

Liberty Rising

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

What's happening?

LP Sonoma

Monday, March 16, 2020 -
7:00 PM to 8:00 PM
Round Table Pizza
Montgomery Village, 2424
Magowan Dr. Santa Rosa, CA

Homelessness in Sonoma Co.

Still in progress: A panel on homelessness in Sonoma County will start the process of adopting our own public policy.

Anniversary of Lexington and Concord

Sunday, April 19, 2020 -
Celebrate the 245th anniversary of the battles at Lexington and Concord, Massachusetts

If you dare

LP Sonoma

Monday, April 20, 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?

Communicate !

Remember that phrase from Paul Newman in Cool Hand Luke - "What we have here is a failure to communicate." Well, that pretty much explains what happened in the recent local ballot measures. We did not communicate, as the onerous process of organizing and meeting LP California's requirements took far too long.

There were six local school bond & tax measures and none had an argument

against in the official voter guide. We need to be sure this never happens again.

Election Results

Measure A Geyserville Unified School District - Passed with 56.1% of the vote. A switch of 5 votes to 'no' or 10 additional 'no' votes would have defeated the measure.

Measure B West Sonoma County Union High School - passed with 65.7% of the vote with only 50% + 1 needed.

Measure C Bellevue Union School District - Passed with 55.61% of the vote. A switch of 16 votes to 'no' or 30 additional 'no' votes would have defeated the measure.

Measure D Roseland School District - Passed with 58.79% of the vote. A switch of 45 votes to 'no' or 82 additional 'no' votes would have defeated the measure.

Measure E Sebastopol Union School District - Passed with 62.76% of the vote with only 55% needed.

Measure F West Side Union School District - Passed with 58.18% of the vote. A switch of 8 votes to 'no' or 16 additional 'no' votes would have defeated the measure.

Measure G County of Sonoma - Failed with 62.13% of the vote, needing 2/3 to pass.

Measure H City of Healdsburg—Passed with 65.68% of the vote, needing only 50% to pass.

Measure I Sonoma-Marin Area Rail Transit District—Failed with 50.35% of the vote, needing 2/3 to pass.

Of the above nine measures, three were in accordance with LP Sonoma's recommendations. With some effort, it would have been possible to defeat as many as four of the six school district measures. Then our victory tally would have been seven of nine! Victory is often close, but only if you are on the field. Libertarians, join the team and win some easy

battles. That sets the stage for even more significant victories.

Stay "thirsty my friends," thirsty for liberty!

News break

Biden forgets the 2nd Amendment!

After raising our hopes by supporting the 9th amendment, presidential candidate Joe Biden has forgotten the meaning of the 2nd Amendment. He assured an audience that he doesn't plan on taking away our guns, then he waxed eloquently about hunting, and finally said that people don't have the right to own just any gun.

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Biden forgets from page 1

Then, forgetting his earlier comment he said that he would take away AR-15s (actually, he flubbed that line mentioning a non-existent AR model.

What is it about the Second Amendment that causes politicians to gush assurances that they won't take away our hunting firearms. They've already taken away our large-caliber weapons, our machine guns, and are working hard to take away our semi-automatics. Who is it that believes that's where the confiscations will stop?

Isn't April 19, 2020, the 245th anniversary of the battles of Lexington and Concord, the perfect day to remind politicians about the folly of attempting to confiscate firearms? It has also been 185 years since the lawful rulers of Texas marched north to do the same.

LP Sonoma



William MacElroy, Chair
Chair@lp-sonoma.org

Michael Tishler, Vice-Chair
VChair@lp-sonoma.org

Richard J. Brannock, Treasurer
Treasurer@lp-sonoma.org

Sandra Lockwood, Secretary
Secretary@lp-sonoma.org

Raffles ahead !

Some raffle prizes have been donated to help us get started raising money for our activities. So far some silver coins, books, bumper stickers, and even postage stamps have been accumulated.

What's the answer?

Q: Can you make it easy for me to write a letter to the editor? A: Yes, just limit your letter to one good point, politely stated. That is

all it takes. Start by making it fun and pretend you aren't even going to send it. Make it a joyous rant, far longer that is permitted by the newspaper in question. Then start cutting. If you've made more than three points, keep the three best and cut the rest.

Cut our unnecessary adjectives. Skimp on transitions. Just keep cutting the fat. Do a word count (easy when using a word processor) and compare that with what the target newspaper will allow. Now cut to fit. If necessary, cut all the way down to one good point (good points use real facts, not internet rumors).

Bingo! You've had some fun, practiced a needed skill (fighting with the pen is preferred to fighting with weapons), and created a letter worthy of your name. Add some frosting to your wonderful creation by figuring out a way to work in the word libertarian. Consistently linking the word libertarian with thoughtful, logical and factual letters will reap a harvest of goodwill.

My apologies to the unknown source of the above that I have adapted to suit.

My son, take this musket and never disgrace it; for remember, I had rather all my sons should fill one honorable grave, than that one of them should turn his back to save his life. Go, and remember, too, that while the door of my cottage is open to brave men, it is eternally shut against cowards.

- Elizabeth Houston to her son, Sam Houston

Q. How does the 80/20 rule apply to the 2,630 registered Libertarian voters in Sonoma County? A. Briefly, the 80/20 rule stems from looking at real life, real human behavior. For example, 80% of an organization's sales likely come from 20% of its customers. Similarly, in a group project, 80% of the work will likely be done by 20% of the members. If we can raise \$1,000 to fight an onerous ballot measure, 80% of the members (2,104) will likely donate a total of \$200 (less than \$0.10 apiece), while the other 20% (526) will raise \$800 (about \$1.50 apiece). Now follow that logic remorselessly down and you will find that just four people will donate over half of the \$800. Remember that when trying to raise money, and particularly when being asked to donate.

What do you know?

Real money

Article 1, Section 10 of the U.S. Constitution mandates that, "No State shall ... make any Thing but gold and silver Coin a tender in Payment of Debts." Utah, Wyoming and Oklahoma have all passed the necessary legislation. Last November South Carolina saw the introduction to do the same in the pre-filing of a bill.

Essentially, when paying in advance for something from the state, like a Driver License, the state can require payment via checks or Federal Reserve Notes. Yet, when sending you a bill, like for property taxes, they can only require that you pay in gold or silver coin.

Check out Goldback Accounts offered by the United Precious Metals Association. Oh yes, nothing that sounds like legal advice in this newsletter is legal advice.

02/16 *Sonoma Valley Sun*

Their editorial board penned an ugly attack of capitalism, under the title "Capitalism's failure: homelessness." In conclusion they wrote, "... if it were solely up to fervent capitalists, they'd rather starve government than see it care for the poor.

The Sonoma Valley Sun's editorial board shows no understanding of capitalism, a free market, or even the causes of homelessness.

Everyone is a capitalist as we all have one or more forms of capital. There is our innate intelligence, our acquired education, skills & experience, plus physical assets from cars and computers to carpentry and automotive tools, and even grandma's recipe file. We are all capitalists.

Search YouTube for houses, homes, or huts for the homeless, and you will find plenty of examples of capitalists building such home for the homeless at \$200 to \$600 each. Capitalism at work.

In a free market entrepreneurs are scouring the landscape to find out what people want and at what price. They are engaged in a process of discovery, trying to find the mix of capital, labor & materials that will yield a profit at a price the customer can afford.

Do you want to be an independent driver for a firm like Uber? Sorry government made it illegal. Want to braid hair for extra cash? Sorry, government says you can't without first taking the \$2,000 hair dressing course that doesn't cover braiding. The obstacles are endless. The homeless camping on the Joe Rodota Trail needed help, but don't you dare provide them with a portable toilet - you have to get permission first. Don't you dare take them home

cooked food, that can only come from an approved commercial kitchen, and the homeless must figure out how to get from where they are to where the approved food is.

As to the causes of homelessness, there are many. Prominently, government blocks the provision of low cost housing. Government uses a variety of means (density restrictions, zoning restriction, building codes, urban boundaries and excessive fees to restrict the supply of housing. Government directly attacks landlords with rent controls, mandated contract clauses and whatever else they can dream up to make it appear government officials care.

Caring doesn't provide housing, capitalist do. A free market ensures that: (1) consumers of housing do not use more than they need; (2) The more wealthy capitalists built homes suitable for almost all who need one; and (3) The less wealthy capitalists will volunteer to provide for the small number of people who are currently unable to get a home (with more personalized and more effective help).

No need to wish a pox upon the Sonoma Valley Sun, but join the fun on their website and give them a short lecture.

What the have not nations have not, is freedom.

02/24 *The Press Democrat*

Ground was recently broken in the city of Sonoma for an "[A]ffordable apartment complex." Of course, that is government-speak for not affordable but subsidized housing.

At \$29 million for just 48 units, which that works out to over \$600,000 per unit, - hardly affordable for the taxpayers.

Windsor Democratic Club

The Windsor Times gives lots of space to this club, including their recent opinion piece "Getting to health care for all," by Shirley Johnson.

Typical nonsense for the column include this, "With little regulation ...," and this, "Access to health care is rationed by an individual's ability to pay." Perhaps she doesn't know how Emergency Rooms operate, or that self-treatment for a kidney stone can save \$4,000 compared to those who pay their emergency room bills.

Johnson is greatly concerned that sick Americans see their doctors less than in other countries. Perhaps we don't want to waste our time, perhaps we don't want to pay the high prices caused by government allowed restrictions on the number of doctors and hospitals.

Then, of course, there are the promises of future performance that so often fail, and horribly so. All that great medical care will only increase government spending by \$1 trillion and is easily paid for with some combination of a wealth tax, a 7.5% payroll tax (some exclusions) and additional taxes on incomes over \$29,000/year.

Promises, promises, empty promises. In good economic times our government can't even stop running deficits. Our politicians have presided over effectively bankrupt Social Security and Medicare systems, the Treasury Department along with the Federal Reserve have devastatingly devalued our currency through inflation, strangled health care, and are fighting forever-wars. But, trust them on Medicare for All. With perhaps \$200 trillion in unfunded liabilities, where will the money come from for the research and development of

new procedures, treatments, equipment, drugs, and a lot more doctors? Without the profit motive & competition, why would they care? Why would the bloated and unionized bureaucracy do anything but put themselves first.

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.

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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.LP-Sonoma.org
Libertarian Party of California
www.LPC.org
Libertarian Party (national)
info@lp.org*

*The stronger the government,
the weaker the society. The
weaker the government, the
stronger the society.*

Homelessness

The government should do less. Do less by interfering less (a whole lot less) in the private transactions that get people into houses. Do less public education, so people can get the schooling they need rather than the schooling politicians want. Do less to directly help the homeless so there is less incentive to be homeless and more room for private charities to provide services to the deserving

homeless. Do less so that the homeless can do more, thereby improving both their living conditions and their self-respect.

Your \$0.02

Frog in hot water

This example of human nature is that of a frog in a slowly heating pot of water. If the water had been very hot when the frog was tossed into the pot it would have instantly jumped out. Yet in the slowly heating pot the frog is content. By the time it senses danger the heat has dulled his thinking and weakened his controls over his muscles. The frog perished before he can react.

On many fronts we are the frog in hot water. We may not be at ease, but we know that it is not yet necessary to jump - escalating gun controls, anyone.

Now is the time to acquaint yourselves with Terrence Malik's film, "A Hidden Life," and read Jacob Hornberger's "The White Rose: A Lesson in Dissent."

Taking cars off the road

A central argument in support of SMART is that it takes cars off the road. There is a much better way to do that. Just let the people living in Sonoma County and working in Marin County simply move close to work. But, due to all manner of housing controls, all those commuters clogging the roadway between Petaluma and Novato can't find affordable housing in Marin County.

With a free market, everyone would choose their best options regarding where to work, where to live and how to get back and forth. Some would drive solo, some would carpool, some would take buses, some would walk, and some would

ride bicycles. Some would even take currently illegal private jitneys. Everyone would have the combination of live, work & commute they were willing to pay for.

*The limits of tyrants are
prescribed by the endurance
of those they oppress.*

- Frederick Douglas

Good websites?

Try: Libertarianism.org, Mises.org & Independent.org.

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

Thanks to a 20-year old paper folding machine, short work was made of conducting an initial mailing to former California Libertarian Party members in Sonoma County. Everything from stamps to time was donated.

Don't keep quiet about your efforts. Lead by example and let people know. Some will follow your lead.

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

*In 1835, while preparing
to defend Gonzales, Texas
from approaching Mexican
troops intending to disarm
them, the "Texians" created
a flag featuring the barrel
of their 18# cannon.
Beneath that were the
words, "COME AND
TAKE IT."*