



A Publication by the Libertarian Party of Santa Clara County

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## Contents:

- [From the Chair](#)
- [Libertarian Party's 50th Birthday Celebrated](#)
- [Annual Meeting Scheduled for 29 January](#)
- [New Federal/State Districts Set, Others Coming](#)
- [LP SCC Historical Timeline](#)
- [Make Plans Now to Attend State Convention](#)
- [Opinion: Vaccination as a Personal Choice](#)
- [Coffee Meeting Update](#)
- [Morgan Hill Ballot Measure](#)
- [Featured Platform Plank: Pandemics](#)
- [Commentary](#)
- [Podcasts](#)
- [Video Selections](#)
- [Calendar Summary](#)

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## The Next 50 Years?

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

As we congratulate ourselves on our work for liberty over the past 50 years, we ought to put some thought into where we go from here. That, of course, is quite an accomplishment itself, as most new political parties don't last more than about a decade.

But we are clearly still far from achieving the goal set forth in the preamble of our national Platform: **"nothing more nor less than a world set free in our lifetime"**. How can we best organize ourselves and our work to make progress toward that goal?



When I joined the LP, there seemed to be widespread support for a vision of the party as a comprehensive enterprise, with **candidates** running for offices at all levels from **federal** to **local**, plus many other forms of political action like **lobbying** and **ballot initiatives**, addressing a **wide range of issues**, growing by appealing to both the "left" and the "right" as well as the millions who didn't feel comfortable with either of those labels, integrating **new members** with a robust framework of "internal education" based on our **Principles** and **Platform**, and a myriad of outreach efforts including **networking with allied groups**, engaging in public **protests and demonstrations**, working with **news media**, and **paid advertising**, making effective use of both money provided by **donors** and the expertise and enthusiasm of **volunteers**.

There were always some people who wanted to focus on particular things, and even some who tried to bend the party into something that would focus exclusively on their preferred kind of action. But they were in the minority – the majority supported a more comprehensive vision.

Over the past few decades, however, we've seen a succession of "reform movements" within the party, especially at the state level, which have limited this vision – pushing the party to focus only on certain types of campaigns, to emphasize particular issues, to recruit people with specific political backgrounds, to centralize and "professionalize" the management of activities – each supposedly the key to greater success. Unfortunately too often the main effect has been to *discourage everything else* while not even making much real progress on the thing that was supposed to be the better way!

**I continue to believe in the broader vision - but I need your help to see that vision become a reality right here in Santa Clara County.** No, not every member or activist needs to work on everything. There is great value in focus and specialization. Some people are more suited to certain activities than others. We all work better when we work on something we like to do, and the combination of all those efforts can bring better results than if we each were just working on our own.

So as we start the next 50 years, I would ask that each of you think about what you like to do, and what you can do – and more specifically about what you **will** do in the coming year, 2022.

Please take a few minutes to answer this two-part **survey** which asks (1) what would you like to see the party doing and (2) which of these things you will personally be working on:

**[2022 Survey](#)**

Thanks – and best wishes for the New Year!

## Libertarian Party's 50th Birthday Celebrated



On Saturday 11 December 1971, a group of libertarians gathered in Colorado and voted to create the Libertarian Party.

Exactly 50 years later, on 11 December 2021 (also a Saturday), the LP of Santa Clara County celebrated this event with a birthday party.

Gathering at the home of elected Libertarian Brian Holtz, almost 30 people shared pizza and birthday cake, and enjoyed reconnecting with people that most of them had not seen in person for almost two years.



To help us remember the past 50 years, a slide show of photos and other images relating to LP activities was on continuous display, and a paper timeline with one page representing each year was spread out on the large dining room table. (See LP SCC *Historical Timeline*, below.)

We also held a short Central Committee meeting, the final one of this year, before our annual meeting scheduled for January.

This was one of many celebrations held across the country. The national LP's Historical Preservation Committee encouraged local groups to hold birthday parties, and provided a Zoom link so they could share what they were doing.



Attendees at the LP SCC event included two former LP National Chairs (Mary Gingell 1991-1993 and Mark Hinkle 2010-2012), Bill White who served as Santa Clara County LP Chair and Northern Vice Chair of the Libertarian Party of California in the 1970s, John Inks who was elected twice to the Mountain View City Council, and of course many current members of the LP SCC Executive Committee and other activists.



Many thanks to Brian Holtz (re-elected in 2020 to the Board of the Purissima Hills Water District) and Melisse Lusin for hosting this event!

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## Annual Meeting Scheduled for 29 January

We are planning to hold our [annual meeting](#) on Saturday, 29 January 2022, via Zoom.

This is the meeting at which we will be electing officers for the upcoming year. In addition to the positions common to most political organizations – **Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary, and Treasurer** – we elect chairs of various standing committees. So if you think you might be interested in getting more involved in party business, this will be your opportunity to run for one of those internal offices.



Here are the six "standing committee" chair positions that will be up for election:

- **Activities Chair**
- **Campaigns Chair**
- **Fundraising Chair**
- **Membership Chair**
- **Newsletter Chair**
- **Publicity Chair**



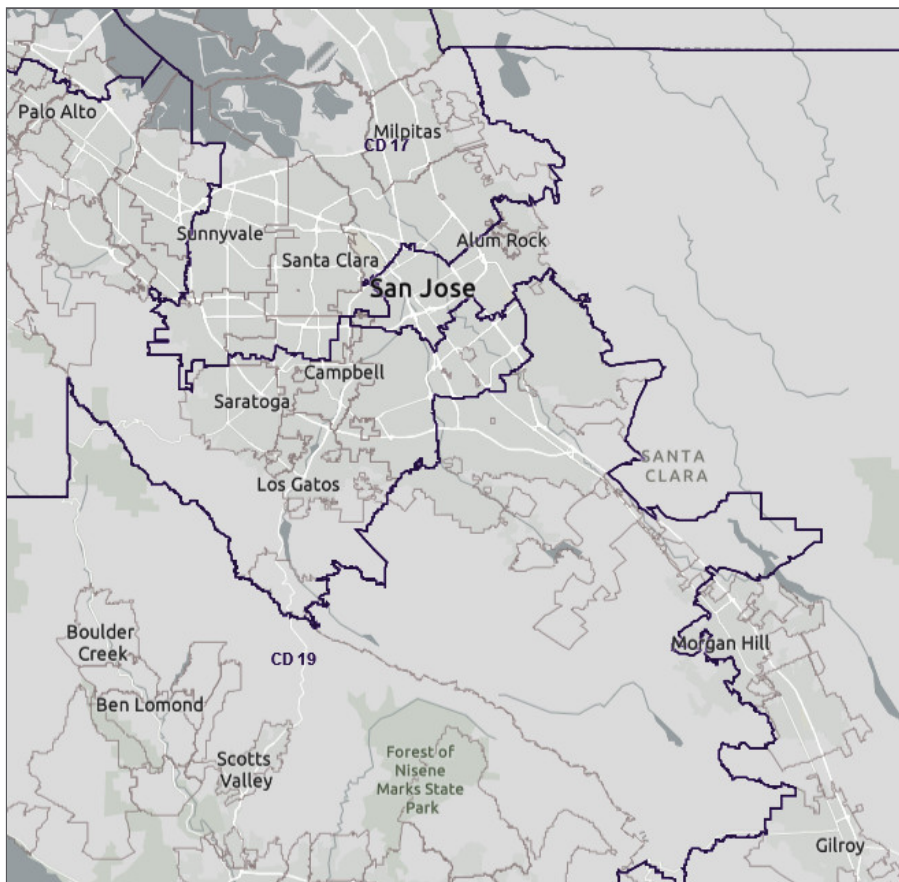
We will also be electing a three-member **Judicial Committee**, considering amendments to our **Bylaws and related governing documents**, and making **endorsements** of candidates and measures appearing on the ballot in upcoming elections.

Note that while anyone who supports the Libertarian Party is welcome to attend these meetings, to make motions or vote or run for party positions 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.sccplp.org/join](http://www.sccplp.org/join); if you have questions about your current membership status, write to [membership@sccplp.org](mailto:membership@sccplp.org).

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## New Federal/State Districts Set, Others Coming

The **California Citizens Redistricting Commission** has completed its work, finalizing the districts that will be used in electing members of the US House of Representatives, State Senate, State Assembly, and Board of Equalization for the upcoming decade, starting with the primary and general elections in 2022.



There are four Congressional Districts that overlap with Santa Clara County - CD16, CD17, CD18, and CD19. It was a matter of some controversy that these four districts *a/so* each contain parts of the city of San Jose. Some city politicians and residents argued that it would reduce their representation in Congress to have things split up that way, with four different representatives who are also representing suburban and

rural areas. But any way of dividing things up probably would have made somebody unhappy.

Three Senate Districts overlap with Santa Clara County: SD10, SD13, and SD15. Six Assembly Districts overlap with Santa Clara County: AD23, AD24, AD25, AD26, AD28, and AD29. All of Santa Clara County (along with most of the rest of the Bay Area, and the entire coast from the Oregon border down to around Ventura) is in Board of Equalization District 2.

Maps of all of these new districts can be found at:

[www.wedrawthelinesca.org/final\\_maps](http://www.wedrawthelinesca.org/final_maps)

The same new population counts, from the 2020 census, that were used to draw these federal and state districts are also being used to re-draw county and city districts.

Information about the redistricting process at the county level can be found at:

[countyexec.sccgov.org/2021-redistricting-process](http://countyexec.sccgov.org/2021-redistricting-process)

Information about the redistricting process for the city of San Jose can be found at:

[www.sanjoseca.gov/your-government/appointees/city-clerk/redistricting-2020](http://www.sanjoseca.gov/your-government/appointees/city-clerk/redistricting-2020)

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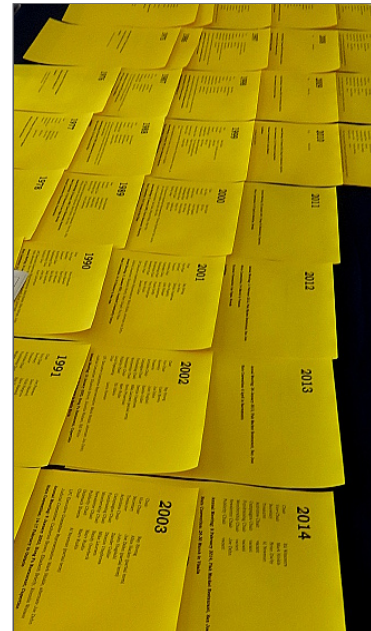
## LP SCC Historical Timeline

We've now celebrated 50 years as a political party, and Libertarians in Santa Clara County have been active pretty much from the beginning. But how much do we know about what they were doing over those 50 years?

It turns out quite a lot. Much of this was already being documented on [LPedia](http://LPedia), the web site maintained by the LP's Historical Preservation Committee. On that site there is an "article" for each county in California, where information about the history of the LP in that county can be collected and organized.

To get a better perspective on how much we know, year by year, County Chair Joe Dehn (who is also a member of the HPC) decided to reorganize the information into a "timeline" format, and a version of this timeline was on display at the 50th Birthday Party.

There was a page for each year – 51 pages in total, covering from 1971 to 2021 – with each page including information like who were the members of our county Executive



committee, who ran as candidates for public office, and where and when we held our Annual Meeting.

Much of this information was gathered from past issues of our local newsletter and (for more recent years) from archives of various web sites.

## 1996

Chair	David R. Bonino
Vice Chair	Brad Walker
Secretary	Marianne Petersen
Treasurer	Edward L. Wimmers
Activities Chair	Sam Severs
Campaigns Chair	Jon Petersen
Fundraising Chair	Mary Gingell
Membership Chair	Vicki Hargrove
Newsletter Chair	Sam Severs
Publicity Chair	Bob Gough

LPC Executive Committee Representative: Joe Dehn, alternate David R. Bonino

Judicial Committee: Mark Hinkle, Terry Savage, Laura Stewart

**Annual Meeting: 18 January 1996, Coco's Restaurant, Sunnyvale**

**State Convention: 16-19 February in Long Beach**

**National Convention: Washington, D.C.**

**Candidates**

President: Harry Browne / Jo Jorgensen  
US House 13: Terry Savage  
US House 14: Joe Dehn  
US House 15: Ed Wimmers  
US House 16: David Bonino  
State Senate 11: Jon Matonis  
State Senate 13: John Webster  
State Assembly 21: Christopher Inama  
State Assembly 24: Jon Petersen  
State Assembly 28: Mark Hinkle

Not all of this information has yet been found for every year. The periods for which we are still missing the most information are, as might be expected, the earliest years (prior to 1980) and, surprisingly, the years from 2008 to 2013. (The reason for this more recent lapse is that publication of our hardcopy newsletter ended in 2007, and there does not appear to have been a regularly-published e-mail newsletter until 2014.)

However, based on what is currently available on LPedia, it seems that Santa Clara County's history for the 50 years as a whole is the best-

documented of any county LP group in California – and possibly in the entire country. **But we can make it better!**

If you have information to contribute that could fill in any gaps in the record, or if you have additional material (e.g., photographs, campaign literature) that could help present a more complete picture, contact Joe Dehn ([chair@scclp.org](mailto:chair@scclp.org)).

Or you can learn about becoming an LPedia contributor yourself at:

[LPedia:Getting\\_Started\\_as\\_a\\_Contributor](#)

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## Make Plans Now to Attend State Convention

The annual convention of the Libertarian Party of California is coming up 18-20 February (that's Presidents Day Weekend) in Long Beach.

This convention will feature a number of well-known speakers, along with formal party business. You can find details including a tentative schedule, how to register for speaker and meal packages, and hotel reservation information, on the convention page at:



[ca.lp.org/convention](http://ca.lp.org/convention)

If you are a dues-paying, voting, state party member it is especially important that you attend this convention, because there are some very significant changes being proposed to the Bylaws and Platform.

The **Bylaws Committee** has already published its report, which can be found along with other proposals published with advance notice, at the top of the page at:

[ca.lp.org/bylaws](http://ca.lp.org/bylaws)

Following is a summary of the proposals:

*Proposals from the Bylaws Committee*

- \* specify that bylaws amendments take effect at end of convention
- \* clarify rule regarding Life Members who move out of state
- \* reduce delegate membership duration requirement from 90 days to 60 days
- \* allow NPP and unregistered voters to be central committee members
- \* allow alternates to fill in during EC at-large vacancies
- \* let counties have their own rules for county central committee membership
- \* add membership duration requirements for EC and JC members
- \* require national delegates to have been national members by allocation deadline
- \* make state officers automatically national delegates
- \* provide for web-based voting at state convention
- \* eliminate Style Committee

*Other Proposals with Advance Notice*

- \* require 2/3 vote of convention to amend bylaws (3/4 if without notice)
- \* require 2/3 vote of EC to declare county inactive or to reinstate membership
- \* eliminate state Platform - define it to be the national Platform
- \* remove procedures relating to Platform and Program from convention rules
- \* revise mechanism for exceptions to 90-day membership requirement for delegates

*This is just a summary – for details, see the documents posted at the link above.*

The **Platform Committee** is still working on its proposals, but its report is expected to be very controversial, including recommendations that would totally change the structure and content of the state Platform. This report will likely be posted by late January, on the Platform page of the LPC web site:

[ca.lp.org/platform](http://ca.lp.org/platform)

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## **Opinion: Vaccination As Personal Choice**

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.*





There are some, including many libertarians, who decry vaccine mandates as violations of personal autonomy: "I have the right to decide what goes into my body." When speaking of a substance like cannabis, this is true. However, cannabis and its use are not contagious.

You have the right to do whatever you like, so long as by so doing you do not injure another. Remaining unvaccinated with a pathogen as contagious as COVID-19 (in any of its variants, but especially the Omicron variant) running rampant in the population does indeed run the risk of injuring another; indeed, many others. There are laws against drunken driving because operating a motor vehicle while impaired increases the risk of injuring others; similarly, there are vaccine mandates because interacting with others while unvaccinated increases the risk of infecting them with the potentially-deadly virus.

Vaccination is not so much a matter of personal autonomy as of public policy. Much as your right to swing your fist ends at my nose, where a vaccine mandate is imposed, your right to go unvaccinated ends with your contact with members of the public, including me, who have not consented to the increased risk of being around unvaccinated people. You can, of course, choose to self-quarantine and go unvaccinated.

The unethical, and presumably thus un-libertarian, choice would be to go unvaccinated among people who had not consented to be so exposed.

Follow the science. Be as safe as you can be; get vaccinated and boosted. Certainly don't not do it just because you don't like being told what to do.

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## Coffee Meeting Update

In January the Third Saturday coffee meeting returns to [The Duke of Edinburgh in Cupertino](#).

The date is 15 January, and note that **the starting time is 4:00pm**. (Meetings held at most locations start earlier in the afternoon, but this restaurant doesn't open until 4:00pm.)



For more information, or to suggest a location for a future meeting, contact our Activities Chair, Bob Goodwyn, at [activities@scclp.org](mailto:activities@scclp.org).

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## Morgan Hill Ballot Measure

Voters in Morgan Hill will find a measure on their 2022 General Election ballot "changing zoning regulations throughout the city of Morgan Hill to prohibit certain new storage and distribution uses in all areas of the City and amending the review process for large-scale development projects".

The Libertarian Party generally opposes government restrictions on how land owners may make use of their property. The Land Use and Public Property plank of the Platform of the Libertarian Party of California states: **"We recognize the right of property owners to control, use, transfer or dispose of their property in any manner that does not violate the rights of others."**

Whether the LP of Santa Clara County should take a formal position on this specific measure is something that is likely to be considered at the January central committee meeting. If you live in Morgan Hill and have an opinion on this, please feel free to attend and give your input.

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## Featured Platform Plank: Pandemics

*Both the national Libertarian Party and the Libertarian Party of California have adopted platforms spelling out our positions on a wide variety of public policy issues. The national Platform is normally updated once every two years at the national convention (but due to the pandemic this did not happen in 2020); the LPC Platform is updated annually at the state convention. Here is one such platform plank, from the LPC Platform. For planks on other issues, see the complete [2021 LPC Platform](#) and [2018 National Platform](#).*

### **Pandemics**

Pandemics present serious problems for individuals and for society which must be addressed, but as with all other challenges they must be addressed while respecting individual rights, and they can best be addressed through the mechanisms of voluntary action and the market. Experience has shown that failure to adhere to these principles has led to widespread violations of rights, loss of life that could have been avoided, poor allocation of resources in addressing the problem, and severe damage to the economy and society as a whole.

We oppose actions by any level of government that:

- A. "Lock down" or otherwise generally limit the freedom of movement in a geographic area.
- B. Quarantine any individuals absent specific evidence that they are contagious.
- C. Force businesses, churches, or other organizations to stop operating or limit their hours.
- D. Prevent individuals from acquiring and using medicines, vaccines, masks, or any other product that they believe may be helpful to them.

E. Ration access to such products by age, occupation, or other personal characteristic.

F. Require any individuals to make use of any such products or other preventive measures.

G. Prevent private businesses and property owners from requiring protective measures they judge necessary for the protection of themselves and their employees, customers, or guests.

H. Discriminate against certain businesses or industries by declaring them "non-essential".

I. Require use of a government-issued internal passport or require businesses to make use of any privately-issued equivalent.

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## Commentary

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

[How the Myth of the Robber Barons Began and Why It Persists \(fee.org\)](#)

[How Much Can the Supply Chain Explain Inflation \(aier.org\)](#)

[Marijuana Legalization vs. Marijuana Freedom \(fff.org\)](#)

[Faucists On The March \(thisiscommonsense.org\)](#)

[Court Approves Lying to Voters to Pass Bonds \(hjta.org\)](#)

[Secret Documents Show Which Message Apps Are The Most FBI Proof \(reason.com\)](#)

[Homeless and Clueless in Oakland and Elsewhere \(independent.org\)](#)

[Twelve Marvelous Quotes On the Bill of Rights \(fee.org\)](#)

[Silicon Valley Lawmakers to Run for Re-Election in Redrawn Districts \(sanjosespotlight.com\)](#)

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## Podcasts

*Listen as you walk, in your car, or through your computer – also not necessarily official positions of the LP of Santa Clara County unless so noted.*

[Why Aren't Journalists Howling About the Assange Prosecution? \(reason.com\)](#)

[Grading President Biden's First Year in Office](https://www.hoover.org) (hoover.org).

[Santa and the Federal Government](https://fff.org) (fff.org).

[Freedom in Decline for Most of the World's People](https://www.cato.org) (cato.org).

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## 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.*

[How Biden's Agenda Is Causing Inflation](https://reason.com) (reason.com).

[Restoring Civil Liberties in America](https://fff.org) (fff.org).

[Market-Based Health and Social Protections](https://independent.org) (independent.org).

[How Leftist 'Saviors' Ruined Latin America](https://reason.com) (reason.com).

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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.

- 3 January - [Petitioning for Primary Begins](#)
- 15 January - [Third Saturday Coffee Meetup](#)
- 29 January - [Annual Meeting](#)
- 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](mailto:activities@scclp.org) with your suggestions.

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