



image: Robert Santorelli

san mateo county

# libertarian

the newsletter for the Libertarian Party of San Mateo County

summer 2012

## message from the chair

*By Harland Harrison*

### What is wrong with the USA - Part 1

Libertarians know that something has gone terribly wrong with the USA. The USA has become a country of endless wars, torture chambers, bulging prisons, exponential deficits, meaningless elections, assassinations, and bodies hanging from bridges just beyond its steel-walled border. Fortunately, the problem is not the American people; the problem is the political system. Unfortunately, that problem is getting worse; the system is deliberately making itself more oppressive. The failings start with the Constitution, and include the election methods, the business environment, and foreign influences.

A libertarian philosophy would fix the USA. The Libertarian Party could still fix it, peacefully, in fact. Although a Libertarian victory seems unlikely now, in the near future technology might change the odds in favor of freedom. I will write more about this in future columns.

All politics being local, the problem starts in San Mateo County. Your June ballot contains only one or two Libertarians and no candidate from the LPSM. You can tell the Chair to try harder, certainly. However, under Proposition 14, the "Top Two Primary," nobody wanted to run. They realized that working and paying to put Libertarians on the ballot in June, did not guarantee any Libertarian on the ballot in November. While other countries encourage democracy, the USA discourages participation. US politicians change the rules to discourage participation, as a political strategy. At the same time that many US states made their elections more difficult, the government of Mexico put billboards around the Bay Area to remind their citizens to vote in the Mexican elections by absentee ballot.

### contents

- message from the chair ... 1
- June 5<sup>th</sup> primaries ..... 2
- newsletter chair report ..... 2
- measure w. redwood city parcel tax ..... 3
- legalize murder? ..... 4
- LPSM contact information ..... 6
- in memoriam. Fred Graham ..... 7
- membership form ..... 8
- LPSM supper club ..... 8

*message from the chair,  
continued from page 1*

The Top Two Primary not only reduced participation, it made political discourse less meaningful. **Gail Lightfoot**, Libertarian for US Senate, is buried in a list of 24 candidates. How can you moderate a 24 candidate debate? Yet, there was one candidate forum in San Mateo, recently. The incumbent, a San Franciscan, did not even show up. And the media devoted their attention to one candidate, a sensationalist rabbi who openly calls his platform "Islamophobia".

End of Part 1. If you don't see Part 2, either I have been censored or you need to renew your LPSM membership.

**For Liberty,**

**Harland Harrison**

Chair, Libertarian Party of San Mateo County

## **june 5<sup>th</sup> primaries**

*By Lois Garcia*

The presidential Primary Election is on Tuesday, June 5<sup>th</sup>. Long time Santa Clara County Libertarian, **John Webster**, has made it to the ballot for the 13th Senate District. John visited an LPSM meeting earlier this year. Libertarian **Gail K. Lightfoot** also made the ballot, running for United States Senator. The LPSM executive committee collected donations for her campaign.

Candidates may state a party affiliation without endorsement from the party.

## **newsletter chair report**

\$98 copying costs

53 total postage costs

16 (approx) total label costs

167 total for "Spring 2012" mailing

- 103 complete newsletters produced
- 100 newsletters mailed
- sent to current and recently lapsed LP members in San Mateo County, except those requesting "no mail"

Spring 2012 newsletter costs were covered by donation.

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## **measure w: redwood city parcel tax**

*by Lois Garcia*

Measure W proposes a new five year, \$67. annual parcel tax on Redwood City homeowners. **Jack Hickey**, LPSM Executive Committee Alternate and Sequoia Healthcare District Director, **Chris Schmidt**, LPSM Database Chair, and **Don Pettengil**, LPSM Treasurer, worked tirelessly throughout February and March to build the arguments against Measure W.

"According to the state's Ed-Data web site, for 2009-2010, total revenue was \$89,268,648 and they spent \$93,069,252; or \$10,356 and 10,797 per child (ADA of 8,620)," said Schmidt. Ed Data Express, a government web site covering all 50 states, currently still does not show 2011 or 2012 statistics. The site contains data collected by the U.S. Department of Education, to which school districts are required to submit financial reports. Total federal funding for elementary and secondary education programs in California in 2010 was \$5,375,461,466.

The parcel count for Redwood City Elementary School District is 25,351. This information is a matter of public record and can be obtained by logging in as "guest" at the Assessment Roll Tracker web site provided by the San Mateo County Clerk. \$67, paid 25,351 times, is an extra \$1,698,517. \$1,698,517 is roughly 1.5% of past administrative spending, and covers less than half of the school district's 2009-2010 budget overruns.

Voters who approved 2005's \$468 million Measure A for the San Mateo County College District saw the construction of the fee based San Mateo Athletic Club out of their tax dollars, and a request from the school district for an additional \$564 million six years later.

Measure W specifies independent citizen oversight over the funds. The school board decides who will be on the committee and what the duties of the committee will be. Measure W states that funds are to be used "to improve local elementary and middle school education for all students", but does not state how this is to be achieved or what constitutes improvement.

*continued on page 5*

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## legalize murder?

*by Gary Tutin*

Libertarians want many laws eliminated, from bans on individual consumption of drugs to those against prostitution, gambling and other “victimless crimes.” We believe personal moral decisions should be made by adults for themselves. Politicians want more laws.

Drugs are a flash point because of the damage inflicted by the “War On Drugs.” Criminalizing an activity criminalizes its participants, as historians learned from studying alcohol Prohibition. When a substance (or activity) is popular, declaring it illegal will not curtail or reduce its usage. The Drug War becomes more expensive and intrusive, while remaining as unsuccessful as ever.

When faux conservatives are confronted with hard facts on drug usage, they refuse to admit their “war” has failed after decades, preferring to blurt out non-sequiturs like, “Murder is illegal and there are still murders. Should we legalize murder?” It could be a conversation stopper, but there is an answer. “No.”

Murder is not a victimless crime. No sane person believes its illegality will eliminate homicides, but society is obliged to punish murderers, who have ended the life or lives of others.

Murder is not analogous to substance usage. For instance, it is not a crime to have used “illegal” drugs. Presidents, Supreme Court justices and many other high officials have used drugs, if we can believe them. Many probably continue using them. Had they been caught experimenting with drugs when younger, their lives might have taken a different course. Now, they enact laws to punish others for doing what they did. What is that called? Oh, hypocrisy. Most so-called liberals are as vested in the Drug War as conservatives, since they love big, intrusive government.

One argument (frequently advanced by commentator Bill O’Reilly) is denying that drugs are a victimless crime. It may be true, as Bill asserts, that drug abusers make poor parents and spouses. We can see this effect with prescription drugs and alcohol as well.

Drugs can lead to the user’s death. On this basis, nearly everything should be illegal.

*continued on page 6*

If someone eats delicious cheesecake all day long, she may become anti-social or ill. Of course, while it is a pricey pastry, it

The measure promises that no parcel tax funds will be spent on administrative salaries.

### you should know...

- Per student spending does not correlate with student achievement.
- The United States spends \$809.6 billion per year on education and an average of \$7,743 per school aged child. The next highest spending country, Germany, spends \$129.8 billion per year and an average of \$4,682 per school aged child.
- Finland spends an average of \$5,653 per year, per child. Finland's students rank first in literacy, math and science, far ahead of the U.S.
- Beginning January 2007, California teachers were no longer required to submit verification of continuing professional development to renew their credentials.
- The average California teacher's salary of \$68,093 is second highest in the nation, next to New York, according to the National Education Association.

### references

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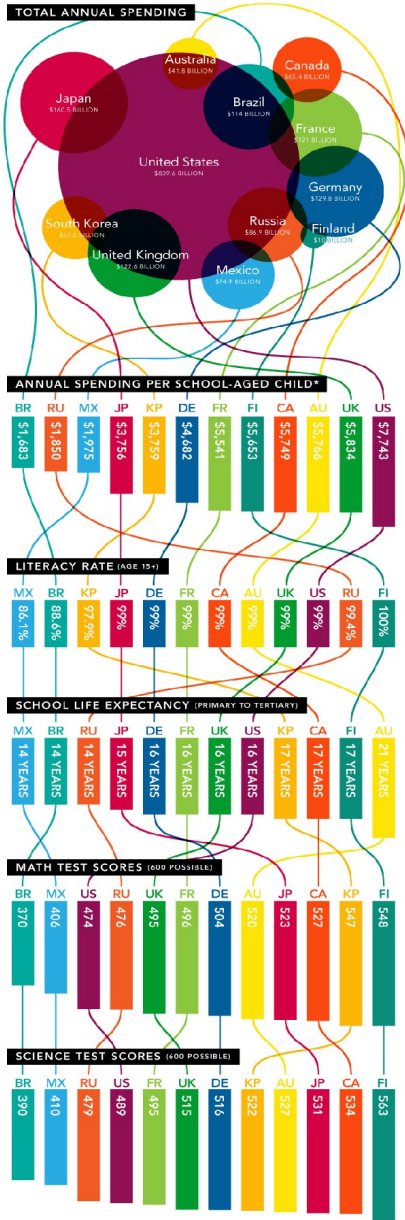
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measure w  
continued from page 3

### U.S. EDUCATION VS. THE WORLD

EDUCATION SPENDING AND PERFORMANCE IN TWELVE COUNTRIES



APPENDIX

\*SCHOOL-AGED CHILDREN = 33.7% TOTAL POPULATION

According to the United Nations, the world population in 2000 was 6.062 Billion. The UN considers ages 6-23 to be school aged.

AU AUSTRALIA  
 BR BRAZIL  
 CA CANADA  
 FI FINLAND  
 FR FRANCE  
 DE GERMANY  
 JP JAPAN  
 MX MEXICO  
 RU RUSSIA  
 SK SOUTH KOREA  
 UK UNITED KINGDOM  
 US UNITED STATES

SOURCES  
<https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/index.html>  
[http://www.geographic.org/country\\_rankings/educational\\_score\\_performance\\_country\\_ranks\\_2009\\_aecd.html](http://www.geographic.org/country_rankings/educational_score_performance_country_ranks_2009_aecd.html)  
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illustration courtesy of MAT@USC: <http://mat.usc.edu>



*legalize murder?,  
continued from page 4*

is much cheaper than it would be if it were illegal, and she need not fear that government agents will break down her door to seize her cheesecake, unless they are serving a drug warrant to the wrong home.

On the matter of drug addiction, there is help for addicts, if they decide to quit. But the consequences of drugs being illegal are far worse than their usage, affecting everyone. If you buy a box of Sudafed®, you are treated like a criminal suspect, although the FDA classifies it as an over-the-counter medication. The draconian measures are blamed on the fact that Sudafed® can be an ingredient for mixing another government-banned drug.

So? Invasive precautions will not halt methamphetamine production. They do intimidate law-abiding citizens, who may be so shaken that they turn to non-prescription drugs. Even worse, they may get so enraged at the government that they become libertarians.

Leaving other victimless crimes for another time, the same principles apply. Laws that will not stop an activity, merely make its participants felons and violate America's spirit of freedom.

Libertarians do not advocate legalizing murder, theft or fraud, even when initiated by the government. We want to restore the freedoms delineated in the Constitution and Declaration of Independence. This great country was founded on the principle of limited government, with citizens freely in control of their bodies and minds.

## **LPSM contact information**

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You can download PDF copies of the newsletter, with live links to article references and more, at the LPSM website at [lpsm.org](http://lpsm.org).

Or, contact the newsletter chair:

**Newsletter Chair & Editor**,

Lois Garcia

[vicechair@lpsm.org](mailto:vicechair@lpsm.org)

This is *your* LPSM, and *your* newsletter. Don't hesitate to write with any questions or feedback. A newsletter submission can be on any Libertarian topic, but should include references unless it is an opinion piece or essay.

Know a good place to distribute newsletters? Want to sponsor a mailing? *Let us know!*

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## Fred Graham

rest in peace

8 September 1930 - 16 February 2012

Frederick A. "Fred" Graham passed away in his home in Belmont on February 16, 2012. An ex-Marine and retired engineer, he was also an active member of many freedom focused organizations in addition to the LPSM, including: the Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Association, My Liberty (Tea Party), the Fully Informed Jury Association, the National Rifle Association and the California Rifle and Pistol Association. In 2010, he worked closely with the LPSM in running for the Board of Directors of the Sequoia Healthcare District, with the bold intention of dissolving the district. At the time of his passing, he was an LPSM Executive Committee Alternate.

We will miss you, Fred.



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# I'm Joining the Libertarian Party of California!

**Yes!** I want to become a member of the Libertarian Party of California.

- \$25 Dues
- \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Additional one-time gift
- \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Monthly Pledge (\$10/month minimum; counts as dues)
- \$2,000 Life Membership

Mail completed remittance form to (and make checks payable to):  
**The Libertarian Party of California**  
 14547 Titus Street, Suite 214 - Panorama City, CA 91402-4935  
 office@ca.lp.org - (818) 782-8400 - www.ca.lp.org

**The Libertarian Party is the Party of Principle.** To publicly affirm our belief and ensure that our party never strays from our principles, we ask members to proudly sign and date this statement:

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

SIGNATURE \_\_\_\_\_

DATE \_\_\_\_\_

Check or money order enclosed. Monthly pledgers please include a voided check to authorize automatic monthly payments,  
 Or: Please bill my  Visa  MasterCard  AmEx  Discover

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Notice: Federal law requires political committees to report the name, address, occupation, and employer of each donor whose contributions total more than \$200 in a calendar year. Political contributions are not tax deductible.

SM11-1/10

**san mateo county libertarian party**

**LPSM supper club  
& business meeting**

IHOP Restaurant  
 510 El Camino Real, Belmont

**6:30-7:30pm Dinner/Conversation**  
 everyone welcome

**7:30-8:45pm Business Session**  
 dues-paying members only

**held every third Tuesday  
 of the month  
 January - October**

**libertarian party of san mateo county**  
**PO Box 745**  
**Belmont CA 94002**