



# The Liberty Quill

A Publication by the Libertarian Party of Santa Clara County

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## Defund the State

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

Among the most interesting slogans being tossed around during the recent urban unrest is "defund the police". What do people mean by that? Well, it turns out that different people mean different things, and many of them aren't literally demanding that funds be cut at all. Some of them only want the funds currently spent on police services used differently, e.g., more training rather than military-style weapons.



But just shifting money around from one thing to another within the law enforcement budget, or even from one department or agency to

another, is not what we as Libertarians seek. We can see that in the larger picture, the real problem is too much government spending in all areas. High government spending is a serious problem in several different but all very important ways:

- It violates the rights of individuals and businesses by taxing their earnings and property without their consent.
- These high taxes also create distortions in the market, pushing individuals and businesses to behave in ways that make less effective use of resources.
- The funds enable the government to make further intrusions into the market, through regulation, subsidies, and by creating monopolistic operations which push aside more effective private alternatives.
- Money is power, and these vast sums of money give politicians and bureaucrats even more ways to exercise control over every aspect of our lives - including, but not limited to, actual "police" functions.

What we need, to reverse all of these bad effects, is nothing less than to **DEFUND THE STATE**. Not just the police, not any one department, but the whole sorry mess.

Defunding the state can take many forms. Reducing tax rates is one way to defund the state. So is eliminating specific taxes entirely. In the case of some kinds of taxes, approaches like exempting certain activities or increasing deductions or exemptions may be a good way to get started.

All of these are policies that the Libertarian Party has advocated in its Platform for decades. They are all ways to make progress in defunding the state. Anything that reduces the amount of money available to politicians and bureaucrats is a good thing!

**So let's continue and re-double our efforts to defund the state!**

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## National Convention Notes

The LP's 2020 National Convention is finally over, having been concluded in a "hybrid" mode with some delegates participating in person in Orlando while a larger number participated online. (The first part of the convention, during which Jo Jorgensen and Spike Cohen were nominated for president and vice president, respectively, took place at the end of May and was entirely online.)

The process was difficult at times, but the essential business of electing people to national LP positions was accomplished. Our new national Chair is Joe Bishop-Henchman, Ken Moellman was elected as our new Vice Chair, and Caryn Ann Harlos and Tim Hagan were re-elected as Secretary and Treasurer respectively.

Some changes to the national bylaws were also approved, but no changes were made to the Platform.

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Even though in-person attendance was much lower than had been expected before the pandemic, other traditional convention activities took place as well, including meal events and presentations by various speakers. Among the speakers, appearing by video, was Congressman Justin Amash, giving his endorsement of the national ticket.



Thanks to the delegates from Santa Clara County who participated, one way or another, to get the work of the convention done!

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## Central Committee News

The Central Committee of the Libertarian Party of Santa Clara County met on Saturday, 25 July. Like the previous meeting, this was held online, via Zoom.

At this meeting, the members voted to take formal LP SCC positions on a number of statewide propositions and local ballot measures.

Also during this meeting, Mary Gingell volunteered to take on the job of Fundraising Chair. She was so appointed by the Executive Committee, and promptly recruited Anirban Das and Mark Hinkle as additional members of the Fundraising Committee. (There are still several other standing committee chair positions that need filling -- please consider volunteering!)

The next meeting of the Central Committee will be held in late summer or early fall, most likely again via Zoom -- watch for an announcement of the details.

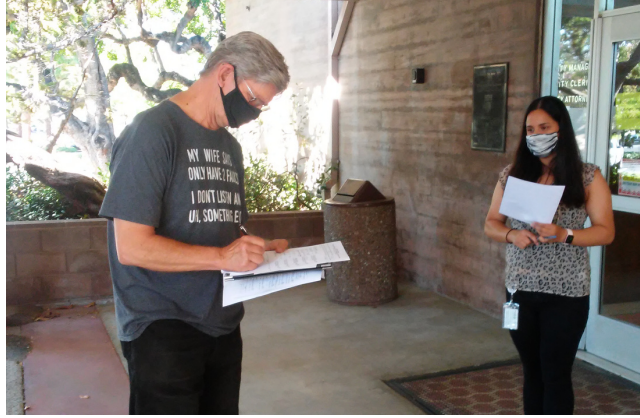
Note: Central Committee meetings are open to all supporters of the Libertarian Party, but to vote on official business you must be a central committee member. To join as a voting member, visit: [www.sccclp.org/join](http://www.sccclp.org/join)

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## Positions on Local Ballot Measures

Every election season, cities and districts seek voter approval for a wide range of measures. Many are tax measures, to add a new tax, increase a tax, or extend its duration. Another common type authorizes the sale of

bonds, which typically also means higher taxes over time, to pay back the bonds. Other measures deal with changes in land use, in the way local elections are held, the way various businesses are regulated, and many other matters.



*Mark Hinkle submitting the argument against a Santa Clara city tax increase which will be appearing on the ballot this November.*

The LP SCC usually takes positions for or against each of these measures. Our members also often provide the official "ballot argument" text that appears in the county voter guide, especially in the case of tax measures.

**The LP SCC has endorsed the following positions on measures that apply to various cities and district within the county:**

- NO** - Franklin-McKinley School District - parcel tax
- NO** - Fremont Union High School District - parcel tax
- YES** - Los Gatos - term limits
- YES** - Los Gatos - finance commission
- NO** - Mountain View - parking restrictions
- YES** - Mountain View - amendments to rent control system
- NO** - Palo Alto Unified School District - parcel tax
- NO** - San Jose - strong mayor
- NO** - Santa Clara (city) - hotel tax increase
- NO** - Santa Clara Valley Water District - parcel tax

*Note that the deadline for such measures to be submitted for a vote has not yet passed, so it is possible there will be others -- and none of the measures will be assigned identifying letters ("Measure A" and so on) until that period is over.*

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## Positions on Statewide Propositions

The LP SCC has also taken positions on some, but not all, of the propositions that will be appearing on the ballot statewide this November:

- Proposition 14 - **NO** - authorizes bonds
- Proposition 15 - **NO** - raises taxes on commercial property
- Proposition 16 - **NO** - allows government to discriminate by race, sex, etc.
- Proposition 17 - **YES** - allows those released from prison to vote
- Proposition 18 - no position
- Proposition 19 - no position
- Proposition 20 - no position

Proposition 21 - **NO** - allows more rent control

Proposition 22 - no position

Proposition 23 - **NO** - adds regulations

Proposition 24 - **NO** - adds regulations

Proposition 25 - **NO** - eliminates option of bail for those accused of a crime

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## Support Our Local Candidates

**Brian Holtz**, a long-time Libertarian who is an incumbent member of the Board of the Purissima Hills Water District, is up for re-election this year. The LP of Santa Clara County has endorsed him. If you live in that district, please vote for him and encourage your neighbors to vote for him.



**Azadeh Weber** is making her first run for a position on the Board of the Saratoga Union School District. The LP of Santa Clara County has endorsed her. If you live in that district, please vote for her and encourage your neighbors to vote for her.



*Even if you don't live in either of these districts, there are still ways you can help. Let us know if you would be willing to volunteer by writing to [campaigns@scclp.org](mailto:campaigns@scclp.org).*

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## Ways to Support the Jorgensen/Cohen Campaign

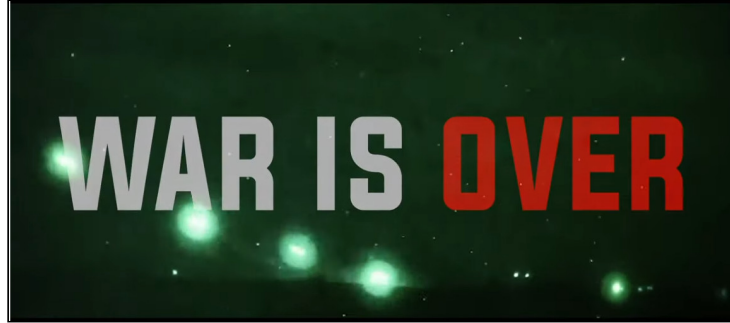
### Put a Sign on Your Lawn

Let your neighbors know about the Jorgensen/Cohen campaign by posting a sign on your lawn (or in your window, or wherever you can make one visible to people passing by). If you live on a corner lot, two signs would be better. If you have a place to put them, we can get you signs. **Just let us know!**

### Share a video!

Check out this video. This one is about bringing the troops home. Then pass it along to your friends!

[www.youtube.com/watch?v=1FkFDbZ-ge4](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1FkFDbZ-ge4)



### Help Distribute Literature

Volunteers will be distributing campaign literature all around the county, door-to-door and at events. If you would be willing to help with this, the campaign can provide a supply of literature! But we need to know how many you think you can distribute, so we can figure out how much to order.

Can you distribute 1000? 2000? More? [Please let us know!](#)

### Display a sticker on your car!

The national campaign is now offering bumper stickers for just \$1 each! You can order them from the campaign shop at:

[jo20.com/shop/](http://jo20.com/shop/)



Also available in the same campaign shop are signs, t-shirts, and more!

Here are two other bumper sticker designs that you can get printed and shipped to you at the "Build A Sign" site. This company is not (as far as we know) associated with the campaign or the LP. They just offer a variety of sticker designs, including custom designs like these ones, for a pretty reasonable price (about \$2.50 each) even in very small quantities. So you can order just one or two of these for your own car(s), and not need to wait for somebody else to order a big batch. Order now and you can have one on your car in less than two weeks!



[www.buildesign.com](http://www.buildesign.com) - order form

# Vote **JORGENSEN** *Libertarian* **COHEN** **PRO-CHOICE ON EVERYTHING 2020**

[www.builddesign.com - order form](http://www.builddesign.com - order form)

## Meet with local campaign volunteers on Facebook!

You can connect with other local activists working to support the Jorgensen/Cohen campaign by joining the "Silicon Valley for Jorgensen/Cohen 2020" Facebook group:

[www.facebook.com/groups/257891135481914/](http://www.facebook.com/groups/257891135481914/)

## Make a financial contribution!

If you don't have time to help as a volunteer, you can still help the campaign get the Libertarian message out by making a financial contribution. An online form through which you can make either a one-time contribution or a monthly contribution is available on the official campaign web site:

[jo20.com](http://jo20.com)

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## Yes on Rent Control?

The LP SCC has endorsed a **YES** vote on the Mountain View rent control measure.

*Why would we want you to vote for a rent control measure?*

Because Mountain View **already** has a rent control system enacted in its city charter. This measure would **amend** that system, to make it less harmful. It would make several beneficial changes, the most important of which are:

- The current strict limits on rent increases would only apply when vacancy rates are very low (3% or less). If vacancy rates are above that threshold, those mandatory limitations would be replaced by a much less intrusive system of conciliation and mediation and (non-binding) arbitration for cases where tenants believed that a rate increase was too high.
- Even if the vacancy rates were to go below that threshold, the mandatory rent limitations would only apply to tenants with below-median income.

Rent control is an intrusion into the housing market that both interferes with the rights of individual tenants and landlords to do business with each other in the way they see fit, and leads to housing shortages -- which the politicians will then insist they must fix with yet more government programs!

*Of course we would much prefer to see a simple, straightforward repeal of the entire existing system.* But that's not on the ballot. So the best we can do for now is to cut



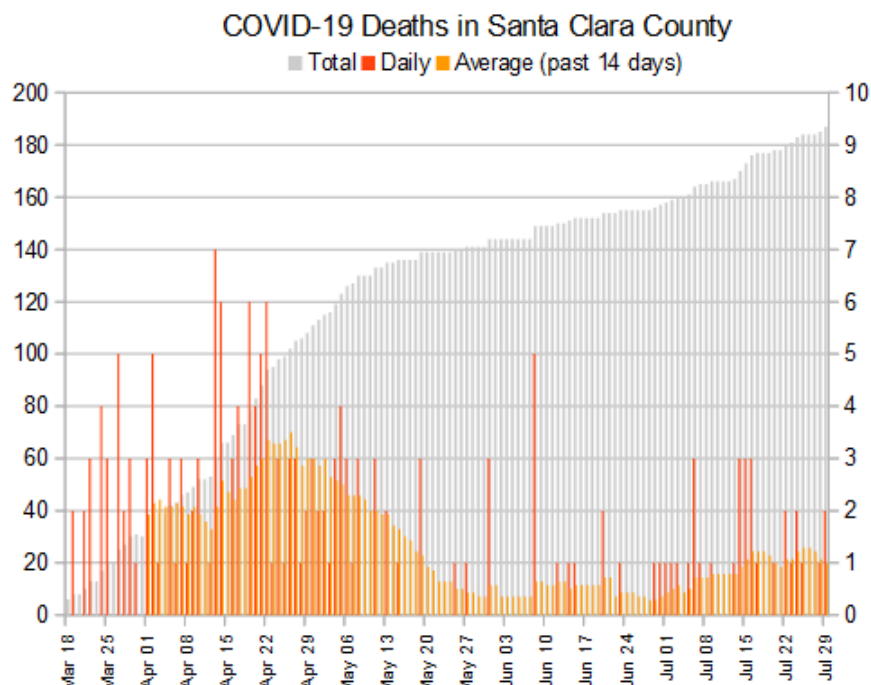
that system back to make it less harmful. If you live in Mountain View, please support this measure!

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## COVID-19 Update

In past issues, we've discussed **the harm done by the shutdown of our area's economy**, originally justified by the "flatten the curve" argument that without these draconian measures our health care system would be completely overwhelmed. We saw that, as measured by the rate of deaths, things never got to that point in Santa Clara County. And since the peak had already passed, that justification for these extreme measures no longer made sense.

And some of those measures were relaxed. What we've seen since then is that, **as expected**, there was some increase in cases, and deaths. But the death rate is still relatively small (about 1/3) compared with the peak that we saw in mid-April.



What does this mean for future management of this situation? It does **not** mean the problem is over. It does **not** mean the virus is disappearing. It's not going to disappear, if ever, until a vaccine or some similar technological development comes along. But it's ***an ongoing, continuing, known problem***, one that needs to be handled that way, through the ***normal processes of the market and law***, not through the exercise of arbitrary bureaucratic power of the sort usually reserved for sudden and unexpected situations like earthquakes.

Measures like distancing, masks, cleaning, and testing will all continue to be useful. But the **ways** that they are used will best be decided by *voluntary action and mutual agreement*, processes that can take into account the differing characteristics of various businesses and individual choice in terms of avoiding risk, not through one-size-fits-all bureaucratic fiat.



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## Commentary

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

[Post-pandemic Americans may be done with taking orders. \(Reason\)](#)

[62% of Americans say they have political views they're afraid to share. \(Cato\)](#)

[Why waste a vote on Donald Trump or Joe Biden? \(Press-Telegram\)](#)

[Attorney Generals taking the initiative ... to skew the initiative process. \(Hoover\)](#)

[Ending the war on drugs is the key to long-term police reform. \(Reason\)](#)

[The Federal Reserve is both too politicized and too powerful. \(AIER\)](#)

[How not to waste your vote - a mathematical analysis. \(FEE\)](#)

[Red flags raised over national debt's rapid rise. \(Independent\)](#)

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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. All events listed here should be considered **tentative**, depending on how the situation evolves. Check our web site for updates.

- 15 August - [Third Saturday Coffee Meetup \(online\)](#)
- late summer / early fall - Central Committee Meeting
- 19 September - [Third Saturday Coffee Meetup \(online\)](#)
- 17 October - [Third Saturday Coffee Meetup \(online\)](#)
- 3 November - [General Election](#)

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

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