

California Freedom

February 2004 The official publication of the **Libertarian Party of California**

■ Campaign 2004

Exciting Primary Contest for Senate

On March 2, longtime LPC candidate and activist Gail Lightfoot will square off against Judge James Gray in the Libertarian primary for the U.S. Senate seat held by Democrat Barbara Boxer. We Libertarians are seldom treated to a choice in our primaries. For your consideration when you visit your polling place, here are the candidates and their platforms.

Judge James P. Gray

James P. Gray is a Judge of the Superior Court in Orange County. Before becoming a trial judge in 1983, he served as a federal prosecutor in L.A., a criminal defense attorney in the U.S. Navy JAG Corps; and a Peace Corps volunteer in Costa Rica.

While presiding over calendars in civil, criminal, juvenile (abused and neglected children), probate, mental health, and adoptions, Gray has addressed and helped resolve many complex societal problems. For example, in helping to settle one of the first Catholic priest child sexual molestation

cases in the country, Gray helped the Orange and L.A. Dioceses to encourage reporting of allegations of these tragedies, and to reduce the chance of recurrence.

Gray has received commendations from the Orange County



• **Hon. James P. Gray has seen results of drug war in his courtroom**

Board of Supervisors for developing a "Drug Court" that addressed the serious problem of driving under the influence of alcohol. He was voted "Judge of the Year" by two Orange County

• see **Gray** page 6

Gail Lightfoot



• **Gail Lightfoot, R.N. Former LPC Chair and many-time candidate for Senate**

Gail Lightfoot cut her political teeth as a Young Republican and Young American for Freedom, walking precincts in 1964 for Barry Goldwater. She had already discovered the work of Ayn Rand, so when in 1971 the Libertarian Party was founded, it was a natural fit for Lightfoot. She is proud to be a charter member of the LP, and has run for office in California many times.

Lightfoot's beliefs mirror these words from Goldwater's *The Conscience of a Conservative*: "I have no interest in streamlining government or in making it more efficient, for I mean to reduce its size. I do not under-

take to promote welfare, for I propose to extend freedom. My aim is not to pass laws, but to cancel old ones that do violence to the Constitution.... I will not attempt to discover whether legislation is needed before I have first determined whether it is constitutionally permissible. And if I should later be attacked for neglecting my constituents' interests, I shall reply that I was informed their main interest is liberty

• see **Lightfoot** page 3

■ Activism

LPC in Colorful Company at Pasadena Parade

by **Mark Selzer**
Southern Vice Chair, LPC

With its theme of toasting madness and mayhem, Pasadena's 27th annual Doo Dah Parade served as a colorful PR opportunity for the LPC. Known as Pasadena's

"Other Parade," Doo Dah is estimated to have attracted more than 30,000 spectators on Nov. 23. This was the LPC's third year marching through Old Pasadena's historic district, along with fellow parade entrants Linoleum Bonaparte, the Howdy Krishnas, Tequila Mockingbird, and a bevy of others. Serving as Grand Marshal was Ray Campi, the "king of rockabilly."

The organizers really love having the LPC there. They phoned me many times worried that we would not be there this year. I reassured them that we wouldn't miss it. *Pasadena Weekly* inquired about our participation, and printed a very positive paragraph including our opposition to the Drug War. They quoted me as saying that we entered the parade because "Libertarians, just like everyone else, want to have fun."

This year the parade enjoyed a new surge of inspired social

and political satire, partly as evidenced by our two LPC members who arrived wearing gigantic Uncle Sam costumes. John Scott Ballard's and Fritz Ward's duds had 120-inch "waste" lines. According to Ballard, the two San Bernardinans were "attempting to show how Uncle Sam is too fat to fit into one suit."

Signs were provided by Orange County's Paul Studier, who also donated our entry fee, so all our members had to do was to show up and have fun. After my morning phone campaign to encourage participation, we brought together at least 15 people, so this year we avoided being shown up by the Green Party.

Norm Westwell of Orange County provided terrific banners that proclaimed, "End the Drug War - Vote Libertarian!" Other signs declared, "The Drug War is futile," "Stop crime - end the Drug War," and "Fight



Photo: Sandor Woren

• **LPC members Fritz Ward and John Scott Ballard bring to our attention Uncle Sam's "waste" line.**

terrorism - not bad habits."

Other Libertarian marchers included Los Angeles region members Philip Heath, Herb Peters, Lance Keating, Sandor Woren, and Ted and Laura

Brown with their daughter, Katie. From Orange County were Jill and Marcus Stone, and Andy Favor.

When I addressed spectators on my bullhorn with, "Who here thinks we should stop wasting money arresting marijuana smokers?" the crowd cheered, and welcomed the literature we were distributing as we passed by.

The parade experience was a wonderful and colorful way to get the LPC's message across to tens of thousands of people. We'll be sure not to miss it next time—join us then for a great time! •

Mark Selzer is an internet business owner. Active in the LPC since 1998, he has served as the LPC's Southern Vice Chair since 2001. He lives in Hollywood and hosts a cable access television talk show called The Libertarian Alternative. He can be reached at Liberty64@JPS.net.

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Capitalism and Free Love... ...or at least inexpensive love



FROM THE CHAIR

In February, we celebrate Valentine's Day, so I am dedicating part of this month's column to L-O-V-E.

Capitalism and freedom often make love possible. What do I mean by that?

Well, while despotic regimes impose internal passports on their citizens, we live in a part of the world where not only are we free to move about, but we're fortunate that it's relatively inexpensive to do so. And if our travels introduce us to true love, it doesn't have to be a one-time fling. We can nurture that relationship using telecommunications that cost only pennies a minute or e-mail at virtually no cost. Gifts can be whisked across the country overnight.

Living in a world that's relatively free makes love possible. And it's only going to get less expensive. I originally wrote

that love was only going to get "cheaper," but that didn't convey exactly what I wanted to say.

Speaking of love, Lori Adasiewicz, our state party Secretary, has stumbled upon it. Several months ago, thanks to low airfares, Lori attended some out-of-state continuing education classes and met the man of her dreams. After a whirlwind romance, Lori and Bill decided that life together would be sweet. They'll be getting married this year. Lori has already sold her home in Sacramento and moved to Maine.

Lori has done great work for this Party. She was elected to the Executive Committee in 2000, later served a two-year term as Party Treasurer and finally was elected to Secretary last year. She's raised money for us, solved problems, and her keen legal mind kept us out of trouble. Mostly, though, she was a good friend. We will all miss you. Thank you, Lori.



Sweethearts of the LPC

I have several other thank-yous to extend.

Thank you, Daniel Wiener. Dan has agreed—OK, maybe I twisted his arm a little—to serve as Secretary. Dan brings many years of experience as a former LPC chairman during our party's more formative years. Being Secretary is tough, and few people actually succeed at it. But I know Dan will do a great job.

Thank you, Bruce Dvner. Bruce has volunteered to take over as webmaster of the Party's web site. Bruce is promising a wholesale revision of the site. I wouldn't be surprised if it's already up and running by the time you read this column. Go see it at www.LPC.org or www.CA.LP.org. Our previous webmaster, Joe Dehn, has spent many years managing the site and will be pursuing other endeavors. Thank you for all your hard work, Joe Dehn.

Thank you, M Carling. M has been working hard on a replacement database for regional officers to use for keeping in contact with members. This will replace the on-line database that Joe Dehn

used to maintain. M foresees this replacement database being updated several times per month, rather than once every few months.

There are more people who deserve thanks, but I'm sure our editor probably wants some space for other news in California Freedom.

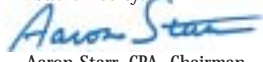
In December I wrote briefly of our planned test mailings to registered Libertarians to get new members. Due to concerns about the way the holidays might affect the results, the mailing was delayed until January. I hope to have some positive results to share with you in March.

The more people we add, the more opportunities we will have to effect change and improve our lives.

And if you're looking for more love and friendship in your life, get involved with making the world a better place through the Libertarian Party. The bonds you create could last a lifetime.

Here's to liberty, love and friendship in our lifetime. May your life be abundantly filled with all.

Toward liberty!


Aaron Starr, CPA, Chairman

Delegate Duty: Handy Tips for a Fun Convention Experience



FROM THE EDITOR

Decades fly! January marked the tenth anniversary of my first Libertarian Party convention. Santa Clara region was holding its business meeting the week I finally found time to investigate in person. I'd been voting libertarian, so I felt right at home with this group who shared my values.

Like a kid in a candy store, I couldn't help but get involved pronto. I joined the discussion groups and business meetings; protested at the post office on

April 15; and managed Terry Savage's all-out race for State Assembly District 20 against Democrat Liz Figueroa's quarter-million bucks.

Participating in California and national LP conventions is a great joy—I haven't missed a one. What a ball to surround oneself with people who reflect the rational, moral, and practical elements of one's values! But the business of the convention and its pace can be confusing, so for delegates to LPC's convention in March, I've jotted down a few handy tips.

Do...

...go! Trust me on this. You will not be bored.

...pack *Robert's Rules of Order* in your carry-on bag so you can bone up. This tried and true tool really does help large meetings run smoothly and stay on track.

...visit convention registration early. Know your region number to speed up your credentialing process. Check in with your region's chair; inform him if you'll be away from the business session; check in upon return.

...review LPC's platform and bylaws. Proposals may be put forth affecting them, so it helps to be familiar with them.

...accept and relish your status as "alternate delegate."

...visit hospitality suites! See what creative projects, decorating, costuming, and poetry your fellow innovators are up to.

Don't...

...be afraid to ask questions about the proceedings. Also, the microphone is your friend; if you use it, the Secretary will be too!

...be surprised if a passionate delegate asks to suspend

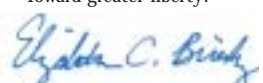
the rules to take up the question of the LPC's "statement of principles," or if a heated debate ensues over its controversial phrase, "the cult of the omnipotent state."

...watch what you say. Let loose for a change! Libertarians are so polite and always holding back how they really feel; it's just heartbreaking.

...forget to chip in for the late-night refreshments offered by hospitality suite hosts. Free trade rocks!

Most of all, enjoy yourself. Be proud of your part in the libertarian community and all we're fighting for. You're in for a treat.

Toward greater liberty!


Elizabeth C. Brierly, Editor



Welcome Aboard!

The LPC is pleased to welcome the following 18 Californians who joined the Party in December. They include Kathy Blattner, a nurse practitioner, teacher James Bronson, Glen Marshall, a commercial airline pilot, Ryan Means, Chief Technical Officer for University of California, attorney John Moody, and students Alarica Lupin, Gale Morgan, and Benjamin Strull. We hope you'll regale us with your hot-button libertarian issues at your regional meetings and at our state convention in March.

Josh Beck	.....Oakland
Alex Bischoff	.....San Jose
Kathy Blattner	.....San Diego
Ruth Botsford	.....Oxnard
James Bronson	.....Fresno
Benjamin Cloninger	.....Sunnyvale
Ryan Goff	.....San Leandro
Travis Griffiths	.....Pacific Grove
Alex Lazarovici	.....San Carlos
Alarica Lupin	.....Los Angeles
Glen Marshall	.....Capitola
Ryan Means	.....Oakland
Elden Miller	.....Bakersfield
John Moody	.....San Diego
Gale Morgan	.....Sacramento
Lynda Ranson	.....Oceanside
Orion Stenhjem	.....Bakersfield
Benjamin Strull	.....Calabasas

Lightfoot continued from page 1

and that in that cause I am doing the very best I can."

Lightfoot's goal is to show Americans that we're being run by rulers, not representatives. Until this is realized, she says, no real change is possible. "As Libertarians we have to speak out against the unconstitutional laws and agencies at the federal level. I will do this!" enthuses the two-time Chair of the LPC.

In 2001, a biography of Harry S Truman inspired Lightfoot. One quote of his expresses her belief: "In the cause of freedom, we have to battle for the rights of people with whom we do not agree; and whom, in many cases, we may not like. These people test the strength of the freedoms which protect all of us. If we do not defend their rights, we endanger our own."

Lightfoot's platform includes decriminalizing all drugs. She says it's time for us to assert and defend the individual right to choose what we put into our bodies: "I will ask for an end to federal assistance, interference, and control of education, health care, housing, welfare,

and crime, best handled by state or local governments or private organizations.... I will tell Americans they can make their own individual choices. I'll give the American people hope by telling them that they alone are best able to manage their lives without the care and protection of the federal government. I will place responsibility correctly—on the individual, the family, and the voluntary associations made by individuals to meet their communities' needs."

Lightfoot, a Calif. native, currently serves as Chair of the San Luis Obispo County LP, where she produces and hosts "Why Liberty Matters," a cable TV talk show. She is married to fellow Libertarian activist Richard Venable.

For nearly 40 years she worked as a nurse, from drug rehabilitation evaluation to public health, and performed utilization reviews for insurance companies. •

Learn more about Gail Lightfoot and her U.S. Senate campaign at www.LightfootForUSSenate2004.org or telephone 1(877)616-1776.

Taxation Alert

Educate Yourself; Then Vote "No"

Prop. 55 Budget Priorities: Who Needs 'em?

Prop. 55 asks, "Should the state sell \$12.3 billion in...bonds for construction and renovation of K-12...and higher education facilities?"

The proponents of the bond measure point out that "recent surveys show that one million children attend schools with bathrooms that don't work.... Prop. 55 fixes leaky roofs, repairs broken bathrooms, and puts heating and air conditioning in classrooms.... Helps make sure kids go to school in safe buildings that meet earthquake and fire standards.

The legislative analyst reports, "This \$12.3 billion budget and budget-related (\$12,300,000,000) bond issue will provide funding for necessary education facilities...." Note the key word: "necessary."

Shouldn't this type of basic, necessary maintenance and upkeep be accounted for in each school's annual budget? If you had an ill-timed toilet fiasco in your home, would you take out a 30-year loan to finance it? No, of course you wouldn't even consider assuming such a debt burden unless you're making a large investment, such as a house.

This emotional appeal is typical of proponents of exorbitant school bonds. Why should schools bother including critical needs in their regular budgets when they know very well that by making 55 of 100 voters feel sorry for the children, they can almost automatically append to their budget through the bond initiative process? Why, indeed?

As noted by State Senator Thomas "Rico" Oller (R.), in his ballot argument opposing the proposition, "the drafters cleverly set aside more than a quarter of the bond funds for the Los Angeles Unified School District. Only 12% of our state's schoolchildren attend school there. This isn't fair and it isn't right."

Because of the Future Education Bond Act, if voters reject this bond issue, state law requires the same proposition to be placed on the ballot again in November. So we must resolve to be persistent and vigi-

lant, and we must never tire of hearing the same whiney arguments.

Just say "no" to poor prioritization by government schools in formulating their annual budgets.

Prop. 56 Would Lower New Tax Vote Threshold to 55%

Apily nicknamed the "Blank Check Initiative" by Californians Against Higher Taxes (www.NoBlankChecks.com), Prop. 56 would unduly empower the California legislature in its ability to tax us. As Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Association President Jon Coupal explains, "This abysmal measure would lower the vote threshold for passing new taxes from [a] two-thirds' vote of each house to 55%." This is the same threshold shift which has

greased the skids for disastrously costly school bond measures to pass muster with voters nearly every time.

The authors of the argument against the ballot measure, including Larry McCarthy, President of California Taxpayers' Assn., lament, "The real purpose of Proposition 56 is to change the state constitution to make it easier for the legislature to increase taxes. If Prop. 56 passes, that's exactly what we'll get: higher taxes....we need to do something to hold Sacramento politicians more accountable. But Prop. 56 is *not* that something. It has a few good provisions, but we don't get to pick and choose. It's a package deal...that will make Sacramento less, not more, accountable."

In a Sept. 2 editorial, the *Orange County Register* agreed: "It would result in less accountability, not more. It would allow legislators to grasp the easy, first-reach answer—more

• See **Prop 56** page 6



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Advertisement

MORE Discount Services for California Libertarians!

by Richard Rider
President, Economy Telcom

As you probably know, I run a regular monthly ad in this newsletter for my company's discount long distance phone service. As my Libertarian-related business has grown, so has the size of my ad.

But what you may NOT know is that we at Economy Telcom offer some other discount services that you might want to take advantage of. Here are some:

1. Discount dial-around long distance service—like "10-10-321," but much cheaper. The rule of thumb is that if you see the dial-around ads on TV, they cost WAY too much. While less pricey, the mailed dial-around ads also cost too much. We've got a couple of inexpensive dial-around programs for both domestic AND international calling. The big advantage is that you don't have to change your long distance carrier. With a dial-around you can make cheaper calls, while others can remain comfortable continuing to use their brand name, higher-priced long distance carrier! The dial-around bill is separate, so it is clear who made the calls.
2. Want to know who made which long distance calls? Sometimes with roommates, this is quite important. At no additional charge, we can provide account codes that will group the calls according to the originator. It's a handy feature for multi-user phones.
3. While many cell phones today offer free long distance calling, some of the older cell phone plans do not. We offer a method of making those long distance calls inexpensively by programming in an optional special access number in your cell phone dialer.
4. If you have ever made international long distance calls from a cell phone, you were NOT happy with the bill. It usually costs DOLLARS per minute. We can provide you with an easy way to make such calls VERY cheaply, without having to punch in a bunch of extra numbers each time. Calls to Europe, for instance, can be done on your current cell phone for under a dime a minute.
5. Of course, while our LP ads have emphasized our "switched" long distance service for U.S. calling, we also offer terrific direct dial long distance plans for international calling. For instance, usually Europe can be dialed direct from home or business for 7 cents a minute or less, with no fees.
6. Interested in one of these advertised \$49.95 "one bill" plans that provide both a fully-featured local phone company line and unlimited long-distance calling? We offer that type of plan as well, using the EXISTING local phone company lines. If you are with SBC/Pacific Bell or Verizon, we will continue to use your same physical local phone lines, and you keep your present phone number. Plus, we include a couple of terrific features that the other "unlimited" plans don't provide.
7. We offer discount conference calling plans for up to 500 people at a time—available in both low cost per minute plans and inexpensive, flat rate, "all you can talk" packages. Great for companies!
8. We offer our services in all fifty states. If you have friends or relatives in the U.S., we can help.
9. Last but not least, if you have a business, we offer discount local phone company service. Savings generally come to 15–20% per month—often using the same SBC or Verizon lines and same phone numbers you are using now.

Bottom Line? If you use ANY phone, we can probably save you money. And if we make more money from LP users and referrals, the ad revenue to the California LP grows as well.

Give us a call at **1-800-914-8466** or
e-mail me at **RichardRider@EconomyTelecom.com**

■ Campaign 2004

Manage This!



Manage, manage, manage! Political campaigns may appear to be primarily "kissing babies and shaking hands," but they are actually much, much more. Other than the candidate himself or herself, the two most important assets in a political race are the contact lists and the money contributed to finance the effort. Controlling these two prime factors is critical to a well run race and probably will mean the difference in victory or defeat. Please keep this in mind as you plan your 2004 campaign. We hope the information herein contributes to your success.

Contact List Management

Most businesses have a large amount of data that must be managed, and a political campaign is no exception. Think about the many types of information that the campaign must keep track of. There are lists of volunteers, lists of contributors, and lists of media representatives. There might also be lists of potential supporters and contributors including key civic leaders and political party activists. The number of lists that can be obtained and utilized is limited only by a campaign's time, budget and imagination. This can be done in any number of ways but a computer based database such as that offered by Politically-e is the best manner in which to efficiently handle all this information (for features, visit Politically-e.com/features.asp).

The importance of having a good database management system and someone who knows how to use it cannot be stressed enough. The data can be used to send letters to prospective contributors, to send thank-you letters, and to notify supporters of ways they can help the campaign. Also good database management is crucial to the timely filing of campaign financial disclosure forms, which require all contributions and contributors to be listed.

One of the very first actions of the campaign should be to find someone, hopefully a volunteer (possibly a spouse or other family member) who can manage the campaign's data on almost a daily basis. If the campaign is large enough to have an official campaign office, this person might also serve as of-

fice manager, volunteer coordinator, or in some other role(s). Spending time early in the campaign to establish a good database system will pay large dividends later. Conversely, not having a good system in place can cause major campaign headaches.

Financial Management

Since a campaign needs to be run like a business, financial management is an important part of the overall campaign. While not exactly a Fortune 500 operation, even a small campaign requires that basic financial decisions and reporting be handled properly and efficiently.

In very small campaigns, the candidate may wind up making most financial decisions, whereas in larger campaigns, the campaign manager may be the person making these deci-

A campaign needs to be run like a business.

sions. The important point is that someone must make sure that the campaign's resources, whether abundant or limited, are utilized wisely and not "frittered" away. Also, the campaign must make sure that someone in the campaign is officially designated as the person responsible for compiling and filing all of the information necessary to comply with state and/or federal campaign financial disclosures, including contributions and expenditures. Although this person does not have to be a Certified Public Accountant (CPA), it would be helpful for him or her to know something about bookkeeping. No matter what, keep it simple. A campaign lasts only a few months and you need only satisfy legal requirements and the needs of the campaign. Don't sink into making this an accounting detail exercise.

It might also be helpful to have an attorney—perhaps a campaign supporter—look over the campaign's financial disclosures before they are filed.



■ Campaign 2004

74 Libertarians File for Office in 2004

by Ted Brown
Chair, Candidate Recruitment

The starting gun has sounded for Campaign 2004, and 74 Libertarian candidates have filed for partisan offices in California. In the March 2 primary election the number will be winnowed down to 72, since we have two contested races in the Libertarian primary. Gail Lightfoot and Judge James Gray will square off in the U.S. Senate race, and Mike Laursen and John Webster of Santa Clara County will vie for 13th State Senate District.

In every general election there are a few races in which Libertarians will face only the incumbent, since the opposing major party hasn't fielded a

candidate. This November there will be nine such races (noted below, along with district numbers). Happily, these races provide our candidates with more votes, and make it easier for voters to select an alternative party candidate.

Special praise is due the LP of San Diego County, who is fielding a full slate of 13 candidates.

President of the U.S.

Seven Libertarians are running for the LP nomination for President. Just the three listed here will be on California's primary ballot. The results of the presidential primary do not affect the nomination process; the LP nominee will be selected by vote of the delegates at the nominating convention in Atlanta in May.

President

- Michael Badnarik** Computer Consultant
www.Badnarik.org
- Gary Nolan** Talk Radio Host
www.GaryNolan.com
- Aaron Russo** Film Producer
www.RussoForPresident.com

U.S. Senate

The Libertarian Party of California has neither endorsed nor opposed either of its candidates for U.S. Senate. The winner will be running in November against incumbent Senator Barbara Boxer, a Democrat.

U.S. Senate

- James P. Gray** Sup. Court Judge
www.JudgeJimGray4Senate.com
- Gail Lightfoot** Retired Nurse
www.LightfootForUSSenate2004.org

Other Partisan Offices

The candidates for U.S. House of Representatives, California State Senate, and State Assembly are listed here by district. Several candidates are undertaking exciting races, in that they will be running against just one other candidate in the general election; these two-way races are highlighted below. The candidates are also listed by the League of Women Voters on the web (www.SmartVoter.org/2004/03/02/ca/state/), where some have provided links to their campaign web sites.

U.S. House

- 3. D.A. "Art" Tuma Sacramento
- 9. James Eyer Oakland
- 12. Harland Harrison Belmont
- 13. Mark Stroberg San Leandro
- 14. Brian Holtz San Carlos
- 16. Markus Welch San Jose
- 17. Joe Smolen Pebble Beach
- 23. Michael Favorite Santa Maria
- 26. Randall Weissbuch Arcadia
- 28. Kelley Ross Van Nuys
- 29. Ted Brown San Gabriel
- 32. Leland Faegre West Covina
(two-way race)
- 33. Bob Weber Culver City
(two-way race)
- 35. Charles Tate Los Angeles
- 36. Mike Binkley Torrance
- 37. Herb Peters Carson
- 41. Peymon Mottahedeh Phelan
(two-way race)
- 46. Keith Gann Costa Mesa
- 48. Bruce Cohen Dana Point
- 49. Lars Grossmith Oceanside
- 50. Brandon Osborne La Jolla
- 51. Mike Metti El Cajon
- 52. Mike Benoit Santee
- 53. Adam Van Susteren San Diego

State Senate

- 1. Roberto Leibman Folsom
- 3. David Rhodes San Francisco
- 9. Peter Von Pinnon Oakland
- 11. Allen Rice San Jose
- 13. John Webster Santa Clara
vs. Michael Laursen*
Mountain View
- 17. John Scott Ballard Phelan
- 21. Bob New Glendale
(two-way race)
- 23. Colin Goldman Sherman Oaks
- 25. Dale Ogden San Pedro
- 29. Dan Fernandes La Verne
- 35. Timothy Johnson Fountain Valley
- 39. John Murphy San Diego

State Assembly

- 1. Kenneth Anton Elk
- 3. Robert Burk Nevada City
- 5. Melissa Manfre Orangevale
- 7. F. Aaron Smith Santa Rosa
- 9. Gale Morgan Sacramento
- 10. Cullene Lang Sacramento
(two-way race)
- 11. Frank Manske Concord
- 12. Christopher Maden San Francisco
- 13. Jonathan Marvin San Francisco
- 14. Kevin O'Neal San Pablo
- 18. Ronald Colfer Hayward
(two-way race)
- 19. Miles Gilster Moss Beach
- 24. Zander Collier San Jose
- 33. Gary Kirkland Atascadero
- 41. Richard Koffler Pacific Palisades
- 43. Sandor Woren Glendale
(two-way race)
- 47. Peter De Baets Los Angeles
- 49. Laura Brown San Gabriel
- 51. Daniel Sherman Gardena
(two-way race)
- 53. Ethan Boivie Redondo Beach
- 54. John Sterne Long Beach
- 59. Fritz Ward Crestline
- 63. Maureen Keedy San Bernardino
- 66. Jack Lee Pauma Valley
- 67. Norman Westwell Huntington Beach
- 69. George Reis Santa Ana
- 70. Mark Baldwin Irvine
- 72. Brian Lee Cross Orange
- 73. Andrew Favor Laguna Niguel
- 74. Paul King Carlsbad
- 75. Richard Senecal San Diego
- 76. Jennifer Osborne San Diego
- 77. Randy Hall El Cajon
- 78. Josh Hale San Diego
- 79. Eli Conroe Imperial Beach
(two-way race)

* The Libertarian Party of Santa Clara County has endorsed Michael "Mike" Laursen for State Senate District 13.

Manage This!

continued from page 4

As mentioned in the Database Management Section, the importance of having a good campaign database cannot be overemphasized. All of the campaign's financial information and disclosures can be produced much easier through the use of a good database system. •

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March Forth on March 2!

LPC recommends voting "no" on these bad ballot propositions:

See page listed for additional information on each proposition.

Prop.	Type	Title	Yes	No	Page
55	Bond	Kindergarten-University Public Education Facilities Bond Act of 2004	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	3
56	Constitutional Amendment and Statute	State Budget, Related Taxes, and Reserve. Voting Requirements. Penalties.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	6
57	Bond	The Economic Recovery Bond Act	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	7
58	Constitutional Amendment and Statute	The California Balanced Budget Act	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	6

For more about these propositions, visit the Legislative Analyst's Office, at www.LAO.CA.gov/initiatives/qryPropositions_by_election_3-2004.asp.

Gray continued from page 1

legal organizations.

Gray is a founder of Peer Court, presenting real juvenile cases to student jurors, guided by active judges. He is the author of *Why Our Drug Laws Have Failed and What We Can Do About It—A Judicial Indictment of the War on Drugs*, and the composer of the musical *Americans All*, intended to expand high school students' horizons.

Gray says that if he is successful in ousting Democrat Barbara Boxer in November's general election, he will "do what you would do if you were there." His campaign quite vocally aims at ending the drug war, whose devastating effects Gray has witnessed firsthand in his courtroom. He maintains that "every vote for Judge Jim Gray will be understood and reregistered to be a vote in favor of reducing the size and intrusion of government, and changing away from our failed and hopeless drug policy. This will give voters a positive choice, and every vote will count." Hence, his campaign slogan is: "This time it matters!"

Gray's platform emphasizes reducing federal government, spending, bureaucracy, and intrusion into private lives, while



Photo: Elizabeth C. Brierly

• Judge Gray autographs his book on Jan. 15 for inquisitive Santa Clara University students.

maintaining a strong military. In essence, Judge Gray believes that the control of California must be returned to Californians. If spending by the federal government is reduced, then taxes will necessarily decrease. Gray has a four-point plan to accomplish this:

1) Establish "sunset" laws requiring a vote in Congress every five years before any federal agencies or programs can renew their funding. These entities will be compelled to justify their continued funding and existence.

2) Repeal the failed and hopeless War on Drugs. Restrict the fed to assisting each state to enforce its chosen laws. Within a year of the repeal of

Alcohol Prohibition, crime dropped by more than 20%; the same results will be realized when we finally repeal Drug Prohibition.

The War on Drugs has inspired a lucrative black market, corrupting individuals and institutions alike. Specified drugs like marijuana should be strictly regulated for distribution to adults, and taxed, and users of other drugs should be allowed legal access to them through medical supervision; such programs are successful today, in every way, in other countries.

3) Return education and health care to local governments. The fed began taking control of these systems in the mid-1960s, with disastrous results. Over-regulation reduces productivity and competition, putting an enormous, unnecessary strain on our small businesses, and on the job market.

4) Establish a fair immigration program by requiring the fed to pay all costs of illegal immigration. Legal immigration has helped strengthen our country, but many good people are being punished by the present system. Requiring the fed to pay for the failure would give it the proper incentives to implement a workable policy, and we could reclaim our borders. •

Learn more about Judge James P. Gray and his U.S. Senate campaign at www.JudgeJimGray4Senate.com or by telephoning 1(888) JUDGE-JIM.

For the latest activities, discussion groups and publications of the Libertarian Party of California and to link to your local region's site, check out www.CA.LP.org.

■ Ballot Box

"Balanced Budget Act" Leaves Tax Door Ajar: Vote No on 58!

Longtime LPC activist Richard Rider has helped write and will co-sign the ballot argument against Proposition 58 that will appear in the state's voter's guide on March 2.

The proposition, a constitutional amendment that is supported by Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger, will be on the state's March 2 primary ballot.

If approved by voters, the measure will require the state legislature to pass a balanced budget, set aside an up-to-5% emergency reserve, and prohibit the purchase of bonds to balance the budget.

Schwarzenegger said Prop. 58—which is named the "Balanced Budget Act"—will help solve the state's fiscal crisis and will tear up the state's "credit card."

Prop. 58 is linked to Prop. 57, which will allow the state to borrow \$15 billion in bonds to finance California's current budget deficit, and to pay it off over nine to 13 years.

However, Rider said Prop. 58 "is a sham bill that does not balance spending with revenues, and does nothing about the runaway spending problem plaguing our state."

In the ballot argument summary, Rider wrote: "With the \$15 billion bonds, we were supposed to get a strong spending limitation measure. But Prop.

58 does not limit spending! It allows short-term borrowing to balance the budget, the budget reserve is largely unprotected, and the door is wide open for massive spending increases and higher taxes."

Rider noted that Prop. 58 doesn't set any spending limits and doesn't rule out future tax increases to balance the budget. He also argued that the state already has a reserve policy that legislators simply ignore.

The anti-Prop. 58 ballot argument is co-signed by representatives of the Association of Concerned Taxpayers and the Santa Barbara County Taxpayers Association.

"I hope [the arguments] are good enough to influence the state voters into voting no on this measure," said Rider.

Rider was asked by Republican State Senator Tom McClintock to help craft the ballot argument.



Rider (left), who was the Libertarian Party's 1994 candidate for governor of California, is perhaps best known for his successful 1988 lawsuit against San Diego County which overturned a \$1.5 billion sales tax. •

Reprinted from LP News on Line, at www.LP.org/lpnews/0402/pol_prop58.html.

Prop 56 Continued from page 3

taxes—rather than grapple with the hard work of allocating resources carefully and prudently."

It's no accident that the measure includes attractive-sounding provisions such as requiring that the legislature and

the governor permanently lose salary and expenses for each day the budget is late, and that the legislature stay in session until the budget is passed. But don't be fooled. As Larry McCarthy, President of California Taxpayers' Association, puts it, "The Blank Check Initiative would eliminate the most important protection taxpayers have against unjustified state tax increases...."

Ironically, for this potentially devastating measure to pass, it needs only a simple majority of the voters' approval. Your vote to nix it will be priceless. •



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■ Coalition Building

LP Leaders Fight "Three Strikes" Law

by Jim Benson

Founder, Citizens Against Violent Crime

As California's leading organization working to amend the current "three strikes and you're out" law, Citizens Against Violent Crime (CAVC) is forging relationships across the political spectrum.

Libertarian leaders such as Alan Bock, Jonathan Richter, Jonathan Zwickel, Richard Rider, Hal Chirpin, Doug Scribner, and numerous others have been there from the beginning to help CAVC and the cause of judicial reform. From gathering signatures to editorial writing to fundraising, they have been in the forefront of the fight to bring common sense to the unjust "3-Strikes" law.

I'm sure you remember when the California legislature approved the state's "3-Strikes" law. It came in response to the horrific murder of nine-year-old Polly Klaas, by a violent predator who was a repeat offender. The idea was to make sure that violent career criminals were kept behind bars.

But the law was unexpectedly vague on what violations would constitute a "strikable offense."

The result: California now imposes a mandatory 25-years-to-life sentence for non-violent crimes such as writing a bad check, drug possession,

shoplifting, and dozens of other non-violent offenses.

The law has had unintended consequences: we're laying waste to California's already ridden budget. Your tax dollars are being used to keep over 30,000 nonviolent second- and third-strike offenders in maximum security prisons. It is a huge, unnecessary expense, and at a time when the state is \$38 billion in debt and having to lay off school teachers. This is both a human tragedy and an economic disaster.



• **Jim Benson** 30,000 nonviolent second- and third-strike offenders in maximum security prisons. It is a huge, unnecessary expense, and at a time when the state is \$38 billion in debt and having to lay off school teachers. This is both a human tragedy and an economic disaster.

Tax dollars are keeping over 30,000 non-violent offenders in maximum security prisons.

CAVC's objective is to refocus the law so it more strongly aims at violent crime, and replaces costly, unjust life sentences for nonviolent petty offenses and victimless crimes with rea-

sonable, less costly, appropriate sentences.

Since the "three strikes" law mandates that everyone convicted of a second and third

Imprisoning them costs us over \$1 billion per year.

strike be housed in a maximum security prison, the cost is staggering. There are currently over 30,000 non-violent offenders incarcerated in California, costing nearly \$35,000 per year per inmate. Imprisoning them costs us, the taxpayers of California, over one billion dollars every year. And that figure gets higher each year as more nonviolent offenders are imprisoned.

Those billion dollars could go instead toward the college tuition for thousands of students at a Cal State school, or to pay the salaries of thousands of police officers, help fund the state's school lunch program for poor children, or even to reduce taxes. Additionally, the cost of incarcerating the current 30,000 nonviolent second- and third-striker population for the entire duration of their sentences is projected to reach over \$15 billion.

Many other states have "three strikes" laws on the

books, but California is the only state in the nation in which nonviolent felonies are considered as second and third strikes.

A recent survey taken by CAVC found that 75% of Californians were shocked to learn that state's "three strikes" law was being used to imprison nonviolent offenders such as a homeless man who was sentenced to 25 years to life for stealing a loaf of bread. The same poll found that over 65% of California voters said they would support CAVC's initiative to amend "three strikes."

From throughout the state, editorial writers and newspapers, including *Los Angeles Times*, *Orange County Register*, and *San Jose Mercury News*, have joined the growing chorus of those calling for reform of the "three strikes" law.

Change will not come from politicians. Change will come from people like you. Which is why we believe that a statewide ballot initiative is the best way to right the wrong of this excessive and overreaching law.



We know it can be done, but we know that we cannot do it alone. Please join with Citizens Against Violent Crime and our chairman, Polly's grandfather Joe Klaas, in bringing balance, common sense, and justice to the courtrooms of California.

Let's make history! ●

Jim Benson is the founder, Vice Chairman, and State Office Director of Citizens Against Violent Crime. He is also an elected member of the Orange County Democratic Central Committee. Benson has served as campaign consultant for two State Assembly campaigns and served as Chair of the Orange County Reform Party in 1999-2000.

Please visit our web site at www.Amend3Strikes.com.

Or contact us at
Citizens Against Violent Crime
 1625 East 17th Street
 Santa Ana, CA 92705
 Tel. (714) 547-9842

Prop 57: Going from Bad to Worse

This "Economic Recovery Bond Act" would have California borrow up to \$15 billion. This would replace the deficit-financing bond of \$10.7 billion the legislature authorized last year, and its implementation is tied to passage of Prop. 58, the California Balanced Budget Act—"cynically named," according to opponents.

The writers of the ballot argument against Prop. 57 say it will plunge us \$15 billion deeper in debt, plus billions more in interest.

The legislative analyst's assessment of the fiscal impact jibes with that: "The near-term savings would be offset by

higher costs in the longer term. This is because the proposed bond would be larger—by \$4.3 billion—and it would take between 9 and 14 years to repay, compared to a 5-year period for the current bond."

The opponents continue: "Total debt service from Proposition 57 will cost an average family more than \$2,000." That's \$2,000 which could be better spent on, for example, college tuition. But as they point out, "the bond will not buy a single school, road, or park, nor will it put a single cop on the street or relieve any traffic congestion. It simply papers over the gigantic deficit that Sacramento's politicians

created in the first place. Since 1849, Calif.'s constitution has forbidden bonds like this from being used to paper over deficit spending. Long-term bonds are intended to be reserved for use for schools, parks, highways, and water projects that will serve coming generations."

The proponents say that "without the Proposition 57 bonds, the State of California may be out of cash by June 2004. If so, the only choices will be to drastically increase taxes." Such limited thinking so inherently biased toward confiscation and redistribution of wealth is what landed Governor Gray Davis in a moving van on Oct. 8. ●

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■ LPC Convention March 2004

Bylaws Committee Proposals

Innovative Ideas for Consideration at Convention

by M Carling
Bylaws Committee Chair, LPC

This year, the Bylaws Committee has started work early. We'd like to share some of the proposals that enjoy strong support on the committee.

Our primary focus in considering the proposals is the effect on membership growth. We also consider openness, fairness, simplicity, and protecting our libertarian ideals.

Nothing has been finalized yet, but we will present delegates with proposals designed to do the following:

- Remove barriers to convention attendance while improving our protection against hostile takeovers
- Apply the "one person, one vote" principle to Executive Committee elections

- Clarify and limit the authority of the Operations Committee

- Rationalize access to the mailing list

- Confer LPC membership on elected officials who are registered Libertarian

- Provide greater incentives for membership recruitment to both the state party and the local regions

- Require that members be registered to vote Libertarian if eligible

- Restrict the power of the Executive Committee to change the Model Regional Bylaws

- Give the Platform Committee more time to consider Platform changes

- Ensure that our Program is consistent with our Platform

If you would like to share your opinions on these or any other proposed amendments to the Bylaws, please e-mail the members of the Bylaws Committee. Also, very importantly, please attend the convention as a delegate from your region, and vote! ●

LPC's Bylaws Committee is composed of *M Carling (Chair), Lori Adasiewicz, Mark Hinkle, Aaron Starr, and Bob Weber*. Find their e-mail addresses at www.CA.LP.org/lpc-ec.html#officers.

A community is like a ship; everyone ought to be prepared to take the helm.

— **Henrik Ibsen,**
An Enemy of the People

Partial List of Convention Speakers:



- Michael Badnarik Libertarian Candidate for President, 2004
- Dean Cameron Actor
- Michael Edelstein, Ph.D. Author, *Three-Minute Therapy*
- Eric Garris Antiwar.com
- John Gilmore Founder, Electronic Frontier Foundation
- Judge James Gray Libertarian Candidate for U.S. Senate 2004; Author, *Why Our Drug Laws Have Failed;*
- David R. Henderson, Ph.D. School of Economics, Naval Postgraduate School
- Daniel Klein Chair, Civil Society Institute at Santa Clara University
- Vince Miller President, International Society of Individual Liberty
- Geoff Neale Chair, National Libertarian Party
- Gary Nolan Libertarian Candidate for President 2004
- Richard Rider LP Activist and tax fighter
- Dave Schrader Marketing Director, Teradata, a div. of NCR
- Rev. Lynnette Shaw Medicinal marijuana activist
- Joe Seehusen National Director, Libertarian Party
- Peter Thiel Co-founder, PayPal

If you'd like to partake of meals at the convention, please register in advance by purchasing a package below.

Delegates must purchase daily floor passes if they do not wish to buy a meal or speaker package.

For the convention agenda, visit www.CA.LP.org/conv/2004/index.php.



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For the convention agenda, visit www.CA.LP.org/conv/2004/index.php.

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