



# LPSM/LPC on the propositions

*Subset of November propositions discussed and recommendations given*

by Christopher Schmidt

**B**reaking with local tradition (and following the example of the LP of San Diego instead) we locally discussed only those propositions for which a member asked the local party to take a position different from that of the LPC state executive committee.

## Proposition 38

In August, we recommended a “No” vote on Proposition 38, the state school funding formula reform and private school subsidy initiative (“*vouchers*”).

Seven (7) members weighed in against the initiative and two (2) in favor. Opponents were mostly opposed to specific provisions: increased state control of private schools accepting subsidies; the slippery formula mandating that school spending be related to spending in other states (instead of the Prop 98 relationship to state tax revenue); the increases in spending (and therefore taxes at some point); and the upward jump in private school prices that subsidies would engender (akin to the effect of Medicare subsidy on medical care prices). I.e. school prices would likely rise to match the money available (government subsidy *plus* parent-paid tuition), to equalize supply and demand.

The favorable comments on libertarian mailing lists could be summed up: “Vouchers are a good idea, regardless of the costs, and this is our only chance to vote for any kind of voucher this year.”

## Proposition 36

Jack Hickey has argued against Proposition 36, but the LPSM did not vote on the matter, for lack of time in August and notice in September.

Jack (and Dr. Michael Edelstein) warn that if Prop 36 were law, police might increase drug arrests, knowing that the cost of drug treatment is so much less than incarceration (and especially cheaper for the government!). Moreover, the thought that they might be *helping* arrestees could increase their zeal.

I would answer that DA’s effectively have that power today (to negotiate treatment in lieu of jail time), and may wield it arbitrarily. With Prop 36, the power to elect treatment over incarceration would rest with the citizen instead (subject to the same kinds of limitations as election of traffic school for moving violations).

**Prop 32:** I’d like to recommend an excellent 1998 report by the state Legislative Analyst’s Office, which recommends that the CalVet program be allowed to wind down naturally, rather than expanded. [http://www.lao.ca.gov/011698\\_cal-vet\\_parta.html](http://www.lao.ca.gov/011698_cal-vet_parta.html)

**Note:** Prop 38 backers deceptively claim that this measure could *save* taxpayers money, because a \$4,000 voucher is “obviously” less than total school district spending of \$8,000 per child. No such “savings” is possible, however, because the state (which would pay for *all* of the \$4,000 voucher) is responsible for only a *fraction* of the \$8,000 being compared—only \$1,218 per student in Sequoia High School District (Redwood City to Menlo Park), for example. Thus, each voucher could cost an *additional* \$2,782 to fund—*or more*—since some of that \$1,218 is “categorical” funding—not necessarily reduced if a school’s head count declined. Financial details of local schools can be found at: <http://www.ed-data.k12.ca.us/dev/District.asp>

**Measure B:** We opposed Prop 15 in March, and voters agreed: rejecting the state issue of crime lab bonds. Now this unnecessary bond measure has resurfaced in San Mateo County, where the bonds would be financed by raising local property taxes for 40 years. We need not finance construction with debt at a time when state and county coffers overflow with surplus taxes. County supervisors should do their job and budget a portion of existing revenue for improvements of this nature. To do otherwise is shameful.

## In summary:

- Prop. 32: NO (Cal-Vet Bonds)
- Prop. 33: NO (Legislature: Retirement)
- Prop. 34: NO (Campaign Contributions and Expenditures)
- Prop. 35: YES (Engineering and Architectural Services)
- Prop. 36: YES (Drug Treatment Diversion Program)
- Prop. 37: YES (Fees, Taxes, New Definitions)
- Prop. 38: NO (School Funding; Private School Subsidy)
- Prop. 39: NO (Reduction of 2/3 School Bond Vote to 55%) ☺

# September & October meeting notes

by Christopher Schmidt

## September’s meeting

September’s meeting was low-key, but sometimes it’s nice to relax a little!

## Jack’s BoE campaign

Jack Hickey has been campaigning actively for a seat on the San Mateo County Board of Education; attending panels and speaking events. The press and various civic groups have taken a real interest in the race.

Jack related that the *Independent Newspaper Group* has a new guest columnist—*Joshua Tulkin*, a college student and a libertarian.

## Democracy Net

Finally, Jack recommended <http://dnet.org/> (“Democracy Net”) as one of the deeper political websites for coverage of various races, candidate, and issues.

## Hillsdale Mall outreach

There was some informal discussion of the success of the outreach table at Hillsdale (see September issue for details). June Genis presented a rolling case to the LPSM for outreach materials.

## Crockett-Bunce Award

We also briefly touched on the *Crockett-Bunce Award*, which we haven’t presented in years, but for which we hold funds in the bank.

## Adjournment

We adjourned early—which was good for Jack, who had a speaking engagement scheduled immediately afterward!

*Continued on page 2*

## NEXT BUSINESS MEETING:

**Tuesdays, Nov. 14 & Dec. 12**  
Hobee’s Restaurant  
1111 Shoreway Road  
Belmont

(off Ralston on the bay side of 101)

**Dinner (optional):**  
6:00–7:30PM in the dining room alcove

**Business meeting:**  
7:30–8:45PM in the dining room alcove

**Libertarian Party**  
Region 41—San Mateo County  
<http://www.lpsm.org>

**Chair**

Jack Hickey – 650/368-5722  
jackhick@cwnet.com

**Vice Chair**

Linden Hsu – 650/594-1622  
linden\_hsu@yahoo.com

**Newsletter Chair / Editor**

Robert Giedt  
spaceman@best.com

**Secretary / Publisher**

Christopher Schmidt –  
650/369-6986  
CVASchmidt@ACM.org

PGP fingerprints:

3689 0136 B3A0 08E7 D460 7099 7E89 016B  
1769 110B F24F 3CF5 662B 3AB9 D7A2 C252 465F 2B87

**Treasurer**

Margret Schmidt – 650/369-6986  
schmidt@alum.calberkeley.org

**Fundraising Chair**

Steve Marsland – 650/738-5926  
SEMarsland@aol.com

**Publicity Chair**

Bob Green – 650/574-7682  
102527.3562@compuserve.com

**Database Chair**

Ann Turner  
APTturner@aol.com

**Judicial Committee**

Lacy Nelson, Steve Marsland,  
Christopher Schmidt

**Meeting notes (Sep/Oct)—**  
*(continued from page 1)*

**October's meeting**

October's meeting was well attended despite the hiatus in this newsletter. (Mea culpa—I've been busy.)

**New faces!**

We were joined by a couple of campaign volunteers and some other libertarians who came for the fellowship in these dark Autumn days.

**Volunteer work**

Three campaign volunteers (not all at dinner) were tasked with some phone work (urging voters to compare candidates using <http://dnet.org/> before voting) and some leafletting for Bob Green's school board campaign. It's

*We'd like to thank the following libertarians and friends of libertarianism for taking time out of their private lives to run for public office in our county: Barbara Less (12th Congressional District), Joe Dehn (14th Congressional District), Jack Hickey (11th State Senate District), Steven Lundry (19th State Assembly District), Robert Green, Jack Hickey, Howard Van Jepmond (County Board of Education, Areas 4, 6, & 7), Kelly McKnight (La Honda-Pescadero Unified School District), Kim Epperson (North Coast County Water District), and Rodd Bench, Elizabeth Harper, Melisse Lusin (Sequoia Health Care District). That's a local record!*



Bob Green, Joe Dehn, Howard Van Jepmond, Barbara Less, Jack Hickey

not too late to help! Call Jack or Bob if you're interested, or send an e-mail.

**Miscellaneous**

We discussed the status of various candidacies and this month's newsletter schedule, but most formal party business was put off for another meeting.

**Meeting date change**

We did vote to change our schedule—to meeting on the third Thursday of each month, starting with the Annual Meeting in January.

**Adjournment**

As the meeting wound down, those remaining signed thank-you notes to our candidates. They aren't professional politicians, and they all deserve our thanks for giving the voters an alternative to "the usual suspects." ☺



san mateo

**libertarian**

853 Middlefield Road #4  
Palo Alto, CA 94301-2919  
<http://www.lpsm.org>

**ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED**

**November 2000**

- ☺ LPSM recommendations on California propositions
- ☺ Meeting notes for September and October

**Membership Form**

*(includes membership in the national, state and local Libertarian Party)*



**The Libertarian Party**  
of San Mateo County

853 Middlefield Road #4, Palo Alto, CA 94301-2919

**Please print:**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

**The Libertarian Party** is the Party of Principle. To assure and affirm that our party never strays from its principles, we request our members to sign the pledge below. (Non-signers cannot vote on party business.)

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

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

**I choose to set my dues at:**

- \$10 Local newsletter only *(signature/pledge not required)* \_\_\_\_\_
- \$25 Basic \_\_\_\_\_
- \$100 Sustaining \_\_\_\_\_
- \$250 Sponsor \_\_\_\_\_
- \$500 Patron \_\_\_\_\_
- \$1,000 Life \_\_\_\_\_

**Plus an additional contribution to the San Mateo Region:**

- \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Monthly Pledge \_\_\_\_\_
- \$ \_\_\_\_\_ One-time Donation \_\_\_\_\_

TOTAL: \_\_\_\_\_

**Payment method:**

- Check (payable to the Libertarian Party)
- Visa       MasterCard

Credit Card #: \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Name on Card: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

NON-PROFIT ORG.  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
REDWOOD CITY, CA  
PERMIT No. 401

AUTO