



**BY-LAWS & RULES**  
**OF THE**  
**CALIFORNIA**  
**DEMOCRATIC**  
**PARTY**

October 2005



**CALIFORNIA DEMOCRATIC PARTY  
STATE CENTRAL COMMITTEE BY-LAWS**  
(amended 10/2005, printed 10/2005)

**Table of Contents**

| <b>ARTICLE</b> | <b>TITLE</b>  | <b>PAGE</b> |
|----------------|---|-------------|
| I              | NAME AND PURPOSE .....  | 1           |
| II             | MEMBERSHIP .....  | 2           |
| III            | OFFICERS .....  | 8           |
| IV             | MEETINGS .....  | 12          |
| V              | STANDING COMMITTEES AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES .....  | 16          |
| VI             | ASSEMBLY DISTRICTS AND ASSEMBLY DISTRICT ELECTION<br>MEETINGS .....   | 19          |
| VII            | EXECUTIVE BOARD.....  | 21          |
| VIII           | ENDORSEMENT OF CANDIDATES FOR PARTISAN AND NONPARTISAN<br>OFFICE, AND ENDORSEMENT AND OPPOSITION TO STATE BALLOT<br>PROPOSITIONS, INITIATIVES, REFERENDUM, AND RECALL ..... | 24          |
| IX             | ELECTION OF DEMOCRATIC NATIONAL COMMITTEE MEMBERS .....   | 34          |
| X              | CHARTERS.....   | 35          |
| XI             | COMPLIANCE REVIEW COMMISSION.....   | 37          |
| XII            | GENERAL POLICIES.....   | 39          |
| XII            | AMENDMENT OF THE BY-LAWS .....  | 41          |

1                                   **CALIFORNIA DEMOCRATIC PARTY**  
2                                   **STATE CENTRAL COMMITTEE BY-LAWS**  
3                                   (amended 10/2005, printed 10/2005)  
4

5 **§ ARTICLE I**

---

7 **NAME AND PURPOSE**

8  
9 **Section 1.     NAME**

10  
11         The name of this organization shall be the CALIFORNIA DEMOCRATIC PARTY. Its  
12         governing body shall be the DEMOCRATIC STATE CENTRAL COMMITTEE (This  
13         Committee).  
14

15 **Section 2.     PURPOSE**

16  
17         a.       All persons registered as Democrats, pursuant to the laws of the State of California,  
18         are members of the California Democratic Party and are entitled to participate in the  
19         official organization of the California Democratic Party as provided by the laws of  
20         the State and these By-Laws.  
21

22         b.       These By-Laws shall govern the organization, operation and functions of that  
23         political party known as the California Democratic Party (The Party) and the  
24         Democratic State Central Committee (This Committee).  
25

26         c.       This Committee shall elect state officers of the Party and members of the Democratic  
27         National Committee, shall adopt a State Party platform in gubernatorial years and  
28         may adopt a proposed national platform in presidential election years, shall conduct  
29         campaigns for the party and its candidates for public office, shall appoint committees  
30         and employ staff as deemed desirable, and shall conduct such other business as the  
31         policy and program of the Party may require.  
32

33         d.       This Committee may endorse partisan primary elections and may take positions on  
34         ballot measures.  
35

36 **Section 3.     SECTIONS**

37  
38         This Committee shall be divided into a Southern and Northern Section:  
39

40         a.       The Southern Section shall be comprised of the Counties of Imperial, Kern, Los  
41         Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino, San Diego, Santa Barbara, and  
42         Ventura.  
43

44         b.       The Northern Section shall be comprised of the remaining Counties in the State.  
45

46 **Section 4.     REGIONS**

47  
48         This Committee shall be further divided into Regions. Regions shall be defined by A.D.  
49         boundaries and are subject to redistricting by the Organizational Development Committee  
50         for approval by This Committee or its Executive Board (See also Article III, Section 4.) and

1 shall, beginning with the next reapportionment after 2001, be comprised of an equal number  
2 of Assembly Districts.

3  
4  
5 **ARTICLE II**

---

7 **MEMBERSHIP**

8  
9 **Section 1. MEMBERSHIP**

10  
11 a. The Committee shall consist of:

- 12  
13 (1) One member for each elective public office named in Section 2a of this  
14 Article.  
15  
16 (2) Members appointed pursuant to Section 3 of this Article.  
17  
18 (3) Members elected by County Central Committees of the Party pursuant to  
19 Section 4 of this Article.  
20  
21 (4) Members elected by Assembly District Election Meetings pursuant to  
22 Section 5 of this Article.  
23  
24 (5) National Committee members of the Party.  
25  
26 (6) The immediate past state officers of This Committee.  
27  
28 (7) The President of the California Democratic Council, the Executive Vice  
29 President-North, the Executive Vice President-South, and the Executive Vice  
30 President-Central.  
31  
32 (8) Four (4) officers of the California Young Democrats. These shall consist of  
33 the State President and three (3) other officers, as determined by the  
34 California Young Democrats.  
35

36 b. Membership shall terminate, subject to renewal, every two years and shall extend  
37 from the convening of the first regular meeting of this Committee in the odd  
38 numbered year to the convening of the first regular meeting held in the next  
39 odd-numbered year, with vacancies occurring during this period filled in accordance  
40 with the provisions of Section 9 of this Article.  
41

42 c. There shall be no dual memberships. The membership of any Democrat who is  
43 elected or otherwise designated to hold an office named in subdivision (a) of this  
44 section who resigns or is removed shall terminate upon selection of their  
45 replacement. A member who becomes eligible for membership on some other  
46 grounds during his or her two-year term shall inform the State Chair of the eligibility  
47 and identify the position which he or she wishes to represent.  
48

49 d. All members of This Committee must be duly registered members of the Democratic  
50 Party of California.  
51



1 f. In the case of an office named in subdivision (a) for which subdivisions (b), (c), and  
2 (d) are all inapplicable, one member shall be appointed as follows:

3  
4 (1) If a state legislative office is involved, by appointment of a voter who resides  
5 in the district in question by the relevant County Central Committee of the  
6 Party. The relevant County Central Committee is determined as follows:

7  
8 (a) If the district is situated wholly within a single county, the County  
9 Central Committee for the county in which the district is situated;

10  
11 (b) If the vacancy occurs in a district comprising two or more counties  
12 and is caused by disqualification or death, the County Central  
13 Committee for the county in which the disqualified, deceased or  
14 resigned member resided;

15  
16 (c) If the vacancy occurs in a district comprising two or more counties  
17 and is not caused by disqualification or death, the County Central  
18 Committee for the county in which the non-Democratic legislator or  
19 the most recent non-Democratic nominee for the office in question  
20 resides.

21  
22 (2) If the office of the U.S. Senate or any of the statewide offices named in  
23 subdivision (a) of this section is involved, by appointment by the Executive  
24 Board of This Committee.

25  
26 (3) If the office of a member of the United States House of Representatives is  
27 involved, by appointment by the Executive Board of This Committee of a  
28 voter who resides within the Congressional District to be represented.

29  
30 g. Any member of This Committee whose membership is held pursuant to subdivision  
31 (b), (c), or (d) of this Section shall be known as a "Public Office Member."

32  
33 **Section 3. APPOINTED MEMBERS**

34  
35 a. Each member identified in Section 2b or 2c of this Article shall be entitled to appoint  
36 six members, at least three of whom shall be of the opposite sex; except that  
37 members elected to Congress and the State Assembly shall be entitled to appoint five  
38 members, at least three of whom shall be of the opposite sex.

39  
40 b. Each member identified in Section 2d or 2e of this Article shall be entitled to appoint  
41 three members, at least two of whom shall be of the opposite sex; except that  
42 nominee members for Congress and the State Assembly shall appoint two members,  
43 at least one of whom shall be of the opposite sex.

44  
45 c. Appointment of members to This Committee shall be made in writing in the form  
46 prescribed by the Secretary of This Committee, signed by the appointing member  
47 and delivered to the State Chair of the Party. Appointees shall serve at the pleasure  
48 of the appointing member. Delivery of notification of appointment to This  
49 Committee shall be made no later than February 7 following the General Election, in  
50 order to be eligible to vote at the next meeting of This Committee, except in the case  
51 of a special election not certified by Feb 7, delivery of notification of appointment to

1 This Committee shall be made not later than fourteen (14) days after certification of  
2 the election.

3  
4 **Section 4. MEMBERS ELECTED BY COUNTY CENTRAL COMMITTEES**

- 5
- 6 a. Each County Central Committee of the Party shall elect, from its own members as  
7 defined by its by-laws, representatives who shall serve at the pleasure of the County  
8 Central Committee to This Committee as follows: four members as base  
9 representation, plus one member for each 10,000 registered Democrats or fraction  
10 thereof.
- 11
- 12 b. The number of registered Democrats shall be as of the most recent report of  
13 registration to the Secretary of State. The Secretary of the State Committee shall  
14 secure the registration totals received by the Secretary of State seven days prior to  
15 the General Election, and shall forthwith notify the respective County and District  
16 Committees of the Party registrations and the allocation of members to be elected  
17 under provisions of the Elections Code.
- 18
- 19 c. Elections shall be held by January 31 following the regular general statewide  
20 election. Those committees that reorganize in January shall elect their representatives  
21 to This Committee at their organizational meetings.
- 22
- 23 d. Persons elected as members shall be divided as equally as possible between men and  
24 women and shall be members of the County Central Committee as of the date of the  
25 first regular meeting of This Committee.
- 26
- 27 e. In order for the representative to be eligible to vote at the next meeting of This  
28 Committee, no later than February 7 of an odd-numbered year, the County Chair  
29 shall notify the State Chair of the Party in writing signed by him or her of the names  
30 and addresses of the persons elected to membership of This Committee. Those  
31 committees which reorganize in January shall make this notification within three  
32 days of the elections held pursuant to subsection (c).
- 33
- 34 f. County Central Committees may provide for the election of their allocation of  
35 membership on an at-large basis or by Supervisorial or Assembly Districts, or by any  
36 combination thereof.
- 37

38 **Section 5. MEMBERS ELECTED BY ASSEMBLY DISTRICT ELECTION**  
39 **MEETINGS**

- 40
- 41 a. Each Assembly District Election Meeting, as provided in Article VI of these  
42 By-Laws, shall elect twelve of its members as members of This Committee.
- 43
- 44 b. Persons elected as members shall be as equally divided as possible between men and  
45 women. In the event less than six of one sex should be candidates for election as  
46 representatives to This Committee, they shall be deemed automatically elected, with  
47 the balance of the delegation being of the other sex.
- 48

1 **Section 6. STATEWIDE NON-PARTISAN OFFICES**

2  
3 The highest vote-getting candidate for a Statewide Non-Partisan office registered as a  
4 Democrat, at the time of the close of filing, shall be a member of This Committee. If elected,  
5 such candidate shall be entitled to appoint six members of This Committee, at least three of  
6 whom must be of the opposite sex. If not elected, such candidate shall be entitled to appoint  
7 three members of This Committee, at least two of whom must be of the opposite sex. In the  
8 case of an office for which the above does not apply, one member shall be appointed by the  
9 Executive Board of This Committee to fill the appointor's position.

10

11 **Section 7. NOTIFICATION OF APPOINTMENT OR ELECTION**

12

13 a. The Chair of This Committee shall notify each person appointed or elected as a  
14 member of This Committee:

15

16 (1) That he or she is a member of This Committee;

17

18 (2) Of the date, time and place of the first regular meeting of This Committee;

19

20 (3) That the meeting may be attended either in person or by proxy;

21

22 (4) That every proxy shall be filed in the office of the State Chair no later than 5  
23 p.m. of the day preceding the meeting of This Committee;

24

25 (5) The proxy shall be in writing signed by the member under penalty of perjury.

26

27 b. The Chair of This Committee shall enclose, with each notification of appointment or  
28 election, one proxy form.

29

30 c. The Chair of This Committee shall provide all members with appropriate notice and  
31 forms of proxy prior to each special meeting of This Committee.

32

33 **Section 8. QUALIFICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP**

34

35 A person is eligible for membership on This Committee only if such person is registered as  
36 affiliated with the Party at the time of election or appointment.

37

38 **Section 9. REMOVAL FROM MEMBERSHIP**

39

40 a. This Committee may remove any member if, during his/her term of membership,  
41 such member affiliates with or registers as a member of another party; publicly  
42 avows preference for another party; publicly advocates that the voters should not  
43 vote for the endorsed candidate of This Party for any office; or who publicly gives  
44 support to or avows a preference for a candidate nominated by another party; or fails  
45 to pay the prescribed dues as provided in Section 10 of this Article.

46

47 b. Removal of a member may be effected in the following manner:

48

49 (1) At least two members of the Executive Board must sign and submit to the  
50 Secretary of This Committee a written statement of charges containing the  
51 grounds for removal.



- 1  
2 (2) The Secretary of This Committee, upon receipt of the statement of charges,  
3 must send to the accused member by timely registered mail, a copy of the  
4 statement of charges and a letter stating: that the accused member may either  
5 resign or have a hearing before the officers of This Committee named in  
6 Article III, Section 2 that at such hearing, the accused member shall be  
7 afforded an opportunity to respond to the statement of charges and to  
8 confront the witnesses against such member; and that such member may be  
9 represented by counsel at such hearing.  
10  
11 (3) If the accused member does not resign, the Secretary of This Committee shall  
12 send a copy of the statement of charges to all officers of This Committee  
13 along with a notice of the hearing date.  
14  
15 (4) At the hearing the officers shall examine the statement of charges brought  
16 against the accused member. The accused member shall be afforded an  
17 opportunity to respond to the charges, to confront any witnesses against such  
18 members, and may be represented by counsel if desired. Such hearing shall  
19 be conducted in such fashion as to afford the accused member due process of  
20 law. After such hearing upon motion for removal, the accused member may  
21 be removed by a vote of not less than two-thirds of the officers present and  
22 voting.  
23

24 **Section 10. VACANCIES**

- 25  
26 a. A vacancy on This Committee shall be deemed to exist in the event of the  
27 appointment or election to membership of an ineligible person or whenever any  
28 member dies, resigns or is removed, becomes incapacitated to act, is removed from  
29 membership pursuant to Section 8 of this Article, resigns from public office per  
30 section 2a of this Article, ceases to be a Central Committee county resident, assumes  
31 membership through other means, or ceases to be a member of the Party.  
32  
33 b. Vacancies shall be filled as follows:  
34  
35 (1) Should a member appointed to membership pursuant to Section 3 of this  
36 Article cease to be a member for any reason specified in subdivision (a) of  
37 this Section, the vacancy shall be filled not less than three days preceding the  
38 next meeting of This Committee by the original appointing member. The  
39 original appointing member shall notify in writing the State Chair of the  
40 Party of all appointments made pursuant to this subdivision. If the original  
41 appointing person is no longer a member of This Committee or does not wish  
42 to fill the vacancy, the State Chair of This Committee shall do so.  
43  
44 (2) Should a member elected to membership by a County Central Committee  
45 cease to be a member for any reason specified in subdivision (a) of this  
46 Section, notice shall be given to the County Central Committee by This  
47 Committee as soon as possible after occurrence of the vacancy, and the  
48 County Central Committee shall fill the vacancy at its next meeting  
49 following the notification. The County Committee Chair shall notify in  
50 writing the State Chair of the Party of the election held pursuant to this  
51 subdivision.

1  
2 (3) Should a member elected to membership by an Assembly District Election  
3 Meeting cease to be a member for any reason specified in subdivision (a) of this  
4 Section, then the vacancy shall be filled by the person of the same gender who  
5 received the next most number of votes at the relevant Assembly District Election  
6 Meeting. In the event that this method does not provide a person to fill the vacancy,  
7 then the current Assembly District Representative to the Executive Board shall  
8 call a public meeting of the remaining members of This Committee resident in the  
9 Assembly District, who shall fill the vacancy with a registered Democrat resident in  
10 the Assembly District who is the same gender as the person who ceased to be a  
11 member. This meeting shall be called with at least 10 days notice to the members of  
12 This Committee resident in the Assembly District. Once the vacancy is filled, the  
13 Assembly District Representative to the Executive Board shall notify, in writing,  
14 State Chair of the Party of the selection made pursuant to this subdivision.  
15

16 **Section 11. DUES**

- 17
- 18 a. Dues shall be paid by This Committee's members. The Executive Board shall  
19 establish the time and manner by which these dues shall be paid before the next  
20 scheduled meeting of This Committee.
  - 21
  - 22 b. Any member who fails to pay the prescribed dues may be removed from This  
23 Committee in the manner prescribed in Section 8 of this Article, except that payment  
24 of dues shall not be obligatory for any member to whom it constitutes an economic  
25 hardship.
  - 26
  - 27 c. The name of any elected or appointed member who, without cause, fails to pay the  
28 prescribed dues shall be forwarded to the appointing member or the chair of the  
29 electing body before the initiation of removal proceedings.  
30  
31

32 **ARTICLE III**

---

34 **OFFICERS**

35  
36 **Section 1. STATEWIDE OFFICERS**

- 37
- 38 a. The statewide officers of This Committee shall be a State Chair; two State Vice  
39 Chairs; a Secretary; and a Controller.
  - 40
  - 41 b. All statewide officers shall be elected to four year terms.
  - 42
  - 43 c. The Vice Chair from the opposite section of the State as the Chair shall be of the  
44 opposite sex of the Chair and shall be designated the First Vice Chair.
  - 45
  - 46 d. A prerequisite for candidacy to a statewide office is that a candidate be a member of  
47 This Committee by the time the election takes place.
  - 48
  - 49 e. The Executive Board shall have the power to compensate the State Chair. Any  
50 decrease in compensation shall not take effect until the next election of the State  
51 Chair, except upon two-thirds vote of the Executive Board.  
52

1 **Section 2.**

**DESCRIPTION OF DUTIES**

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51

- a. The State Chair shall be the chief executive officer and the official voice of This Committee, shall carry out the policies and purposes, and shall pursue its interests to the best of his/her abilities.
- b. The Vice Chair from the opposite section as the Chair shall assist the Chair in the performance of the duties of that office. To the extent necessary, the Vice Chair from the opposite section as the Chair shall exercise the powers of the Chair in the event of the Chair's absence. In the event that the office of Chair is vacated, the Vice Chair from the opposite section as the Chair succeeds to the office of Chair until a new Chair has been selected as provided in Section 5a below. The Vice Chair from the opposite section as the Chair shall be responsible for organizational maintenance and development within his/her section consistent with the policies of the State Chair and This Committee. For the purpose of representation on the DNC, the Vice Chair from the opposite section as the Chair shall be considered the Party's highest ranking officer of the opposite sex of the Chair.
- c. The Vice Chair from the same section as the Chair shall assist the State Chair in the performance of the duties of that office. The Vice Chair from the same section as the Chair shall be responsible for organizational maintenance and development within his/her section consistent with the policies of the State Chair and This Committee. In the event of a vacancy in both the office of the Chair and the Vice Chair from the opposite section, the Vice Chair from the same section as the Chair succeeds to the office of Chair until a new Chair has been selected as provided in Section 5a below.
- d. The Secretary shall maintain all records of This Committee, shall serve all required notices, shall discharge such other duties as pertain to this office, and shall turn over at the end of his/her term of office all records and documents associated with the office of Secretary to This Committee, except as may be otherwise noted herein.
- e. The Controller shall have access to the financial records maintained by This Committee's Treasurer, shall prepare and deliver at each Executive Board meeting a report on the financial affairs of This Committee, shall serve as Chair of the Finance Committee, and shall turn over at the end of his/her term all records and documents associated with the office of Controller to This Committee.

**Section 3.**

**ELECTION OF STATEWIDE OFFICERS**

- a. The Statewide officers shall be elected to their four-year terms at the first meeting of This Committee held immediately following the conclusion of a presidential election year. The election for State Chair shall take place on Saturday of that convention. The election of the other statewide officers shall take place on Sunday.
- b. All statewide officers shall be elected by the entire membership of This Committee.
- c. A candidate for any statewide office shall file a notice of intent-to-run for that office which must be received by the Secretary of the Party by 5p.m. of the day which is sixteen (16) calendar days prior to the opening of credentialing for the Convention. No withdrawals shall be allowed after that date. Should the incumbent officeholder fail to file the notice of intent to run by that date, then the

1 filing deadline shall be extended to the day which is nine (9) days prior to the  
2 opening of credentialing for the Convention. No withdrawals shall be allowed  
3 after that date.

4  
5 d. Following the close of nominations for officers, no additional nominations shall be  
6 permitted, except for an office for which no person has been nominated prior to the  
7 close of nominations or for which all persons nominated have withdrawn.

8  
9 e. No vote for any person shall be counted unless the person has been duly nominated  
10 for, and has accepted that nomination for the office for which such vote is cast.

11  
12 f. In the event only one person is nominated for any office and such person accepts the  
13 nomination, the Secretary of the meeting shall be directed to cast a unanimous ballot  
14 for such candidate at the time of the election.

15  
16 g. In the event no candidate receives a majority vote on the 1st ballot, a runoff election  
17 (2nd ballot) shall be held between the two persons receiving the largest number of  
18 votes actually cast for all candidates who have been duly nominated for and accepted  
19 the nomination for the office involved.

20  
21 **Section 4. REGIONAL DIRECTORS**

22  
23 a. There shall be 16-25 Regional Directors of This Committee who, with its Statewide  
24 officers, shall constitute the State Officers of the California Democratic Party.

25  
26 b. Regional Directors shall be elected for two year terms on Saturday of the first  
27 Convention of This Committee held in odd numbered years. Regional Directors shall  
28 be elected at Regional Caucuses, each comprised of all members of This Committee  
29 resident in the respective regions.

30  
31 c. Elections of Regional Directors shall be governed by the provisions set forth in  
32 Article III, Section 3, subsections c.-g.

33  
34 d. The Regional Directors shall assist the statewide officers in the maintenance and  
35 development of the Party organization within their respective regions. They are  
36 responsible for developing, assisting, and coordinating the County Central  
37 Committees, Clubs & other Democratic organizations within their region, and shall  
38 convene a regional meeting of the members of This Committee in the region, at least  
39 thirty (30) days prior to each meeting of This Committee or its Executive Board.

40  
41 e. A candidate for Regional Director must be a member of This Committee, and may  
42 only file for Regional Director position of the State Party Region in which he/she  
43 is registered to vote. Should a Regional Director re-register outside of his/her  
44 Region during his/her term of office, he/she shall be assumed to have vacated the  
45 office.

46  
47 **Section 5. VACANCIES**

48  
49 a. In the event that any statewide office shall become vacant, the vacancy shall be filled  
50 on a temporary basis by the Executive Board of This Committee and a new election  
51 for that office shall be held at the next State Convention of This Committee. The

1 person elected must be from the same section as the person who vacated the given  
2 office, and he/she shall serve the remainder of the four year term of that office. The  
3 election shall be held consistent with the provisions found in Section 3 above.  
4

- 5 b. In the event that any Regional Directorship shall become vacant, the vacancy shall be  
6 filled by the Executive Board of This Committee. The person elected must be from  
7 the same region as the person who vacated the given office, and he/she shall serve  
8 the remainder of the two-year term of that office.  
9

10 **Section 6. REMOVAL OF OFFICERS**

11  
12 An officer of this organization may be removed from office for misconduct or neglect of  
13 duty in office by the following procedures:  
14

- 15 a. Any member of This Committee (hereafter, the Filer) may file a Statement of  
16 Charges to remove an Officer of this Committee (hereafter, the Accused Officer),  
17 being no more than 200 words, with the Secretary. If the Accused Officer is the  
18 Secretary of This Committee, all responsibilities of the Secretary with regard to this  
19 Section shall be carried out by the State Chair.  
20
- 21 b. The Secretary, within seven (7) days of the receipt of the Statement of Charges, shall  
22 send to the Accused Officer by registered mail a copy of the Statement of Charges  
23 and a letter stating that the Accused Officer may either resign or file an Answer to  
24 the Statement, in not more than 200 words. Such Answer must be received by the  
25 Secretary within ten (10) days of the date that the Secretary mailed the Statement of  
26 Charges.  
27
- 28 c. The Secretary, within seven (7) days following receipt of the Answer or the deadline  
29 for receipt of the Answer, shall issue to the Filer a Petition, which shall include the  
30 Statement of Charges and the Answer. If, within sixty (60) days of the date of the  
31 mailing by the Secretary of the Petition, the Filer returns to the Secretary the Petition  
32 with the names and signatures of 20 (twenty) current Executive Board members, an  
33 item for Removal of Officer shall be placed on the agenda of the next regular  
34 Executive Board meeting held at least seventeen (17) days after the submission of  
35 such Petition by the Filer to the Secretary. Written notice of this agenda item must  
36 be mailed to the Executive Board no less than ten (10) days prior to the Executive  
37 Board meeting.  
38
- 39 d. At said next regular meeting of the Executive Board, the item shall be the first item  
40 of business after the final credentials report. The Accused Officer may be removed  
41 by two-thirds (2/3) vote of all members present and voting, provided there is present  
42 and voting at least 33-1/3 percent of the membership of the Executive Board.  
43
- 44 e. If the motion for removal of the Accused Officer is defeated, then no such motion to  
45 remove the Accused Officer on substantially the same charges shall be in order for  
46 the remainder of the Accused Officer's term. It shall be the sole discretion of the  
47 Chair to determine whether any new statement of charges is substantially the same as  
48 the previous statement. If the Chair is the Accused Officer, this responsibility shall  
49 be that of the Secretary.  
50  
51

1 **ARTICLE IV**

---

3 **MEETINGS**

5 **Section 1. REGULAR MEETINGS**

7 a. The Democratic State Central Committee shall convene a regular meeting no later  
8 than April 30<sup>th</sup> of each year. The State Chair shall determine the precise dates,  
9 consistent with this provision. The roll of eligible voters at this meeting of This  
10 Committee shall consist of those members who have qualified as of February 7, of  
11 the year of that meeting.

13 b. The State Chair shall call This Committee to order at the time set forth in the agenda  
14 mailed to each member, and as soon as practicable thereafter shall cause the roll to  
15 be called from the list of certified members and proxies. The Officers of This  
16 Committee shall serve as the Officers of any meeting of This Committee and the  
17 Committees previously appointed by the Chair of This Committee shall serve as the  
18 Committees of any meeting of This Committee, as may be deemed necessary by the  
19 Chair of This Committee and subject to the right of the Chair to fill any vacancies on  
20 said Committees to insure a full complement of members. In the event there is no  
21 Chair of This Committee, the First Vice-Chair shall preside and act in his/her stead.

23 **Section 2. SPECIAL MEETINGS**

25 This Committee may hold special meetings in any of the following ways: upon call of the  
26 State Chair; upon call of the Executive Board; or upon the call of the State Chair within 15  
27 days after receipt by the Chair of a written request signed by a majority of the members of  
28 This Committee.

30 **Section 3. PLACE OF MEETINGS**

32 The regular meetings of This Committee shall be held in a suitable location determined by  
33 the Executive Board or, if the Executive Board does not meet, by the State Chair of the  
34 Party.

36 **Section 4. AGENDA**

38 a. The agenda for all regular meetings shall be determined by the Executive Board of  
39 the Party.

41 b. Such agenda shall include provisions for adoption of a Party Platform, election of  
42 Party officers, election of National Committee Members, adoption of Party By-Laws,  
43 and such other matters as may be deemed in the best interest of the Party.

45 **Section 5. QUORUM**

47 A majority of the credentialed members of the organization represented either in person or  
48 by proxy shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business. If at any regular or special  
49 meeting of this organization, or a committee thereof, a quorum is not present, those present  
50 may adjourn until a time when a quorum shall be present.

1 **Section 6.**

**PROXIES**

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- a. Members of This Committee may be represented at any meeting of This Committee by proxy. A member may give his/her proxy to a registered member of the California Democratic Party, of the same sex whenever possible, who is not already a member of This Committee subject to the following limitations:
  - (1) A member elected by a County Central Committee may only give his/her proxy to a member, as defined by its by-laws, of the same County Central Committee.
  - (2) A member elected by an Assembly District Election Meeting may only give his/her proxy to a registered Democrat resident in the same Assembly District.
  - (3) A proxy holder shall only vote in the district in which the person for whom he/she is a proxy resides.
- b. Proxies shall be signed by the member under penalty of perjury and shall be in the form prescribed by the Secretary of This Committee.
- c. No proxy shall be recognized unless filed with This Committee prior to the close of registration for a meeting of This Committee.
- d. Revocation or change of proxies shall be recognized by the Credentials Committee only upon a signed and dated, written request made by the member which is submitted by the member either in person, by facsimile transmission, or the original is otherwise delivered to that committee.
- e. No person may hold more than one proxy. Voting by proxy shall not be permitted with respect to standing or special committees of This Committee.

**Section 7.**

**PARLIAMENTARY PROCEDURES AND VOTING**

- a. In all cases not provided for by law or by these By-Laws, the meeting of this organization shall be governed by ROBERTS RULES OF ORDER.
- b. When a voice or standing vote is taken at a meeting of This Committee, it shall be the duty of Regional Directors to monitor their delegation to insure that only those eligible are voting.
- c. When a roll call vote is taken, the roll call shall be conducted by the Regional Directors who shall report the vote of their delegation to the Tally Clerk.
- d. On any demand by a member for a roll call vote, the Chair must present the demand to the floor. Upon approval by at least 300 members by a standing vote, the roll shall be called in the manner prescribed in subdivision (c) of this Section.
- e. During any vote, the Chair may cause the floor to be cleared of persons who are not members of This Committee or do not carry a proxy therefrom.

1 **Section 8. RESOLUTION PROCEDURES**

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a. Form

- (1) All resolutions must be typed.
- (2) Inducement (e.g., Whereas) clauses shall be limited to three (3) or less, and resolve clauses shall be limited to two (2) or less.
- (3) Resolutions must be no longer than one (1) 8-1/2" x 11" typewritten page.
- (4) All resolutions must be adopted by a County Central Committee, or a Chartered Democratic organization or sponsored by twenty-five (25) members of This Committee.

b. Timely Resolutions

- (1) Resolutions must be received by the State Chair of the Party, thirty (30) calendar days prior to a meeting of This Committee, except as provided in subsection (c) below.
- (2) Copies of resolutions submitted according to the above procedure shall be mailed by the State Chair of the Party to all members of the Resolutions Committee prior to a meeting of This Committee.

c. Late / Floor Resolutions

- (1) Twenty-five (25) copies of each resolution must be provided to the Resolutions Committee by the sponsor(s) of the resolution.
- (2) All resolutions to be considered at a meeting of This Committee must be presented for consideration at the Resolutions Committee meeting preceding the general session. In order to be considered at the general session, a late resolution must have the unanimous consent of the Resolutions Committee to be considered and all resolutions must be approved by the Resolutions Committee. Any resolution heard by the Resolutions Committee, failing to obtain approval, may be brought to the floor of a meeting of This Committee with the signatures of three hundred (300) members of This Committee on forms approved by the Resolutions Committee.
- (3) All resolutions to be presented from the floor shall be submitted to the Secretary of the Convention for signature verification by 5:00 p.m. on the day before the resolution is presented.
- (4) The sponsor of a resolution presented from the floor shall be responsible for providing the Secretary of the Convention with sufficient copies of their resolution for each member of This Committee.

d. Resolutions pending at the close of a Convention of This Committee shall be referred to the Executive Board of This Committee. All such resolutions shall first be presented to the Resolutions Committee for recommendation to the Executive Board.



1 The Resolutions Committee shall recommend: adoption, adoption with amendment,  
2 or rejection. Such resolutions shall be presented to the Executive Board for  
3 consideration in its original form unless the sponsor agrees to the amendment(s)  
4 recommended by the Resolutions Committee.  
5

6 **Section 9. SEATING**

7  
8 Seating at meetings of This Committee shall be organized by Assembly Districts.  
9

10 **Section 10. SPECIAL GROUP CAUCUSES**

11  
12 a. In order to implement policy guidelines for Special Group Caucuses, This  
13 Committee may grant official recognition to a statewide caucus of individual  
14 members sharing demographic or similar identity pertaining to their individual status  
15 for the purpose of participation in the policy decisions and the outreach programs of  
16 the Party. Recognition shall be subject to the following provisions:  
17

- 18 (1) A Caucus membership list and Caucus By-Laws are submitted for approval  
19 to the Executive Board by way of the Rules Committee.  
20
- 21 (2) The Caucus membership list is comprised of at least one percent of the full  
22 membership of This Committee, with each person on such list affirming by  
23 signature support for the official recognition of such a Caucus and affirming  
24 that he or she shares the demographic or similar identity which defines the  
25 Caucus.  
26
- 27 (3) The Caucus By-Laws are consistent with the By-Laws of this organization  
28 and recognize the obligations of the caucus under the General Provisions of  
29 the By-Laws of This Committee.  
30
- 31 (4) Each Special Group Caucus recognized by This Committee shall neither  
32 raise nor disburse funds other than nominal dues, and standard or routine  
33 costs of regular meetings, which shall be promptly accounted for and  
34 processed according to rules promulgated by the Finance Committee.  
35
- 36 (5) A Statewide Organization representing or sharing substantially similar  
37 interests has not been issued a charter under the provisions of Article X of  
38 these bylaws.  
39

40 b. Failure to comply with subsections 1-5 above may subject a recognized caucus to  
41 decertification by This Committee.  
42

43 c. Official recognition of a Caucus shall extend throughout the remainder of the  
44 two-year term of membership on This Committee.  
45

46 d. The Chair of an officially recognized Caucus must be a member of This Committee  
47 and shall be a member of the Executive Board of This Committee.  
48

49 e. Membership and full voting rights in an officially recognized Caucus shall be open  
50 to all registered Democrats who meet the membership requirements of such Caucus  
51 By-Laws.

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**ARTICLE V**

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**STANDING COMMITTEES AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES**

**Section 1. STANDING COMMITTEES**

This Committee shall have the following Standing Committees with the duties as set forth herein below: Credentials; Rules; Resolutions; Platform; Affirmative Action; Legislation; Finance; Voter Services; and Organizational Development.

**Section 2. CONSOLIDATION OF COMMITTEES**

The Chair of This Committee, during his/her tenure, may also consolidate, or if once done, deconsolidate, standing committees as deemed appropriate, subject to ratification by the Executive Board of This Committee.

**Section 3. APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS OF COMMITTEES**

Except as set forth hereinbelow, The Chair of This Committee shall appoint from fifteen to twenty-five members of This Committee to each of the Standing Committees mentioned herein. For all Committees without exception, the Chair of This Committee, in making these appointments, shall take into consideration the Party’s commitment to non-discrimination, affirmative action, inclusiveness, and diversity including, but not limited to such things as: race, color, creed, national origin, sex, age, religion, ethnic identity, sexual orientation, persons with disabilities as defined by the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, economic status. The geographical location of the appointees, including their residence in urban, suburban, or rural communities, shall also guide the Chair of This Committee in making appointments to each Standing Committee.

**Section 4. APPOINTMENT OF CO-CHAIRS**

The Chair of This Committee shall appoint co-chairs of each Standing Committee from among its members.

**Section 5. STANDING COMMITTEE DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

- a. Credentials Committee:**  
The Credentials Committee shall be comprised of 25-40 members. It shall be the duty of the Credentials Committee to approve the credentials of all persons appointed or elected to This Committee, to present a list of qualified members to the Chair of This Committee as soon as practicable, and to hear certain appeals from decisions of the Compliance Review Commission, as specified in Article XI. The Credentials Committee shall review and approve all proxies in accordance with Section 6 of Article IV of these By-Laws. All challenges of members or proxies shall be referred to the Credentials Committee for resolution
- b. Rules Committee:**  
It shall be the duty of the Rules Committee to keep the By-Laws and Rules of This Committee consistent with the aims and policies of This Committee, to propose

1 changes in the rules and By-Laws and special rules when necessary, to adopt  
2 guidelines upon recommendation of the Organizational Development Committee for  
3 the Chartering of Organizations under Article X of these bylaws, to hear certain  
4 appeals from decisions of the Compliance Review Commission as specified in  
5 Article XI, and to interpret the rules and By-Laws when called upon by the Chair of  
6 This Committee or the Executive Board.

7  
8 **c. Resolutions Committee:**

9 It shall be the duty of the Resolutions Committee to review all resolutions proposed  
10 to This Committee or the Executive Board in accordance with these By-Laws. The  
11 Resolution Committee shall have authority to recommend, reject, or amend all such  
12 resolutions prior to referral to This Committee or the Executive Board. The  
13 Resolutions Committee shall establish and publish the procedures for the proposition  
14 of resolutions that are consistent with these By-Laws.

15  
16 **d. Platform Committee:**

17 It shall be the duty of the Platform Committee to hold at least three meetings  
18 throughout the state, to have a platform draft available for interested persons on the  
19 first day of the meeting of This Committee at which the platform is to be considered,  
20 to hold a final hearing during the first day of that meeting, and to present to This  
21 Committee for approval a final draft of the platform during the second day of that  
22 meeting.

23  
24 **e. Finance Committee:**

25 It shall be the duty of the Finance Committee to organize, in cooperation with the  
26 officers of This Committee, activities and policies designed to protect and enhance  
27 the financial position of the Party; to prepare in cooperation with the State  
28 Committee a State Committee operating budget for presentation to the Executive  
29 Board; and to review and report to the Executive Board on the budgeting policies of  
30 the State Party.

31  
32 **f. Affirmative Action Committee:**

33 The Democratic Party has a commitment to diversity and openness in participation.  
34 To ensure that commitment, the Affirmative Action Committee shall advise all  
35 persons with power of appointment and all electing bodies of the demographics of  
36 California Democrats so they may make informed choices in the selection and  
37 election of delegates, committee members and staff who are representative of the  
38 Democratic Party in gender, ethnicity, creed, age, sexual orientation, economic  
39 status, physical ability, and area of residence. It shall be the duty of the Affirmative  
40 Action Committee to implement and monitor the goal of affirmative action for  
41 selection of:

- 42  
43 (1) The delegates to all State Conventions and Conferences;  
44  
45 (2) The members of all standing committees of the State Central Committee of  
46 the California Democratic Party;  
47  
48 (3) California delegates to all National Conventions and Conferences;  
49  
50 (4) The staff of the State Party.  
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**g. Legislation Committee:**

It shall be the function of the Legislation Committee to propose legislation when needed, in response to the duties and policies of the Party; to maintain a listing of all pending legislation that is of "must" and/or major concern to the Party; and to keep a record of the vote by the Democratic Party legislators on such legislative items.

**h. Voter Services Committee:**

The Voter Services Committee shall be composed of between 50 and 75 members. It shall be the duty of the Voter Services Committee:

- (1) To develop a system of grass roots organizing at the precinct level to facilitate active participation of voters in Democratic Party activities;
- (2) To coordinate programs to increase Democratic Party voter registration;
- (3) To organize new citizen swearing in events;
- (4) To organize outreach at college campuses and other sources of potential new Democratic registrants;
- (5) To recommend goals and guidelines for the State Party voter contact program, such as an operational plan for an effective vote-by-mail campaign in each special and general election for state and local campaigns;
- (6) To develop a plan to increase the percentage of Democratic voters who register for permanent vote-by-mail status.
- (7) To coordinate training seminars which include instruction on campaign management, issues, and financial reporting requirements;
- (8) To make every reasonable effort to assure that with respect to each and every partisan office that there shall be at least one Democratic candidate who has filed, who wishes the Party's endorsement, and who is worthy of consideration for that endorsement as allowed for in Article VIII, Endorsement of Candidates;
- (9) To review those non-partisan races in which there was no Democrat candidate in the preceding election to that office and to ensure there shall be at least one Democratic candidate for the next election to that office;

**i. Organizational Development Committee:**

It shall be the duty of the Organizational Development Committee:

- (1) To recommend to the State Chair local, state and national political strategies, activities, and policies designed to improve the organizational effectiveness of the Party;
- (2) To propose a plan for redistricting of the Regions after each State Reapportionment is adopted;

- 1 (3) To propose guidelines to the Rules Committee, for their consideration and  
2 approval, concerning the Chartering of Organizations under Article X of  
3 these bylaws; and,  
4  
5 (4) To recommend to the Executive Board the granting or rejection, of  
6 applications for Charter of organizations under Article X of these bylaws  
7 pursuant to guidelines adopted by the Rules Committee.  
8

9 **Section 6: ADDITIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES**

10 It shall be the responsibility of the Co-Chairs of those Committees described in section 5 (f),  
11 (g), (h), and (i) to:

- 12  
13 a. prepare an Action Plan within three months of their appointment, and annually  
14 thereafter, for consideration and adoption by those committees at their next meeting  
15 with individual assignments for the members of the committee,  
16  
17 b. transmit the Action Plan to the Executive Board of This Committee for consideration  
18 and adoption, and  
19  
20 c. make regular reports to the Executive Board on their Committee's activities and  
21 progress on the action plans.  
22

23 **Section 7: SPECIAL COMMITTEES**

24 The Chair of This Committee may appoint such special committees as he or she deems  
25 appropriate.  
26  
27

28 **ARTICLE VI**

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30 **ASSEMBLY DISTRICTS AND ASSEMBLY DISTRICT ELECTION MEETINGS \***

31  
32 **Section 1. ASSEMBLY DISTRICT ELECTION MEETINGS**

- 33  
34 a. Regular, biennial Assembly District Election Meetings shall be held within each  
35 Assembly District in the State:  
36  
37 (1) The Election Meetings shall be held at 2 p.m. on the second Sunday in  
38 January in odd-numbered years.  
39  
40 (2) Persons eligible to participate shall be all registered Democrats residing in  
41 the Assembly District who were eligible to participate as such in the  
42 preceding General Election; provided however, that if a person turned 18,  
43 or became a United States citizen by virtue of naturalization, after the last

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\* Previously, the California Democratic Party was organized by Assembly District Committees, which last re-organized in January 2005. At an Executive Board meeting on October 2, 2005, these By-Laws were amended to remove Assembly District Committees and add election of future delegates from Assembly Districts by Assembly District Election Meetings. In passing this amendment, the effective Date for this change is November 15, 2006. Nothing in this section shall prevent chartering of qualified organizations under the Article X (Chartering) amendment which was adopted by the Executive Board on July 30, 2005. The prior By-Laws regarding Assembly District Committees are not printed here, but remain in effect until November 15, 2006, and reference must be had to them for any issues concerning AD Committees until the effective date.

1 day for registration for said election, execution on the day of the Election  
2 Meeting of a legally valid voter registration form showing a residence  
3 within the Assembly District shall constitute prima facie evidence of  
4 eligibility to participate.  
5

6 (3) The Convener of the Election Meeting shall be the current Assembly  
7 District Representative to the Executive Board or, if none or if more than  
8 one resides in the Assembly District due to reapportionment, the designee  
9 of the Chair of This Committee.  
10

11 (4) The Convener of the Election Meeting may request a variance from the  
12 date and time of the Election Meeting as set out in Article VI, section  
13 2(a)(1) to another time during the second weekend in January in odd-  
14 numbered years, by filing an application with the State Chair by  
15 November 1 of the year preceding the holding of the Election Meeting  
16 showing good cause for such a variance. "Good cause" may include the  
17 necessity of traveling very long distances or in hazardous weather  
18 conditions. The State Chair must reply by November 10.  
19

20 b. The Convener shall, no later than December 1 of the year preceding the holding of  
21 the Election Meeting, notify the Chair of This Committee of the date, time, and place  
22 of the Election Meeting. Failure to do so by that date shall empower the Chair of  
23 This Committee to designate a new Convener who shall provide such notice no later  
24 that December 17 of the year preceding the holding of the Election Meeting. The  
25 Chair of This Committee shall post this information on the Party's website.  
26

27 c. The Convener shall make every reasonable effort to make known to all registered  
28 Democrats in the District of the date, time, place, and purpose of the Election  
29 Meeting, the rules for participation in the Election Meeting, and the filing deadlines  
30 and rules for candidates for delegate, by transmitting notice of the Election Meeting  
31 no later than December 21 of the year preceding the holding of the Election Meeting  
32 to the following persons:  
33

34 (1) All members of This Committee residing in the District (to be obtained  
35 from the Secretary of This Committee).  
36

37 (2) All members of the County Committee residing in the District (if one or  
38 more counties lie wholly within the District, then the notice shall be  
39 transmitted to all members of those County Committees) (to be obtained  
40 from the Chairs of any County Committees which lie wholly or in part  
41 within the Assembly District).  
42

43 (3) All attendees of the previous Assembly District Election Meeting (to be  
44 obtained from the Secretary of This Committee).  
45

46 d. Proof of compliance with the provisions of the preceding subsection shall create a  
47 rebuttable presumption of compliance with Article X, sections 3, 5 and 6.  
48

49 e. The Convener or his or her designee shall preside at the Election Meeting as chair.  
50

- 1 f. A registration fee for all voting participants, for the purpose of defraying the cost of  
 2 the Election Meeting, shall be collected. Such fee shall not exceed five dollars  
 3 (\$5.00). The registration fee shall be waived for those participants who claim  
 4 economic hardship.  
 5
- 6 g. A list of names, addresses, e-mail addresses, and phones of all persons attending the  
 7 Election Meeting as participants shall be forwarded by the Convener to the Chair of  
 8 This Committee within three days after the Election Meeting is held.  
 9
- 10 h. Each Election Meeting participant shall be asked, on a form provided by the  
 11 Secretary of This Committee, to indicate his or her willingness to assume an  
 12 organizational responsibility for one or more precincts within the district or to  
 13 assume another specified organizational responsibility for the Party. Copies of a list  
 14 of the persons so expressing such willingness to assume responsibility and of the  
 15 responsibility each person is agreed to assume shall be sent by the Convener to the  
 16 Chair of This Committee and the Chair(s) of the appropriate County Committee(s).  
 17
- 18 i.. The Rules Committee of This Committee shall promulgate procedures governing the  
 19 conduct of the Election Meeting, including the election of 12 delegates to This  
 20 Committee as set forth in Article III, section 5, and one representative to the  
 21 Executive Board, as set forth in Article VII, section 2(c), which Rules shall include,  
 22 for candidates for delegate, a filing period 12 days prior to the biennial Assembly  
 23 District Election Meetings and call for the posting of eligible delegate names on the  
 24 Party's WEB Page.  
 25
- 26 j. The Convener shall transmit to the Chair of This Committee the names and titles of  
 27 those elected pursuant to the previous paragraph.  
 28
- 29 k. Assembly District Representatives to the State Executive Board.  
 30
- 31 (1) An Assembly District Representative to the State Executive Board shall be  
 32 chosen at each Assembly District Election Meeting from among those  
 33 persons who will be delegates (resident in the respective Assembly District)  
 34 to the forthcoming biennial convention of This Committee by virtue of being  
 35 a member of This Committee pursuant to Article II, Section 2b, 2d, 2e;  
 36 Article II, Section 3; or Article II, Section 5.  
 37
- 38 (2) In the event that an Assembly District has not been represented at two  
 39 successive meetings of the Executive Board, the Representative shall be  
 40 subject to removal from the board upon notification of the Regional  
 41 Director in whose region the Assembly District is contained.  
 42  
 43

44 **ARTICLE VII**

46 **EXECUTIVE BOARD**

48 **Section 1. EXECUTIVE BOARD**

- 50 a. There shall be an Executive Board of This Committee which shall have all the  
 51 powers and duties of This Organization when it is not in actual session.

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**Section 2. EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERSHIP**

The Executive Board shall consist of the following members of This Committee:

- a. The following public officials:
  - (1) All United States Senators;
  - (2) The Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Treasurer, Controller, Attorney General, Secretary of State, Insurance Commissioner, Superintendent of Public Instruction and all members of the Board of Equalization.
  - (3) One member of the House of Representatives from each Section, each of whom shall be selected by the members of the House of Representatives on This Committee;
  - (4) One member of the State Assembly from each Section; each of whom shall be selected by the members of the Assembly on This Committee;
  - (5) One member of the State Senate from each Section, each of whom shall be selected by the members of the State Senate on This Committee;
- b. County Committee representatives elected as follows:
  - (1) One County Committee representative shall be elected for each 100,000 registered Democrats or portion thereof resident in the county.
  - (2) County Committee representatives to the Executive Board shall be elected by their respective County Committees at their first regular meeting following This Committee's state convention in an odd-numbered year. Only Democratic State Central Committee Members who hold their membership by virtue of Article II, Section 4 shall be eligible for such election.
  - (3) County Committee representatives shall be divided as equally as possible between men and women.
- c. All Assembly District Representatives.
- d. All National Committee Members of the Party.
- e. All officers and immediate past officers of This Committee.
- f. The President of the California Democratic Council and of the California Young Democrats.
- g. The chair or co-chairs of each Standing Committee of This Committee.
- h. The Chair of each caucus officially recognized by This Committee pursuant to Article IV, Section 10 of these By-Laws.



1 **Section 3. EXECUTIVE BOARD ORGANIZATION**

2

3 The State Chair shall be the Chair of the Executive Board, and the State Secretary shall be  
4 the Secretary of the Executive Board.

5

6 **Section 4. EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETINGS**

7

8 a. The Executive Board shall convene in regular meetings at least three times in each  
9 calendar year. Such regular meetings shall be held at such time and place as the  
10 Executive Board may designate so long as no two consecutive meetings are held in  
11 the same Section.

12

13 b. The Executive Board may convene in special meetings in the following manner:

14

15 (1) At the call of the State Chair and at such time and in such place as he or she  
16 may designate; or,

17

18 (2) Upon written request, designating the time and place of such special meeting,  
19 submitted to the State Chair signed by fifty (50) or more members of the  
20 Executive Board.

21

22 c. Notice of the regular and special meetings shall be given by the Secretary. The  
23 Secretary shall mail notices to each member of the Executive Board at least ten days  
24 prior to the meeting. If, upon good cause, the time is shortened by the Chair of This  
25 Committee, upon advice and consent of the remaining Statewide Officers of This  
26 Committee, notice must be given at least three days prior to the meeting. Notice of  
27 any vote on endorsements of candidates or endorsements of, or opposition to,  
28 propositions, initiatives, referendum, or recall, shall be sent at least thirty days  
29 prior to the meeting, unless, upon good cause, the Chair of This Committee, upon  
30 advice and consent of the remaining Statewide Officers of This Committee,  
31 shortens notice to no less than ten days.

32

33 **Section 5. EXECUTIVE BOARD VOTING**

34

35 a. Members of the Executive Board may vote in person or by proxy. A person holding  
36 the proxy must be a member of This Committee but not a member of the Executive  
37 Board; no person may hold more than one proxy. A member of the Executive Board  
38 may give his/her proxy to another member of This Committee who is not already a  
39 member of the Executive Board subject to the following limitations:

40

41 (1) If the member is a representative of a County Central Committee, such  
42 member may designate in writing as his or her proxyholder only a person  
43 who is a member or alternate of the same County Committee.

44

45 (2) If the member is an Assembly District Representative, such member may  
46 designate in writing as his or her proxyholder only a person who is a member  
47 of This Committee resident in the same Assembly District.

48

49 b. Proxies shall be filed in writing with the Secretary of This Committee.

50

- 1 c. Voting by proxy shall not be permitted with respect to any Standing or Special  
2 Committee.  
3

4 **Section 6. EXECUTIVE BOARD QUORUM**  
5

6 One hundred (100) members of the Executive Board shall constitute a quorum for the  
7 transaction of business.  
8

9 **Section 7. EXECUTIVE BOARD RESOLUTIONS**  
10

11 Submission of resolutions to the Executive Board shall be in accordance with the following  
12 procedures:  
13

- 14 a. Resolutions must be received ten (10) calendar days prior to a meeting of the  
15 Executive Board by the State Chair of the Party, except as provided for in  
16 subdivision (d) below.  
17
- 18 b. All resolutions must be signed by the author and sponsored by a member of This  
19 Committee.  
20
- 21 c. Copies of resolutions submitted according to the above procedures shall be mailed by  
22 the State Chair to all members of the Resolutions Committee prior to an Executive  
23 Board meeting.  
24
- 25 d. All resolutions must be presented for consideration at the Resolutions Committee  
26 meeting preceding the Executive Board general session. Twenty-five (25) copies of  
27 any late resolutions must be delivered by the sponsor(s) of the resolution to one of  
28 the Co-Chairs of the Resolutions Committee. In order to be considered by the  
29 Executive Board, a timely resolution must be approved by the Resolutions  
30 Committee and a late resolution must have the unanimous consent of the Resolutions  
31 Committee members present to be considered for approval. Any resolution heard by  
32 the Committee failing to obtain approval may be considered by the Executive Board  
33 with the signatures of one hundred thirty-five (135) credentialed Executive Board  
34 members or forty percent (40%) of the entire Executive Board, whichever is fewer.  
35 The signatures must be turned in by 9:00 a.m. on the morning of the general session  
36 to Party Officers, Resolutions Co-Chairs or staff.  
37
- 38 e. If the resolution is presented from the floor, the sponsor(s) must submit to the  
39 Secretary sufficient copies for each member of the Executive Board present.  
40  
41

42 **ARTICLE VIII**  

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44 **ENDORSEMENT OF CANDIDATES FOR PARTISAN AND NONPARTISAN OFFICE,**  
45 **AND ENDORSEMENT AND OPPOSITION TO STATE BALLOT PROPOSITIONS,**  
46 **INITIATIVES, REFERENDUM, AND RECALL**  
47

48 **Section 1. PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES**  
49

- 50 a. The State Central Committee of the California Democratic Party, Democratic County  
51 Central Committees, and all official units of the California Democratic Party shall

1 not endorse any candidate for delegate to the Democratic National Convention and  
2 shall not endorse candidates for President of the United States until the Democratic  
3 National Convention has been held.

- 4
- 5 b. Individual members of the organizational units identified in subsection (a) of this  
6 section are in no way precluded from endorsing delegates to the Democratic National  
7 Convention nor a candidate for the Democratic Presidential nomination. The Party  
8 office of members making such an endorsement may be indicated in that  
9 endorsement for identification purposes only.

10  
11 **Section 2. PARTISAN PUBLIC OFFICES OTHER THAN PRESIDENT**

- 12
- 13 a. Endorsement of candidates for the Democratic nomination to any partisan office  
14 other than President shall take place during a duly noticed "endorsing convention" of  
15 This Committee held after the closing date for filing  
16 declarations-of-intent-of-candidacy for the offices to be voted upon. (See subsection  
17 (e) below for an exception to this provision.)

- 18
- 19 b. This Committee shall make every reasonable effort to assure that with respect to each  
20 and every office embraced by the provisions of subsection (a) above there shall be at  
21 least one candidate who has filed, who wishes the Party's endorsement, and who is  
22 worthy of consideration for that endorsement.

- 23
- 24 c. Endorsing caucuses of This Committee shall be comprised of all members of This  
25 Committee resident in the relevant district. Endorsement in any given primary race  
26 shall be chaired by persons designated by the Chair of This Committee. The Chair of  
27 This Committee may also appoint a Parliamentarian who is a member of either the  
28 Rules or Credentials Committee of This Committee, and a Secretary for each  
29 Endorsing Caucus.

- 30
- 31 (1) Endorsing caucuses shall be held at places and times during the endorsing  
32 convention which are designated by the Chair of This Committee consistent  
33 with achieving an orderly, convenient and fair process.

- 34
- 35 (2) Each candidate entered in a forthcoming Democratic primary, in which a  
36 candidate received over fifty percent (50%) of the vote at the pre-endorsing  
37 conference, and who is subject to the provisions of this section may request  
38 to be considered for the Democratic Party endorsement, and may request to  
39 appear before the relevant endorsing caucus.

- 40
- 41 (3) Each candidate seeking the endorsement of the California Democratic Party  
42 shall submit to This Committee a nonreimbursable filing fee in advance of  
43 the first level of the process in which his/her name is considered. The filing  
44 fee shall be \$100 in the case of statewide public offices and \$50 in all other  
45 cases.

- 46
- 47 (4) Fifty percent plus one of the credentialed members of an endorsing caucus  
48 shall constitute a quorum.

- 49
- 50 (5) Voting at all the endorsing caucuses shall be by a roll call vote.

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- (6) Members of an endorsing caucus shall be presented with a "no endorsement" option on all endorsement votes.
- (7) No endorsing caucus may endorse more candidates than there are seats for the office in question.
- (8) Endorsement of an incumbent candidate seeking reelection shall require a vote of simple majority of the caucus members present and voting. Endorsement of all non-incumbent candidates shall require sixty percent (60%) of those caucus members present and voting. In the event This Committee fails to endorse on the first ballot, no further votes shall be taken and the position of This Committee in that race shall be "NO CONSENSUS."

d. Decisions of endorsing caucuses and the recommendations of pre-endorsing conferences which appear on the consent calendar as provided under Article VIII, Section 2i(12), shall be subject to ratification by the full membership of This Committee at a time certain noticed in the printed convention agenda, except with respect to candidates for statewide public office.

- (1) In the case of a statewide public office, This Committee's ratification of the endorsing caucus' decision shall be assumed, since the endorsing caucus is comprised of all members of This Committee. The office of State Board of Equalization shall be considered as a statewide office and shall be voted upon by all members of This Committee.
- (2) Ratification of endorsing caucus decisions on which no objection has been filed under the provisions of (3) below may be achieved by a vote of acclamation on a consent calendar which embraces as many such decisions as deemed appropriate by the Chair of This Committee.
- (3) Formal objection to the ratification of an endorsing caucus decision may only be made after the recommendation of the Endorsing Caucus has been made, and must be signed by at least 300 credentialed members of This committee on a form prescribed by the Secretary issued after the decision of the Endorsing Caucus has been made and filed with the State Chair no later than 11:00 p.m. the evening before the period set aside for ratification votes. In the event a formal objection is filed, each candidate shall be entitled to designate one observer who may be present during the signature verification process.
- (4) Consideration by This Committee of endorsing caucus decisions to which objection has been filed under (3) above shall occur prior to voting on the ratification of other caucus decisions and shall include the presentation of arguments for and against ratification.
- (5) In the event fifty percent plus one of the members of This Committee present and voting fail to vote to ratify an endorsing caucus decision to which formal objection has been filed, the endorsing caucus decision shall be considered "vacated".

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- (6) The California Democratic Party shall be considered to have made "no endorsement" where a caucus decision has been vacated unless the members of This Committee decide to endorse a substitute candidate.
  - (a) Substitute candidates may be nominated from the floor immediately following the vacating of the relevant endorsing caucus.
  - (b) Substitute candidates must have been considered for endorsement by the relevant endorsing caucus.
  - (c) To become the endorsed candidate of the California Democratic Party, a substitute candidate must receive seventy-five percent (75%) of the vote of the members of This Committee present and voting.

e. Special Elections:

- (1) In the case of a special election where an endorsement cannot be made at the biennial endorsing convention of the California Democratic Party, the Chair of This Committee shall cause to be convened an endorsing caucus of the members of This Committee resident in the relevant district and shall appoint a Special Elections Appeals Committee not less than one (1) or more than fourteen (14) days after the close of candidate filing. The endorsing caucus shall be comprised of all members of This Committee resident in the district at the end of candidate filing. Such caucus shall otherwise proceed in accordance with the relevant procedures provided for in subsection (c) above and its decision shall become the endorsement of This Committee unless, within five (5) days a majority of the statewide officers of This Committee or five (5) members of This Committee resident in the district object in writing to the State Chair.
- (2) A Special Elections Appeals Committee will make the final determination at a meeting no later than five (5) days after an objection has been filed. This committee shall be comprised of the statewide officers; the Regional Director of the relevant district, two (2) Executive Board members from each of the following committees: Rules, Credentials and Candidate Recruitment and Development.
- (3) The Special Elections Appeals Committee shall allow persons in teleconference meetings to constitute a quorum for any action.

f. Only Democratic candidates for nomination to partisan public office who have been endorsed in accordance with the foregoing provisions shall be deemed official candidates of the California Democratic Party and be entitled to the privileges and benefits associated therewith.

g. To assure the effectiveness of the Democratic Party's endorsing process, This Committee:

- (1) hopes and expects that all of its members will make every reasonable effort to recruit and encourage persons of the highest quality to seek the Party's nomination and endorsement in races for partisan public office;

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- (2) hopes and expects that all of its members will make every reasonable effort to see that endorsed candidates receive the Party's nomination and, in due course, are victorious in the general election;
- (3) hopes and expects that all of its members will make every reasonable effort to see that those aspirants for the Party's endorsement who fail to receive that endorsement withdraw as candidates in the Democratic primary and encourage a unified effort on behalf of the endorsed candidates; and
- (4) intends to protect the integrity of its endorsing power by precluding -- including through the use of legal process -- other entities from representing themselves as purveyors of an official Democratic Party endorsement.

h. To assure the effectiveness of the Democratic Party's endorsing process, This Committee is committed to the principle that the Democratic Party as an organization shall speak with one voice with respect to the endorsement of candidates for nomination to partisan public office. It is also committed to the principle that This Committee shall be broadly and fairly representative of the various components of the Party.

Any official unit of the California Democratic Party or any County Central Committee which renders an independent, unauthorized endorsement of a candidate for partisan public office shall forfeit its right to representation on This Committee and the privileges and benefits which may be attached thereto for a period of 12 months from the time it renders such an endorsement, or the remainder of the term of the current State Central Committee, whichever is longer.

i. "Pre-endorsing Conferences" are a public meeting of the Democratic Party and shall be held at the regional level prior to the State endorsing convention, and shall be open to all registered Democrats.

- (1) The time and place of each pre-endorsing conference shall be determined by the State Chair in consultation with the Party's Regional Directors and shall be set on a date after the closing of the filing of the declaration of candidacy.
- (2) Absentee ballot voting shall be allowed for each office to be voted upon at the pre-endorsing conference provided that the participation of a majority of the eligible delegates, either in person, or by absentee ballot, shall constitute a quorum. In the absence of such quorum no recommendation for endorsement shall take place. The ballot shall consist of a written, signed statement from the eligible voter and shall be recorded as part of the roll call vote if received by the designated Regional Director prior to the beginning of the roll call vote in the designated district. In the event that any Senate District or Congressional District falls into more than one Region, the State Chair shall assign those districts to a single regional pre-endorsement conference for the purposes of making the recommendation set forth in this section, due consideration being given to conflicting conference dates so as to allow for full participation.

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- (3) The State Chair shall be responsible for providing each voting participant with notification of the time and place of the relevant pre-endorsing conference. Regional Directors shall be responsible, upon the advice and assistance of the State Chair, for generally publicizing pre-endorsement conferences.
  
- (4) Each pre-endorsing conference shall be convened by the relevant Regional Director or, in the event that there is no Regional Director available for this purpose or the Regional Director is a candidate for nomination to a partisan public office, by a person designated by the State Chair. The State Chair shall designate a Chair and a Secretary for each Regional pre-endorsing conference.
  
- (5) Voting participants at each pre-endorsing conference shall be:
  - (a) All members of This Committee resident in the district;
  - (b) All regular County Committee members resident in the district;
  - (c) Designated Assembly District representatives from chartered clubs and organizations.
    - 1. Representatives from each Democratic Club or other Democratic organization chartered by This Committee or by a County Central Committee, with such representatives allocated as follows: one representative, resident in the District, for each full (not a fraction thereof) 20 members registered to vote in the District provided that the organization has provided the Regional Director with names and addresses of its members. Club members who hold dual club memberships may only be counted for representation once. Such representatives must be registered Democrats.
    - 2. The certifying authority for the representatives referred to in this paragraph shall be the Chair of the chartering organization.
    - 3. These A.D. representatives may vote only in the districts in which they reside.
  
- (6) No proxy voting shall be allowed at pre-endorsing conferences. In order to effectuate notice to all potential voters, and to determine and certify eligibility to vote, it shall be the responsibility of each Regional Director, with the assistance of the relevant County Committee Chair(s) and the Executive Board representative from each Assembly District to identify by name all persons who will be eligible voters at his/her regional pre-endorsing conference and to transmit the names of all such voters to the State Chair, along with the Assembly District, Senate District and Congressional District in which each resides no later than the February 7 before the pre-endorsing conference. A roster of the certified eligible voters shall be maintained by

1 that Regional Director and shall be provided to the Chair of This Committee  
2 and to each candidate who has requested consideration. In order to be a  
3 voting member of a pre-endorsing conference, an individual's membership  
4 must have been certified as indicated herein and his/her name must appear, or  
5 have had the right to appear, on the certified roster submitted by February 7.  
6

7 (7) Each candidate for the Democratic nomination to a partisan, non-statewide  
8 public office whose jurisdiction extends into, or is included in a given  
9 Region, shall be permitted to address the relevant pre-endorsing conference  
10 or to designate a representative to address said conference.  
11

12 (8) Any voting participant may offer for conference consideration the name of a  
13 candidate for the Democratic nomination to a partisan, non-statewide public  
14 office whose jurisdiction extends into, or is included within the given Region,  
15 provided the fee referred to in Section 2c(3) above has been paid.  
16

17 (9) Once the names of candidates for a given office have been thus offered, a  
18 single roll call vote shall be taken as to the preferences of the eligible voting  
19 participants. In the event that an incumbent is the only candidate seeking the  
20 endorsement of This Committee a signed ballot may be substituted for a roll  
21 call vote, unless there is objection. A "no preference" option shall be  
22 available at the time of each vote.  
23

24 (10) Eligibility to vote with respect to a given office shall be limited to those  
25 conference participants resident in the election district in question.  
26

27 (11) The Chair of the pre-endorsing conference is responsible for transmitting to  
28 the State Chair, in writing, the results of all votes taken within three days of  
29 the pre-endorsing conference.  
30

31 (12) A candidate's name may be placed on the consent calendar of This  
32 Committee's endorsing convention upon receiving a seventy percent (70%)  
33 vote at a pre-endorsing conference. The consent calendar shall be approved  
34 by a simple majority vote of This Committee. Upon approval of the consent  
35 calendar the candidate shall become the endorsed candidate of the  
36 Democratic Party. A name may be removed from the consent calendar by  
37 any five (5) members of This Committee resident in the District in question  
38 or by 300 members of This Committee by filing a letter of objection with the  
39 State Chair no later than ten (10) days prior to the State Endorsing  
40 Convention. If a name is removed from the consent calendar, the By-Laws  
41 of This Committee regarding endorsements shall apply.  
42

43 j. All winners of the Democratic primaries will be deemed to be the nominee of the  
44 Democratic Party and the endorsed candidates of This Committee. In the event that  
45 seventy-five percent (75%) of the Executive Board of This Committee, present and  
46 voting, objects to the endorsement of the nominee of the Party, the nominee shall not  
47 be the endorsed candidate of the Democratic Party.  
48

49 k. The only form of endorsement of a candidate for partisan public office is an "official  
50 endorsement" as provided for under these By-Laws. Unless a candidate has received  
51 an "official endorsement" all motions of support, recommendation, or other



1 expressions of approval, no matter how denominated, shall be out of order at any  
2 meeting of This Committee, its Executive Board, its Regions, its Assembly District  
3 Committees or its Caucuses.

4  
5 l. This Committee shall not endorse candidates for County Central Committee.

6  
7 m. This Committee shall not endorse in partisan primary races in districts subject to  
8 reapportionment unless reapportionment has been implemented within ninety (90)  
9 days of a duly noticed "endorsing convention" of This Committee.

10  
11 n. In the event a duly noticed "endorsing convention" is not scheduled at least forty-  
12 nine (49) days prior to the partisan primary:

13  
14 (1) Pre-endorsing conferences may place on a consent calendar of the Executive  
15 Board of This Committee

16  
17 (a) by a majority vote of those present and voting, the name of an  
18 incumbent Democratic Party Candidate for partisan public office, or

19  
20 (b) by a sixty (60) percent vote of those present and voting, the name of a  
21 non-incumbent Democratic Party candidate for partisan public office.

22  
23 Such consent calendar shall be voted upon by the Executive Board of This  
24 Committee in a single motion which may be approved by a majority vote of  
25 those present and voting.

26  
27 (2) The name of any candidate may be removed from the consent calendar by a  
28 majority of the members of the Executive Board resident in the district  
29 involved, or by any thirty (30) members of the Executive Board, by filing a  
30 letter of objection with the State Chair no later than ten (10) days before the  
31 Executive Board meeting at which the consent calendar is to be considered.

32  
33 (3) For each name removed from the consent calendar, a separate vote shall be  
34 taken by the Executive Board, which may, by a majority vote of those  
35 present and voting, ratify the pre-endorsing conference recommendation for  
36 endorsement.

37  
38 In the event of ratification, the recommendation shall become the endorsement of  
39 This Committee. Failure to ratify a recommendation shall result in no endorsement  
40 in that race.

41  
42 **Section 3. NONPARTISAN OFFICES**

43  
44 a. Endorsement of candidates for all local nonpartisan offices (defined here as all  
45 nonpartisan offices whose jurisdictions do not extend across county lines) shall be  
46 the exclusive responsibility of the relevant Democratic County Central Committee.

47  
48 b. A Democratic candidate for nonpartisan office who has been endorsed by his/her  
49 County Central Committee shall also be considered to be the endorsed candidate of  
50 the California Democratic Party and shall be entitled to such privileges and benefits  
51 as may be attached thereto (e.g., an opportunity, where appropriate, to include his/her

1 name in informational material distributed with the California Democratic Party's  
2 mailing permit) provided that: (1) The endorsing provisions of the relevant County  
3 Central Committee by-laws have been reviewed and approved by This Committee as  
4 consistent with its own By-Laws and with the fundamental rules of fairness to which  
5 the California Democratic Party is committed; and (2) A Democratic candidate who  
6 has been denied endorsement does not successfully argue before This Committee  
7 that there has been a significant violation of the endorsing provisions of the relevant  
8 County Central Committee when it rendered its endorsement. Any claim of by-laws  
9 violation must be filed with the State Party Chair within five (5) days of County  
10 Committee endorsement. A 2/3 vote shall be necessary to uphold the violation  
11 claim.

12  
13 c. In order for the endorsement of the County Central Committees to become the  
14 official endorsements of the California Democratic Party, the following must be met:

15  
16 (1) A Democratic County Central Committee endorsement shall be extended  
17 only to registered Democrats.

18  
19 (2) Endorsement shall not be given to more candidates than there are seats open  
20 for the office in question.

21  
22 (3) All endorsements shall be made in accordance with the Committee By-Laws  
23 provisions duly adopted at least six months prior to making such an  
24 endorsement.

25  
26 (4) No vote on endorsement shall be taken by secret ballot.

27  
28 d. A County Central Committee's by-laws may provide that the Committee shall not  
29 endorse candidates for any or all offices embraced by subsection (a) above, and/or  
30 may provide for a "No Endorsement" decision with respect to any or all such offices.

31  
32 e. A County Central Committee's by-laws may provide that voting rights with respect  
33 to its endorsements shall extend to Associate/Alternate Members and/or to all  
34 members of This Committee resident in the county.

35  
36 f. This Committee shall be responsible for endorsing candidates in any race for  
37 nonpartisan office not identified in subsection a. above. In the event an endorsed  
38 candidate of This Committee for any such race is not in any runoff which may occur,  
39 the Executive Board of This Committee, at its next regularly scheduled meeting after  
40 the Primary Election, may endorse any registered Democrat by a sixty percent (60%)  
41 vote of those present and voting. In the case of nonpartisan offices which are not  
42 statewide but embrace all or part of two or more counties, This Committee shall  
43 delegate its endorsing power to a specially organized body including Democratic  
44 County Central Committee members resident in the election district. It shall be the  
45 responsibility of the State Chair, in consultation with the relevant County Committee  
46 Chairs to determine the manner in which that delegated power is to be implemented  
47 (e.g., to determine the voting rights of Associate members of the relevant County  
48 Committees, whether and how endorsing votes may be weighted to take into account  
49 the distribution of the district population among the affected counties, etc.  
50

- 1 g. To the extent permissible, the position of a Democratic County Central Committee  
2 on a local proposition being put before the voters within its jurisdiction may be  
3 communicated in informational material distributed with the California Democratic  
4 Party's mailing permit so long as the following conditions obtain:  
5  
6 (1) the County Committee position has been duly adopted in accordance with the  
7 Committee by-laws reviewed and approved by This Committee;  
8  
9 (2) the material does not express the endorsement of a candidate for local  
10 nonpartisan office who is not also an endorsed candidate of the California  
11 Democratic Party under subsection (b) above;  
12  
13 h. The County Committee position shall be the position of This Committee unless an  
14 objection is filed with the State Party Chair which: (a) is signed by at least one-half  
15 of the members of This Committee resident in the relevant county, and (b) is  
16 submitted within five days of the adoption of the County Central Committee  
17 position.  
18  
19 i. The provisions of this section (with the exception of subsections g(1), g(2) and h  
20 above) shall become effective if and when Party endorsements in nonpartisan office  
21 races become legally permissible.  
22  
23 j. This Committee hopes and expects that every County Central Committee shall make  
24 every reasonable effort:  
25  
26 (1) to see that at least one qualified, registered Democrat is a candidate for each  
27 local nonpartisan office within its endorsing jurisdiction;  
28  
29 (2) to raise funds sufficient to provide significant support to endorsed candidates  
30 needing and wishing support;  
31  
32 (3) to persuade Democrats running against endorsed candidates to withdraw  
33 from their races and to extend their support to those carrying the  
34 endorsement;  
35  
36 (4) to protect the integrity of its endorsement power by precluding -- including  
37 through the use of legal process -- other entries from representing  
38 themselves as purveyors of an official Democratic Party endorsement.  
39

40 **Section 4. STATE BALLOT PROPOSITIONS, INITIATIVES, REFERENDUM, OR**  
41 **RECALL**  
42

- 43 a. Resolutions to endorse or oppose any state ballot proposition, initiative, or  
44 referendum and resolutions to support or remain neutral in a recall election, shall  
45 require sixty percent (60%) majority for approval by the Executive Board.  
46  
47 b. The vote on such resolutions concerning state ballot propositions, initiative, or  
48 referendum and resolutions to support or remain neutral in a recall election shall be  
49 taken up at the regularly scheduled meeting of This Committee or its Executive  
50 Board immediately preceding the recall or statewide election involved.  
51

1 c. This Committee shall oppose the recall of any public office member registered as a  
2 Democrat mentioned in Article II, Section 2 of these By-Laws unless, within ten (10)  
3 days from the date of qualification of the recall petition, a resolution is presented to  
4 the Secretary of This Committee proposing that This Committee either support or  
5 remain neutral on the recall signed by either:  
6

7 (1) a majority of the members of This Committee resident in the district effected,  
8 or,  
9

10 (2) a majority of the State Officers of This Committee.  
11

12 d. In the event such a resolution proposing that This Committee either support or  
13 remain neutral on a recall petition of any public office member registered as a  
14 Democrat mentioned in Article II, Section 2 of these By-Laws is presented to the  
15 Secretary of This Committee, and no meeting of This Committee or its Executive  
16 Board is scheduled within thirty (30) days prior to the recall election, the Chair of  
17 This Committee shall call a special meeting of the Executive Board of This  
18 Committee no later than thirty (30) days prior to the recall election to consider the  
19 resolution. Failure to adopt the proposed resolution shall result in opposition to the  
20 recall.  
21  
22

## 23 **ARTICLE IX**

---

### 25 **ELECTION OF DEMOCRATIC NATIONAL COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

#### 27 **Section 1. ELECTION BY EXECUTIVE BOARD**

29 The members of the California Delegation to the Democratic National Committee shall be  
30 elected by the Executive Board of This Committee.  
31

#### 32 **Section 2. NOTICE**

34 Notice of such election shall be given to all members of This Committee at least thirty days  
35 prior to the meeting at which the election is to take place and as provided in Article XII of  
36 the By-Laws and Rules of the California Democratic Party.  
37

#### 38 **Section 3. NUMBER**

40 The number of members elected shall correspond to the number of votes apportioned to  
41 California by the Democratic National Committee.  
42

#### 43 **Section 4. ELIGIBILITY AND NOMINATION**

45 The name of any individual registered to vote as a Democrat in the State of California may  
46 be placed in nomination by a member of the Executive Board. One-half (1/2) of the  
47 delegation shall be male and one-half (1/2) shall be female, unless an odd number of  
48 members is to be elected, in which case a variation of one shall be permitted. In the event of  
49 a tie vote, the winner shall be determined by lot.  
50

1 **Section 5. DETERMINING ELECTION**

2

3 Except as may be required by Section 4 above, the candidate(s) with the most votes shall be  
4 elected.

5

6 **Section 6. VACANCIES**

7

8 Vacancies in the delegation shall be filled in the same manner as specified herein above.  
9 Only persons of the same sex as the person whose vacancy is being filled may be a candidate  
10 for membership of the Democratic National Committee. In the filling of vacancies, it is the  
11 intent of these By-Laws to maintain equal division of the delegation between males &  
12 females except as allowed by Section 4 above.

13

14 **Section 7. TERM OF OFFICE**

15

16 The term of office of a member of the Democratic National Committee shall be four (4)  
17 years. Persons elected to fill a vacancy shall complete the term of the person whose vacancy  
18 has been filled.

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21 **ARTICLE X**

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22 **CHARTERS**

23

24 **Section 1. AUTHORITY**

25

26 This Committee shall have the authority to charter organizations, as specifically set forth  
27 herein, which include in any part of their name the name of the Democratic Party, and,  
28 directly or indirectly solicit funds in the State of California for any purpose whatsoever under  
29 the representation, either express or implied, that the funds are being solicited for the use of  
30 the Democratic Party.

31

32

33 **Section 2. GRANTING**

34

35 a. This Committee may only charter organizations having as their objective the  
36 advancement of the Democratic Party.

37

38 b. Chartered Organizations are intended to be independent of the California Democratic  
39 Party and not “affiliated” therewith, as that term is defined by the Bipartisan  
40 Campaign Reform Act and other applicable Local, State and Federal laws, rules and  
41 regulations. This Committee shall not engage in any activities that directly or  
42 indirectly establish, finance, maintain, or control any organization chartered under  
43 this Article.

44

45 c. Any Charter which has been granted by This Committee shall be effective from the  
46 date said charter was granted, until revoked for cause as set forth herein.

47

48 d. Charter shall only be granted upon recommendation of the Organizational  
49 Development Committee pursuant to guidelines adopted by the Rules Committee.

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1 **Section 3. DENIAL AND REVOCATION**

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- a. This Committee shall have the power and authority to deny or revoke a charter of any organization, for cause by majority vote. Cause for denial or revocation shall include:
- (1) Having less than thirty (30) members in the geographical area from which the organization draws its membership,
  - (2) Failing to grant membership to any registered Democrats resident in the geographical area from which the organization draws its membership who seeks to join,
  - (3) The knowing enrollment of a person registered as anything other than a member of the Democratic Party as a voting member of the organization,
  - (4) The endorsement of a non-Democrat for elective office,
  - (5) The endorsement of any candidate for public office running against an endorsed candidate of This Committee, by any organization granted a Charter by This Committee after the adoption of this Article X on July 31, 2005, (NOTE: This Committee previously granted a Charter to the California Democratic Council in 1952, prior to This Committee's authority to endorse candidates and prior to the adoption of the Chartering rules contained herein, and the California Democratic Council is specifically exempted from this possible grounds for revocation of Charter),
  - (6) Transferring of organization's assets, including funds, from the organization's accounts to a non-Democrat running for elective office or his/her controlled committee(s),
  - (7) Acting in violation of Local, State or Federal laws or regulations, and/or,
  - (8) A finding of fact having been made by This Committee that the organization has failed to act in, and/or has acted in a manner adverse or detrimental to, the best interests of the Democratic Party.
- b. No organization's charter may be revoked for cause without sixty (60) days written notice of grounds of revocation having been mailed to the Chair of the organization in question, and the rights of response before This Committee having been granted to said organization's designated representative. For purposes of this section the Chair shall mean the last person designated in writing to This Committee as Chair.
- c. The Charters of geographically based organizations shall be automatically revoked thirty (30) days after the passage of any reapportionment law altering the boundaries of that organization's defined district boundary becomes final.

1 **Section 4. APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS**

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All organizations desiring to be chartered by This Committee shall make application for such charter in writing. The application shall be on a form provided by the Secretary of This Committee and shall contain such information as may be required by the Rules Committee.

8 **ARTICLE XI**

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10 **COMPLIANCE REVIEW COMMISSION**

11

12 **Section 1. COMPOSITION AND QUORUM**

13

14 The Compliance Review Commission shall be composed of three (3) members of the  
15 Standing Committee on Credentials and three (3) members of the Standing Committee on  
16 Rules, as designated by the Chair of This Committee. A quorum shall be a majority of those  
17 persons. The Compliance Review Commission may meet by telephone or other means of  
18 electronic communication.

19

20 **Section 2. JURISDICTION**

21

22 a. The Compliance Review Commission shall have initial jurisdiction over all  
23 challenges and/or appeals arising under Article II (Membership); Article VI  
24 (Assembly Districts and Assembly District Election Meetings); Article VII  
25 (Executive Board), Article VIII (Endorsements, etc.), Article X (Charters) and  
26 Article XII (General Policies). The Compliance Review Commission shall have  
27 jurisdiction to hear and decide any challenge that is initiated before the 42nd day  
28 prior to any meeting of This Committee or its Executive Board.

29

30 b. Challenges to the credentials of members initiated after the 42nd day prior to any  
31 meeting of This Committee or its Executive Board shall be processed by the  
32 Credentials Committee.

33

34 c. All other challenges initiated after the 42nd day prior to any meeting of This  
35 Committee or its Executive Board may either be heard and decided by the  
36 Compliance Review Commission or referred to either the Standing Committee on  
37 Credentials or the Standing Committee on Rules in the discretion of the Compliance  
38 Review Commission.

39

40 d. Challenges arising under Article VIII shall only be heard by the Compliance Review  
41 Commission if the challenge was made when the plenary session of This Committee  
42 was not in session.

43

44 e. During the period 120 days prior to any Primary or General Partisan Election, the  
45 Compliance Review Commission may, upon written request by the Chair of This  
46 Committee, issue an Order of Temporary Suspension of Charter, for a period of  
47 thirty days, of any charter issued by This Committee, for alleged violation of any of  
48 the above provisions, provided the request of the Chair of This Committee for  
49 suspension sets forth in writing the reasons therefore, and said request is served on  
50 the Chair of the Organization in question at his/her last known address of record on  
51 file with This Committee, the Secretary of This Committee, and the Chairs of the

1 Rules, Credentials, and Organizational Development Committees of This  
2 Committee. In the event of the issuance of an Order of Temporary Suspension of  
3 Charter, the Compliance Review Commission shall also issue an Order to Show  
4 Cause why the suspension should not become permanent and request written  
5 argument thereon be submitted to the Secretary of This Committee within ten days,  
6 after which the Compliance Review Commission may take action under Section 6  
7 herein, including the issuance of an Order of Revocation of Charter or rescission of  
8 the Order of Temporary Suspension of Charter.  
9

10 **Section 3. STANDING**

11  
12 Any party to a challenge must be adversely affected to bring the challenge.  
13

14 **Section 4. CHALLENGES**

15  
16 All challenges must be commenced by the filing of a written challenge with the Secretary of  
17 This Committee, with copies served on the Chair of This Committee, as well as the  
18 appointing person, and the chair of the relevant organization, where applicable no later than  
19 seven (7) calendar days after the alleged violation occurred. Upon a showing of good cause,  
20 sustained by unanimous vote, the Compliance Review Commission may waive this  
21 requirement.  
22

23 **Section 6. POWERS**

24  
25 The Compliance Review Commission shall have the power and authority to take such  
26 actions as are necessary to provide a fair and just remedy including, but not limited to, the  
27 holding of new elections.  
28

29 **Section 7. APPEAL**

- 30  
31 a. All appeals must be received by the Secretary of This Committee, with copies to the  
32 Chair of This Committee, within twelve (12) days of the decision of the Compliance  
33 Review Commission. Upon receipt of an appeal, the Secretary shall notify the  
34 members of the Compliance Review Commission, the Chair of This Committee, and  
35 the prevailing parties of the receipt of an appeal. All responses shall be filed with the  
36 Secretary of This Committee with copies to the Chair of This Committee, the  
37 members of the Compliance Review Commission and the appellants, within 12 days  
38 of receipt of the appeal by the Secretary of This Committee.  
39  
40 b. The filing of an appeal shall not stay any decision of the Compliance Review  
41 Commission.  
42  
43 c. With respect to challenges to the credentials of a member of This Committee or its  
44 Executive Board, appeal of an order of the Compliance Review Commission shall be  
45 to the Credentials Committee of This Committee.  
46  
47 d. Appeals of all orders not affecting the credentials of a member of This Committee or  
48 its Executive Board shall be to the Rules Committee of This Committee.  
49  
50



1 **ARTICLE XII**

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3 **GENERAL POLICIES**

4

5 **Section 1.**

6

7

All public meetings at all levels of the Democratic Party shall be open to all members of the Democratic Party regardless of race, color, creed, national origin, sex, age, religion, ethnic identity, sexual orientation, persons with disabilities as defined by the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 or economic status.

11

12 **Section 2.**

13

14

No test for membership in, nor any oaths of loyalty to, the Democratic Party shall be required or used which has the effect of requiring prospective or current members of the Democratic Party to acquiesce in, condone or support discrimination on the grounds of race, color, creed, national origin, sex, age, religion, ethnic identity, sexual orientation, persons with disabilities as defined by the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 or economic status.

20

21 **Section 3.**

22

23

The time, place and agendas of all public meetings of the Democratic Party on all levels shall be publicized fully and in such manner as to assure timely notice to all interested persons. Such meetings must be held in places accessible to all Party members and large enough to accommodate all interested persons.

27

28 **Section 4.**

29

30

The Democratic Party, on all levels, should support the broadest possible registration without discrimination on grounds of race, color, creed, national origin, sex, age, religion, ethnic identity, sexual orientation, persons with disabilities as defined by the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 or economic status.

34

35 **Section 5.**

36

37

The Democratic Party shall publicize fully and in such a manner as to assure notice to all interested parties a full description of the legal and practical procedures for selection of Democratic Party Officers and representatives on all levels.

40

41 **Section 6.**

42

43

Publication of these procedures shall be done in such fashion that all prospective and current members of the State Democratic Party will be fully and adequately informed of the pertinent procedures in time to participate in each selection procedure at all levels of the Democratic Party Organization.

47

48 **Section 7.**

49

50

The Democratic Party shall publicize fully and in such a manner as to assure notice to all interested parties a complete description of the legal and practical qualifications of all

51

1 officers and representatives of the State Democratic Party. Such publication shall be done in  
2 timely fashion so that all prospective candidates or applicants for any elected or appointed  
3 position within the State Democratic Party will have full and adequate opportunity to  
4 compete for office.  
5

6 **Section 8.**  
7

8 No person shall be entitled to vote for a Democratic candidate at a partisan primary election  
9 unless he or she is: 1) a registered Democrat, or 2) registered as a Decline-to-State who  
10 requests a Democratic ballot, and is recorded as having done so.  
11

12 **Section 9.**  
13

14 a. The Democratic Party is committed to:  
15

16 (1) the preservation of the right of the voter to a secret, secure, and counted  
17 ballot at the first determining step of the delegate selection process and the  
18 first level of participation at which an individual Democrat expresses  
19 his/her personal and individual preference, and  
20

21 (2) the voter's right to know how his/her representatives have voted.  
22

23 b. Based upon Resolution of the DNC Rules Committee adopted on June 23, 1994:  
24

25 (1) voters at the first determining step of the delegate selection process and  
26 first level of participation shall have an absolute right to a secret ballot  
27 which is secure and counted when he/she is expressing his/her own  
28 personal and individual preference, and  
29

30 (2) no vote by secret ballot may be taken at any meeting of any official  
31 Democratic Party body beyond the first determining step at which an  
32 individual Democrat expresses his/her personal and individual preference  
33 on an action that constitutes part of the delegate selection process for the  
34 Democratic National Convention.  
35

36 c. Based upon Article Nine, Section 12 of the Charter of the Democratic Party of the  
37 United States of America, which prohibits secret ballots as an infringement of the  
38 voter's right to know how their representatives have voted, except as noted herein  
39 above, no vote by secret ballot shall be taken at any meeting of the California  
40 Democratic Party, its Assembly District Assembly District Election Meetings, or  
41 its Caucuses.  
42

43 d. Any person who has been determined to have been elected on a secret ballot after  
44 12/31/01, beyond the first determining step in the delegate selection process, or  
45 first level of participation in violation of these rules, shall be denied credentials  
46 by the Credentials Committee of This Committee and shall not be recognized or  
47 seated by This Committee at any meeting of This Committee, its Executive  
48 Board, its Assembly District Election Meetings, or its Caucuses.”  
49  
50

1 **ARTICLE XIII**

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3 **AMENDMENT OF THE BY-LAWS**

4

5 **Section 1. AMENDMENT**

6

7 These By-Laws may be amended at any meeting of This Committee by a majority vote of  
8 the entire membership, whether present at a meeting or not, or a two-thirds vote of the  
9 credentialed members of This Committee, whichever is less, provided 10 days notice of the  
10 text of the amendment has been given to the membership in writing, or by the Executive  
11 Board, provided that the Executive Board amends these By-Laws in the following manner:

12

13 a. The amendment must be submitted to the Rules Committee and filed with the  
14 Secretary at a meeting held no less than thirty days prior to the meeting at which the  
15 amendment is to be voted on.

16

17 b. A copy of the amendment shall be sent with the meeting notice to each member of  
18 the Executive Board at least ten days in advance of the meeting at which the  
19 amendment is to be voted on.

20

21 c. If the Rules Committee fails to approve a proposed amendment, such amendment  
22 may be presented from the floor with the consent of a majority of those present.

23

24 d. These By-Laws shall not be amended by the vote of less than a majority of the total  
25 number of members of the Executive Board, or two-thirds (2/3) of those members of  
26 the Executive Board present and voting at any meeting thereof, whichever is smaller.

27

28 **Section 2. EFFECTIVE DATE**

29

30 By-Laws or any amendments thereto shall become effective immediately upon their  
31 adoption.