



Golden Gate Libertarian

Libertarian Party of San Francisco October 2005

November 8 Ballot Recommendations

The LPSF considered and voted on recommendations for the local issues in the November 8 Consolidated Special Statewide Election at our regular meeting on October 8. We are recommending **NO** votes on Measures A, B, C, F, and H; we are recommending **YES** votes on Measures E and I, and we are recommending Manuel Valle for Treasurer. We are making no recommendation on measures D (0-2-9) and G (0-2-9) and the elections of Assessor-Recorder (4-0-7) and City Attorney (0-0-11).

Look in your official Voter Information Pamphlet from the City Elections Department for arguments by the Libertarian Party of San Francisco against Measures A, C, and F!

(The count of members voting to recommend YES, to recommend NO, and to make no recommendation, respectively, are given next to each measure and candidate below. For example, 3-4-5 would mean that 3 members voted to recommend YES, that 4 members voted to recommend NO, and that 5 members voted to make no recommendation.)

NO on A

The LPSF recommends a **NO** vote on Measure A, the \$246,300,000 bond intended for City College construction. See *Meet the New Bond, Same as the Old Bond* below for more. 0-11-0

NO on B

The LPSF recommends a **NO** vote on Measure B, the \$208,000,000 bond intended for street reconstruction. See *Bond Issues Are Not Free Money* below for more. 0-11-0

NO on C

The LPSF recommends a **NO** vote on Measure C, the revision of the Ethics Commission budget process. See *Who Watches the Watchdogs?* below for more. 0-11-0

YES on E

The LPSF recommends a **YES** vote on Measure E, moving the election date of the Assessor-Recorder and Public Defender from June to November. This is a straightforward measure to reduce the cost and complexity of elections, now that Ranked-Choice Voting has eliminated the need for run-off elections. 11-0-0



LPSF members deep in deliberation over ballot recommendations on October 8. Photo by Starchild.

NO on F

The LPSF recommends a **NO** vote on Measure F, requiring specific service levels be maintained by the Fire Department. See *Waste Is Not Safety* below for more. 0-11-0

NO on H

The LPSF recommends a **NO** vote on Measure H, banning possession of handguns by City residents. See *Reaffirming Firearms Rights* below for more. 0-11-0

YES on I

The LPSF recommends a **YES** vote on Measure I, declaring opposition to military recruiting in government schools as City policy. The “No Child Left Behind” Act makes giving personal information to the federal government a condition of obtaining an education from government **or** private schools. The LPSF, by its support of this measure, indicates its opposition to this policy, and strongly encourages the City to investigate non-taxpayer-funded scholarships to fulfill the second half of the measure. 8-2-0

Valle for Treasurer

Though we are not giving a formal endorsement as there are no Libertarians running, we do recommend Manuel Valle as a

candidate for Treasurer with an understanding of *taxpayer rights* and *tax reduction*. 7-0-4

Meet the New Bond, Same as the Old Bond (NO on A)

by Starchild, LPSF Outreach Director

There are three basic positions on taxes:

1. taxes are too high
2. taxes are about right
3. taxes are too low

If you agree with “1” or “2”, then you don’t need to read any further—**Proposition A will increase taxes, so you should vote NO.**

But maybe you just don’t think government is taking enough of your money. In that case, let’s have a look at the opposition. The argument for Proposition A gives a long list of nice things they promise to do with the \$246 million they want from you. But according to the actual text of the measure, *“The Board does not guarantee that the bonds will provide sufficient funds to allow completion of all listed projects.”*

In other words, *they are deliberately selling more than they are confident they can deliver.* **So why should we believe in their goodie list?**

They also promise the money won’t be used for salaries or other operating expenses. (They feel compelled to promise this because voters know bond revenues **have** often been spent on things which were never mentioned during the campaigns!)

However, money is fungible. So even if the \$246 million is spent as promised—not that there’s any guarantee of this **either**, since *an official diverting Proposition A funds into salaries, perks, bureaucracy, or whatever would face no criminal penalties*—there’s nothing preventing **existing** capital funds being shifted to such purposes if Proposition A passes. . .

“Meet the new bond, same as the old bond!”

Don’t get fooled again! Demand transparency and accountability from the educational establishment before trusting them with more money.

If the voters say no, they’ll likely come back with a more acceptable proposal in a year or two anyway. **Please vote NO on A!**

Bond Issues Are Not Free Money (NO on B)

by Phil Berg, LPSF Vice-Chair

San Franciscans are, in general, caring people. The great majority want the hazards to blind and handicapped people in San Francisco to be abated, and they should be, through the proper and efficient application of existing resources.

Bond issues are not free money. They have to be paid back through taxes. The taxes do not just fall on the healthy, the able bodied, and the employed. They fall on everyone, and fall hardest on the blind, handicapped, sick, and disabled.

The greatest insecurity for many is financial insecurity. I am legally blind and have been disabled for ten years. Taxes, I know first hand, add to the economic insecurity of disability. For example, the Lighthouse for the Blind has a store, and for some the tax is the difference between being able to afford essential equipment or going without.

Many able bodied voters believe that inflation will reduce the burden of these bonds in the long run. They may be correct;

however, inflation is very cruel to the disabled and the elderly. It destroys fixed income disability and retirement payments. It depreciates savings.

If for some reason inflation is slowed or halted, San Francisco’s bond burden may be a severe problem for the City. These cost burdens should be reduced, as they are borne in part by the poor and disabled. By rejecting this proposition the concerned voters send a clear and compassionate message to the politicians who are supposed to be serving us.

We want the handicapped physical barriers taken care of, but we no longer want to put any more financial burdens on the citizens of our city. In addition to taking an oath to defend the Constitution, perhaps each politician should be required to take a Hippocratic Oath, “First, do no harm.”

Who Watches the Watchdogs? (NO on C)

by Jawj Greenwald, LPSF Secretary

Who watches the watchdogs? Will we soon need an Ethics Commission for the Ethics Commission?

Stripped of its window dressing, Proposition C is a measure to allow the Ethics Commission to set its own salaries.

This is the true genius of government at work. To take laws aimed at producing open, honest government and turn them into an ethics racket providing well-paid jobs for the boys.

Do you really think our government has become better and less corrupt in the years since the creation of the Ethics Commission? Or that a specialized bureaucracy is needed to police laws that would otherwise be enforced by the existing administrative and judicial system, with the help of a vigilant press and public?

FIGHT CORRUPTION. VOTE NO ON C.

Waste Is Not Safety (NO on F)

by Starchild, LPSF Outreach Director

“Some fire stations only respond to a couple calls a day, mostly simple medical calls, to which they usually send an engine with four firefighters—only one of whom has paramedic training. And these stations stay open even though one city study found a nearby station could answer those calls in the same four-minute response time.”—Bay Guardian, June 30, 2004

Controller Ed Harrington reported that six stations could be closed without significantly affecting response times.

Proposition F is about PAYCHECK safety—not PUBLIC safety.

The only beneficiaries of the wasteful status quo are well-paid fire department employees. Average annual pay for the lowest class of firefighters was \$81,382 in 2004.

“Change is something that is not in the cards for the fire department. If there’s going to be change, it needs to be forced on them.”—Retired firefighter Jim Corrigan (18-year SFFD veteran)

“We have made the conscious decision as a society to significantly increase the cost of construction to promote safety (including fire safety). At some point we should be able to reap the dividend of that investment by spending less on putting out fires.”—Gabriel Metcalf, San Francisco Planning and Urban Research Association

If Proposition F passes and San Francisco is prohibited from following numerous study recommendations by making responsible, money-saving changes to its fire department to bring

it more in line with other municipalities, **LESS MONEY will be available for priorities like:**

- education
- health care
- arts funding
- tree-planting
- senior programs
- youth programs
- street maintenance
- libraries
- parks
- taxpayer relief
- pedestrian safety
- bicycle lanes
- public transit

San Francisco needs every one of its firehouses about as much as the U.S. needs every one of its military bases. **Please vote NO on F!**

Reaffirming Firearms Rights (NO on H)

The following resolution against Measure H was adopted by the LPSF at our August meeting, and is reprinted here from our August newsletter.

WHEREAS the right to defend oneself is a natural human right; and

WHEREAS handguns are one of the most effective tools for this purpose; and

WHEREAS the City and County of San Francisco has placed on the November 2005 ballot a “gun ban” measure that would prohibit handgun possession by residents, and would require surrender of all handguns possessed by residents within it’s corporate boundary, and would ban the sale or transfer of ALL firearms and ammunition, with only minor exceptions such as for non-residents, certain law enforcement officials, and other government employees; and

WHEREAS under this measure the former owners of handguns so confiscated would not be granted any compensation, and

WHEREAS the measure would effectively put out of business an ongoing firearms retailer within the city limits, thus destroying the owner’s equity in the business as well as the owner’s and employees’ livelihoods, also without compensation;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED THAT the Libertarian Party of San Francisco reaffirms the right of San Francisco residents to possess handguns, whether for self-defense or sport or any other moral purpose, such as they see fit;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Libertarian Party of San Francisco reaffirms the right of individuals and the businesses they create to participate in a free and open market in firearms and ammunition; and the right to own and operate or to be employed in firearms related businesses, without them being arbitrarily and capriciously shut down;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Libertarian Party of San Francisco considers confiscation of legally obtained private property, namely handguns, to be an improper function of government, whose role should instead be to protect private property; and that this impropriety is compounded by not granting just compensation to the former handgun owners; and finally

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED THAT the Libertarian Party of San Francisco wishes it to be known far and wide that, for these and other reasons, it opposes the ballot measure “Prohibiting firearms distribution and limiting handgun possession”

that is slated to appear on the ballot in San Francisco in November, 2005.

LPSF Wish List

As a small, local organization we rely on donations and the efforts of volunteers to support our activities. Some specific items on our wish list include office space, graphic design services, and printing/copying services; if you can provide any of these, please contact newsletter@lpsf.org! Also please contact outreach@lpsf.org if you or someone you know would be interested in an internship attending meetings of the Board of Supervisors to take notes on behalf of the LPSF.

Members, please make sure we have your e-mail address for urgent announcements between newsletters. Please contact chair@lpsf.org if you haven’t given us your e-mail address before.

Calendar

Regular LPSF meetings are held the second Saturday of every month, from 3:00 P.M. to 6:00 P.M. at the Round Table Pizza on Geary Blvd. at 16th Ave. The third hour, from 5:00 P.M. to 6:00 P.M., is a free pizza social.

Also be sure to catch our TV show, “The Libertarian Revolution,” on Comcast cable channel 29 on the first and third Sundays at 12:30 P.M.

- Last day to register to vote for the November 8 election ...
..... October 24
- Americans for Safe Access rally to demand HHS reclassify marijuana. Noon at the HHS office, 50 United Nations Plaza. Speakers to include Starchild, LPSF Outreach Director. See www.safeaccessnow.org October 26
- Consolidated Special Statewide Election November 8
- Regular LPSF meeting** **November 12**
- Regular LPSF meeting** **December 10**
- Regular LPSF meeting.** The LPSF will be electing its officers for 2006 **January 14**
- Statewide Libertarian Party convention. The California LP convention this year is taking place on a cruise ship! Please contact the LPSF if you would like to attend, even if you are unsure about the cost. See www.ca.lp.org/convention
..... February 24

Libertarian Party of San Francisco		
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Contact newsletter@lpsf.org for information about advertising in this newsletter. Special rates for members!

Libertarian Party of San Francisco Membership/Donation/Volunteer Form

___ I wish to become a member of the Libertarian Party of California. I understand that I will be joining the local and state levels of the LP, for one of the annual membership rates or the lifetime rate indicated below, and I will receive the *Golden Gate Libertarian* (local newsletter) and *California Freedom* (state newspaper). I choose the following membership category:

New Member (\$25) Renewal (\$50) Sustaining (\$100) Sponsor (\$250) Patron (\$500) Life Member (\$2,000)

(Note: Joining the LP does not automatically make your voter registration Libertarian. Contact the San Francisco Elections Department at (415) 554-4411 to request a voter registration form, or register online at www.ss.ca.gov/elections.)

The Libertarian Party is the party of principle. To publicly affirm what we believe—and to ensure that our party never strays from its principles—we ask our members to proudly sign this statement:

I do not believe in or advocate the initiation of force as a means of achieving political or social goals.

Signature (required for voting membership): _____

___ I wish to make a separate donation of \$_____ to the Libertarian Party of San Francisco. (Membership dues are split between the state and local organizations.) Non-members who donate at least \$15 will receive the *Golden Gate Libertarian* for a year.

___ I wish to volunteer to help with _____

(We're looking for artists, candidates, organizers, programmers, researchers, speakers, writers, and more, but what you do is up to you!)

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone(s): _____ E-mail: _____

Total enclosed: \$_____ Thanks for your help in making our world a better place to live in!

Please make your check payable to the Libertarian Party and mail it with this form to:

2215-R Market Street, PMB 170, San Francisco, CA 94114

Government-Mandated Notices: The Federal Election Commission requires political committees to report the name, address, occupation, and employer for each individual whose contributions aggregate more than \$200 in a calendar year. The IRS requires us to print “contributions are not tax-deductible” on all fundraising appeals.

The Libertarian Party of San Francisco
2215-R Market Street, PMB 170
San Francisco, CA 94114

Visit our Website:

www.lpsf.org



YES on E & I

NO on A, B, C, F, & H