

Santa Clara County LIBERTARIAN

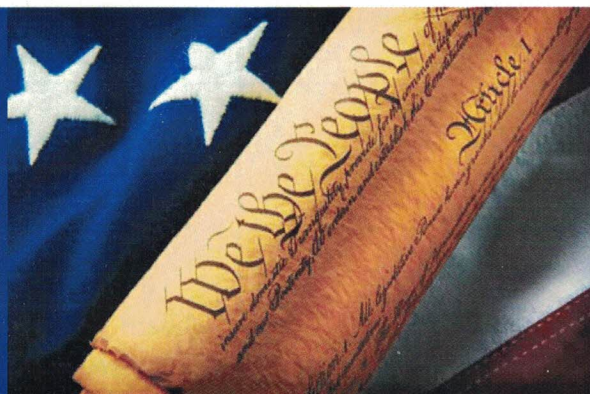
MARCH 2007

WHAT'S INSIDE

The Libertarian Perspective 2

SVTA 3

LPC Convention 3



Brian Darby
Chair

Libertarian Party of
Santa Clara County

From the Chair

The last year was full of news that Libertarians don't often receive: elections won. This was the first time I have been at an election night party that wasn't a wake. I can't call the *No on Measure A* (Open Space initiative) party a celebration, because it was too close to call on election night. I felt cautious, nervous, hopeful tension -- the same tension that lies between any important question, and its answer: "Will I get into college?" "Will I get the job?" "Will she say...Yes?"

Trying to sleep unanswered was sweet torture and the answers were bittersweet. *No on Measure A* succeeded, but John Inks did not. It took over a month to learn that Inks' result was not a total loss. His appointment to the Mountain View Environmental Planning Commission for a three year term took the sting right out.

This year I saw our success with coalitions. Coalitions that brought skills to bear that we do not have in abundance. In the *No on A* campaign, I witnessed professional campaign managers, consultants, fundraisers, and support people performing at a high level. I saw the real activists -- not the sign-toting, flag wavers of impromptu street-corner demonstrations, but the thinkers, planners, and enablers.

I saw our future.

Yes, I saw our future -- if we grab it. That future is building a core of skilled activists who organize effective campaigns. That future is organizing and managing volunteers in a way that keeps them coming back. That future is building the foundations and relationships for successful, sustained fundraising. That future is preparing to do the important work of defending liberty -- then doing it.

I also saw that we only get support when we are doing important work and when we make the case for it. We must make the case, to our members, voters, and supporters, that what we do is important, that we have a chance of success, and that their contributions are used well.

This year is a year to prepare. Now is the time to build the core muscles that support the strong body. Now is the time to study, practice, and teach. **Now is the time.**

I cannot do all the work. I need your help. What I will do is start to build a culture of skills and skill-building. Starting with the ExComm, we will master the art of volunteer programs; we will master the art of fundraising; we will begin to build a core. You know it's important - you know we can do it. Join me on this quest.

My Warmest Regards,
Brian Darby

Universal Health Care Would Be Universal Disaster

Adam Summers

The Libertarian Perspective #90 - Tue 6 Feb 2007



It seems everyone is jumping on board the health-care reform bandwagon these days. President Bush discussed his health-care tax credit during his State of the Union Address, Gov. Schwarzenegger announced his statewide universal health-care plan, and Democratic 2008 presidential candidates Hillary Clinton, Barack Obama, and Dennis Kucinich have all made nationwide universal health care a major plank in their campaign platforms.

Numerous others have decried sharply rising health-care costs and offered many proposals, but no one can agree on a solution. One common thread to the proposed "solutions," however, is more government involvement, be it more taxes, more program expansions, more subsidies, or more mandates and regulations. Yet, government intrusion in the medical care industry has been increasing significantly for years—particularly since the birth of Medicare and Medicaid in 1965—without ever achieving the promised goals of greater affordability and better quality of care. It is no accident that the rising prices and declining quality of medical services coincide with an increasing socialization of the health-care industry in America. Perhaps it is time to reexamine what it is we are trying to fix.

Gov. Schwarzenegger wants to enforce universal health care to cover 6.5 million uninsured Californians at an estimated cost of \$12 billion a year.

(Remember: these are government cost estimates. Expect actual costs to be many times higher. Think Medicare prescription drug benefit.) The plan would require all of us to maintain at least a government-approved level of coverage—whether we want to or not—and would require insurers to issue policies to everyone, even those who wait to become sick before applying for "insurance." The plan would be paid for by a number of taxes, including a 2 percent tax on doctors and other medical professionals, a 4 percent tax on hospitals, and a 4 percent tax on employers with more than 10 workers that do not offer health benefits. Furthermore, the Schwarzenegger plan would increase eligibility requirements in the Healthy Families program to allow families with incomes of up to 300 percent of the poverty line (about \$60,000 for a family of four) to obtain subsidized health insurance for children.

In short, California's universal health-care plan would (1) significantly increase insurance costs by artificially increasing demand and forcing the young and the healthy to compensate for the costs of the uninsurable who now must be covered; (2) increase the cost of services, as doctors and hospitals pass on the cost of higher taxes to their patients; (3) make employees less able to afford coverage, as employers respond to the tax increase by cutting salaries or dropping health-care coverage

Silicon Valley Taxpayers' Association

Lois Garcia

The Silicon Valley Taxpayers' Association (SVTA) is a vocal taxpayer advocacy group that works to protect taxpayers' rights and to resist attempts at raising taxes. Many tax hikes are hidden, misnamed, or are proposed in other ways that circumvent the law. The SVTA uncovers these deceptive tax proposals and fights to protect our rights as taxpayers.

One of the member groups in the Citizens for Sensible Transportation Coalition, the SVTA brought current SVTA President Elizabeth Brierly and former President Doug McNea to the fight against Measure A. It was Elizabeth, a longtime supporter of the LPSCC, who invited Greg Perry, former Mountain View Vice-Mayor and founder of the Citizens for Sensible Transportation Coalition, to the 2006 LPSCC elections to introduce us to the No on Measure A campaign.

On Wednesday, January 31st, the SVTA hosted their first event, *Curing*

California Health Care: 5 Steps to Universal Choice in 2007. A January 8th press release from the office of California Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger trumpeted his new plan to "fix" California health care. According to the Governor, the fact that some workers with access to health insurance freely choose not to have it is a problem that must be solved. The Governor's plan would add tens of *billions* of debt to the state budget and includes paying for the medical care of non-taxpayers with taxpayer dollars.

Keynote speakers at *Curing California Health Care: 5 Steps to Universal Choice in 2007* were San Jose City Councilman, Pete Constant, and Director of Health Care Studies at Pacific Research Institute, John R. Graham.

For more information about the SVTA:

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Pete Constant

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All photos this page courtesy of
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2007

Libertarian Party of California Annual Convention

Friday, April 20th to Sunday, April 22nd

San Ramon Valley Conference Center
3301 Crow Canyon Rd.
San Ramon, CA 94583
(925) 866- 7612

For details and to register:

<http://nclpc.org/convention/>

or contact: Terry Floyd

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Publicity Chair

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**Universal Health Care Would Be
Universal Disaster (continued from page 2)**

altogether; and (4) provide less incentive for families earning up to three times the poverty line to acquire private insurance, as more of them would be able to take advantage of the government dole.

One of the main problems with health care today is that medical decisions tend to be made by third-party bureaucrats — whether employees of the government or an HMO — rather than doctors and patients. Cost decisions, in particular, are completely taken away from the patient.

Last year I had to have a couple of radiological procedures done, and I had the audacity to ask the nurse in my doctor's office how much the procedure would cost. Not only could she not even give me a rough estimate, she looked at me as if this was the strangest thing I could have asked. Something is wrong with this picture. If I were to get into an auto accident or need some regular maintenance done on my car, there would be no question how much it

would cost me. I could even go get several estimates and choose the best mechanic based on price and quality of work! Why should it be any different with medical care?

Voters are going to hear many health-care "reform" proposals over the next couple of years (and beyond). The question they should ask themselves is: Does this plan give more power to me and my doctor or to third-party decision makers? The issue is freedom and control, and the one who pays is the one who controls.

After over a generation of taxes and mandates and regulations and Medicare, we can see that government intrusion in the health-care industry only makes health care less affordable and the quality of care lower. Politicians like Schwarzenegger, Clinton, Obama, and Ted Kennedy are right that the health-care industry in our nation is sick. What they fail to realize is that government intervention is the disease, not the cure.

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2007**Libertarian Party of California Annual Convention**

Coming to San Ramon in April, see Page 3

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