

The Claremont Institute

For the Study of Statesmanship and Political Philosophy

[Home](#) [Projects](#) [Writings](#) [Events](#) [Become a Member](#) [About Us](#) [Help](#)

About Local Liberty

Local Liberty is the blog of the **Center for Local Government** at the Claremont Institute.

The Claremont Institute's **Center for Local Government** aims to restore republican government at the local level. This means articulating and applying the fundamental principles of the American Founding: the rule of law, property rights, and morality. Americans should become once again, as James Madison urged, "free and gallant citizens;" "the mutual guardians of their mutual happiness."

Recent Posts

[The Man Behind Prop 73: Parental Notification](#)
[Direct Democracy and Inland Empire Property Rights](#)
[Embryo Stem Cells Without Destroying Life](#)
[Miers Weekend Roundup UPDATE](#)
[How Can We Have Smarter Children?](#)

Categories

[Budget](#)
[Bureaucracy](#)
[California in the Union](#)
[Cities](#)
[Conservatism at the Local Level](#)
[Counties](#)
[Courts](#)
[Crime](#)
[Direct Democracy](#)
[Environmentalism](#)
[Ethnicity](#)
[Events](#)
[Governor](#)
[Higher Education](#)
[Immigration](#)
[Linkage](#)
[Local Governance](#)
[Local Litigation](#)
[Media](#)
[Moral Fiber](#)

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The Blog of the Center for Local Government

[« Embryo Stem Cells Without Destroying Life](#)

[The Man Behind Prop 73: Parental Notification »](#)

Direct Democracy and Inland Empire Property Rights

As the widespread denunciation of the Supreme Court's anti-property rights decision (*Kelo v New London*) shows, property rights remains the core of American thinking about rights. This emphasis on property rights was certainly true of the political philosopher John Locke, whose words reverberate throughout the **Declaration of Independence**. How do we best preserve these rights today? The courts are not always their friend, as we see. Legislatures and city councils are typically the enemy. Planning departments have their schemes.

It is direct democracy which is often the only recourse today. Feared by conservatives as prone to abuse by populist wealth redistribution advocates, in fact it has acted as a check on government spending. See Steven Frates' **review** of an important book on this issue, in our *Local Liberty* newsletter.

Indignant citizens in San Bernardino have launched recall movement opposing a newly elected county supervisor (Powers and Rosenblatt, *LAT*). He was too eager to use eminent domain in redeveloping rural areas. The detailed story on Inland Empire development offers many lessons for those who would protect property rights. Unfortunately, the jump headline is "Inland Activists Fighting Growth." No—they're protecting their property. There are ways to grow without seizing others' property. Don't let a bureaucrat tell you otherwise.

See our **redevelopment** file.

[Redevelopment](#) | [Ken Masugi](#) | October 17, 2005 | 09:32 AM

TrackBacks

Comments

- National Security
- New Urbanism
- Progressivism
- Property Rights
- Public Unions/Pensions
- Reapportionment
- Redevelopment
- Regulation
- Religious Freedom
- Rights
- Rule of Law
- Sacramento Shenanigans
- Schools
- State Legislature
- Stem-Cells/Proposition 71
- Taxation
- Transportation

Name:

Email Address:

URL:

Comments:

Monthly Archives

October 2005

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

Remember you?

Post

Forget You

- October 2005
- September 2005
- August 2005
- July 2005
- June 2005
- May 2005
- April 2005
- March 2005
- February 2005
- January 2005
- December 2004
- November 2004

Author Index

- Brian P. Janiskee
- Conor Friedersdorf
- Joey Tartakovsky
- John Eastman
- Ken Masugi
- Lindsay White
- Matthew J. Peterson
- R. J. Pestritto
- Richard Reeb
- Thomas Krannawitter
- Timothy Wheeler
- Tom Karako

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CALIFORNIA:

California Club for Growth

The California Republic Online

Contributors to the CRO Blog:

Carol Platt Liebau

Patterico's Pontifications

Issues:

Education Wonks

California Energy Blog

The Immigration Blog

Pensionomics

California Stem Cell Report

Journalists:

SacUnion Blog

OC Register Blog

California Insider

Politicians:

State Senator Tom

McClintock's Blog

Assemblyman Chuck

DeVore's Blog

Orange County:

OC Blog

OTHER STATES

North Carolina:

The Locker Room

South Carolina:

**South Carolinan's for
Responsible Government**

Ohio:

Buckeye Institute Blog

Texas

blogHouston

Washington State:

Sound Politics

NATIONAL:

M
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No Left Turns (Ashbrook Center)

Issues:

Environment:

The Commons
Property Rights:
Eminent Domain Watch

Thinktanks: **Hit & Run (Reason Online)**
The Insider (Heritage Foundation)

Publications: **The Corner (National Review)**
Armavirumque (New Criterion)
C-Log (Townhall.com)

Individuals: Michelle Malkin
Power Line
Pat Sajak
Hugh Hewitt

News/Commentary

GENERAL CALIFORNIA:

Around the Capitol

Rough & Tumble

CalNews.com

Individual Newspapers:

Press Enterprise Editorials
L.A. Daily News Opinion
OC Register Commentary

Individual Columnists:

OC Register Steven Greenhut
Sac Bee Daniel Weintraub
Sac Bee Dan Walters
Jill Stewart

Periodicals:

CPR Online

City Journal

Radio:

Frank Pastore
John and Ken Show

Organizations/Resources

C
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National:

**SPN's State Fiscal Policy
Exchange**

**American Legislative Exchange
Council (ALEC)**

California:

**The California Local
Government Finance Almanac**

**California Institute for Federal
Policy Research**

**The Rose Institute of State
and Local Government**

**The Center for Government
Analysis**

**California Taxpayer's
Association**

**Public Policy Institute of
California**

Pacific Legal Foundation

Pacific Research Institute

**Center for the Study of
Popular Culture**

Reason Foundation

Television:

The California Channel

Orange County:

**Orange County Taxpayer's
Association**

**Apartment Association of
Orange County**

Environment:

**Property & Environment
Research Center**

**Republicans for Environmental
Protection**

Ethnicity:

Center for Individual Rights

Immigration:

**Center for Immigration
Studies**

Property

**Rights/Redevelopment:
Coalition for Redevelopment
Reform**

Defenders of Property Rights

Castle Coalition

Institute for Justice

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