



A Publication by the Libertarian Party of Santa Clara County

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"Following the Science"

A message from Joe Dehn, County Chair:

There are a lot of people in the media who don't seem to understand what "science" actually is about. They seem to think it's whatever answers people called "scientists" give to a wide range of questions, including questions about decisions facing politicians and voters about economic and social issues.

That's *not* what science is. Science is a way of approaching questions about the universe, to build theories/models of how the world works by testing hypotheses through experiments. It is a *process*, not a set of answers. While it is true that the models produced by science can give very useful answers to certain kinds of

practical questions (e.g., if we do this, what is likely to happen?), these answers have some *very important limitations*.

First, all scientific models are subject to reconsideration, as new information becomes available. Second, all scientific models have limited scope, they only apply to certain kinds of things or "when all else is equal". Actual scientists usually understand this but many people (including most professional "media" people) who are only looking at the output produced by a model (numbers, graphs) do *not* understand this.



Finally, and perhaps most important, "science" cannot answer questions involving subjective factors, where different people may want to apply different values in making tradeoffs. Yet both media people and politicians routinely ignore this limitation. They hold up charts that support some particular point that helps their argument, while ignoring – and hoping that you will also ignore – those broader questions. They also make a habit of *failing to follow science themselves*, when the models and data (including almost everything we have learned about economics) cast doubt on the logic of their own favored proposals.

I am personally a big fan of science – actual science. I have been interested in science since I was a small child, and graduated from one of the most famous scientifically-oriented universities in the world. But (and perhaps partly because of that) the sight of people who know almost nothing about science just blindly following the latest pronouncements of anybody on TV wearing a white coat makes me sick.

And knowing that this is how most people are getting most of their information about science, that is why when I hear anybody arguing for any *political position* using phrases like "follow the science", I know that while they may mean well they probably don't know what they are talking about, and generally take it as a clue to pay less attention to whatever they are saying!

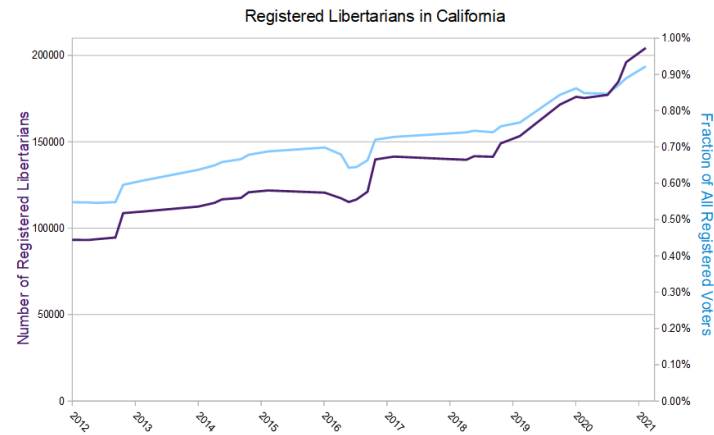
Joe Dehn
County Chair
chair@scclp.org

Libertarian Registration is Up Statewide

Good news - Libertarian registration in California is at an all time high!

According to the latest report from the Secretary of State, as of 10 February 2021 the number of registered Libertarians statewide reached 204,345. That's up by 8,237 since the last such report, just before the November election. In percentage terms, our count increased more than eight times faster since then (4.20%) than the count of all registered voters (0.48%). Both as an absolute number and as a fraction of all

registered voters, Libertarian registration in California is now higher than it has ever been!



Unfortunately, although Libertarian registration in Santa Clara County also increased over this period, the increase was much smaller, and in terms of the fraction of all registered voters Libertarian registration here is significantly below the state average.

Let's try to change that!

If you are currently registered with some other party, please consider changing your registration to Libertarian. The same if you currently are not registered with any party (officially called "no party preference", formerly called "decline to state"). And please encourage your friends to register Libertarian too!

For online voter registration visit the Secretary of State's web site at:

registertovote.ca.gov

Upcoming Central Committee Meeting

Our central committee, made up of all of the LP SCC's voting membership, meets approximately five times per year. The next meeting is scheduled for 10 April, and as with others held over the past year this one will be held online, using Zoom.

In addition to business usually on the agenda for such meetings, we expect the following topics to be discussed:

- endorsements regarding candidates or ballot measures
- filling vacancies in officer positions
- student membership promotion
- recruiting/training candidates for 2022
- planning summer/fall outreach activities

If you are a voting member, please plan to attend!

Further details can be found at:

Note: This meeting is 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: <https://www.scclp.org/join>

State Convention News

Additional speakers have been announced for the annual Libertarian Party of California convention, to be held the weekend of 14-16 May in Visalia. Candidates are starting to announce their intentions to run for various state Executive Committee positions. And the Bylaws Committee has published its report, detailing the proposals that delegates will be asked to vote on relating to changing party rules and procedures.



For more information about attending this convention, visit:

ca.lp.org/convention

A copy of the Bylaws Committee report is available at:

[Final-Bylaws-Report-2021-Convention-Amendment-Proposals-1.pdf](#)

No on Measure A!

Between now and 4 May, voters in the **Cupertino Union School District** are being asked to approve a parcel tax measure. The Libertarian Party of Santa Clara County recommends a **NO** vote on this measure.

For more information see: www.nocusdtax.org

Palo Alto Boards and Commissions Seek Members

Four city boards/committees/commissions in Palo Alto are recruiting new members. If you live in the city and have an interest in or experience with any of these subjects, here is a chance to get involved in your local government. Applications for all of these positions are due by 6 April.

[Human Relations Commission](#)

[Public Art Commission](#)

Imhoff Investigation Committee Update

As long-time readers of this newsletter will recall, back in 2019 two of the officers of our county party were expelled from the Libertarian Party of California by action of the state Executive Committee, without an adequate explanation being presented to the membership at large or even to the members of our own county Executive Committee. This led to many difficulties for us at the county level, as well as much controversy at the state level, including a lot of discussion at last year's state convention both about how to resolve the specific case and how to increase transparency of the state party's actions in future cases.

Now, more than a year and a half since the events which precipitated this case, and more than a year after the last state convention, the LPC Chair has finally announced the appointment of a committee to conduct "a complete investigation of the accusations". In an attempt to ensure that the process will be both thorough and fair, this committee is made up of one member from the state Executive Committee (current LPC Vice Chair Brent Olsen), one member from our county Executive Committee (our Vice Chair Mark Hinkle), and three other LPC members who have no connection with either body (James Aragon, Daniel Hayes, and Kevin Moore).

Anybody with information they believe would be relevant to this investigation should feel free to contact any of the members of this committee. You can reach Mark Hinkle at vice-chair@scclp.org or 408-779-7922.

This committee is to report their findings to both the state Executive Committee and our county Executive Committee.

Libertarian Candidate for Governor?

It appears that the petition for a recall election to replace Gavin Newsom was a success. Although the verification of the signatures is not yet complete, with more than 2,000,000 signatures submitted most activists of all parties are now expecting that a recall election will happen. The date isn't set yet, but it should be some time this fall.



Of course we want to be able to support a Libertarian to replace him! But who will that be? One fairly well-known LP member has indicated he is interested in running, but has not yet officially announced his plans. So it's not a sure thing yet.

Meanwhile we have invited him to speak to us at our 10 April meeting – and the same invitation applies to anybody else who is seriously considering running in that election as a Libertarian. If we like what we hear, we will have an opportunity to endorse somebody at that meeting.



LP of Santa Clara County "Help Wanted"

We currently have several openings on our Executive Committee. These are the people responsible for keeping the Libertarian Party running at the county level.

Following are the officer positions defined in our bylaws:

Chair
Vice Chair
Secretary
Treasurer
Activities Chair
Campaigns Chair
Fundraising Chair
Membership Chair
Newsletter Chair
Publicity Chair



When not all of these positions are filled, that means the remaining officers end up having to do multiple jobs – or the jobs simply don't get done. Some of the current officers might actually be happy to do one of the other jobs, and focus on that, but they can't do that if there is nobody available to do their current job. So basically, more important than filling any specific position, **what we need is more people willing to help!**

If any of the jobs listed above sound like something you could do, please let us know!

Commentary

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

[Why Progressives and Conservatives Can't Seem to Agree about Justice \(fee.org\)](https://fee.org)

[When It Comes to Policy, Biden and Trump Aren't That Different \(reason.com\)](https://reason.com)

[They Said Things Would Be Much Worse in States Without Lockdowns - They Were Wrong \(mises.org\)](#)

[Where New Zealand Goes, the World Goes \(aier.org\)](#)

[Fighting, and Winning, School Choice in California \(californiapolicycenter.org\)](#)

[Follow the "Science," They Said \(independent.org\)](#)

[Party Loyalties Hinder the Brain's Ability to Get a Handle on Reality \(libertarianism.org\)](#)

[A California Wealth Tax Would Do Major Harm \(hjta.org\)](#)

[Poll Shows Voters Smarter Than Joe Biden and Anti-Gun Democrats \(ccrkba.org\)](#)

[How Three Women Sought to Sway Americans Away From Socialism \(fee.org\)](#)

[GDP Hides the Damage from the Covid-19 Lockdowns \(mises.org\)](#)

[Twitter Censors Famed Epidemiologist \(aier.org\)](#)

Video Selections

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

[Government Is Still the Biggest Threat to Free Speech \(reason.com\)](#)

[Good Folks - official music video](#)

[Reclaiming Freedom in the U.K. \(hoover.org\)](#)

[Origins, Harms and Political Deception of the COVID-19 Lockdowns \(independent.org\)](#)

[Libertarians At Large \(lp.org\)](#)

[The Great Awakening \(hoover.org\)](#)

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.

- 10 April - [Central Committee Meeting \(online\)](#)
- 17 April - [Third Saturday Coffee Meetup \(online\)](#)
- 14-16 May - [LPC State Convention \(Visalia\)](#)

- 4 July - Rose White and Blue Parade and/or LPSCC Event
- 28-29 August - LP 50th Anniversary Celebration
- 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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<p>Paid for by Libertarian Party of Santa Clara County FPPC #1266953</p>
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