



Santa Clara Libertarian

Volume 33, Issue 9 September 2005 News of Local Libertarians' Efforts and Feats

■ Election 2006

Not to be Missed: Candidate Training! Panel on Oct. 18

by **Allen Rice**
Vice Chair, LP of Santa Clara County

One of the best ways the Libertarian Party has to raise public awareness of the Party and its solutions to the problems of our time is to run candidates for elective office. The 2006 election season is upon us! The period for filing for ballot status begins in December, and interested Party members should be considering now whether they'd like to run.

Being qualified for the ballot is not hard. To show that this is so, the Party will host a panel discussion on Tuesday, October 18 in Sunnyvale. Each panelist will give a short presentation, followed by a discussion, and then questions from the audience. Admission is free, and light refreshments will be served.

Panelists will include Scott Lieberman, former member of the San Jose Commission on Rents and graduate of Los Gatos Leadership, Allen Rice, 2004 candidate for State Senate, and Dennis Umphress, twice a candidate for Congress. Other past candidates will be in attendance as well.

Even if campaigning is the farthest thing from your mind, attend, become educated, and learn how easy it is to participate as a candidate in our democratic process. ■



Get Involved! Bond Committee Openings

San Jose Unified School District is seeking four additional members to serve on its Prop. 39 Measure F Bond Oversight Committee.

Passed in 2000, Proposition 39 allowed



Allen Rice, LPSCC Vice Chair and Measure F Bond Oversight Committee Chair

schools to pass bonds with a 55% vote, but only if they establish a committee to ensure that the bond money is spent solely on the areas described in the bond measure.

To serve, no experience is

required, beyond common sense and enough free time to spend one evening every two months in a meeting. Applications, due back to the District by October 17, are available at www.SJUSD.K12.ca.us (see the upper right corner of the page).

Need more detail? Contact our own **Allen Rice**, who is currently serving as the Committee's Chair! You may reach him at AMRCheck@Yahoo.com.

Even if you don't plan to apply for the Oversight Committee, do attend its next meeting: October 17, 6:00 P.M. at Gundersen High School (622 Guandabert Lane, San Jose). One topic on the agenda will be an explanation that has been requested by the oversight committee for a \$2.6 million cost overrun on one of the bond projects. ■

Government Succeeds by Failing

by **L.K. Samuels**
LPC Northern Vice Chair

Not long after Katrina steamed-rolled across New Orleans, it became crystal clear that the Category 4 hurricane was more than just a natural disaster. It had become a human disaster of epic proportions.

New Orleans survived the hurricane, but not the government's emergency relief efforts, which points to a standard principle about government: the bigger the failure, the bigger the payoff for the bureaucracy. Because of the debacle, the Bush administration will reward FEMA & other state agencies with hundreds of billions of dollars to fix what it broke. Government has indeed succeeded by failing.

But how successful was Katrina's disaster? Consider the evidence.

The first hint of trouble occurred the morning after, when Red Cross and other private relief agencies tried to rush in with supply trucks. The La. governor's office of Homeland Security blocked them because the relief supplies would act as a magnet and attract more evacuees to the already overcrowded Superdome—even though officials had told residents to gather there, well before the storm had made landfall. Ironically, at this moment, the mayor of New Orleans, Ray Nagin, pleaded across national air waves for more supplies for trapped citizens.

Failing to expect the unexpected, various government agencies erroneously thought that enough buses would be supplied to take everyone out in short order. Instead, the refugees in the Superdome & Convention Center were abandoned for 5 days.

With reports of disorder, rape, & violence running amok inside the Superdome, National Guard men were stationed outside to prevent hurricane refugees from leaving. In fact, a number of citizens tried to escape. They were chased down & dragged back into what one witness called "a hell hole."

In stark contrast, those in the French Quarter had no government troops to protect them, yet order reigned. Feeling abandoned, citizens in this above-sea-level neighborhood did not wait for rescue. Without outside assistance, they organized & divided up chores. Some did the washing down at the river, others stayed behind to prevent looting. A number of bars, including Johnny White's Sports Bar, remained open day & night. These little command posts handed out water, food, & medical services—a far cry from the squalor at government-sponsored emergency shelters.

Even Wal-Mart provided relief days before FEMA got into the act. Years ago, the company had set up its own emergency operations center to prepare for national disasters. With Katrina, they arranged for trucks to resupply their stores

■ See **Failing**, page 4

Candidate Training Forum!

When: Tuesday, October 18, 2006
7:00 P.M. – 9:00 P.M.
Where: School of Choice
1095 Dunford Way
Sunnyvale, CA 94087
Info: www.SC.CA.LP.org, or
LPSCC Campaigns Chair:
Kevin Takenaga, at
Kevin@ElectCollier.org



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PAST ISSUES

From 1998 on: www.SC.CA.LP.org/scl/

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Are You Getting the Full Picture?

If you're not in the LPSCC e-mail Announce List, the answer is "no." We can't reach you with late-breaking Party news, timely reminders of important meetings, or calls to action.

How can you tell whether you are in the list? Glance at the back of this newsletter. If the word "need" appears above your name, that means we are unable to get information to you via e-mail.



To be added to the list, send a short e-mail message to **Allen Rice**, LPSCC Vice Chair, at AMRCheck@Yahoo.com. We use this list very sparingly and only for Party business. We promise. ■

■ **Message from the Chair**

Urgent! Help Pass Bylaws Changes, Oct. 11

The following bylaws changes are to be voted upon at the upcoming meeting of the LPSCC Central Committee (that mean you, Member!), on **Tues., Oct. 11 at 7:00 P.M.**, at the new Sunnyvale campus of the **School of Choice**, if a super-quorum of 25 or more members attend.

Be there to help us do the important business of the LP of Santa Clara County!

Proposed Changes to the Constitution, Bylaws, and Meeting Rules of the Libertarian Party of Santa Clara County

1 M Carling proposed the following change to the Meeting Rules:

Existing:

Article VI - Nominations

Change title to read:

Nominations for Public Office

2 Allen Hacker proposed the following change to the Constitution, to enhance the Purpose statement by expanding the activities list, and editing for style:

Existing:

Article II - Purpose

The purpose of the Party is to proclaim and implement the Statement of Principles of the national Libertarian Party by engaging in political and information activities within the County of Santa Clara in the State of California.

Change it to read:

The purpose of the Party is to proclaim and implement the Statement of Principles of the national Libertarian Party by engaging in electoral, political, and informational activities within the County of Santa Clara in the State of California.

3 Allen Hacker proposed the following change to the Constitution, to remove an overlap in tenures in the Judicial Committee during the Annual Meeting:

Existing:

Article IV - Organization, Section 4. Judicial Committee, sentence 2

The Judicial Committee shall take office immediately upon the close of the Annual Meeting and serve thereafter until the election of new Committee members.

Change it to read:

The Judicial Committee shall take office immediately upon the close of the Annual Meeting and serve thereafter until the final adjournment of the next Annual Meeting.

4 Allen Hacker proposed the following change to the Constitution, to remove a Bylaws-level provision from the Constitution:

Existing:

Article IV - Organization, Section 3. Executive Committee

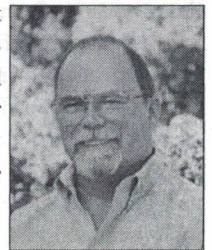
b. The chair of each Working Committee who is approved at a meeting of the central committee.

Change it to read:

b. The chair of each Working Committee.

The complete, current versions of the Constitution, Meeting Rules, and Bylaws are available for review on our web site, at: www.SC.CA.LP.org/page_reference.php. ■

—Allen Hacker,
Chair of LPSCC



Allen Hacker

P.S. There will be refreshments!

Upcoming Meetings and Lectures

LP of Santa Clara County

Central Committee Meeting

When: **Tues., October 11, 7:00 P.M.**
Where: School of Choice, Sunnyvale
For info: www.SC.CA.LP.org
Refreshments will be served.

Candidate Education Forum

When: **Tues., Oct. 18, 7:00 P.M.**
Where: School of Choice, Sunnyvale
For info: www.SC.CA.LP.org
Refreshments will be served.

Other Groups' Events of Interest

Civil Society Institute, Santa Clara University

Professor G. Marcus Cole:

The Social Costs of Behavioral Law

When: **Wed., Oct. 26, 2005, 5:30-7:00 P.M.**
Where: Brass Rail, Benson Memorial Center
For info: www.SCU.edu/csi/
www.SCU.edu/map (for maps)

SJSU Department of Economics

Dr. Thomas R. Saving:

Reforming Social Security

When: **Wed., Oct. 19, 2005, 5:15-6:45 P.M.**
Where: Martin Luther King Library, Room 225
For info: www2.SJSU.edu/depts/economics/

Special Election on Tuesday, November 8!

In our upcoming special election, not only will we all be voting on the important statewide propositions, but Cupertino and Sunnyvale residents will have the opportunity to just say “no” to several new taxes and regulations. **Take these voting recommendations with you to the polls!**

City Measures: the LP of Santa Clara County Recommends...

Measure A General Plan Amendment Restricting Housing Density—City of Cupertino

Shall the City of Cupertino adopt an amendment to the General Plan concerning housing density?

Yes NO

Measure B General Plan Amendment Restricting Building Heights—City of Cupertino

Shall the City of Cupertino adopt an amendment to the General Plan concerning building heights?

Yes NO

Measure C General Plan Amendment Restricting Building Set Back Lines—City of Cupertino

Shall the City of Cupertino adopt an amendment to the General Plan concerning building setbacks?

Yes NO

Measure D Business License Tax—City of Sunnyvale

Shall the Sunnyvale Municipal Code be amended to increase the business license tax, which supports basic City services, from its current amount of \$10 for every 5 employees/rental units, to \$30 for 1, \$50 for 2 to 5, and \$50 for each additional group of 5 employees/rental units, up to \$9,500 for employees and \$4,250 for rentals, with increases phased over 3 years and both tax/cap adjusted annually for inflation?

Yes NO

Measure E Hotel Tax—City of Sunnyvale

Shall the Sunnyvale Municipal Code be amended to increase the transient occupancy tax (commonly called the “hotel tax”) which is charged only on persons who occupy hotel or motel rooms in the City for 30 days or less, from the current 8.5% to 9.5% over a 2-year period, which is lower than that charged in San Jose, Palo Alto, Mountain View, Milpitas, and Cupertino, in order to help maintain basic City services?

Yes NO

Measure F Term Limits—City of Sunnyvale

Shall the Charter of the City of Sunnyvale be amended to standardize term limits for all city boards and commissions to two consecutive four-year terms and eliminate the two-year waiting period before a board or commission member may apply to serve on another board or commission?

Yes NO

Measure G City Manager’s Residence—City of Sunnyvale

Shall the Charter of the City of Sunnyvale be amended to conform with state law by eliminating the requirement that the City Manager shall reside in the City of Sunnyvale?

Yes No
[No position taken.]

Measure H Heritage Resource—City of Sunnyvale

Shall the Charter of the City of Sunnyvale be amended to include the term “heritage resource” in its list of topics reviewed by the Sunnyvale Heritage Preservation Commission, consistent with existing policy?

Yes NO



Statewide Propositions: the LP of California Recommends...

Prop. 73 Waiting Period and Parental Notification Before Termination of Minor’s Pregnancy

Should the California Constitution be amended to require notification of the parent or legal guardian of an unemancipated, pregnant minor at least 48 hours before performing an abortion on the minor?
(No position taken.)

Yes No
[No position taken.]

Prop. 74 Public School Teachers. Waiting Period for Permanent Status. Dismissal

Should the probationary period for public school teachers be increased from two to five years, and should the process by which school boards can dismiss a permanent certificated employee be modified?

YES No

Prop. 75 Public Employee Union Dues. Restrictions on Political Contributions. Employee Consent Requirement

Should public employee unions be required to obtain annual written consent from each member in order to use a portion of that member’s dues for political activity?

YES No

Prop. 76 State Spending and School Funding Limits

Should Californians make major Constitutional changes to create an additional state spending limit, grant the governor substantial new power to unilaterally reduce state spending, and revise key provisions relating to Proposition 98, school and community college funding, and transportation funding authorized by Proposition 42?

YES No

Prop. 77 Redistricting. Initiative Constitutional Amendment

Should the California Constitution be amended to change the process of redistricting California’s State Senate, State Assembly, Congressional and Board of Equalization districts, transferring the implementation of redistricting from the Legislature to a panel of three retired judges, selected by legislative leaders?

YES No

Prop. 78 Discounts on Prescription Drugs

Should the state adopt a new state drug discount program to reduce the costs of prescription drugs for Californians at or below 300 percent of the federal poverty level?

Yes NO

Prop. 79 Prescription Drug Discounts. State-Negotiated Rebates

Should the state of California create a new prescription drug discount program for residents at or below 400 percent of the federal poverty level, and change state law to make it illegal to engage in profiteering from the sale of prescription drugs?

Yes NO

Prop. 80 Electric Service Providers. Regulation

Should the state expand its regulation of the electric industry?

Yes NO



Santa Clara Libertarian

Libertarian Party of California State Central Committee
Libertarian Party of Santa Clara County
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Ballot guide,
page 3

VOTE!

November 8

Save the Dates!
Feb. 24-27, 2006

Liberty at Sea '06

It's the annual convention of the
Libertarian Party of California.

Reservations: 1 (877) 884-1776
www.CA.LP.org

Any LPSCC member may run for a
seat as delegate from Santa Clara
County.

Election Night Party and Libertarian Mixer

Photo: Kevin Takenaga



Mark Johnson explains the Political Quiz to visitors; Oktoberfest 2004.

Mark Johnson, Chair of LPSCC's Publicity Committee, will be throwing an election night party to celebrate (or lament) the results of the November 8th special election, and to mix with other Libertarians. Food and drink will be provided.

Where:

Mark Johnson's Loft
190 Ryland Street, no. 307
San Jose, CA 95110
(650) 283-0594

When:

Election Night, of course!
Tuesday, November 8
7:00 P.M. - 10:00 P.M.

Info: www.WhyNotSanJose.com/electionparty.html

Your response is encouraged, but show up regardless...and win a door prize if you're sporting your "I voted" sticker! ■

Failing *continued from Page 1*

& gave out tons of merchandise: chain saws, boots, clothing, water, and ice. As one stunned shopper remarked, "I still haven't managed to get through to FEMA. It's hard to say, but you get more justice at Wal-Mart."

Meanwhile, in Atlanta, some 600 to 1,400 firefighters sat on their hands waiting to be deployed to La. or Miss. as emergency workers. Many whispered, "What are we doing here?" as they sat in the hotel conference room attending classes on equal opportunity & customer service. Eventually, the firefighters discovered that FEMA authorities planned to have them pass out pamphlets. Many of these firefighters were paramedics, haz-mat and search-and-rescue certi-

fied. Some were so upset that they took off their FEMA-issued shirts & refused to represent the agency, frustrated that people were still trapped in homes & dying along the Gulf Coast while FEMA discussed sexual harassment. Trying to restore order, one official jumped atop a chair & shouted, "You are now employees of FEMA, & you will follow orders & do what you're told!"

Some officials argued that they lacked the planning skills & preparedness for such a disaster. But according to Time magazine, a well-funded simulation of a hurricane over New

Orleans was performed in 2004. "Hundreds of regional & federal officials met in Baton Rouge for an elaborate simulation exercise. The fictional 'Hurricane Pam' left the city under 10 ft. of water & looked a lot like Katrina."

The skills, resources, & preparation were there for the government relief efforts. But government often seems to be more interested in protecting its own self-interest. Some have called for FEMA to be contracted out to a private relief agency. One thing is for sure: a private contract would have a far different definition of "success." ■