



Santa Clara Libertarian

Volume 34, Issue 6 June 2006

News of Local Libertarians' Efforts and Feats

Victory Over Measure A! Half-Percent Sales Tax Defeated

by Greg Perry

Citizens for Sensible Transportation

Something very unusual happened on June 6 in Santa Clara County. Voters turned down the Measure A sales tax, and turned it down hard. Despite a \$1.7 million advertising campaign, over 57% of voters rejected the tax. That is almost twice the 29% who voted against a similar tax just six years ago.



Photo: Elizabeth C. Brierty
Greg Perry speaking at LPSCC convention. Jan. 10

No single cause is going to explain a 28% swing, and a lot of the difference is due to factors beyond our control. Tax increases are easier to pass, for example, when we're in an economic boom. But it's worth understanding what was different this time.

Some of the roots of that lie in the groups that came together to work against the tax, a coalition of public transit enthusiasts and anti-tax advocates. Both of these constitu-

encies have run campaigns independently, and both without success.

Anti-tax groups have endured many difficult losses over the years, watching taxes climb in 2000, 1996, 1984, and 1976.

Public transit advocates also fought a hard campaign against the 2000 sales tax. Despite presenting solid arguments and having the support of several public officials, they fell short of the 34% they needed to defeat the tax. They also fought the gerrymandered BART extension to San Francisco International Airport, again without success.

This time, there was much better communication among the opponents. And it helped. At a simple level, including both left- and right-leaning groups meant that we had more boots on the ground doing work.

More importantly, bringing in more groups means your message will have broader appeal. Liberals are better at winning over liberals, and conservatives are better at winning over conservatives. It is difficult for a liberal environmentalist to write an argument which appeals to conservative businessmen. Or the other way around.

This time, the chairman of the Santa Clara County Libertarian Party was writing arguments cooperatively with the transportation chairman of the Sierra Club. It took longer, but the result, which resonated

with both groups of voters, was worth it. It wouldn't have been possible without the initial outreach, and the recognition that on this issue, we agreed.

Including widely divergent groups also meant that we had more contacts. There isn't much overlap between the taxpayers' association and the environmental movement. That means that each side was frequently bringing in people that the other

For more election results, see page 3!

side didn't even know existed. For a low-budget campaign, this was wonderful. It meant more speaking opportunities, more messages in newsletters—in other words, more free ways to get our message out. Without that, we could not have stood up to the labor union money.

Many thanks to the advocates and voters of all stripes who helped make this campaign a success. ■

GREG PERRY is Vice Mayor of Mountain View. Recently appointed to the board of VTA, he has served as City Councilman, and on VTA's Policy Advisory Committee, each for 3 years. Perry founded Citizens for Sensible Transportation Solutions to oppose the new sales tax for BART. Contact him at Greg_Perry1234@Yahoo.com.

Nonpartisan Candidates Seek LPSCC Members' Votes



Photo: Elizabeth C. Brierty
Michael Mulcahy, candidate for Mayor of San Jose. May 25

Three candidates for nonpartisan races, hoping to win over LPSCC voters, spoke at our May 25th central committee meeting, held at Cuccini Restaurant in San Jose.

S.J. Mayoral candidate **Michael Mulcahy**, former exec. director of Children's Musical Theater, mentioned his position in favor of Measure A, the half-percent sales tax which we were helping to defeat. He wound up ranking 5th among the 10 rivals. City Councilman **Chuck Reed**, who'd addressed LPSCC on April 24, placed 1st (28.79%), and will face Vice Mayor Cindy Chavez (23.17%) in November's run-off election.

Retired S.J. cop **Pete Constant**, publisher of *Silicon Valley Magazine*, also addressed the gathering of about 20 local libertarians activists. He won a clear victory (64.54%) in his three-way race for S.J. City Council, District 1, against Jay James (30.36%) and Ross Signorino (5.10%).

Also speaking to us was **Jim Shore**, candidate for District Attorney, who garnered 14.29%, or third in his four-way race. Dolores Carr and Karen Sinunu will be competing in this run-off in November. ■

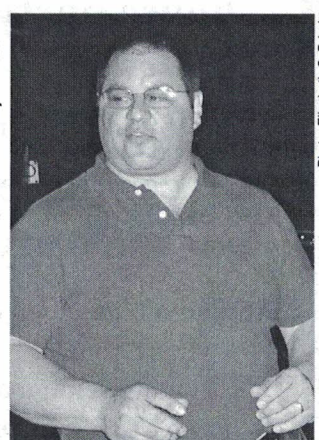


Photo: Elizabeth C. Brierty
Pete Constant, candidate for SJ City Council, District 1. May 25



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PAST ISSUES

Posted on the Web at:
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■ Message from the Chair

What an Election!

Whew! California's gubernatorial primary election of June 6, 2006 is over; we've had our pizza; and we're taking a well-deserved break.

All in all, we have not much to complain about.

- We won on most of our issues (Measure A, and Propositions 81 and 82).
- We had a decent turnout, with help from members who volunteered to make get-out-the-vote (GOTV) calls.
- We held several pre-election candidate nights, which allowed us to follow San Jose City politics closely.

With a bit of success under our belt, we'll want to continue building upon the momentum we've gained over the past six months of good work.

We may have gotten a little sidetracked by the excitement and importance of this election, but

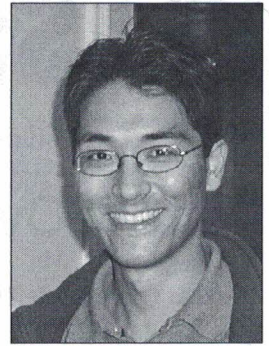
we don't want to forget working toward our goals this year of forming 3 city clubs, raising \$3,000, and registering 300 new voters.

This is a call-to-action to LPSCC members to get involved.

Soon, we'll be starting to organize for the general election, after those of us who were delegates to the National Convention in Portland over July 1-2 return and regroup.

Contact one of your LPSCC committee chairs or me to get involved. Every little bit that each of you does makes a big difference.

—Kevin Takenaga, Chair
Libertarian Party of Santa Clara County



Kevin Takenaga

Photo: Elizabeth C. Brierly

Government Does Work (Sometimes)

by A.M.R.

Suppose you had the following assignment. Take an opinion poll of 700,000 people, to be done in one day. The number & content of the questions on the poll must vary depending upon where the people live. You need to be able to tell *who* answered the poll, but not *how* any particular person answered. You must set up temporary neighborhood stations to make it convenient for people to express their opinions, staff these stations with trained volunteers on the particular day, and deliver & retrieve the equipment necessary to record the results efficiently. Finally, deliver a count of the accumulated opinions, to a reasonable level of accuracy, within 24 hours of the end of the day.

If you had this job, you would be the County Registrar of Voters (R.O.V.); the poll, of course, would be the voting process; and the day would be Election Day.

For 363 days of the year, the job of the R.O.V. is "only" to store and inventory voting machines & materials, maintain registered voter records, handle the paperwork & fees around getting candidates on the ballot, and print ballots. But on Election Day in Santa Clara County, the R.O.V. must provide 4-5 volunteers for each of 1100 precincts, an army of 5000 assembled for just one day. Repeatedly, it accomplishes this, enabling you to see the very next day how your candidate—and the latest assault on your wallet—rated.

How they accomplish this could fill several pages, and would be dry reading. In broad

outline, what the R.O.V. has done is to create a system whose intake & output counts can be easily compared, with sufficient details recorded within the system to allow an analyst to locate & correct discrepancies. The system is so simple that it takes only 4 hours to train the volunteer clerks, yet complex enough to allow each clerk to perform any of 3 distinct functions which, when effectively combined, give the volunteers a justified sense of satisfaction in their teamwork. It even provides an opportunity to gain management experience, in the role of Precinct Inspector, responsible for setting up & taking down the polling area, controlling the flow through the process, and delivering the vote at the end of the day.

Ours is a democratic form of government. We decide issues by voting on them, rather than by violent conflict. As long as we do so, we'll need organizations like the R.O.V. to ensure that the vote is taken honestly & efficiently. The 2006 General Election will be held on November 7. The R.O.V. needs honest & effective volunteers to support the process; surely libertarians qualify. You'll find the job interesting and learn about an area in which government *does* work. Call Santa Clara County's R.O.V. at (408) 299-7655 to volunteer. ■

A.M.R. is a former LP Executive Committee member, for both California & Santa Clara County, who is now working with Willow Glen Libertarian Alliance (www.WGLA.org), a grassroots political group centered in San Jose's Willow Glen neighborhood.

WANTED!

LPSCC needs
house party
locations
for fundraisers
for candidates
and the Party.

To find out how you can
help, contact
Kevin Takenaga at
Chair@SC.CA.LP.org.

Upcoming Events

Liberty, Economy, and Society Summer Seminar for Students

Independent Institute

When: **August 7-11, 2006**, 9:00-4:00
 Where: Independent Institute
 100 Swan Way
 Oakland, CA 94621-1428
 Fee: \$195.00
 Scholarships available; please inquire.
 For info: Carl Close, Academic Affairs Dir.
 E-mail: CClose@Independent.org
 Tel.: (510) 632-1366

Autonomy in the Family:

Children, Spouses, Partners

Conference sponsored by **Resources for
Independent Thinking, Civil Society**

Institute, & Assn. of Libertarian Feminists

When: **Saturday, August 19, 2006**
 Where: Santa Clara University
 500 El Camino Real
 Santa Clara, CA 95053-1500
 California Mission Rm. (Benson Ctr.)
 Fee: \$32-\$109, depending on package
 For info: www.AutonomyInTheFamily.org
 Or contact Sharon Presley, Ph.D.
 E-mail: Presley@RIT.org
 Tel.: (650) 814-3245

Results of June 6th Election

In June's election, we voted on important statewide propositions, plus local measures in Santa Clara County. This time, most voters sided with the libertarian position. Here is what happened.

County Measures

Measure A Sales Tax. Gen'l fund, 1/2% tax, 30 yrs' duration... No No 57.13%
Measure B Parks. Annual transfer of gen'l funds, 12 yrs. No position Yes 71.10%

LP Voted: Result:

Statewide Propositions

Prop. 81 California Reading and Literacy Improvement and Public Library
 Construction & Renovation Bond Act of 2006 No No 53.0%
Prop. 82 Preschool Education. Tax on Incomes Over \$400,000 for
 Individuals; \$800,000 for Couples No No 60.8%

LP Voted: Result:

Congratulations, Libertarian Candidates!

We'll have the chance on Nov. 7 to vote for these Libertarian candidates touching Santa Clara County, who've won their primary election in California's June 6th primary election. (Please note that as of this writing, the LPSCC hasn't yet officially endorsed any candidates in Election 2006.)

Candidate	Office	District
Art Olivier	Governor	N/A
Lynnette Shaw	Lieutenant Governor	N/A
Gail Lightfoot	Secretary of State	N/A
Donna Tello	Controller	N/A
Marian Smithson	Treasurer	N/A
Kenneth A. Weissman	Attorney General	N/A
Dale F. Ogden	Insurance Commissioner	N/A
Kennita Watson	State Board of Equalization	1
Brian Holtz	U.S. Congress	14
Lionel Silva	State Assembly	24



Fight Political Correctness—

Pull your Kids out of Government School!

Imagine...

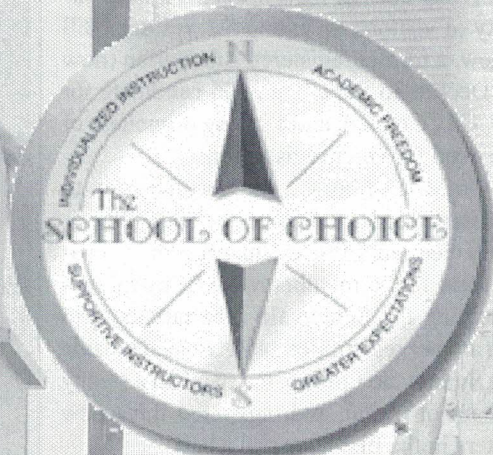
...your children are studying *Rand and the Bible in Literature* class...
Hayek and Friedman in Economics...*Paul Johnson and Alexis de
 Tocqueville in History*...

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uses the Socratic method to teach Great Books and Ideas to gifted children, showing the next generation the promise of liberty.

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- An honors program with AP by Grade 9 (two years ahead of most government schools)
- Non-denominational character and leadership training which promotes independent thinking
- Individual attention classes a quarter the size of the government's
- Project-oriented instruction which helps kids love learning—for life
- Affordable private education for those who will invest in freedom



1095 Dunford Way, Sunnyvale
 Between Lawrence Expressway & Wolfe Road
www.SchoolOfChoice.com
 (408) 887-5108



Santa Clara Libertarian

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Libertarian Party of Santa Clara County
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Sunnyvale, CA 94088-0171



SAN JOSE, CA

Wanted! Candidates.

Nine cities in our County will be holding City Council elections this November.

Contact LPSCC's Campaigns Chair, **Scott Lieberman**, at Scott73@Earthlink.net, or (408) 243-2711.

Voter Registration

by Lois Garcia

The low, grey clouds haunting Martin Luther King library in downtown San Jose did not deter a small crew of LPSCC'ers from setting up an Operation Politically Homeless and voter registration table on Sat., May 20. The table attracted a wide variety of visitors, including S.J. resident Bill Chew, a former registered Libertarian (now a "Decline to State"), a 2006 candidate for S.J. City Council, and a strong proponent of the need for voter registration.

On Mon., May 22, the very last day to register in order to vote in the June 6th primary election, LPSCC Chair Kevin Takenaga and LPSCC member Mike Bearden, representing the Sunnyvale Libertarians, also ran a voter registration table. Posted outside the Sunnyvale Library, the two had a steady stream of traffic, and registered three new voters in the first hour and a half.

After dinner, Kevin rushed the registration forms directly to the office of the Registrar of Voters for Santa Clara County, in time for the midnight deadline to register. ■

To help with voter registration, contact Activities Chair **Lois Garcia**, at L.Party@Yahoo.com.



On election night, LPSCC Chair Kevin Takenaga & Greg Perry, founder of Citizens for Sensible Transportation, celebrated the success of their alliance, which had defeated a new 1/2% county sales tax. The coalition includes Silicon Valley Taxpayers' Association and VTA Riders' Union. June 6.

Primary election a cause for celebration among new coalition!

See page 1 for the story on our defeat of Measure A's tax, and how various "citizens for sensible transportation" joined forces to protect our wallets from bureaucratic wastefulness.

See page 3 for other election results.

A government which lays taxes on the people not required by urgent public necessity and sound public policy is not a protector of liberty, but an instrument of tyranny.

—Calvin Coolidge