

Santa Clara Libertarian

Volume 29, Issue 11, December 2001



MARCH 5TH BALLOT ARGUMENTS WILL GAIN VALUABLE PUBLICITY FOR LPSCC

Umphress & Strong Write & Coordinate Ballot Arguments Against New Bonds, Taxes On 65 - 75% of Voters, & Lead Influential Community Groups & Citizens

by Marv Rudin

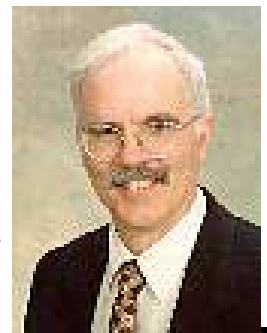
Thanks largely to Secretary Dennis Umphress and Chair Ray Strong, the Santa Clara County Libertarian Party again capitalized on a political activity that enables us to have an effect far exceeding our numbers and costing little, namely, ballot arguments. Because the Registrar Of Voters gives preference to political and civic organizations over individuals in the authoring of ballot arguments, with political parties especially preferred, the LP has an inside track, and is able to lead coalitions of other anti big government organizations and individuals such as taxpayer, business, and property owner groups. This gives us leverage to impress and establish relations with such politically influential entities and people, as well as putting the LP name in front of the fraction of the electorate to be affected by the proposed new taxes.



Dennis Umphress got LP name on 31% of ballots

This election season, as usual, there was little time to react once the various new tax and bond measures were officially filed. But LPC Rep Mark Hinkle, who has much experience with ballot arguments was watching closely, and alerted local party leaders to the new bond and tax increase measures that had been submitted to the registrar of Voters for the upcoming Mar. 5th ballot. Strong was able to quickly write the arguments against and rebuttals to the pro-tax groups' responses by editing arguments previously used by other California Libertarians. Umphress did the very difficult but key job of coordinating with other allied groups and individuals to gain acceptance of the final wording, obtain their signatures, and submit the final arguments to the Registrar's office within its strict rules and deadlines.

Besides Umphress and Strong, Libertarian candidate for State Board of Equalization, Elizabeth Brierly was a signatory. And several community groups and individuals, who were allied signers on the arguments, will hopefully form a warm spot in their hearts for the LP's principled stands against runaway government:



Ray Strong wrote 7 ballot arguments

Umphress said "During this process I established relationships with:

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Loraine Wallace, Chair, 40 Sites Committee,
Dale Warner, Secretary, Independence High Neighborhood Association,
Donna Courtright, President, Silicon Valley Taxpayers Association,
George Swenson, Vice President, Silicon Valley Taxpayers Association,
Victor Monia, Vice Chair, West Valley Homeowners Association,
Cindy Barry, West Valley Homeowners Association,
Wes Ferguson, Taxpayer and voter,
Stephen Schoenfeld, Taxpayer and voter."

Umphress, who is running for Congress in the 16th Congressional District said "I used the opportunity to advertise
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WILL YOU ATTEND ANNUAL MEETING?

Will you be at the 2002 annual meeting of the LPSCC to be held in Cupertino on Thursday evening, Jan 10th? Voting for election of new officers and for delegates to the state convention in February will take place, and also on endorsements of political positions by the party, such as support of the initiative to repeal the increase of the energy tax in Mt. View and other county municipalities where it may be applicable. If you'd like to run for one of the offices, you need only to arrange with two other members to nominate and second. There are still positions for which no one has yet expressed an interest, so the exact make up of the 2002 LPSCC
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PRESTRELSKI'S ENERGY TAX REVOLT INITIATIVE

Petition Drive Coming Up On Sat. Feb. 2nd Will Be 1st Big LPSCC Action Of 2002



Steve Prestrelski heads tax revolt in Mountain View

Whether we have enough attendance to endorse it at the annual meeting or not, Libertarian volunteers will be going house to house and soliciting signers at public places to get 1500 petition signers assure that Libertarian submitter Steve Prerstrelski has the minimum of 1000 valid voters needed to get his Energy tax Reduction initiative measure onto the Nov. ballot in Mountain View. This is another application of the program of LPC Chair Aaron Starr to efficiently achieve tax reductions and show communities that Libertarians can be visibly instrumental in helping restrain runaway government despite our small numbers. Because it typically takes just 500 to 1000 petitions signed by registered voters from any or all parties to put such a municipal measure on the ballot, about 20 to 40 Libertarians can do it with a well organized one day outing, and get news coverage as well as public recognition from signers and observers during the petition drive.

To enhance party recognition for this good deed for taxpayers, plans call for getting 1500 petition signed on the weekend of Feb. 2-3. It is planned that some form of logoed garb - Libertarian cap or shirt - or other means such as Libertarian button or stick on clothing sign will be worn by Libertarian petitioners during the drive. Anyone interested or willing to help in the drive please contact Steve Prestrelski at 1650-969-5198, or sprezz33@aol.com. ■

OFFICIAL LPSCC MEETINGS HIGHLIGHTS

by Marv Rudin

The LPSCC had two Excom meetings and a discussion meeting since the end of November. Highlights and photos of these meetings are presented to keep you members abreast of party business prior to the upcoming annual meeting in January and state convention next month.

The LPSCC December Excom meeting was held on 12/01/01 the scheduled date, but at an unusual time 8am and place -- the Courtyard Marriot hotel in San Jose -- in order to enable LPSCC reps to the state Excom, Mark Hinkle and Joe Dehn to attend both our local Excom meeting and the LPC Excom meeting that just happened to be scheduled in San Jose on the same day.. Attendance was lighter than normal, probably because of the early time of day.



Financial: Jon Hugdahl distributed 4 each financial sheets showing no out of budget problems.

January LPSCC annual meeting: Scott Lieberman reported that online sign up is available at our website. He is planning on publicizing the event with postcards and several emails to the

MISC and announcement groups. Dennis Umphress will contact the SJ Mercury News about listing the meeting in their upcoming events section. He will also coordinate a display area for Libertarian materials/ displays. Lieberman said that if less than 20 people order dinner we may have to pay an additional fee. Jon Hugdahl moved that we allocate up to \$600 for meeting publicity. A vote was called for and the motion passed. Dennis Umphress moved that we allocate up to \$50 for gold coin as a door prize. Alan



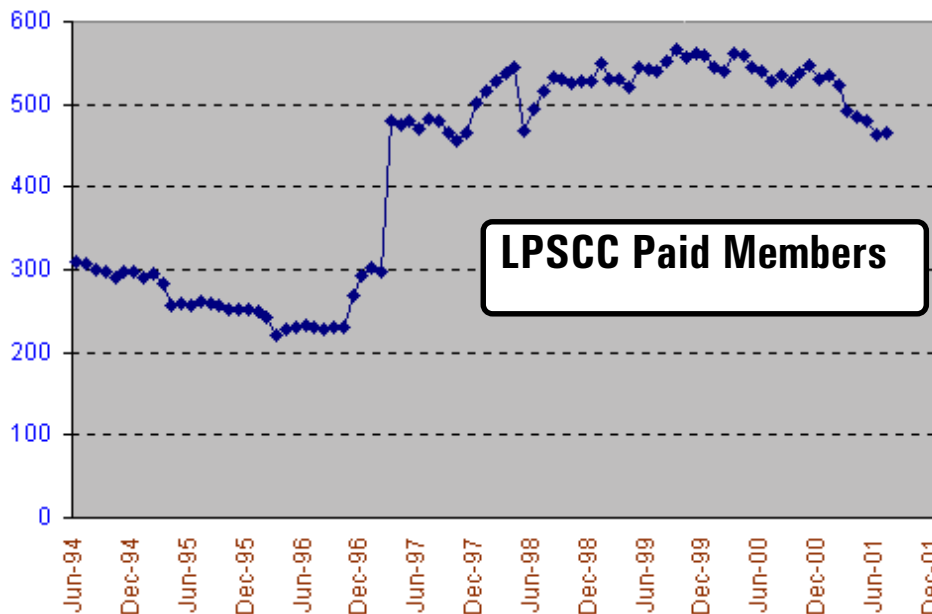
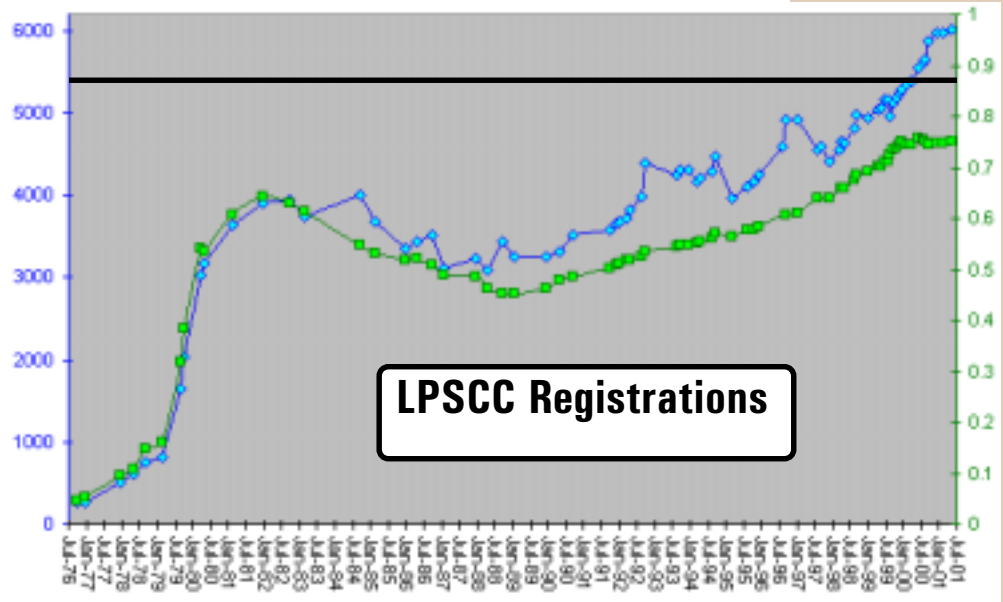
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LPSCC MISSES REG GROWTH GOAL

by Marv Rudin

LPSCC registrations as percent of total registrations and number of dues paying members in 2001 both fell significantly, and the former was short of the target of 0.85% set by the LPSCC Excom near the beginning of 2001. The accompanying charts show the history of past party registrations until mid 2001. When the charts are updated, to include the year end, registrations (blue line) will fall back to level of the black horizontal line, and the % registrations line (green) will remain about flat.

While the goal for % registrations was to grow from 0.75% to 0.85%, that measure of party size stayed remarkably constant at about 0.75%, being $5938 / 795,928 = 0.746\%$ on 12/29/00, and $5421 / 730,701 = 0.742\%$ a year later on 1/7/02 after a purge of voter rolls in August. Despite big swings in total registrations between 700,000 and 800,000 over recent years, the percentage of county registered Libertarians seems to have stalled out at about 0.75%. Considering that no organized program to materially increase LP registrations was undertaken by the LPSCC or



LPC in 2001, this may be a natural statistical phenomenon of the registration process at large - DMV motor voter, people moving into the area and requesting a form, teens turning 18 and picking a party at school, and volunteers from other organizations manning public registration tables.

The dues paying membership history is shown by the chart above. Historically paid memberships have been about 10% of LP registrations, but they have now fallen to 8%. When the chart is updated to the end of 2001, the curve will drop to about 80% of the peak shown in 1999. This drop may be a result of the national party missing income projections, and reducing or discontinuing their normal policy, since the Uniform Membership Plan was established at the beginning of '97, of sending out mailers to solicit new members and dues reminders to retain existing members. However it might have been worse had the LPC not done a mailer to attempt to fill the gap last year. There has been some effort locally to call members and ask for renewals in conjunction with phone polling efforts lead by Chair Ray Strong that may have helped uphold the numbers from an even deeper drop. ■

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Folmsbee offer to donate a 1 ounce gold coin to be used as a door prize, a motion was made to accept his offer, and the motion passed.

Operation Connect status: Jon Hugdahl reported that the operation has generated \$2,007.14 in income and \$1,752.91 in expenses for a net of \$254.19 to date. We have been calling registered Libertarians, but have encountered a high percentage of bad phone numbers. We discussed using a phone bank for future efforts.

Candidate fee subsidies and candidates status: We expect to need less than \$400 to cover filing fees. It is still unclear if we have a candidate for Congressional District 11.

Junior Statesmen of America (JSA) convention: The Libertarian booth was reported to be a success with several tables well stocked and organized with handouts.

March tax/bond issues: Mark Hinkle volunteered to learn of proposed issues and to coordinate arguments. Arguments may be due as soon as December 7th. To facilitate fast response Marv Rudin moved to authorize the ExComm to vote on position papers within 24 hours of email posting to the ExComm. A vote was called for and the motion passed.

Project Audacity: Marv Rudin moved to authorize up to \$500, mainly needed to buy signage to mount on the van. A vote was called for and the motion passed. Alan Folmsbee discussed his sound system that will be the foundation of this project.

The LPSCC monthly discussion meeting was held at Cocos on Oakmead Parkway in Sunnyvale on

Thursday evening, Dec. 13th. Chair Ray Strong had asked that it be a planning meeting for the petition drive needed for the Mt. View Energy Tax Reduction Initiative. But initiative sponsor Steve Prestrelski wasn't able to attend, and the petition drive wasn't needed for over a month. So other party business was discussed.



Strong talked about the problem of getting turnout at meetings. Rudin said members may be more interested in doing things that outreach and help move others in a Libertarian direction than internal meetings, and they seem to be expressing that with their feet. Three relative newcomers to LPSCC meetings with an

expressed intent to help with party activities attended - Ed Allison, Carl Beardsworth, and _____ attended and introduced themselves. Beardsworth said he works as a telemarketer and had no fear of cold calling prospects, an unusual skill in Libertarian circles. Marv Rudin told of the need for a poll to learn what if anything the party is doing that is attracting significant numbers of new LP registrants, in the hope of emphasizing what is working best to grow the party. He said to achieve the major growth needed, the party must operate like a marketing organization and poll its "customers." He asked who would help him do such a poll, and Carl Beardsworth and Hiram Pierce said they would.



The LPSCC January ExComm meeting was at the usual location and time - at the Rosegarden branch library in San Jose on Saturday 01/05/02 at 10:08AM. Steven Prestrelski, Ed Allison and Jeff Landauer attended as guests.

January LPSCC annual meeting: Use of scrip to enable tracking of attendee status -(vote qualified aor

(Continued from page 1)

Executive Committee will remain a mystery until the elections are held.

The meeting will be at the Hong Fu restaurant banquet room. The time, dinner menu, and location are described by the accompanying announcement. An unusually valuable door prize available to voting members - a 1 ounce gold coin - will be awarded.

Special thanks for arranging the meeting go to Campaign Chair Scott Lieberman for setting it up with the Hong Fu management, to Chair Ray Strong and Secretary Dennis Umphress with approval of the members of the LPSCC Excom for the agenda, and to member Alan Folmsbee for contributing the door prize.

Convention business will include election of officers for the coming year, selection of delegates to the STATE convention in February, consideration of changes to the county party bylaws, and endorsement of Libertarians running for office this year.

In addition to the candidates running for statewide offices, the following Libertarians will be on the ballot in Santa Clara County in 2002:

Elizabeth Brierly - Board of Equalization District 1
Andrew Carver - US Representative District 14
Jeff Landauer - US Representative District 15
Dennis Umphress - US Representative District 16
Ervan Darnell - State Senate District 10
Keith Lyon - State Assembly District 20
Ray Bell - State Assembly District 21
Kennita Watson - State Assembly District 22
Gordon Sachtjen - State Assembly District 27
Tom Spielbauer - Superior Court Seat 16

DOOR PRIZE!

We will even have a door prize! Alan Folmsbee has donated a one ounce American Gold Eagle coin to be given away at the convention. No purchase is necessary to enter the drawing, but you must be a dues paying member or an elected central committee member to win the coin. One entry per person. The coin will only be given away if we meet our 10% quorum requirement for changing the bylaws.

To sign up click on: <http://www.sc.ca.lp.org/conv/>

Reserve a Seat For a Chance to Win a 1 oz pure gold coin at the LPSCC 2002 Annual Convention!*

Date: Thursday, January 10, 2002

Time: 6pm No-host Cocktails; 6:00 pm (sharp)

Dinner; 6:30 pm sharp; 7:15 until 9:15pm – Convention Business

Location: Hong Fu Restaurant 20588 Stevens Creek Blvd Cupertino, CA

Cost: \$25 per person *Gold Coin will be offered only if 10% quorum = 45 voting members attends

We request that you attend the dinner so we make our guaranteed number of diners. If you can not arrive until after 7pm, then we request (but do not require) a \$5 donation to help cover our costs. Menu (subject to minor changes):

Hot and Sour Soup, Egg Roll and Spareribs

Family style: Vegetable Deluxe, Lemon Chicken, Mongolian Beef, Beef with Oyster Sauce, Sweet and Sour Prawns, Prawns with Snow Peas, Fried Rice, Steamed Rice, Fortune Cookies.

To pay at door make your check out to "Libertarian Party of Santa Clara County"

If you do not want to eat dinner with us, but still wish to attend the convention, we request a voluntary contribution of \$5 to help defray our costs. Guests are welcome! But you must be a member to vote on convention business and to be eligible for the door prize.

To join as a dues-paying member (or to renew your membership), visit the LPC membership page at:

<http://www.ca.lp.org/lpc-membership.html>

Exhibit Opportunity:

We will have a small exhibit area at the convention. If you have a poster or other display you wish to bring, please contact our Chairman, Ray Strong <hrstrong@hotmail.com>, for details on what you can bring, and when to bring it.

Other questions about the convention? Contact Scott Lieberman <scott73@best.com>, 408-379-6185.



Jan. 5 Excom meeting

(Continued from page 4)

not), and the agenda for the meeting were discussed. As possible time-saving measures, having 10 copies of written reports from officers, posting these reports on the LPSC website and having a sign-up sheet so reports could be emailed to those interested was discussed. Jon Hugdahl agreed to credential attendees. A 10% quorum of members = 45 members, to vote on bylaw changes are needed; to date 23 had reserved dinners. Dennis Umphress agreed to introduce each proposed bylaw change. Convention expenses are covered by the meeting fund in the budget if payments by attendees fails to cover.

Candidate fees: Dennis Umphress \$221.18 and Jeff Landauer \$290.20 were reimbursed what they paid in filing fees.

2002 ExComm Officer candidates and LPC Convention reps: The

ExComm elected Zander Collier as our representative to the LPC Program committee, Roger Ver as our representative to the LPC Platform committee and appointed Mark Hinkle as our LPC state ExComm representative. These elections need to be ratified at the next CC meeting. Dennis Umphress will email these results to Sandi Webb, Ted Brown and Bruce Dovner.

Constitution & Bylaw changes. Marv Rudin said he will propose at the LPSCC Annual Meeting to vote once, up or down, on the changes he proposed that are listed in the November newsletter. He said making the various functional offices he has proposed official in the Bylaws would serve to make apparent to the membership just how much participation is needed if the party is to run properly without overloading anyone.

Scott Lieberman moved to change the proposed bylaw change regarding quorum requirements found in Article VIII, section 2, to 20 people for business meetings and 30 people to vote on amendments to the Constitution, By-Laws, or Meeting rules. A vote was called for and the motion passed.

March 2nd Gubernatorial debate: The debate is still scheduled. The Green Party will run the debate.

VoteNoOn_.org websites: Joe Dehn and Dennis Umphress will populate the websites with text, graphics and links to other sites.

Energy Tax Rollback. Steven Prestrelski reported the text for the Mountain View initiative has been approved by the city. The initiative will need 1,000 signatures to qualify for the ballot. We will collect signatures the weekend of February 2nd and 3rd. We discussed generating maps of voter addresses to be used to collect the signatures.

Zander Collier moved that the ExComm authorize up to \$600 for this project. A vote was called for and the motion passed. This motion is conditional on the LPSCC Central Committee endorsing this initiative at the Annual Meeting.

February & March ExComm meetings: The February meeting will be held on Thursday, January 31st, at 8 PM in the Sunnyvale Coco's restaurant. The March meeting will be held on March 9th, 10 AM in the Rosegarden branch library in San Jose. Ed Allison attended and said he's ready to head an LTE program. ■



Ed Allison says he's ready to spearhead an LTE program

Editor's Note:
To use the SCL News as means of giving notice of business to be conducted at the quarterly business meetings scheduled for Apr., Jul., Oct., Jan., and allow adequate time for printing, mail prep, bulk mail in-transit time, the future printed issue schedule will be end of Feb., May, Aug., and Nov., if you elect me to be your Newsletter Chair for 2002.

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my candidacy as well as the party name by alternately signing half the ballot arguments as LPSCC Secretary and half as 16th CD candidate, while Ray ensured coverage of the LP name by signing all as party chair."

LP Name As Anti-tax Force Probably Will Reach Between 54% And 80% Of SCC Voters Via This Year's Ballot Arguments

Student enrollment of the 6 school districts proposing new bonds is 31% of the total enrollment in the SCC public schools. If the voters in those districts are also 31% of all of the approximately 800,000 SCC voters, 248,000 will see that Libertarians are in their corner when it comes to resisting growth of their taxes. LP arguments against Measure O are the most important when it comes to publicity for the LP name, because it will be on the ballots of all San Jose City registered citizens. Since the population of San Jose is 54% of Santa Clara County, if voters are assumed prootional to population, the Libertarian name would reach the same percentage of county voters. Therefore the total fraction of voters reached by LP officer-signed arguments against new taxes will lie between 54% and about 70% because some voters live in both San Jose and one of the affected school districts. ■

Editor's Note:

Thank you for electing me newsletter chair for 2001. This year, at the end of each issue there is an opinion section with up to two pages of member notes and letters (including yours - please email so I don't need to type).

Officers:

Table listing officers and their contact information. Columns include role (Chairman, Vice Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer, Membership, Campaign, Publicity, Fundraising, Activities, Newsletter, Local Organizing, State ExCom Rep, Alt ExCom Rep, Judicial Committee), name, phone number, and email address.

Had a Libertarian outreach experience? Converted someone? Write about it to the editor! email: scl@lpty.org US mail: 651 Princeton Drive, Sunnyvale, CA 94087 or call (408) 736-5626.

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

THE LIBERTARIAN PARTY



of Santa Clara County

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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 MasterCard or Discovery or E-Gold (circle one)

Credit Card #: _____

Expiration Date: _____

Cardholder Name: _____

Signature: _____

[] New [] Renew