



A Publication by the Libertarian Party of Santa Clara County

Contents:

- [From the Chair](#)
- [Central Committee Meeting Report](#)
- [Libertarian Voter Registration Reaches Record High](#)
- [Hewitt for Governor Results](#)
- [Opinion: Strange Bedfellows](#)
- [National Membership Deadline Coming Up Soon](#)
- [Pool/Billiards Gatherings Resume](#)
- [LP 50th Birthday Party](#)
- [Christmas In The Park](#)
- [State Convention Registration Now Open](#)
- [Commentary](#)
- [Podcast Selections](#)
- [Video Selections](#)
- [Calendar Summary](#)

Have You Considered Running for Office?

A message from Joe Dehn, County Chair:

Odd-numbered years are something of a lull in our election cycle. There is a presidential election every four years, and Congressional and state elections every two years. But in our county all the local positions are also elected in even-numbered years. Except for an occasional recall or special election to fill a vacancy, there are no offices up for election in odd-numbered years.

These years are our chance to plan and prepare for what we will be doing in the following even-numbered year. **And 2022 will be here before we know it!** The filing process for the 2022 primary actually starts in December of this year. And although elections for most local offices won't be taking place until next fall, to have a serious chance of actually **winning** one of those "winnable offices" requires a significant amount of preparation.



What about you – have you considered running for office?

It's important to understand that running for different kinds of offices can mean doing very different things, and involve very different resources.

Most Libertarians who run for **federal and state offices** do it to help publicize our Libertarian "brand", to promote specific policy positions, and to recruit new members. They may spend a lot of their own time on it – or very little. But they rarely make use of other activists' time. And in most cases they don't raise much money – because they don't spend much money, beyond the minimum to get on the ballot. But they play a unique and essential role in our overall strategy of building the party, because they are the only candidates who can appear on the ballot with the label "Libertarian" next to their names.

On the other hand, Libertarians who prefer to work on implementing our ideas by actually serving in a public office will almost always be better off running for a local **city or district office**. In California, all such offices are "non-partisan" – you can't be listed on the ballot as a Libertarian. You can of course promote libertarian ideas. But if you want to win, you will need to find a way to combine those ideas with an understanding of the local political situation, and make those ideas seem practical, in the near term, to the voters in your particular area. This can take a lot of work, and a lot of time, and a lot of money. But with the right combination of all that, and some luck, you may find yourself elected!

While in most cases winning even a local race requires considerable resources, there are some exceptions. Occasionally somebody will get elected basically by default, because nobody else was interested in that position. It's hard to predict when and where this will happen, but it does happen, and some Libertarians have become public office holders that way. And even this path to public office requires **being willing to run**, to be aware that the office exists, and to file the necessary paperwork.

So if you think you might be interested in doing any of these things in 2022, now is the time to get started - beginning with identifying the offices for which you could be a candidate. The Registrar of Voters offers a simple tool with which you can obtain this information, simply by entering your address:

[Look Up Your Districts](#)

You may find that you live in a district about which you know almost nothing. Time to start finding out about it! If your preference is to run for Congress or the state legislature, the situation is a bit simpler, because even though the district numbers and boundaries will be changing this year, every voter lives in *some* Congressional

district and every voter lives in *some* state Assembly district – and every one of those positions is up for election in 2022!

Let us know what kind of campaign you are considering, and we'll try to put you in touch with somebody who has run for that kind of office before, to help you understand what is likely to be involved.

Joe Dehn

County Chair

chair@scclp.org

408-774-1570

Central Committee Meeting Report

A meeting of the county central committee was held on Saturday 25 September, via Zoom. Topics discussed include ongoing activities like the coffee meetings, upcoming special events like Christmas in the Park and the LP 50th Birthday Party, the recent gubernatorial recall election, and city-level organizing, especially with respect to San Jose.



The next meeting is likely to be held on 11 December, in conjunction with the 50th Birthday Party. For that reason, it will probably be fairly short, just long enough to take care of any business that requires timely action.

After that, expect our annual meeting to take place in January. That's the meeting at which we will be electing officers for the upcoming year.

Note that while anyone who supports the Libertarian Party is welcome to attend these meetings, to make motions or vote you must be a voting "central committee member" (sign the membership statement, pay dues, live in California, and be registered as a Libertarian if eligible). To join, visit: www.scclp.org/join; if you have any questions about your current membership status, write to membership@scclp.org.

Libertarian Voter Registration Reaches Record High

The most recent Report of Registration published by the Secretary of State, with counts as of 30 August, shows there to be 214,698 registered Libertarians statewide, the highest that figure has ever been. That figure is up by 16% in the past year, and by more than 50% over the past four years.

As a portion of the total number of registered voters, Libertarians now account for just a bit under one percent (0.97%), also an all-time record. **Please encourage your liberty-minded friends to register Libertarian** so we can see that number get past that milestone as of the next report!

[California Online Voter Registration Form](#)

Hewitt for Governor Results

The election results on 14 September were a disappointment for anybody hoping that Gavin Newsom would be removed from office, and especially disappointing to Libertarians hoping for a strong showing by their endorsed candidate, **Jeff Hewitt**.

Hewitt, currently serving as a County Supervisor in Riverside County, jumped into the race along with dozens of other candidates from various parties. Ultimately 46 candidates appeared on the ballot, including 24 Republicans, 9 Democrats, 2 Greens, and 10 listing no party affiliation. There was no other Libertarian running.



According to unofficial but almost final counts – the official statement of vote won't be published until late October – Hewitt received 0.69% of the statewide vote, putting him in 16th place. He did better here in Santa Clara County, about 0.92%, not far below the 1.05% he received in his own county.

In the first question on the ballot, whether Newsom should be removed from office, voters rejected the idea by a very wide margin, with only about 38% voting 'yes' statewide. Here in Santa Clara County the idea was even less popular, with only about 26% voting in favor.

Opinion: Strange Bedfellows

by Kennita Watson, Newsletter Chair

Opinion pieces represent the personal views of LP SCC leaders/activists and are not necessarily official positions of the county party.



Donald Trump may have lost the most recent Presidential election, but he is by no means out of the public eye, and may well be the Republican Party nominee for President in 2024. He has done things that endear him to some libertarians, such as avoiding paying taxes, fighting turning over records to the government, and lowering some people's taxes. All that aside, he is no

libertarian, and libertarians and the Libertarian Party should vehemently oppose him, even if there is no Libertarian candidate and the only alternative is a Democrat.

Trump has cultivated an image of himself as a populist, and has trumpeted his support of lower taxes. But he is not in favor of lowering taxes for everyone, only for corporations and rich people who a) will give him large amounts of money; and b) will swear undying loyalty to him and never be caught gainsaying him in any way.

Libertarians value honesty; Trump seems unable to speak two paragraphs together that don't contain at least one lie or exaggeration. Libertarians value the rights of all individuals, including the right to vote; Trump is all too happy to disenfranchise anyone who isn't likely to vote for him. Libertarians take responsibility for their own actions, good or bad; Trump will take credit, but never blame. Perhaps most importantly, Libertarians value our democracy, as embodied in our Constitution and carried out via free and fair elections; Trump values winning above all else, and will not accept the outcome of any contest that he didn't win, to the extent that he is willing to destroy our democracy, and came disturbingly close to doing so. With voter suppression bills going into effect nationwide, it is not beyond the pale that next time he will succeed, and some fine day a few years hence we may go to bed in a democratic republic and wake up in a dictatorship.

Donald Trump needs to go and stay gone. I call to mind *An Ethical Grook*, by Piet Hein:

*I see and I hear and I speak no evil;
I carry no malice within my breast;
yet quite without wishing a man to the Devil
one may be permitted to hope for the best.*

Good luck, USA!

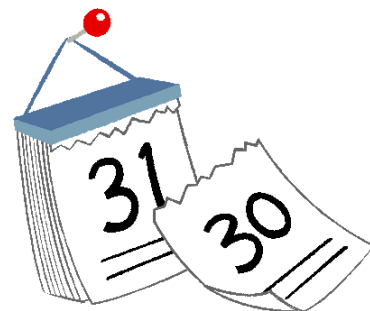
National Membership Deadline Coming Up Soon

The number of delegates California will be allowed to send to the 2022 National Convention will depend on the number of national dues-paying members who live in California **as of the end of October**. This number also affects our representation on the Libertarian National Committee.

In recent years, California has accounted for slightly more than 10% of total national membership.

Having 10% qualifies us to have our own representative on the LNC. But recently our fraction has dropped below that minimum requirement – which means we will be represented on the LNC as part of a multi-state region, and no longer have the same assurance of being able to choose our own representative.

You can help us retain **representation on the LNC** and increase the **number of delegates we can send** to the national convention – which could, in turn, if you are



planning to attend the national convention, affect whether you can attend as a voting delegate.

Just be sure to join as a **national** member (or renew, by paying dues, if you were a member previously) before the end of October. National membership is separate from state/county membership, but there is a form that allows you to join as *both* a national *and* state member (which includes county-level membership) at the same time:

[Membership Application](#)

Pool/Billiards Gatherings Resume

Chris Le reports that he is again meeting on a mostly-weekly basis to play pool with some libertarian friends. If you don't know how to play you can learn. Or you can just hang out and talk, drink beer, or whatever.



These gatherings take place on Wednesdays, starting at 7:00pm. The location is **946 Billiards**, 946 W. El Camino Real, Sunnyvale. Dates in October are the 6th, 13th, and 20th.

For more information contact Chris at membership@scclp.org or 408-667-7744.

LP 50th Birthday Party

The LP is generally considered to have been "born" on 11 December 1971, when the group who had been calling themselves the "Committee to Organize a Libertarian Party" decided to go ahead and actually do it!

The 50th anniversary of that event is coming up soon, and we are planning to hold a birthday party. The exact format and location aren't decided yet, but it will probably include some kind of meal (possibly pot luck) and, of course, birthday cake!

Other things we could do include:

- Hearing from some of the LP "old-timers" who live in our county.
- Sharing photos of past campaigns and other activities.
- Compiling a "timeline" listing the events and milestones in the development of our county party about which each of us has recollections or other information,



to create a more complete picture our history.

Other local groups across the country are expected to be holding their own celebrations that same day, and the national Historical Preservation Committee will be setting up a Zoom connection so that the various groups will be able to share what they are doing.

Please reserve the date: 11 December

If you would be interested in helping to plan this party, please contact County Chair Joe Dehn at chair@scclp.org or 408-774-1570.

Christmas In The Park

The LP of Santa Clara County will be participating this year in San Jose's annual Christmas In The Park, by sponsoring a tree which we will decorate. The decorating will need to be done some time during 22-26 November, and the tear down during 3-5 January. If you have decorating ideas or would just be willing to help, contact Activities Chair **Bob Goodwyn** at activities@scclp.org.



State Convention Registration Now Open

The annual convention of the Libertarian Party of California is scheduled for 18-20 February 2022 (Presidents Day Weekend) in Long Beach. Both registration for the event itself and hotel reservations are now open, and you can find the links to sign up, along with other information about the convention, at:



ca.lp.org/convention

All Libertarians are welcome to attend the state convention and participate in the various speaker and meal events. But to vote in the business meeting, where decisions will be made about the party's Platform and Bylaws as well as filling some positions in the state party organization, endorsing candidates, and selecting the California delegation to the national convention coming up later in 2022, you must qualify as a "central committee member".

Furthermore, you must have joined as a central committee member (by signing the application, paying dues, and being registered as a Libertarian if eligible) at least 90

days before the start of the convention, to be able to vote at that convention. So if you have not done this yet, now would be a good time!

You can find a convenient combination application form, allowing you to join both as a national LP member and LPC central committee member (which gives you voting status both at the state convention and in our county LP organization), at:

[Membership Application](#)

Commentary

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

[Vaccine Passports Should Be Neither Mandatory Nor Forbidden](#) ([reason.com](#)).

[The Ultimate Legislature](#) ([thisiscommonsense.org](#)).

[Medicare About To Run Out Of Money; Democrats Want To Spend More](#) ([reason.com](#)).

[Biden's Wrecking Ball For Financial Privacy](#) ([aier.org](#)).

[The Myth That Billionaires Hoard Wealth](#) ([fee.org](#)).

[Immigration And The Open Society](#) ([aier.org](#)).

[A Bill That Costs Too Much, Does Too Little](#) ([hoover.org](#)).

[Liquor License Rules Are Crippling Restaurants At The Worst Possible Time](#) ([cato.org](#)).

[The Age Of Octogenarians](#) ([thisiscommonsense.org](#)).

[The Myth That The Rich Dominate Politics And Rule America](#) ([fee.org](#)).

[Do We Really Need New Anti-Asian Hate Crime Laws?](#) ([reason.com](#)).

[Tax Increases Cannot Pay For The Democrats' Reconciliation Bill](#) ([aier.org](#)).

[Eleven Of The Most Memorable Acts Of Civil Disobedience In History](#) ([fee.org](#)).

[California Will Let Violence Prevention Researchers Know You Have A Gun](#) ([reason.com](#)).

[Misguided Petition For Permanent Monthly \\$2000 Stimulus Checks Nears Milestone](#) ([fee.org](#)).

[Will We Accept Nuclear Fusion When It Comes?](#) ([aier.org](#)).

Podcast Selections

Listen as you drive or walk – also not necessarily official positions of the LP of Santa Clara County unless so noted.

[Does Universal Basic Income Make Sense? \(hoover.org\)](#)

[Check Your Authoritarian Blind Spot \(reason.com\)](#)

[Biden's Vaccine Mandate - Constitutional Authority? \(hoover.org\)](#)

[A New Proposal To Begin The End Of The Drug War \(cato.org\)](#)

Video Selections

Watch on your television, computer, or portable device – also not necessarily official positions of the LP of Santa Clara County unless so noted.

[Afghanistan Debacle, Biden Vaccine Mandate, California Recall \(independent.org\)](#)

[What Fear Does To Our Freedom \(reason.com\)](#)

[LNC Meeting - Friday 4 September \(lp.org\)](#)

[The Debt Ceiling Circus Returns To Washington \(fff.org\)](#)

[Fighting Back With A Lawsuit \(John Stossel\)](#)

[The Afghanistan Debacle \(fff.org\)](#)

[Everybody Hates Migrants \(Except the Austrians\) \(lp.org\)](#)

[Everybody Is Wrong About Big Tech \(reason.com\)](#)

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.

- 6 October - [Wednesday Pool/Billiards Meetup](#)
- 13 October - [Wednesday Pool/Billiards Meetup](#)
- 16 October - [Third Saturday Coffee Meetup](#)
- 20 October - [Wednesday Pool/Billiards Meetup](#)
- 2 November - [Special Election \(No on A, No on B\)](#)
- 10 November - [Wednesday Pool/Billiards Meetup](#)

- 17 November - [Wednesday Pool/Billiards Meetup](#)
- 20 November - [Third Saturday Coffee Meetup](#)
- 22-26 November - Possible dates for decorating Christmas Tree
- 8 December - [Wednesday Pool/Billiards Meetup](#)
- 11 December - [LP 50th Birthday Party](#)
- 16 December - [Petitioning for Primary Begins](#)
- 18 December - [Third Saturday Coffee Meetup](#)
- 18-20 February 2022 - [State Convention \(Long Beach\)](#)
- 26-29 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.



This email was sent to jwd3@dehnbased.org. To stop receiving emails, [click here](#).

<p>Paid for by Libertarian Party of Santa Clara County FPPC #1266953</p>
--

Libertarian Party of Santa Clara County ©2019