

June election analysis

Results and commentary on the California June primaries
by Christopher Schmidt

Of the six measures for which the LPSM made a recommendation (see the [May 1998 issue](#)), a majority of the voting public agreed with us in 3 cases, including both of the measures where the issue at stake was the choice between private and government provision of services (i.e. 223 and 224).

Majorities of voters in Atherton, Hillsborough, Portola Valley, and Woodside dissented from the rest of the county, voting in favor of 226, and thereby agreeing with 4 of 6 LPSM recommendations. In East Palo Alto, a majority of voters parted with the rest of the county w.r.t. 220 and 222; siding with us in 5 out of 6 cases!

		San Mateo County				Statewide			
		Yes		No		Yes		No	
219	Ending "Ballot Box Blackmail"	93,846	62%	31,419	21%	3,500,828	57%	1,705,470	28%
220	Superior/Municipal Courts Consolidation	92,525	61%	38,233	25%	3,441,355	56%	1,897,310	31%
221	Subordinate Judicial Officer Discipline	105,152	70%	22,404	15%	4,240,596	69%	995,376	16%
222	Special Treatment of "Cop Killers"	102,619	68%	35,399	23%	4,253,887	69%	1,266,294	21%
223	5% Limit: "Brokered Services", School District Administration	62,802	42%	77,396	51%	2,551,123	41%	3,050,474	50%
224	State Design & Engineering Bid Formulas	38,779	26%	92,915	62%	2,066,925	34%	3,351,322	54%
225	Congressional Term Limits Advisories	64,707	43%	70,693	47%	2,871,975	47%	2,561,382	42%
226	Individual Control of Political Contributions	63,478	42%	80,735	53%	2,688,033	44%	3,073,943	50%
227	State Bilingual Education Rule Changes	82,381	55%	64,438	43%	3,570,193	58%	2,296,578	37%

I scrutinized the returns for the propositions and several races and concluded that there are no cities that have either significantly greater or lesser libertarian leanings than the others. Some of our candidates did sweep the vote in precincts with only 1 or 2 voters, though!

In Woodside, Atherton, and Hillsborough, Libertarian State Board of Equalization candidate Kennita Watson received over 30% of the votes cast! District-wide, Kennita received 274,540 votes. Although Kennita is regularly one of our highest polling candidates, her totals were clearly helped this time around by the absence of a Republican in the race. The significance of this result is the observation that the Republican rank and file have no compunction about crossing party lines to endorse a Libertarian candidate in an uncontested primary (when such a vote can't be totally explained as merely anti-Democrat). I mean, most Republicans *must* understand what a primary is, *right?* 26% of the voters abstained from voting in these uncontested primaries so it will be interesting to compare what happens in the general election.

Many of us were disappointed that Mike didn't draw more crossover votes in his congressional primary and concluded that this resulted from strong "tribal" party loyalty. From Kennita's totals I conclude, however, that such loyalty is merely a "default" behavior and not reflective of anti-libertarian sentiment. If the (shrinking) Republican minority in San Mateo County ever realizes that they'll probably never win another partisan race here, we may stand to gain a lot of voters!

In a bizarre outcome, voters in two of the towns with the highest assessed property valuations in the United States (according to *Worth* magazine) swallowed the Portola Valley School District's claim that existing property tax revenues are inadequate to their needs and passed Measure A. Pro-debt forces making up only 39% of the district's voters (primarily in the town of Portola Valley) were able to mobilize and saddle their neighbors in Woodside (where $\frac{2}{3}$ support did not exist) and unincorporated areas with a bond issue that nominally required two-thirds' support to pass. Obviously the high abstention rates in the latter areas (30% and 31% versus 3% for the

Town of Portola Valley) indicate voters didn't realize the tax under consideration applied to them. Although it is plausible that this bond might have passed even if all the registrants had voted, it shows how important the $\frac{2}{3}$ threshold is. 39% (presumably those who believed they had something to gain at the expense of their neighbors) were able to pass this bond despite the $\frac{2}{3}$ threshold, but only 696 interested voters (or 12% of the registered voters) could have approved this indebtedness if Governor Wilson had succeeded in his attempts to lower the threshold to $\frac{1}{2}$ of the votes. This is why I support the [Howard Jarvis Taxpayers' Association](#) and their defense of the $\frac{2}{3}$ threshold.

<i>Measure A School Bonds</i>				Votes		Voted			Registered		
	registered	ballots	turnout	Yes	No	Yes	No	abstain	Yes	No	abstain
Town of Portola Valley	3283	2219	68%	1746	416	79%	19%	3%	53%	13%	34%
Town of Woodside	1297	594	46%	262	156	44%	26%	30%	20%	12%	68%
Unincorporated	1503	707	47%	365	123	52%	17%	31%	24%	8%	68%
total	6083	3520		2373	695	67%	20%	13%	39%	11%	50%

Kubby's planned appearances in Northern California

by Michael Vardoulis

Following is Libertarian candidate for Governor Steve Kubby's tentative schedule in the Bay Area. If you know of other important events Steve can attend where he'll be able to speak to a large group or meet hundreds of voters, please let us know. Tell us as many specifics as possible, including date, time, exact location, contact information, and how we can reach you for questions. If you can organize your own event for Steve to attend, please tell us what you can do by way of getting Steve in front of lots of voters or raise money so that we can launch advertising. Let's take advantage of every minute between now and November 3!

Sacramento area: September 21--26

- September 21: Sacramento City College "Political Awareness Day"
- September 23: Davis & Lungren debate in Sacramento--Steve and Libertarian Party demonstration.

San Francisco bay area: October 5--14

- October 5: UC Berkeley event
- October 6: Bay area fundraiser
- October 7: San Jose State event
- October 10: Candidates' Conference '98
- October 12: San Francisco State event
- October 14: Stanford event

E-mail suggestions or ideas to operationsmanager@kubby.com. Thanks!

Visit <http://www.kubby.com> for more campaign information.

Oakland's medical marijuana club suffers legal setback

by Robert Giedt

On August 31, Federal Judge Charles Breyer thwarted another valiant attempt by the Oakland Cannabis Buyers Cooperative to stay within the "federal law" and remain open by becoming part of the city government. Previously, in an unprecedented action on August 13, Oakland city council members authorized club officials as city agents, granting them permission to distribute marijuana to patients on the city's behalf. Breyer threw out this argument, yet again defying California voters' convincing November 1996 passage of the medical marijuana initiative, Proposition 205.

In May, Breyer issued an injunction that prohibited six Northern California clubs from distributing marijuana pending the federal and state governments' lawsuits against those clubs. Currently, three medical marijuana clubs (in Oakland, Ukiah and Fairfax) remain open despite Breyer's injunction. Once again, the federal government rears its meddling head this time infringing states' rights to govern their own people all in the name of the "War on Drugs."

During the court hearing, the club attempted to invoke a federal law that shields local and state government officers from legal action while they enforce drug-related laws. The city argued that this law, primarily designed for undercover police to execute drug sting operations, applied to Proposition 205.

"This is a careful and good-faith effort to implement the will of the people, consistent with federal law," stated Gerald Uelmen, the Santa Clara law professor representing the Oakland club. Jeff Jones, the club's director, added "We're going to remain open. We feel what we're doing is necessary to these patients." The club plans to appeal the ruling.

Some good news to come out of the ruling was that Judge Breyer rejected government lawyers' arguments stating that the clubs were violating the Judge's injunction thereby allowing the three clubs to remain open until the next hearing. This next hearing on September 28 may include a jury trial on the need of "medical necessity." The marijuana clubs claim the violation of the federal law was the only way to ease the life-threatening pain some patients suffer.

Radio host Lee Rodgers to vote Libertarian in November

Major San Francisco morning conservative talk show host, Lee Rodgers, plans to vote Libertarian in the California Gubernatorial election in November. August 24, on the Lee Rodgers Program, Lee and his co-host Melanie Morgan interviewed a Republican spokesman. During the interview Melanie stated: "Neither Lee nor I are voting for Lungren. I'm voting Independent and Lee's voting Libertarian."

The Lee Rodgers Program
Monday--Friday: 6--9:30am
KSFO 560-AM

August meeting notes

by **Christopher Schmidt**

Like July's, the August meeting was well attended (for a business session), and we hustled through the agenda with such efficiency that we had time to discuss anti-smoking laws and still adjourn early!

September social update

Barbara Less (Activities Chair) announced that anyone who wants to bring a snack or dessert or beverage to the September social is invited to do so (though not required). Of course, that's one way to guarantee that something on the sideboard suits you to a "T"!

LPSM meetings location for next year?

Mike Moloney reported that we can meet at the Prime Time Athletic Club through the end of the year, but it's time to find a new location. In the past we've met at restaurants in San Mateo; in offices in Palo Alto and South San Francisco; and at homes in Menlo Park and Redwood City. Now it's your chance to help pick our new location! Please contact Barbara (or any officer) with suggestions.

Campaign literature

Bernie and Steve shared the observation that Steve's campaign literature has been well received when made available in small stands in people's shops and offices. If you have a good location for some literature, please contact Bernie.

"Candidate coffees"

Steve announced he had written a new speech for neighborhood "candidate coffees" (of which one has been scheduled already). Steve said he'd be happy to speak to any group of a dozen friends and neighbors. If you can serve as a host, please contact him.

Miscellaneous

We voted without dissent to appoint Steve (the only volunteer) to audit (as required by the bylaws) the past year's treasurer's reports.

Finally, we talked a little about anti-smoking laws; the bad science behind them (concerning secondhand smoke); and the inappropriate urge to control other people's lives and businesses with legislation.

On September's agenda: Discussion/recommendation of November propositions

The next business meeting will focus on discussing the November propositions. Regional members in good standing will vote on our recommendations for the 10 propositions (subject to $\frac{2}{3}$ agreement). Prepare for some lively discussions!

You can pick up a Voter Information Guide/Ballot Pamphlet at the County Election Office or you can read the entire text online at <http://vote98.ss.ca.gov/VoterGuide/home.htm>. A terrific source of other material can be found at the California Secretary of State's Web site at <http://www.ss.ca.gov>.

By the way, the Libertarian Party of California's Executive Committee had the following recommendations:

- YES: Propositions 1, 3, 5 and 7.
- NO: Propositions 2, 4, 6, 8 and 10.
- No opinion on Proposition 9.

Next meeting of the LP of San Mateo County:

Wednesday, September 16

Prime Time Athletic Club

1730 Rollins Road, Burlingame (between Broadway and Millbrae Avenue)

Informal chat/dinner: 6:30--7:30pm in the café

Business meeting: 7:30--9:00pm in the multipurpose room.

Business agenda:

1. Discuss pros and cons of the propositions for the November election.
2. To be determined.

"Every man's reason is his own rightful umpire. This principle, with that of acquiescence in the will of the majority, will preserve us free and prosperous as long as they are sacredly observed."

--Thomas Jefferson to John Watson, 1814

"I hold it certain that to open the doors of truth and to fortify the habit of testing everything by reason are the most effectual manacles we can rivet on the hands of our successors to prevent their manacled the people with their own consent."

--Thomas Jefferson to John Tyler, 1804