



# Santa Clara Libertarian June 2008

## What Is Politics? by Brian Darby, Chair

*"Government is not reason, it is not eloquence, it is force; like fire, a troublesome servant and a fearful master. Never for a moment should it be left to irresponsible action."*

This famous quote is often credited to George Washington. There is some doubt about the source, but little doubt that Libertarians agree with the sentiment.

Government may be force, and elections may be contests, but what is politics?

In essence, politics is getting a group of people to agree to bind themselves to the force of government. You could do this by force, but what's the point? If you are going to use force, you are already acting as government. No, politics is voluntary. Getting people to agree is done through influence.

Are you influential? What is influence, anyway?

Ask "Who have had the most influence in your life," and usually a person will name one or both parents. You will also hear about people they have read about, but never met. Then there are schoolteachers, a mentor or friend, and the occasional politician. When you ask about their relationship to the influencer, some common themes emerge. "I wanted to be just like her (or him)." "They had good ideas that made sense to me." "They listened to me and made specific suggestions that applied to my situation." One common element is a paradox: the influencer was also influenceable.

How do you become influential?

Consultants and scientists, motivators and manipulators have dedicated millions of pages to the question. But maybe it starts with a question: Do you want to be an influencer, and change behavior, or are you satisfied with being right? If being "right" is enough, then I have another question: "How's that working for you?"

If you are not satisfied with your results, then maybe you are ready to find a better way. It starts with your decision—not just to speak, to influence. Then start by asking your own question: "Who influenced you and why?"

I'd love to hear your answer at our next meeting.

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## What Gets Done? by Brian Darby

*"What gets measured gets done."* Variously attributed to Peter Drucker, Tom Peters, and Michael LeBouef, few doubt the basic truth of the principle. Cathi Brown, a longtime stalwart in the LPSCC, will begin reporting metrics for us this month.

There are two challenges with any such effort. Collecting the data, and making sure we collect the right data. You can help. Whenever you do something for the party, or a related campaign, you can get credit by reporting it. You will get the recognition of your fellow Libertarians and help us know if we are targeting the right activities.

How do you report it?

*(Continued on reverse.)*

Email [results@scclp.org](mailto:results@scclp.org). Tell us about:

- Amount of money raised
- Number of volunteers recruited
- Number of phone calls you made
- Number of homes you visited walking precincts
- Number of votes you received in an election
- Number of World's Smallest Political Quizzes you collected
- Number of people to whom you distributed flyers
- Number of people who visited your booth or table
- Number of times the media mention you or the LPSCC
- Number of whatever else you did that promoted the party

Soon we will also have a monthly poll you can use to report your success. Look for an announcement on the web site: [www.scclp.org](http://www.scclp.org).

Report these for yourself, or your group of volunteers. Report them to motivate others to follow your example. Report them so other members will know whom to call for advice. Be an expert, be a hero, receive the recognition you deserve. Make a report.

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## Central Committee Meeting

Date Thursday June 19, 2008  
Time 7 PM  
Location CoCo's Restaurant  
Address 1206 Oakmead Parkway  
Sunnyvale, California 94085  
CoCo's Phone (408) 736-2895

### More information

Our Web site [www.scclp.org](http://www.scclp.org)  
Meetup Group South Bay Libertarian Club  
<http://libertarian.meetup.com/152/>

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