

East County Democratic Club Bylaws

Article I – Name

The name of this organization shall be the East County Democratic Club, hereafter referred to as the Club.

Article II – Purpose

The purpose of the Club shall be to foster democratic ideals by:

- Stimulating active interest in the Democratic Party
- Supporting the party platform
- Contributing to party leadership and responsibility
- Providing a constructive role for volunteers in Democratic politics
- Promoting an activist base including local, state, and national candidate endorsement
- Building and maintaining a permanent club membership of volunteers looking for ways to support Democratic causes

Article III – Membership

Section 1— Eligibility

Anyone registered as a Democrat or is ineligible to vote (due to age, non-residency or other legal impediment) but pledges to register as a Democrat when eligible and supports the purpose of the Club as stated in Article II, above shall be eligible for membership in the club.

Section 2 – Good Standing

Democrats and pledged Democrats, whose annual dues are currently paid, or have been waived, shall be considered a member in good standing. Any member whose actions are judged to be prejudicial or detrimental to the club by the Executive Board may be expelled from membership by a two-thirds vote at any general meeting, as long as there is a quorum. The membership and the member in question must be notified 14 days in advance of the meeting of the proposed removal of the member.

Section 3 – Dues

Dues shall be reviewed mid-year and recommended by the Executive Board, for approval by the membership, to go into effect for the next membership year. Dues are due and payable upon joining the club, and annually at the beginning of every club calendar year thereafter. Payment of dues shall not be obligatory to anyone for whom it constitutes an economic hardship after due consideration and approval by the Executive Board.

Payment for dues are as followed:

General Membership

Full year (January 1 – December 31):	\$20.00
Half year (July 1 – December 31):	\$10.00

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Section 4 – Voting

Voting rights of members in good standing begin 30 days after joining the club and immediately upon renewal. No proxy or absentee voting shall be permitted.

Section 5 – Code of Conduct

1. A member shall conduct oneself with civility and respect towards all other members and Democratic candidates while acting in an official capacity as a representative of the club.
2. A member shall not denigrate an endorsed candidate or support or avow a preference for a non-Democratic candidate.
3. A member shall not create an intimidating, offensive, and/or abusive environment for club members.
4. A member shall not engage in any actions detrimental to the purpose of the club.

Article IV – Officers

Section 1 – Elected Officers

Elected officers of this club shall be the President, Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer. All officers must be registered Democrats or have expressed the intention of becoming registered Democrats as soon as they are eligible. Each shall be elected at the general meeting in October of odd numbered years and hold office for two years.

An elected officer may be removed from the office by a vote of two-thirds of the members at a General Meeting for cause. Cause shall be defined as: three unexcused consecutive absences or non-performance of duties. The membership and the officer in question must be notified 14 days in advance of the meeting of the proposed removal of the officer.

Should any elected officer decide to seek public office, he or she shall resign from the Executive Board after the filing deadline for that office has passed. An officer running in a race in which the San Diego County Democratic Party may endorse shall resign from the Executive Board after announcing his or her candidacy.

Section 2 – Duties

A. President

The President shall:

- Be the Chief Executive Officer of the club
- Preside over all meetings of the club and the executive board
- Make appointments to other positions as required
- Act as official spokesperson for the club
- Stimulate active interest in the political process

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- Provide a constructive role for the active volunteer
- Contribute to effective leadership and individual responsibility
- Promote harmony among the club membership and between other clubs and within the San Diego County Democratic Party

B. Vice-President

The Vice-President shall:

- Serve at the direction of the President
- Preside at meetings if the President is unable to do so, or is requested by the President to do so
- Take over the duties of the President in their absence
- Be responsible for the annual audit

C. Secretary

The Secretary shall:

- Keep the minutes of the general meetings and executive committee meetings
- Conduct correspondence
- Maintain the club's records
- Control access to, and is responsible for, all club member information
- Only share club member information with the San Diego County Democratic Party (SDCDP) and the California Democratic Party (CDP)
- Be responsible for internal communications and communications with the SDCCDP, the SDCCDP Director of Clubs, and (CDP)
- Notify the SDCCDP of Club meetings by email to clubs@sddemocrats.org at least 14 days before the meeting

D. Treasurer

The Treasurer shall:

- Be responsible for the collection of dues
- Receive and deposit all club funds received
- Maintain an accurate record of club receipts and expenditures
- Sign all checks and authorized by the Executive Board
- Make the record of club receipts and expenditures available to any member when requested
- Provide a report of the club financial status at club meetings as requested
- Provide an annual written report of club financial status
- Make the books and all other financial records of the club available to the audit committee each year in May
- Be responsible for filing the FPPC/FEC financial report on time as required

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Section 3 – Elections

Elections shall be held at the October general meeting, with installation of officers at the close of the meeting.

- At that meeting the floor will be open for nominations. For uncontested positions, a show of hands will constitute the election. A secret ballot may be held upon the request of any member.
- Those nominees who receive a majority vote shall be declared elected. If no person receives a majority of votes cast, a run-off shall be held between those two persons receiving the greatest number of votes. The person receiving the majority of the votes shall be declared elected.

Section 4 – Vacancies

Should any officer resign, fail to perform duties, or fail to attend three general meetings or Executive Board meetings in a row without cause approved by the Executive Board, the Executive Board shall declare that office vacant and appoint a successor to the office to complete the unexpired term. Any such appointment shall, however, be approved by the membership at the next properly noticed, general meeting. At that meeting, nominations to fill the vacancy will also be accepted from the floor. Any contested positions will be voted on by the membership.

Section 5 – Appointments

The President can appoint a Parliamentarian and chairs of committees as needed, ratified by the majority of members at the next general meeting.

Article V – Meetings

Section 1 – General Meetings

- The meeting place shall be determined by a majority of the Executive Board
- There shall be a minimum of six general meetings per calendar year
- General meetings shall be held on the 3rd Thursday of each month
- Unless cancelled by the Executive Board, there will be an hour before the scheduled meeting time for social interactions and Democratic candidates to interact with the general members
- The General Meeting will begin at 7:00 PM and last for at most 2 hours

Section 2 – Quorum

A quorum at any general meeting shall be the number of officers plus ten percent (10%) of those whose membership is in good standing. A quorum at an endorsing/electing meeting shall be the number of officers plus twenty percent (20%) of those whose membership is in good standing. A quorum of the Executive Board shall be a majority of its elected members.

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Section 3 – Parliamentary Authority

The parliamentary authority is the most recent edition of Robert’s Rules of Order, Newly Revised.

Section 4 – Notices

At least 14 days prior to a general meeting at which the following items will be discussed and voted upon, meeting notices shall be emailed to each member of the club and copied to clubs@sddemocrats.org. Notices shall include but not limited to:

- Club elections and filling of vacancies,
- Proposed amendments to bylaws,
- Proposed resolutions, and
- Endorsements of candidates and/or ballot measures.

Article VI – Executive Board

Section 1 – Function

The executive Board shall approve all expenditures and carry out the club business between general meetings in a manner consistent with actions taken at the general meetings, and perform any other duties provided for in these bylaws. The President shall pre-approve any written correspondence in the course of normal club duties, on behalf of the Club. The President shall be the sole spokesperson for the Club.

Section 2 – Membership

Membership of the Executive Board shall include all the currently elected officers, and the current Committee Chairs as non-voting members.

Sections 3 – Meetings

The Executive Board shall meet monthly. The President may call a special meeting with a 2-day advance notice to the Executive Board as needed. Special meetings may be called by a majority of the elected members of the Executive Board at any time.

A quorum of the Executive Board is composed of a majority of the elected members of the Executive Board.

Article VII – Committees

Committees are established by the Club to perform tasks to support the overall objectives of the Club. The scope of duties in each committee shall be limited so that a single individual or small group may accomplish these tasks with occasional meetings throughout the year. Committees for the club are as follows shall include but not limited to:

- Political Action

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- Membership
- Fund Raising
- Program
- Special Events
- Communications
- Hospitality
- Nominating
- Audit
- Go Team
- Other committees as identified by the President

Article VIII – Candidate Endorsements

- A. Only candidates who are registered Democrats are eligible for Club endorsement. Candidates who are not Democrats may only be rated acceptable or unacceptable.
- B. All endorsements of candidates or resolutions concerning ballot measures or public issues must be in accordance with the standards established by the California Democratic Party and the San Diego County Democratic Party (SDCDP). It is also the tradition and stated goal of the Club not to make endorsements or to pass resolutions which will adversely affect the unity of the Democratic Party.
- C. A motion to endorse a candidate or take a position on a Proposition or public issue must receive 60% of votes among the Club members of good standing (as defined in Article III - Section 1) who are present and voting.
- D. The full membership must be given notice of endorsements in a particular race or races at least fourteen (14) days prior to the meeting via email or alternative method for those without email. The SDCCDP must also be sent a copy of the email to clubs@sddemocrats.org
- E. All Democratic candidates must be notified and invited to an endorsement meeting where their race is being considered at least five (5) business days prior to the meeting by email. The SDCCDP must also be sent a copy of the email to clubs@sddemocrats.org
- F. Endorsements by the club shall not be construed as the CDP or SDCCDP endorsement. Words to that effect must be clearly visible whenever a club's endorsement is referred to.
- G. Any publication of endorsements by the Club shall clearly delineate between endorsed candidates and those rated acceptable.

Article IX – Club Representatives

Section 1 – California Democratic Party (CDP)

In order to be eligible to participate in the CDP pre-endorsing conferences, the Club's President, Secretary, or Treasurer will ratify the roster of Democratic members in good standing (as defined in Article III - Section 2) by July 1 of each odd-numbered year identifying the legislative districts and representatives for each district and submit it to the CDP and SDCCDP.

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Representatives should be equally apportioned between men and women to the extent possible.

Section 2 – San Diego County Democratic Party (SDCDP) Associate Member

Under the Club's charter with the SDCDP, its President is a representative to the SDCDP Central Committee as an Associate Member. If the President is already a Central Committee member or chooses not to serve, a different representative may be selected to serve his or her term according to the provisions of Section 3 and 4 of this Article. An Associate Member application, for the President or any other representative, must be submitted to SDCDP within 30 days of his or her selection by the Club.

Section 3 – Selection

Club representatives to the CDP and SDCDP – and any other official representatives, delegates, and alternates from the club to conferences, caucuses, councils, conventions, and other meetings – shall be selected by a vote of members in good standing at a duly noticed club meeting or, if that cannot occur at a regular or special meeting, by designation of the President.

Section 4 – Adherence to Club Positions

Club representatives described in this Article, when participating in voting and discussion in that capacity, shall adhere to and represent the club's official positions on endorsements and other matters wherever applicable, and shall agree to do so prior to their selection.

Section 5 – Other SDCPDP Representatives

- A. The Executive Board will designate a GO Team Liaison.
- B. The Executive Board will designate a SDCDP Voter Registration Liaison.

Article X – Affiliation

The Club shall affiliate as an associate member of the County Democratic Central Committee and pay the current annual chartering fee.

Article XI – Amendments

These bylaws may be amended by a majority vote at a general meeting after such amendment has been presented at the preceding general meeting, and properly noticed. Any amendments so approved will be sent by the Club to the San Diego County Democratic Party within 30 days of the meeting by email to clubcharter@sddemocrats.org

Article XII – Adoption

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These bylaws shall become effective immediately upon their adoption and shall be the governing rules of the Club.

Adopted: February 15, 2018