



A Publication by the Libertarian Party of Santa Clara County

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## Looking Forward to 2022

### *A message from Joe Dehn, County Chair:*

With the 2020 election season (mostly) behind us, it's time to look toward the future. And yes, next year is 2021. For the LP, as for society as a whole, it's going to be an interesting year, an important year, as we all figure out how to rebuild our lives and institutions once COVID-19 is (hopefully) under control.

But in terms of elections, our focus should be on **2022**. Not only is that when the next elections for Congress and the state legislature will be taking place, not only is that the next election for Governor and the other statewide offices, but here in Santa

Clara County all of the elections for city, special district, and other local offices are now scheduled for even-numbered years.

But running for office - any office - requires a lot of preparation. For different kinds of offices, *different kinds of* preparation are involved, but for all of them the sooner a candidate gets started the better. So as we rebuild in 2021, that needs to be our focus: *Who is going to be getting ready to run in 2022, and how can we help them get ready?*



To facilitate this process, I have set up two county-level "working groups": the Partisan Campaigns Working Group, and the Local Campaigns Working Group. Each group is starting discussions now, with suggestions from past candidates and others who have worked on campaigns.

**If you are considering running for office in 2022**, please let us know so we can include you in one or the other of these groups. Similarly, if you have skills to offer that could help a candidate, let us know that. Either way, please write to us at: [campaigns@scclp.org](mailto:campaigns@scclp.org)

There were four candidates from Santa Clara County on the ballot as Libertarians this year (two for Congress, two for the state legislature). Many activists consider running for local office more important, but we only had two LP members running for such offices this year (one for school board, one for water board).

These numbers are actually better than for most counties in California, but I think we can do a lot better than this. **I'd like to see both of those numbers higher in 2022.** And the best way to make that happen is to start working on it now!

**Joe Dehn**  
County Chair  
[chair@scclp.org](mailto:chair@scclp.org)

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## Annual Meeting Set for 23 January

The annual meeting of the Libertarian Party of Santa Clara County has been scheduled for [Saturday, 23 January](#). As with other recent central committee meetings, this meeting will be held online, via Zoom.

This is the meeting at which we elect officers for the coming year. In our organizational structure the term "officer" includes not only the four positions common to most organizations (Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary, and Treasurer) but also the chairs of six standing committees: Activities, Campaigns, Fundraising, Membership, Newsletter, and Publicity. We will also be electing three members to our Judicial Committee, which deals with matters like interpretation of the bylaws and appeals of officer suspensions.

Other items on the agenda will include consideration of amendments to the bylaws and meeting rules, discussion of activities for the coming year, and planning for elections in 2022.

While this meeting is open to all supporters of the Libertarian Party, **to vote on official business** you must qualify as a "central committee member". To join and thereby get voting status, visit: [scclp.org/join](https://scclp.org/join)

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## Candidate Election Results

The LP's national ticket of **Jo Jorgensen and Spike Cohen** received 1.1% of the vote in Santa Clara County - almost exactly the same percentage as for the state as a whole, and just slightly smaller than the 1.2% that the ticket received nationwide. This was the second-highest presidential percentage in history for the LP, after Johnson/Weld in 2016. It was also more than four times the vote received this year nationwide by the next most popular ticket (the Greens).



Four local Libertarians ran for partisan office in the primary election, in March. Because of California's "top two" nominating system, none of them were able to appear on the November ballot. However, two Libertarians ran for local office.

**Brian Holtz** ran for re-election to the board of the Purissima Hills Water District. He was unopposed for this seat, and so was elected.

**Azadeh Weber** ran for the board of the Saratoga Union School District. There were five candidates for two positions, and she came in fourth with 16.4% of the vote.

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## Mixed Results on Propositions/Measures

Reviewing the propositions and measures on which the LP of Santa Clara County made a recommendation, it seems that on **most** subjects the voters agreed with us. Unfortunately, on questions of taxation and bonds (which must be paid back through taxes), for the most part the voters *disagreed* with us, passing almost all of them.



**Voters agreed with us on 7 out of 9 of the non-tax/bond questions on which we took a position** (all results shown as yes/no percentages):

**Proposition 16**, which would have allowed government to discriminate by race, sex, etc., **failed** 43%/57%.

**Proposition 17**, which will allow those released from prison to vote, **passed** 59%/41%.

**Proposition 21**, which would have allowed more rent control, **failed** 40%/60%.

**Proposition 23**, which would have increased regulation of kidney dialysis clinics, **failed** 37%/63%.

**Proposition 25**, which would have eliminated the option of bail for those accused of a crime, **failed** 44%/56%.

In Los Gatos, **Measure A**, establishing a finance commission, **passed** 57%/43%, and **Measure B**, establishing term limits, **passed** 82%/18%.

The results were contrary to our recommendations on two questions:

Proposition 24, which increases business regulations in the name of "privacy", passed 56%/44%.

Measure C, adding restrictions on parking in Mountain View, passed 57%/43%.

On questions relating to increasing taxes, the general voter population in most cases disagreed with our position. The LPSCC recommended a no vote on all of these, but with the exception of Proposition 15 and Measures I and L, they all passed:

**Proposition 15** (raising taxes on commercial property) **failed** 48%/52%.

**Measure I** (SJ-Evergreen CCD parcel tax) **failed** 62%/38% [needed 2/3].

**Measure L** (Campbell Union HSD parcel tax) **failed** 62%/38% [needed 2/3].

Measure E (Santa Clara hotel tax) passed 74%/26%.

Measure F (Milpitas sales tax) passed 60%/40%.

Measure H (San Jose cardroom tax) passed 73%/27%.

Measure K (Franklin-McKinley SD parcel tax) passed 71%/29% [needed 2/3].

Measure M (Fremont Union HSD parcel tax) passed 74%/26% [needed 2/3].

Measure N (Loma Prieta JUESD parcel tax) passed 71%/29% [needed 2/3].

Measure O (Palo Alto USD parcel tax) passed 77%/23% [needed 2/3].

Measure S (Santa Clara Valley Water parcel tax) passed 75%/25% [needed 2/3].

Measure T (Santa Clara Valley Open Space parcel tax) passed 81%/19% [needed 2/3].

Measure RR (CalTrain sales tax) passed 69%/31% [needed 2/3].

Similarly for bonds, where the LPSCC recommended a no vote on all of them, all but one passed:

**Measure J** (SJ-Evergreen CCD bond) **failed** 53%/47% [needed 55%].

Proposition 14 (bonds for stem cell research) passed 51%/49%

Measure P (Evergreen ESD bond) passed 56%/44% [needed 55%]

Measure Q (Mount Pleasant ESD bonds) passed 66%/34% [needed 55%]

Measure R (Cambrian School District bonds) passed 61%/39% [needed 55%]

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## Sign Vandalism in the Hills

Los Altos Hills isn't what most of us think of as a high-crime area, but it turns out to be a dangerous place for Libertarian campaign signs. LP activist (and current elected office holder) Brian Holtz found the signs he had placed in front of his house removed multiple times this past year.

In an attempt to see what was going on he placed cameras, and was able to record some video of the perpetrators in the act. (You can see samples of this video, with his comments about the episode, as part of the interview he did with Spike Cohen -- link available in the "Video Selections" section below.)



This is not the first time LP activists have run into this kind of problem in Santa Clara County. A few years ago, there was a notorious case in Mountain View. In that case, the culprit was actually identified and prosecuted.

If you have also encountered this kind of problem with your own signs recently, or if it happens in the future, please share details with us at "campaigns@scclp.org".

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## San José Re-Districting Commission Seeks Members

Redistricting is coming up - districts of all kinds will be redrawn based on the population counts from the 2020 census. Most of the attention will be on the Congressional districts, but smaller districts will be changing too, including the ones for cities that elect their city councils by geographic district.

San José is one of those cities, and San José residents have an opportunity to be part of that process by serving on the city's redistricting commission. You don't need to be a redistricting expert to apply. The city says they are "looking for community members who are impartial, representative of the county's diversity, and committed to creating fair maps for San José's communities".

But there is a deadline -- **you must apply by 13 December 2020**. For more information visit: [sanjoseca.gov/your-government/appointees/city-clerk/redistricting-2020](https://sanjoseca.gov/your-government/appointees/city-clerk/redistricting-2020)

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# Newsom Recall Effort

A number of Libertarians in Northern California are active in the movement to recall Gavin Newsom. While this effort is supported by citizens from many different parties, the arguments for why he should be recalled have a lot of overlap with Libertarian Party positions.



Organizers are aiming to collect about two million signatures by early March 2021. For more information on how they plan to do this, or to volunteer to help, visit: [recallgavin2020.com](https://recallgavin2020.com)

For information on where you can sign the petition in Santa Clara County, visit: [recallgavin2020.com/county/santa-clara](https://recallgavin2020.com/county/santa-clara)

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## Should Libertarians Support Ranked-Choice Voting?

*Although both the national and California LP platforms mention election reform, neither endorses a specific alternate voting system. Some individual Libertarians have, however, been working to support adoption of specific systems, such as Ranked-Choice Voting or Approval Voting, either as something that should be endorsed by the LP or for actual implementation at the local or state level. This month we provide some information about Ranked Choice. If you are interested in working on this, or just want to find out more, you may want to discuss it with other LP activists at a meeting or through a Facebook group or other online forum.*

Ranked-Choice Voting (RCV) is a system in which voters may prioritize (rank) their choice of candidate, and a pre-defined procedure is applied to count votes for lower-ranked candidates if a voter's higher-ranked choices have been eliminated.

In practice, there are a number of possible variations on this idea. The term Instant-Runoff Voting (IRV) is often used when the method is applied to filling a single office, while Single Transferable Vote (STV) is a way to apply the idea to filling multiple seats (e.g. for a legislative body). All of these differ from a traditional runoff election in that voters express all their choices while casting their initial ballot, so there is no need to hold a second election at a later date.

Ranked-choice voting has been used for state primary, congressional, and presidential elections in Maine and for local elections in more than 20 US cities including Cambridge, Massachusetts; Takoma Park, Maryland; St. Paul, Minnesota; Minneapolis, Minnesota; Santa Fe, New Mexico; and Portland, Maine. Here in California it has been used in San Francisco, Oakland, Berkeley, and San Leandro, and this year voters in Eureka and Albany approved use of the system in future elections.

New York City is by far the largest voting population in the US that has opted for RCV, pending implementation in 2021.

RCV is also commonly used for student leadership and other non-governmental elections.

*For more information or to get in touch with others who support adoption of this voting method, visit [fairvote.org](https://fairvote.org).*

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## Bylaws Proposals

A set of amendments to the LP of SCC's Bylaws and Meeting Rules was introduced at the October meeting of the Central Committee, and is therefore eligible for adoption at the next meeting (the annual meeting). The purpose of the proposed changes is to clarify the procedures for calling and running meetings online.

A copy of the proposed amendments can be found at: [bylaws-proposals-202010a.pdf](#)

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## Commentary

*Opinions from around the web - not necessarily official positions of the LP of Santa Clara County unless so noted.*

[Free to Choose After 40 Years](#) ([independent.org](https://independent.org)).

[Voters Wisely Chose Divided Federal Government](#) ([reason.com](https://reason.com)).

[Putting Rap Lyrics on Trial is a Violation of Free Speech](#) ([aclu.org](https://aclu.org)).

[Cost of Lockdowns: A Preliminary Report](#) ([aier.org](https://aier.org)).

[Avoid the Pitfalls of Student Loan Forgiveness](#) ([hoover.org](https://hoover.org)).

[Should Remote Workers Pay a Tax for Using Home as an Office?](#) ([reason.com](https://reason.com)).

[Why Sound Money is 'Green' and Central Banks Aren't](#) ([mises.org](https://mises.org)).

[Will Biden Listen to the Science?](#) ([ronpaulinstitute.org](https://ronpaulinstitute.org)).

[Disgusting Professorial Teachings](#) (Walter Williams).

[Public Pension Funds Should Avoid Social Investing Strategies](#) ([reason.org](https://reason.org)).

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## Video Selections



*Also not necessarily official positions of the LP of Santa Clara County unless so noted.*

[Economics for Beginners: What is Economics? \(mises.org\)](https://mises.org/story/5585)

[Spike Cohen interviews Brian Holtz](#)

[What the Polls Did and Didn't Get Right \(hoover.org\)](https://www.hoover.org/polls/what-the-polls-did-and-didnt-get-right)

[Simulating Alternate Voting Systems \(brilliant.org\)](https://brilliant.org/2020/03/20/simulating-alternate-voting-systems/)

[Government Bureaucracy Sketch \(notodofilmfest.com\)](https://notodofilmfest.com/en/submit-film/Government-Bureaucracy-Sketch)

[Homelessness, Law Enforcement, and Human Rights \(cato.org\)](https://www.cato.org/publications/white-paper/homelessness-law-enforcement-and-human-rights)

[Post-election analysis: What did Americans vote for? \(independent.org\)](https://www.independent.org/article/trending/post-election-analysis-what-did-americans-vote-for/)

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## The Libertarian Party Needs You!

The Santa Clara County Libertarian Party's work relies on **members like you** who volunteer to put our goals and plans into action.

*Please volunteer now to help with these important activities:*

- Secretary - *Vacancy*
- Activities - Plan events and keep the energy up!
- Campaigns - Advocate action to support candidates and libertarian policy!
- Membership - Outreach and growth is at the core of what we do and how you can help!
- Newsletter - Help us build content to keep you informed!
- Publicity - We can always use a fresh voice when posting on social media or interacting with the press!



Interested in learning more? Contact us at [info@scclp.org](mailto:info@scclp.org) and let's see how we can work together toward liberty!

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## Calendar Summary

Important note: Due to the COVID-19 situation, many events that would normally be held in upcoming weeks and months have been cancelled. Also it is possible that



there will be other changes relating to events listed here, depending on how the situation evolves. Check our web site for updates.

- 19 December - [Third Saturday Coffee Meetup \(online\)](#).
- 16 January - [Third Saturday Coffee Meetup \(online\)](#).
- 23 January - [LP SCC Annual Meeting \(online\)](#).
- 14-16 May 2021 - [LPC State Convention \(Visalia\)](#).
- 26-30 May 2022 - National Convention (Reno)

**Do you have ideas for activities that don't require in-person contact?** Contact our [Activities Chair](#), Bob Goodwyn, with your suggestions.

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