



TOWN & COUNTRY DEMOCRAT

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Charlie Brown could have the last laugh

By Shailagh Murray—WASHINGTON POST

ROSEVILLE, CA -- in obscurity. But some-
times they get lucky. If a
Congress? At first it sounded like a joke. Brown was an unknown Democrat running in the California Republican heartland. The eight-term incumbent, John Doolittle (R), had crushed his 2004 opponent. Fewer than a third of district voters are registered Democrats.

When Brown jumped in a year ago, the Peanuts references were irresistible.

"Good Grief! Charlie Brown Takes on Doolittle," proclaimed one political blog.

There are two types of candidates: the obvious ones, who are recruited to run in key races and get lots of financial and organizational help, and the bootstrap cases, who do it all on their own. Usually these second-tier candidates run and lose

times they get lucky. If a wave breaks next month, Brown is one of many bootstrap Democrats who could be washed into Congress.

The latest polls show that Brown, a retired Air Force lieutenant colonel, has pulled within striking distance of Doolittle, whose well-documented ties to disgraced lobbyist Jack Abramoff may be an albatross. The Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee is increasingly optimistic about Brown's chances and has chipped in an undisclosed amount of cash for the final push. Brown has scooped up local newspaper endorsements and raised \$750,000, much of it in recent weeks.

The one person who isn't surprised by this turn of events is Brown,

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TOWN & COUNTRY DEMOCRATIC CLUB

OFFICERS

TIFFANY
CRAIG BROWN
President

ARNIE GODMINTZ
Vice President

JIM NAKATA
Treasurer

LAURE OLSON
Secretary

KEVIN MURPHY
Immediate Past President

T & C to elect new officers in November

The Town & Country Democratic Club Nominating Committee submitted its nominations of officers at the October membership meeting and one nomination was made from the floor.

The nominated candidates are: Krystal Maddox and Margie Metzler for President; Sally Schwettmann for Vice President; Laure Olson for Secretary and Jim Nakata for Treasurer.

Ballots for the election are enclosed with this newsletter and must be returned no later than 7:15 p.m. at the November 15 membership meeting or, if mailed, must be received by 5:00 p.m. on Friday, November 10.

As usual, we'll meet at the Deterding Park Clubhouse, located at 1415 Rushden Dr. (see map, page 11).

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DEMOCRAT

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**CONTRIBUTION
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The opinions expressed in editorials or other contributions are not necessarily those of the Town & Country membership.

We reserve the right to edit all submissions for clarity, space and liability.

Contributions are due by the 25th of the month preceding the next issue and should be sent to:

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Aren't 13 Propositions Too Many?

A few suggestions for fixing California's imperfect and off-misused ballot initiative system.

By PATT MORRISON; *LA Times*, 10/19/06

AGAIN? I have to vote *again*? Voting is starting to feel like housework - soiled laundry, messy dishes. You wash 'em, and five minutes later they're dirty all over again.

We just did this a year ago. And here we are again. Nov. 7 makes the third time in four years that we've voted for - or against - a governor. And we're voting too for U.S. Senate, Congress, state legislators and statewide officials. Those elections I'm fine with, because by the time they come around, I'm usually so ticked off at someone about something that I can't wait to tear somebody a new chad.

And then there are the propositions - 13 of them this time. (I hesitate to gripe because 80 years ago Angelenos had to vote on 96 measures.) They come with all that intimidating technical minutiae, like this nugget from the current voter guide: "... the tax imposed on passive investment income shall be increased from 1.5% to 1.66% of taxable net passive investment income."

It sounds important, and it is - so why am I yaying or naying it? I love using my ballot to give the state orders, but I am by no means up to speed on Section 23811 of the Revenue and Taxation Code.

It's like call-in questions on cable-TV news shows: One day it's "Do you think Britney Spears had her babies too close together?" and the next day it's "Do you think Iran has enough

fissile material for a nuclear bomb?" How the heck do we know? CNN is asking *that* of a public that doesn't even believe in evolution? (The Britney Spears answer, by the way, is a resounding "yes.")

During the only debate of the governor's race, Arnold Schwarzenegger was asked what he most regretted in his brief political life. He said it was last year's special election, when voters whacked his four ballot initiatives:

"The people sent a message loud and clear. And that message was, 'Don't come to us for every little thing. Go to the legislators. You guys work it out.'"



When Schwarzenegger came by the newspaper three days later I asked him to elaborate. Was the initiative process onerous? Frivolous? Abused? (Remember, Schwarzenegger only holds office because of the recall, part of the same 1911 reforms that created the initiative.)

"I would say that everything is, in one place or the other, abused. You know, everything," and off he went on a workers' comp detour. Then - about the initiative process - he said: "There maybe is a way of refining it and coming up with a better way ... where it has to go through some process, you know, so that you can't just - you know, you have the money and you go out there."

He was thinking out loud, and I

(Continued on page 11)

From the President

DEMOCRATS GO FORTH AND CONQUER!

“

Throughout history it has been the inaction of those who could have acted, the indifference of those who should have known better, the silence of the voice of justice when it mattered most, that has made it possible for evil to triumph.

- HAILE SELASSIE, Ethiopian political leader (1892 - 1975)

Even though it was two long years ago, I still vividly recall Election Day 2004.

It was about 5:00 p.m. Jan Brown and I had just finished with a *Veterans for Kerry* visibility event, and decided check in at the downtown Democratic Headquarters.

The results of the exit polls from around the country were lying on a table so we glanced through them.

We were excited to read that Kerry was not only ahead in the expected states, he was also leading in those projected to go Republican - Florida, Iowa, New Mexico, Nevada and Ohio. With a deep sense of satisfaction, we happily went to dinner down the street.

We arrived back at the headquarters a little after 8:00 p.m., only to find a dejected group of Democratic volunteers. We watched in horror as the TV displayed the projected electoral vote count indicating that Kerry has lost the election.

I can honestly say that was one of the worst moments of my life! I'm sure you can relate to those sentiments and, like me, never want to feel that way again. It would be so much better to spend election night celebrating like we did in November last year after all our hard work on the special election propositions.

I don't need to tell you what's at stake with this election and why the results of November 7 will be so important.

All of you have been out there - phone banking, canvassing, and participating in rallies and visibility events. Many have dug so deep to financially support candidates or issues they're practically bankrupt.

We're all tired and feeling beaten down, but

now's when the final spurt of energy needs to kick in.

Now's the time to spend every possible moment working to elect a Democratic Governor and to replace our current slimy and corrupt Republican Congressional representatives with honest and decent ones. We need to commit ourselves by doing everything that's physically possible to elect Democratic Assembly Members, State Senators and every office down the line.

We also need to sign up as poll workers and poll watchers to help insure the integrity of our votes.

Then, we can once again congregate at one or more of the area's election night parties - only, this time - we'll have our happy faces on!



Electronic Voting Machines Could Skew Elections

Researchers, candidates have little confidence in machines designed to make elections easier to call

by JAKE TAPPER, REBECCA ABRAHAMS AND EDUARDO SUNOL

Published Monday, October 23, 2006 by ABC News

WASHINGTON - Cheryl Kagan, a former Maryland Democratic legislator, was shocked when she opened her mail Wednesday morning.

Inside, she discovered three computer discs. With them was an anonymous letter saying the discs contained the secret source code for vote-counting that could be used to alter the votes cast through Maryland's new electronic voting machines.

"My understanding is that with these disks a malicious person could skew the outcome of an election," Kagan said.

Diebold, the company that makes the voting machines, told ABC News, "These discs do not alter the security of the Diebold touch-screen system in any way," because election workers can set their own passwords.

But ABC News has obtained an independent report commissioned by the state of Maryland and conducted by Science Applications International Corporation revealing that the original Diebold factory passwords are still being used on many voting machines.

The SAIC study also shows myriad other security flaws, including administrative over-ride passwords that cannot be changed by local officials but can be used by hackers or those who

have seen the discs.

The report further states that one of the high risks to the system comes if operating code discs are lost, stolen or seen by unauthorized parties -- precisely what seems to have occurred with the discs sent to Kagan, who worries that the incident indicates the secret source code is not that difficult to obtain.

"Certainly, just tweaking a few votes in a couple of states could radically change the outcome of our policies for the coming year," she said.

Worry that elections could be hacked

Computer experts and government officials have voiced serious concerns that if these machines malfunction, no paper record will exist for a recount. Even worse is the fear that an election could be hacked.

Princeton University researchers using an Accuvote TS - a touch screen version of the Diebold machine -- showed how easy it would be to deploy a virus that would, in seconds, flip the vote of any election.

"We're taking the vote-counting process and we're handing it over to these companies -- and we don't know what happens inside these machines," said Edward Felten, a professor

and a researcher at Princeton's Center for Information Technology Policy, which ran the study.

Diebold called the Princeton study "unrealistic and inaccurate."

But many computer scientists, including cyber-security expert Stephen Spoonamore, disagree, pointing out that the Accuvote TS was used in the 2004 presidential election and is still used in at least four states -- including all machines in Georgia and Maryland. Spoonamore said the hack attacked the operating system layer of software and would affect any touch screen machine built by Diebold.

Diebold argues that the software from the 2004 elections has been updated to fix any possible security problems. But Spoonamore is not convinced, saying Diebold's "system is utterly unsecured. The entire cyber-security community is begging them to come back to reality and secure our nation's voting."

There is also the matter of computer glitches. In primary elections and test runs this year, there were glitches with electronic voting machines from Diebold and other companies

- Machines malfunctioned in Texas, where 100,000 votes were added.

(Continued on page 10)

LINCOLN WEEPS

By BILL MOYERS, TomPaine.com, 10/3/06

BACK IN 1954, when I was a summer employee on Capitol Hill, I made my first visit to the Lincoln Memorial. I have returned many times since, most recently while I was in Washington filming for a documentary about how Tom DeLay, Jack Abramoff, Ralph Reed and Grover Norquist, among others, turned the conservative revolution into a racket — the biggest political scandal since Watergate.

If democracy can be said to have temples, the Lincoln Memorial is our most sacred. You stand there silently contemplating the words that gave voice to Abraham Lincoln's fierce determination to save the union — his resolve that "government of, by, and for the people shall not perish from the earth." On this latest visit, I was overcome by a sense of melancholy. Lincoln looks out now on a city where those words are daily mocked. This is no longer his city. And those people from all walks of life making their way up the steps to pay their respect to the martyred president — it's not their city, either. Or their government.

This is an occupied city, a company town, and government is a subservient subsidiary of richly endowed patrons.

RIP the People's House

Once upon a time the House of Representatives was known as "the people's house."

No more. It belongs to K Street now. That's the address of the lobbyists who swarm all over Capitol Hill. There are 65 lobbyists for every member of Congress.

They spend \$200 million per month wining, dining and seducing federal officials.

Per month!

Of course they're just doing their job. It's impossible to commit bribery, legal or otherwise, unless someone's on the take, and with campaign costs soaring, our politicians always have their hands out. One representative confessed that members of Congress are the only people in the world expected to take large amounts of money from strangers and then act as if it has no effect on their behavior. This explains why Democrats are having a hard time exploiting the culture of corruption embodied in the scandalous behavior of DeLay and Abramoff.

Democrats are themselves up to their necks in the sludge. Just the other day one of the most powerful Democrats in the House bragged to reporters about tapping "uncharted donor fields in the financial industry" — reminding them, not so subtly, of the possi

When it comes to selling influence, both parties have defined deviancy up, and Tony Soprano himself couldn't get away with some of the things that pass for business as usual in Washington. We have now learned that Jack Abramoff had almost 500 contacts with the Bush White House over the three years before his fall, and that Karl Rove and other presidential staff were treated to his favors and often intervened on his behalf. So brazen a pirate would have been forced to walk the plank long ago if Washington had not thrown its moral compass overboard.

Placebo Talk

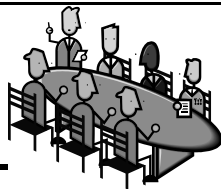
Alas, despite all these disclosures, nothing is happening to clean up the place.

Just as the Republicans in charge of the House kept secret those dirty emails sent to young pages by Rep. Mark Foley — a cover-up aimed at getting them past the election and holding his seat for the party — they are now trying to sweep the DeLay-Abramoff-Reed-and-Norquist scandals under the rug until after Nov. 7, hoping the public at large doesn't notice that the House is being run by Tom DeLay's team, minus DeLay. All the talk about reform is placebo.

The only way to counter the power of organized money is with organized and outraged people. Believe me, what members of Congress fear most is a grassroots movement that demands clean elections and an end to the buying and selling of influence — or else! If we leave it to the powers that be to clean up the mess that greed and chicanery have given us, we will wake up one day with a real Frankenstein of a system — a monster worse than the one created by Abramoff, DeLay and their cronies. By then it will be too late to save Lincoln's hope for "government of, by, and for the people."

Bill Moyers is a veteran television journalist for PBS and the president of the Schumann Center for Media and Democracy. "Capitol Crimes," the first episode of Bill Moyers' latest series of documentary specials, airs Wednesday on PBS.

COMMITTEE



CORNER

T & C membership roster continues to grow

BY NANCY TRONAAS
MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE CHAIR

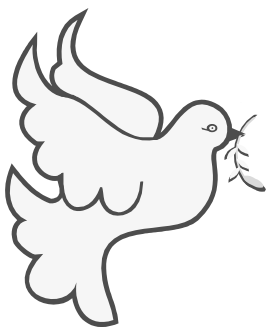
Town and Country's Membership Committee welcomes all ideas from our members to help increase our club membership. We currently have approximately 145 members, and we encourage everyone to bring potential new members to upcoming monthly meetings.

Our next membership event will be our holiday party on December 9, 2006 (more info provided below). If you would like to help out with this event, please contact Nancy Tronaas.

Also, as a reminder to all of our members--the 2007 membership dues are payable in January 2007--so we'd appreciate your prompt payment to help the club with our on-going administrative costs.

If you would like to help out on the Membership Committee, contact Perry Metzger, Andy Alderman, Laure Olson, or Nancy Tronaas. Sign-up sheets are also available at all membership meetings.

Democratic Holiday Party

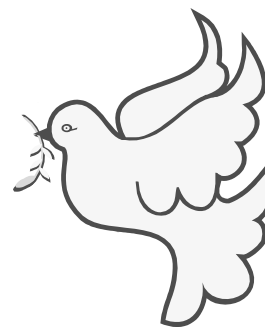


Machinist Union Hall

2749 Sunrise Boulevard
Rancho Cordova

Saturday, December 9

7:00-10:00 p.m.



Co-sponsored by:

Town & Country Democratic Club; Women Democrats of Sacramento County
Folsom Democratic Club; 5th Assembly District Democratic Committee
JFK Democratic Club; Northeast Sacramento Democratic Campaign Headquarters

Those interested in helping with setup and decorations should
contact Nancy Tronaas at 916-386-1170 or n.tronaas@att.net

OCTOBER, 2006 MEMBERSHIP MEETING MINUTES

The meeting was called to order to by Vice-President Arnie Godmintz at 7:08 p.m. President Tiffany Craig Brown was ill and unable to attend. This was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. Also present were officers Jim Nakata and Laure Olson. The minutes from the September meeting were MSMP. There was no agenda for tonight's meeting.

Officer and Committee Reports:

Treasurer Jim Nakata reported that there was \$7462.98 in the club's bank account.

Arnie Godmintz reported for the Central Committee. He reported that the Northeast headquarters financial committee had \$7000 so far. Questions discussed were: how to spend this money, for candidates, for federal races? The decision was made to add the funds to the central committee for state mailers, which excludes federal candidates. A Northeast edition was formed to support federal candidates, like Bill Durston and Charlie Brown. Endorsed were all major candidates for the Assembly, Senate and federal. Go to the website for the entire list.

The Communications and Membership committees offered no reports.

For the Northeast HQ and Voter Registration, Ralph Cyfers reported that he hoped to "get his life back soon". But meanwhile, 1,800 Democrats registered, 450 at the State Fair. \$7,000 came to the club and central committee. Monday, 10/23/06 is the last day to register. Over the weekend prior to that Monday, volunteers are needed to give 3-4 hours of help. Turn out is the main objective alongside motivation.

The Legislative Committee, reported by Joan Lee, is supporting the Sacramentans against the Arena Tax. There will be a meeting, at 11 a.m., followed by phone banking at 915 L St, Suite C. Joan also had the proposition position and review sheet. On 11/14/06 the Gray Panthers will hold "United Voices of Tomorrow" a free breakfast/lunch with discussion regarding the booming population consisting of boomers, immigrants and others. The younger population is going down. Who will be advocates? There will be a panel and discussion.

New Business and Announcements:

Beverly Thomas discussed endorsements put forward by the *Sacramento Bee* for Schwarzenegger and Lungren. The *SF Chronicle* endorsed Phil Angelides. You can go to their sites and email the story. Bonnie Greenberg suggested sending letters to the Jay Leno Show and proposals to the David Letterman Show to invite Phil Angelides to counter Arnold's appearance.

Margie Metzler offered applications for poll workers.

Election of Officers:

The floor was opened for nominations. The election will take place at the November meeting.

Don Harper, Chair of the Nominating Committee, reported the committee's nominees. They are Margie Metzler for President, Sally Schwettman for Vice President, Jim Nakata for Treasurer and Laure Olson for Secretary.

Nominees wishing to speak were invited to do so. Margie told us she was looking at next year's possibilities, that she was either energized or in need of therapy. She was ready to gear up for the big one in 2008 (not the earthquake). She plans to develop more communications within the organization and with other organizations. She hopes to reach out, focus on the big goals. Communication is her personal strength. And, she's not in it for the "glory".

Sally Schwettman introduced herself, saying her first involvement with Town & Country was the event was the Arena Tax Debate. She is excited about getting more involved. Sally recently finished law school at UC Davis. She has experience with an association at UC Davis in fundraising and related skills.

Jim Nakata was honest, as a treasurer should be, by stating, "No one else wanted the job". Laure quipped, "I am here for the "glory"".

The floor was opened to nominate the slate suggested by the nomination committee. Arnie encouraged members wishing to run for office to notify any of the officers or by official letter. The report was accepted MSMP. The ballot will be included in the November newsletter and will in-

(Continued on page 10)

CHARLIE BROWN (Continued from page 1)

who ignored all the naysayers and trusted his gut that Doolittle could be beaten. The latest news to break his way: Doolittle's campaign reported more than \$38,000 in legal fees in his third-quarter fundraising report that are related to a federal investigation into Abramoff's lobbying activities. A Doolittle spokeswoman said the congressman was attempting to be helpful and had not been contacted by prosecutors, but the disclosure put Doolittle on the defensive with weeks to go.

"It all comes down to someone who lives in the district, and knows it," Brown said of his success. He's not surprised the national party kept its distance all those months. "We've had to show them in Washington that it was worth getting involved. When I got started, there was nothing here to support."

The 4th District is made up of 48 percent Republicans and 30 percent Democrats, with the balance GOP-leaning independents. The geography also is daunting. The district contains 17,000 square miles, from the Sacramento suburbs to the Oregon and Nevada state lines.

But it's a more nuanced landscape than it seems, Brown says.

Bay Area residents are moving east in search of cheaper housing, and although they are not heavily Democratic, many are registering as independents. The Sacramento area was one of the few pockets in the state to vote for a 2005 measure to end partisan

redistricting. Doolittle called the initiative politically "stupid."

In June, Doolittle won the GOP primary with 67 percent of the vote, an indication that his base had diminished. The California 4th is home to 102,000 veterans. Brown was raised in a military household and has a son serving in Iraq. He coordinated Air Force surveillance flights over Iraq during the 1990s and opposed the Iraq war from the outset. As conditions in Iraq worsen, he has found local veterans increasingly responsive to his call for setting a timetable for withdrawal.

Running in a political no man's land requires building a campaign operation from scratch. Brown lined up precinct captains and courted local unions and other left-leaning organizations. He traveled to every populated cranny of the district, either alone or with his wife, Jan, a retired Air Force nurse.

Like most candidates, Brown has entered a sort of parallel universe, wired but road weary, a regular at a taqueria next door to headquarters. His campaign has grown bigger and more frenetic, part small business and part family.

One fixture is Joanne Neft, founder of Republicans for Charlie Brown, who canvasses in silver elephant earrings. Another is Don Harper, who runs Veterans for Brown.

Despite all the excitement, the party mantra remained unchanged: "Show me the polls." Brown commissioned a survey last month that showed Doolittle ahead, 41 percent to 39 percent, and 17 percent undecided.

Shortly afterward, Brown was endorsed by the Sacramento Bee under the headline "Time for Doolittle to go."

On Oct. 11, the candidates met for a combative two-hour debate. "Nothing like it has ever been seen in Placer County," the San Francisco Chronicle observed.

Doolittle called Brown a "flimflam man." He cited Brown's membership in the American Civil Liberties Union, which Doolittle accused of defending the North American Man/Boy Love Association, which he said "is helping pedophiles get away with their dastardly deeds."

Brown lambasted Doolittle for his relationship with Abramoff and a San Diego businessman implicated in the bribery case that sent former representative Randy "Duke" Cunningham (R-Calif.) to prison. Brown noted that his opponent had accepted a \$1,000 donation from Mark Foley (R-Fla.), who resigned from Congress last month in a scandal involving male teenage congressional pages. "Mr. Doolittle knows more about man's love than I do, with his support of Congressman Foley," Brown retorted.

They say timing is everything in politics, but part of that is knowing when an incumbent's time may be up. "There's a whole lot of people who are going to win this year, simply because they showed up," said Amy Walter, who tracks House races for the nonpartisan Cook Political Report. "People who are willing to take the biggest risks often get the biggest rewards."

Around Town

ELECTION NIGHT CELEBRATIONS



**DURSTON
FOR
CONGRESS**

Machinists Union Hall
2749 Sunrise Blvd
Rancho Cordova
Buffet Dinner
7:00 p.m.

After the polls close,
we're going to
have a grand
victory celebration!

**COOK
FOR
ASSEMBLY**

**Cook Campaign
Headquarters**
3137 Dwight Road
Suite 500
Elk Grove
6:00 p.m.

*We must fight right up
until the polls close!*

**Phil Angelides
for
Governor**
Sheraton Grand Hotel
1230 J Street
Sacramento

8:00 p.m.
Please RSVP to
election@angelides.com
For information, please
call 415-402-0920

**DARRELL STEINBERG
&
PROPOSITION 1C**

8:00PM— MIDNIGHT
The Grand
1215 J Street
Sacramento

Refreshments & hors d'oeuvres
For more information or to RSVP
please contact Alana Healy
916.225.6922 or
SteinbergforSenate@gmail.com

**NORTHEAST DEMOCRATIC
CAMPAIGN HEADQUARTERS**

**4142 Sunrise Blvd
Fair Oaks**
8:00 p.m.
TV ★ Food ★ Drinks
Come on down!

**CHARLIE BROWN
FOR
CONGRESS**

**Roseville
Opera House**
108 Main Street
Roseville
8:00 p.m.



Join the celebration!

**HASWELL
FOR
ASSEMBLY**

Old State Theatre
985 Lincoln Way
Auburn
7:00 p.m.

*Live Election Results
Food and Beverages*
For more information,
contact Hilary at
(530) 613-1615

TOWN & COUNTRY DEMOCRATIC CLUB



MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Name: _____

Street: _____

City: _____ Zip Code: _____

Home Phone: _____

Work/Cell Phone: _____

Email: _____

Committee Interest (check all that apply):

- Communications Fundraising/Events
- Legislative Membership

Other skills/interests _____

Annual Dues

- \$25 Individual
- \$30 Family
- \$20 Senior Individual
- \$25 Senior Family

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Mail checks to:

Town & Country Democratic Club
P.O. Box 1286
Citrus Heights, CA 95611
www.tcdems.org

MINUTES (Continued from page 7)

clude a line for write-in candidates. Ballots will be counted at the November 15 meeting. The new officers will be sworn in during the December holiday party. The new terms begin on January 1.

Campaign Contributions:

The question of additional monetary contributions was brought up by Krystal Maddox. It was decided that additional monies would be awarded to Brandon Bell \$250; Robert Haswell would receive \$500, Jim Cook \$500 and Eddie Kirby \$250.

Other Discussions and Announcements:

Additional discussion was opened on the Ohio voting issue. A rumor has been

reported that Republican insiders were overheard to be speaking about fixing the vote and "not to worry. It's taken care of". We want to make sure that the vote is legitimate. One suggestion was to write or email Nancy Pelosi, Howard Dean, regarding our very real concerns about this major issue.

Andy informed us of the Determined Toastmaster; A Political Forum in the Community to be held 10/24 at 6 p.m. at the Church of Christ.

Also, there will be a debate between Bill Durston and Dan Lungren on 10/23. A CD of the Brown-Doolittle debate is available.

The meeting adjourned at 8:20 pm. MSMP.

Respectfully submitted,
Laure Olson
Secretary

ELECTRONIC VOTING

(Continued from page 4)

- In California, directions for voters with vision problems came out in Vietnamese.
- And in Maryland, screens froze and memory cards went missing. Gov. Robert Ehrlich, a

Republican running for re-election, advised residents to vote by absentee ballot because he had no confidence in the machines.

"I don't care if we paid half a billion dollars or \$1 billion," Ehrlich said. "If it's going to put the election at

risk, there's no price tag for a phony election or a fraudulent election."

Many are concerned about how the confusing technical issues will be handled by poll workers, who tend to be senior citizens and who are not necessarily tech-savvy.

Electronic voting machines were supposed to be the solution to the paper ballot problems from the 2000 presidential election. But to many critics, America's voting system has gone out of the frying pan and into the fire.

PROPOSITIONS? (Continued from page 2)

think he may be right. A measure shouldn't get on the ballot just because someone has the money to put it there, and it shouldn't win or lose just because one side can spend the other into submission. Both happen all the time. Initiatives are born to do what the Legislature can't or won't do, or to undo what the Legislature has done.

Initiatives have given California some mixed legacies, such as Proposition 13; some wonderful legacies, such as the 1972 vote to protect the coast; and some shameful legacies, such as the unconstitutional landslide in 1964 to overturn the state's new anti-discrimination fair housing act. *Vox populi* can't exactly lay claim to inerrancy.

Californians have labored to fix the process from the get-go. In 1915, do-gooders tried to "authorize the Legislature to protect the initiative from fraud and misrepresentation." Isn't that touching?

I say keep trying. We've got less than two years to the next statewide election, so let's start now, establishing:

- A panel of retired judges to tell voters upfront whether a ballot initiative could be constitutionally queasy, like Proposition 187 – which aimed to cut off all benefits for illegal immigrants. Initiatives aren't always instant magic; and if the dicey ones pass, California ends up in court, paying to defend them.
- A cap on the number of propositions per election. How does 10 sound? Voters can get so fed up with quantity that quality doesn't matter. The fewer, the more attentive we'll be.
- A decent interval before putting a similar measure back on the ballot. This year's ballot asks whether a minor's parent must be notified before she can get an abortion. We just voted that one down last year. It's like a kid whose mother tells him "no cookies," and he asks every five minutes whether she's changed her mind. Give it a rest. Two elections, at least, between "do-overs."

It's some law of political physics that every initiative tends to create at least one problem for everything it tries to solve. This is my contribution to that great California tradition

ECONOMIC REPORT

Job Creation Weak, Real Income Down \$3000

By Doug Cunningham –
Workers Independent News, 10/24/06

As working families consider whether the economy has been good or bad to them, two weeks before the elections they're not feeling as rosy about the economy as Wall Street or Bush administration.

According to the Economic Policy Institute, working family real income has dropped by \$3,000 since 2000. And while jobs are paying less in inflation-adjusted wages job creation for September was the weakest since Hurricane Katrina. As EPI puts it, the pie being baked by U.S. workers grows bigger each year while the slices they get grow smaller.

TOWN & COUNTRY

DEMOCRATIC CLUB

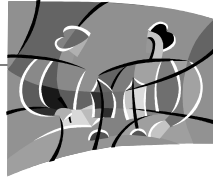
JOIN US!

We meet the second Wednesday of each month
7:00 p.m.
Deterding Park Clubhouse



Deterding Park Clubhouse
1415 Rushden Drive
(Corner of Rushden & Somerset)
Sacramento, CA 95864
Parking along the street

MONTHLY



MEETINGS

SACRAMENTO STATE COLLEGE DEMOCRATS

Thursdays—4:30 p.m.

weekly during Spring & Fall semesters

University Union;

6000 J Street, Sacramento

Contact: Kelli Farr, President

sacstatedemocrats@yahoo.com

GRAY PANTHERS OF SACRAMENTO

Tue, November 14— 1:00 p.m.

Hart Senior Center

27th & J Streets, Sacramento

Contact: Joan Lee

916-332-5980

joanlee78@lanset.com

www.graypanthersacramento.org

SACRAMENTO COUNTY DEMOCRATIC CENTRAL COMMITTEE

Tue, November 14— 6:00 p.m.

State Capitol, Room 127

Contact: Rick Wathen, Chair

916-442-0264

TOWN & COUNTRY DEMOCRATIC CLUB

Officer Elections

Wed, November 15— 7:00 p.m.

Deterding Park Clubhouse

1415 Rushdon Dr., Sacramento

Corner of Rushden/Somerset

Contact: Tiffany Craig Brown

tcbwriter@sac.sticare.com

916-419-4064

www.tcdems.org

STONEWALL DEMOCRATIC CLUB

Mon, November 13— 6:30 p.m.

Lambda Players Theatre

2427 17th St., Sacramento

Contact: Dr. Darrick Lawson

President

info@sacstonewall.org

916-441-1787

WOMEN DEMOCRATS OF SACRAMENTO COUNTY

Mon, November 20— 6:00 p.m.

Sacramento Teachers Association

5300 Elvas Ave., Sacramento

Contact: Linda Tuttle

President

www.wdsc.net

5TH ASSEMBLY DISTRICT COMMITTEE

Mon, November 20— 7:00 p.m.

Contact: Ann Wangberg

916-966-3590

TOWN & COUNTRY STEERING COMMITTEE

Wed, November 22— 7:00 p.m.

Home of Arnie Godmintz

5313 Fernwood Way., Sacramento

- All Members Welcome -

Contact: Tiffany Craig Brown

tcbwriter@sac.sticare.com

916-419-4064

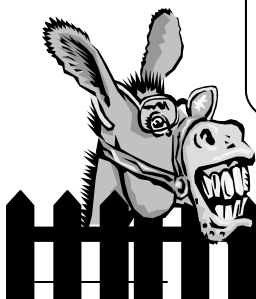
www.tcdems.org



TOWN & COUNTRY DEMOCRATIC CLUB

P.O. Box 1286

CITRUS HEIGHTS, CA 95611-1286



**TOWN & COUNTRY
2007 OFFICER ELECTIONS**

Wednesday, November 15

**OFFICIAL BALLOT
ENCLOSED!**