

SD DEMS

SAN DIEGO COUNTY DEMOCRATIC PARTY

BYLAWS

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ARTICLE I. NAME AND PURPOSE

Section 1. Name

The name of This Committee is the San Diego County Democratic Party Central Committee (the Central Committee). The Central Committee is a committee within the meaning of California Government Code and Elections Code. The Central Committee may refer to itself as the San Diego County Democratic Party (SDCDP). These Bylaws refer to the Central Committee as This Committee. The use of the name and/or logo of the San Diego County Democratic Party is reserved solely for use by those with permission from the Chair of This Committee.

Section 2. Purpose

The purpose of the Central Committee is: to promote the growth and development of the Democratic Party; to actively support ballot measure propositions as long as they do not conflict with positions adopted by the Democratic State Central Committee; to actively support and elect Democratic candidates, including candidates for nonpartisan offices; and to carry out Democratic Party campaigns consistent with the Democratic State Central Committee.

Section 3. Conflict of Interest Disclosure

Regarding any candidate or initiative under consideration for endorsement, a member of this Committee must disclose any actual or potential material financial interest or in-kind or charitable contribution benefit exceeding \$50.00 while addressing a Central Committee Meeting, Executive Board meeting, Area Caucus meeting, or other official meetings in whole or in part of this Committee. In communications primarily directed towards members of this committee, written disclosure must be made in any mail, email, social media, social networking site, or any other digital communication. Verbal disclosure must be made during any in-person or telephonic communications. The disclosure must include that said member, the spouse or the domestic partner of the member, has an actual or potential material financial interest in advocating for or against a candidate or an initiative.

Section 4. Consistency with Statutory Law

These Bylaws shall, to the extent consistent with applicable law, govern the organization, operation, and function of the Central Committee. The policies, procedures, and rules for the governance and operation of the Central Committee shall be set forth in the Policies and Procedures.

Section 5. Areas

In order to create a more efficient and effective organization, the Central Committee shall be divided into regions as set forth in Article VII. While the purpose and intent of this action is to make the Central Committee responsive to the unique characteristics of each area, there shall be uniformity of policy and principle in all areas to ensure coherence.

36 **ARTICLE II. MEMBERSHIP**

37 **Section 1. Membership**

- 38 A. All members shall be registered to vote as Democrats in San Diego County.
- 39 B. There shall be seven (7) classes of membership: Public Ballot, Ex-Officio, Designated,
40 Appointed, Alternate, Lifetime, and Associate:
- 41 1. Public Ballot members, who are qualified to serve pursuant to the Election Code of
42 California and are elected in partisan Presidential Primary Elections to represent
43 their Assembly District on This Committee.
- 44 2. Ex-Officio members:
- 45 a. Ex-Officio members of This Committee shall be the following if they reside in and
46 are registered to vote in San Diego County:
- 47 1) Incumbent office holders referenced in Article II, Section 2, a, of the Bylaws of
48 the California Democratic Party (CDP) who are registered as Democrats
49 including statewide officers, Superintendent of Public Instruction, Members of
50 the State Board of Equalization, Members of the State Legislature, Members
51 of the United States Senate, Members of the United States House of
52 Representatives;
- 53 2) The highest finishing registered Democrat in the most recent election for the
54 offices in the previous paragraph determined as follows:
- 55 a) The registered Democrat in a voter-nominated election who received the
56 highest number of votes in the general or special election;
- 57 b) Should there be no registered Democrat among the “top-two” in the
58 general or special election, the registered Democrat who received the
59 highest number of votes in the top-two open primary;
- 60 c) Should there be no registered Democrat or should the highest finishing
61 Democrat decline to serve, the Ex-Officio position will be treated as a
62 vacancy and filled as an Appointed position in accordance with these
63 Bylaws.
- 64 3) Ex-Officio members shall be entitled to the same rights and privileges as
65 Public Ballot members of This Committee.
- 66 b. Incumbent office holders of, and the most recent voter-nominated Democratic
67 candidate for, the United States House of Representatives, the State Board of
68 Equalization, the State Senate, and the State Assembly, whose districts extend
69 into San Diego County, but who are themselves not registered to vote in San

70 Diego County, shall have the right to appoint a voting alternate, provided such an
71 alternate is registered to vote as a Democrat in San Diego County.

72 3. Designated members:

73 a. Designated members shall be the following if they reside in and are registered to
74 vote in San Diego County:

75 1) Statewide Chairs, Co-Chairs, or Presidents of CDP standing committees,
76 chartered statewide Democratic Party Organizations, or CDP Caucuses;

77 2) Members of the Democratic National Committee;

78 3) State Officers of the California Democratic Party;

79 4) Assembly District Representatives to the Executive Board of the CDP
80 (hereinafter ADEM EBoard Member);

81 5) The most recent Chair of This Committee who is a different individual from
82 the Current Chair unless they are already a Voting member;

83 6) The Director of Clubs unless they are already a Voting member;

84 7) The Director of Grassroots Organizing unless they are already Voting
85 member.

86 b. Designated members shall be entitled to the same rights and privileges and have
87 the same responsibilities as Public Ballot members of This Committee.

88 c. If Designated member's terms do not fall within This Committee's terms they
89 shall retain their voting rights with This Committee within the bounds of the
90 superseding organization's terms.

91 4. Appointed members of This Committee are members appointed to fill Public Ballot or
92 Ex-Officio vacancies within the body in accordance with Article III, Section 1, B on
93 filling vacancies for This Committee. Appointed members shall be entitled to the
94 same rights and privileges and have the same responsibilities as Public Ballot
95 members of This Committee.

96 5. Alternate members, who are appointed by Public Ballot, Ex-Officio, Designated, or
97 Appointed members of This Committee.

98 a. Alternates shall be registered in San Diego County in the same district their
99 appointer represents on This Committee. Notice of appointment plus payment of
100 the dues shall be recorded with the Secretary before the Alternate may serve.

101 b. An Alternate shall have all the rights of the appointer, except voting in the Central
102 Committee meetings when their appointer is present and the power of

- 103 appointment, when the appointer is absent.
- 104 c. An Alternate serves at the pleasure of their appointer or may be removed from
105 This Committee under the conditions of Article III.
- 106 6. Lifetime members, who are nominated by the Chair and approved by the body.
107 Lifetime membership is an honorary position with the right to vote.
- 108 7. Associate members have an organizational role in the County Democratic Party and
109 are not already members in another membership class. Associates members may be
110 appointed by a Club, through the GO Team, by the Executive Board, or by these
111 Bylaws. Associate members' voting rights are limited to their designated Area
112 meetings; they have the right to speak, but may not make or second motions, at
113 Central Committee meetings.
- 114 a. A President of a chartered Democratic Club or Coalition with twenty (20) unique
115 voting members, and the GO Team Regional and Countywide Coordinators, are
116 Associate Members of This Committee. If a Club or Coalition President is already
117 a member, chooses not to serve, or becomes a member in a different class, the
118 club or coalition may choose to appoint a different Associate to serve their term
119 using the process defined in the club's bylaws. When chartering, all clubs will
120 designate the Area that the club will caucus with and the club's primary Associate
121 Member will serve in that Area for the purposes of quorum and voting.
- 122 b. Affinity clubs that would like to have representation in more than one Area shall
123 petition This Committee to add Club Associate positions with the rationale for
124 added Area representation. If the position is approved by This Committee, said
125 position would be filled according to the club's bylaws for filling SDCDP
126 representative positions with a club member who is registered to vote in the
127 Area. Any additional positions extinguish if the appointee does not fulfill their
128 participation duties in the area or if the club ceases to be chartered.
- 129 c. EBoard Appointed Associate members shall be subject to acceptance by the
130 Executive Board. Candidates for Associate membership may be recommended
131 for consideration to the Executive Board by the Chair or by the Vice Chair for
132 their specific Area. The Chair must provide at least thirty (30) days advance
133 notice to the Area Vice Chair. If the Associate member ceases to be a registered
134 voter in the Area, their Associate membership extinguishes.
- 135 d. A member serving in a Central Committee ratified organizational role as an
136 Officer, a Standing Committee member, or as a SDCDP DSCC Executive Board
137 member, who loses their membership eligibility after attending at least one
138 meeting in that role, shall become an Associate Member for as long as they are
139 serving in that role or the duration of the current biennial term whichever comes
140 first. A DSCC Delegation member who is appointed to and has begun their
141 services on a CDP standing committee will be provided an Associate Member
142 position with the same provisos.

- 143 C. Any member who wishes to exercise membership rights, including the right to appoint an
144 Alternate member, must meet the dues requirement of This Committee.
- 145 D. All members are members of This Committee's Legislative Caucus where they are
146 registered to vote and a member of This Committee's Area Caucus as defined in Article
147 VII of these Bylaws.
- 148 E. The Voting members of This Committee are the Public Ballot, Ex-Officio, Designated,
149 Appointed, and Lifetime members. The names of the voting members will be publicly
150 available via the SDCDP Website.

151 Section 2. Duties of Membership

- 152 A. It is the duty of Public Ballot, Ex-Officio, Designated, and Appointed members to attend
153 the regular, endorsement, and special meetings of This Committee and to notify their
154 Alternate when they cannot attend.
- 155 B. It is the duty of Alternate members to attend the regular, endorsement, and special
156 meetings of This Committee whenever their appointer is not able to attend.
- 157 C. The duties of all members are to:
- 158 1. Attend the regular, endorsement recommendation, and special meetings of their
159 individual Areas.
 - 160 2. Attend the special meetings of their Legislative Caucuses.
 - 161 3. Serve on SDCDP committees.
 - 162 4. Share in the responsibility of raising money for the SDCDP.
 - 163 5. Participate in the candidate endorsement process.
 - 164 6. Assist the SDCDP in communicating with and reaching out to Democrats.
 - 165 7. Support endorsed Democratic candidates endorsed by the SDCDP or the California
166 Democratic Party.
 - 167 8. Share the general duties of building and supporting the Party.
 - 168 9. Be familiar with the Bylaws and Policies and Procedures of the Party.
 - 169 10. Be familiar with the races on the ballot prior to an endorsement or recommendation
170 meeting.
 - 171 11. Review their Central Committee and Area communications.
 - 172 12. Report any changes to their voter registration, membership eligibility, or contact
173 information within fourteen (14) days of the change.

174 Section 3. Terms of Office

- 175 A. The current Chair of This Committee shall administer the Oaths of Office to incoming
176 Central Committee members.

- 177 B. The terms of office of the Central Committee members, with the exception of the
178 Executive Board and ADEM EBoard Members, shall:
- 179 1. Begin at the Biennial Organizational Meeting in their Area in January following
180 certification of the State Primary Election by the Registrar of Voters, and
- 181 2. Continue as long as they continue to meet their membership qualifications and
182 expire when the Oaths of Office are administered to their successors.
- 183 C. The terms of the Executive Board as officers begin at the end of the Biennial
184 Organizational Meeting of This Committee and continue through the end of the next
185 Biennial Organizational Meeting so long as they continue to be an officer. For officers
186 who are not continuing as members into the new term, their member term shall be
187 extended independent of their qualifying member class.
- 188 D. Member class terms are as follows:
- 189 1. The terms of Public Ballot members will be four years. Their elections will coincide
190 with Presidential Primary elections.
- 191 2. Ex-Officio terms are determined by their qualifying office:
- 192 a. Incumbent public officers begin their term when they take public office.
- 193 b. The highest finishing Democrat members begin their term when they would have
194 taken public office had they won.
- 195 3. Designated member terms are determined by their qualifying office:
- 196 a. DNC members, officers of the CDP, CDP Regional Directors begin their term
197 when they take their DNC or CDP office.
- 198 b. ADEM EBoard Members begin their term at the Biennial Organizational Meeting.
199 The outgoing ADEM Eboard Member serves an extended term that includes the
200 Area Biennial Organizational Meeting.
- 201 c. As previously stated, Past Chair, Director of Clubs, and the Director of
202 Grassroots Organizing serve an extended term that coincides with their term as
203 an officer.
- 204 4. Ex-Officio and Designated member terms last as long as the individual holds the
205 office, or in the case of highest finishing Democrats for the same term for the office
206 for which they were a candidate.
- 207 5. Alternate members serve at the pleasure of their appointer for the same term as their
208 appointer.

209 6. Associate member terms are coincident with their term in the qualifying body that
210 appointed them to This Committee.

211 Section 4. Oath and Dues

212 A. In their capacity as public officials, members are required to swear the Oath or
213 Affirmation of Allegiance to the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of
214 the State of California.

215 B. There shall be biennial dues for Voting and Alternate members of This Committee, in an
216 amount set forth in Policies and Procedures. Lifetime and Associate members have their
217 dues waived.

218 C. The dues requirement must be met for a member to be credentialed and eligible to vote
219 or exercise any member rights including the appointment of an alternate.

220 Section 5. Prohibition on Dual Membership

221 There shall be no dual membership.

222 A. A person who becomes eligible for membership on more than one basis shall, within
223 thirty (30) days of such duality, inform the Secretary of the eligibility and identify the
224 position that he or she wishes to occupy.

225 B. If the person fails to indicate which position he or she elects to occupy, This Committee,
226 by majority vote, shall make the determination.

227 C. The Secretary shall certify to the Chair the remaining position(s) as vacant and eligible
228 for election.

229 ARTICLE III. VACANCIES AND REMOVALS

230 Section 1. Definition of Vacancy

231 A. A vacancy occurs when a Public Ballot, Ex-Officio, Designated, Appointed, or Alternate
232 member:

233 1. Changes voter registration from the district where elected or appointed, or

234 2. Is removed or resigns from This Committee, or

235 3. Is incapacitated or re-registers as other than Democrat, or

236 4. When a Voting member is appointed as a Lifetime member, or

237 5. Upon the death of a Public Ballot, Ex-Officio, Designated, or Appointed member.

238 B. A vacancy also occurs when an Assembly District elects fewer Public Ballot members
239 than it is entitled to elect.

240 C. A vacancy also occurs when an Assembly, Senate, or Congressional District fails to
241 nominate a candidate or when the nominee or elected official declines to serve on This
242 Committee.

243 Section 2. Replacement

244 A. A vacancy in a Public Ballot or Article III, Section 1, C Ex-Officio membership shall be
245 filled by a vote of This Committee no earlier than the first regular meeting of This
246 Committee after the meeting at which either the Secretary or the Chair declares the
247 vacancy. Filling the vacancy shall be the first item on the agenda and shall follow
248 Policies and Procedures Section VI. E. Internal Election Voting Procedure.

249 B. In the period between certification of the primary election where Central Committee
250 appears on the ballot and the end of the term, any vacancy in a Public Ballot or Article
251 III, Section 1, C Appointed membership shall be filled by the top vote-getting member-
252 elect not already a Public Ballot, Ex-Officio, or Appointed member of This Committee.

253 C. A Legislative Caucus, Article VI, Section 1, may recommend a candidate for
254 replacement of a Public Ballot member or Article III, Section 1, C, Ex-Officio member
255 vacancy occurring in its own district Article VI, Section 2 and shall follow Policies and
256 Procedures Section VII. H. Area or Caucus Nominated Positions.

257 D. A vacancy among the Area Vice Chairs shall be filled in accordance with Article IV,
258 Section 4, B, 2.

259 E. Any other Ex-Officio or Designated member vacancy shall be filled by the respective
260 electing body.

261 Section 3. Role of Alternate During Vacancy

262 A. When a Voting member vacancy occurs, with the exception of members removed for
263 cause, the Alternate may continue to serve and vote as the former member's Alternate
264 until a new member is selected in accordance with these Bylaws. Once the new member
265 is seated, the Alternate's membership terminates.

266 B. If the Alternate chooses not to serve or they become an Article III.1.A vacancy
267 themselves, the position will remain vacant until a new member is selected in
268 accordance with these Bylaws.

269 C. If they choose to run to fill the vacancy, the Alternate will not have a vote for the
270 purpose of filling the vacancy at any Legislative Caucus or Central Committee Meeting.

271 Section 4. Removal by Lack of Attendance

- 272 A. A member may remove themselves by lack of attendance at either Central Committee or
 273 Area meetings. A member who has removed themselves by lack of attendance is
 274 ineligible for Central Committee membership for the remainder of the biennial term.
- 275 B. All Public Ballot, Designated, and Appointed members have attendance requirements at
 276 Central Committee and Area meetings. The presence of a member's Alternate fulfills the
 277 obligation of representing the Democratic voters but does not excuse an absence.
- 278 1. Any Public Ballot, Designated, or Appointed member, with absences from four (4)
 279 consecutive or six (6) total meetings in a calendar year has failed to meet the
 280 minimum level of attendance and has removed themselves.
- 281 C. All Alternates, including Ex-Officio Alternates, have a Central Committee attendance
 282 requirement when their appointing member is absent and are required to attend all Area
 283 meetings.
- 284 1. Any Alternate member with absences from four (4) consecutive or six (6) total
 285 meetings in a calendar year when serving in lieu of their appointer has failed to meet
 286 the minimum level of attendance and has removed themselves.
- 287 D. All Associate members have attendance requirements at Area meetings.
- 288 1. Any Associate member with absences from two (2) consecutive or three (3) total
 289 meetings in a calendar year has failed to meet the minimum level of attendance and
 290 has removed themselves.
- 291 E. Petition for Excused Absence
- 292 1. A member may petition the Executive Board for an excused absence via the online
 293 member form. Excused absences include but are not limited to; work, health,
 294 religious observances, or emergencies.

295 Section 5. Removal by Endorsement of a non-Democratic Candidate

- 296 A. Any member, other than an incumbent elected official of the California legislature or U.S.
 297 Congress, who individually endorses a non-Democratic candidate has removed
 298 themselves unless the following criteria are met:
- 299 1. Filing has closed,
 300 2. There are no Democrats in the race and
 301 3. The Party has completed its endorsements and has not otherwise weighed in.
- 302 B. If a member is notified by the Party via email their name has been used in an
 303 endorsement by a non-Democratic candidate, the member shall write a letter to the
 304 candidate requesting the candidate cease and desist from using their name and provide
 305 a copy of this letter to the Secretary within seventy-two (72) hours of the date of the

306 email. Absent this letter, the use of their name will be considered an endorsement and
307 the member has removed themselves.

308 C. A member who has removed themselves by endorsement of a non-Democratic
309 Candidate is ineligible for Central Committee membership for the remainder of the
310 biennial term.

311 Section 6. Removal for Cause

312 A. Any member, other than an incumbent elected official of the California legislature or U.S.
313 Congress, may be removed for cause by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of This Committee.

314 B. Cause shall be defined as:

315 1. Where there is an endorsed candidate, campaigning for a non-Democratic candidate
316 or publicly advocating that voters should not vote in that contest;

317 2. Committing the Party to unauthorized expenditures;

318 3. Criminal conviction involving moral turpitude;

319 4. Chronic alcohol or substance abuse affecting ability to serve;

320 5. Violations of this organization's Code of Conduct;

321 6. Engaging in behavior detrimental to the purpose of the Democratic Party; or

322 7. Any other reason set forth in this organization's Policy and Procedures.

323 Section 7. Credentials Challenge Procedure

324 A. A member of This Committee may initiate a credentials challenge when they suspect
325 one or more of the following conditions apply:

326 1. Falsification of voter registration for the purpose of membership in This Committee.

327 2. Failure to meet the membership requirements enumerated in Article II-Membership
328 Section 1-5 of these Bylaws, Policies and Procedures Section II-Membership
329 Subsection A, and/or Section C-K.

330 B. The Secretary shall refer the matter to the Credentials Committee to consider
331 recommending removal and shall notify the member via email of the pending action and
332 will include the written challenge.

333 C. The Credentials Committee will meet for a technical review of the Bylaws, Policies and
334 Procedures and the written challenge to the membership. If the Credentials Committee
335 determines by a sixty percent (60%) vote that the challenge as presented meets the
336 criteria for grounds for removal, the Credentials Committee shall prepare a list of the
337 relevant Bylaws and Policies and Procedures. The meeting should be held within
338 fourteen (14) days of the date the member was notified.

- 339 D. If the Credentials Committee has determined the challenge meets the criteria for the
340 grounds for removal, the Chair will schedule a meeting with the Executive Board, the
341 affected member, and the member who made the challenge to review the facts and
342 circumstances of the challenge and the material provided by the Credentials Committee.
343 The meeting should be held within seven (7) days of the date the Credentials Committee
344 meeting and may be added to the agenda of an already scheduled Executive Board
345 meeting.
- 346 1. The affected member may appear in person or may supply a written response to the
347 membership challenge, and any persons wishing to support or deny the request, with
348 the Chair having the option to limit the number of persons who may appear before
349 them.
- 350 2. Following the presentation, the room will be cleared for deliberations and vote by the
351 Executive Board.
- 352 3. If any member of the Executive Board is either an affected member or the member
353 who made the challenge, they must recuse themselves from the deliberations and
354 the vote. If both the Chair and Chair Pro-Tem have recused themselves, the
355 Executive Board will elect a different Executive Board member to chair the
356 deliberations and voting.
- 357 4. A vote to recommend removal of the member requires two-thirds (2/3) of the
358 Executive Board voting in favor of removal. If the Executive Board does not reach a
359 two-thirds (2/3) vote, the member retains their membership. The Secretary will notify
360 the affected member of the decision.
- 361 E. If the Executive Board has recommended removal via credentials challenge, the matter
362 will be taken up for consideration at the next Central Committee meeting as the first item
363 on the agenda and prior to filling any vacancies. The affected member shall be offered
364 the opportunity to appear before This Committee and show cause why removal is
365 unwarranted.
- 366 F. Any vote taken shall be conducted pursuant to Policies and Procedures Section VI, E.
367 Internal Voting Procedure.
- 368 G. Upon removal or censure by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of This Committee, the Secretary
369 shall notify the affected person of This Committee's action.
- 370 H. If a member has been removed, said former member is ineligible for Central Committee
371 membership for the remainder of the biennial term.
- 372 I. If a member resigns or is removed by their appointer during the credentials challenge,
373 said former member is ineligible for Central Committee membership for the remainder of
374 the biennial term.

375 Section 8. Ethics Complaints and Removal for Cause Procedure

- 376 A. A complaint shall be filed via the San Diego County Democratic Party Ethics Committee.

- 377 B. The Chair of This Committee shall refer the matter to the Ethics Committee.
- 378 C. If the Chair of This committee is either an affected member or the member who made
379 the complaint, the Co-Chairs of the Ethics Committee shall take the complaint and The
380 Chair of This Committee shall recuse themselves from the matter.
- 381 D. The composition and operation of the Ethics Committee shall be set forth in the Policies
382 and Procedures.
- 383 E. The Ethics Committee shall convene to review the complaint within fourteen (14) days of
384 submission.
- 385 F. The Ethics Committee shall evaluate and review the matter pursuant to the steps set
386 forth in the Policies and Procedures.
- 387 G. After convening to review the complaint, the Ethics Committee shall have thirty (30) days
388 to make its recommendation to the Executive Board. Should the Ethics Committee
389 require additional time, it shall request that time from the Executive Board which may
390 grant that request with a simple majority.
- 391 H. The Ethics Committee may recommend a suspension of a member while the Ethics
392 Committee completes the review, if the Ethics Committee believes the member could be
393 a danger to themselves, members of This Committee, or members of the Party. Such a
394 suspension must be recommended by a unanimous vote. The Executive Board may
395 approve the suspension by a two-thirds (2/3) vote. A suspension shall be effective
396 immediately, it can be appealed to the Central Committee which may revoke the
397 suspension by a simple majority of those present and voting. The Executive Board may
398 also revoke a suspension by a simple majority or those present and voting.
- 399 I. The Ethics Committee may recommend, but are not limited to:
- 400 1. Removal for Cause
- 401 2. Censure
- 402 3. Non-disciplinary settlement of the complaint (e.g. third-party mediation, an apology,
403 cultural sensitivity training, warning, etc.)
- 404 J. The Ethics Committee shall notify the Chair of This Committee of their recommendation.
405 The Chair shall place the item on the agenda of the net regularly scheduled Executive
406 Board meeting within fourteen (14) days of the receipt of the recommendation. The Co-
407 Chairs of the Ethics Committee, a member of the Ethics Committee representing the
408 dissenting opinion if any, and the subject of the complaint shall be involved at the
409 meeting.
- 410 K. At an Executive Board meeting where an Ethics recommendation is heard, the following
411 process shall be followed.

- 412 1. The Co-Chairs of the Ethics committee shall present the Ethics committee findings
413 and recommendations. If there is a dissenting opinion a member of the Ethics
414 committee may present the dissenting opinion.
- 415 2. The member who is the subject of the complaint shall be afforded the opportunity to
416 present their defense.
- 417 3. Following the presentation, the room will be cleared for deliberation and vote by the
418 Executive Board.
- 419 4. If any member of the Executive Board is either an affected member or the member
420 who made the complaint, they must recuse themselves from the deliberations and
421 the vote. If both the Chair and Chair Pro-Tem have recused themselves, the
422 Executive Board will elect a different Executive Board member to chair the
423 deliberations and voting.
- 424 5. The Executive Board may vote to recommend censure of the member with a two-
425 thirds (2/3) vote in favor of censure. If the Executive Board fails to reach the
426 threshold there will be no censure. The Secretary will notify the affected member of
427 the decision.
- 428 6. The Executive Board may vote to recommend a removal for cause with a two-thirds
429 (2/3) vote in favor of removal. If the Executive Board fails to reach the threshold there
430 will be no censure. The Secretary will notify the affected member of the decision.
- 431 7. The Executive Board may vote to approve a non-disciplinary settlement of the
432 complaint via a sixty percent (60%) vote. The non-disciplinary settlement would
433 resolve the complaint and shall not be submitted to the Central Committee for action.
- 434 8. The Executive Board may vote by a simple majority to dismiss the complaint.
- 435 9. If the Executive Board fails to reach a consensus on the complaint, the complaint will
436 be closed without decision.
- 437 L. If the Executive Board has recommended removal or censure, the matter will be taken
438 up for consideration at the next Central Committee meeting as the first item on the
439 agenda and prior to filling any vacancies. The affected member shall be offered the
440 opportunity to appear before This Committee and show cause why removal or censure is
441 unwarranted.
- 442 M. Any vote taken shall be taken pursuant to the Policies and Procedures, Internal Voting
443 Procedure.
- 444 N. Upon removal or censure by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of This Committee, the Secretary
445 shall notify the affected person of This Committee's action.
- 446 O. If a member has been removed, said former member is ineligible for Central Committee
447 membership for the remainder of the biennial term.

448 P. If a member resigns or is removed by their appointer during any removal process, said
449 former member is ineligible for Central Committee membership for the remainder of the
450 biennial term.

451 Section 9. Censure

452 A. This Committee may consider a censure of a member, candidate or public official with a
453 two-thirds (2/3) vote of This Committee. The following provision must apply before a vote
454 is taken:

455 1. A censure resolution drafted and approved by the Ethics Committee shall be
456 submitted to the Executive Board.

457 2. The Executive Board shall review the censure resolution and may approve with a
458 two-thirds (2/3) vote.

459 3. At least 7 days' notice is required prior to This Committee considering a censure
460 resolution. Notice must be given to This Committee and to the person(s) being
461 considered for censure.

462 B. A member who is censured may be suspended or removed from their committees or
463 leadership positions by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of This Committee.

464 C. A candidate who is censured by This Committee may be removed from consideration for
465 endorsements by This Committee and excluded from all provisions for endorsement.

466 D. The censure resolution, once approved, shall be read out loud and attached to the
467 minutes of the meeting.

468 E. A consultant or vendor who is censured by This Committee may be added to the "Do Not
469 Patronize" list. Censure must be approved by a 2/3rds vote of This Committee.

470 ARTICLE IV. OFFICERS

471 Section 1. List of Officers and Membership Requirements

472 The officers of This Committee are Chair, Area Vice-Chairs, Secretary, Controller, three
473 Directors, and the Most Recent Past Chair.

474 A. Public Ballot, Ex-Officio, Designated, Appointed, Lifetime, and Alternate members are
475 eligible to serve as officers.

476 B. Each Area as defined in Article VII, Section 1 shall have a Vice Chair.

477 C. The Directors shall be the Director of Administration, the Director of Clubs, and the
478 Director of Grassroots Organizing.

- 479 D. The Most Recent Past Chair is the person whom has most recently served as chair of
480 the SDCDP and whom is a different individual than the current Chair for up to two
481 biennial terms of the SDCDP. No vacancy is created if the Most Recent Past Chair
482 declines to serve.
- 483 E. Officers who lose their Central Committee eligibility during the biennial term, and are
484 otherwise members in good standing, shall continue in their Executive Board role for up
485 to thirty (30) days to secure an Officer eligible membership.

486 Section 2. Elections

- 487 A. All officers shall be elected at the Central Committee Biennial Organizational Meeting in
488 January following certification of the State Primary Election. The terms of the incumbent
489 officers shall expire and the newly elected officers shall assume their positions at the
490 adjournment of that meeting.
- 491 B. Elections shall be by a majority vote of This Committee. The vote shall be conducted
492 pursuant to Policies and Procedures Section VI, E. Internal Voting Procedure. The Area
493 Vice Chairs shall be members of the Central Committee who are members of the Area
494 caucus that they represent.
- 495 1. The Area Vice Chairs shall be elected separately by the Central Committee
496 members who caucus in their respective areas.
 - 497 2. Elections shall be by a majority vote. The vote shall be conducted pursuant to
498 Policies and Procedures Section VI, E. Internal Voting Procedure
 - 499 3. Elections shall be at the Area meetings on the second (2nd) Tuesday in January
500 following the certification of the State Primary Election.
 - 501 4. Vice Chairs shall be ratified by a simple majority of This Committee, the vote shall be
502 conducted pursuant to Policies and Procedures Section VI, E. Internal Voting
503 Procedure. Should This Committee fail to ratify a Vice Chair, a vacancy shall occur
504 and shall be remedied as set forth in Article IV, Section 4.
- 505 C. The Executive Board positions for Secretary, Controller and the Director of
506 Administration shall:
- 507 1. Be nominated by the Nomination Committee as set forth in the Policies and
508 Procedures. If there is only one candidate for an office, election shall be by voice
509 vote.
 - 510 2. If there is more than one candidate, the vote shall be conducted pursuant to Policies
511 and Procedures Section VI, E. Internal Voting Procedure.
 - 512 3. If no candidate receives a majority vote, a run-off election shall be held between the
513 two candidates receiving the most votes, the vote shall be conducted pursuant to
514 Policies and Procedures Section VI, E. Internal Voting.

- 515 D. The Director of Grassroots Organizing shall:
- 516 1. Be selected by the GO Team Regional and Countywide Coordinators (not including
517 Data Coordinators) who shall select one nominee for election to the Office of Director
518 of Grassroots Organizing no later than November 15 following the certification of the
519 State Primary Election.
- 520 2. Director of Grassroots Organizing shall be ratified by a simple majority of This
521 Committee, the vote shall be conducted pursuant to Policies and Procedures Section
522 VI, E. Internal Voting Procedure. Should This Committee fail to ratify a Director of
523 Grassroots Organizing, the GO Team Coordinators will be asked to provide a new
524 nominee for ratification. Should This Committee fail to ratify the second nominee, a
525 vacancy shall occur and shall be remedied as set forth in Article IV, Section 4.
- 526 F. The Director of Clubs shall:
- 527 1. Be selected by the Council of Clubs Presidents who shall select one nominee for
528 election to the Office of Director of Clubs at the November Council of Clubs meeting
529 and no later than November 15 following the certification of the State Primary
530 Election.
- 531 2. Director of Clubs shall be ratified by a simple majority of This Committee, the vote
532 shall be conducted pursuant to Policies and Procedures Section VI, E. Internal
533 Voting Procedure. Should This Committee fail to ratify a Director of Clubs, the
534 Council of Clubs will be asked to provide a new nominee for ratification. Should This
535 Committee fail to ratify the second nominee, a vacancy shall occur and shall be
536 remedied as set forth in Article IV, Section 4.

537 Section 3. Removal of Officers

- 538 A. An officer or member of the Executive Board may be removed from office by a two-thirds
539 (2/3) vote of This Committee after receiving either:
- 540 1. A recommendation by two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Executive Board, or
- 541 2. Submission to the Executive Board of a petition signed by at least twenty-five
542 percent (25%) of the voting members of This Committee, or
- 543 3. For Area Vice Chairs, submission of a petition signed by the majority of the voting
544 members of their Area Caucus.
- 545 B. A vote to remove an Officer shall be held at a properly noticed meeting of This
546 Committee where quorum is present. Notice of meeting shall specify that such action is
547 being considered.
- 548 C. An officer may be removed by a sixty percent (60%) vote of the Executive Board after
549 four (4) absences from regular meetings of the Executive Board.

550 D. An officer may be removed if he or she fails to file plans required by these Bylaws within
551 thirty (30) days of the date that such a plan has been requested in writing by the
552 Executive Board.

553 Section 4. Vacancies

554 A. At the beginning of each Executive Board term, the Executive Board will elect a Chair
555 Pro-Tem from among the Area Vice-Chairs. In the absence of the Chair, the Chair Pro-
556 Tem shall preside. In the absence or inability of said Pro-Tem, another Chair Pro-Tem
557 shall be elected in the same manner.

558 B. When there is a vacancy for an officer position, the position shall be filled in the manner
559 set forth in Article IV, Section 2 with the exception of its calendar provisions.

560 1. Notice and Election:

561 a. The majority of the Executive Board may determine that the timeline merits
562 acceleration and notice the vacancy via email or call a special meeting for this
563 purpose. Otherwise, notice shall be given at the first meeting of This Committee
564 to be held after the vacancy occurs and also by email to the full Central
565 Committee within three (3) business days following the meeting.

566 b. A meeting to fill the vacancy requires at least seven (7) days' notice to This
567 Committee.

568 c. The election or ratification shall take place at the next regular meeting of This
569 Committee following notice.

570 2. For Area Vice Chairs:

571 a. During a Vice Chair vacancy, Area meetings will be convened by the Area's
572 previously elected Vice Chair Pro-Tem, ratified Area elected Administration
573 Committee representative, or Area Secretary in that order. In the absence of
574 members in those roles a majority of the Executive Board shall designate a
575 member of the Area to run the meetings.

576 b. When following a regular timeline, notice shall be given at the first meeting of the
577 Area or Central Committee to be held after the vacancy occurs and also by email
578 to the full Central Committee within three (3) business days following the
579 meeting.

580 c. Nomination and Area election shall take place at the next regular or special
581 meeting of the Area. See Policies and Procedures, Section VII. H. Area or
582 Caucus Nominated Positions.

583 3. For Secretary, Controller, or Director of Administration:

- 584 a. At least seven (7) days shall be allowed for application submissions. The process
585 and deadline for applications will be specified in the email notice to all Central
586 Committee members announcing the vacancy.
- 587 b. The Executive Board shall serve as the Nomination Committee for a mid-term
588 vacancy for Secretary, Controller, or Director of Administration.
- 589 4. For Director of Grassroots Organizing:
- 590 a. Notice shall be given via email to the full Central Committee and all GO Team
591 Regional and Countywide Coordinators within three (3) business days after the
592 vacancy occurs.
- 593 b. Nomination shall take place at the next regular meeting of the GO Team
594 Regional and Countywide Coordinators.
- 595 5. For Director of Clubs:
- 596 a. Notice shall be given via email to the full Central Committee and the Clubs
597 Council email list within three (3) business days after the vacancy occurs.
- 598 b. Nomination shall take place at the next regular meeting of the Council of Clubs.
- 599 6. The Chair, or their designee, is responsible for sending email notice of any officer
600 vacancy through the Central Committee and Area email lists.

601 Section 5. Duties of Officers

602 A. The Chair

- 603 1. Shall serve as the chief executive officer and official spokesperson of This
604 Committee,
- 605 2. Carry out the policies of This Committee and its Executive Board,
- 606 3. Manage, direct, and hire staff, with such hiring to be ratified by the Executive Board,
- 607 4. Serve in the Ex-Officio capacity without a vote on all SDCCDP committees, caucuses
608 and working groups. This provision does not apply to the Area or caucus in which the
609 Chair resides or the Ethics Committee,
- 610 5. Be authorized, subject to Executive Board approval, to create SDCCDP committees in
611 addition to those specified in Policies and Procedures, and to appoint Chairs and
612 members to those committees, and
- 613 6. Perform other duties as directed by the Executive Board.

614 B. The Area Vice-Chairs

- 615 1. Shall reside in and represent their respective areas on the Executive Board,
616 2. Serve as the chief officer and official spokespersons for their areas to This
617 Committee,
618 3. Be responsible for coordinating the political activities of their areas, including
619 candidate recruitment and support, endorsement recommendations, grassroots
620 organizing, outreach, voter registration, and Get-Out-The-Vote (GOTV).
621 4. Be prepared to preside in the temporary absence of the Central Committee Chair, if
622 elected as Chair Pro-Tem elected pursuant to Article IV Section 4,
623 5. Be prepared to act as Chair, should the position of Chair become vacant, until the
624 vacancy is filled pursuant to Article IV, Section 2,
625 6. Perform other duties of the Chair at the discretion of the Chair,
626 7. Perform other duties as directed by the Executive Board,
627 8. Area Vice Chairs may designate another Central Committee member from their Area
628 to serve on the Executive Board in their place in the event of a temporary absence,
629 9. In their Areas, Vice-Chairs shall:
630 a. Support and coordinate official Party sponsored events and activities such as the
631 annual fundraiser,
632 b. Coordinate area fundraising to support candidates, offices, and mailings,
633 c. Schedule, notice, and conduct Area meetings as specified in the Policies and
634 Procedures,
635 d. Provide guidance and leadership to the Executive Board and This Committee,
636 e. Implement the policies of the Executive Board and This Committee,
637 f. Develop and refine policy presentations for consideration by the Executive
638 Board,
639 g. Review legal and personnel matters for presentation to the Executive Board, and
640 h. Carry out any other duties required by these Bylaws.
641 10. Submit attendance records and minutes for regular and special meetings to the
642 County Party Secretary.

643 **C. The Secretary**

- 644 1. Shall maintain all membership records, attendance records and journals of the
645 Central Committee and Executive Board,
- 646 2. Maintain current membership lists of SDCDP committees,
- 647 3. Attend all meetings of This Committee and the Executive Board and take records of
648 the proceeding of such meetings, including records of attendance,
- 649 4. Make available minutes of these meetings to members of This Committee,
- 650 5. Serve on the Credentials Committee, and
- 651 6. Perform other duties as directed by the Executive Board.

652 D. The Controller

- 653 1. Shall be responsible for the receipt and custody of This Committee's funds,
- 654 2. Keep the financial record of This Committee,
- 655 3. Present an income statement and balance sheet at each meeting of This Committee,
- 656 4. Allow any member of This Committee to inspect the financial records after the receipt
657 of reasonable notice,
- 658 5. Perform other duties as directed by the Executive Board, and
- 659 6. The Controller in office at the end of the fiscal year shall be responsible for closing
660 the books for that fiscal year and shall complete any tax forms or financial reporting
661 forms pertaining to all or part of his or her term of office.

662 E. The Director of Administration

- 663 1. Shall keep the Bylaws of This Committee current and consistent with the law,
- 664 2. Draft Policies and Procedures for approval by This Committee,
- 665 3. Chair the Administration Committee and the Credentials Committee,
- 666 4. Accept, file, and number all proposed Resolutions, proposed Policy and Procedure
667 changes, and proposed Bylaw changes for review by the Administration Committee,
- 668 5. Report the results of this review to This Committee,
- 669 6. Manage Credentials Committee process, and
- 670 7. Perform other duties as directed by the Executive Board.

671 F. The Director of Clubs

- 672 1. Shall be responsible for the organization of Democratic Clubs and Democratic
673 support/affinity organizations,
- 674 2. Be the Custodian of the bylaws and membership records of all chartered
675 organizations,
- 676 3. Oversee the budget, income, and expenditures of the Council of Clubs,
- 677 4. Present a coordinated Annual Plan for the development and the activities of
678 Democratic Clubs and Democratic support/affinity organizations to This Committee in
679 accord with the Policies and Procedures,
- 680 5. Support the Council of Clubs and coordinate activities with This Committee in accord
681 with the Annual Plan,
- 682 6. Serve as Ex-Officio without a vote on the Council of Clubs. If the Director of Clubs is
683 also a current Club President s/he can appoint a member of the club to vote on the
684 club's behalf, and
- 685 7. Perform other duties as directed by the Executive Board.

686 G. The Director of Grassroots Organizing

- 687 1. Shall serve on the Executive Board as a voting member,
- 688 2. Act in an advisory capacity to the current administration, and
- 689 3. Perform other duties as directed by the Executive Board.

690 H. The Immediate Past Chair

- 691 1. Shall serve on the Executive Board as a voting member,
- 692 2. Preside over the Nomination Committee as part of the Central Committee biennial
693 organization process,
- 694 3. Act in an advisory capacity to the current administration, and
- 695 4. Perform other duties as directed by the Executive Board.

696 I. The Chair Pro-Tem

- 697 1. Preside in the absence of the Central Committee Chair,
- 698 2. Chair the Resolutions Committee, and
- 699 3. Accept, file, and number all proposed Resolutions for review by the Resolutions
700 committee.

701 Section 6. Auxiliary Authorities

702 The Chair shall have the power to appoint or remove a General Counsel and a Media Relations
703 Coordinator. These appointees have no voting rights unless they are already a member of This
704 Committee.

705 A. The Treasurer

- 706 1. Shall serve under the direction of the Controller and is not automatically a member of
707 the Executive Board,
- 708 2. Not be restricted from holding a separate position on the Executive Board,
- 709 3. Be a registered Democrat, but need not be a member of This Committee,
- 710 4. Be subject to the advice and consent of the Executive Board,
- 711 5. Be ratified by a majority vote of This Committee at its first regular meeting after the
712 appointment is made,
- 713 6. Be responsible for the timely filing of campaign spending records,
- 714 7. Complete any tax forms or financial reporting forms, and
- 715 8. Coordinate with the Controller in the preparation of financial statements by providing
716 campaign spending records and other material considerations.

717 B. The General Counsel

- 718 1. Shall be licensed to practice law in the state of California,
- 719 2. Be a registered Democrat, but need not be a member of This Committee,
- 720 3. Attend Steering Committee, Executive Board, and Central Committee meetings in an
721 advisory capacity only,
- 722 4. Be subject to the advice and consent of the Executive Board, and
- 723 5. Be ratified by a majority vote of This Committee at its first regular meeting after the
724 appointment is made.

725 C. The Parliamentarian

- 726 1. Shall assist the Chair regarding Robert's Rules of Order,
- 727 2. Be a registered Democrat but need not be a member of This Committee. If the
728 Parliamentarian is a member of This Committee, they shall retain all of their
729 membership privileges.

730 D. The Media Relations Coordinator

- 731 1. Shall be subject to the advice and consent of the Executive Board,

- 732 2. Be a registered Democrat, but need not be a member of This Committee, and
- 733 3. Be ratified by a majority vote of This Committee at its first regular meeting after the
- 734 appointment is made.
- 735 E. This Committee may create additional auxiliary authorities by defining them in Policies
- 736 and Procedures.
- 737 F. Nothing shall prevent This Committee from approving compensation for the holder of a
- 738 contracted position.

739 ARTICLE V. MEETINGS

740 Section 1. Number of Regular Meetings

741 This Committee shall hold at least nine (9) meetings in an election year and at least six (6)

742 meetings in non-election years. The Biennial Organizational Meeting is the first regular meeting

743 of the new term and takes place in January following the certification of the Statewide Primary

744 Election. A regular meeting may also be an endorsement meeting if it has been noticed in

745 accord with these Bylaws Article XIII, Section 3.

746 Section 2. Area Meetings

747 The Areas shall meet at least once every ninety (90) days on dates that do not conflict with

748 Central Committee meetings. The date, time, and location of Area meetings shall be determined

749 by vote of the Area's members. The Biennial Organizational Area Meeting is the first regular

750 Area meeting of the new term and takes place in January following the certification of the

751 Statewide Primary Election. An Area meeting may also be an endorsement recommendation

752 meeting if it has been noticed in accord with Article XIII, Section 3.

753 Section 3. Special Meetings

754 Special meetings are limited to the agenda items necessitating the special meeting and may be

755 called by the Chair or as specified in the Policies and Procedures. The notice requirements and

756 procedure shall be set forth in Policies and Procedures.

757 Section 4. Credentialing

- 758 A. A roster of credentialed members shall be prepared prior to each regular meeting of This
- 759 Committee and shall be used for all meetings that are held prior to the next regular
- 760 meeting of This Committee.
- 761 B. Credentialing policies including changes to the credentialed roster during the period shall
- 762 be set forth in Policies and Procedures.

763 Section 5. Quorum

764 A quorum of This Committee shall be composed of a majority of the members of the Central
765 Committee entitled to vote with the exception that Lifetime members do not count towards or
766 against quorum. An Area meeting quorum shall be composed of twenty-five percent (25%) of
767 those members eligible to vote for regular meetings, twenty-five percent (25%) of those
768 members eligible to vote for friendly incumbent recommendation meetings where there is no
769 declared Democratic challenger, and thirty-three percent (33%) of those members eligible to
770 vote for all other endorsement recommendation meetings.

771 **Section 6. Participation and Voting**

772 A. A member must be physically present to participate or vote at any Central Committee
773 meeting, Area meeting, or Legislative Caucus. Proxy and absentee voting are
774 prohibited.

775 B. An Affinity club Associate member has the right to speak in Areas without a
776 credentialed Associate member for that club. Affinity clubs are limited to one vote in
777 any Area or Legislative Caucus.

778 **Section 7. Motions**

779 The number of votes required to pass a motion, make a recommendation, or make an
780 endorsement will be based on those present and voting unless otherwise specified in these
781 Bylaws or Policies and Procedures. In all instances, a motion to table shall be subject to a two-
782 thirds (2/3) vote.

783 **Section 8. Notice**

784 The Notice requirements and procedure shall be set forth in Policies and Procedures.

785 **ARTICLE VI. CAUCUSES**

786 **Section 1. Legislative Caucus**

787 **A. Definition**

788 A Legislative Caucus shall include all Public Ballot, Ex-Officio, Designated, Appointed,
789 Lifetime, Alternate, and Associate members of the Central Committee who are
790 registered to vote in said district.

791 **B. Vacancies**

792 The Area Vice Chair with the largest number of registered Democrats in the district will
793 serve as the presiding officer for the relevant caucus for the purposes of making a
794 recommendation to fill a vacancy in the district.

795

ARTICLE VII. AREAS

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In order to create a more efficient and effective Central Committee, the San Diego County Democratic Central Committee shall be divided into regional areas. Such division will facilitate more grassroots participation through regular Area meetings. Candidate recruitment will be enhanced through this regional process by employing the perspective and knowledge of the local Central Committee members, who will have more time for vetting candidates and ballot measures. The Areas shall then convey the results to the Executive Board. The result will be a streamlined endorsement process when the full Central Committee convenes to deliberate and vote.

804

Section 1. Definition

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The Central Committee shall be divided into regional Areas whose boundaries shall be defined and set forth in the Policies and Procedures.

807

Section 2. Membership

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Central Committee members as defined in Article II, Section 1 shall have the right to vote on official Central Committee business in front of their respective areas.

810

Section 3. Coherence

811
812

A. The duly elected leader (Vice Chair) of each Area shall sit on the Executive Board of the San Diego County Democratic Party.

813
814
815

B. If Areas create leadership positions that mirror the directorships on This Committee – e.g., Secretary – those individuals shall work with their counterparts on This Committee to ensure coherence and effectiveness.

816
817

C. The Areas shall act in a manner that does not conflict with these Bylaws and This Committee’s Policies and Procedures.

818

ARTICLE VIII. EXECUTIVE BOARD

819

Section 1. Membership

820

The Executive Board shall consist of the officers of This Committee.

821

Section 2. Duties

822

The Executive Board shall:

823

A. Implement the policies of This Committee,

824

B. Develop and refine policy presentations for consideration by This Committee,

825

C. Review legal and personnel matters for presentation to This Committee, and

826 D. Carry out any other duties required by these Bylaws.

827 Section 3. Meetings

828 The Executive Board shall meet in a manner set forth in the Policies and Procedures. The Chair
829 of the Central Committee or a majority of the board members may call a special meeting or
830 change the regular meeting date of the Executive Board upon seventy-two (72) hours' notice to
831 each member of the Executive Board.

832 Section 4. Voting

833 Neither proxy voting nor absentee voting shall be permitted at any Executive Board meeting.
834 However, this prohibition shall not be construed as to disallow electronic voting.

835 Section 5. Quorum

836 A quorum of the Executive Board is composed of a majority of the officers of the Executive
837 Board.

838 ARTICLE IX. COMMITTEES

839 Section 1. Definition

- 840 A. This Committee has Standing, Special Purpose, and Ad Hoc Committees.
- 841 B. The makeup, leadership, function, duties, and rules governing these Committees
842 shall be set forth in the Policies and Procedures.
- 843 C. The Chair may appoint members to serve on any Committee with the consent of the
844 Executive Board and subject to the provisions in the Policies and Procedures.
- 845 D. "Gender" shall mean one being either "self-identified female" or "other than self-
846 identified female" including gender non-binary and gender non-conforming. "Gender
847 balance" shall mean of the gender necessary to maintain, achieve or improve equal
848 division on a committee.

849 Section 2. Standing Committees

- 850 A. The Administration Committee to assist in drafting, reviewing, and recommending
851 amendments to the Bylaws, Policies and Procedures, and to serve on the Credentials
852 Committee.
- 853 B. The Club Development Committee to assist the development of Democratic clubs and to
854 aid in the support of chartered clubs.
- 855 C. The Grassroots Organizing Committee to provide leadership for the SDCDP's precinct
856 based voter contact program known as the Grassroots Organizing (GO) Team.

857 D. The Resolutions Committee to review proposed resolutions submitted for endorsement
858 to This Committee.

859 E. The Ethics Committee to review and evaluate allegations of unethical behavior or
860 activities involving any Democrat residing in San Diego County.

861

862 Section 3. Special Purpose Committees

863 A. The Candidate Support and Assistance Committee (CSAC) supports Democratic
864 candidates for partisan state-level offices.

865 B. The Communications Committee to assist in managing and implementing the SDCDP
866 communications plan.

867 C. The Credentials Committee to review any credentials concerns or membership eligibility
868 challenges for accordance with the Bylaws and Policies of This Committee.

869 D. The Membership Development Committee to increase engagement in the activities of
870 the Party, both by Central Committee members and non-members, and to develop and
871 implement a program ensuring that Central Committee membership reflects the diversity
872 of registered Democrats in San Diego County.

873 E. The Nomination Committee to review applicants for the Executive Board as set forth in
874 the Policies and Procedures.

875 F. The Voter Registration Committee to develop and implement a plan for increasing
876 Democratic Voter Registration in San Diego County.

877 G. The Platform Committee to develop and amend the platform of the San Diego County
878 Democratic Party.

879 Section 4. Ad Hoc Committees

880 Ad Hoc Committees may be created in accord with the Policies and Procedures.

881 ARTICLE X. DEMOCRATIC ORGANIZATIONS

882 Section 1. Definition and Purpose

883 A. A Democratic Club is an organization of Democrats allied by defined geographic area,
884 special interest, or cultural community. A Club's purpose is to support and strengthen the
885 Democratic Party through the political development, activity, and advocacy of its
886 membership. A Club's objectives are to foster active interest in the local, state and
887 national Democratic Party, to contribute to San Diego County Democratic Party
888 leadership and responsibility, to support the campaigns of Democratic candidates
889 representing the Club's constituency, and to engage in grassroots outreach, organizing
890 and recruitment within its area, or special interest or cultural community.

891 B. A Democratic Coalition is an association of regionally affiliated representatives of the
892 San Diego County Democratic Party Central Committee, California Democratic Party,
893 Democratic Clubs, and Democratic-friendly organizations (such as labor unions). A
894 Democratic Coalition's purpose is to coordinate and promote the common goals of the
895 entities represented, to develop and implement projects that are beneficial to Democrats
896 and Democratic organizations in the region, to support the campaigns of Democratic
897 candidates in the region, and to foster Democratic grassroots organizing efforts in the
898 region. A Democratic Coalition is not a governing body for the entities whose members
899 associate with it.

900 C. The Council of Clubs is an informal assembly of Democratic Club and Democratic
901 Coalition presidents or their designated representatives. The Council's purpose is to
902 foster communication and cooperation between Council members, to assist in building
903 the organizational capacity of Clubs and Coalitions, to develop and implement projects
904 that are beneficial to Council members' operations, and engage in other activities as the
905 Council deems appropriate. The Council of Clubs is not a governing body for the entities
906 represented.

907 Section 2. Authorization

908 A Democratic Club or Democratic Coalition shall charter annually with This Committee to be
909 authorized as the Democratic Club for a defined geographic area, special interest or cultural
910 community, or the Democratic Coalition for a specific region.

911 A. This Committee shall charter at most one Democratic Coalition per Central Committee
912 Area.

913 B. This Committee shall charter clubs with a geographic focus. These clubs are typically
914 named for the community and boundaries may overlap. These clubs are known as
915 Geographic Clubs and caucus in the Area they represent.

916 C. This Committee may charter a Democratic Club that seeks to address a unique
917 population, cultural community, special interest, or demographic. These clubs are known
918 as Affinity Clubs and have a countywide voice. Affinity clubs designate the Area where
919 their primary member will. caucus and may seek and be approved for additional
920 representation in other Areas.

921 D. This Committee may charter a Democratic Club affiliated with an educational institution.
922 These clubs are known as Academic Clubs and caucus in the Area where the institution
923 is located.

924 E. Club charters and additional Affinity Club Associate memberships shall be considered
925 through September of a Statewide or Presidential election year. New club chartering
926 shall resume with the January Biennial Organization meeting.

927 F. The Executive Board, upon recommendation by the Director of Clubs, may renew a
928 club's charter when all requirements have been met and the next regular Central
929 Committee meeting is at least forty-five (45) days from the previous meeting.

930 **Section 3. Requirements**

- 931 A. Membership shall be open to all Democrats regardless of race, religion, national origin,
932 sex or sexual orientation, or gender identity.
- 933 1. A Club or Coalition’s voting members shall be defined as members who are
934 registered Democrats in San Diego County or have expressed the intention of
935 becoming registered Democrats in San Diego County as soon as they are eligible to
936 register to vote.
- 937 2. A Club or Coalition’s non-voting membership may include individuals that are
938 registered as other than Democratic Party
- 939 B. To charter, the Club or Coalition must have at least twenty (20) voting members and will
940 have a voice in their designated Area.
- 941 C. To obtain an Associate member, the Club or Coalition must have at least twenty (20)
942 unique voting members.
- 943 D. At least two-thirds (2/3) of all those who make up the Club or Coalition shall be
944 registered Democrats or individuals who have expressed the intention of becoming
945 registered Democrats as soon as they are eligible.
- 946 E. Only registered Democrats, or those who have expressed the intention of becoming
947 registered Democrats as soon as they are eligible, may serve as Club or Coalition
948 officers or vote on Club or Coalition business.
- 949 F. The Club or Coalition’s bylaws shall have a process that governs the selection of
950 potential representatives to the CDP and SDCDP.
- 951 G. The Club or Coalition shall meet individually at least once quarterly and for all
952 endorsement votes and all meeting dates, times, and locations shall be provided to the
953 SDCDP at least fourteen (14) days prior to the meeting for publication on the SDCDP
954 website. A copy of the notice, agenda, and minutes for business meetings or
955 endorsement meetings shall be supplied via email to the Director of Clubs and the
956 SDCDP.
- 957 H. The club shall meet the requirements for endorsements in these Bylaws XIII.
958 Endorsements, Section 7 Rules Concerning Endorsements by Chartered Clubs.
- 959 I. As stated in Section 5 below, the use of the word “Democratic” shall be subject to the
960 approval of the Executive Board when a chartered club or coalition solicits funds.
- 961 J. Additional rules for the appointment and credentialing of Associate members and the
962 chartering process shall be set forth in the Policies and Procedures.

963 **Section 4. Suspension, Revocation and/or Denial of a Club or Coalition’s**
964 **Charter.**

965 If, assuming the alleged facts are true, good cause exists for suspension, revocation or denial of
966 renewal of a charter, such allegations shall first be presented to the Executive Board at its
967 regularly scheduled meeting according to the procedure provided below:

- 968 A. The Executive Board shall determine if it will give consideration to an allegation and if
969 so, will place it on its agenda for a designated subsequent meeting.
- 970 B. At least twenty (20) days' written notice shall be provided to the president of the affected
971 Club or Democratic Coalition, at the mailing address filed with the Central Committee at
972 application for charter or renewal of charter, specifying the allegation and giving notice of
973 the date the allegation will be heard. The Club or Coalition President or another
974 designee shall be allowed to respond to the allegation at the Executive Board meeting
975 noticed.
- 976 C. The Executive Board, by a two-thirds vote, may recommend to This Committee that it
977 suspend, revoke or deny renewal of the Club or Coalition's charter.
- 978 D. At least thirty (30) days' notice to the members of This Committee and to the President
979 of the affected Club or Coalition shall precede such a recommendation. The notice shall
980 specify the allegation and findings by the Executive Board.
- 981 E. Approval of the Executive Board's recommendation shall require a two-thirds (2/3) vote
982 of This Committee, the vote shall be conducted pursuant to Policies and Procedures
983 Section VI, E. Internal Voting Procedure. Such approval shall be effective immediately.
- 984 F. If This Committee approves the recommendation of the Executive Board to suspend,
985 revoke or deny renewal of a charter, the Secretary shall give said Club or Coalition
986 written notice of the decision.
- 987 G. If a Club or Coalition's charter is revoked or not renewed, no other club or support/affinity
988 organization shall be chartered using the same name for the twelve (12) months
989 immediately following such revocation or denial of renewal.

990 Section 5. Affiliated Organizations

991 Pursuant to Elections Code Section 20201, the Executive Board may permit any organization to
992 use the title Democrat or Democratic in its name when soliciting for the use of the Democratic
993 Party; however, the organization shall not, by itself, constitute a representation that funds
994 solicited by that organization are being solicited for the use of the Democratic Party.

995 ARTICLE XI. ANNUAL BUDGET

996 Section 1. Fiscal Year

997 The Fiscal Year of This Committee shall run from January 1, through December 31, of each
998 calendar year.

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Section 2. Budget Process

- A. The Controller, and the Chair of This Committee or their designee shall develop an annual budget to be recommended by the Executive Board to This Committee.
- B. The Chair of This Committee or their designee shall present the annual budget to This Committee for ratification by majority vote. The vote shall be conducted pursuant to Policies and Procedures Section VI, E. Internal Voting Procedure.
- C. Proposed changes to an approved annual budget shall be sent to the Controller, who shall make a recommendation to the Executive Board.

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- 1. A proposed amendment less than or equal to one thousand dollars (\$1,000) may be enacted by a simple majority vote of those present at a regular meeting of the Executive Board.

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- 2. Proposed amendments above one thousand dollars (\$1,000) may not be enacted without the approval of a simple majority of This Committee.

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- D. Additional rules, requirements, and responsibilities of the budget process shall be set forth in the Policies and Procedures.

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ARTICLE XII. REQUIREMENTS FOR EXPENDITURES

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Section 1. Budgeted Expenditures

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Usual and ordinary operating expenditures that are authorized in accordance with a ratified annual budget may be paid upon approval by the Chair of the Central Committee or by the affected Area Vice Chair.

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Section 2. Unbudgeted Expenditures

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Shall be made in accordance with the Policies and Procedures.

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ARTICLE XIII. ENDORSEMENTS

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Section 1. Resolutions

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This Committee may consider and take public positions on any matter of general public concern as resolutions.

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- A. Any registered San Diego County Democrat may submit a resolution for consideration by the Central Committee. All Resolutions shall:

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- 1. Adhere to and reflect the goals and principles of This Committee as enumerated in these Bylaws and the Platforms of the National, State, and This Committee’s Platform.

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- 2. Be signed by a member of the Central Committee,

1031 3. Follow the submission format set forth in the Policies and Procedures.

1032 **Section 2. Nonpartisan Candidates and Ballot Proposition/Initiatives**

1033 A. This Committee may endorse candidates for nonpartisan offices providing:

1034 1. The candidate is a registered Democrat,

1035 2. Endorsements are not given to more candidates than there are open seats for the
1036 office,

1037 3. The office does not extend beyond the San Diego County boundaries,

1038 4. The candidate has declared their intention to run to the Registrar of Voters, the State
1039 of California, This Committee, or the Chair of This Committee,

1040 5. Reasonable attempts are made to notify all declared candidates who the Party has
1041 established with certainty are registered Democrats are notified regarding the date,
1042 time, and place of all relevant meetings and of the endorsement process at least five
1043 (5) business days in advance of the meeting. A qualified candidate, as defined in
1044 Article XIII, Section 2, 4, who declares their intention to run for an office after notice
1045 of recommendation or endorsement has been provided to all other candidates will be
1046 sent all relevant information and allowed to participate at the discretion of the
1047 meeting convener, but in no instance, will said discretion require notice beyond that
1048 which has already been given.

1049 6. A Democratic candidate may speak or may designate a Central Committee member
1050 to speak or read a letter on their behalf.

1051 7. The candidate has requested the Central Committee endorsement and returned all
1052 required documentation at least two (2) business days prior to the meeting where
1053 endorsement or recommendation will be considered.

1054 8. The filing deadline has passed, unless the candidate is an incumbent or in races that
1055 have been identified as strategically critical.

1056 a. For races that are fully enclosed within an Area, upon recommendation by the
1057 Area, This Committee may endorse incumbents early and without a
1058 questionnaire.

1059 b. For races that cross Area boundaries, This Committee may endorse incumbents
1060 early and without a questionnaire following a recommendation by the Areas or
1061 upon recommendation by the Executive Board.

1062 c. A race may be designated as strategically critical following a preliminary
1063 recommendation by a two-thirds (2/3) vote by the Area(s), secondary
1064 recommendation by the Executive Board, and approval by a two-thirds (2/3) vote
1065 of This Committee.

- 1066 d. In special elections, a race may be designated as strategically critical by a two-
1067 thirds (2/3) vote of the Executive Board in lieu of the Area voting to recommend
1068 on the designation.
- 1069 e. Endorsements in races designated strategically critical may be considered at the
1070 next Central Committee meeting following the designations providing all notice
1071 and Questionnaire requirements have been met.

1072 B. This Committee shall approve one or more candidate questionnaires to be completed
1073 and submitted prior to endorsement by all eligible non-incumbent nonpartisan
1074 candidates for office fully within San Diego County.

1075 C. Positions on ballot initiatives and propositions may be taken by This Committee.
1076 However, This Committee shall not take a position on any statewide initiative that is
1077 contrary to that of the Central Committee of the California Democratic Party.

1078 Section 3. Notice for Endorsement and Recommendation Meetings

1079 All Central Committee endorsement meetings and Area endorsement recommendation
1080 meetings require prior notice to the membership.

1081 A. Notice is hereby given: the first two Central Committee meetings occurring after the
1082 close of filing, including any extended filing, for Primary, General or Special Elections
1083 may consider any race or measure appearing on the ballot for endorsement.

1084 B. Notice is hereby given: the first two Area Committee meetings occurring after the close
1085 of filing, including any extended filing, for Primary, General or Special Elections may
1086 consider any race or measure appearing on the ballot in that Area for a recommendation
1087 for endorsement.

1088 C. Notice is hereby given: the first two Central Committee meetings following a Primary
1089 Election may consider an endorsement in any run-off race lacking an endorsed
1090 Democratic candidate.

1091 D. Notice is hereby given: the first two Area Committee meetings following a Primary
1092 Election may consider a recommendation for endorsement in any run-off race lacking an
1093 endorsed Democratic candidate.

1094 E. At least fourteen (14) days' notice shall be given prior to the meeting in which This
1095 Committee considers an endorsement for a specific candidate race or a ballot measure.

1096 F. At least seven (7) days' notice shall be given prior to the meeting in which an Area
1097 considers a recommendation for a specific candidate race or a ballot measure.

1098 G. At least thirty (30) days' notice shall be given to Clubs prior to the meeting in which an
1099 Area considers a recommendation for a specific candidate race or ballot measure.

1100 H. The Executive Board may, with at least seven (7) days' notice, call a special meeting of
1101 This Committee to consider endorsing a candidate or a ballot measure

1102 Section 4. Ratings for Democratic Candidates

- 1103 A. Once an Area or This Committee has adopted a no endorsement or no consensus
 1104 recommendation, the endorsement process is complete. There is no requirement to
 1105 examine the candidates further; however, the Chair or Vice Chair may entertain a motion
 1106 to rate each of the candidates: a) Qualified, b) Unacceptable, or c) No Position.
- 1107 B. If a motion has been made and seconded to rate the candidates, then all candidates
 1108 must be reconsidered, one time only, for a rating. Each candidate may be rated
 1109 individually. The Central Committee or an Area has the option to rate candidates as a
 1110 group or as individuals or in any combination thereof as the body sees fit so long as
 1111 each candidate is not examined for a rating more than once. The threshold to pass a
 1112 “Qualified” or “Unacceptable” rating is sixty percent (60%).
- 1113 C. When only one previously rated as Qualified candidate advances to a top-two runoff,
 1114 they automatically become the endorsed candidate.
- 1115 D. In all other cases, any rating made in a Primary Election does not carry over to the
 1116 General Election.

1117 **Section 5. Recission of Endorsements, Positions, or Ratings**

1118 This Committee by a two-thirds (2/3) vote may rescind any endorsement, position, or rating
 1119 previously made in a nonpartisan race.

1120 **Section 6. Rules Concerning Candidates**

1121 This Committee may consider a vote to designate a candidate as “Do not vote for”. The
 1122 threshold for the designation is sixty percent (60%).

1123 **Section 7. Rules Concerning Endorsements by Chartered Clubs**

- 1124 A. Chartered clubs shall endorse only registered Democrats.
- 1125 B. Non-Democratic candidates may only be rated qualified or unacceptable.
- 1126 C. Chartered clubs shall notice their full membership that endorsement consideration will be
 1127 made in a particular race or races at least fourteen (14) days prior to the meeting.
 1128 Notification shall be made by email to the full membership or, absent an email address,
 1129 by U.S. Mail or an alternative method as specified in the club’s bylaws.
- 1130 D. Reasonable attempts are made by the club to notify and invite all declared candidates
 1131 who the Party has established with certainty are registered Democrats regarding the
 1132 date, time, and place of the club’s meetings and of the club’s endorsement process at
 1133 least five (5) business days prior to the meeting. A copy of any meeting notice sent to
 1134 candidates shall be supplied via email to the Director of Clubs and the SDCDP.
- 1135 E. Requests for information regarding candidates from the club to the Party office must be
 1136 made at least seven (7) business days prior to the meeting.

- 1137 F. Endorsements by chartered clubs shall not be construed as the official endorsement of
1138 either the California Democratic Party or the San Diego County Democratic Party. Words
1139 to that effect shall be clearly visible wherever a chartered club's endorsement is referred
1140 to.
- 1141 G. Any publication of endorsements by chartered clubs shall clearly delineate between
1142 endorsed candidates and candidates rated qualified.
- 1143 H. All local Democratic candidates must have an opportunity to speak or be allowed a
1144 surrogate to speak on their behalf at the endorsement meeting for their race.
- 1145 I. If a club fails to comply with the rules concerning endorsements, the Executive Board
1146 may suspend all their endorsement voting rights, until the matter has been resolved.

1147 ARTICLE XIV. Elected Officials

1148 Section 1. Vote of No Confidence

1149 This Committee, by a two-thirds (2/3) vote, may express no-confidence in an elected
1150 Democratic Official. An Area may make a recommendation, by a two-thirds (2/3) vote, that This
1151 Committee express no-confidence in an elected Democratic Official whose district is fully
1152 enclosed in their Area.

1153 Section 2. Request for Resignation

1154 This Committee, by a two-thirds (2/3) vote, may request the resignation of an elected
1155 Democratic Official. An Area may make a recommendation, by a two-thirds (2/3) vote, that This
1156 Committee request the resignation of an elected Democratic Official whose district is fully
1157 enclosed in their Area.

1158 Section 3. Removal of Friendly Incumbent Endorsement Designation

1159 This Committee may disallow early incumbent endorsement designation to any officeholder who
1160 endorses a non-Democratic candidate in any challenged political race or endorses a non-
1161 Democratic candidate in a non-challenged political race and a Democratic challenger is
1162 subsequently endorsed by the Party who fails to withdraw their endorsement of the non-
1163 Democratic challenger immediately.

- 1164 A. The Chair shall inform said candidate of the removal of consideration for early incumbent
1165 endorsement status upon request of the Executive Board or Area.
- 1166 B. In the event that the candidate appeals this removal, an affirmative majority vote of This
1167 Committee members at a properly noticed meeting shall be required to restore early
1168 incumbent endorsement consideration.
- 1169 C. Candidates who have been removed from early incumbent endorsement consideration
1170 may complete a candidate questionnaire and apply for endorsement consideration
1171 following the filing deadline for the office to which they are incumbent.

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ARTICLE XV. Democratic State Central Committee (DSCC) Delegation

Section 1. DSCC Appointment

- A. As part of the Biennial Organization, the Chair of This Committee and Public Ballot members shall be automatically elected to serve as a representative of this County Committee to the State Committee as part of the SDCDP DSCC Delegation, provided they have submitted written intent that they wish to serve on the DSCC via the member form.
- B. Any remaining representatives apportioned to SDCDP by the State Committee shall be elected at-large from This Committee’s Voting, Alternate, and Associate members in accordance with the Policies of This Committee.
- C. If there are more interested candidates than there are delegation positions, they will be added to the DSCC delegation waitlist. New members appointed following the Biennial Organization may add themselves to the DSCC delegation waitlist via the member form.
- D. Representatives to the Executive Board of the DSCC will be selected by This Committee from the SDCDP DSCC Delegation following the CDP Convention in odd-numbered years in accordance with DSCC requirements and the Policies of This Committee.
- E. Dual representation is not allowed:
 - 1. Members must choose between representation to the CDP via the ADEM membership or via the SDCDP delegation within five (5) calendar days of their latter election and notify the SDCDP with written notification via the member form. A member who fails to notify the SDCDP of their selection has vacated the position in the SDCDP delegation.
 - 2. If a member is elected via the ADEM to an ADEM Executive Board seat, they will automatically become a Designated member of the SDCDP and any previously allotted SDCDP delegation position is vacated.
- F. The names of the delegation members will be publicly available via the SDCDP Website.

Section 2. Term and Vacancies

- A. Representatives shall serve as part of the SDCDP DSCC Delegation for the remainder of the biennial term as long as they remain a member of This Committee.
- B. Vacancies will be declared and filled in accordance with the Policies of This Committee.

ARTICLE XVI. RULES

Section 1. Amendment of the Bylaws or Policies and Procedures

- 1205 A. This Committee may amend these Bylaws with a two-thirds (2/3) vote. Seven (7) days'
1206 notice is required to amend the Bylaws.
- 1207 B. The Policies and Procedures may be amended at any meeting of This Committee with a
1208 sixty percent (60%) vote.
- 1209 C. The process for the submission and review of proposed amendments is set forth in the
1210 Policies and Procedures.

1211 **Section 2. Robert's Rules of Order**

1212 The rules contained in the current edition of Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised, shall
1213 govern This Committee, including Areas, caucuses, and committees, in all cases in which they
1214 are applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with these Bylaws, except that in all
1215 instances a motion to table shall be subject to a two-thirds (2/3) vote.