



A Publication by the Libertarian Party of Santa Clara County

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## Learning from the Pandemic

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

What have our fellow citizens been learning from the ongoing and ever-evolving pandemic? And what *should* they be learning from it?

They have been learning, through constant lecturing by the mainstream media, lessons like:

**It's the job of politicians to keep us healthy, and nothing is more important than that** -- so it's perfectly reasonable and natural that politicians should



*be able to suspend our fundamental rights whenever they decide "better safe than sorry" -- or whenever they feel the need to look like they are "doing something", whether it makes sense or not.*

**Medical experts hired or endorsed by politicians know best** how to manage complex businesses (everything from factories to restaurants) and our entire economy -- even though these experts generally know nothing about any of these businesses, business in general, or economics.

**"Science" should be the basis of making complex policy decisions** -- even though the kinds of science being relied on can at best give us information about only one aspect of a particular situation, and no actual scientist would ever claim that their discipline can answer subjective questions involving trading off different interests and values.

**If something happens that causes people to lose their jobs and production of real goods and services to shut down, a good thing for government to do about it is throw trillions of dollars around** -- even though that means borrowing trillions of dollars and it doesn't actually put anybody back to work.

Meanwhile, others have been learning different lessons. Because measures like vaccination and masks are being imposed on them by political forces, they have "learned" that these kinds of technology are tools of oppression. Some have even decided to make refusing to wear a mask or get vaccinated a symbol of independence. They are confusing two very different things -- being forced to use these things, which is a matter of rights, with the usefulness of the things themselves -- which is something that will vary from situation to situation.

These all are the **wrong lessons**.

**Here are some lessons they should be learning instead:**

**They should be learning** that in many cases politicians don't actually know what they are doing, and that even though they may have the benefit of expert advice the policies they end up announcing and enforcing often have other motivations.

**They should be learning** that what government does in a situation like this rarely matters as much as either the politicians or their opponents want you to believe. Those who hated Trump for other reasons were quick to blame him for the course of the pandemic in 2020 -- even though Biden proved to have no new or different solutions, and even though things ended up getting just as bad (and sometimes worse) in other countries where Trump was not calling the shots.

**They should be learning** that "emergency" measures that we are told we must accept on a temporary basis, for a span of weeks, can easily remain in effect for years, and that it is a lot easier to give up fundamental liberties than to get them back.

**They should be learning** that to the degree progress is being made the people who deserve our thanks are the scientists, medical professionals, and business people who are doing the actual work -- and it is to these kinds of people, not politicians and bureaucrats, that we should be looking for actual solutions to future problems.

**They should be learning** that while borrowing trillions of dollars and throwing it around may help some people in the short term, it's no way to manage an economy in the long term.

*And, hopefully, some of our fellow citizens **are** learning some of these lessons from the current pandemic, and will be in a better position to apply these lessons when the next crisis, medical or otherwise, comes along.*

**But it's part of our job as Libertarians to help them understand the principles behind these lessons** – and to be ready to remind them the next time politicians try to use a crisis as an excuse to further limit our rights and further damage our economy.

**Joe Dehn**  
County Chair  
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## New Districts for Party-Label Offices

Draft maps of the **new districts for US House of Representatives and the state legislature** are now available. Districts are revised every ten years, making use of the population counts from the census. These new districts were drawn by the Citizens Redistricting Commission, to be used starting with the 2022 primary.

You can find these draft maps on the commission's web site at:

[www.wedrawthelinesca.org/map\\_viewer](http://www.wedrawthelinesca.org/map_viewer)

These are not the final maps, but they should be pretty close, because the final versions must be certified to the Secretary of State by 27 December. That's because the filing process for the primary starts in early January!

If you are considering running for one of these offices, don't assume that you are going to be in the same district as you have been for the past several elections. Both the district boundaries and the district numbers may be changing. Note that to be a candidate for the state legislature, the law requires that you live in the district you are seeking to represent. That is not a legal requirement in the case of candidates running for Congress (they just have to live in the state), but it still makes sense in most cases to run in the district where you live.



**If you think you might be interested in being a candidate and would like help in understanding the implications of this redistricting process in your case, or if you**

have any other questions about running for one of these offices, let us know!

**Note: There will also be many local offices up for election in 2022.** Some local offices also represent a particular area within a city or other district -- the boundaries of those areas will also be changing, but most of those offices aren't up for election until the fall, and the filing period doesn't start until the summer.

And remember that all local elections in California are "non-partisan". That means candidates are not identified on the ballot with a political party, and are not even permitted to mention a political party affiliation in official ballot statements.

**So if you want to run for office "as a Libertarian", and your goal in doing that is to promote the LP name and brand, the state and federal offices where you can actually have the word "Libertarian" next to your name will probably be the best fit for you.**

(But since the local elections are almost all held much later in the year, you could even do both, if you have the interest and energy!)

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## Reminder - LP 50th Birthday Party

We will be having our party to celebrate the Libertarian Party's 50th birthday on the afternoon of Saturday 11 December, 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.



For details about our party, including time and location, see:

[www.scclp.org/lp\\_50th\\_birthday\\_party](http://www.scclp.org/lp_50th_birthday_party)

For general information about the celebrations that will be taking place on that day across the country, see:

[lpedia.org/wiki/50th\\_Birthday\\_Party](http://lpedia.org/wiki/50th_Birthday_Party)

**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 party on 11 December!



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## Upcoming Central Committee Meetings

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 – **Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary, and Treasurer** – we elect chairs of various standing committees. So if you think you might be interested in getting more involved in party business, that will be your opportunity to run for one of those internal offices.



Here are the six "standing committee" chair positions that will be up for election:

- **Activities Chair**
- **Campaigns Chair**
- **Fundraising Chair**
- **Membership Chair**
- **Newsletter Chair**
- **Publicity Chair**

Note that while anyone who supports the Libertarian Party is welcome to attend these meetings, to make motions or vote or run for party positions 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](http://www.scclp.org/join); if you have questions about your current membership status, write to [membership@scclp.org](mailto:membership@scclp.org).

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## Christmas Tree Decorated

The LP of Santa Clara County is sponsoring a tree in San Jose's annual Christmas In The Park. After several weeks of preparation, discussing alternative styles of

ornaments and messaging, as well as some manufacturing of custom ornaments, local activists gathered to decorate the tree on the morning after Thanksgiving.

Bob Goodwyn was the organizer for this project. Also participating in the decorating were Don Cormier, Joe Dehn, Elizabeth Stump, and Mike van Roy.



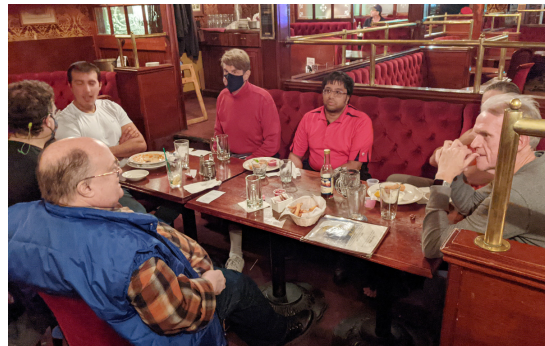
All the trees are located in the southern half of Plaza de Cesar Chavez, in the heart of downtown San Jose. Ours is toward the southwest corner, on the walkway that runs along the west branch of Market Street, between the one room school house and elf village displays.

The tree will be on display through New Years weekend. If you live in the area, or find yourself in the vicinity of downtown San Jose for some other reason, drop by for a visit!

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## Coffee Meeting Update

After several months at Holder's, the November coffee meeting was held at a different location: the Duke of Edinburgh in Cupertino.



The next one, on [18 December](#) (*unless otherwise announced, these are always on the third Saturday*), will be at **Bijan Bakery & Cafe**, 170 S. Market Street, in downtown San Jose. This is very close to our Christmas tree, so you can stop by and see it before or afterwards.

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

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## Featured Platform Plank: Marriage

*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](#).*

## **Marriage**

We regard marriage as a private relationship, and as such it should not be defined or regulated by the state. Those who want to formally define their relationship should do so by contract – either one of their own devising or, if they prefer some "traditional" arrangement, by making use of a standard contract offered by an institution of their choice. With respect to control and disposition of financial assets, married people can also make use of the same kinds of shared ownership options used by unmarried people.

To implement these principles, we advocate:

- A. Recognition in law of marriage contracts.
- B. Repeal of all other marriage and marriage dissolution laws.
- C. Elimination of marriage licenses.
- D. Removal of provisions that make "community property" the default.
- E. Repeal of all alimony laws.
- F. The right of all consenting adults to form marriages without regard to gender, sexual preference, degree of consanguinity, or number of parties.
- G. Pending implementation of the above, issuing marriage licenses to any adults without regard to gender.

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## **Commentary**

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

[Biden Wants Lower Oil Prices and Lower Oil Supply \(reason.com\)](#)

[There's No Denying the Socialist Roots of Fascism \(fee.org\)](#)

[Politicos Launch Attacks Against Santa Clara County Redistricting \(sanjosespotlight.com\)](#)

[US Misery Index Shows How Weak This Recovery Is \(mises.org\)](#)

[Witch Hunt Targets the Oil Companies \(hoover.org\)](#)

[San Jose City Council Approves License Plate Cameras to Curb Retail Robberies \(sanjosespotlight.com\)](#)

[Is Free Trade 'Elitist'? \(aier.org\)](http://aier.org)

[New York Times Explores What Happens When Democrats Have All the Power \(fee.org\)](http://fee.org)

[Build Back Better Bill is a Federal Power Grab \(reason.com\)](http://reason.com)

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## 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.*

[Build Back-Scratching Better: Biden Makes Good on His Pledge to Unions \(hoover.org\)](http://hoover.org)

[What the Political Class Should Learn from the Rittenhouse Verdict \(reason.com\)](http://reason.com)

[Why Not Tax the Rich? \(hoover.org\)](http://hoover.org)

[The Spending Bill Got Smaller, But It's Still Full of Bad Ideas \(reason.com\)](http://reason.com)

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## 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.*

[COVID Proves Andrew Yang's UBI Won't Work \(reason.com\)](http://reason.com)

[The Historical Foundations of Civil Liberty \(fff.org\)](http://fff.org)

[Independent Outlook: Rittenhouse Trial, School Choice, and more \(independent.org\)](http://independent.org)

[Rising Prices and the Federal Reserve \(fff.org\)](http://fff.org)

[Latin Libertarians Go Live to Discuss Cuba and Miami Protests \(lp.org\)](http://lp.org)

[Abolishing Copyrights and Patents? A Soho Forum Debate \(reason.com\)](http://reason.com)

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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. 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.

- 8 December - [Wednesday Pool/Billiards Meetup](#)

- 11 December - [LP 50th Birthday Party](#)
- 11 December - [Central Committee Meeting](#)
- 18 December - [Third Saturday Coffee Meetup](#)
- 27 December - [New Federal/State Districts Certified](#)
- 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](mailto:activities@scclp.org) with your suggestions.

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