

The Liberty Quill

A Publication by the Libertarian Party of Santa Clara County

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Welfare By Any Other Name

A message from Joe Dehn, County Chair:

One of the most successful tactics of those who favor ever expanding government is to give their ideas new names, to disguise their true nature and avoid having to defend their past failures.

One such "new" idea getting increased attention is **Universal Basic Income**. This idea featured prominently in Andrew Yang's 2020 presidential bid. But it didn't go away with his failed campaign. Cities across the country and

right here in California have been conducting so-called "trials" (in reality city-sponsored marketing campaigns) to demonstrate the alleged



benefits. A member of the state Assembly from our own county has already proposed a statewide plan. (See *the Local Political News section below.*) And the "stimulus payments" that the federal government sent practically everybody as part of responding to the pandemic are being cited as a precedent – if those were good for the economy, why not keep doing it?

And that's the basic idea of UBI – **the government would give everybody money every month.** The similarities to traditional welfare programs should be obvious to anybody who looks past the name. The money has to come from somewhere – from taxation or borrowing – and that involves taking it by force from those who earned it. But there are some ways that UBI is ***even worse than traditional welfare*** for anyone who cares about the future of liberty and the free market.

Current welfare programs, although they have been making an increasing number of people dependent on government, are still seen by a majority of the population as something for "the needy", not the way that normal people should live. Even though many middle-class and even wealthy people benefit from tax-funded programs (which might also be considered forms of welfare) ranging from government schools to business subsidies, they still mentally draw a line at direct distribution of cash. Many would be embarrassed if they needed to take such payments under existing policies. ***But if everybody is getting it, within one generation it will become "normal".***

Further, by reducing the connection between work and income, UBI will reduce public understanding of how an economy actually works. And money magically appearing in an arbitrary (politically-determined) amount will encourage the idea that goods and services and the prices we pay for them are also arbitrary, and should also be determined by government.

Finally, by making practically everybody dependent on government for a significant portion of their income, UBI will dramatically expand the fraction of the population that cannot, by simple perception of self-interest, even imagine that a different way of doing things could work better. The result will be a population reduced to the status of serfs, who cannot imagine surviving without their feudal lord, and who will be that much less able to resist ***anything*** that their lord decides to impose on them.

All this, of course, is why the name "Universal Basic Income" is of such value to its proponents. ***They don't want you to think of it as expanding welfare.*** They want you to think of it the way most people have come to think of government schools and Medicare – something that nobody can reasonably argue against because it's the "normal" way that most people now live.

UBI "experiments" (which are not real experiments as they don't test the effects on an entire population, which is supposed to be the key feature of such a plan) have already started in other parts of California. **It probably won't be long before politicians in some city in Santa Clara County decide to join in. When that happens, we need to be prepared to expose this idea for what it really is!**

Joe Dehn
County Chair
chair@scclp.org

State Convention News

The LPC Platform Committee has already issued its initial report, and will be issuing its final report on 4 May, of proposals to update the Platform at the upcoming state convention.



You can find the Platform Committee's complete initial report posted as a PDF at:

www.dehnbase.net/lpcplat2021/LPC-Platform-Committee-2021-Initial-Report.pdf

There is also an online version that lets you view each proposal as a separate web page:

www.dehnbase.net/lpcplat2021/initial/?p=full&f=sbs

Additional convention speakers have also been announced, and candidates are continuing to announce their intentions to run for various state Executive Committee positions.

The convention is to be held the weekend of 14-16 May in Visalia. For more information about attending this convention, visit:

ca.lp.org/convention

LP SCC Endorses Hewitt for Governor

Enough valid signatures were turned in to force an election later this year to recall Governor Gavin Newsom and to pick a new Governor to replace him. So candidates from all parties are now starting to line up for that ballot.



At their meeting on 10 April, members of the Central Committee of the Libertarian Party of Santa Clara County voted to endorse **Jeff Hewitt** to run as a Libertarian in this race. Hewitt has run for office several times and been elected to two offices – first as a member of the city council of Calimesa (part of which time he also served as mayor of that city) and most recently as a member of the Board of Supervisors of Riverside County.

As of this writing Hewitt has not yet made a formal announcement of his campaign, nor has he made his campaign web site public, but he will be holding a "kick off"

event on 30 April, in Riverside. In the meantime, you can find more information about him on LPedia:

lpedia.org/wiki/Jeff_Hewitt

and on his County Supervisor site:

supervisorjeffhewitt.com

Imhoff Investigation Committee Update

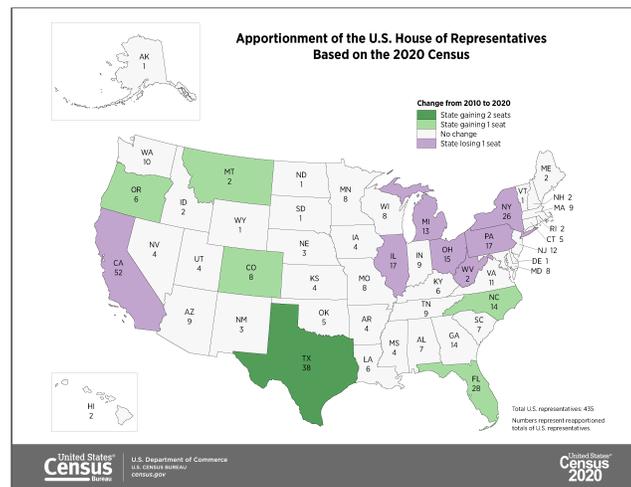
As reported in last month's issue, the LPC Chair recently announced the appointment of a committee to conduct "a complete investigation of the accusations" leading to the removal from the party of our former county Chair, Jennifer Imhoff, and county Treasurer, Robert Imhoff, and to report their findings to the LPC Executive Committee and the LPSCC Executive Committee. This committee has apparently been meeting, and has indicated that they will have completed their work by 4 May.

A special meeting of the LPC Executive Committee to consider the report of this investigation has been scheduled for Saturday 8 May. This meeting will be held via Zoom, but pre-registration is required. For more information see:

ca.lp.org/event/executive-committee-special-meeting/?instance_id=2234

Census Bureau Still Has Not Released Data for Redistricting

The Census Bureau just announced the state-by-state population counts from the 2020 census, which determine the number of seats each state gets in the House of Representatives. The headline fact from that announcement for us in California is that, for the first time since it became a state, the number of seats that California will have has decreased, from 53 to 52. That's because several other states have been growing faster.



What hasn't yet been released is the detailed information necessary for "redistricting" – drawing new lines for everything from US House districts and state legislative districts to the districts used for electing many city councils and the

boards of directors of various other agencies. This information won't be released for many more months, which means nobody will know exactly in which districts they live until at least some time in the fall.

But that doesn't mean we can't start working on lining up candidates for these offices. **Every LP member lives in some Congressional district!** And every one of those positions will be up for grabs in 2022. Everybody also lives in at least one state legislative district. (All Assembly seats are up in 2022, plus half of the seats in the state Senate.)

If you think you might be interested in running for any of these positions (US House, State Senate, State Assembly) or for any of the local non-partisan offices that will be up for election later in 2022, let us know at campaigns@scclp.org.

Local Political News

Stories about politics in this area that may be of interest to local libertarians.

[San Jose Mulls Major Changes to Campaign Finance Law](http://sanjosespotlight.com) (sanjosespotlight.com)

[Voting Underway in Cupertino for Parcel Tax](http://cupertinotoday.com) (cupertinotoday.com)

[Santa Clara Settles in District Election Case](http://sanjosespotlight.com) (sanjosespotlight.com)

[458 California Law Enforcement Agencies' Policy Documents](http://eff.org) (eff.org)

[Can San Jose Reduce Its Pension Debt by Issuing Bonds?](http://sanjosespotlight.com) (sanjosespotlight.com)

[Assemblyman Low's Universal Basic Income Bill for California Advances in Committee](http://patch.com) (patch.com)

[How to Watch and Participate in Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors Meetings](http://sanjosespotlight.com) (sanjosespotlight.com)

[Palo Alto Hikes Development 'Impact Fees'](http://paloaltoonline.com) (paloaltoonline.com)

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.

[Biden is Using Pandemic as an Excuse for Permanent Expansion of Government](#) (reason.com).

[Ending Qualified Immunity is the Next Step in Holding Police Accountable](#) (aclu.org).

[Four Examples of Bad Economics in Biden's Speech](#) (fee.org).

[California's Happy Meal Refund](#) (hoover.org).

[LNC Resolution on Vaccine Passports](#) (lp.org).

[The Great Gas Tax Ripoff Continues](#) (hjta.org).

[The Free World Died of COVID-19](#) (aier.org).

[Dangerous Monetary Manipulations and Fiscal Follies](#) (fff.org).

[California's K-12 Socialist Mathematics Teaching](#) (hoover.org).

[Ban on Menthol Cigarettes - More Confrontations Between Black People and Police](#) (reason.com).

[COVID in California - Government Created Critical Healthcare Shortages](#) (independent.org).

[The New Enemies of the Open Society](#) (aier.org).

Video Selections

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

[The Liberty Response to the President's Address](#) ([people4liberty.org](#)).

[Biden's Plan to Stop Ghost Guns Is Doomed to Fail](#) ([reason.com](#)).

[Today's Outrage Mobs Are Yesterday's Morality Police](#) ([fee.org](#)).

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

[Vaccine Passports, School Shutdowns, Border Crisis](#) ([independent.org](#)).

[Chef Andrew Gruel on Capitalism, Cuisine, and Calling Gov. Gavin Newsom an Asshole](#) ([reason.com](#)).

[Biden's Gun Control Nonsense](#) ([fff.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.

- 8 May - [Special LPC EC Meeting \(online\)](#)
- 14-16 May - [LPC State Convention \(Visalia\)](#)
- 15 May - [Third Saturday Coffee Meetup \(online\)](#)
- 19 June - [Third Saturday Coffee Meetup \(online\)](#)
- 4 July - Rose White and Blue Parade and/or LPSCC Event
- 28-29 August - LP 50th Anniversary Celebration (Colorado)
- Fall 2021 - Gubernatorial Recall Election
- 16 December - [Petitioning for Primary Begins](#)
- 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? Or 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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