



The Liberty Quill

A Publication by the Libertarian Party of Santa Clara County

Contents:

- [From the Chair](#)
- [Annual Meeting Reminder](#)
- [San Jose Gun Ordinance](#)
- [LP SCC Historical Timeline Now On LPedia](#)
- [State Convention to Decide Fate of Platform](#)
- [Campaign Update: Dehn for Congress](#)
- [Featured Platform Plank: Taxation](#)
- [Commentary](#)
- [Podcasts](#)
- [Video Selections](#)
- [Calendar Summary](#)

Convention Season is Upon Us

A message from Joe Dehn, County Chair:

Decisions, decisions. What kind of message do we want to present to the public? Who can most effectively lead and organize our efforts? ***What kind of party do we want to be?***

The answers to these basic questions, and many other more specific questions, will come out of the conventions happening in the next few months, as members vote for party officers and committee members, and on proposals to amend our internal rules and the statements we make to the media and public via our platforms.



If you are a voting member of the LPC, you are eligible to attend and vote at the **state convention**, coming up just a few weeks from now on Presidents Day Weekend. The state convention is being held this year in Long Beach. See the article below about the Platform proposals for one reason it's important that you attend this convention, but there are many others.

Members in our area will find it much more convenient than usual to attend the **national convention**, coming up Memorial Day Weekend. National conventions are only held every other year, and often thousands of miles away. But this one is going to be held just a few hours' drive away, in Reno. If you've been to a national convention before you know how much fun it can be — and if you haven't this is the perfect chance to find out, without having to buy airline tickets or worry about all those flight cancellations that have been so much in the news! (To vote at this one you need to be selected by your state party, and the best way to get selected is to attend the state convention, so that's *another* reason to go in February.)

But the season kicks off earlier than all that, with the **annual meeting of our own LP of Santa Clara County Central Committee**. Important decisions will be made there, too — and you don't have to travel at all to participate because it's being held via Zoom. See immediately below for details. *Please be sure to attend!*

Joe Dehn
County Chair
chair@scclp.org
408-774-1570

Annual Meeting Reminder

Saturday - 29 January

Our [annual meeting](#) is almost here. This is the meeting at which we will be electing officers for the upcoming year. We will also be electing the members of our Judicial Committee and considering some amendments to our bylaws.

Once again, because of the pandemic situation we will be holding this meeting via Zoom. The Zoom meeting room will open at about 1pm, with the formal business scheduled to start at 2pm.

For additional details about the meeting, including the agenda and Zoom login information, see:

[central_committee_meeting_20220129](#)



San Jose Gun Ordinance - Is Your City Next?

In what the mainstream media are treating as a historic move, the San Jose City Council has voted to approve an ordinance that would require gun owners to purchase liability insurance and to pay an annual "harm reduction fee".

Both aspects are problematic from a libertarian perspective. Most obviously, this is an attempt to interfere with the right of San Jose residents to defend themselves — something that is both a moral and a constitutional right. And the so-called "harm reduction fee" is really just a new tax. Accordingly, the LP of Santa Clara County, by a unanimous vote of its Executive Committee, declared its opposition to this ordinance.

Both aspects also create a special burden on lower-income residents of the city. The "fee" is supposedly going to start at \$25/year, which doesn't sound too unreasonable or unaffordable — until you remember the history of taxation! In its original form, the federal income tax was only 1% for most people.

And nobody really knows how much the liability insurance is going to cost, because this isn't something people have been required to buy before. That could easily turn out to be a much bigger financial burden than the tax.

This ordinance won't officially go into effect until the City Council holds one more final vote on it — but given their votes so far it seems certain to get that final approval. **But will it stop there?**

Many bad laws enacted by larger cities like San Jose lead to similar laws being considered by smaller cities, and that pattern is very likely to follow in this case. But every city is different, in terms of the sentiments of its citizens, so the fact that something passed easily in one city doesn't necessarily mean it can't be stopped in another. Active opposition by Libertarians **could make a difference in your city.**

The first step in fighting bad laws is to know they are coming. San Jose has given us all a warning on this one. You can be a more effective campaigner for liberty by **becoming familiar with what your own city council is doing.** You can find all the relevant information — meeting schedules, when and how you can make comments at meetings, who is your representative and how to contact him/her — on your city's web site.

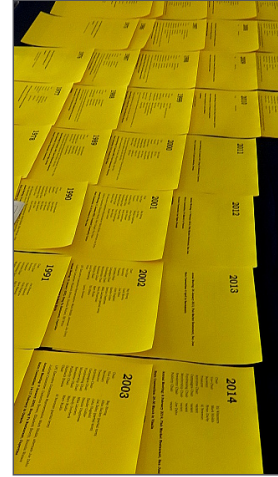
Historical Timeline Now On LPedia

As reported in last month's issue, the LP of Santa Clara County has one of the best-documented histories of any county-level LP organization, and at the LP 50th Birthday Party in December this was demonstrated in the form of a printed "timeline", with each year represented by a sheet of paper.

An expanded version of this timeline is now available online, as part of LPedia. There is an article for each year, with the same kinds of information as in the printed

version, plus plenty of room for more! For those years for which past issues of our newsletter have been uploaded, there are now links to those files.

You can reach these pages through an index at:



lpedia.org/wiki/Libertarian_Party_of_Santa_Clara_County#Timeline

Most of the information on these pages was already available on LPedia, organized in other ways. What's new is the year-by-year arrangement of the material, so that visitors can more easily understand what was happening with the LP in our area at a given time. But these articles would also be an appropriate place to post photos of the many campaign and outreach activities that took place in a given year.

If you have information to contribute that could fill in any gaps in the record, or if you have additional material (e.g., photographs, campaign literature) that could help present a more complete picture, contact Joe Dehn (chair@scclp.org).

Or you can learn about becoming an LPedia contributor yourself at:

Part of the article for the year 2000

Candidates [edit | edit source]

- President: **Harry Browne** / **Art Olivier**
- US Senate: **Gail Lightfoot**
- US House 13: **Howard Mora**
- US House 14: **Joe Dehn**
- US House 15: **Ed Wimmers**
- US House 16: **Dennis Umphress**
- State Senate 11: **Jack Hickey**
- State Senate 13: **John Webster**
- State Senate 15: **Gordon Sachtjen**
- State Assembly 20: **Mark Werlwas**
- State Assembly 23: **Dana Albrecht**
- State Assembly 24: **Ray Strong**
- State Assembly 28: **Roger Ver**

Meetings [edit | edit source]

- **Annual Meeting:** 12 January 2000, Coco's Restaurant, Sunnyvale
- **State Convention:** 18-21 February in San Diego
- **National Convention:** Anaheim

Newsletters [edit | edit source]

Santa Clara Libertarian

- March 2000 (Volume 28, Number 1)
- June 2000 (Volume 28, Number 2)
- August 2000 (Volume 28, Number 3)
- September/October 2000 (Volume 28, Number 4)
- December 2000 (Volume 28, Number 5)

Preceded by:
1999

LP SCC Timeline
2000

Succeeded by:
2001

[LPedia:Getting_Started_as_a_Contributor](#)

State Convention to Decide Fate of Platform

Two very different visions of a party Platform will be offered at the upcoming annual convention of the Libertarian Party of California. One choice is to continue with a comprehensive Platform of the type we have always had, covering a wide range of issues and identifying specific laws and policies that we support or oppose. The alternative being proposed is basically for the LPC to get out of the platform-writing business, letting the national convention define our positions, with any California-specific issues addressed through the "Program".

This conflict of visions is not new. Over the years, many members have expressed discomfort with our state Platform — some saying it is too long overall, some saying it is too detailed in its treatment of certain subjects, some saying it is a duplication of effort to maintain since the national LP already has a Platform.

Others see it as one of our most valuable assets, the key to promoting a strong and consistent message and attracting new members who share our views — and an opportunity for Libertarians in California to play an active role in deciding how those views are presented.



These different visions have been reflected in widely varying recommendations over the past several years from the Platform Committee, which is charged with drafting proposals for approval by the convention. One year their recommendation was to delete all the planks of the state Platform and adopt the then-current text of the national Platform. Another year they presented a menu of competing options — none of which ended up being approved by the convention. In 2021, the Platform Committee went back to the traditional approach and presented 22 proposals to update or rewrite existing planks and to add a few new ones, and the convention overwhelming adopted 19 of them, giving us the version we have today.

This year the Platform Committee was dominated by members determined to eliminate the existing Platform, one way or another, but a significant minority favored recommending incremental changes. Since these approaches were totally incompatible, and the majority had no interest in considering the incremental approach, all the work of drafting proposed updates to existing planks and new planks that would fit into the existing framework was done by the minority, and is reflected in a "minority report".

By contrast, the main committee report starts out with one proposal that would have very far-reaching effect — not to amend the Platform, but rather to define it out of existence with a change to the LPC Bylaws. The national Platform would serve as our state Platform, and any California-specific issues would be addressed through the Program. There would no longer be any need for a Platform Committee, since the state convention would no longer have anything to amend. (Amendments to the "Program" are approved by the Executive Committee, so the convention delegates wouldn't participate in that, either.) The rest of the report adopted by the majority of the Platform Committee consists of more than 100 motions to be voted on by the convention, the majority of which are to individually delete every plank of the existing Platform and to then add references to every existing national plank, along with a few supplementary planks relating to California issues — apparently intended as sort of a backup plan, and all of which would become moot if their first recommendation is adopted.

This is only a summary — for arguments in favor of each approach along with details of the proposals, please read the respective reports. Both reports are available online:

[Majority](#)

[Minority](#)

There are also many other [changes being proposed in the LPC's Bylaws](#), and elections will be held for many of the positions on the state Executive Committee. So if you are a voting party member, there are **lots of reasons** you should be planning to attend this convention!

The convention is coming up 18-20 February (that's Presidents Day Weekend) in Long Beach.

In addition to formal party business, the convention will feature a number of well-known speakers as well as meal events. You can find details including a tentative schedule, how to register for speaker and meal packages, and hotel reservation information, on the convention page at:




ca.lp.org/convention

Campaign Update: Dehn for Congress

Joe Dehn has announced that he will again be a candidate for US House, District 17, and he has received the endorsement of the LP SCC for this office. The district covers approximately the cities of Cupertino, Sunnyvale, Santa Clara, and Milpitas, plus a northern section of San Jose and a bit of nearby Alameda County.

He is currently circulating a petition to obtain the necessary signatures to qualify for the ballot. The deadline for this "SIL" petition is in early February. If you live in the district and would be willing to help by signing the petition or, better yet, circulating it in your neighborhood, please let him know.

JOE DEHN FOR CONGRESS		
 District 17 California	<p>Vote Libertarian! <i>for Peace, Prosperity, and Freedom</i></p> <p>It's time to take Washington back from the special interests of the Left and the Right that are threatening to wither ever-growing regulation of our personal lives and businesses, and that are hobbling our economy with taxes and debt.</p> <p>It's time to stop getting involved in other countries' civil wars, stop supporting monarchs and dictators, stop trying to be the world's policeman, and bring our troops home.</p> <p>It's time to end the wars at home, too — the wasteful and counter-productive war on drugs, the unconstitutional war on guns, and the ugly war on immigrants.</p> <p>It's time to Vote Libertarian!</p> <p><small>Learn More</small></p> <p><small>28 November: The California Citizens Redistricting Commission has approved new district boundaries based on the 2020 census. 2/22/2022</small></p>	<p>THE LIBERTARIAN PARTY</p> <p>PRINCIPLES NATIONAL SITE LP OF CALIFORNIA LP OF ALAMEDA COUNTY LP OF SANTA CLARA COUNTY OTHER CANDIDATES</p> <p>CONTACT</p> <p><small>408-714-7175 Joe Dehn for Congress 890 San Diego Fremont, CA 94539</small></p> <p><small>Twitter Facebook</small></p>

He is also making updates to his campaign web site, to reflect the new district boundaries and to add statements on additional issues.

Contact information for this campaign:

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

Featured Platform Plank: Taxation

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](#).

Taxation

Taxation is government's confiscation of property of its citizens. Because of its non-voluntary nature, it cannot be justified, regardless of the purpose for which the proceeds are to be used. Therefore, we oppose taxation of any kind. To that end, we support any and all initiatives to cut or abolish any tax, and oppose any initiatives to increase taxes or add new ones. We call for:

- A. The repeal of all income taxes.
- B. The repeal of all sales and use taxes, including special taxes on so-called sinful activities.
- C. The repeal of all corporate and business taxes and fees, including special burdens on business inventories and out-of-state business firms.
- D. The repeal of all gift and inheritance taxes.
- E. The repeal of all property taxes.
- F. The abolition of all tax-collecting agencies, including the Franchise Tax Board and Board of Equalization.
- G. The rejection of any national sales tax or value added tax (VAT).

We oppose all suggestions to split the owners' property tax rolls in order to increase the burden on business property, and to increase revenues.

We oppose all efforts to repeal or undermine existing laws requiring greater than a simple majority vote to raise taxes.

We further oppose any compulsory withholding of any taxes or fees from the paychecks of California workers.

We advocate that so-called "public services" be funded in the same manner as private organizations — through voluntary contributions and charges for services for which the user has voluntarily contracted.

Commentary

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

[Zhuang Zhou - the Chinese philosopher who explained spontaneous order 2000 years before Adam Smith \(fee.org\)](#)

[The healthcare road to serfdom \(fff.org\)](#)

[Advocates drum up support for ranked-choice voting in San Jose \(sanjosespotlight.com\)](#)

[Elon Musk is right - government shouldn't control land on other planets \(fee.org\)](#)

[Can DAOs revive civil society? \(aier.org\)](#)

[How America's gun culture cultivates civic virtue \(fee.org\)](#)

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.

[Voter suppression for thee but not for me? \(hoover.org\)](#)

[Joe Biden's problem isn't bad messaging - it's bad policy \(reason.com\)](#)

[Single payer, multiple headaches? \(hoover.org\)](#)

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.

[Hayek's contribution to liberty \(fff.org\)](#)

[Restoring the idea of liberty in America \(independent.org\)](#)

[National convention - day of education \(lp.org\)](#)

[The decline of free speech in America \(fff.org\)](#)

[Omicron's surge, vax mandates, Bidenflation \(independent.org\)](#)

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.

- 29 January - [Annual Meeting](#)
- 18-20 February 2022 - [State Convention \(Long Beach\)](#)
- 19 February - [Third Saturday Coffee Meetup](#)
- 11 March - [Primary Filing Deadline](#)
- 19 March - [Third Saturday Coffee Meetup](#)
- 16 April - [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.



This email was sent to jwd3@dehnbased.org. To stop receiving emails, [click here](#).

<p>Paid for by Libertarian Party of Santa Clara County FPPC #1266953</p>
--

Libertarian Party of Santa Clara County ©2019