



The Liberty Quill

A Publication by the Libertarian Party of Santa Clara County

Contents:

- [From the Chair](#)
- [State Convention Report](#)
- [In-Person Coffee Meetings to Resume](#)
- [Next Central Committee Meeting](#)
- [Changes to Membership Requirements](#)
- [Imhoff Investigation Committee Report](#)
- [LP 50th Anniversary Celebration](#)
- [Commentary](#)
- [Video Selections](#)
- [Calendar Summary](#)

Getting Together Again

A message from Joe Dehn, County Chair:

The recent state convention was a major personal milestone for me. For fourteen months, I had not traveled more than about 20 miles from my house, in any direction, and had never eaten a meal indoors with anybody but family and very close friends. But on that weekend in May, my wife and I made the trip to the Central Valley, ate in restaurants, and participated in an indoor meeting with more than 100 live people.



What made this change in my life possible, from my perspective, was that I had recently become "fully vaccinated" and, just as important, the prevalence of COVID-19 among everybody else I was likely to meet had been dropping precipitously. And this isn't the only way that my life has recently changed dramatically for the same reasons.

As an avid square dancer (as well as a square dance caller), prior to the pandemic it was common for me to get together with other square dancers several times per week -- sometimes as many as seven times per week! For more than a year, all of that stopped, and the the only thing we had was a very limited sort of "virtual square dancing" conducted via Zoom. But in the past month all that has been rapidly changing too -- and three days this last week I danced with real people, sharing the same physical space (but still outdoors for now).

In terms of our local LP activities, it's time to figure out how we are going to resume our in-person activities too. We are taking the first step by moving our monthly coffee meetings back to a restaurant setting. How to deal with some of our other internal activities is going to be a trickier question. Of course we were doing much business online anyway, through teleconferencing or e-mail, prior to the pandemic. But for central committee meetings, there are significant trade-offs we must consider, now that we have learned that it is possible, and in some ways perhaps better, to hold them online.

Most important, we must take stock of the ways we can again interact with the general public. Events like parades and street fairs will be starting up again, and we need to make plans to be there presenting our ideas and our brand. And it won't be long before we have candidates running for office again -- and that means everything from greeting individual voters in person, to holding rallies and fundraising events, to going door-to-door with literature.

When exactly each of us starts becoming comfortable doing any of these things will vary, but for many of us things are now changing very fast. ***It's time to start getting active again in ways that we haven't been for a long time!***

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

State Convention Report

The Libertarian Party of California annual state convention was held as scheduled 14-16 May in Visalia.

Formal business included presentation of reports; electing officers, area coordinators, and other members of the state Executive Committee; considering changes to the Bylaws and Platform; endorsing candidates for public office; and

adopting resolutions. In addition, there were talks and other presentations, as well as meal events.

Executive Committee Elections

Elections were conducted using a combination of the "Porcupine" electronic voting system, which allowed delegates to vote using their phones or other web-capable devices, and paper ballots for people who preferred to vote that way.



Mimi Robson was re-elected as state Chair. Rachel Nyx was elected Vice Chair, Jessica Tewksbury was elected Secretary, and Paul Vollandigham (who had been Secretary) was elected Treasurer. The new Northern Area Coordinator (for the part of the state that includes Santa Clara County) is Jia Christopher. Jon Prosser was re-elected as Central Area Coordinator, and the new Southern Area Coordinator is Tara Young.

New at-large members and alternates were also elected. Details of all the elections, including vote counts, can be found on the LPedia page for this convention at:

[California Convention 2021](#)

Bylaws Changes



The report of the Bylaws Committee consisted of 10 proposals. Six of them were adopted by the convention, some with modifications, and four were either voted down or "postponed indefinitely" and not taken up again, which had the same effect. The most significant changes related to membership, the Judicial Committee,

and the process of amending the bylaws itself.

The requirements for being a central committee member were changed (see *Changes to Membership Requirements* below), the rule for splitting dues between the state and county organizations was modified, and there is now a requirement that if somebody voluntarily resigns their membership then approval by the state Executive Committee or convention is required for them to regain voting status.

A new position of Judicial Committee alternate was created, replacing the previous system of having the JC appoint new members in cases of vacancies, and the JC will now be required to publish written reports of its rulings (which often, but not always, had been done in the past).

The Bylaws Committee will in the future be publishing both a preliminary and final

report, similar to the way the Platform Committee operated starting this year, and the convention vote requirements for adopting changes to the bylaws were reduced.

Platform Changes

The report of the Platform Committee consisted of 22 proposals, ranging from minor wording changes to a complete rewrite and restructuring of two of the longest planks.

Of these, 18 were adopted without change, including adoption of three new planks: "Emergency Powers", "Freedom to Think", and "Pandemics". The proposal to adopt a new plank on Universal Basic Income was not adopted, but a sentence taking the same position was added to the proposal to rewrite the "Welfare" plank, which was adopted with that change.



The longest existing plank, relating to the judicial system, was reorganized into five shorter planks focusing on more specific topics (e.g., juries, due process). Other planks that were replaced with significantly rewritten versions included "Freedom of Expression", "Immigration", "Policing", and "Health Care".

Other changes included taking positions against the death penalty and the "three strikes" law, and in support of cryptocurrencies and alternative election systems (e.g., instant runoff and proportional representation).

The complete text of the Platform updated with these changes can be found at:

[California Platform 2021](#)

Jeff Hewitt Endorsed for Governor

The convention endorsed Jeff Hewitt, currently a Riverside County Supervisor, for Governor. Hewitt is currently getting his campaign organized, and is soliciting volunteers and financial contributions through his web site at:

hewitt4ca.com

The convention also endorsed Joe Dehn as a candidate for US House and two candidates for city council in Hanford (Kings County).

In-Person Coffee Meetings to Resume

For more than a year, our monthly "coffee meetings", informal gatherings intended for both current members and those interested in learning about the LP, have not

been held as originally envisioned -- in coffee shops. Instead, on the third Saturday of each month, there has been a Zoom session.

With the pandemic and associated restrictions on in-person gatherings winding down, it's time to get back to something closer to the original concept. So starting 19 June, these meetings will again become in-person events.

But at the same time, we will also be trying something a bit different in terms of venue -- we will be having the June meeting at Holder's Country Inn, at 998 S. DeAnza Boulevard. You will still be able to get coffee, if that's what you want, but Holder's also serves lots of other things, ranging from desserts up to full meals.

For more information, or to make suggestions for future locations, feel free to contact our Activities Chair, Bob Goodwyn, at activities@scclp.org.

Next Central Committee Meeting

Our next central committee meeting is scheduled for Saturday, 26 June. These meetings, held every few months, are the opportunity for our voting members to participate in the governance of the party.

We traditionally held these meetings in person, usually at a restaurant but sometimes in some other kind of meeting space. Since last year, as with the meetings of many other organizations, we have been holding them online, using Zoom. We now have the question of when -- or even whether -- we should switch back.

We are going to hold at least one more of these meetings via Zoom. The main reason is that we just don't know yet how many people will attend if we switch back. For some there may still be reluctance to risk in-person activities, especially indoors.

But for the longer term there is a more important consideration -- convenience. The whole point of these meetings is to allow our voting members to discuss and vote on things. Going back to meeting in a restaurant would make many things easier, in terms of actually conducting business. But if more people are willing to participate via Zoom (e.g., because they don't have to spend time driving to the meeting), that may be even more important.

It's possible we may end up with a mix, and we may need to experiment for a while to find the best balance. In the meantime, if you are a central committee member and have an opinion about this, either way, please send your comments to Joe Dehn at chair@scclp.org, or you can post your ideas and discuss them with other members in our Facebook group (www.facebook.com/groups/SCCLP).

Changes to Membership Requirements

Two important changes to the requirements for being a voting member ("central committee member") were made at the recent convention.

First, while people who live outside California have historically been allowed to join (and then pick with which county organization they exercise voting rights), now only people who live in California may do so. (An exception was recognized for life members -- if they move out of state, they retain their voting status.)

Second, while in the past only people who registered to vote with another party were disqualified from voting member status, meaning that being registered "no party preference" (formerly termed "decline to state") was acceptable, the new rule is that a member must be registered Libertarian "if eligible". (Reasons that somebody might not be eligible include, for example, being under 18 or not being a citizen.)

If you are currently registered to vote with no party preference, or not registered to vote at all but eligible to be, please consider registering Libertarian! You can find an online form for registering at:

registertovote.ca.gov

Imhoff Investigation Committee Report

The special LPC committee appointed to investigate the allegations that led to the removal from the party, back in 2019, of our former county Chair, Jennifer Imhoff, and county Treasurer, Robert Imhoff, presented a report to the LPC Executive Committee and the LP SCC Executive Committee on 6 May.

The committee recommended, by a vote of 3 to 2, that the Imhoffs' memberships be re-instated. Under the LPC Bylaws as currently written and interpreted, only the state Executive Committee has the power to act on such a recommendation. However, at the special meeting of the state Executive Committee held on 8 May to consider this matter no action was taken.

Note: In the meantime, last year, the Imhoffs moved to Idaho, where they have been putting their energy into building up the LP organization in that state, and Jennifer is now the state chair.

LP 50th Anniversary Celebration

The Libertarian Party was founded in 1971, at a meeting held in Colorado. Details have now been announced for a 50th Anniversary celebration to be held in the Denver area the last weekend of August.

For more information about this event, visit:

50.lp.org



LP of Santa Clara County "Help Wanted"

We currently have several openings on our Executive Committee. These are the people responsible for keeping the Libertarian Party running at the county level.

Following are the officer positions defined in our bylaws:

[Chair](#)
[Vice Chair](#)
[Secretary](#)
[Treasurer](#)
[Activities Chair](#)
[Campaigns Chair](#)
[Fundraising Chair](#)
[Membership Chair](#)
[Newsletter Chair](#)
[Publicity Chair](#)



When not all of these positions are filled, that means the remaining officers end up having to do multiple jobs – or the jobs simply don't get done. Some of the current officers might actually be happy to do one of the other jobs, and focus on that, but they can't do that if there is nobody available to do their current job. So basically, more important than filling any specific position, **what we need is more people willing to help!**

If any of the jobs listed above sound like something you could do, please let us know!

Commentary

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

[Does the Bill of Rights Protect You Outside Your Home? \(independent.org\).](#)

[Gavin Newsom's Rushed, Bloated Budget \(hjta.org\).](#)

[California Overkill \(independent.org\).](#)

[Steps Toward Freedom and Away From It \(fff.org\).](#)

[High-Speed Rail Project's Negative Impacts on Minority Communities \(reason.org\)](#)

[Inflation - True and False \(hoover.org\)](#)

[Lockdowns Need To Be Intellectually Discredited Once And For All \(aier.org\)](#)

[There's No Denying The California Exodus \(hjta.org\)](#)

[The Movement to End Police Violence One Year After George Floyd's Murder \(aclu.org\)](#)

[Eviction Moratorium Bends Both Facts And Law \(hoover.org\)](#)

[The Benefits of "Price Gouging" \(mises.org\)](#)

[Attacks On Trans People Are An Attack On Liberty \(lp.org\)](#)

Video Selections

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

[Hispanic Libertarian Policy Goals \(lp.org\)](#)

[Young Americans and the Delusional Appeal of Socialism \(independent.org\)](#)

[Batman is Always Watching - That's a Problem \(fee.org\)](#)

[From Silicon Valley to Miami \(reason.com\)](#)

[The Revolution Will Be Individualized \(fee.org\)](#)

[The Root of the Problem \(fff.org\)](#)

[Vote Bear for Governor \(reason.com\)](#)

[Libertarians At Large \(lp.org\)](#)

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 June - [Third Saturday Coffee Meetup \(Holder's\)](#)

- 26 June - [Central Committee Meeting \(online\)](#).
- 4 July - Rose White and Blue Parade and/or LPSCC Event
- 27-28 August - [LP 50th Anniversary Celebration \(Colorado\)](#).
- Fall 2021 - [Gubernatorial Recall Election](#)
- 16 December - [Petitioning for Primary Begins](#)
- 26-30 May 2022 - [National Convention \(Reno\)](#).
- 7 June 2022 - [Primary Election](#)
- 8 November 2022 - [General Election](#)

Do you know of in-person opportunities for outreach in your local area that will be starting up again soon? Contact our Activities Chair, Bob Goodwyn, at activities@scclp.org with your suggestions.



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