

Santa Clara Libertarian

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Where Do We Go From Here?

by Ray Strong

It is still too soon to assess the strengths and weaknesses of the Libertarian Party as reflected in last month's elections; but one conclusion can already be drawn: the Libertarian Party is still a minor party. We are having an effect; but it will be a while before we can measure that effect in terms of elected Libertarians.

One reason we are still a minor party is that we represent a political philosophy that is held by only a small minority of the electorate. Even among those who actually consciously hold a political philosophy, we remain a minority. The effort we put into Libertarian campaigns in Santa Clara County would have been enough to elect one mainstream candidate to some county office; but I doubt that all the resources we could muster at this point could elect one avowedly libertarian candidate. It is true that we are caught in the *Catch-22* of not being "electable" and thus not being "deserving" of the political contributions from those who expect favors in return. But even if we had somehow managed to match the treasuries of our opponents, I don't think we could have put together a winning campaign this year. In spite of the libertarian tradition of this country, we fly too much in the face of today's "common sense."

We do have some factors working in our favor. One such long-range factor is the intellectual excitement being generated now in academic circles by libertarian thought. Even more significant is the increasingly evident bankruptcy of other approaches. Right now Republicans are being blamed for massive unemployment, but Democrats are perceived as having no really effective alternative to propose.

Unfortunately, voters tend to have short memories and to be easily swayed by charismatic leaders. Is this a reason for pessimism about the libertarian movement? No, but it is a reason for pessimism about a purely political approach to changing the direction of our country, let alone the world. I don't believe the Libertarian Party is going to singlehandedly convert enough voters to seize the power needed to dismantle the State. But, if we can maintain a consistent, significant presence over a long enough period of time, the major parties may accidentally do the job for us by so discrediting themselves that a power vacuum ensues. In such a situation, familiar leaders, with familiar if radical ideas, can be elected by projecting an image of sincerity, integrity, and conviction.

Will we have those leaders, with well worked out and well understood policies at the right time? That depends on our ability to continue growing, learning, and increasing our activism and the numbers of our activists in the face of a reasonable assessment that we may have a long time to wait. To be sure we will be there in the long run, we have to keep growing now in spite of our meager chances for effecting any quick radical change.

Isaac Asimov wrote a series of science fiction novels about a foundation designed to preserve the glow of reason against the fall of a galaxy-wide dark age. I don't think our situation is nearly

so desperate; but it could get worse before it gets better. When I think of the Libertarian Party struggling to convert a world afraid of reason to a new level of civilization, I am reminded of Asimov's *Foundation*.

We don't have all the answers. Sometimes in our zeal to convert we forget that we don't even know all the questions. But we represent the last best hope of this world for a civilization that truly works, the last hope for perhaps millenia to come. Please don't forget your part in this epic when the time comes to decide whether to stick around and the going gets tough. If you are part of the libertarian movement, then you play a crucial role in determining the fate of this world. There are no guarantees; but the stakes are sufficiently high to make it well worth the risk.

Elected Libertarians Defeated in Alaska

Running for Governor of Alaska, Libertarian Dick Randolph received 15 percent of the vote and gained permanent ballot status for the Alaska Libertarian Party. This is the highest percentage that a third party gubernatorial candidate has received in Alaska in 40 years; but it was not as high as the figures predicted by the Randolph organization early in the campaign.

Reasons given for the slip include the upset victory in the Republican primary of a candidate associated with free market economics and an anti-Libertarian radio campaign launched by the Republicans that distorted our positions. Probably more significant than either of these reasons was the situation described in Randolph's discussion of a campaign poll: "Our final poll showed that while about 16 percent of the people asked said they planned to vote for me, 34 percent said I was their first choice and that they would have voted for me *if they thought I had a chance to win.*"

As a result of the election, Libertarians lost both seats they had held in the Alaska State House; but they did manage to pass the "Tundra Rebellion Initiative" (72.7 percent voted in favor) that asserts "unilateral jurisdiction" for Alaska over most Alaskan land now claimed by the federal government.

Christmas Party Replaces December Meeting

Maintaining a longstanding tradition, the Libertarian Council of Santa Clara County will hold its December meeting at June Genis's mountain retreat in conjunction with her party on December 18. For directions and details, call June at 415/851-7664 (evenings).

LP Strongholds Located

by Jeff Smith

Results by precinct of the November election are now available; the best result in a county precinct belongs to Bill White, who attracted 11.7 percent of the vote in a precinct in Sunnyvale. Precinct 4060 lies southeast of the intersection of Palamos and the Lawrence Expressway.

Three other candidates each had a single double-digit vote. Precinct 1528 south of Senter Road and the Capitol Expressway in San Jose was probably the LP's best precinct; it gave 11.4 percent to Alice Agogino and 10.6 percent to Jim Wilson, as well as 6.4 percent to Al Hinkle, his fifth highest precinct percentage. Jeff Smith got 11.1 percent of the vote of a small precinct in West San Jose.

Naturally, the candidates with the highest percentages tended to have the most large percentages, but there were differences among the candidates. Bill White, for example, had more percentages over 9 percent than any other candidate, with an average countywide percentage of only 3.7 percent. John Webster, on the other hand, got none of the three dozen percentages over 8 percent although his countywide percentage was the second best of the eleven legislative candidates.

Most precincts that supported one LP candidate also supported the others. Dale Burrow's best precinct (5.1 percent) northeast of 280 and First Street in San Jose was Ann Justi's second best; she received 8.2 percent here and in the San Jose area northeast of Meridian and Fruitdale. Russ Fridley's best result was 6.0 percent in the precinct south of Escuela and the Central Expressway in Mountain View; this was Bill White's 6th best with 8.9 percent. Al Hinkle's best percentage was 7.6 percent in an unincorporated area between Cupertino and San Jose; Jeff Smith got his second best figure of 9.5 percent here.

But some precincts were not consistent. Precinct 5807 south of Campbell gave 7.3 percent to Jim Wilson and 8.2 percent to Alice Agogino but only 3.3 percent to Al Hinkle. Tiny precinct 5886 south of the Anderson Reservoir gave 5 votes to Wilson and Agogino but only 1 to Hinkle. Precinct 1152 in the Berryessa section of San Jose awarded 8.0 percent to Wilson and 4.7 percent to Webster but only 1.4 to Dale Burrow.

Best results of other candidates are as follows: 7.3 percent for John Webster in precinct 1132 north of the Capitol Expressway and Sierra Road, San Jose; 5.8 percent for Mark Hinkle in precinct 1728 near his home at the south end of San Jose; and 5.1 percent for Chuck Olson in precinct 2548 west of Stanford and El Camino Real, Palo Alto.

The effort to correlate vote totals and political and demographic variables has barely begun, but a few conclusions seem warranted. On the city level, we seem to be weak in Republican areas such as Los Altos, Los Altos Hills, Saratoga and, to a lesser extent, Monte Sereno. The northwestern part of the county seems relatively favorable but unreliable. We are weak in Gilroy and Morgan Hill. Santa Clara and Los Gatos seem to give us slightly above average support. San Jose gives us slightly below average support, with modest differences among neighborhoods. Our best results appear to come from unsexy places like Campbell, Milpitas, and Cupertino.

The LP Voter

Although much analysis remains to be done, a glance at the behavior of our best precincts seem to substantiate a developing portrait of the LP voter as young, educated, nominally Democratic, but not committed to that party or to political participation at all. The list of best precincts elsewhere in this issue was selected on the basis of both percentages and raw vote totals.

Improved Marijuana Initiative

The following marijuana initiative has been endorsed by the executive committee of the Libertarian Party of California. The current text is more libertarian than previous initiatives on the subject which have included such provisions as the establishment of tax-funded study commissions.

AN ACT TO AMEND THE HEALTH AND SAFETY CODE OF CALIFORNIA

- I. Add Section 11357.5 to Health and Safety Code of California: Any law or policy to the contrary notwithstanding:
 - (1) Adults, 18 years or older, shall not be punished criminally, be denied any right or privilege, or be subject to any permit, license requirement or fines, for past or present private possession, cultivation, transportation or consumption of marijuana or hemp for personal use.
 - (2) Marijuana is hereby restored to the available list of medicines in California. Licensed physicians shall not be penalized for prescribing marijuana for medical purposes.
 - (3) The manufacturing, marketing, distribution or sales between adults, of equipment, accessories or literature, designed or marketed for use in the planting, cultivation, harvesting, curing, processing, packaging, storing, analyzing, consumption, possession or transportation of marijuana, hemp, hemp fiber, or hemp seed protein for personal use shall not be prohibited.
 - (4) The enactment of this initiative is to be retroactive in its application to include amnesty and clearing of criminal records for all acts which are hereby no longer illegal.
- II. This act does not affect legislation prohibiting persons under the influence of marijuana from operating a motor vehicle, or engaging in conduct which may endanger others.
- III. Severability; if any provision of this act, or the application of any such provision to any person or circumstance, shall be held invalid, by any court, the remainder of this act to the extent it can be given effect, or the application of such provision to persons or circumstances other than those as to which it is held invalid, shall not be affected thereby, and to this end the provisions of this act are severable.

In these precincts the Democratic candidates for governor and senator did better than average, as did Proposition 12, the nuclear freeze. The precincts did not differ significantly from the county on the jail bond proposition, and were a little more inclined to oppose gun control. Many of our best precincts have turnout well below average and/or contain large apartment or mobile home complexes.

The most important fact about the LP that political observers should take to heart is that we are not affluent, uncaring Reagan Republicans. Our vote totals in low-income San Jose city council districts 3 and 5 are at least as high as the Republican towns of the West Valley.

Second, we are young. Figures provided by June Genis show that 70 percent of LP registrants are between the ages of 21 and 36. This contrasts with about 36 percent of the voting-age population in that age bracket. And a substantially smaller fraction of registered voters are in that bracket. Of course this bodes very well for the fate of the LP a generation from now. A cause for even more optimism is the apparent lack of ex-Libertarians—even those who become inactive are still with us.

Libertarian Organizations Contemplate Merger

The CLC/LPC merger committee has completed its preliminary report. The executive committees of the two bodies have encouraged the committee to continue its work and to have a detailed report by February. The major remaining issue is membership and how it differs from LP registration. The committee is also considering the possibility and desirability of having central committee members selected outside the primary. If you have opinions on these or other issues, the Santa Clara County members of the committee are Mary Gingell and Bill White. The report follows:

Background:

The Merger Committee was formed at the August 1982 Convention of the LPC to investigate a possible merger of the LPC and CLC. The committee's goal is to present a plan for merger consisting of 3 documents:

- A proposed section of the California Elections code describing the Libertarian Party,
- proposed Bylaws of the new LPC organization,
- a plan for implementing the merger.

These documents are to be presented to both organizations at their February meetings.

Progress Report:

The committee has distributed a questionnaire among its members and has met once in Northern California and once in Southern California.

We have agreed, with one member dissenting, that merger is in the best interests of both organizations, and that the surviving organization should be the LPC.

The outline of the new LPC organization would be as follows:

State Central Committee consisting of all members of the County Central Committees. It would collect dues which would be divided with the County Central Committees.

County Central Committees consisting of all individuals who pay dues to the State Central Committee and affiliate with a county. These would be similar to current CLC Regions.

State Convention consisting of delegates from the County Central Committees, similar to the current CLC convention, which would handle:

- Bylaws and Platform;
- Election of LPC state officers and Executive Committee;
- Endorsement (possibly nomination) of statewide candidates;
- Election of delegates to the National Libertarian Convention.

State Executive Committee similar to the current LPC state executive committee.

The new LPC organization would request recognition as the affiliate of the National Libertarian Party.

A detailed proposal for the new LPC organization will be presented in February in Oakland.

SANTA CLARA LIBERTARIAN Staff:

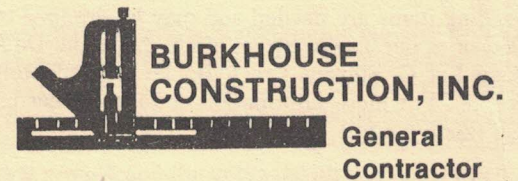
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Libertarian Council Elections To Be Held January 20

On Thursday, January 20, 1983, at 8:00 p.m., the Libertarian Council of Santa Clara County will hold its 1983 convention and business meeting. County officers to be elected include the Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary, Treasurer, Membership Chair, Research Chair, Activities Chair, and Fundraising Chair. These officers comprise the County Executive Committee. Representatives to the State Executive Committee and Delegates to the February State Convention must also be chosen. This convention will select delegates to the Presidential Nominating Convention in New York over Labor Day weekend.

The Libertarian Council of Santa Clara County meets regularly on the third Thursday of the month at our county headquarters meeting room at 401 E. Taylor in San Jose. There is no admission fee and the public is welcome.



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• NOTES •

- **If you passed out literature** during the campaign please call Karen at the CRY-FREE number and tell her where. We are trying to trace the influence of our campaigning on vote totals and membership.
- **Willing to barter?** Short of money for a Libertarian Council membership? The Santa Clara County Libertarian Council will pay up to \$20 of a local CLC renewal or new membership in exchange for donations to the De Anza flea market booth. You will receive a credit of up to 25¢ for every book donated. Other larger items negotiable. Offer good through February 17. Bring your donations to the flea market or to the Taylor Street office. Call 408/CRY-FREE for an appointment.

Classified Ads

Advertising rates: 25 words for \$5.00 (minimum). Each additional word 20 cents extra. Enclose full payment for each month in which you want your ad to appear. Mail to: Santa Clara Libertarian, 401 E. Taylor St., San Jose, CA 95112. Information phone: 408/CRY-FREE.

Recently transferred executive desires the services of competent tax adviser. References required. Contact Mr. Getty at 408/252-9044 after 7 p.m. weekdays.

Used books now available at Libertarian headquarters. A small selection of both libertarian and general interest books are now on hand. Hours: Noon to 6 or so, Mon. through Fri. Also open from Noon to Midnight on the 2nd, 3rd, and 4th Thursday of every month. For additional information phone: The FreedomWorks at 408/280-1776.

Calendar

HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE

Saturday, December 18. 4:00 p.m. til midnight.

You are invited to June Genis's annual Christmas Open House at her home in the La Honda Woods. If you do not know how to find it call her for directions at 415/851-7664 (evenings).

LIBERTARIAN COUNCIL BOOTH AT THE DE ANZA FLEA MARKET

Saturday, January 8. 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Volunteers are needed, especially in the morning to staff our permanent information, voter registration and merchandise booth in Aisle F at the De Anza Flea Market in Cupertino. Help us raise money to support local projects by talking to the public about libertarianism and current issues. Donations of books and other fast-selling items are needed and may be dropped off at the flea market or at our Taylor Street office. Location: De Anza College Parking Lot C, Stevens Creek Boulevard and Stelling Road in Cupertino. For more information or to volunteer call 408/CRY-FREE (noon-6 p.m.).

SAN MATEO COUNTY LIBERTARIAN COUNCIL MEETING

Monday, January 10. 7:30 p.m.

This meeting will feature the Annual Libertarian Council Convention. Meetings are held the second Monday of each month in the Seven Oaks room of the Giannini branch of the Bank of America at Third Ave. and El Camino in San Mateo. Information phone: Lyn Sapowsky at 415/368-8148.

EASTBAY LIBERTARIAN COUNCIL MEETING

Thursday, January 13. 7:30 p.m.

Meetings are held on the second Thursday of each month. Location: Society of Friends education building on Vine near Walnut in Berkeley. Information phone: Tod Mikuriya at 415/843-0279.

SPIRIT OF LIBERTY

Thursday, January 13. 7:30 to 10:30 p.m.

A continuing two-part lecture and discussion series. It starts with a session of "The Freeman Institute's" (a conservative educational organization) lecture series on "The Miracle of America." After the break there is an informal discussion of techniques that are being used to fight against IRS tyrannies. Guest speakers also address related topics. Location: Libertarian Headquarters, 401 E. Taylor St. in San Jose. Fee: \$5.00 (first time is free) admission. For information phone the sponsor, Don McCoy, at 408/225-0473.

SANTA CLARA COUNTY LIBERTARIAN COUNCIL CONVENTION

Thursday, January 20. 8:00 p.m.

Next month's meeting will feature the Annual Santa Clara County Libertarian Council Convention. We will be electing regional officers, representatives to the CLC Executive Committee and delegates to the CLC State Convention business meeting to be held in Oakland on February 19 & 20. Location: 401 E. Taylor St., San Jose. Meetings are held the third Thursday of each month. Information phone: 408/CRY-FREE.

SPIRIT OF LIBERTY

Thursday, January 27. 7:30 to 10:30 p.m.

See the January 13th "Spirit of Liberty" listing for details. Meetings are held the second & fourth Thursday of each month.

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CALIFORNIA LIBERTARIAN COUNCIL CONVENTION "Libertarian Gold: A Wealth of Ideas"

**Friday, February 18. 9:00 a.m. through
Sunday, February 21. 1:30 p.m.**

The California Libertarian Council will hold its Tenth Annual Convention at the Oakland Airport Hilton in Oakland. It will feature libertarian activists and scholars in seminars, workshops, and speeches. It will also feature a banquet, social events, films, and Libertarian Council and Libertarian Party business meetings. Fees: Packages range from \$25 to \$175 and individual events from \$6 to \$35. (All prices will be higher after December 31.) For a brochure giving all the details write to: 1983 CLC Convention, 1746 Lexington #4, El Cerrito, CA 94530 or telephone Hugh McLean at 415/234-7809 (evenings).

Additional announcements of events sponsored by and/or of interest to Bay Area Libertarians are requested. Deadline is the first of each month. Send announcements to SANTA CLARA LIBERTARIAN, 401 East Taylor Street, San Jose, CA 95112-9990

Giant Flea Market

at

De Anza College

**Stevens Creek Boulevard and
Stelling Road in Cupertino**

**January 8
8 a.m. to 4 p.m.**

For information or booth reservations call 996-4946

Sponsored by DeAnza College Student Body