

# SD DEMS

SAN DIEGO COUNTY DEMOCRATIC PARTY

## BYLAWS

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# ARTICLE I. NAME AND PURPOSE

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## Section 1. Name

The name of This Committee is the San Diego County Democratic Party Central Committee (the Central Committee). The Central Committee is a committee within the meaning of California Government Code and Elections Code. The Central Committee may refer to itself as the San Diego County Democratic Party (SDCDP). These Bylaws refer to the Central Committee as This Committee.

## Section 2. Purpose

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

## Section 3. Conflict of Interest Disclosure

A member of This Committee must disclose any actual or potential material financial interest while addressing a Central Committee Meeting, Executive Board Meeting, Area Caucus Meeting, or other official meetings in whole or in part of This Committee, or through written disclosure when communicating through mail, e-mail, or other digital communication, primarily directed towards members of This Committee. The disclosure must include, that said member, the spouse of the member, or the domestic partner of the member has an actual or potential material financial interest in advocating for or against a candidate or any initiative.

## Section 4. Consistency with Statutory Law

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

## Section 5. Areas

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

# ARTICLE II. MEMBERSHIP

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## Section 1. Membership

A. All members shall be registered to vote as Democrats in San Diego County.

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

- 68 3. Designated members:
- 69 a. Designated members shall be the following if they reside in and are registered to  
70 vote in San Diego County:
- 71 1) Statewide Chairs, Co-Chairs, or Presidents of CDP standing committees,  
72 chartered statewide Democratic Party Organizations, or CDP Caucuses;
- 73 2) Members of the Democratic National Committee;
- 74 3) State Officers of the California Democratic Party;
- 75 4) Assembly District Representatives to the Executive Board of the CDP  
76 (hereinafter ADEM EBoard Member);
- 77 5) The most recent Chair of This Committee who is a different individual from  
78 the Current Chair unless they are already a Voting member;
- 79 6) The Director of Clubs unless they are already a Voting member;
- 80 7) The Director of Grassroots Organizing unless they are already Voting  
81 member.
- 82 b. Designated members shall be entitled to the same rights and privileges and have  
83 the same responsibilities as Public Ballot members of This Committee.
- 84 4. Appointed members of This Committee are members appointed to fill Public Ballot or  
85 Ex-Officio vacancies within the body in accordance with Article III, Section 1, B on  
86 filling vacancies for This Committee. Appointed members shall be entitled to the  
87 same rights and privileges and have the same responsibilities as Public Ballot  
88 members of This Committee.
- 89 5. Alternate members, who are appointed by Public Ballot, Ex-Officio, Designated, or  
90 Appointed members of This Committee.
- 91 a. Alternates shall be registered in San Diego County in the same district their  
92 appointer represents on This Committee. Notice of appointment plus payment of  
93 the dues shall be recorded with the Secretary before the Alternate may serve.
- 94 b. An Alternate shall have all the rights of the appointer, except voting in the Central  
95 Committee meetings when their appointer is present and the power of  
96 appointment, when the appointer is absent.
- 97 c. An Alternate serves at the pleasure of their appointer or may be removed from  
98 This Committee under the conditions of Article III.
- 99 6. Lifetime members, who are nominated by the Chair and approved by the body.  
100 Lifetime membership is an honorary position with the right to vote.

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



140 E. The Voting members of This Committee are the Public Ballot, Ex-Officio, Designated,  
141 Appointed, and Lifetime members. The names of the voting members will be publicly  
142 available via the SDCDP Website.

## 143 Section 2. Duties of Membership

144 A. It is the duty of Public Ballot, Ex-Officio, Designated, and Appointed members to attend  
145 the regular, endorsement, and special meetings of This Committee and to notify their  
146 Alternate when they cannot attend.

147 B. It is the duty of Alternate members to attend the regular, endorsement, and special  
148 meetings of This Committee whenever their appointer is not able to attend.

149 C. The duties of all members are to:

- 150 1. Attend the regular, endorsement recommendation, and special meetings of their  
151 individual Areas.
- 152 2. Attend the special meetings of their Legislative Caucuses.
- 153 3. Serve on SDCDP committees.
- 154 4. Share in the responsibility of raising money for the SDCDP.
- 155 5. Participate in the candidate endorsement process.
- 156 6. Assist the SDCDP in communicating with and reaching out to Democrats.
- 157 7. Support endorsed Democratic candidates endorsed by the SDCDP or the California  
158 Democratic Party.
- 159 8. Share the general duties of building and supporting the Party.
- 160 9. Be familiar with the Bylaws and Policies and Procedures of the Party.
- 161 10. Be familiar with the races on the ballot prior to an endorsement or recommendation  
162 meeting.
- 163 11. Review their Central Committee and Area communications.
- 164 12. Report any changes to their voter registration, membership eligibility, or contact  
165 information within fourteen (14) days of the change.

## 166 Section 3. Terms of Office

167 A. The current Chair of This Committee shall administer the Oaths of Office to incoming  
168 Central Committee members.

169 B. The terms of office of the Central Committee members, with the exception of the  
170 Executive Board and ADEM EBoard Members, shall:

- 171 1. Begin at the Biennial Organizational Meeting in their Area in January following  
172 certification of the State Primary Election by the Registrar of Voters, and
- 173 2. Continue as long as they continue to meet their membership qualifications and  
174 expire when the Oaths of Office are administered to their successors.

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

#### 203 Section 4. Oath and Dues

- 204 A. In their capacity as public officials, members are required to swear the Oath or  
205 Affirmation of Allegiance to the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of  
206 the State of California.

- 207 B. There shall be biennial dues for Voting and Alternate members of This Committee, in an  
208 amount set forth in Policies and Procedures. Lifetime and Associate members have their  
209 dues waived.
- 210 C. The dues requirement must be met for a member to be credentialed and eligible to vote  
211 or exercise any member rights including the appointment of an alternate.

## 212 Section 5. Prohibition on Dual Membership

213 There shall be no dual membership.

- 214 A. A person who becomes eligible for membership on more than one basis shall, within  
215 thirty (30) days of such duality, inform the Secretary of the eligibility and identify the  
216 position that he or she wishes to occupy.
- 217 B. If the person fails to indicate which position he or she elects to occupy, This Committee,  
218 by majority vote, shall make the determination.
- 219 C. The Secretary shall certify to the Chair the remaining position(s) as vacant and eligible  
220 for election.

## 221 ARTICLE III. VACANCIES AND REMOVALS

### 222 Section 1. Definition of Vacancy

- 223 A. A vacancy occurs when a Public Ballot, Ex-Officio, Designated, Appointed, or Alternate  
224 member:
- 225 1. Changes voter registration from the district where elected or appointed, or
  - 226 2. Is removed or resigns from This Committee, or
  - 227 3. Is incapacitated or re-registers as other than Democrat, or
  - 228 4. When a Voting member is appointed as a Lifetime member, or
  - 229 5. Upon the death of a Public Ballot, Ex-Officio, Designated, or Appointed member.
- 230 B. A vacancy also occurs when an Assembly District elects fewer Public Ballot members  
231 than it is entitled to elect.
- 232 C. A vacancy also occurs when an Assembly, Senate, or Congressional District fails to  
233 nominate a candidate or when the nominee or elected official declines to serve on This  
234 Committee.

### 235 Section 2. Replacement

- 236 A. A vacancy in a Public Ballot or Article III, Section 1, C Ex-Officio membership shall be  
237 filled by a vote of This Committee no earlier than the first regular meeting of This

238 Committee after the meeting at which either the Secretary or the Chair declares the  
239 vacancy. Filling the vacancy shall be the first item on the agenda and shall follow  
240 Policies and Procedures Section VI. E. Internal Election Voting Procedure.

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

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

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

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

### 253 Section 3. Role of Alternate During Vacancy

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

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

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

### 263 Section 4. Removal by Lack of Attendance

264 A. A member may remove themselves by lack of attendance at either Central Committee or  
265 Area meetings. A member who has removed themselves by lack of attendance is  
266 ineligible for Central Committee membership for the remainder of the biennial term.

267 B. All Public Ballot, Designated, and Appointed members have attendance requirements at  
268 Central Committee and Area meetings. The presence of a member's Alternate fulfills the  
269 obligation of representing the Democratic voters but does not excuse an absence.

270 1. Any Public Ballot, Designated, or Appointed member, with absences from four (4)  
271 consecutive or six (6) total meetings in a calendar year has failed to meet the  
272 minimum level of attendance and has removed themselves.

273 C. All Alternates, including Ex-Officio Alternates, have a Central Committee attendance  
274 requirement when their appointing member is absent and are required to attend all Area  
275 meetings.

276 1. Any Alternate member with absences from four (4) consecutive or six (6) total  
277 meetings in a calendar year when serving in lieu of their appointer has failed to meet  
278 the minimum level of attendance and has removed themselves.

279 D. All Associate members have attendance requirements at Area meetings.

280 1. Any Associate member with absences from two (2) consecutive or three (3) total  
281 meetings in a calendar year has failed to meet the minimum level of attendance and  
282 has removed themselves.

283 E. Petition for Excused Absence

284 1. A member may petition the Executive Board for an excused absence via the online  
285 member form. Excused absences include but are not limited to; work, health,  
286 religious observances, or emergencies.

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

288 A. Any member, other than an incumbent elected official of the California legislature or U.S.  
289 Congress, who individually endorses a non-Democratic candidate has removed  
290 themselves unless the following criteria are met:

291 1. Filing has closed,

292 2. There are no Democrats in the race and

293 3. The Party has completed its endorsements and has not otherwise weighed in.

294 B. If a member is notified by the Party via email their name has been used in an  
295 endorsement by a non-Democratic candidate, the member shall write a letter to the  
296 candidate requesting the candidate cease and desist from using their name and provide  
297 a copy of this letter to the Secretary within seventy-two (72) hours of the date of the  
298 email. Absent this letter, the use of their name will be considered an endorsement and  
299 the member has removed themselves.

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

## 303 Section 6. Removal for Cause

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

306 B. Cause shall be defined as:

- 307 1. Where there is an endorsed candidate, campaigning for a non-Democratic candidate  
308 or publicly advocating that voters should not vote in that contest;
- 309 2. Committing the Party to unauthorized expenditures;
- 310 3. Criminal conviction involving moral turpitude;
- 311 4. Chronic alcohol or substance abuse affecting ability to serve;
- 312 5. Violations of this organization's Code of Conduct;
- 313 6. Engaging in behavior detrimental to the purpose of the Democratic Party; or
- 314 7. Any other reason set forth in this organization's Policy and Procedures.

### 315 Section 7. Credentials Challenge Procedure

- 316 A. A member of This Committee may initiate a credentials challenge when they suspect  
317 one or more of the following conditions apply:
- 318 1. Falsification of voter registration for the purpose of membership in This Committee.
- 319 2. Failure to meet the membership requirements enumerated in Article II-Membership  
320 Section 1-5 of these Bylaws, Policies and Procedures Section II-Membership  
321 Subsection A, and/or Section C-K.
- 322 B. The Secretary shall refer the matter to the Credentials Committee to consider  
323 recommending removal and shall notify the member via email of the pending action and  
324 will include the written challenge.
- 325 C. The Credentials Committee will meet for a technical review of the Bylaws, Policies and  
326 Procedures and the written challenge to the membership. If the Credentials Committee  
327 determines by a sixty percent (60%) vote that the challenge as presented meets the  
328 criteria for grounds for removal, the Credentials Committee shall prepare a list of the  
329 relevant Bylaws and Policies and Procedures. The meeting should be held within  
330 fourteen (14) days of the date the member was notified.
- 331 D. If the Credentials Committee has determined the challenge meets the criteria for the  
332 grounds for removal, the Chair will schedule a meeting with the Executive Board, the  
333 affected member, and the member who made the challenge to review the facts and  
334 circumstances of the challenge and the material provided by the Credentials Committee.  
335 The meeting should be held within seven (7) days of the date the Credentials Committee  
336 meeting and may be added to the agenda of an already scheduled Executive Board  
337 meeting.
- 338 1. The affected member may appear in person or may supply a written response to the  
339 membership challenge, and any persons wishing to support or deny the request, with  
340 the Chair having the option to limit the number of persons who may appear before  
341 them.

- 342 2. Following the presentation, the room will be cleared for deliberations and vote by the  
343 Executive Board.
- 344 3. If any member of the Executive Board is either an affected member or the member  
345 who made the challenge, they must recuse themselves from the deliberations and  
346 the vote. If both the Chair and Chair Pro-Tem have recused themselves, the  
347 Executive Board will elect a different Executive Board member to chair the  
348 deliberations and voting.
- 349 4. A vote to recommend removal of the member requires two-thirds (2/3) of the  
350 Executive Board voting in favor of removal. If the Executive Board does not reach a  
351 two-thirds (2/3) vote, the member retains their membership. The Secretary will notify  
352 the affected member of the decision.
- 353 E. If the Executive Board has recommended removal via credentials challenge, the matter  
354 will be taken up for consideration at the next Central Committee meeting as the first item  
355 on the agenda and prior to filling any vacancies. The affected member shall be offered  
356 the opportunity to appear before This Committee and show cause why removal is  
357 unwarranted.
- 358 F. Any vote taken shall be conducted pursuant to Policies and Procedures Section VI, E.  
359 Internal Voting Procedure.
- 360 G. Upon removal or censure by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of This Committee, the Secretary  
361 shall notify the affected person of This Committee's action.
- 362 H. If a member has been removed, said former member is ineligible for Central Committee  
363 membership for the remainder of the biennial term.
- 364 I. If a member resigns or is removed by their appointer during the credentials challenge,  
365 said former member is ineligible for Central Committee membership for the remainder of  
366 the biennial term.

## 367 Section 8. Ethics Complaints and Removal for Cause Procedure

- 368 A. A complaint shall be filed via the San Diego County Democratic Party Ethics Committee.
- 369 B. The Chair of This Committee shall refer the matter to the Ethics Committee.
- 370 C. If the Chair of This committee is either an affected member or the member who made  
371 the complaint, the Co-Chairs of the Ethics Committee shall take the complaint and The  
372 Chair of This Committee shall recuse themselves from the matter.
- 373 D. The composition and operation of the Ethics Committee shall be set forth in the Policies  
374 and Procedures.
- 375 E. The Ethics Committee shall convene to review the complaint within fourteen (14) days of  
376 submission.

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



413 the vote. If both the Chair and Chair Pro-Tem have recused themselves, the  
414 Executive Board will elect a different Executive Board member to chair the  
415 deliberations and voting.

416 5. The Executive Board may vote to recommend censure of the member with a two-  
417 thirds (2/3) vote in favor of censure. If the Executive Board fails to reach the  
418 threshold there will be no censure. The Secretary will notify the affected member of  
419 the decision.

420 6. The Executive Board may vote to recommend a removal for cause with a two-thirds  
421 (2/3) vote in favor of removal. If the Executive Board fails to reach the threshold there  
422 will be no censure. The Secretary will notify the affected member of the decision.

423 7. The Executive Board may vote to approve a non-disciplinary settlement of the  
424 complaint via a sixty percent (60%) vote. The non-disciplinary settlement would  
425 resolve the complaint and shall not be submitted to the Central Committee for action.

426 8. The Executive Board may vote by a simple majority to dismiss the complaint.

427 9. If the Executive Board fails to reach a consensus on the complaint, the complaint will  
428 be closed without decision.

429 L. If the Executive Board has recommended removal or censure, the matter will be taken  
430 up for consideration at the next Central Committee meeting as the first item on the  
431 agenda and prior to filling any vacancies. The affected member shall be offered the  
432 opportunity to appear before This Committee and show cause why removal or censure is  
433 unwarranted.

434 M. Any vote taken shall be taken pursuant to the Policies and Procedures, Internal Voting  
435 Procedure.

436 N. Upon removal or censure by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of This Committee, the Secretary  
437 shall notify the affected person of This Committee's action.

438 O. If a member has been removed, said former member is ineligible for Central Committee  
439 membership for the remainder of the biennial term.

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

## 443 Section 9. Censure

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

- 447 1. A censure resolution drafted and approved by the Ethics Committee shall be  
448 submitted to the Executive Board.
- 449 2. The Executive Board shall review the censure resolution and may approve with a  
450 two-thirds (2/3) vote.
- 451 3. At least 7 days' notice is required prior to This Committee considering a censure  
452 resolution. Notice must be given to This Committee and to the person(s) being  
453 considered for censure.
- 454 B. A member who is censured may be suspended or removed from their committees or  
455 leadership positions by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of This Committee.
- 456 C. A candidate who is censured by This Committee may be removed from consideration for  
457 endorsements by This Committee and excluded from all provisions for endorsement.
- 458 D. The censure resolution, once approved, shall be read out loud and attached to the  
459 minutes of the meeting.

460

## 461 ARTICLE IV. OFFICERS

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### 462 Section 1. List of Officers and Membership Requirements

463 The officers of This Committee are Chair, four Vice-Chairs, Secretary, Controller, three  
464 Directors, and the Most Recent Past Chair.

- 465 A. Public Ballot, Ex-Officio, Designated, Appointed, Lifetime, and Alternate members are  
466 eligible to serve as officers.
- 467 B. Each Area as defined in Article VII, Section 1 shall have a Vice Chair.
- 468 C. The Directors shall be the Director of Administration, the Director of Clubs, and the  
469 Director of Grassroots Organizing.
- 470 D. The Most Recent Past Chair is the person whom has most recently served as chair of  
471 the SDCDP and whom is a different individual than the current Chair for up to two  
472 biennial terms of the SDCDP. No vacancy is created if the Most Recent Past Chair  
473 declines to serve.
- 474 E. Officers who lose their Central Committee eligibility during the biennial term, and are  
475 otherwise members in good standing, shall continue in their Executive Board role for up  
476 to thirty (30) days to secure an Officer eligible membership.

### 477 Section 2. Elections

478 A. All officers shall be elected at the Central Committee Biennial Organizational Meeting in  
479 January following certification of the State Primary Election. The terms of the incumbent  
480 officers shall expire and the newly elected officers shall assume their positions at the  
481 adjournment of that meeting.

482 B. Elections shall be by a majority vote of This Committee. The vote shall be conducted  
483 pursuant to Policies and Procedures Section VI, E. Internal Voting Procedure. The Area  
484 Vice Chairs shall be members of the Central Committee who are members of the Area  
485 caucus that they represent.

486 1. The four Area Vice Chairs shall be elected separately by the Central Committee  
487 members who caucus in their respective areas.

488 2. Elections shall be by a majority vote. The vote shall be conducted pursuant to  
489 Policies and Procedures Section VI, E. Internal Voting Procedure

490 3. Elections shall be at the Area meetings on the second (2<sup>nd</sup>) Tuesday in January  
491 following the certification of the State Primary Election.

492 4. Vice Chairs shall be ratified by a simple majority of This Committee, the vote shall be  
493 conducted pursuant to Policies and Procedures Section VI, E. Internal Voting  
494 Procedure. Should This Committee fail to ratify a Vice Chair, a vacancy shall occur  
495 and shall be remedied as set forth in Article IV, Section 4.

496 C. The Executive Board positions for Secretary, Controller and the Director of  
497 Administration shall:

498 1. Be nominated by the Nomination Committee as set forth in the Policies and  
499 Procedures. If there is only one candidate for an office, election shall be by voice  
500 vote.

501 2. If there is more than one candidate, the vote shall be conducted pursuant to Policies  
502 and Procedures Section VI, E. Internal Voting Procedure.

503 3. If no candidate receives a majority vote, a run-off election shall be held between the  
504 two candidates receiving the most votes, the vote shall be conducted pursuant to  
505 Policies and Procedures Section VI, E. Internal Voting.

506 D. The Director of Grassroots Organizing shall:

507 1. Be selected by the GO Team Regional and Countywide Coordinators (not including  
508 Data Coordinators) who shall select one nominee for election to the Office of Director  
509 of Grassroots Organizing no later than November 15 following the certification of the  
510 State Primary Election.

511 2. Director of Grassroots Organizing shall be ratified by a simple majority of This  
512 Committee, the vote shall be conducted pursuant to Policies and Procedures Section  
513 VI, E. Internal Voting Procedure. Should This Committee fail to ratify a Director of

514 Grassroots Organizing, the GO Team Coordinators will be asked to provide a new  
515 nominee for ratification. Should This Committee fail to ratify the second nominee, a  
516 vacancy shall occur and shall be remedied as set forth in Article IV, Section 4.

517 F. The Director of Clubs shall:

518 1. Be selected by the Council of Clubs Presidents who shall select one nominee for  
519 election to the Office of Director of Clubs at the November Council of Clubs meeting  
520 and no later than November 15 following the certification of the State Primary  
521 Election.

522 2. Director of Clubs shall be ratified by a simple majority of This Committee, the vote  
523 shall be conducted pursuant to Policies and Procedures Section VI, E. Internal  
524 Voting Procedure. Should This Committee fail to ratify a Director of Clubs, the  
525 Council of Clubs will be asked to provide a new nominee for ratification. Should This  
526 Committee fail to ratify the second nominee, a vacancy shall occur and shall be  
527 remedied as set forth in Article IV, Section 4.

### 528 Section 3. Removal of Officers

529 A. An officer or member of the Executive Board may be removed from office by a two-thirds  
530 (2/3) vote of This Committee after receiving either:

531 1. A recommendation by two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Executive Board, or

532 2. Submission to the Executive Board of a petition signed by at least twenty-five  
533 percent (25%) of the voting members of This Committee, or

534 3. For Area Vice Chairs, submission of a petition signed by the majority of the voting  
535 members of their Area Caucus.

536 B. A vote to remove an Officer shall be held at a properly noticed meeting of This  
537 Committee where quorum is present. Notice of meeting shall specify that such action is  
538 being considered.

539 C. An officer may be removed by a sixty percent (60%) vote of the Executive Board after  
540 four (4) absences from regular meetings of the Executive Board.

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

### 544 Section 4. Vacancies

545 A. At the beginning of each Executive Board term, the Executive Board will elect a Chair  
546 Pro-Tem from among the four Vice-Chairs. In the absence of the Chair, the Chair Pro-  
547 Tem shall preside. In the absence or inability of said Pro-Tem, another Chair Pro-Tem  
548 shall be elected in the same manner.

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

551 1. Notice and Election:

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

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

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

561 2. For Area Vice Chairs:

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

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

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

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

575 a. At least seven (7) days shall be allowed for application submissions. The process  
576 and deadline for applications will be specified in the email notice to all Central  
577 Committee members announcing the vacancy.

578 b. The Executive Board shall serve as the Nomination Committee for a mid-term  
579 vacancy for Secretary, Controller, or Director of Administration.

580 4. For Director of Grassroots Organizing:

581 a. Notice shall be given via email to the full Central Committee and all GO Team  
582 Regional and Countywide Coordinators within three (3) business days after the  
583 vacancy occurs.

- 584                    b. Nomination shall take place at the next regular meeting of the GO Team  
585                    Regional and Countywide Coordinators.
- 586                    5. For Director of Clubs:
- 587                    a. Notice shall be given via email to the full Central Committee and the Clubs  
588                    Council email list within three (3) business days after the vacancy occurs.
- 589                    b. Nomination shall take place at the next regular meeting of the Council of Clubs.
- 590                    6. The Chair, or their designee, is responsible for sending email notice of any officer  
591                    vacancy through the Central Committee and Area email lists.

592                    **Section 5. Duties of Officers**

593                    **A. The Chair**

- 594                    1. Shall serve as the chief executive officer and official spokesperson of This  
595                    Committee,
- 596                    2. Carry out the policies of This Committee and its Executive Board,
- 597                    3. Manage, direct, and hire staff, with such hiring to be ratified by the Executive Board,
- 598                    4. Serve in the Ex-Officio capacity without a vote on all SDCDP committees,
- 599                    5. Be authorized, subject to Executive Board approval, to create SDCDP committees in  
600                    addition to those specified in Policies and Procedures, and to appoint Chairs and  
601                    members to those committees, and
- 602                    6. Perform other duties as directed by the Executive Board.

603                    **B. The Area Vice-Chairs**

- 604                    1. Shall represent their respective areas on the Executive Board,
- 605                    2. Serve as the chief officer and official spokespersons for their areas,
- 606                    3. Be responsible for coordinating the political activities of their areas, including  
607                    candidate recruitment and support, endorsement recommendations, grassroots  
608                    organizing, outreach, voter registration, and Get-Out-The-Vote (GOTV).
- 609                    4. Be prepared to preside in the temporary absence of the Central Committee Chair, if  
610                    elected as Chair Pro-Tem elected pursuant to Article IV Section 4,
- 611                    5. Be prepared to act as Chair, should the position of Chair become vacant, until the  
612                    vacancy is filled pursuant to Article IV, Section 2,
- 613                    6. Perform other duties of the Chair at the discretion of the Chair,

- 614 7. Perform other duties as directed by the Executive Board,
- 615 8. Area Vice Chairs may designate another Central Committee member from their Area  
616 to serve on the Executive Board in their place in the event of a temporary absence,
- 617 9. In their Areas, Vice-Chairs shall:
- 618 a. Support and coordinate official Party sponsored events and activities such as the  
619 annual fundraiser,
- 620 b. Coordinate area fundraising to support candidates, offices, and mailings,
- 621 c. Schedule, notice, and conduct Area meetings as specified in the Policies and  
622 Procedures,
- 623 d. Provide guidance and leadership to the Executive Board and This Committee,
- 624 e. Implement the policies of the Executive Board and This Committee,
- 625 f. Develop and refine policy presentations for consideration by the Executive  
626 Board,
- 627 g. Review legal and personnel matters for presentation to the Executive Board, and
- 628 h. Carry out any other duties required by these Bylaws.
- 629 10. Submit attendance records and minutes for regular and special meetings to the  
630 County Party Secretary.

### 631 C. The Secretary

- 632 1. Shall maintain all membership records, attendance records and journals of the  
633 Central Committee and Executive Board,
- 634 2. Maintain current membership lists of SDCDP committees,
- 635 3. Attend all meetings of This Committee and the Executive Board and take records of  
636 the proceeding of such meetings, including records of attendance,
- 637 4. Make available minutes of these meetings to members of This Committee,
- 638 5. Serve on the Credentials Committee, and
- 639 6. Perform other duties as directed by the Executive Board.

### 640 D. The Controller

- 641 1. Shall be responsible for the receipt and custody of This Committee's funds,
- 642 2. Keep the financial record of This Committee,

- 643 3. Present an income statement and balance sheet at each meeting of This Committee,  
644 4. Allow any member of This Committee to inspect the financial records after the receipt  
645 of reasonable notice,  
646 5. Perform other duties as directed by the Executive Board, and  
647 6. The Controller in office at the end of the fiscal year shall be responsible for closing  
648 the books for that fiscal year and shall complete any tax forms or financial reporting  
649 forms pertaining to all or part of his or her term of office.

650 **E. The Director of Administration**

- 651 1. Shall keep the Bylaws of This Committee current and consistent with the law,  
652 2. Draft Policies and Procedures for approval by This Committee,  
653 3. Chair the Administration Committee and the Credentials Committee,  
654 4. Accept, file, and number all proposed Resolutions, proposed Policy and Procedure  
655 changes, and proposed Bylaw changes for review by the Administration Committee,  
656 5. Report the results of this review to This Committee,  
657 6. Manage Credentials Committee process, and  
658 7. Perform other duties as directed by the Executive Board.

659 **F. The Director of Clubs**

- 660 1. Shall be responsible for the organization of Democratic Clubs and Democratic  
661 support/affinity organizations,  
662 2. Be the Custodian of the bylaws and membership records of all chartered  
663 organizations,  
664 3. Oversee the budget, income, and expenditures of the Council of Clubs,  
665 4. Present a coordinated Annual Plan for the development and the activities of  
666 Democratic Clubs and Democratic support/affinity organizations to This Committee in  
667 accord with the Policies and Procedures,  
668 5. Support the Council of Clubs and coordinate activities with This Committee in accord  
669 with the Annual Plan,  
670 6. Serve as Ex-Officio without a vote on the Council of Clubs. If the Director of Clubs is  
671 also a current Club President s/he can appoint a member of the club to vote on the  
672 club's behalf, and



673 7. Perform other duties as directed by the Executive Board.

674 **G. The Director of Grassroots Organizing**

675 1. Shall serve on the Executive Board as a voting member,

676 2. Act in an advisory capacity to the current administration, and

677 3. Perform other duties as directed by the Executive Board.

678 **H. The Immediate Past Chair**

679 1. Shall serve on the Executive Board as a voting member,

680 2. Preside over the Nomination Committee as part of the Central Committee biennial  
681 organization process,

682 3. Act in an advisory capacity to the current administration, and

683 4. Perform other duties as directed by the Executive Board.

684 **I. The Chair Pro-Tem**

685 1. Preside in the absence of the Central Committee Chair,

686 2. Chair the Resolutions Committee, and

687 3. Accept, file, and number all proposed Resolutions for review by the Resolutions  
688 committee.

689 **Section 6. Auxiliary Authorities**

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

693 **A. The Treasurer**

694 1. Shall serve under the direction of the Controller and is not automatically a member of  
695 the Executive Board,

696 2. Not be restricted from holding a separate position on the Executive Board,

697 3. Be a registered Democrat, but need not be a member of This Committee,

698 4. Be subject to the advice and consent of the Executive Board,

699 5. Be ratified by a majority vote of This Committee at its first regular meeting after the  
700 appointment is made,

701 6. Be responsible for the timely filing of campaign spending records,

- 702 7. Complete any tax forms or financial reporting forms, and  
703 8. Coordinate with the Controller in the preparation of financial statements by providing  
704 campaign spending records and other material considerations.

705 **B. The General Counsel**

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

713 **C. The Parliamentarian**

- 714 1. Shall assist the Chair regarding Robert's Rules of Order,  
715 2. Be a registered Democrat, but need not be a member of This Committee.

716 **D. The Media Relations Coordinator**

- 717 1. Shall be subject to the advice and consent of the Executive Board,  
718 2. Be a registered Democrat, but need not be a member of This Committee, and  
719 3. Be ratified by a majority vote of This Committee at its first regular meeting after the  
720 appointment is made.

721 E. This Committee may create additional auxiliary authorities by defining them in Policies  
722 and Procedures.

723 F. Nothing shall prevent This Committee from approving compensation for the holder of a  
724 contracted position.

725 **ARTICLE V. MEETINGS**

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726 **Section 1. Number of Regular Meetings**

727 This Committee shall hold at least nine (9) meetings in an election year and at least six (6)  
728 meetings in non-election years. The Biennial Organizational Meeting is the first regular meeting  
729 of the new term and takes place in January following the certification of the Statewide Primary  
730 Election. A regular meeting may also be an endorsement meeting if it has been noticed in  
731 accord with these Bylaws Article XIII, Section 3.

732        **Section 2. Area Meetings**

733        The Areas shall meet at least once every ninety (90) days on dates that do not conflict with  
734        Central Committee meetings. The date, time, and location of Area meetings shall be determined  
735        by vote of the Area’s members. The Biennial Organizational Area Meeting is the first regular  
736        Area meeting of the new term and takes place in January following the certification of the  
737        Statewide Primary Election. An Area meeting may also be an endorsement recommendation  
738        meeting if it has been noticed in accord with Article XIII, Section 3.

739        **Section 3. Special Meetings**

740        Special meetings are limited to the agenda items necessitating the special meeting and may be  
741        called by the Chair or as specified in the Policies and Procedures. The notice requirements and  
742        procedure shall be set forth in Policies and Procedures.

743        **Section 4. Credentialing**

- 744            A. A roster of credentialed members shall be prepared prior to each regular meeting of This  
745            Committee and shall be used for all meetings that are held prior to the next regular  
746            meeting of This Committee.
- 747            B. Credentialing policies including changes to the credentialed roster during the period shall  
748            be set forth in Policies and Procedures.

749        **Section 5. Quorum**

750        A quorum of This Committee shall be composed of a majority of the members of the Central  
751        Committee entitled to vote. An Area meeting quorum shall be composed of twenty-five percent  
752        (25%) of those members eligible to vote for regular meetings, twenty-five percent (25%) of those  
753        members eligible to vote for friendly incumbent recommendation meetings where there is no  
754        declared Democratic challenger, and thirty-three percent (33%) of those members eligible to  
755        vote for all other endorsement recommendation meetings.

756        **Section 6. Participation and Voting**

- 757            A. A member must be physically present to participate or vote at any Central Committee  
758            meeting, Area meeting, or Legislative Caucus. Proxy and absentee voting are  
759            prohibited.
- 760            B. An Affinity club Associate member has the right to speak in Areas without a  
761            credentialed Associate member for that club. Affinity clubs are limited to one vote in  
762            any Area or Legislative Caucus.

763        **Section 7. Motions**

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

768       Section 8. Notice

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

770               **ARTICLE VI.       CAUCUSES**

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771       Section 1. Legislative Caucus

772       A. Definition

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

776       B. Vacancies

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

780               **ARTICLE VII.       AREAS**

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

789       Section 1. Definition

790       The Central Committee shall be divided into four Areas – North, South, East, and Metro West  
791       whose boundaries shall be defined and set forth in the Policies and Procedures.

792       Section 2. Membership

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

795       Section 3. Coherence

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

- 798 B. If Areas create leadership positions that mirror the directorships on This Committee –  
799 e.g., Secretary – those individuals shall work with their counterparts on This Committee  
800 to ensure coherence and effectiveness.
- 801 C. The Areas shall act in a manner that does not conflict with these Bylaws and This  
802 Committee's Policies and Procedures.

## 803 ARTICLE VIII. EXECUTIVE BOARD

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### 804 Section 1. Membership

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

### 806 Section 2. Duties

807 The Executive Board shall:

- 808 A. Implement the policies of This Committee,  
809 B. Develop and refine policy presentations for consideration by This Committee,  
810 C. Review legal and personnel matters for presentation to This Committee, and  
811 D. Carry out any other duties required by these Bylaws.

### 812 Section 3. Meetings

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

### 817 Section 4. Voting

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

### 820 Section 5. Quorum

821 A quorum of the Executive Board is composed of a majority of the officers of the Executive  
822 Board.

## 823 ARTICLE IX. COMMITTEES

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### 824 Section 1. Definition

- 825 A. This Committee has Standing, Special Purpose, and Ad Hoc Committees.

- 826 B. The makeup, leadership, function, duties, and rules governing these Committees  
827 shall be set forth in the Policies and Procedures.
- 828 C. The Chair may appoint members to serve on any Committee with the consent of the  
829 Executive Board and subject to the provisions in the Policies and Procedures.
- 830 D. "Gender" shall mean one being either "self-identified female" or "other than self-  
831 identified female" including gender non-binary and gender non-conforming. "Gender  
832 balance" shall mean of the gender necessary to maintain, achieve or improve equal  
833 division on a committee.

## 834 Section 2. Standing Committees

- 835 A. The Administration Committee to assist in drafting, reviewing, and recommending  
836 amendments to the Bylaws, Policies and Procedures, and to serve on the Credentials  
837 Committee.
- 838 B. The Club Development Committee to assist the development of Democratic clubs and to  
839 aid in the support of chartered clubs.
- 840 C. The Grassroots Organizing Committee to provide leadership for the SDCDP's precinct  
841 based voter contact program known as the Grassroots Organizing (GO) Team.
- 842 D. The Resolutions Committee to review proposed resolutions submitted for endorsement  
843 to This Committee.
- 844 E. The Ethics Committee to review and evaluate allegations of unethical behavior or  
845 activities involving any Democrat residing in San Diego County.

846

## 847 Section 3. Special Purpose Committees

- 848 A. The Candidate Support and Assistance Committee (CSAC) supports Democratic  
849 candidates for partisan state-level offices.
- 850 B. The Communications Committee to assist in managing and implementing the SDCDP  
851 communications plan.
- 852 C. The Credentials Committee to review any credentials concerns or membership eligibility  
853 challenges for accordance with the Bylaws and Policies of This Committee.
- 854 D. The Membership Development Committee to increase engagement in the activities of  
855 the Party, both by Central Committee members and non-members, and to develop and  
856 implement a program ensuring that Central Committee membership reflects the diversity  
857 of registered Democrats in San Diego County.
- 858 E. The Nomination Committee to review applicants for the Executive Board as set forth in  
859 the Policies and Procedures.

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

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

#### 864 Section 4. Ad Hoc Committees

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

## 866 ARTICLE X. DEMOCRATIC ORGANIZATIONS

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### 867 Section 1. Definition and Purpose

868 A. A Democratic Club is an organization of Democrats allied by defined geographic area,  
869 special interest, or cultural community. A Club's purpose is to support and strengthen the  
870 Democratic Party through the political development, activity, and advocacy of its  
871 membership. A Club's objectives are to foster active interest in the local, state and  
872 national Democratic Party, to contribute to San Diego County Democratic Party  
873 leadership and responsibility, to support the campaigns of Democratic candidates  
874 representing the Club's constituency, and to engage in grassroots outreach, organizing  
875 and recruitment within its area, or special interest or cultural community.

876 B. A Democratic Coalition is an association of regionally affiliated representatives of the  
877 San Diego County Democratic Party Central Committee, California Democratic Party,  
878 Democratic Clubs, and Democratic-friendly organizations (such as labor unions). A  
879 Democratic Coalition's purpose is to coordinate and promote the common goals of the  
880 entities represented, to develop and implement projects that are beneficial to Democrats  
881 and Democratic organizations in the region, to support the campaigns of Democratic  
882 candidates in the region, and to foster Democratic grassroots organizing efforts in the  
883 region. A Democratic Coalition is not a governing body for the entities whose members  
884 associate with it.

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

### 892 Section 2. Authorization

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

- 896 A. This Committee shall charter at most one Democratic Coalition per Central Committee  
897 Area.
- 898 B. This Committee shall charter clubs with a geographic focus. These clubs are typically  
899 named for the community and boundaries may overlap. These clubs are known as  
900 Geographic Clubs and caucus in the Area they represent.
- 901 C. This Committee may charter a Democratic Club that seeks to address a unique  
902 population, cultural community, special interest, or demographic. These clubs are known  
903 as Affinity Clubs and have a countywide voice. Affinity clubs designate the Area where  
904 their primary member will. caucus and may seek and be approved for additional  
905 representation in other Areas.
- 906 D. This Committee may charter a Democratic Club affiliated with an educational institution.  
907 These clubs are known as Academic Clubs and caucus in the Area where the institution  
908 is located.
- 909 E. Club charters and additional Affinity Club Associate memberships shall be considered  
910 through September of a Statewide or Presidential election year. New club chartering  
911 shall resume with the January Biennial Organization meeting.
- 912 F. The Executive Board, upon recommendation by the Director of Clubs, may renew a  
913 club's charter when all requirements have been met and the next regular Central  
914 Committee meeting is at least forty-five (45) days from the previous meeting.

### 915 Section 3. Requirements

- 916 A. Membership shall be open to all Democrats regardless of race, religion, national origin,  
917 sex or sexual orientation, or gender identity.
- 918 1. A Club or Coalition's voting members shall be defined as members who are  
919 registered Democrats in San Diego County or have expressed the intention of  
920 becoming registered Democrats in San Diego County as soon as they are eligible to  
921 register to vote.
- 922 2. A Club or Coalition's non-voting membership may include individuals that are  
923 registered as other than Democratic Party
- 924 B. To charter, the Club or Coalition must have at least twenty (20) voting members and will  
925 have a voice in their designated Area.
- 926 C. To obtain an Associate member, the Club or Coalition must have at least twenty (20)  
927 unique voting members.
- 928 D. At least two-thirds (2/3) of all those who make up the Club or Coalition shall be  
929 registered Democrats or individuals who have expressed the intention of becoming  
930 registered Democrats as soon as they are eligible.



931 E. Only registered Democrats, or those who have expressed the intention of becoming  
932 registered Democrats as soon as they are eligible, may serve as Club or Coalition  
933 officers or vote on Club or Coalition business.

934 F. The Club or Coalition’s bylaws shall have a process that governs the selection of  
935 potential representatives to the CDP and SDCDP.

936 G. The Club or Coalition shall meet individually at least once quarterly and for all  
937 endorsement votes and all meeting dates, times, and locations shall be provided to the  
938 SDCDP at least fourteen (14) days prior to the meeting for publication on the SDCDP  
939 website. A copy of the notice, agenda, and minutes for business meetings or  
940 endorsement meetings shall be supplied via email to the Director of Clubs and the  
941 SDCDP.

942 H. The club shall meet the requirements for endorsements in these Bylaws XIII.  
943 Endorsements, Section 8. Rules Concerning Endorsements by Chartered Clubs.

944 I. As stated in Section 5 below, the use of the word “Democratic” shall be subject to the  
945 approval of the Executive Board when a chartered club or coalition solicits funds.

946 J. Additional rules for the appointment and credentialing of Associate members and the  
947 chartering process shall be set forth in the Policies and Procedures.

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

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

953 A. The Executive Board shall determine if it will give consideration to an allegation and if  
954 so, will place it on its agenda for a designated subsequent meeting.

955 B. At least twenty (20) days’ written notice shall be provided to the president of the affected  
956 Club or Democratic Coalition, at the mailing address filed with the Central Committee at  
957 application for charter or renewal of charter, specifying the allegation and giving notice of  
958 the date the allegation will be heard. The Club or Coalition President or another  
959 designee shall be allowed to respond to the allegation at the Executive Board meeting  
960 noticed.

961 C. The Executive Board, by a two-thirds vote, may recommend to This Committee that it  
962 suspend, revoke or deny renewal of the Club or Coalition’s charter.

963 D. At least thirty (30) days’ notice to the members of This Committee and to the President  
964 of the affected Club or Coalition shall precede such a recommendation. The notice shall  
965 specify the allegation and findings by the Executive Board.

- 966 E. Approval of the Executive Board’s recommendation shall require a two-thirds (2/3) vote  
967 of This Committee, the vote shall be conducted pursuant to Policies and Procedures  
968 Section VI, E. Internal Voting Procedure. Such approval shall be effective immediately.
- 969 F. If This Committee approves the recommendation of the Executive Board to suspend,  
970 revoke or deny renewal of a charter, the Secretary shall give said Club or Coalition  
971 written notice of the decision.
- 972 G. If a Club or Coalition’s charter is revoked or not renewed, no other club or support/affinity  
973 organization shall be chartered using the same name for the twelve (12) months  
974 immediately following such revocation or denial of renewal.

## 975 Section 5. Affiliated Organizations

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

# 980 ARTICLE XI. ANNUAL BUDGET

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## 981 Section 1. Fiscal Year

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

## 984 Section 2. Budget Process

- 985 A. The Controller shall develop an annual budget in coordination with the Executive Board.
- 986 B. The Executive Board shall present the annual budget to This Committee for ratification  
987 by majority vote. The vote shall be conducted pursuant to Policies and Procedures  
988 Section VI, E. Internal Voting Procedure.
- 989 C. Proposed changes to an approved annual budget shall be sent to the Controller, who  
990 shall make a recommendation to the Executive Board.
- 991 1. A proposed amendment less than or equal to one thousand dollars (\$1,000) may be  
992 enacted by a simple majority vote of those present at a regular meeting of the  
993 Executive Board.
- 994 2. Proposed amendments above one thousand dollars (\$1,000) may not be enacted  
995 without the approval of a simple majority of This Committee.
- 996 D. Additional rules, requirements, and responsibilities of the budget process shall be set  
997 forth in the Policies and Procedures.

998

## ARTICLE XII. REQUIREMENTS FOR EXPENDITURES

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999

### Section 1. Budgeted Expenditures

1000 Usual and ordinary operating expenditures that are authorized in accordance with a ratified  
1001 annual budget may be paid upon approval by the Chair of the Central Committee or by the  
1002 affected Area Vice Chair.

1003

### Section 2. Unbudgeted Expenditures

1004

Shall be made in accordance with the Policies and Procedures.

1005

## ARTICLE XIII. ENDORSEMENTS

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1006

### Section 1. Resolutions

1007 This Committee may consider and take public positions on any matter of general public concern  
1008 as resolutions.

1009

A. Any registered San Diego County Democrat may submit a resolution for consideration  
1010 by the Central Committee. All Resolutions shall:

1011

1. Adhere to and reflect the goals and principles of This Committee as enumerated in  
1012 these Bylaws and the Platforms of the National, State, and This Committee's  
1013 Platform.

1014

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

1015

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

1016

### Section 2. Nonpartisan Candidates and Ballot Proposition/Initiatives

1017

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

1018

1. The candidate is a registered Democrat,

1019

2. Endorsements are not given to more candidates than there are open seats for the  
1020 office,

1021

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

1022

4. The candidate has declared their intention to run to the Registrar of Voters, the State  
1023 of California, This Committee, or the Chair of This Committee,

1024

5. Reasonable attempts are made to notify all declared candidates who the Party has  
1025 established with certainty are registered Democrats are notified regarding the date,  
1026 time, and place of all relevant meetings and of the endorsement process at least five  
1027 (5) business days in advance of the meeting. A qualified candidate, as defined in  
1028 Article XIII, Section 2, 4, who declares their intention to run for an office after notice

1029 of recommendation or endorsement has been provided to all other candidates will be  
1030 sent all relevant information and allowed to participate at the discretion of the  
1031 meeting convener, but in no instance, will said discretion require notice beyond that  
1032 which has already been given.

1033 6. A Democratic candidate may speak or may designate a Central Committee member  
1034 to speak or read a letter on their behalf.

1035 7. The candidate has requested the Central Committee endorsement and returned all  
1036 required documentation at least two (2) business days prior to the meeting where  
1037 endorsement or recommendation will be considered.

1038 8. The filing deadline has passed, unless the candidate is an incumbent or in races that  
1039 have been identified as strategically critical.

1040 a. For races that are fully enclosed within an Area, upon recommendation by the  
1041 Area, This Committee may endorse incumbents early and without a  
1042 questionnaire.

1043 b. For races that cross Area boundaries, This Committee may endorse incumbents  
1044 early and without a questionnaire following a recommendation by the Areas or  
1045 upon recommendation by the Executive Board.

1046 c. A race may be designated as strategically critical following a preliminary  
1047 recommendation by a two-thirds (2/3) vote by the Area(s), secondary  
1048 recommendation by the Executive Board, and approval by a two-thirds (2/3) vote  
1049 of This Committee.

1050 d. In special elections, a race may be designated as strategically critical by a two-  
1051 thirds (2/3) vote of the Executive Board in lieu of the Area voting to recommend  
1052 on the designation.

1053 e. Endorsements in races designated strategically critical may be considered at the  
1054 next Central Committee meeting following the designations providing all notice  
1055 and Questionnaire requirements have been met.

1056 B. This Committee shall approve one or more candidate questionnaires to be completed  
1057 and submitted prior to endorsement by all eligible non-incumbent nonpartisan  
1058 candidates for office fully within San Diego County.

1059 C. Positions on ballot initiatives and propositions may be taken by This Committee.  
1060 However, This Committee shall not take a position on any statewide initiative that is  
1061 contrary to that of the Central Committee of the California Democratic Party.

### 1062 Section 3. Notice for Endorsement and Recommendation Meetings

1063 All Central Committee endorsement meetings and Area endorsement recommendation  
1064 meetings require prior notice to the membership.

- 1065 A. Notice is hereby given: the first two Central Committee meetings occurring after the  
1066 close of filing, including any extended filing, for Primary, General or Special Elections  
1067 may consider any race or measure appearing on the ballot for endorsement.
- 1068 B. Notice is hereby given: the first two Area Committee meetings occurring after the close  
1069 of filing, including any extended filing, for Primary, General or Special Elections may  
1070 consider any race or measure appearing on the ballot in that Area for a recommendation  
1071 for endorsement.
- 1072 C. Notice is hereby given: the first two Central Committee meetings following a Primary  
1073 Election may consider an endorsement in any run-off race lacking an endorsed  
1074 Democratic candidate.
- 1075 D. Notice is hereby given: the first two Area Committee meetings following a Primary  
1076 Election may consider a recommendation for endorsement in any run-off race lacking an  
1077 endorsed Democratic candidate.
- 1078 E. At least fourteen (14) days' notice shall be given prior to the meeting in which This  
1079 Committee considers an endorsement for a specific candidate race or a ballot measure.
- 1080 F. At least seven (7) days' notice shall be given prior to the meeting in which an Area  
1081 considers a recommendation for a specific candidate race or a ballot measure.
- 1082 G. At least thirty (30) days' notice shall be given to Clubs prior to the meeting in which an  
1083 Area considers a recommendation for a specific candidate race or ballot measure.
- 1084 H. The Executive Board may, with at least seven (7) days' notice, call a special meeting of  
1085 This Committee to consider endorsing a candidate or a ballot measure

#### 1086 Section 4. Ratings for Democratic Candidates

- 1087 A. Once an Area or This Committee has adopted a no endorsement recommendation, the  
1088 endorsement process is complete. There is no requirement to examine the candidates  
1089 further; however, the Chair or Vice Chair may entertain a motion to rate each of the  
1090 candidates: a) Qualified, b) Unacceptable, or c) No Position.
- 1091 B. If a motion has been made and seconded to rate the candidates, then all candidates  
1092 must be reconsidered, one time only, for a rating. Each candidate may be rated  
1093 individually. The Central Committee or an Area has the option to rate candidates as a  
1094 group or as individuals or in any combination thereof as the body sees fit so long as  
1095 each candidate is not examined for a rating more than once. The threshold to pass a  
1096 "Qualified" or "Unacceptable" rating is sixty percent (60%).
- 1097 C. When only one previously rated as Qualified candidate advances to a top-two runoff,  
1098 they automatically become the endorsed candidate.
- 1099 D. In all other cases, any rating made in a Primary Election does not carry over to the  
1100 General Election.

#### 1101 Section 5. Recision of Endorsements, Positions, or Ratings

1102 This Committee by a two-thirds (2/3) vote may rescind any endorsement, position, or rating  
1103 previously made in a nonpartisan race.

#### 1104 Section 6. Rules Concerning Candidates

1105 This Committee may consider a vote to designate a candidate as “Do not vote for”. The  
1106 threshold for the designation is sixty percent (60%).

#### 1107 Section 7. Rules Concerning Endorsements by Chartered Clubs

1108 A. Chartered clubs shall endorse only registered Democrats.

1109 B. Non-Democratic candidates may only be rated acceptable or unacceptable.

1110 C. Chartered clubs shall notice their full membership that endorsement consideration will be  
1111 made in a particular race or races at least fourteen (14) days prior to the meeting.  
1112 Notification shall be made by email to the full membership or, absent an email address,  
1113 by U.S. Mail or an alternative method as specified in the club’s bylaws.

1114 D. Reasonable attempts are made by the club to notify and invite all declared candidates  
1115 who the Party has established with certainty are registered Democrats regarding the  
1116 date, time, and place of the club’s meetings and of the club’s endorsement process at  
1117 least five (5) business days prior to the meeting. A copy of any meeting notice sent to  
1118 candidates shall be supplied via email to the Director of Clubs and the SDCDP.

1119 E. Requests for information regarding candidates from the club to the Party office must be  
1120 made at least seven (7) business days prior to the meeting.

1121 F. Endorsements by chartered clubs shall not be construed as the official endorsement of  
1122 either the California Democratic Party or the San Diego County Democratic Party. Words  
1123 to that effect shall be clearly visible wherever a chartered club's endorsement is referred  
1124 to.

1125 G. Any publication of endorsements by chartered clubs shall clearly delineate between  
1126 endorsed candidates and candidates rated acceptable.

1127 H. All local Democratic candidates must have an opportunity to speak or be allowed a  
1128 surrogate to speak on their behalf at the endorsement meeting for their race.

1129 I. If a club fails to comply with the rules concerning endorsements, the Executive Board  
1130 may suspend all their endorsement voting rights, until the matter has been resolved.

### 1131 ARTICLE XIV. Elected Officials

#### 1132 Section 1. Vote of No Confidence

1133 This Committee, by a two-thirds (2/3) vote, may express no-confidence in an elected  
1134 Democratic Official. An Area may make a recommendation, by a two-thirds (2/3) vote, that This

1135 Committee express no-confidence in an elected Democratic Official whose district is fully  
1136 enclosed in their Area.

### 1137 Section 2. Request for Resignation

1138 This Committee, by a two-thirds (2/3) vote, may request the resignation of an elected  
1139 Democratic Official. An Area may make a recommendation, by a two-thirds (2/3) vote, that This  
1140 Committee request the resignation of an elected Democratic Official whose district is fully  
1141 enclosed in their Area.

### 1142 Section 3. Removal of Friendly Incumbent Endorsement Designation

1143 This Committee may disallow early incumbent endorsement designation to any officeholder who  
1144 endorses a non-Democratic candidate in any challenged political race or endorses a non-  
1145 Democratic candidate in a non-challenged political race and a Democratic challenger is  
1146 subsequently endorsed by the Party who fails to withdraw their endorsement of the non-  
1147 Democratic challenger immediately.

1148 A. The Chair shall inform said candidate of the removal of consideration for early incumbent  
1149 endorsement status upon request of the Executive Board or Area.

1150 B. In the event that the candidate appeals this removal, an affirmative majority vote of This  
1151 Committee members at a properly noticed meeting shall be required to restore early  
1152 incumbent endorsement consideration.

1153 C. Candidates who have been removed from early incumbent endorsement consideration  
1154 may complete a candidate questionnaire and apply for endorsement consideration  
1155 following the filing deadline for the office to which they are incumbent.

## 1156 ARTICLE XV. Democratic State Central Committee (DSCC) 1157 Delegation

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### 1158 Section 1. DSCC Appointment

1159 A. As part of the Biennial Organization, the Chair of This Committee and Public Ballot  
1160 members shall be automatically elected to serve as a representative of this County  
1161 Committee to the State Committee as part of the SDCDP DSCC Delegation, provided  
1162 they have submitted written intent that they wish to serve on the DSCC via the member  
1163 form.

1164 B. Any remaining representatives apportioned to SDCDP by the State Committee shall be  
1165 elected at-large from This Committee's Voting, Alternate, and Associate members in  
1166 accordance with the Policies of This Committee.

1167 C. If there are more interested candidates than there are delegation positions, they will be  
1168 added to the DSCC delegation waitlist. New members appointed following the Biennial  
1169 Organization may add themselves to the DSCC delegation waitlist via the member form.



1170 D. Representatives to the Executive Board of the DSCC will be selected by This Committee  
1171 from the SDCDP DSCC Delegation following the CDP Convention in odd-numbered  
1172 years in accordance with DSCC requirements and the Policies of This Committee.

1173 E. Dual representation is not allowed:

1174 1. Members must choose between representation to the CDP via the ADEM  
1175 membership or via the SDCDP delegation within five (5) calendar days of their latter  
1176 election and notify the SDCDP with written notification via the member form. A  
1177 member who fails to notify the SDCDP of their selection has vacated the position in  
1178 the SDCDP delegation.

1179 2. If a member is elected via the ADEM to an ADEM Executive Board seat, they will  
1180 automatically become a Designated member of the SDCDP and any previously  
1181 allotted SDCDP delegation position is vacated.

1182 F. The names of the delegation members will be publicly available via the SDCDP Website.

## 1183 Section 2. Term and Vacancies

1184 A. Representatives shall serve as part of the SDCDP DSCC Delegation for the remainder  
1185 of the biennial term as long as they remain a member of This Committee.

1186 B. Vacancies will be declared and filled in accordance with the Policies of This Committee.

## 1187 ARTICLE XVI. RULES

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### 1188 Section 1. Amendment of the Bylaws or Policies and Procedures

1189 A. This Committee may amend these Bylaws with a two-thirds (2/3) vote. Seven (7) days'  
1190 notice is required to amend the Bylaws.

1191 B. The Policies and Procedures may be amended at any meeting of This Committee with a  
1192 sixty percent (60%) vote.

1193 C. The process for the submission and review of proposed amendments is set forth in the  
1194 Policies and Procedures.

### 1195 Section 2. Robert's Rules of Order

1196 The rules contained in the current edition of Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised, shall  
1197 govern This Committee, including Areas, caucuses, and committees, in all cases in which they  
1198 are applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with these Bylaws, except that in all  
1199 instances a motion to table shall be subject to a two-thirds (2/3) vote.