

San Mateo County

October 2005

# Libertarian



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*LPSM (100 members, 1730 registered) is the county's only organized opposition to tax hikes. Since 1990 we've helped stop about \$500M in new taxes  
LP-CA (90K registered) has ~70 office-holders, and contests far more seats than the Greens: 24-11 US House, 12-1 CA Senate, 35-4 CA Assembly  
LP-USA (22K, 235K): most candidates (1800), unique voters (3.3M), presidential ballot access (48 states to 36), elected officials (>300) of all 3<sup>rd</sup> parties*

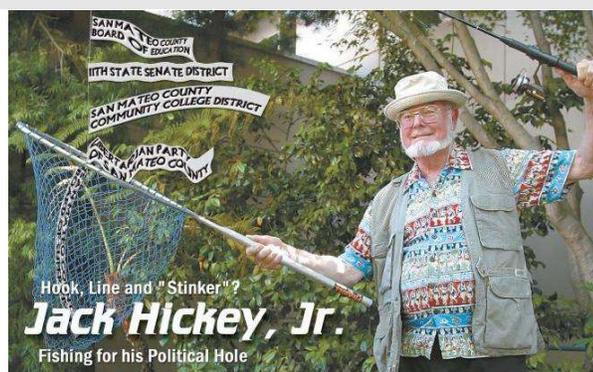
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## Hickey vs Union-Blessed Incumbents

In November's race for San Mateo County Community College District Board, LPSM Chair **Jack Hickey** is challenging a pair of incumbents stamped with approval by public employee unions. Helen Hausman of Atherton, who at 79 withholds her age from voter information guides, is endorsed by the California School Employees Association. Richard Holober is a professional union lobbyist who adds endorsements from the AFL-CIO and the entire Peninsula Democratic machine.

The race is almost a rematch of 2001, when Hausman and Holober got 43% and 37% to Hickey's 19%. The incumbents are backing yet another bond measure for the District, despite having borrowed \$207M via measure C in 2001. But this year, the incumbents will lose some votes to Maurice Goodman, a former community college black student leader who vows to "strengthen unions" and promote teacher tenure.

Instead of borrowing from our children to feed the insatiable public education bureaucracy, Jack offers an alternative vision that recently got him on the cover (right) of Redwood City's *Spectrum* magazine. He favors a self-financing market-based approach to higher education, with an emphasis on high-technology alternatives to traditional brick-and-mortar campuses. Jack would be to the SMCCCD the same taxpayer advocate and watchdog that he already is to the Sequoia Healthcare District. More info at [http://smartvoter.org/2005/11/08/ca/sm/vote/hickey\\_j/](http://smartvoter.org/2005/11/08/ca/sm/vote/hickey_j/)



## Calendar

- Tu Nov 8, 2005 Election Day
- Th Nov 17, 2005 Supper Club/ **Nominating Caucus**
- Th Dec 15, 2005 Supper Club/Business Meeting
- Th Jan 19, 2006 Supper Club/**Officer Elections**
- Fr Feb 24, 2006 LPC 4-day Convention cruise

**Join us** for food and fun at the Belmont IHOP, 510 El Camino Real, 1/2 mile N. of Ralston. Agenda:  
6:30pm Discussion & dining (**all** welcome)  
7:30pm Business (dues-payers only)

## State Propositions:

### LPC Recommendations

**No position on 73** – Mandate parental notice before abortion by minors, and make State constitution refer to a fetus as “a child conceived but not yet born”

**Yes on 74** – Make public teachers wait 5 yrs (not 2) for tenure

**Yes on 75** - Require opt-in by public employees to finance political contributions with their union dues

**Yes on 76** - Limit state spending to prior year's level plus 3 previous years' average revenue growth

**Yes on 77** - Redistrict by retired judges instead of the legislature

**No on 78** - State-negotiated discounts for prescription drugs

**No on 79** - Like 78, but also deny Medical contracts to non-participating drug makers, and regulate drug “profiteering”

**No on 80** – Massively increase regulation of the electricity industry

## County Ballot Measures

### Anti-Tax Arguments

**No on A.** \$468M in bonds for Community College District renovation and construction. As recently as 2001, the District carried no debt. Emboldened by Prop 39's lower election approval threshold for bonds, the trustees borrowed \$207M and began a construction spending spree. Debt per student climbed from \$0 to \$10K, and this bond would make it \$33K.

**No on B.** \$100 parcel tax in La Honda – Pescadero school district. The district already has \$214K of revenue for its average class of 18.6 students.

**No on C.** \$25M bond for Redwood Shores elementary school. The district already has \$136K/class of revenue beyond teacher pay.

**No on D.** \$12M bond for Woodside elementary school. The district already has \$200K/class of revenue beyond teacher compensation.

**No on E.** \$38M bond for San Carlos school renovation and construction. The district already has \$200K/class of revenue beyond teacher compensation.

**No on H.** Portola Valley seeks a 4<sup>th</sup> consecutive 4-year extension of its temporary 5.5% utility tax.

**Yes on O.** Restrict use of eminent domain in Half Moon Bay.



## Anderson for Redwood City School Board

Engineer and ten-year R.C. resident Roger Anderson is challenging an appointed incumbent for her 2-year seat on the school board. His focus is clear: “This district must treat the education of students as JOB ONE.”

Anderson is ready to make tough calls on spending priorities. He says “the need for new facilities contracts should be evaluated on the merits of what they will do for the student's education, not how beautiful the school will look afterward.”

Noting that the last superintendent enjoyed an 18-month severance package, Anderson promises to scrutinize the next superintendent's contract for any such latent expenses. He also wants to “ensure the new Superintendent's contract requires board approval before committing funds”.

In contrast to Anderson's focus on education, his opponent Shelly Masur is the director of a state-subsidized advocacy group for adolescent health. Her organization calls for “school-based programs that ensure regular health insurance activities as a normal part of school operations”. The only curriculum elements that her candidate statement mentions are music, art, and physical education.

## No on H: Portola Valley Tax Extension Opposed

In 1985 the government of Portola Valley asked voters to approve an interim 5.5% tax on utility payments to deal with what at the time was called a “temporary cash flow problem”. The town then asked for extensions of the “temporary” tax in 1987, 1993, 1997, and 2001. Portola Valley now has cash reserves equal to five years' revenue from the tax, but the Mayor nevertheless wants another 4-year extension. P.V. Resident Bill Henderson explains why: town leaders want to launch their expensive new town center with money from a 50%-threshold utility tax, instead of from a 2/3-threshold bond measure.

## Measure E Questioned

To support its current bond Measure E, the superintendent of the San Carlos Elementary School District prepared an apparently fudged Tax Rate Statement (a document which is supposed to help voters understand the cost of borrowing). When we pointed out to two trustees that the superintendent's “good faith estimate” of the cost of the new \$38 million bond was less than the actual cost of a recent \$22 million bond, they merely assured us that we should just trust the district's “experts”. Stay tuned here and in the local media for our ongoing efforts to audit Measure E's compliance with the \$30/\$100K property tax ceiling required for the lower 55% bond approval threshold.

## LP Iraq Resolutions

In August the LPC passed a resolution against the occupation of Iraq, and the LPSM passed its own resolution calling for the US to “expeditiously withdraw”. In calling to end the foreign intervention, local and California Libertarians have joined the national LP, which has published an Iraq exit plan white paper. Read the LPC resolution at <http://ca.lp.org/iraq.shtml>.

## 2006 Convention Cruise

The 2006 California LP convention will be held Feb. 24-27 on a Royal Caribbean cruise from Los Angeles to Ensenada Mexico and back. A driver's license and \$299 can get you double-occupancy accommodations for the 4-day/3-night cruise, with all taxes and fees included. To lock in this special low rate call Continuing Education at 800-422-0711 and ask for Pam, or visit <http://www.ca.lp.org/>. All convention business will be concluded by the end of Saturday the 25<sup>th</sup> while still at sea, leaving the Sunday Ensenada port call free for sight-seeing.

## New LP Dues Structure

Motivated both by restrictive new campaign finance legislation and a desire to grow its membership, the national LP is transitioning to a zero-dues model, under which anyone who has ever signed the party Pledge will now be considered a current member. Thus national will be terminating its dues-sharing arrangement with the state parties. The LP of California worries that many members will not begin sending dues to the LPC in sufficient numbers to avoid a cash-flow crisis, and so is asking \$50 for the next 12-month renewal of your combined LPC and LPSM membership. Call 877-884-1776 or visit <http://lpsm.org/join>.