



The Liberty Quill

A Publication by the Libertarian Party of Santa Clara County

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When a Party Sells Its Soul

A message from Joe Dehn, County Chair:

Over the past few months we have all been witness to the horrible consequences of a political party selling its soul – giving up totally on any sort of coherent message in favor of embracing a cult of personality as the only way to "win".

Libertarians have been commenting for years, of course, that the Republican Party has been losing ideological coherence, giving up most of what it had in the way of "principles", so that on many issues it became little more than an echo of the other major party.

No more was the Republican Party standing up consistently for the ideals of free enterprise or even limited government. It was no longer fighting for smaller



government, but just a government not growing quite as fast as what the Democrats wanted. No longer fighting against socialism, its members could only bring themselves to advocate "reform" of programs like Medicare, Social Security, and various kinds of welfare for individuals and corporations alike.

This was all true even before Trump took over that party. But in choosing Trump to lead them, because he seemed the only candidate capable of beating the Democrats, they took their self-destructive path to a bitter end. With their party now in the hands of a populist, they found themselves fighting against free trade, against civil liberties, and in a position where they had to support this man no matter how repulsive his behavior.

We don't expect a totally consistent ideological message from either the Republicans or the Democrats. These parties both aim to be "big tent" parties, able to include people with a wide enough range of views and interests to be able to "win" on election day. But the Republicans' "tent" hasn't even been up to that job. In California it hasn't been up to that job for a while, with the result that the Democrats now have a super-majority in both houses of the state legislature, with no prospect of that changing for the foreseeable future.

The Republicans now find themselves divided into at least three camps – the "traditional" conservatives, the Trump-loving populists, and some who lean libertarian. It is almost impossible that these three groups will be able to resolve their differences in time to become a winning team in the next election, either in California or nationally. It isn't clear if they will ever be able to put Humpty Dumpty back together again. And if they can't, and wind up in the dustbin of history (like the party they replaced), what will happen to the Democrats? Will they succeed in cementing their hold on power, making us a one-party nation, like the Communist parties in China and the old Soviet Union? Or will they then fracture into their own "populist" and "traditional" wings?

One thing is clear: Neither of those parties is going to be in any position to lead a movement to restore liberty, in California or the country as a whole. **Only the Libertarian Party** can do that, and only the Libertarian Party has a structure that ensures that we will not "sell our soul". Our Statement of Principles, unchanged for more than 40 years now, and protected by our national bylaws requirement for 7/8 approval of any change to it, makes it the job of our convention delegates to *select candidates who represent our principles*, rather than changing our principles year by year as new candidates come along.

Members of the Libertarian Party come from a variety of political backgrounds. Some were Republicans, before they saw that the LP was a better way to work for freedom. ***Now that they can see the consequences of letting their party be taken over by Trump***, more Republicans than ever will be considering joining us. If you have Republican friends, relatives, or neighbors – **please extend an invitation!**

Joe Dehn
County Chair
chair@scclp.org

Annual Meeting Report

The annual meeting of our county central committee was held Saturday, 23 January.

The following officers were elected to serve for the coming year:

Chair - Joe Dehn

Vice Chair - Mark Hinkle

Treasurer - Steve Haug

Activities Chair - Bob Goodwyn

Fundraising Chair - Mary Gingell

Membership Chair - Chris Le

Newsletter Chair - Kennita Watson



Brian Holtz, John Inks, and Bill White were elected to serve as our **Judicial Committee**.

The **amendments to our bylaws and meeting rules** that were presented at the previous meeting were adopted, with minor wording changes.

The central committee also voted to endorse the effort to **recall Governor Gavin Newsom** (see details below).

State Convention Deadlines

The annual convention of the Libertarian Party of California is scheduled to be held 14-16 May, in Visalia. This convention will be electing the officers and much of the rest of the LPC's leadership to serve for a two-year term. As usual, this convention will also be considering changes to the LPC's Bylaws and Platform.



Convention packages are available at a special Early Bird price through the end of January. To register for one of these packages, or for more information about the convention, visit:

ca.lp.org/convention

Although anyone is welcome to attend this convention to take advantage of the speaker line-up and participate in the meals and other special events, to be **eligible to vote** on formal party business (like the elections and the Platform) you must have been a dues-paying member ("central committee member") at least 90 days in advance.

One dues payment covers your membership at both the county and state level. It's easy to join. **You can do it online!** Just go to this page on our web site to get started:

Newsom Recall Petition

The petition to recall Gavin Newsom has already been signed by more than 1.2 million people. More than 1.5 million signatures are needed, and the deadline for submitting them is 10 March.

Your help is needed to get this job done in time!



If you haven't signed the petition yet, you can find a list of places in Santa Clara County where you can go to sign it here:

recallgavin2020.com/county/santa-clara/

But even better would be to circulate the petition yourself, to **get your family, friends, and neighbors to sign**. You can find a printable (PDF) copy of the petition form at:

recallgavin2020.com/petition/

Be sure to also **read the instructions** on that page! There are all sorts of mistakes that could invalidate a petition sheet, so you want to be sure to get it right.

Commentary

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

[Americans Abandoning Free Speech Better Brace for the Consequences](#)
(reason.com).

[The Biden Administration Veers Left](#) (hoover.org).

[What Does Free Speech Mean Online?](#) (aclu.org).

[The Gold Clause: A Free-Market Gold Standard](#) (fff.org).

[The Downsides to Biden's Plan for Free College Tuition](#) (independent.org).

[Silicon Valley Lawmakers Weigh in on GameStop Controversy](#) (sanjoseinside.com).

[How FDR's Historic "Four Freedoms" Speech Changed the Meaning of Freedom](#)
(fee.org).

[Police Encryption and the Public's Right to Know](https://paloaltoonline.com) (paloaltoonline.com).

[Survey Reignites Debate on Closure of Reid-Hillview Airport](https://sanjosespotlight.com) (sanjosespotlight.com).

[The Right to Refuse Service Should Be Universal and Absolute](https://fff.org) (fff.org).

["Deindustrialization," Free Markets, and National Security](https://cato.org) (cato.org).

Video Selections

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

[What's Driving California's Mass Exodus?](https://cnbc.com) (CNBC).

[The Early Years of Ludwig von Mises](https://fff.org) (fff.org).

[Libertarians At Large](https://lp.org) (lp.org).

[One Venezuelan Student's Heartbreaking Experience with Socialism](https://fee.org) (fee.org).

[Capitol Protest Fallout, Censorship, Biden Agenda, China](https://independent.org) (independent.org).

[Should the Government Stop Dumping Money Into a Giant Hole?](https://theonion.com) (theonion.com).

[Don't Let the Capitol Riot Reignite the War on Terror](https://reason.com) (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.

- 20 February - [Third Saturday Coffee Meetup](#) (online).
- 20 March - [Third Saturday Coffee Meetup](#) (online).
- 17 April - [Third Saturday Coffee Meetup](#) (online).
- 14-16 May 2021 - [LPC State Convention](#) (Visalia).
- 26-30 May 2022 - [National Convention](#) (Reno).
- 7 June 2022 - [Primary Election](#)
- 8 November 2022 - [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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