Santa Clara Libertarian

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News Of Local Libertarians' Struggle For Freedom



LIBERTARIANS DOMINATE ANTI-TAX BALLOT ARGUMENTS FOR JUNE SPECIAL ELECTIONS

LP Opposes New Parcel Taxes In San Jose, Campbell, Santa Clara And Building Tax In Mt. View Said Needed To Compensate For Gray Davis's Cut In Local School Funding

Reported by Mary Rudin

Led by Campaign Chair Dennis Umphress, a team of Santa Clara County Libertarians have managed to get the local party a big dose of anti-tax publicity courtesy of the SCC Registrar of Voters ballot pamphlet for an upcoming special election on June 3rd when school tax measures will be before the voters in four districts. — (A) San Jose Unified School District, (B) Campbell Union School District, (C) San Jose's Franklin-McKinley School District, and (E) Mountain View-Whisman School District (There is no Measure D).



Dennis Umphress wrote 3 arguments and lead team

For ballot measures, political parties and community organizations have preference over individuals. In this case, the LPSCC combined with the Silicon valley Taxpayers Association and a couple of officers of Republican organizations in opposing parcel taxes in three of the districts and a building tax in Mountain View.

All of these tax proposals were obviously different versions of a local tax campaign designed by public school funding consultants who've been advising school districts how to compensate for the reduced state funding of education announced by Gray Davis to try to cope with state budget deficits caused by the economic recession, his mismanagement of electric power contracting during the energy crisis, and the usual overspending by Sacramento politicians. Each proposal has many of the same conditions and terminology:

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- a) A limited period (ranging from 2 to 5 years), presumably to cover an expected continued recession.
- b) A statement that none of the money would be spent on administration.
- c) Auditing usually by the school board, to ensure money will be spent as proposed.
- d) Money would be in a fund, and would not be available if the state would cut funding if local funds are available (this condition was not included perhaps overlooked by

proponents of Measure C).

e) Tax amount from \$100 to \$200 per year (Mt. View building tax \$0.05 per sq. ft. is \$100 for a 2000 sq. ft. house, but it has many companies with more area per parcel than a house).

And their arguments-for were largely similar, containing the above conditions, and the following points:

- 1) Test scores have gone up and proposed tax money is needed to maintain programs that have produced the better scores (except San Jose, which had the nerve to add things like higher teacher pay and music and art classes).
- 2) Quality schools raise property values
- 3) A list of apparently essential things that would be lost to the students if the tax isn't passed like smaller class size in the first 3 grades.

Ballot arguments normally consist of an argument-for by the proponents, both a rebuttal of the argument-for and an argument-against by the opponents, and after the opponents statements, the proponents rebuttal to (Continued on page 6)

Libertarian Party of Santa Clara County P.O. Box 60171 Sunnyvale, CA 94088-0171 Tel: (408) 243-2711

PUBLICITY

Stories about local Libertarians publicizing the party

WILL YOU HELP REACH "SMALL L" LIBERTARIANS AND GROW THE LP?

Advertising Is Too Expensive For Us Unless Most Of You Readers Agree To Do One Of Four Easy But Effective Actions

by Marv Rudin, Publicity Chair



Marv Rudin Publicity Chair

Presently, just one in approximately 25 people who have libertarian views are registered to vote Libertarian. And just 1 in 8 of them know the LP agrees with them. This is not a guess. It's based on a poll done before the November 2000 elections, which also discovered that 1 of 6 Americans have libertarian views.

Obviously we need to inform those aforementioned 1 of 6 who are small "I" libertarians that the LP agrees with them. But being less than 0.1% of the population we dues-paying Libertarian members can't afford what it would cost to get our message in front of the public sufficiently to reach them. The only ameliorating factor in the cost is that we don't need a complex message. Even something as simple as our Hiram Pierce's basic slogan on his truck - "For more freedom and less taxes register and vote Libertarian" - would be enough for a libertarian thinking individual to realize he or she is a Libertarian.

An even briefer message like I've proposed for the "Freedom Wagon" box truck - FREEDOM - Choose It Or Lose It, LIBERTARIAN PARTY, LPTY.ORG - a strong message because it plays on a prospects fear of losing freedom, may be enough to cause a libertarian to find out more and discover he's a Libertarian.



There are several ways our local party could get these brief but sufficient messages before the public, easily and inexpensively, if you, the reader, will agree to help. As your Publicity Chair this year, here are some ways I'd like you to consider:

1. Put A Bumper Sticker on back of your car or in your back window that people in cars behind you will be able to read while you're stopped in traffic. I even have a sure fire way for you to remove any residue of the adhesive when the bumper sticker is removed, so you don't have to worry about marring your paint. But if you still would worry about it, there are plastic signs that will cling to the inside of your rear window, and small enough to be legal in terms of not blocking vision. Bumper stickers are very inexpensive - the party can easily afford them. And they are completely painless as far as your time and energy are concerned.

SAVE FREEDOM! GO LIBERTARIAN |pty.org/freedom

- 2. <u>Put LIFE cards on cars</u> near where you are parked when you go shopping. Takes just a few seconds to slip one in the rubber weather stripping of the driver's-side door window (see illustration on pg. 3 of July 2001). In a minute you can leave 4 of them, and hardly miss the time.
- 3. Submit a "Libertarian-containing opinion letter to the weekly paper in your community they usually don't have enough submittals. Even better than a letter would be an article about the Libertarian 2-dimensional political landscape chart. Any libertarian reading such an article or just seeing the chart will realize he is a Libertarian. Your not a writer? No problem. I can supply you with a letter or an article you name the subject and whether letter or article.

FREEDOM..
IF YOU WANT IT
REGISTER & VOTE
LIBERTARIAN

4. <u>Wear A Libertarian-messaged Hat Or Shirt</u> while at stores and restaurants, at school, at church, at a club, or other places where its message is easily visible to others.

If you'll do one of these things I'll supply you what you need whether sign, card, hat, shirt, or letter. If you'll agree to do them, or if you have other ideas for easy ways that members can help get the message out that I may have overlooked please don't hesitate to call or email me at 408-736-5626 evenings, 408-738-8204 days, rudin@lpty.org. And thanks for any moral support or morale support you can give this.

If you want to see America as free as you and other Libertarians would like it to be, the importance of what I am asking you to do cannot be overstated. To date the LP's record in marketing its very attractive ideas for the limited role of government and the benefits and moral superiority of freedom is probably the worst in the history of man, considering that nearly 17% of people (1 of 6) think libertarian, yet in California just 0.6% have stated their beliefs by registering Libertarian. But it doesn't have to stay that way in our county - not if you'll help me to get our message out by the easiest and most inexpensive means we can find...

LIEBERMAN SPONSORS AND PRESIDES OVER SAN JOSE RENT CONTROL DEBATE

Helps San Jose Rent-Control Officials See Negative Side Of The Practice
Reported by Marv Rudin

At a City Of San Jose Advisory Commission On Rents retreat held on Saturday, March 1, At Hayes Conference Center in San Jose, recently elected commission chairman, Scott Lieberman presided over a debate that he had set up between proponent Janet Smith-Heimer, Managing Principal, Bay Area Economics and opponent Edward Stringham, Department of Economics, San Jose State.

Lieberman said the media weren't invited, because, he said, "the debate was just for staff study." However he did invite fellow Libertarians, but, he said, "No LP members were at the debate, except for me."

He continued "I let each speaker speak for 15 minutes without interruption, and then gave each one two five minute periods, without interruption, to respond to the other debater's points. Then, I gave Commissioners and staff members 20 minutes to ask questions of the debaters.

I received compliments on this format from my fellow Commissioners, and from the City Housing Dept. staff who were in attendance.

Scott Lieberman educates San Jose bureaucrats on rentcontol negatives

Ms. Smith-Heimer made a lot of the usual points that liberals give in favor of rent control: Lit keeps neighborhoods stable by reducing apartment turnover, it lets tenants keep apartments while still allowing landlords a "reasonable" rate of return, and rent control does not adversely affect the amount of new housing units that are constructed.

Dr. Stringham trained under Walter Block, the author of 'Defending the Undefendable.' Dr. Stringham gave a reasoned, well argued speech against rent control, citing that 98% of PhD holding professors in Economic's Departments at universities say rent control is poor public policy, and that rent control totally skews the price distribution of apartments by making the non-rent controlled apartments in a city have higher rents than they would if there were no rent control.

I asked Dr. Stringham to be 'gentle', and he was. Specifically, he did not bring up public choice theory, which in my opinion is the "nuclear bomb" of libertarian public policy debate. It might work, but it so poison's the atmosphere that it should not be used except in extreme emergencies. In other words, Dr. Stringham could have brought up how Rent Control Boards are 'captured' by people who want to become politically powerful, and how they start acting in their own best interest rather than the best interests of the general population.

The highlight of the debate was when the city staff member who administers the Rent Control program asked Dr. Stringham something to the effect of: 'Is it possible for governments to enact public policy that is free of unintended consequences, or does everything that governments do have unintended consequences?'.

That was my whole purpose in setting up this debate: to open the eyes of the Housing Dept. staff and my fellow Commissioners to the fact that EVERYTHING that governments do has unintended, and usually adverse, consequences."

[Editor's note: Now that the bureaucrats have had their eyes opened, if only rent-control beleaguered San Jose landlords could have there's opened that a Libertarian who's on their side runs the commission...]

Scott also reports, on the related subject of "smart growth," that the web site of expert Randal O'Toole, who was to give a talk to the Civil Society Institute at Santa Clara University in April 10th, says the San Jose Urban growth boundary is the sole reason for high home prices - yet the city works to get "affordable housing" oblivious of this fact.

ACLU FIGHTING U.S. PATRIOT ACT MAY BE COALITION-BUILDING OPPORTUNITY

Seeks Libertarians' Help In Campaign To Protect Constitutional Rights

Reported by Mary Rudin

Sanjeev Bery of the ACLU in San Francisco, is working to put together a coalition to fight the Patriot act by getting local governments to pass resolutions condemning it. Already one meeting has been held, and another is scheduled 7:30 on Tuesday evening, April 29th, in down town San Jose.



Mark Hinkle reports that Lori Adasiewicz, Chair of the LPC's Coalition Building Committee, has worked on this program with Sanjeev in Sacramento where she lives, and Mark asks:

"Anyone interested in working with this coalition to stop the Patriot Act? If so, let me know (mark@garlic.com) and I'll pass your name onto Lori & Sanjeev."

In response to questions by your reporter about the ACLU program to resist Patriot Act encroachments on freedom by the current government, Sanjeev wrote:

Meeting April 29th - Santa Clara Coalition Against the Patriot Act

"Tuesday, April 29th, at 7 pm, the Santa Clara Coalition Against the Patriot Act will be meeting for the second time. I encourage you to attend. We will be meeting at the South Bay Mobilization conference room, 480 N 1st Street, Rm 223, San Jose. The Coalition is working to educate the public on the crackdown on civil liberties and the Patriot Act, and to pass a County Board of Supervisors resolution against the Patriot Act.

The Coalition is setting up public education, lobbying, media, and information committees. In the days ahead, the committees will be working on their respective goals and pushing to generate local opposition to the Patriot Act."

Santa Clara Libertarian -- Schedule of Publication to Year End

COVERAGE PERIOD FINAL EDIT PUBLICATION May 18th, on web site May 20th April Issue May Issue June 15th, printed & bulk mailed June 22nd July 20th, June Issue: on web site July 22nd July Issue: August 17th, on web site August19th printed & bulk mailed September 22nd September 14th, August Issue: October 19th, September Issue: on web site October 21st November 23rd, October Issue: on web site November 25th November Issue: printed & bulk mailed December 20th December 13th, December Issue January 4th on web site January 6th

(1) For regular notice at time of publication, email "SCL notice" to rudin@lpty.org (2) All 1998 to 2003 monthly issues are online at http://www.lpty.org/sclnews/

Action Alert Versus Patriot Act II

"There is another important area Libertarians may want to help with. I am attaching an Action Alert on Patriot Act II, and what people can do about it. If your members wrote letters to Feinstein opposing Patriot Act II, it would be very effective right now. We want to generate enough opposition to Patriot Act II that it never actually gets introduced into Congress. See following...and hope to see you Tuesday evening!

Just when it seemed that the Bush Administration's assault on our constitutional protections had begun to subside, Attorney General John Ashcroft has drafted new legislation that

further threatens our core civil liberties and rights.

The draft "Domestic Security Enhancement Act" contains a multitude of new and sweeping law enforcement and intelligence gathering powers -- many of which are not related to terrorism -- that would severely undermine basic constitutional rights and checks and balances. If adopted, the bill would diminish personal privacy by removing important checks on government surveillance authority, reduce the accountability of government to the public by increasing official secrecy and expand on the definition of "terrorism" in a manner that threatens the constitutionally protected rights of Americans.

These far reaching powers could apparently be sought even though the first USA Patriot Act already gave the government unprecedented powers to violate our civil liberties and tap deep into the private lives of innocent

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(Continued on page 5)

COMING EVENTS...

Central Committee Meetings: July 10th (location yet to be decided)

October 10th (location yet to be decided)

Executive Committee Meetings: Normally 1st Saturday of month, 10:00am Usually at Rosegarden Library, Naglee & Dana Avenues, San Jose

Speakers Meetings: 2nd Thursday in months without central committee meeting Cocos Restaurant, Sunnyvale (Oakmead Parkway & Lawrence Expressway)

Next speakers meeting: *Thursday 8 May*Come at 7pm for dinner, meeting at 8pm

(Continued from page 4)

Americans.

Take Action! Congress must not accept new legislation that threatens our constitutional rights in the name of security against terrorism.

Talking Points

The new legislation would allow government to spy on First Amendment-protected activities. By applying an overly broad definition of terrorism, organizations using protest tactics such as those used by Operation Rescue or protesters at Vieques Island, Puerto Rico would become victims of criminal wiretapping and other electronic surveillance. In addition, the act would terminate court-approved limits on police spying, which were initially put in place to prevent McCarthy-style law enforcement persecution based on political or religious affiliation.

The new act would radically diminish personal privacy by removing checks on government power. It would permit, without any connection to anti-terrorism efforts, sensitive personal information about U.S. citizens to be shared with local and state law enforcement. In addition, the government could gain secret access to credit reports without consent and without judicial process.

The new bill would increase government secrecy while diminishing public accountability. It would authorize secret arrests in immigration and other cases, such as those involving material witness warrants, where the detained person is not criminally charged. The act would allow for the sampling and cataloguing of innocent Americans' genetic information without court order and without consent. And, incredibly, the act would shelter federal agents engaged in illegal surveillance without a court order from criminal prosecution if they are following orders of high Executive Branch officials.

SEND YOUR LETTER TODAY! Suggested letter:

Senator_____ Representative ______
United States Senate Untied States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20510 Washington, DC 20505

As your constituent, I urge you to oppose any efforts by Attorney General John Ashcroft to pass his proposed "Domestic Security Enhancement Act" in Congress. I am deeply concerned that rather than passing this new Act – which would give new and even more controversial powers than the "USA PATRIOT Act" – Congress should instead investigate and oversee ways in which this Administration has already used or misused new powers.

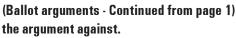
[Customize your message here, using above talking points, and/or emphasizing your particular stake in this issue, your past support for this Member of Congress, or other relevant additional information.]

In its role as representing the people, Congress should now step in and block any efforts to pass additional legislation intruding on our core liberties and rights. At the same time, I also believe it is the duty of Congress to force the Administration to account for the ways in which it has already used its new powers under the USA Patriot Act. To this end, I hope that you will take every opportunity to support oversight hearings into the ways in which the government has used its new powers.

I look forward to hearing your thoughts on this important matter.



Ray Strong helped edit and signed all the arguments



Assisting Campaign Chair Umphress in writing rebuttal/argument pairs for each measure, and in preparing, signing and submitting the documents in the legal format required by the Registrar of Voters were Ray Strong (Edited, signed and Printed documents), Mark Hinkle (Signed and submitted documents to ROV), Zander Collier (wrote Measure B), and Elizabeth Brierly (proof reading). In one case - Measure C - there was no argument-for, so all voters saw was the anti-tax argument.

The full text of the four measures A (), B (), C(), and E() and all the arguments and rebuttals for each of them may be seen on the web by clicking on:

Measure A: http://www.smartvoter.org/2003/06/03/ca/scl/meas/A/Measure B: http://www.smartvoter.org/2003/06/03/ca/scl/meas/B/Measure C: http://www.smartvoter.org/2003/06/03/ca/scl/meas/C/Measure E: http://www.smartvoter.org/2003/06/03/ca/scl/meas/E/

As the reader may notice in reading them, the rebuttal/argument pairs submitted by the LPers and their allies, like the proponents arguments, have several similar points. But there are also some noticeably different points and styles, probably because of the differing participants and writers, and to a small extent, differences in the measures' proponents' arguments.

It is very difficult to argue against school funding, because the impression is given by proponents that students' educations may suffer if voters don't give schools everything they want. In the case of the Mt. View anti-tax argument, a possible solution to this difficulty was introduced - it asks the schools to improve efficiency and save funds by use of computer and video teaching methods to save salaries without short-changing the students education. Thankfully, in view of the aforementioned difficulty, the odds are evened out for the anti-tax side because the new taxes are categorized as "special taxes" (for education), and such taxes require a 2/3rds majority to pass.

Impressively, our libertarian authors and their anti-tax allies came up with a surprising number of imaginative and persuasive arguments, notably:

- a) Measure was too hastily done no analysis presented, and costly special election (instead of waiting for general elections in November), and a county wide study is still under way to address the problem of inadequate teacher pay.
- b. Claims that the money won't be used for administration is a shell game money is fungible (the new tax money can cover expenditures in the existing budget, freeing up money in that budget for administration.).
- c. The state policy is to provide money to schools that need it most; so it may cut back money equal to the tax funds resulting from the current measure (some but not all of the four districts had a provision attempting to avoid this pitfall).
- d. With the economy down for taxpayers, schools should economize like taxpayers are having to.
- e. Compensating for lost state payments is no excuse to add new school programs.
- f. Voters should ask the state should change its spending priorities and restore education funding.
- g. Proponents' survey showed education is not a higher concern of voters than unemployment and congestion.
- h. Higher taxes could hurt property values by driving out businesses and costing owners more to live here.
- i. The school board auditing expenditures versus measure's promises is not independent oversight, so can't be trusted.

Because of the difficulty of turning down student needs, June voters may still give schools the necessary 2/3rds vote. But win or lose, hopefully libertarian-thinking individuals voting against the relentless escalation of public school costs will notice that the LP had the most anti-tax authors. Excepting Measure B, with 2 of 5, 3 of 5 signers of all rebuttals and arguments were LP-titled - Strong, Umphress, and Hinkle. And on all of them, LPSCC Chair Ray Strong was the first signer and George Swenson - head of the Silicon Valley Taxpayers Association was a cosigner, sending the strongest (no pun intended) possible anti-tax message to voters for the LP.



Zander Collier wrote arguments on B



Elizabeth Brierly proof read arguments



Mark Hinkle signed & submitted arguments to Registrars office

LPSCC EXCOM VOTES \$200 FOR LP BOOTH AT NORML'S NATIONAL CONFERENCE IN S.F.

Reported by Mary Rudin

The March meeting of the LPSCC was held mid month instead of the usual first Saturday because our normal meeting room at the Rose Garden Library in San Jose was unavailable before then. The only business reported by attendees at the meeting (Secretary and Newsletter Chair weren't in attendance due to other commitments) was a vote to put up \$200 for a Libertarian booth at the national NORML conference to be held in San Francisco April 17th to 19th. The \$200 was a limit to match funds put up by other Bay Area LP regions. The vote resulted from the following solicitation:

"The East Bay Libertarians will be sponsoring an Operation Politically Homeless table at the upcoming conference of the National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws. We would like to solicit support and volunteers from other Bay Area Regions to assist in this effort. If you can donate some time to help us staff the table, or some funds to help pay for it (total cost for the booth is \$350), please contact Terry Floyd at treasurer@eblp.org. The 2003 NORML Conference will be held at the Hyatt Regency Hotel, 5 Embarcadero Center, San Francisco, CA from April 17 through April 19. Featured speakers include Ed Rosenthal (recently convicted of growing medical marijuana in his role as an agent hired by the Oakland Cannabis Buyers Club), Nadine Strossen, president of the ACLU, Lester Grinspoon, M.D., Harvard Medical School, and San Francisco District Attorney Terrence Hallinan. This is an ideal opportunity to network with our allies in the fight for freedom and perhaps persuade them to join the Libertarian Party. Please help us spread the word!"

Ron Crickenberger, national LP Political Director attended. Ron advocates the War On Drugs as an important freedom issue on which the LP can capitalize. He leads The Drug War Task Force. His fund solicitation on LP.ORG states: "The Libertarian Party will once again have an outreach booth at the convention, and we need your help to make our outreach to the attendees successful. The NORML conference is always a great place to prospect for new Libertarian Party members, and we have had as many as two-dozen new members sign up during one of their conventions. And the members who sign up at NORML are committed activists, who are already putting their time and their money on the line for liberty."



Terry Floyd

OPINIONS

Share your thoughts on making our party more successful and advancing the individual freedom with responsibility movement

ANTI-ED/RDA FIGHTS CAN BE COAP OPPORTUNITIES

At press time, the Friends of Sunnyvale say they have the needed petitions signed. Whether efforts by them and other anti eminent-domain/RDA groups in our county succeed or not, they offer an opportu-

Marie P. Dulie Filia

Marvin B. Rudin, Editor

nity for combining a popular local cause with Libertarian party building using COAP (Combined Outreach And Petitioning). However we may need to replace petitioning, since the allied cause may not involve petitioning but leafletting and advocacy for votes for anti-ED/RDA changes to a city charter instead.

In some ways, advocacy may be better. It'll be less trouble for our volunteers to hand out leaflets than to instruct or inspect the fill-in of petitions. On the other hand, this kind of interaction with members of the public probably will be less likely to yield the kind of relationship that is conducive to acquiring Libertarian registrations. But certainly it can associate the LPSCC with a cause favored by the kind of folks likely to already be libertarian in their views.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

KENNITA LIKES SYNOPSIS IN ANNOUNCEMENT

Mary -- I like seeing the synopsis along with the announcement.

Others -- If you're on any other political mailing lists, it might be worth posting this one (< http://www.lpty.org/sclnews/2003feb/Vol%2031%20lssue%202.pdf >) if for no other reason than that it points out that Libertarians aren't some monolithic single-opinion secret society. It also has discussions of our involvement in the community, and may spark discussion of issues. It may even get another member or two. Just a thought, Kennita Watson

THANKS FOR REPORTING ON OUR CONVENTION AND THE SCHOOL CHOICE MOVEMENT

Marv: Thanks for the great reporting on the school choice convention. I'm so glad that you and the others participated. In the future, I'd love to see Libertarians take charge of many aspects of the school choice movement. The opportunity is there for those who seize it. Robert Arne robert@schoolofchoice.com

GOOD IRAQ OPINION PIECE: NICE NEWSLETTER SAYS JEFF

Marv, I liked your opinion piece at the end (Editor: of January issue Opinion on Iraq War). Nice newsletter as always!

- Jeff Landauer

Santa Clara Libertarian

EDITOR'S NOTE: Had a Libertarian outreach experience?

Converted someone?

Tell it to the editor!

Email or phone Newsletter Editor (see # at right)

US mail: 651 Princeton Drive, Sunnyvale, CA 94087

Officers:			
Chair	Ray Strong	(408) 268-1496	hrstrong@hotmail.com
Vice Chair			
Secretary	Joe Dehn	(650) 858-1842	jwd3@dehnbase.org
Treasurer	Jon Hugdahl	(650) 965-3744	jon@NoMoreTax.com
Membership	Randy Overbeck	(408) 732-3254	charlesoverbeck@mac.com
Campaign	Dennis Umphress	(408) 269-7432	dmumphress@hotmail.com
Publicity	Marv Rudin	(408) 736-5626	rudin@lpty.org
Fundraising	Mike Laursen	(650) 969-2368	LP@laursen.org
Activities	Zander Collier	(408) 369-1866	zcollier@concentric.net
Newsletter	Marv Rudin	(408) 736-5626	rudin@lpty.org
Local Organizing			
State ExCom Rep	Mark Hinkle	(408) 778-2444	mark@garlic.com
Alt ExCom Rep	Joe Dehn	(650) 858-1842	jwd3@dehnbase.org

Judicial Committee Catherine Brown

(408) 723-8711

Kennita Watson kennita@kennita.com (408) 733-7773

o \$25

Elizabeth C. Brierly ElizabethB@netgate.net

(408) 272-3191

This is the publication of the Libertarian Party of Santa Clara County, a non-profit political organization.



LIBERTARIAN **PARTY**

of Santa Clara County

Sunnyvale, CA 94088-0171 P.O. Box 60171

Please Print:	
Name:	
Address:	
City/State/Zip:	
Phone:	E-mail:

The Libertarian Party is the party of principle. To assure and affirm that our party never strays from its principles, we request our members to sign the pledge below. (Non-signers cannot vote on party business).

I hereby certify that I do not believe in or advocate the initiation of force as a means of achieving political or social goals.

Signature:	

Membership Application

o \$25 Basic
o \$100 Sustaining
o \$250 Sponsor
o \$500 Patron
o \$1000 Life
Plus an additional contribution to the LPSCC:
o Monthly pledge
o One-time donation
Total:
Payment Method: o Check payable to: Libertarian Party
o VISA or Master Card or Discovery or E-Gold (circle one)
Credit Card #:
Expiration Date:
Cardholder Name:
Signature:
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