



san mateo county

# libertarian

the newsletter for the Libertarian Party of San Mateo County

fall 2013

## Doug Radtke for Millbrae City Council

*by Doug Radtke*

My name is Doug Radtke and I'm a registered Libertarian running for Millbrae City Council. I've seen out of control spending and over \$73 million dollars in long-term debt accrue on Millbrae's books. This does not include liability amounts attributed to unfunded pension and benefit liabilities are included on the city's balance sheet with the advent of GASB 67 & 68.

The only rhetoric I've heard as a solution is finding ways to increase revenues - the code word for tax!

The city has outsourced their police department to the San Mateo County Sheriffs and already share fire department costs with San Bruno.

The prognosis for the city is very grim. The fiscal year 2013-2014 budget expects a \$4 million dollar spending deficit by year end. The city has a clear spending problem, and no one is willing to address the difficult issues.

I want to run for city council. I think Libertarianism starts at the very grassroots levels here in local elections.

My principles and the way I conduct my votes has always been in Libertarian interests. I voted for Gary Johnson in the last election because he has been one of the greatest governors to preside over any state in the union. If we had a Gary Johnson for even one term in Sacramento, the budget problems would not only be fixed - but there would be a surplus!

**Learn more about Doug Radtke, and contribute to his campaign, at [dougradtke.com](http://dougradtke.com)**

<b>contents</b>	
<b>Doug Radtke for Millbrae City Council</b> .....	1
<b>how important is privacy?</b> .....	2
<b>central committee meeting</b> .....	4

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## how important is privacy?

*by Gary Tutin*

How important is privacy?

There is no “right to privacy” in the Constitution, just as there is no “separation of church and state,” which doesn’t mean it was omitted. The Fourth Amendment is most frequently mentioned in this regard because it protects us from “unreasonable searches and seizures,” except with a warrant given “upon probable cause” and, even then, “particularly describing the place to be searched, and the persons or things to be seized.” That would seem to preclude a warrant for everyone, everywhere, anytime, as the National Security Agency (NSA) prefers.

Over the years, some Supreme Court justices have argued that since there is no right to privacy directly enumerated in the Constitution, such a right does not exist, contradicting the Ninth Amendment, which states succinctly, “The enumeration in the Constitution, of certain rights, shall not be construed to deny or disparage others retained by the people.”

Of course, the Tenth Amendment also reserves non-enumerated rights for the States or the people specifically, not to the federal government.

Recent Supreme Court decisions have recognized “privacy” by name. Prior to that, they identified a right to be left alone. In 1928, the right to privacy was asserted in a dissenting opinion in *Olmstead v US* when Justice Brandeis argued that the Constitution included a framework for the most valued right of all: “the right to be left alone.”

Most libertarians oppose NSA-style government snooping on Americans. A few claim that we must choose between privacy and safety, a false choice.

There is no reason to assume that vast data-gathering within the United States makes anyone safer. The excuse used to justify pervasive spying is the devastating attacks on 11 September

2001, where various government officials had received clear warnings of impending disaster. They could have uncovered the plot had they been able to consult with other departments, so the problem was not lack of information, just the ability to use it.

Bin Laden stated publicly that al-Qaida planned to attack targets within the US and, of course, the World Trade Center had been bombed in February 1993. Unfortunately, as history shows, government is reactive, not proactive.

Is this a clear enough threat?

*“We declared jihad against the US government, because the US government is unjust, criminal and tyrannical. It has committed acts that are extremely unjust, hideous and criminal whether directly or through its support of the Israeli occupation of the Prophet's Night Travel Land [Palestine].”*

— Osama Bin Laden, 3/1997

Mishandling of information is more likely as its quantity increases. So again, there is no indication that reading our emails will make us safer. Far from it.

According to Reason magazine, terrorism poses little danger:

“...a rough calculation suggests that in the last five years, your chances of being killed by a terrorist are about one in 20 million. This compares annual risk of dying in a car accident of 1 in 19,000; drowning in a bathtub at 1 in 800,000; dying in a building fire at 1 in 99,000; or being struck by lightning at 1 in 5,500,000. In other words, in the last five years you were four times more likely to be struck by lightning than killed by a terrorist.”

[ref: [reason.com/archives/2011/09/06/how-scared-of-terrorism-should](http://reason.com/archives/2011/09/06/how-scared-of-terrorism-should)]

Considering the unlikelihood of your being harmed in a terrorist attack, the greater danger is being spied upon by the government, which poses a more immediate threat to average citizens, even above-average citizens. Those in power often misuse private information to their advantage. The government does not need more power, they need less.

**Visit Gary at his long running blog,  
<http://gtslade.blog.com>**

*how important is privacy?,  
continued from page 2*

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**central committee meeting \* Wednesday, September 11<sup>th</sup>  
7 PM – 9 PM**

**iHOP Restaurant, 510 EL Camino Real, Belmont**

agenda: to discuss Doug Radtke for Millbrae City Council, and to fill vacancies  
(membership, campaigns, activities, publicity and fundraising chairs)

**contact us**

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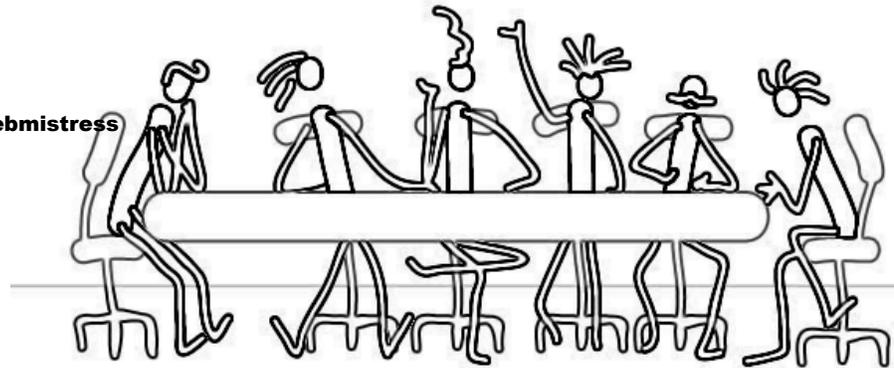
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