

The Liberty Quill

A Publication by the Libertarian Party of Santa Clara County

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What a difference a couple of weeks can make!

A message from Joe Dehn, County Chair:

Two years ago at around this time, we were all living our lives in a way that was considered "normal" up until then. Little did we know that just a couple of weeks later we would all be "locked down", for what was announced as "a few weeks to flatten the curve" but turned out to be much longer, with new rules and practices that destroyed whole industries, not to mention the disruption to our personal lives in ways from which we have even now only partly recovered.



And just a few weeks ago, we were all living in a world where the idea of a war between NATO and Russia was almost unthinkable to most people. For older Americans, fear of this was only a distant memory, while for younger people it was just history, something from the last century. But now, as I write this, Russian troops, armor, and aircraft are overrunning a major European country, the US and the EU are engaged in imposing all manner of "sanctions" against Russia, and NATO is moving its forces eastward.

These sanctions may not involve direct physical violence, but their whole purpose is to hurt Russia. And to the degree that "sanctions" really do seriously hurt a country, the target country may or may not make that distinction, between a military and other form of attack. Let's not forget that although the attack on Pearl Harbor is typically cited by Americans as what triggered the US involvement in World War II, that in turn was triggered by restrictions on credit, technology, and resources that were being imposed on the Japanese, which were in turn a response to Japan's invasion of neighboring countries!

Let's hope that history doesn't repeat in that way – that the current situation somehow can de-escalate, that both NATO and Russia can see a way to pull back and let the people in between work out their own destinies.

But even if we get through *this* crisis without any more countries getting involved (and without any nukes being launched), *this won't be the last time that something like this will come up*. The news is full of global "hot spots" that could quickly develop into something even hotter.

There isn't much we can say, as Libertarians, about how to get out of a mess like this once we are in it. Wars, once they get started, have a logic of their own. It's hard to discuss philosophy with people while their cities are being bombed. As human beings, we care about both the lives and the freedom of people all over the world, and we can hope that this situation gets resolved in a way that minimizes the loss of life and leaves people relatively free.

But we do have some important things to say about how to **avoid getting into this kind of mess again**. The Libertarian position with respect to US military policy is clear. It is not the responsibility of the US military, or the US taxpayer, to police and defend every country on this planet. It is not the job of a defensive alliance (which is what NATO claims to be) to intervene in civil wars, even if other countries are already intervening. And if the US is to go to war, at the very least our government should follow its own rule book, the Constitution, which requires a declaration by the people's representatives in Congress.

Furthermore, our principles don't just provide a guide for keeping out of trouble in the short term – they provide a permanent solution for the long term. Although nation-states can help people defend their liberty from aggression by hostile foreign powers, the preservation of existing nation-states is not a fundamental goal, in and of itself. The answer does not lie in the "sovereignty" of nations – which is a concept that can also be used by dictators and oligarchs to defend continued subjugation of their own people – but rather in the **rights of the individual**.

The people of Ukraine deserve freedom, and we wish them well in their efforts to defend themselves from domination by a country that is less free. But so do the people of Russia, and the rest of the world. *So we also salute the many Russians, including members of the Libertarian Party of Russia, who have been speaking out against and publicly protesting the aggressive actions of their own government.*

Our goal as Libertarians is, in the words of our national Platform, "nothing more nor less than a world set free in our lifetime". In the world we seek to build, based on respect for individual rights and the power of the free market, wars over national boundaries ultimately *will* become ancient history – because national boundaries simply won't matter enough to fight a war about.

Joe Dehn

County Chair

chair@scclp.org

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Annual Meeting Report

At its annual meeting on 29 January the Central Committee of the Libertarian Party of Santa Clara County elected new officers and adopted two changes to the county bylaws.

The ten officers elected at this meeting, who together make up the county Executive Committee, are:

- * Chair - Joe Dehn (*re-elected*)
- * Vice-Chair - Mark Hinkle (*re-elected*)
- * Secretary - Michael Melo
- * Treasurer - Alan Kaiser (*re-elected*)
- * Activities Chair - Bob Goodwyn (*re-elected*)
- * Campaigns Chair - Brian Holtz
- * Fundraising Chair - Mary Gingell (*re-elected*)
- * Membership Chair - Cody Drummond
- * Newsletter Chair - Robert Gomez
- * Publicity Chair - Elizabeth Brierly

Bill White, Steve Haug, and John Inks were elected to serve as the county party's Judicial Committee,

Our bylaws were amended to clarify the procedure to be followed in case of a vacancy in the office of county chair, and to establish procedures for adoption of a county platform.



Help Get "Repeal the Death Tax" on the Ballot

Petitions for the "Repeal the Death Tax" initiative are currently being circulated in Santa Clara County and all across the state.

This initiative would restore the protections enacted as part of Proposition 58 in 1986 and Proposition 193 in 1996, which allow a family to retain the assessed valuation of a property when it is passed on to children or grandchildren upon the death of the owner. These protections were removed in 2020 by the passage of Proposition 19.

Proposition 19 only passed by a small margin, and most likely got as much support as it did only because it included provisions to expand the ability of older homeowners to transfer their assessment when they move to other counties. Many voters probably didn't even realize that it also reduced the protection for families transferring property to their children.

The Central Committee of the LP of Santa Clara County voted to endorse this "Repeal the Death Tax" initiative at its meeting on 29 January 2022.

This initiative is being organized by the Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Association. For more information about the initiative and how you can help get it on the ballot, visit: reinstate58.hjta.org/

State Convention Report

The Libertarian Party of California convention, held over the Presidents Day weekend in Long Beach, was one of the best-attended in many years. Delegates made some significant changes to the LPC Bylaws, and elected members to fill eight positions of the 15-person state Executive Committee. (The other seven have terms that continue through next year.)



Also elected were all five members of the state Judicial Committee and a new representative and alternate to the Libertarian National Committee.

The most significant changes to the Bylaws were the elimination of the state Platform and an increase in the vote required to make further amendments to the Bylaws themselves.

The decision to eliminate the state Platform means that the national Platform will serve as the LPC's platform, and there will no longer be a Platform Committee or

debate of Platform amendments at future state conventions.

The change in the rule for Bylaws amendments reversed a change made last year, which reduced the requirement to a simple majority of delegates present and voting; the new requirement is 2/3 for changes proposed in advance and 3/4 for proposals from the floor.

Other changes included clarification of the rule regarding the voting status of life members who move out of state and elimination of the Style Committee.

Delegates elected a new LPC Secretary, Northern Area Coordinator, Central Area Coordinator, and five at-large members of the state Executive Committee, along with two alternates. The new Northern Area Coordinator, responsible for the part of the state that includes Santa Clara County, is Adrian Malagon, from Contra Costa County.

Details of all the elections can be found in the LPedia article for this convention at:

[California_Convention_2022#Elections](https://www.lpca.org/California_Convention_2022#Elections)

Thirteen members of our county central committee, including seven of the ten members of our county executive committee, participated as delegates: Elizabeth Brierly, Joe Dehn, Cody Drummond, Mary Gingell, Steve Haug, Linda Hinkle, Logan Hinkle, Mark Hinkle, Brian Holtz, Scott Lieberman, Michael Melo, John Ward, and Ed Wimmers.

Delegates also had a chance to hear a debate among three candidates for LP National Chair: Tony D'Orazio, Steve Dasbach, and Angela McArdle. National officers will be elected during the national convention, scheduled to take place in Sparks, Nevada (near Reno) this May.

The voting for delegates to represent California at the national convention was also done at this state convention, but the results of that vote have not yet been announced.

Reason:

Adopts the national Party Platform as the platform for the LPC, freeing up time required at state conventions to maintain and update a separate California party platform and removing the need for an LPC Platform Committee. Issues specific to California can still be addressed in our Party Program.

| CURRENT WORDING | PROPOSED AMENDMENT | IF ADOPTED WILL READ |
|---|--|--|
| <p>Bylaw 20: Platform</p> <p>Section 1 The Party Platform shall consist of a number of planks which state the Party position on specific state and national issues. The Platform may be amended by deletion, substitution, or addition of any plank at any Party convention. The delegates may, by majority vote, delete a plank. The delegates, by a two-thirds vote, but not less than a majority of all registered delegates, may add a new plank, or substitute a new plank for an old plank.</p> | <p>Bylaw 20: Platform</p> <p>Section-1 The national party platform shall be the Party Platform. shall consist of a number of planks which state the Party position on specific state and national issues. The Platform may be amended by deletion, substitution, or addition of any plank at any Party convention. The delegates may, by majority vote, delete a plank. The delegates, by a two-thirds vote, but not less than a majority of all registered delegates, may add a new plank, or substitute a new plank for an old plank.</p> | <p>Bylaw 20: Platform</p> <p>The national party platform shall be the Party Platform.</p> |



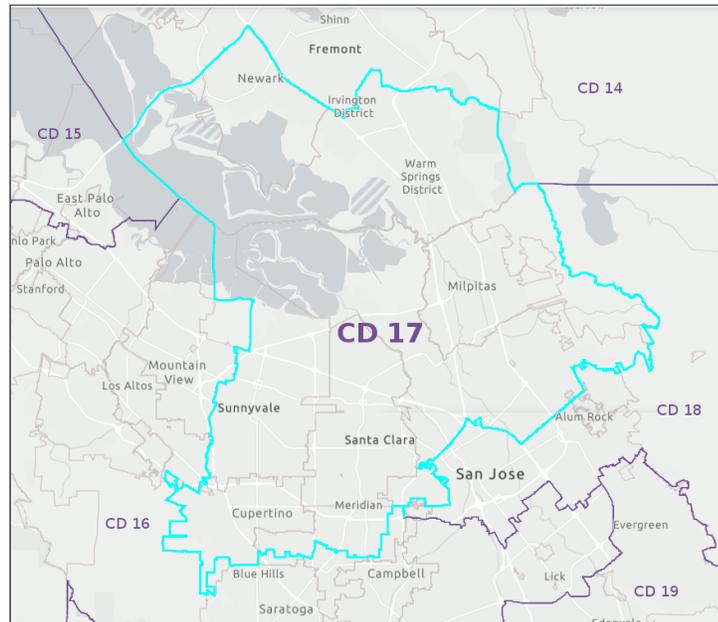
During a short post-convention meeting, the new LPC Executive Committee decided to hold its first regular meeting on 19 March, in or near Hayward.

Campaign Update: Dehn for Congress

Joe Dehn filed his petition in early February and the Registrar of Voters confirmed that enough signatures were valid to meet the nomination requirement. He expects to complete the rest of the paperwork, including paying the filing fee, by the first week of March.

The 17th Congressional District covers the cities of Cupertino, Sunnyvale, Santa Clara, Milpitas, and some of the northern parts of San Jose. It also includes parts of Fremont and Newark, in Alameda County.

Dehn has been endorsed for this office by both the LP of Santa Clara County and the LP of California. His endorsement for this office by the LPC was re-confirmed at the recent state convention.



Based on information filed so far with the Registrar of Voters, it looks likely that there will be three other candidates in this race: the incumbent Democrat, another Democrat, and one Republican.

Contact information for this campaign:

- dehn.votelibertarian.us
- cd17@dehnbase.org

Featured Platform Plank: International Affairs

The national Libertarian Party has adopted a platform 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). Here is one such platform plank. For planks on other issues, see the

[2018 National Platform](#). (As noted elsewhere in this issue, the Libertarian Party of California no longer has a separate Platform.)

International Affairs

American foreign policy should seek an America at peace with the world. Our foreign policy should emphasize defense against attack from abroad and enhance the likelihood of peace by avoiding foreign entanglements. We would end the current U.S. government policy of foreign intervention, including military and economic aid. We recognize the right of all people to resist tyranny and defend themselves and their rights. We condemn the use of force, and especially the use of terrorism, against the innocent, regardless of whether such acts are committed by governments or by political or revolutionary groups.

Commentary

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

[Courts Allow Border Searches of Cell Phones](#) ([reason.org](#)).

[Price Controls: Still a Bad Idea](#) ([hoover.org](#)).

[How to Boost the US Economy While Sticking It to Putin](#) ([reason.com](#)).

[What Economics Can Tell Us About Mandating Vaccines](#) ([aier.org](#)).

[Privacy Experts to Agencies: End Use of Facial Verification Services](#) ([eff.org](#)).

[The American Inflation Plan](#) ([lp.org](#)).

[Ron Paul Was Right About Ukraine](#) ([fff.org](#)).

[California is the Mad Scientist of Bad Policy](#) ([hjta.org](#)).

[Seattle's Nanny State Soda Tax Backfired Spectacularly and Hilariously](#) ([fee.org](#)).

[Hayek's Ghost Haunts the Hills of Afghanistan](#) ([aier.org](#)).

[California Should Remove Outdated Barriers to Telehealth](#) ([reason.org](#)).

[Livestreaming Police is a Critical First Amendment Right](#) ([aclu.org](#)).

[Thus Always To Tyrants](#) ([fff.org](#)).

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.

[San Jose Explores Allowing Non-Citizens to Vote](https://sanjosespotlight.com) (sanjosespotlight.com).

[What Ukraine and Joe Rogan Have in Common](https://reason.com) (reason.com).

[Cancel Culture Club: Free Speech Under Attack in Academia](https://hoover.org) (hoover.org).

[Dodging Bullets - Real and Metaphorical](https://hoover.org) (hoover.org).

[Why We're Suing San Jose and Sam Liccardo](https://sanjosespotlight.com) (sanjosespotlight.com).

[The Canadian Truck Protests Aren't Just About Vaccines](https://reason.com) (reason.com).

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.

[Obituary: P. J.O'Rourke, 1947-2022](https://reason.com) (reason.com).

[LP National Chair Debate in Long Beach](https://ca.lp.org) (ca.lp.org).

[Independent Outlook: Ukraine, China, and more](https://independent.org) (independent.org).

[The Evil and Destructiveness of Sanctions](https://fff.org) (fff.org).

[LP National Platform Committee Townhall](https://lp.org) (lp.org).

[Why Hate-Speech Laws Backfire](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.

- 11 March - [Primary Filing Deadline](#)
- 12 March - [County Executive Committee Meeting](#)
- 19 March - [Third Saturday Coffee Meetup](#)
- 19 March - [State Executive Committee Meeting \(Hayward\)](#)
- 16 April - [Third Saturday Coffee Meetup](#)
- 21 May - [Third Saturday Coffee Meetup](#)
- 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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