1979 registration drive, which resulted in the LPC attaining ballot status, professionals were paid \$1 per registrant to register LP voters. Today, that approach would cost about \$8 to \$10 per registered voter.

But there's a problem with that. Most of the people who were registered in 1979 were not libertarians, or even libertarian-leaning. With little explanation of the party's principles, the paid personnel simply registered whomever they could for a buck a head—libertarian or not. Most of those registrants eventually left the party, never to return.

Any extra money we'll pay for well-informed LP registrants will be worth it. It will be necessary for us to use methods that Libertarians have always talked about but never seriously tried—educating and persuading the public.

That's the way revolutions

are made.

There is no shortcut to victory. To win politically, we will need to accumulate our constituency. That's Poli Sci 101.

The purpose of my table is to bring some realism to the discussion. Most of us would live to see a revolution that occurred 20, or even 30 years from now. If not, it would still be satisfying to know that Liberty is in the ascendancy, rather than in a slow decline.

But we may not have to wait that long—especially if there is a crisis in the country and we have the political strength to take advantage of it. Assuming a reasonable rate of growth, 19 to 25 years is realistic.

If twenty years ago, the LP had concentrated on growing its electoral base, Libertarian partisan electoral victories would be approaching about now.



Bruce Dovner is Chair of the Los Angeles County LP. His email: bdovner@artnet.net.

Israel

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in return from our relationship with Israel as it is an adherence to the principle of non-intervention. There is great wisdom in remaining disconnected from the problems facing other nations, especially when these problems are complicated and have negative consequences for getting involved.

At issue for Libertarians in the current situation with Israel and Palestine is not so much who is right or wrong, but whether the U.S. should continue to support other countries with foreign aid. Libertarians may all feel differently on whether Israel is "justified" in invading Gaza, but Libertarians all agree that taxpayer-subsidized foreign aid to other countries is bad for business and bad for peace.

Treating Israel like any other country is not abandoning an ally, but freeing the U.S. from a cumbersome relationship of the likes George Washington, Thomas Paine and Thomas Jefferson all warned against hundreds of years ago.

In the words of Jefferson, "peace, commerce, and honest friendship with all nations; entangling alliances with none."

Andrew Davis is Director of Communications for the national Libertarian Party. His email: andrew.davis@lp.org.

Platform Committee Wants YOU

The Libertarian Party of California Executive Committee is looking to appoint a representative from California to serve on the national LP Platform Committee, in preparation for the 2010 Libertarian National Convention.

Would you like to be considered?

Committee members will be expected to devote a considerable amount of their time in the months leading up to the Convention; and due to the anticipated amount of work, they will be expected to incur travel costs, at personal expense, for meetings prior to the Convention, in addition to attendance at the Libertarian National Convention in 2010.

So that the LPC Executive Committee can determine who might best fill this position on the Platform Committee, applicants should draft three proposed or modified platform planks, and submit them by email to: secretary@ca.lp.org.

Deadline for emailing your three planks:
March 6, 2009

Party of Economic Liberty

Govt Inflation Punishes Savers

by Don Cowles

Alan Greenspan spelled out what printing money would mean, speaking to Congress back on February 15, 2005: "We can guarantee cash benefits as far out, and at whatever size you like, but we cannot guarantee their purchasing power."

The speed at which inflationary expectations have been turned on their head has been astounding and the fears of our policy makers is that deflation will now spoil the party.

Why are our policy makers so terribly fearful of deflation and afraid that the over-extended consumers are now going to save rather than spend? Deflation lowers prices and favors people who save. Can it therefore be so threatening to the financial order that they are pulling out all stops to guarantee all manner of private-credit claims?

The short answer is, yes.

Deflation destroys debtors and their creditors. If you are unable to pay your debts, both you and in some cases your creditors are insolvent. Sometimes, credit can help you bridge a "low" time. If, however, this credit only increases debt you still cannot afford, then the inevitable has merely been postponed.

The one-trick wizards of Wall Street had just one idea: to ride the last 25-year trend and pile on as much leverage (debt) as credulous investors and crony regulators would allow. All they knew was leverage. Now that the world is de-levering, they are trying to put leverage back into the system. Fortunately for them, Obama will let them play with the budget of the U.S. federal government for the next four years.

In reality, bailout season started as of September 15 and on to January 20, and it may climb to \$10 trillion before Barack Obama even shows up for work. But any attempt to prolong the credit party will simply prolong the disease.

The measures to deal with the credit crisis aim to prevent asset prices falling to market levels, at which they would "clear" (be sold). Therefore, the balance sheets of both borrowers and creditors will remain encumbered by over-priced assets and virulent liabilities.

New layers of state debt to deal with the credit crisis are not a substitute for private debt, but an addition to it. This is because the state debt does not extinguish the private debt, but merely finances it, thereby increasing the layering of leverage that lies at the heart of the crisis.

The temptation to swap pain today for inflation tomorrow always proves hard to resist. With policymakers falling over themselves to "do something," there is no reason to think this episode will end differently. Dollar weakness will follow this "quantitative easing" as sure as night follows day.

Fears of deflation can quickly turn round again. History shows that the risk of runaway inflation is highest when nobody expects it. Government balance sheets around the world are expanding rapidly. A binary outlook for inflation is an investment nightmare, with each scenario requiring a completely different portfolio.

In the short term, we will probably experience a rally in the more risky assets, but it's likely to be a rally in a secular bear market. I am looking for the possibility of new lows in the coming year. I believe economic deleveraging will continue into the foreseeable future, and later a rotation from paper assets to hard assets in portfolios to anticipate and protect against the risk of inflation.



Don Cowles is the LPC's Treasurer. His email: doncowles2@sbcglobal.net.

"The most successful war seldom pays for its losses."

~ Thomas Jefferson

Party of Economic Liberty

Crash of 2008 Is No Market Failure

by Fred E. Foldvary

Government officials, media commentators, and even some economists are leaping to the mistaken conclusion that the financial waterfall of 2008 is a colossal market failure. We hear that the free market went wild because of too much deregulation. But by focusing too narrowly on regulations, critics ignore the wider issue of governmental intervention. Economic analysis shows that it was interventions that caused not only this recession, but all past panics and depressions.

The longterm cure for the boom-bust cycle is a truly free market, not ever more intervention.

The Crash of 2008 was easily predictable by anyone who understands the economics of business cycles. The low interest rates accommodated by the Fed after 2001 sparked a real estate boom that burst in 2006, which was inevitably followed by falling land values and a crash of the financial derivatives based on mortgages.

The real estate boom was escalated by another government intervention: the tax system. Government works and services, such as freeways, streets, parks, fire protection, security, and schooling make land more productive and attractive. This gain in land rent and land value is a subsidy to landowners, because these services are mostly paid for by taxes on goods, wages, and enterprise. Land speculation exploits the rise in land values during an economic boom, causing an even greater and unsustainable escalation of real estate prices.

The way to prevent the boom-bust is to prevent the fi-

nancial and tax interventions of government. We should abolish the Federal Reserve and let the money supply and interest rates be set by a truly free market, not a governmental monetary authority. We must also replace punitive taxes on labor, goods, and enterprise either by privatizing schools, streets, and other governmental works, or by eliminating the land-value subsidy. Third, we should take back the rent generated by government services by having landowners pay an assessment on their land value.

After the transition to this tax shift, a payment based on land rent or site value would not hurt even landowners, as the purchase price of land would fall to that level where the payment is offset by not having to pay the same amount in mortgage interest. That's because a levy on land value constitutes an elimination of a government subsidy, rather than an imposed cost on the owners.

In my column of August 2, 2005, I predicted: "House prices will plunge, defaults will crash the banks, and many will be unemployed. California's public finances will again be in crisis."

In addition to interventions and the tax system, the federal government sponsored and guaranteed the secondary market in mortgages, in which Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac bought loans from banks, which could then make more mortgage loans. The federal and state governments promoted home ownership with loan guarantees, tax breaks, subsidies, and regulations that promoted home buying by risky low-income folks.

Government is supposed to

protect people from fraud, yet it allowed massive deception in derivatives based on mortgages. Fraud is not a market failure, but rather the failure of government to prevent such acts of theft.

Even worse, government guarantees and bailouts (such as with the Savings and Loans in the 1980s) create the expectation, now fulfilled, that government will rescue banks, insurance companies, brokerage firms, and other institutions that are "too big to let fail." This is called "moral hazard" in insurance and economics, and we now have it on a massive scale.

I warned in 2005: "We will just have to ride this real estate tsunami wave and then plunge down the financial waterfall that lies ahead."

Again I say: The cause is the same all over: government financial and fiscal interventions. So please, don't blame the market!



Fred E. Foldvary, PhD., teaches economics at Santa Clara University. His books include *Soul of Liberty*, *Beyond Neoclassical Economics*, and *Public Goods and Private Communities*, *Dictionary of Free-Market Economics*.

Protecting YOUR Privacy

Scroogle Your Google

by Starchild

Scroogle.org sends your search terms to Google, so that Google sees and saves Scroogle's information rather than yours. Scroogle promises "no cookies, no search-term records" and "access log deleted within 48 hours." You get Google search results -- but without the advertising that accompanies their search-results pages.

If you feel guilty about denying Google revenue this way, and you think it's stealing, you

can donate to Google to compensate them for not viewing their ads.

I advise using Scroogle (they accept donations) because they bypass Google's privacy-invading practices.

While Google is a publicly-held, for-profit company, and not a government, its data is potentially seizable by government. The mere existence of this repository of information on individuals represents a potential threat to liberty, no matter who currently controls the information.

Power corrupts. Libertarians should beware of any one company becoming too powerful or market-dominant, no matter how legitimately they achieved that position.

It has been argued that monopolies don't arise under a free market. This may be true, but that's partially because, as people discover that a monopoly may be looming, they shift their business away from it.

Scroogle's efforts are not anti-market, but part of the natural process of the free market at work in preventing potential concentrations of power.

Starchild is a San Francisco LP activist. His email: sfdreamer@earthlink.net.

Gay Marriage Update Muddling the Message

by Rob Power

We at Outright Libertarians have been calling for the repeal of the Defense of Marriage Act for more than ten years now. So, when I saw this notice: *Nationwide DOMA Protest—Join the Impact January 10* [See: <http://jointheimpact.wetpaint.com/page/Nationwide+DOMA+Protest?t=anon>], I was ready not only to join the effort, but even lend Outright's name to it.

The devil's in the details. You see, it's not only about repealing DOMA, but also about:

1. Enact[ing] a fully inclusive Non-Discrimination Act (ENDA)
2. Enact[ing] the Matthew Shepard Act to outlaw "hate crimes"
3. Confront[ing] the HIV/AIDS epidemic and the stigma surrounding it. (Translation: Increasing federal spending on HIV/AIDS programs.)

Why, oh why can't the Democrats who organize these events just stick to one message for the duration of a few-hours-long rally? It's like when I showed up at the protests in advance of the invasion of Iraq, only to hear speaker after speaker talk about the evils of business and the free market, with the occasional punctuation (as if they just remembered what the rally was really for) of a "No blood for oil" chant.

Discrimination is wrong—whether it's against gays in the form of DOMA or in favor of gays in the form of ENDA. And violent crime is wrong—regardless of the sexual orientation of the victim -- which is why



inventing "thought crime" as the Matthew Shepard Act attempts to do is a bad idea.

And don't get me started on how ineffective federal dollars are in the fight against HIV/AIDS compared to private money.

So, here I am, with a stack of petitions sitting warm on top of my laser printer (since I printed them before I read the accompanying letter), and now I'm mad that, because I oppose regulations on private business, oppose inventing thought crimes, and oppose throwing good money after bad into federal HIV/AIDS programs, I'm not able to participate in an event to repeal DOMA, something I've spent a fair amount of my life trying to

accomplish. Why do they insist on muddling the message?



Rob Power is the Chair of the San Francisco LP, National Chair of Outright Libertarians, and a member of the LPC ExCom. His email: chair@outrightusa.org.

Medical Marijuana Update 9th Circuit Court Hears Rosenthal Case

by Steve Kubby

A three judge panel for the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals heard arguments this January for granting a new trial to Ed Rosenthal. The high-profile case of author and medical marijuana advocate Ed Rosenthal returned to the courtroom and oral arguments were heard to determine whether Rosenthal was denied his rights during a retrial in May 2007 on cultivation charges. Rosenthal maintains that his conviction should be thrown out because he was not allowed to present a complete defense to the jury.

Rosenthal's lead attorney, Michael Clough, argued that Rosenthal was denied his 5th amendment rights to present a

defense and witnesses to collaborate his testimony.

The government argued that anything other than whether or not Rosenthal knew he was growing marijuana is irrelevant, and that Rosenthal wanted to use "irrelevant information" which would have caused the jury to side with him and free him in an act of jury nullification. The government repeatedly raised the specter of "Jury Nullification," as if it were a terrorist act.

U.S. v. Rosenthal, a case that epitomizes the clash between state and federal marijuana laws, has taken many turns in its six-year history. Although Rosenthal ended up with a sentence for one day of time already served, he is determined to force a new trial.

"I'm a soldier in the movement to change the marijuana laws and every case is important," said Rosenthal.

In 2003, Rosenthal was convicted for growing and distributing marijuana, even though he was deputized by Oakland city officials to do so as part of the city's efforts to promote safe distribution of marijuana to patients under California's Prop 215.

After the Ninth Circuit overturned his conviction in 2006 due to juror misconduct, Rosenthal was retried and convicted in a second trial, described by Rosenthal's appellate brief as "little more than a long, drawn out directed verdict."

The Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals heard Rosenthal's second appeal, which argues that defendants have a fundamental right to present a complete and effective defense in cases where there is a conflict between state and federal law. To date, 13 states have enacted medical marijuana laws, despite the federal prohibition on all uses of the drug.

Among the specific questions that Clough asked the appellate panel to decide are:

1. Whether the jury should have been allowed to hear evidence that Rosenthal acted on a good faith belief that he had been deputized by the City of Oakland.

2. Whether, given the complex and unsettled nature of

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theme of *Fahrenheit 451*, the firefighters seemed to have forgotten their primary purpose. How could such arrogant misconduct occur?

Some have pointed to the consolidation of local volunteer fire departments with more formal, government-operated ones. Years earlier, in 2001, the Valley Volunteers Inc. in Carmel Valley Village merged with a government fire department in the Mid-Valley area. The merger quickly soured.

In 2004, the volunteer fire department circulated a petition for "detachment," arguing that their privately raised million-dollar fund had been squandered, and that the two groups had different philosophies on how to operate a fire department.

They'd been explicitly told that a detachment could easily be arranged if either side found the merger unsatisfactory, yet the LAFCO government agency in charge of such disputes refused to allow the separation. Many of the citizen firefighters quit the department, saying they were being "treated as subordinates" by the new consolidated fire department.

The most dangerous threat from Vichy liberals is that they do not trust ordinary people to do the right thing. Instead, government control and bureaucracy are substituted to run society. Politics and officiality overshadow anything that citizens attempt to do, preventing society from self-organizing into a system to which people are willing to dedicate valuable time and money.

Unfortunately, as consolidation grows, so does an attitude that only government can solve problems, leaving the citizenry defenseless and dependant. Government has gotten too big for it britches, and its arrogance is showing through.



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constitutional precedents governing differences in federal and state laws with regard to issues such as medical marijuana, Rosenthal should have been allowed to present a defense based on mistake of law.

3. Whether Rosenthal should have been allowed to offer testimony by Oakland city officials to refute the allegation that he was involved in an unlawful conspiracy.

4. Whether the trial judge, U.S. District Court Judge Charles Breyer, denied Rosenthal's constitutional right to testify in his own defense when he ruled that Rosenthal could testify but would not be allowed to present witnesses to corroborate his claim that he believed he was lawfully acting to further regulations enacted by the Oakland city council to ensure the safe distribution of marijuana to patients.

The Rosenthal case began in February 2002, when he was arrested along with several others in federal raids timed to coincide with a speech in San Francisco by DEA Director Asa Hutchinson. After a trial that generated major media cover-

age, Rosenthal was convicted a year later. The majority of the jurors, however, recanted the next day, setting off another flurry of press coverage, including segments on Dateline, NPR and CNN.

In a dramatic departure from federal sentencing guidelines, Judge Breyer sentenced Rosenthal on June 4, 2003 to a one-day sentence, with credit for time served. Rosenthal nonetheless appealed on principle, and was granted a new trial by the Ninth Circuit in April

2006.

"No one should be made a felon for doing humanitarian work on behalf of their community," Rosenthal said "The Federal Government continues to treat patients like criminals."



Steve Kubby helped draft and pass California Prop 215, which legalized medical marijuana in 1996. He is the author of *The Politics of Consciousness and Why Marijuana Should Be Legal*. He can be contacted via his website: www.Kubby.com.

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~ Nikita Khrushchev, 1959

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Party of Foreign Non-Intervention

Support Neither Side in Gaza War

by Rep. Ron Paul

[Below is Ron Paul's response to H. Res. 34, introduced on January 8, 2009, "Recognizing Israel's right to defend itself against attacks from Gaza, reaffirming the United States' strong support for Israel, and supporting the Israeli-Palestinian peace process." See: <http://thomas.loc.gov/cgi-bin/bdquery/z?d111:h.res.00034>]

Madame Speaker, I strongly oppose H. Res. 34, which was rushed to the floor with almost no prior notice and without consideration by the House Foreign Affairs Committee. The resolution clearly takes one side in a conflict that has nothing to do with the United States or U.S. interests.

I am concerned that the weapons currently being used by Israel against the Palestinians in Gaza are made in America and paid for by American taxpayers. What will adopting this resolution do to the perception of the United States in the Muslim and Arab world? What kind of blowback might we see from this? What moral responsibility do we have for the violence in Israel and Gaza after having provided so

much military support to one side?

As an opponent of all violence, I am appalled by the practice of lobbing homemade rockets into Israel from Gaza. I am only grateful that, because of the primitive nature of these weapons, there have been so few casualties among innocent Israelis.

But I am also appalled by the long-standing Israeli blockade of Gaza—a cruel act of war—and the tremendous loss of life that has resulted from the latest Israeli attack that started last month. There are now an estimated 700 dead Palestinians, most of whom are civilians. Many innocent children are among the dead.

While the shooting of rockets into Israel is inexcusable, the violent actions of some

people in Gaza does not justify killing Palestinians on this scale. Such collective punishment is immoral. At the very least, the U.S. Congress should not be loudly proclaiming its support for the Israeli government's actions in Gaza.

Madame Speaker, this resolution will do nothing to reduce the fighting and bloodshed in the Middle East. The resolution in fact will lead the U.S. to become further involved in this conflict, promising "vigorous support and unwavering commitment to the welfare, security, and survival of Israel as a Jewish and democratic state."

Is it really in the interest of the United States to guarantee the survival of any foreign country?

I believe it would be better to focus on the security and sur-

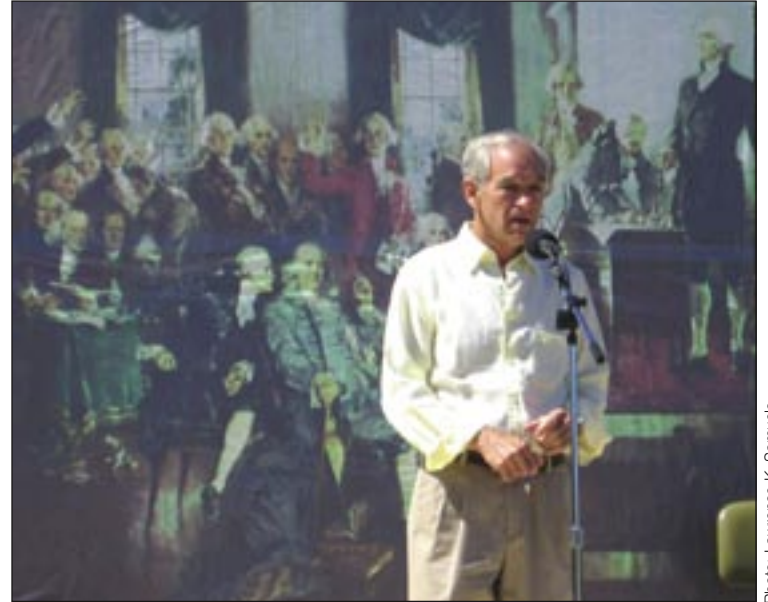


Photo: Lawrence K. Samuels

Ron Paul speaking in Northern California, July 14, 2007

vival of the United States, the Constitution of which my colleagues and I swore to defend just this week at the beginning of the 111th Congress. I urge my colleagues to reject this resolution.

Ron Paul is a GOP Congressman from Texas. He is a life member of the Libertarian Party and was the LP's presidential candidate in 1988.

"Terrorism is the war of the poor, while war is the terrorism of the rich."

~ Peter Ustinov

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