

# LibertyRising

Our Vision: More freedom through less government, fewer regulations and lower taxes for all.

## What's happening?

### LP Sonoma

Monday, February 17, 2020 -

6:00 PM to 8:00 PM

Round Table Pizza Montgomery Village, 2424 Magowan Dr. Santa Rosa, CA 95405

Guest speaker James Oglesby will defend the 2<sup>nd</sup> Amendment with at least 18 reasons why.

### Homelessness in Sonoma Co.

Tentatively, in late February or early March: A panel on homelessness in Sonoma County will start the process of adopting our own public policy

### California Primary

Tuesday, March 3, 2020 - Presidential Election Primary, plus the SMART sales tax extension vote, and possibly a sales tax vote to assist fire departments.

### LP Sonoma

Monday, March 16, 2020 -

6:00 PM to 8:00 PM

Round Table Pizza Montgomery Village, 2424 Magowan Dr. Santa Rosa, CA 95405

## What's a Libertarian to do?

### SMART delays and obfuscates

SMART's months-long delay in providing the Press Democrat (and the public) with legally mandated ridership figures is typical of government officials who "know best," and want the rest of us to be quiet and meekly obey their whims.

Isn't this typical of government projects? Over-promise the benefits (ridership), under-promise the costs, and keep user-costs well below operating costs to bribe people to use the service while ensuring the infrastructure can't be maintained.

Direct your polite minute-letters and phone call to these members of the Sonoma County Board of Supervisors: David Rabbitt, Email: David.Rabbitt@sonoma-county.org, Phone: (707) 565-2241; Shirlee Zane, Email: Shirlee.Zane@Sonoma-County.org, Phone: (707) 565-2241.

**"Stay thirsty my friends," thirsty for liberty!**

## News break

### SMART's ridership declines

The Press Democrat (PD) on 1/3/20 reported that ridership on

SMART declined 2.2% in its second year of operation

SMART is still hiding key data and has only reported the total number of passengers that have boarded since 8/25/17 (start of service).

The PD concluded that SMART's General Manager, Farhad Mansourian, had overstated ridership (2,800 claimed versus about 2,300 actual daily passengers). Using the latter figure, and spreading the passengers over all its daily trains, then the typical SMART rail car is at 1/6 capacity.

**It is tempting to call for Mansourian's firing, but he and SMART are the poster children of government failure.**

## Contents

- 1 What's happening?  
What's a Libertarian to do?  
News break
- 2 LP Sonoma  
What's the answer?  
What do you know?
- 3 Comics  
Media Bias  
Directory
- 4 Media silence  
Homelessness  
Your \$0.02  
Freedom Tracks



William MacElroy, Chair  
[Chair@lp-sonoma.org](mailto:Chair@lp-sonoma.org)

Michael Tishler, Vice-Chair  
[VChair@lp-sonoma.org](mailto:VChair@lp-sonoma.org)

Richard J. Brannock, Treasurer

Sandra Lockwood, Secretary

## Best Libertarian Blogs from the Washington Times

Supposedly based on "quality, originality, and substance," here is the countdown from 5 to 1:

5. Reason's **Hit & Run** (government failures).
4. **The Libertarian Standard** (best content).
3. **The Circle Bastiat** (stable of top authors).
2. **Laissez-Faire Club Blog** (charm & wit).
1. **The Beacon** (blog of the Independent Institute with forty+ authors).

### What's the answer?

Q: Now that the country is united against bribery, how are the candidates going to influence the Iowa Caucuses? A: *Bribe the farmers - "Vote for me and I'll continue if not increase farm subsidies". Bribe the unions and construction industry - "Vote for me and I'll push through a massive infrastructure spending bill.". Bribe the elderly - "Vote for me and your benefits are safe from*

*the rascally budget cutters." As has been said by others, elections are but advance auctions of property to be stolen and distributed to special interest groups at a later date.*

Q: Where does profit come from?

A: *From cutting costs. Most new businesses close within a few years as losses dominate their annual financial reports. Those few companies that control their costs, reap profits and survive.*

Q. Why skepticism? A. *Healthy skepticism is a powerful ally in your struggle to make sense of the claims made by politicians, salespeople, and con artists. Be skeptical of such claims until offered reasonable proof. This is especially true of anyone who wants your money (taxes), your liberty (regulations), or your support (vote).*

Q. What do we really need to know about the Democrats and Republicans. A. *Check out the \$1.4 billion budget deal signed in December. The government is running trillion dollar deficits, has an official debt of over \$23 trillion, unfunded liabilities of around \$200 trillion, and neither of the major political parties can be bothered to deal with the looming debt crisis.*

### What do you know?

## How to listen to candidates

By Bill Holmes

The art of politics is sophistry, which is the use of plausible but misleading or fallacious argumentation - the use of partial truths. Those of you who have read any of Frederic Bastiat's essays Know that it takes

about fifteen pages to expose the who truth and absurdity of a half-page of partial truth. I don't have time to expose the sophistry of candidates, so here are ways to help you evaluate what they say:

1. Eliminate adjectives and adverbs. ...[They] are used to stimulate emotion. They can make stupid, illogical or harmful statements sound reasonable and attractive.

2. Eliminate abstractions. Abstractions like "society," "the poor," "the homeless," "the right," "the greedy," "fundamentalists," "blacks," "women," "racists," and "skinheads" serve to emotionally distract you from the reality that all interaction occurs between individuals acting in their own self-interest - doing what makes them feel better. Replace each abstraction with someone you know.

3. Eliminate intermediaries. Intermediaries like "government" and "we" distance the perpetrator from his or her victim. Assume that the candidate acts directly on you.

4. Imagine the ramifications. Most candidates will only tell you of the intended consequences of their proposal - a partial truth. You must imagine the whole truth, including the unintended consequences to determine its total effect. If you don't have time to do that, then:

5. Take the proposition to the limit. When a candidate says something is good, then more must be better. Imagine what would happen if the candidate's proposal were taken to the extreme. It will either remain reasonable, or its absurdity will be exposed.

## Comics

### 05/22 *The Press Democrat*

Adrienne Larson responded to a letter from Kirk Moeller regarding the "partisan press overwhelmingly aligned with the Democratic Party's ideology." In response Adrienne thought there were only two alternatives: "Either thousands of reporters working for hundreds of outlets have conspired to misrepresent the truth or, more likely, the truth fails to match Moeller's ideology."

With repeated studies shown that news reporters and personalities are overwhelmingly Democrat, Left & Socialist, perhaps there was no need for conspiracy. Rather, faced with the overwhelming need to get rid of Trump, they simply set out to do so without coordination. As far as the outlets are concerned, leaked memos give evidence that there likely was intent to help drive Trump from office.

*In general, the art of government consists in taking as much money as possible from one class of citizens to give to another.*  
- Voltaire, 1767

### 04/18 *The Press Democrat*

A regular letter writer, Gene A. Hottel, suggested that since our economy has always been a mix of capitalism and socialism we merely have to decide on the mix. What a hoot.

Mr. Hottel's first mistake came when he said, "Government provides services when private enterprise (capitalism) can't or won't work." Government routinely takes over private businesses (like transit systems) and then forbids competition. Govern-

ment routinely outlaws private goods and services (marijuana & low-cost health insurance). Government routinely erects barriers to entry (licensing & massive regulatory obstacles).

In Mr. Hottel's conclusion, he penned, "So the question is not whether we should have a socialistic or capitalistic economy; the question is what mixture of socialism vs. Capitalism we choose to have." Putting aside the small portion of our economy represented by military self-defense, courts & police, where does socialism excel? Not in retirement programs (Social Security is bankrupt). Not in schools (imagine if parents didn't first have to pay for the local government school before they went shopping for a private school). Not in transportation infrastructure (\$6 billion for the Bay Bridge fix & perhaps \$100 billion for the slow-bullet train to Los Angeles). Not in housing, not in food production, and not even medical care (compare the Indian Health service and Veterans' hospitals to the private sector).

Try again Gene, but think first.

## Media bias

### Media bias - many ways

The simplest way is to not cover the opposing view or stories that might cast the wrong side in a good light. Another way is to just give brief coverage while the favored view gets extensive coverage. In the latter case one can go further and select opposition spokesperson who are not the best or whom have views more extreme than the main opposition. And no matter the coverage of the opposition, be sure and use adjectives designed to denigrate the spokespersons and their views.

**A compliant media + politicians = a cesspool.**

## Directory

*LibertyRISING is published by the Libertarian Party of Sonoma County, James R. Oglesby editor. Unless otherwise noted the opinions expressed are those of the editor.*

*The deadline for the January issue is 12/24/19. Please submit your letters, opinion pieces, and news to:*

*James R. Oglesby  
LibertyRising2019@gmail.com*

*Subscriptions are free to members, free by email, and \$10/yr by government mail.*

*Libertarian Party of Sonoma County:  
[www.LPSonoma.org](http://www.LPSonoma.org)  
Libertarian Party of California  
[www.LPC.org](http://www.LPC.org)  
Libertarian Party (national)  
[info@lp.org](mailto:info@lp.org)*

*The individual has always had to struggle to keep from being overwhelmed by the tribe. If you try it, you will be lonely often, and sometimes frightened. But no price is too high to pay for the privilege of owning yourself.*

*- Friedrich Nietzsche*

## Homelessness

Waiting until the middle of winter, the Sonoma County Board of Supervisors finally took action on the 200+ homeless camping on the Joe Rodota Trail. I guess the climate emergency that the supervisors can't do anything about took precedence last summer and fall.

Some long term help will be the purchase of two apartment buildings (\$100,000/unit + ongoing costs). Well played, move the homeless from \$25 tents to \$100,000 apartments (to be furnished by taxpayers). More of the homeless will be offered \$4,500 huts at the Los Guilicos Campus + ongoing expenses, including shuttles to homeless services in downtown

Santa Rosa. These types of facilities can be provided by the charitable for a \$1,000 or less. So again, the taxpayers are paying mightily for a government cause problem.

Where do the homeless find pride in being given such amenities? Without pride, how will the bulk of the homeless (addicted and/or mentally challenged) triumph over the adversities they face (many self-imposed)?

*Politicians may know what's best for themselves, but have little ability, or time, to know what is best for the general public. Consequently, they tend to advocate policies that help them get elected or re-elected.*

*Last year saw the passage of state-wide rent controls and further restrictions on charter schools. Can you identify the votes being bought and which interest groups are reaping the benefits?*

## Your \$0.02

### Book List

How Adam Smith Can Change Your Life  
by Russ Roberts

[A guide to applying Smith's wisdom to your everyday life.]

The Case Against Socialism, by Rand Paul [Have fun rebuking the clueless.]

Where Keynes Went Wrong, by Hunter Lewis [Keynesian garbage analyzed without the smell.]

Submitted by James Oglesby

## Easy things you can do to promote liberty:

Go to this website to find who has jurisdiction over you -

<https://secure.sonoma-coun-ty.org/vote/districtlookup.aspx?sid=1070#streetAddress>

Upon entering my home address I found contact information for the following (among others):

- ◆ Governor - Gavin Newsom.
- ◆ Attorney General - Xavier Becerra.
- ◆ U.S. Senators - Dianne Feinstein & Kamala D. Harris.
- ◆ U.S. Representative, 2<sup>nd</sup> District - Jared Huffman.
- ◆ State Senate - Mike McGuire
- ◆ State Assembly, District 2 - Jim Wood (D)
- ◆ Sonoma County Board of Education, Area 4 - Lisa Wittke Schaffner
- ◆ City of Santa Rosa High School District Governing Board Member Trustee, Area 7 - Laurie Fong
- ◆ Mark West Union School District Governing Board Members - Sara Azat, Brian Burke, Victor Charles McKnight, Gary Robert Saal & Brad Sherwood.
- ◆ Counter Supervisor, 4<sup>th</sup> District - James Morehead Gore.
- ◆ Sonoma County Fire District Directors - Bob Briare, John Hamann, Steve Klick, John Nelson, Gary So, Arnie Tognozzi & Frank Treanor.

Then, start the habit of writing the "minute letters" mentioned in the previous newsletter. How could you not write one letter per day? Think of how that could snowball - 20 libertarians writing 140 letters per week; 200 libertarians writing 6,000 letters per month; 2,000 libertarians writing 730,000 letters per year.

## Editor:

Your "Freedom tracks" thing got me thinking of December 1777, and Washington's army camped at Valley Forge. Freedom tracks were all around - streaks of bloody snow left by the poorly shod troops. We are lucky they had better sense than to gather in a warm tavern, drinking & talking about liberty.

Anonymous

## From the "Wayback" machine

I guess it was inevitable - as we move steadily towards a cradle-to-grave welfare state, government is now the nation's pacifier. Just as a baby pacifier comforts without delivering sustenance, government programs and policies provide comfort to the populace without delivering the promised results. Gun control is another failed promise, in a long line of failed promises (income tax, federal reserve, Social security, war on poverty, Medicare, and on and on). Take the pacifier, or take your freedom. You can't have both. Trust the politicians or trust yourself - only one bolsters your pride and secures the "blessings of liberty."

- 2/8/2013 James R. Oglesby

**This is the opinion section. Send in your two cents worth, just keep it short. Longer opinion pieces are welcome. But may take longer to get published.**

## Freedom tracks

LP Sonoma

Now has a healthy bank account and several projects in the works.

**Are you laying freedom tracks? If yes, let us know. If no .....**