

**Editor's Notes**

*November's meeting* was dedicated almost exclusively to reviewing the status of the signature-gathering drive and to planning our strategy for completing this *ballot-access effort*.

As many readers know, the primary system serves two purposes for the Democrat and Republican parties. First, it is a system in which taxpayer money and government resources are used to administer their chosen internal candidate selection mechanisms. Second, it is a system which erects barriers that serve to keep other parties off the ballot in the general election (by requiring them to participate in an expensive primary system unsuited to smaller parties).

Consider: we had three Libertarians who wanted to challenge Anna Eshoo for her seat in Congress. To use the primary system to arbitrate our choice of candidate for just this one race would have required us to spend over four thousand dollars on filing fees, when our entire budget for all party activities is less than one thousand dollars. Instead we must resort to "smoke filled rooms" and a hodge-podge of caucuses to nominate our candidates and save our resources for the tough job of putting our chosen candidates on the official ballot.

Putting even a single candidate on the ballot for each legislative office in San Mateo County could cost \$3496 in filing fees. Fortunately, there is an alternative-the petition in lieu of filing fees, which reduces the fee for a candidate pro-rated by a number of signatures equal to 10% of a party's registrants in a district or 150, whichever is less. This is not easy, but it is the only way to go for smaller parties, and requires the commitment of many volunteers. By combining a membership drive and Entertainment book sales with a direct-mail petition drive, plus a telephone effort and a traditional door-to-door effort, we are well on our way to getting most of our candidates on the ballot for the first time since 1992. (See table). If you're holding on to a petition, sign both sides and send it in! We have only days left.

(11/21/95)	required	have	percent	need
Schmidt	115	59	51.3%	56
Chuck	67	31	46.3%	36
Inama	124	75	60.5%	49
Matonis	150	163	100.0%	0
Dehn	150	68	45.3%	82

Although the drive has garnered half a dozen new members, the effort has had a net cost of about \$300 (for postage and copying). If you want to help replenish our treasury, please consider an extra donation or a gift subscription to the San Mateo Libertarian. Thanks!

Our *next meeting* will be *Wednesday December 13*, at Amy Guthrie's office in *Palo Alto* from 7:30pm to 9:00pm. (See the map on the back page for directions)

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