

California Freedom

California Libertarians Review 2008 Successes

The LPCA convened in Visalia April 25-26 and heard Chair Kevin Takenaga report on some of its many activities of the previous year: the candidate rally on the Sacramento capitol steps, an event for columnist Steven Greenhut re-registering as Libertarian, and half a dozen other fundraisers and house parties (featuring e.g. Wayne Root and Ed Clark). He celebrated our dozen or so elected Libertarians, including John Inks's election to the Mountain View city council and Tom Tryon's 7th term as a county supervisor. Takenaga described all the moving parts of the LPCA operation that recently got congressional candidate Chris Agrella onto Fox-LA TV: legislative analysis, media relations, and "candidate finishing school".



Northern Vice Chair Rich Newell reported that a couple of NorCal counties have new young Chairs, Sandy Keating and Kate Moore. Newell said there have now been ten issues of the eFlyer electronic newsletter, and that the distribution list is up to 10,000. Southern Vice Chair Zander Collier reported on convention location scouting and his initiative to find LP prospects by mining demographic data.

Treasurer Don Cowles said that 2008's deficit was cut to \$5000 from \$27K in 2007, by reducing expenses from \$105K to \$88K. The 2008 convention was self-financing (at \$15K), so the remaining major 2008 expenses were staff compensation (\$32K), office overhead (\$10K), and newsletter costs (\$18K). (The newsletter costs break down to \$6K for printing, \$5K for postage, and \$7K for editing and layout.)

Secretary Beau Cain announced that our membership is roughly the same as two years ago (about 1200) and that we have 86K registered Libertarians. Cain now enjoys automated generation of county rosters and will be extracting a list of all standing resolutions from archived Executive Committee minutes.

Chairs Re-Elected, Fresh ExCom Steps Up



Chair Kevin Takenaga, Northern Vice-Chair Rich Newell, and Southern Vice-Chair Zander Collier were re-elected by acclamation. Gale Morgan and Brian Darby were nominated for Treasurer, and Darby won 31-30. Morgan was afterwards nominated for Secretary and was elected by acclamation.

None of the six eligible Executive Committee members ran for re-election: Rob Power (resigned), Brian Holtz (too busy with elected office and PlatCom), Cam McConnell (moving to Tennessee), Ted Brown (taking a break after many years on ExCom), Lawrence Samuels (ditto?), and Michael McMahon. The nominees and votes were:

| 52 | Matthew "Boomer" Shannon |
|----|--------------------------|
| 49 | Mike Seebeck |
| 48 | Jill Stone |
| 43 | Terry Floyd |
| 40 | Mark Selzer |
| 38 | Allan Pyeatt |
| 37 | Mark Hinkle |

Former Chair Mark Hinkle's vote total reflected his warning to the delegates that they would no longer have his institutional memory serving on the Judicial Committee if they wanted to put him on ExCom.

The top five vote-getters won two-year terms, and Pyeatt won the 1-year term. Tricia Marcos and Savva Vassiliev were nominated to be the two ExCom alternates, and a vote of 30-26 decided that Marcos would be First Alternate.

California Freedom

is the official publication of the Libertarian Party of California. However, nothing in it constitutes an officially-adopted statement of the Libertarian Party unless so indicated.

Its purpose is to promote and enhance the political success of the party. To accomplish this it provides an informative and entertaining blend of political news, analysis, features and advertising for its members. Its content focuses on:

- California events, rather than national.
- Externally oriented politics, not internal debate.
- Our successes, rather than our disappointments.
- Libertarian analysis of political positions enjoying support from the mainstream of California voters.
- Practical guidance on winning elections and changing public policy.

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Does Wanting To Defeat Demopublicans Make You A Demopublican?

[CF's April editorial quoted from an LPHQ email just the 3 clauses underlined below, then lamented "We're all Demopublicans now." Evaluate the context for yourself, and then let LPUS Communications Director Donny.Ferguson@lp.org know whether you think he's a "Demopublican".]

Libertarians believe in the principles of individual rights, non-initiation of force and limited government. But in a nation where Democrats and Republicans work together to deprive you of civil liberties, of the fruits of your labor, and your right to create jobs and earn wealth in a free market -- the most important principle is winning.

The only way to take back our rights is to take those libertarian ideas voters agree with us on, such as tax relief, school choice, property rights, and run winning political campaigns that identify, organize and mobilize voters.

And here's the beautiful thing about having political power. It's a zero-sum game. If you're in office, even if you don't have the votes to repeal anything, the high-tax Democrat or the deficit-spending Republican aren't there to vote for more government. There is nothing more noble and principled than winning an election.

Our liberties and our economy are in grave danger at every level of government, all the way down to town councils. The only way to protect our rights and create jobs is to begin taking power from Republicans and Democrats, starting at the local level.

Conceding power to Republicans and Democrats so you can spend your time debating arcane issues may feed the ego, but it starves liberty. In this present crisis, winning elections is the most important libertarian principle there is.



From the Editor: Brian Holtz

A New Look At California Freedom

Welcome to the new California Freedom! The new CF has been streamlined to focus more efficiently on its mission, which was adopted in 2005 and is detailed at left in the updated masthead. The LPCA's Bylaws summarize our mission very well: "The Party exists to uphold, promote, and disseminate the philosophy and principles of libertarianism. To that end, it shall proclaim and implement the Statement of Principles of the national Libertarian Party by engaging in political and informational activities in California." The new CF will quote from our principles in every issue, and will promote the LP's proposals and implementing efforts toward those principles.

The new CF is streamlined and modular. Its simplified 8.5x11 layout is produced entirely with open-source software. This will let us slash or even eliminate the roughly \$7000 we spend each year on professional editing and layout, and will give us more options for our printing and mailing. It will allow easy re-use -- of both our template and our final printable pages -- by county affiliates, other state LPs, and individual activists. The self-mailing back

cover will include a table of contents with critical announcements and URLs, so that page 8 can be an economical standalone mailer. Inside-baseball content such as party business, internal debate, and ads will tend to be segregated to the inside covers (pages 2 and 7), allowing the two inner sheets to be pull-out (or separately printable) outreach tools. They will include news about the LPCA's successes, policy analysis, Platform excerpts, a Nolan quiz, and a membership application.

The new CF also has an associated blog: CaliforniaFreedom.org. The online version of CF will be more timely, more comprehensive, more interactive, and offer richer media than print can. Any content that is suitable for CF is welcome there, and anyone who has written for CF is encouraged to post or submit content there. Postings and submissions will be moderated to adhere to the CF editorial mission, and comments will be moderated to mirror the traditional civility and constructiveness of CF letters to the editor. The volunteers who help build California Freedom will live our Libertarian values, and help the lamp of Liberty shine even brighter.











Lessons From Elected Libertarians



Ed Coleman

The keynote speech at the 2008 California Libertarian convention was by Ed Coleman, an Indianapolis city councilman who recently switched to the LP -- making him the elected Libertarian with the most constituents in the

country. He recounted the inappropriate pressures that local Republican party officials put on him. He said that his unwillingness to sell favors hasn't necessarily hurt his fundraising, and has even brought him promises of future campaign contributions. Coleman said he sees the purpose of government as just to protect people from aggression and to ensure access to water, electricity, and streets. He said he wanted the government out of his church, his bedroom, and his wallet.

John Inks spoke on "Governing as a Libertarian" and his ascent to the Mountain View City Council in November 2008. He described the record of civic activism that prepared him to win office: Parks and Recreation



John Inks

Commissioner, Planning Commissioner, volunteering in various civic groups, campaign treasurer for two city council candidates. For his campaign he visited 9000 households, meeting 2500 voters. Volunteers like T.J. Campbell and Tricia Marcos covered 2000 more households. Inks raised and spent \$13K, and sent 17,000 direct-mail pieces to voters. He was endorsed by former Republican and Democrat mayors and the Sierra Club, but not by any of the three newspapers that interviewed him. In office he has earned headlines like "Hotel Deal Worries Council Dissenter" for questioning a \$30M hotel subsidy. He urged Libertarians to get involved with local activism and local politics, where they have the most leverage.

Norm Westwell shared his reflections on his two terms so far on the Ocean View School District Board. His activism was sparked (literally) when his kids asked why they can't enjoy fireworks on the beach like Norm did when he was young. He said that



Norm Westwell

running multiple elections has helped build his name recognition. His campaigns have let him accumulate a "war chest" of campaign signs that he "harvests" from other candidates (with

their permission) after election day and then re-paints with his name and no office or year. This allows him to increase his name recognition with each election cycle. He has won the support of his local teachers' union because he tells them he supports their right to organize as much as he supports free markets -- and because he voted to raise what he says were his district's relatively low teacher salaries. He calls the term "Libertarian" an "anchor around my neck", and he finds people are more accepting of the LP if they have to inquire about his party affiliation. His next campaign will target a seat on his city council.

University **Economics** Santa Clara Professor Fred Foldvary spoke about how the current economic crisis is not a market failure. He traced the crisis to government manipulation of the money supply and the mortgage industry, and to a boom-and-bust real estate cycle fed by government of land ownership subsidies speculation. Remarkably, he had been for years publishing predictions of a real-estatesparked economic crisis that he had said would probably arrive around 2008. Foldvary said public services that inflate land values should be limited by financing them only with the extra value they create in the free market for land. He specifically recommended a Green Tax Shift, in which all taxation of income, production, sales,

and gifts is replaced with levies on pollution, resource depletion, and land value.



Prof. Fred Foldvary

Dr. Adrian Moore of the Reason Foundation gave a talk about Reason TV and a another about the growth of government in California.

Saturday's breakfast talk was by Chris Agrella, running for Congress in the May 19 special election in district 32. (See story next page.) His theme was resistance to the incumbent political structure. He pointed out that the original American revolutionaries could resist the government with arms on a relatively level playing field, but that now we must resist with election campaigns.



Jack Dean and Mark Hinkle

At Sunday's lunch past Chair Jack Dean described the frightening crisis in civil servant pensions (PensionTsunami.com), and presented the Sons Of Liberty award to Mark Hinkle for his principled state assembly race.

Help Our Top LP Candidate Stay In The Spotlight

Libertarian Chris Agrella is running for Congress in a special election this July 14, and he's making the most of the attention the



race getting. Democrat Hilda Solis resigned her 32^{nd} district seat (in East Los Angeles County) Labor become the Secretary, and LPCA's legislative analysis and media relations team got him an interview on Fox-LA TV. Agrella got

equal time with the Governator and criticized Schwarzenegger's tax-increasing May 19 ballot propositions.

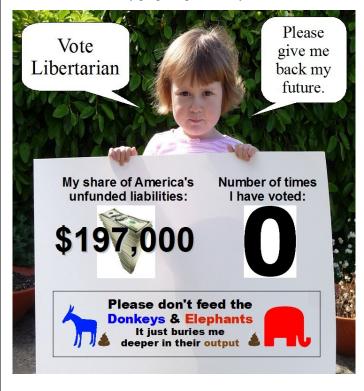
Now the LPUS headquarters have pitched in to give Chris a new web site, and you can help Chris too. All you need is a phone, a web browser, and a comfortable chair. Go to LibertyManager.com and create an account using registration code CA32. After your identity is verified you will be given access to a system to guide you in making phone calls to voters in Agrella's district. The web site makes the process nearly automatic; all you have to do is dial the number, read the script, thank the voter, and then click to log the call. It's that easy! (Bonus points available if you speak Spanish or Chinese.)



T.E.A. Parties On Tax Day

California has the highest income and sales taxes in the nation, the 4th highest capital gains tax, the highest corporate income tax rate in the West, etc. Angry California taxpayers held T.E.A. Party protests on Tax Day, to declare they are Taxed Enough Already – 500 protested in San Francisco, and 5000 in Sacramento. The LA Times said "Republicans Stage 'Tea Party' Protests", but when the crowd in Sacramento was asked "Are you guys tools of the Republican Party?", they shouted "Noooooooo!"

Heather Holtz is already preparing for next year's Tea Parties:



I'm Joining the Libertarian Party of California!

| I m joining the Biberta | man raity or our | i i i i i i i i i i i i i i i i i i i |
|---|--|---------------------------------------|
| ☐ Yes! Start my membership in the Libertarian Party of California <i>this month</i> . Dues plus my dated signature below grant me <i>twelve months</i> of membership. | ENCLOSED: ☐ Check or money order ☐ Voided OR: ☐ Bill my credit card | check for Auto Bank Draft |
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Praising Free Markets On Earth Day

The New York Times marked Earth Day April 21st with a science column extolling a positive trend well-known to green Libertarians: Kuznets Curves. The Libertarian Party Platform Committee last year reviewed the following abstract of The Environmental Kuznets Curve: A Primer from PERC, a leading market-oriented environmental think tank.

Since 1991, when economists first reported a systematic relationship between income changes and environmental quality, this relationship, known as the Environmental Kuznets Curve (EKC), has become standard fare in technical conversations about environmental policy. When first unveiled, EKCs revealed a surprising outcome: Some important indicators of environmental quality [sulfur dioxide, nitrogen oxide, lead, DDT, chlorofluorocarbons, sewagel actually improved as incomes and levels of consumption went up.

Prior to the advent of EKCs, many well-informed people believed that richer economies damaged and even destroyed their natural resource endowments at a faster pace than poorer ones. They thought that environmental quality could only be achieved by escaping the clutches of industrialization and the desire for higher incomes. The EKC's paradoxical relationship cast doubt on this assumption.

However, income growth without institutional reform is not likely to be enough. Improvement of the environment with income growth is not automatic but depends on policies and institutions. GDP growth creates the conditions for environmental improvement by raising the demand for improved environmental quality and makes the resources available for supplying it. Whether environmental quality improvements materialize or not, when, and how, depend critically on government policies, social institutions, and the completeness and functioning of markets.

Better policies, such as the removal of distorting subsidies, the introduction of more secure property rights over resources, and the imposition of pollution taxes to connect actions taken to prices paid will flatten the underlying EKC and perhaps achieve an earlier turning point. The effects of market-based policies on environmental quality are expected to be unambiguously positive.

We Don't Need Any Stinking Taxes

By Fred Foldvary

When something stinks, it's unpleasant, harmful, disagreeable, disgusting, and foul. That describes taxes on wages, capital, spending, consumption, exchange and production. These are stinker taxes because they forcibly take what is properly ours. These stinky taxes raise prices and reduce production and investment. They misallocate resources. The economic waste caused by stinky taxes in the U.S. is more than a trillion dollars per year. These taxes stink not only because of the force and waste, but also because such stinky taxes are unnecessary.

Stinker taxes do finance services we want, such as streets, security, and schools. But we can get the same goods with sweet-smelling revenues. Civilization is no excuse for stinky taxes.

Private communities provide civic services very similar to those of government. They don't use stinker taxes, because they can't use force. They need voluntary customers, so they use payments that are efficiently based on benefits. The hotel provides transit gratis to users. They don't charge for elevator service. They provide security, pathways, and a lobby with no user charge. The room rental pays for the collective goods used by the guests.

The hotel does not ask what your income is, or the value of your personal possessions. It does not add a surcharge at the stores inside the hotel. These charges would violate privacy, and they would cause less business. The room is more valuable because of the collective services, so the guests are willing to pay for that added value.

A condominium likewise provides civic services such as security, recreation, parking, landscaping, and community meeting places. The co-owners pay assessments related to the value of their unit, but unrelated to their income, spending, or personal possessions. The assessments don't stink, because they pay for wanted benefits, and there is no penalty for having more income, spending, or possessions.

Governments could eliminate stinking taxes if they just copy what private communities do. Instead of stinky taxes

on sales, income, and buildings, they can, like condominiums, charge an assessment based the value of the site. Homeowner associations and condominiums call these 'assessments' rather than taxes because in effect the members are paying a market rental, unlike a stinky arbitrary tax. If government calls this a 'property tax' or 'land-value tax' or 'site rental tax,' it would still be in substance a benefit-based assessment with no economic burden.

"What kind of taxation is least harmful? My own preference is for a single tax on land, with landholders doing their own valuation; you'd state the price at which you'd be willing to sell your land, and pay taxes on that amount. Anyone who wanted to buy it at that price could do so." David Nolan, LP Founder

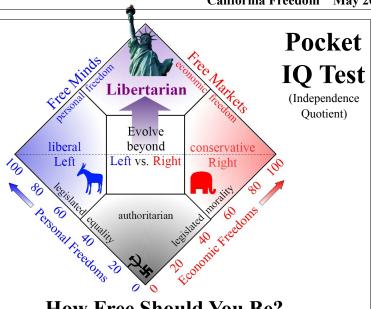
Likewise, a pollution 'tax' is a tax in form but not in substance, because in reality, a pollution charge compensates for damages. What stinks is the pollution, not the compensation. User fees, as voluntary payments for services, also smell sweet, since they are prices for individually used goods.

Ground rent and site rentals don't stink, because these are already and always there. Unlike arbitrary stinker taxes, that make production hide, shrink, or flee, tapping the rent does not make land disappear. So site-value payments don't cause a deadweight loss. That's why private communities use site rentals to pay for their civic goods. Governments could do the same.

Taps on pollution and land rent are better than neutral. They smell sweet. Tapping polluters provides rightful restitution. Tapping landowners prevents landowners' reaping where they did not sow. Tapping the rent prevents speculative real-estate bubbles. Sweet!

Why make a big stink with taxes, when we can tap sweetly? All the public revenue we need can be tapped from ground rent, user fees, and penalty payments. That's why we don't need any stinking taxes.

Fred Foldvary is Professor of Economics at Santa Clara University



How Free Should You Be?

0 = government decides

5 = unsure

full freedom = 10

| From government religion? | To buy any foreign product? | |
|---|--|--|
| From government censorship? | To not subsidize corporations & farms? | |
| From government monitoring? | To control your own retirement savings? | |
| To donate for any political ad? | To control your child's tuition dollars? | |
| To risk your own health? | To decide what health insurance to buy? | |
| To marry the same gender? | To hire any healer or try any medicine? | |
| To choose whether to procreate? | To risk your own money? | |
| To pay for adult entertainment? | To accept any currency or interest rate? | |
| To own a gun while an adult? | To accept low wages and benefits? | |
| To use drugs while an adult? | To keep all you earn, produce, trade? | |
| = Personal Freedoms score Economic Freedoms score = | | |

Text and graphic by Brian Holtz

Pocket U.S. Constitution

Congress's Only Powers

I§8: Congress shall have power to

- 1. lay and collect taxes and duties/imposts/ excises that are uniform among the states
- 2. borrow money on the credit of the United States
- 3. regulate commerce with foreign nations and among the states
- 4. regulate citizenship and bankruptcy
- 5. coin money, regulate its value, and fix standards of weights and measures
- punish counterfeiting of U.S. currency
- establish post offices and roads
- regulate patents and copyright
- 9. establish federal courts
- 10. enforce international law
- 11. declare war
- 12. raise armies, with no appropriation >2 years
- 13. provide and maintain a navy
- 14. regulate the military
- 15.use the militia to enforce laws, suppress

- insurrections and repel invasions
- 16. organize and arm the militia, but let sates appoint its officers
- 17. govern D.C. and other federal land
- 18. "make all laws necessary and proper" to execute the foregoing powers.

Amendment 16: Congress shall have power to lay and collect taxes on incomes.

Your Constitutional Rights

I§9: No bills of attainder or ex post facto laws; no suspending habeas corpus except if rebellion or invasion.

- 1. Freedom of religion, speech, press, assembly, petition.
- Right to keep and bear arms.
- 3. No peacetime quartering of soldiers.
- 4. No unreasonable searches and seizures.
- 5. No double jeopardy or self-incrimination. No depriving of life, liberty, or property without due process of law. No taking private property without just compensation.

Pocket LP Platform

We defend each person's right to engage in any activity that is peaceful and honest. We hold that all individuals have the right to live in whatever manner they choose, so long as they do not forcibly interfere with the equal right of others to live in whatever manner they choose.

Individuals should be free to make choices for themselves and to accept responsibility for the consequences of the choices they make. We condemn bigotry as irrational and repugnant. Government should not deny or abridge any individual's rights based on sex, wealth, race, color, creed, age, national origin, personal habits, political preference or sexual orientation.

Government exists to protect the rights of every individual including life, liberty and property. Only actions that infringe on the rights of others can properly be termed crimes. Government does not have legitimate authority to define, license or restrict personal relationships.

Property rights are entitled to the same protection as all other human rights. The owners of property have the full right to control, use, dispose of, or in any manner enjoy, their property without interference, until and unless the exercise of their control infringes the valid rights of others. We oppose all controls on wages, prices, rents, profits, production, and interest

All persons are entitled to keep the fruits of their labor. We call for the repeal of the income tax, the abolishment of the Internal Revenue Service and all federal programs and services not required under the U.S. Constitution. We seek to divest government of all functions that can be provided by nongovernmental organizations or private individuals. We oppose government subsidies to business, labor, or any other special interest

American foreign policy should seek an America at peace with the world and its defense against attack from abroad. We support the removal of governmental impediments to free trade.

Our silence about any other particular government law, regulation, ordinance, directive, edict, control, regulatory agency, activity, or machination should not be construed to imply approval.

- 6. Right to speedy public trial by impartial jury, to confront and subpoena witnesses, and to assistance of counsel.
- 7. Right to jury trial in lawsuits.
- 8. No cruel and unusual punishments, no excessive bail or fines.
- "The enumeration in the Constitution, of certain rights, shall not be construed to deny or disparage others retained by the people."
- 10. "The powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the states, are reserved to the states respectively, or to the people."
- 13. No slavery or involuntary servitude.
- 14. No taking of life, liberty, or property without due process of law; all persons enjoy the equal protection of the laws.
- 15. Right to vote regardless of race.
- 19. Right to vote regardless of sex.
- 24. Right to vote without paying poll tax.
- 26. Right to vote at age 18.

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Delegates Tweak Platform, Bylaws

The 77 delegates in Visalia rejected a Bylaws Committee proposal to restrict convention delegates to those who were LPCA members for the previous 90 days; the current Bylaws give credit for any 90day period in the past. The committee's other proposal, to make ExCom email votes be roll-call votes, was approved. The Platform Committee proposed adding to the Arts and Society plank 24 new lines, written largely by Starchild, contrasting art and "bureaucracy". The delegates rejected the change, keeping the current 9-line plank (which says quite profoundly "Taxation of an artist to support another artist is a form of censorship."). The delegates approved deletion of the clause "where governments exist" in the Judicial plank about trial by jury.

The convention endorsed Chris Agrella for the 32nd congressional district, Susan Marie Weber for Palm Desert City Council,

and Norm Westwell for Huntington Beach City Council.

Rob Power, Chair of the Outright Libertarians, proposed a resolution to undo the ExCom's endorsement of the Domestic Partnership Initiative. DPI would repeal the Prop 8 ban on gay marriage, and replace the word 'marriage' with 'domestic partnership' throughout California law. The resolution attacked DPI as "particularly misleading in Libertarian terms", calling it a "social engineering scheme that undermines progress on equal rights". The resolution failed 18-25, and the convention overwhelmingly approved a subsequent resolution reaffirming the LPCA's position that Prop 8 should be repealed.

Bob Weber proposed a lengthy resolution calling for pardon of medical marijuana prosecution victim Charlie Lynch and prosection of several Bush administration officials said to be responsible for torture. The vote of 22-17 in favor failed to achieve the requisite 2/3 majority and 30-vote majority of the delegates still registered as the convention closed.

Shopping for a home?

Tap into the Libertarian Network of Realtors and help boost income to the LPC!

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www.BambiLand.com/ NetWork.html

With so many Libertarians in California, this could yield several hundred Network transactions each year.

Albert J. Segalla, Realtor Chair, LP of Calaveras County



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Calendar

May 19 Tue – Vote NO on 1A-1E!

Jul 14 Tue – Last day to <u>make calls for Chris Agrella's campaign</u> for Congress. Use volunteer code "CA32" at LibertyManager.com.

Aug 29 Sat – 1980 LP presidential nominee Ed Clark will headline a fundraiser in Carmel-by-the-Sea.

Libertarians meet regularly in:

Belmont Sacramento
Castro Valley San Bernardino
Chico San Diego
Lafayette San Francisco
Long Beach Santa Clara
Oakland

They'd love for you to join them!

Libertarian.MeetUp.com

Who are the new leaders of the LPCA?

Does wanting to defeat Demopublicans make you a Demopublican?

What's different about California *Freedom*?

What did our convention delegates hear in Visalia?

What LPCA candidate is getting TV coverage and nationwide help?

What does a 3-year-old Libertarian want to say to Obama?

Why was April 15 not just another Tax Day?

Taxes? Do we really need any stinking taxes?

Why should we celebrate free markets on Earth Day?

Quiz – How Libertarian are you?

How did the LPCA Platform and Bylaws change in Visalia?

The answers are in the May 2009 *California Freedom*More articles, letters, and discussion at **CaliforniaFreedom.org**

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