



A Publication by the Libertarian Party of Santa Clara County

Contents:

- From the Chair
- 50 Years of History - Birthday Party
- 50 Years of History - Your Stories
- State Convention Deadlines Coming Up Soon
- Upcoming Central Committee Meetings
- Redistricting Update
- New Location for Coffee Meeting
- Pool/Billiards Gatherings Continue
- Christmas In The Park
- Featured Platform Plank: Emergency Powers
- Commentary
- Video Selections
- Calendar Summary

Have You Considered Running for Office?

A message from Joe Dehn, County Chair:

Wait a second -- wasn't "have you considered running for office" the theme of my Chair's column LAST month?

Yes, it was, and I'm repeating it this month because I believe that running for office is the most important activity we can support as a *political party*. No, it's not the only way to work for liberty, and it's not the best fit for every member, but it's the one thing that the Libertarian Party can do that no other organization in the libertarian

movement can do. *It's the reason we have a Libertarian Party.*

We must of course be smart about it, and make the most effective use of the opportunities presented by the political system we have here in California. And the most important thing to understand about elections in California is that they come in **two flavors**, that have almost nothing in common, and the way I see it that means that people considering running for office need to approach them with completely different goals and expectations.



Being on the ballot with the Libertarian label is the only way to use the electoral system to promote the Libertarian "brand". At this stage, running for one of those federal or state-level offices is not about getting elected. In most cases, because of the "top-two" primary system, we won't even get a chance to be on the general election ballot. But, accepting that reality of the current electoral system, it's also a great opportunity to present our principles and our ideas. Without the temptation to compromise in the hope of maybe getting a few more votes than the other candidates, *we can say what needs to be said.*

And except for some petitioning and a filing fee, these campaigns don't necessarily involve spending or raising a lot of money. Increasingly, with the rise of online politics and changed expectations because of the pandemic, they don't even require attending in-person events -- you can do almost everything needed to present our message this way sitting at your computer. So if your idea of fun is presenting libertarian ideas, especially as they apply to federal or state issues, why not give this a try? *(And yes, I am willing to put my money where my mouth is -- I was on the ballot as a Libertarian for Congress in 2020 and I am planning to do it again this time.)*

On the other hand, **Libertarians whose goal is to actually serve in public office** have many opportunities to do that by **running for a local, non-partisan position**. Depending on where you live, that might be a city council or board of education spot, but more likely it will be a position on the board of some special district. Campaigns for these offices do often still require significant financial and organizational resources, so they are best suited for people who are willing and able to put in a lot of time and who aren't afraid of doing fundraising. (But some of these positions sometimes even go uncontested, and all you need to do to be elected is file to run!)

So actually serving in a public office is possible for a Libertarian. *(We have several members in this county who have done it -- and they would be happy to help you get your campaign organized.)* You just need to be smart about it, and pick the office carefully. There are going to be many of these non-partisan offices up for election in 2022. Whether your goal is to "work for change from within" or to build your political resumé for a run for higher office in the future, the best time to start on picking an appropriate office is now!

Which of these is the best way to work for liberty is not a choice we need to make as a party. *These are choices for **you** to make - opportunities of which you can take advantage - as an individual member.* Most likely, one of these will be a better fit for you, depending on your personality and resources. And with very few exceptions,

these two kinds of campaigns happen at different times, so they don't even interfere with each other for financial and volunteer support.

So as a party, we can support both. But what kinds of campaigns we will actually have in 2022 is basically up to you. ***If either option sounds like something you would be willing to consider, please get in touch with me so I can help you get more information.***

Joe Dehn
County Chair
chair@scclp.org
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50 Years of History - 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 organize it!

To celebrate this event, groups across the country are going to be holding birthday parties exactly 50 years after that date, on 11 December of this year.

We are planning to hold our party that afternoon, at the home of one of our members in Los Altos Hills. We'll be celebrating with pizza, looking at photos and other memorabilia from past campaigns and other projects, hearing from some of the "old-timers", honoring some of the prominent LP activists who live in our area, and of course we'll have a birthday cake.



More details will be coming shortly, but please mark your calendar so you will be able to join us: **Saturday, 11 December, 1:00-5:00pm.**

50 Years of History - Your Stories

If you've been a member of the LP for more than a few years, you probably have stories to tell that would be of interest to newer members -- and members yet to join, who will be joining in years to come!

With the LP's 50th birthday coming up, this is a perfect time to **help us compile the story of the Libertarian Party of Santa Clara County** - by contributing the stories of your campaigns and other adventures in working for freedom!

Were you a candidate? You can tell us what made you want to run, how your campaign went, and what you learned from it. Do you have samples of campaign

literature, buttons, or signs?

Did you lead a fight against some tax measure or other government action? Were you an LP SCC officer, or an editor of our county newsletter?



Do you have photographs taken at campaign events, political demonstrations, or LP SCC meetings?

Bring your stories to tell and memorabilia to show at our event on 11 December!

State Convention Deadlines Coming Up Soon

The 2022 annual convention of the Libertarian Party of California is scheduled for 18-20 February (Presidents Day Weekend), in Long Beach.

To be eligible to vote at that convention you must have been a central committee member 90 days before the start of the convention. That works out to be just a couple of weeks away: **19 November 2021**.



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](#)

Important note: In order to have voting status at the convention, in addition to submitting this application and paying dues you must be registered to vote as a Libertarian if eligible. This is required by a bylaws amendment adopted at the 2021 state convention. If you are currently registered "no party preference" (independent, previously called "decline to state"), please change your registration to Libertarian by 19 November. (If you are not eligible to register, due to age or citizenship status, this requirement does not apply to you.) You can change your voter registration by simply submitting a new voter registration form, either by mail or online at registertovote.ca.gov.

If you have been a member in the past and just need to renew, you can pay your dues using this form:

[LPC \(State/Local\) Membership Renewal Form](#)

And if you are thinking of attending the convention, note that the deadline for "early bird" pricing on convention packages (including the banquet and other special activities) is 30 November. You can register online at:

[LPC 2022 Convention Registration](#)

Upcoming Central Committee Meetings

In the language of our bylaws (inspired by the terminology used in California election law), the body of voting members at the county level is called the "county central committee". Committee meetings are held every few months, to plan party business and make formal decisions like endorsements for public office and ballot measures.



We are planning to hold our next central committee meeting on 11 December, in conjunction with the 50th Birthday Party. We expect this meeting to be fairly short, just long enough to take care of any business that requires timely action.

After that, we expect to be holding our annual meeting in late January or early February. That's the meeting at which we will be electing officers for the upcoming year. In addition to the positions common to most political organizations, like Chair and Secretary, we elect chairs of various standing committees, to work on functions like campaigns, fundraising, membership, and publicity. So if you think you might be interested in getting more involved in party business, that's your opportunity to run for one of those internal offices.

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.

Redistricting Update

Every ten years, the district boundaries for the US House and the state legislature are redrawn, based on population counts from the national census. Because of delays in the 2020 census process (mostly blamed on the pandemic, though there were other factors), this "redistricting" process has also been delayed, to the point that the district boundaries would not be finalized by the time candidates for these offices would need to start filing for the primary.



So now, apparently as a result of a court order, various deadlines have been set or adjusted to address this mismatch.

According to the Redistricting Commission web site, **draft maps** of the new districts for the US House and the state legislature will be published no later than **15 November**, and the final versions must be **certified** to the Secretary of State no later than **27 December**. For the latest updates, visit the commission web site at: wedrawthelinesca.org

According to the Secretary of State's web site, the period for circulating a "Signatures In Lieu" (SIL) petition -- normally the first step for Libertarians who intend to run for these kinds of offices -- will now run from 3 January through 9 February.

New Location for Coffee Meeting

After several months at Holder's, the November third-Saturday coffee meeting will be held at a new location: the **Duke of Edinburgh** in Cupertino, at 10801 Wolfe Road, very close to the exit from I-280. It's a pub -- they have coffee, they have food, they have seating indoors and out.

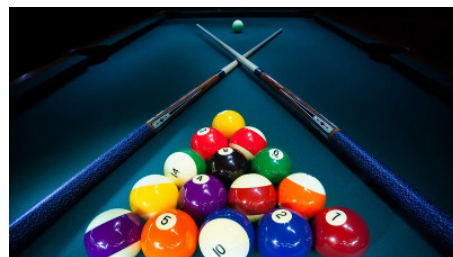


These meetings are very informal. Both LP members and non-members are welcome. You can find out more about the LP from current members, or just chat about issues of the day.

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

Pool/Billiards Gatherings Continue

Chris Le reports that he is 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 November are the 10th and 17th.

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

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. A decorating session has been set for 26 November (the day after Thanksgiving) from 10am to noon. If you have decorating ideas or would just be willing to help, contact Activities Chair **Bob Goodwyn** at activities@scclp.org.



Featured Platform Plank: Emergency Powers

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](#).

Emergency Powers

It is basic to the idea of an "emergency" that special action is required for a limited time. A problem can certainly be serious even if it isn't an "emergency". But it is an abuse of any "emergency power" to apply it to issues of an ongoing nature.

The fact that the people of California have been willing in the past to tolerate some violations of their rights for a limited time in cases of actual emergencies, e.g., earthquakes or floods, cannot be accepted as legitimizing similar violations of rights as a way of dealing with changes of a permanent nature, such as the existence of a new disease, or that are expected to take place over decades or centuries, such as rising sea levels.

The best solutions to serious new problems of an ongoing nature are the same as for serious old problems of an ongoing nature – ones based on the consistent application of individual rights and mechanisms for voluntary trade and assistance. The best way for government to help when an emergency becomes an ongoing problem is to get out of the way as soon as possible and allow the market to function.

Therefore we:

A. Support the inclusion of strict time limits in legislation that authorizes any "emergency powers".

B. Oppose any "emergency" policies which allow the Governor or mayors to exercise legislative functions beyond the time that the respective legislative bodies can resume operation, or which allow police, military, or administrative officials to exercise judicial functions beyond the time that regular courts can resume operation.

C. Oppose use of "declarations of emergency" as an excuse to impose regulations or taxes that do not relate directly to addressing the actual emergency.

Commentary

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

[The Cobra Effect - Lessons in Unintended Consequences \(fee.org\)](#)

[The Surprising Social Signals of Halloween \(aier.org\)](#)

[Democrats Are Peddling False Tax Narratives to Sell Their Agenda \(cato.org\)](#)

[Puritanism Then and Now \(fff.org\)](#)

[Is America Becoming Rome Versus Byzantium? \(independent.org\)](#)

[Governments Love Inflation and They Won't Do Anything to Stop It \(mises.org\)](#)

[Looking for the Green New Deal \(libertarianinstitute.org\)](#)

[How Ayn Rand's Dystopian Novella Anticipated Cancel Culture \(fee.org\)](#)

[Pre-Columbian America Wasn't Exactly a Paradise of Freedom \(mises.org\)](#)

[Warren Harding's Historic Speech on Race:How Black and White Americans Responded \(fee.org\)](#)

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.

[Why a Universal Basic Income Won't Work \(policyed.org\)](#)

[Vaccine Mandates, Fiscal Crisis, DOJ Threatens to Silence Peaceful Dissent \(independent.org\)](#)

[Heros and Villains at Oslo Freedom Forum \(lp.org\)](#)

[Civil Liberty and Economic Liberty \(fff.org\)](#)

[Libertarian James Bond \(reason.com\)](#)

[Candidates Corner \(lp.org\)](#)

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.

- 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](#)
- 26 November - [Decorating Christmas Tree](#)
- 8 December - [Wednesday Pool/Billiards Meetup](#)
- 11 December - [LP 50th Birthday Party](#)
- 11 December - [Central Committee Meeting](#)
- 18 December - [Third Saturday Coffee Meetup](#)
- 3 January - [Petitioning for Primary Begins](#)
- 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.



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