

Editor's Notes

Welcome to the *special election issue*! In it, we introduce our candidates and present the positions on the state ballot propositions that we voted to recommend at our September 18 meeting in Palo Alto. Mostly this is a 'sampler', reproducing a tiny fraction of the campaign material on our various World Wide Web sites.

Our *next meeting* will be Wednesday October 16, at the office of Amy Guthrie, D.D.S., in Palo Alto, from 7:30pm to 9:00pm. (See the [map](#) on the back page.)

Presidential Candidate Harry Browne

Browne spoke at Harvard University to a mixed audience of students, faculty, and visitors on Tuesday, October 1. The speech was part of a three-day campaign swing through New England:

Only innovative Libertarian policies can save America's young people from becoming "the politicians' victims" --and having to pay an 80% tax rate later in life, Libertarian presidential candidate Harry Browne said yesterday in a major speech about Generation X issues at Harvard University.



"For decades, politicians have been promising money and 'free' benefits to almost every group they could identify. They made no provision to pay for these promises. Now the bills are coming due. And who's going to pay them? Today's politicians have found someone to pick up the check-you," Browne told the audience at the John F. Kennedy School of Government at the prestigious university in Cambridge, Massachusetts.

"Why you?" asked Browne. "Because only a small percentage of Generation Xers vote. So the politicians figure you'll pay the bills and your anger won't hurt them politically. As a member of Generation X, you are expected to pay for all the politicians' failed programs and grandstanding."

As the preeminent example of such a failed program, Browne cited Social Security. "For years, they took money from your grandparents' paychecks and claimed to be putting it away in a Social Security trust fund," he said. "But there was no trust fund; they spent all the money as fast as it came in--spent it on the retirement of others, spent it on political pork-barrel projects and other re-election schemes, and even gave it to foreign governments to help them pay off their debts.

"Now the cupboard is bare. And they expect you to restock it. You are forced to pay 15% of your earnings [in Social Security taxes] for the retirement of others--even though you know that nothing you put into Social Security today will ever come back to you."

While Republicans and Democrats either deny there is a problem with Social Security or promise to solve the crisis with minor tax increases, Browne said only a total privatization of the system will work.

"The only way to 'save' Social Security from collapse is to get the government completely out of it," he said. "I want to sell trillions of dollars worth of unneeded federal assets to finance the liquidation of Social Security and buy private retirement annuities for senior citizens who are dependent on Social Security. Your grandparents will have guaranteed contracts with private companies that have never broken their promises--unlike the U.S. Congress. And you will be free of the 15% Social Security tax. This means if you earn \$30,000 a year, you will have \$4,500 more in your pocket every year."

The only other option, said Browne, is for young people to meekly accept 70% to 80% tax rates later in life to keep a myriad of bankrupt government programs afloat.

"Don't be the politicians' victim," urged Browne. "The Republicans and Democrats expect you to pay off their debts. This year, surprise them. Vote for Harry Browne--the Libertarian--for President."

Harry Browne for President [Harry Browne Campaign Site](#) (202) 333-0008

Vice Presidential Candidate Jo Jorgensen

Jo Jorgensen holds an M.B.A. from Southern Methodist University and graduated cum Laude with a degree in Psychology from Baylor University. She has worked as a Marketing Representative for IBM and later founded her own company--Professional Software, Inc., a firm that provided computer accounting systems to public accountants. Today she is President and owner of Hypertech, Inc., a successful software duplication company. The following is excerpted from her campaign diary:

Monday, September 2 I think Operation Drumbeat, the campaign's plan to maximize our exposure, is our best possible strategy. Doing radio shows from home allows me to reach tens of thousands of people each day for very little cost to the campaign. But meeting people in person has its own rewards and it's nice to finally hit the road for the very first time since the nominating convention in July.

My trip is to Colorado. I'm picked up by a local Libertarian at the airport who is wearing a Browne/Jorgensen button. I'm delighted because I hadn't seen one and didn't even know they were out there yet! I'm also delighted to see Browne/Jorgensen brochures for the

first time, once we arrive at the Colorado State Fair where I'm to begin campaigning.

It's great to finally meet people and shake hands for the first time as the Libertarian nominee.

The rest of the trip is enjoyable. I speak before several groups, both reaching new people and recharging long time Libertarians.

Saturday, September 7 I'm on a show where the host is sympathetic, since Harry was on a few weeks earlier. The host repeatedly brings up the wasted vote issue. I give a different answer every time, using all the ammunition I have.

I feel good that at the end of the show he says for the first time that he may consider voting for us, that he can't disagree with my reasoning.

Tuesday, September 10 Another 1am show. Since I haven't been getting a lot of sleep, I worry that I'll be "up" enough for the show. Not to worry, the host, Don Giordano, gets me going with his crusade for "fair trade." I'm awake in no time, feeling as though I can debate this for days with him.

Luckily I'm doing this one out of my house, rather than at my office, so I've got all my books handy. I grab James Bovard's *Fair Trade Fraud* and I am ready with important facts and figures!



Congressional Candidate, 12th Dist. C. Schmidt

Christopher has edited the San Mateo Libertarian for the past four years and maintains the LP of San Mateo County's web site. He is a graduate of Yale University.

The following are his closing remarks to State Farm associates at a candidate forum held in September:

A Libertarian is someone who believes that people are best off if allowed to shape their own personal and economic destinies. And who believes that government's only legitimate job is to protect its citizens' ability to do so; against force and fraud by their neighbors, by foreign governments, and by other branches of our own government. Our government generally does a good job of the first two, but, increasingly, the various parts of government have failed to keep each other in check. The EPA does not stop the Defense Department from burying radioactive waste in cardboard boxes. The SEC does not stop the Social Security Administration from selling fraudulent insurance products. Local judges do not insist on constitutionally-issued search warrants. States do not resist federal agencies when they enter areas forbidden them by the constitution. Counties do not resist the state when it steals property tax revenues. Instead they collude to pass new sales and income taxes...to mix funding sources to avoid accountability...to create inter-agency task forces to obscure and even completely avoid responsibility when government programs go horribly wrong-as in Medicare and in Social Security and the War on Poverty and the War on Drugs. Republican and Democrat politicians work hand in hand when it comes to perpetuating each of these on-going disasters. Unless Republican and Democrat voters who believe in the theory of our government-limiting constitution stop voting for the same old politicians, all we can expect is more expensive health care, less freedom to save for one's retirement, and the perpetual dependency of the welfare class.



Is it reasonable to imagine that that supporting Libertarian candidates instead of status quo candidates can lead to change? Maybe-- The Soviet Union only changed when people stopped voting for Communists.

[Christopher Schmidt Campaign Site](#)

Congressional Candidate, 14th Dist. Joe Dehn

Joe is a long-time Libertarian; active in local, state, and national party organizations. Educated at M.I.T., he is the creator of the Libertarian Party's presence on the World Wide Web. This essay on the 'wasted vote problem' is taken from his campaign web page:

Quite simply, voting Libertarian is the only way to use your vote to demand real change in the direction that most Americans want: a smaller government, one that spends less, takes less of your earnings, and stops meddling in your business and personal life. The Democrats and Republicans have proven over and over again that they won't do this. They are the ones who got us into the current mess!

The Democrats and Republicans are both parties of big government. While they make a big show of fighting over "cuts", government spending just keeps going up. The budget deficit is a bipartisan deficit. The federal government grows whichever party is in charge.

The "Republican revolution" is a sham. Many voters had high hopes when the Republicans got control of Congress in 1994. Yet not only have they failed to balance the budget, or make deep cuts in spending-they haven't even been up to the challenge of undoing recent damage and taking simple steps to reduce the power of government over our lives. The Republicans have failed.

The Democrats won't defend your liberties. Democrats and Republicans alike have been steadily eroding the protections of the Bill of Rights. The incumbent representative from this district, a Democrat, was part of the bipartisan committee that approved the new legislation that will censor the Internet (and voted, along with almost all of her Republican and Democratic colleagues, for the final version of the bill).

Only the Libertarian Party consistently supports freedom across the board. Only the Libertarian Party supports the real cuts in government spending that will allow our economy to prosper.



State Senate Candidate, 11th Dist. Jon Matonis

Jon is an encryption software manager. The following is taken from his campaign web page:

We, as Californians, have two critical choices to make:

- Do we pay for the government and state-managed monopolies to provide services or do we privatize and permit the market to provide more efficient and more cost-effective solutions ?
- Do we expand state power and spending or do we return the tax money to all Californians in the form of a check from Sacramento?



California is a world leader. This state can become the single, shining example of what the free, human spirit is capable of achieving. I aim to accomplish this with four basic, innovative planks of my campaign that impact every day of every Californian's life.

Taxation and Currency

Five out of 50 states in our great Union currently function ideally without a state income tax. My goal is for the state of California to become the sixth state. Additionally, I will propose legislation that permits banks and other organizations (even individuals) in California to issue and circulate negotiable currency state-wide which competes freely with the monopoly Federal Reserve notes.

Education

The condition of public education in California is abysmal and continues to deteriorate. I support the initiatives for private school choice and expanded home schooling and an end to government or tax-funded pre-school programs.

Environment

Most of my district falls in an area of supreme beauty and natural resources. I support the right of private citizens and organizations to rightfully acquire natural resources for the purpose of conservation such as the Quarry Park Project in El Granada demonstrates. However, the desire to conserve natural resources is not a valid excuse for the violation of individual rights, and I therefore oppose such violations.

Immigration

It is dehumanizing, and personally embarrassing to me as a Californian, for the INS and border patrol to round-up, in dragnet-like fashion, productive immigrants at their workplaces and homes. I strongly oppose all measures that punish employers who hire undocumented workers. Such measures repress free enterprise, harass workers, and systematically discourage employers from hiring Hispanics.

[Jon Matonis Campaign Site](#)

State Assembly Candidate, 21st Dist. Chris Inama

Chris is a sometime Chair of the LP of San Mateo County, a lawyer, and an economist. He has represented the Libertarian Party in numerous races in the past. In his [Smart Valley](#) profile, he talks about his motivation:

I look forward to free and voluntary cooperation with other members of my community who deserve my respect. I despise those groups that conspire with Government to get some advantage at the expense of, or to the detriment of, the rest of us. Limiting "democracy" to a symbolic biannual vote for some representative to make our other choices for all of us seems absurd. --Instead, each of us ought to be left alone to exercise our "Freedom of Choice" every time any of us decides to support or not support some person or enterprise by spending or not spending our dollars or time or effort.

Our Positions on the Propositions

At the September 18 meeting we discussed the *upcoming election* and voted to make the following ballot recommendations: (The notes are by Ted Brown and your editor.)

Prop 204	Water Project Bonds	No (0-7-1)	The manifest unwisdom of increasing California's \$20.2 billion in bond debt made discussing this measure at length unnecessary. Moreover, if the local Sacramento-area projects proposed here are worthwhile, then they should be voted on and funded at the local level.
Prop 205	Jail Construction Bonds	No (0-7-1)	Bonds almost double the cost of any government project. In this case, it would be far cheaper to change law enforcement priorities. If drugs were legalized and non-violent offenders were electronically monitored instead of jailed, we would need fewer jails; not more.
Prop 206	Veterans' Real Estate Bonds	No (0-5-3)	There's no good reason why the state of California should invest limited resources duplicating the federal VA loan program. Note: Libertarian Ted Brown authored the arguments against Propositions 204, 205, and 206 that appear in the state voter pamphlet.

Prop 207	Attorney Fee Regulation	No (0-4-3)	We oppose frivolous lawsuits and thus agree with the intention of this measure. However, limiting attorneys' fees limits the free market. Fees should be a matter between the attorney and client only.
Prop 208	Campaign Contribution/Spending Limits	No (0-7-1)	This and Prop 212 are both incumbent protection acts. By limiting what challengers can raise, and from whom, they would make it even more difficult to unseat incumbent politicians. Big contributions are only a symptom, not the main problem. The problem is that government has so many goodies to bestow, that every kind of special interest group is out to get a share of the pie. The best way to restrict special interest influence is to limit the size and scope of government.
Prop 209	California Civil Rights Initiative	Yes (7-0-1)	"The state shall not discriminate against, or grant preferential treatment to, any individual or group on the basis of race, sex, color, ethnicity, or national origin in the operation of public employment, public education, or public contracting."
Prop 210	Minimum Wage Increase	No (0-7-1)	We do not support cutting the bottom rung off the jobs ladder. Consider what would happen if the minimum wage were raised to \$20/hr: More automation and job restructuring would do all work with fewer, more capable workers (i.e. the people whose skills are worth \$20/hr or more). The same thing will happen with any minimum wage hike, except that the effect will be more subtle. We would rather see the burden of government (48-61%, depending on economic model) mostly eliminated, so that all wages would go twice as far as today.
Prop 211	Securities Litigation; Fee Regulation	No (0-7-1)	Current law already protects retirement and pension funds. This initiative was written by attorneys who want to make it easier to sue high tech and other companies whose stock may fall in price within the dictates of the free market. We believe it would encourage frivolous lawsuits and should be voted down.
Prop 212	Campaign Contribution/Spending Limits	No (0-7-1)	See Prop 208.
Prop 213	Litigation by Drunk, Uninsured Drivers	Position not taken (3-0-4)	Although we had some misgivings about limiting jury power, three of us felt that this proposition is worth a yes vote in view of the potential to save up to \$210 million in insurance premiums.
Prop 214	HMO Regulation	Position not taken (2-4-2)	Libertarians generally believe that government should get out of the health care business, not get more deeply involved, so four of us opposed this measure. Two of our number felt that its provision which bars HMO contracts from 'gagging' doctor/patient communication merits a 'yes' vote.
Prop 215	Re-legalization of Medical Marijuana	Yes (7-0-1)	This measure had been passed by the Legislature earlier, but it was vetoed by Governor Wilson. Libertarians strongly support the right of people to use marijuana responsibly when they wish. This proposal is a modest step to take medical decision-making authority away from government and put it back into the hands of doctors and patients.
Prop 216	HMO Regulation, Taxation	Position not taken (2-4-2)	See Prop 214.
Prop 217	Income Tax Increase; Redistribution	No (0-7-1)	This measure claims to address the 1994 state "property tax grab" by hiking the income tax. Of course, the voters already passed a sales tax hike to address the same "shortfall." How about a measure that returns the property tax money that was grabbed in the first place and an end to the sales tax surcharge?! *grrr*
Prop 218	Voter Approval for Local Taxes	Yes (7-0-1)	This measure would require voter approval when local governments seek to raise taxes. We support this measure that would protect citizens from arbitrary taxation.

Intervention Begets Terrorism Mike Moloney

Let's wake up, Americans: Our foreign policy is completely bankrupt.

The most recent example is our involvement in a civil war between the Kurds. It doesn't matter who is in the White House--a Democrat or a Republican, the policy is the same: "We know what's best for other countries."

What was accomplished by getting involved in the internal affairs of other countries, most recently Northern Ireland, Bosnia, the Middle East peace talks, China and Haiti? The answer is nothing.

The reason we have a fear of foreign terrorists is that we are constantly getting involved in other countries' internal affairs. If we weren't, they would have no reason to want to retaliate.

That's why the Libertarian Party policy of "neutrality, free trade and responsible defense for Americans in America" is the only foreign policy that makes sense.

If we want to stop losing our civil liberties because of fear of terrorists, then let's change our foreign policy once and for all.

Let's show them that we have had enough. Let's vote Libertarian.