



BY-LAWS & RULES
OF THE
CALIFORNIA
DEMOCRATIC
PARTY

June 2008



CALIFORNIA DEMOCRATIC PARTY STATE CENTRAL COMMITTEE BY-LAWS

(amended 6/2008, printed 6/2008)

Table of Contents

ARTICLE I:	NAME AND PURPOSE.....	1
Section 1.	NAME.....	1
Section 2.	PURPOSE.....	1
Section 3.	REGIONS	1
ARTICLE II:	MEMBERSHIP.....	1
Section 1.	MEMBERSHIP.....	1
Section 2.	PUBLIC OFFICE MEMBERS	2
Section 3.	APPOINTED MEMBERS.....	4
Section 4.	MEMBERS ELECTED BY COUNTY CENTRAL COMMITTEES.....	4
Section 5.	MEMBERS ELECTED BY ASSEMBLY DISTRICT ELECTION MEETINGS	5
Section 6.	STATEWIDE NON-PARTISAN OFFICES	5
Section 7.	NOTIFICATION OF APPOINTMENT OR ELECTION.....	5
Section 8.	QUALIFICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP.....	6
Section 9.	REMOVAL FROM MEMBERSHIP	6
Section 10.	VACANCIES.....	7
Section 11.	DUES.....	8
ARTICLE III:	OFFICERS.....	8
Section 1.	STATEWIDE OFFICERS.....	8
Section 2.	DESCRIPTION OF DUTIES	8
Section 3.	ELECTION OF STATEWIDE OFFICERS	9
Section 4.	REGIONAL DIRECTORS	10
Section 5.	VACANCIES.....	10
Section 6.	REMOVAL OF OFFICERS	10
ARTICLE IV:	MEETINGS	11

Section 1.	REGULAR MEETINGS	11
Section 2.	SPECIAL MEETINGS	12
Section 3.	PLACE OF MEETINGS.....	12
Section 4.	AGENDA.....	12
Section 5.	QUORUM.....	12
Section 6.	PROXIES.....	12
Section 7.	PARLIAMENTARY PROCEDURES AND VOTING	13
Section 8.	RESOLUTION PROCEDURES.....	13
Section 9.	SEATING	15
Section 10.	SPECIAL GROUP CAUCUSES	15
ARTICLE V:	STANDING COMMITTEES AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES	16
Section 1.	STANDING COMMITTEES	16
Section 2.	CONSOLIDATION OF COMMITTEES.....	16
Section 3.	APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS OF COMMITTEES.....	16
Section 4.	APPOINTMENT OF CO-CHAIRS.....	16
Section 5.	STANDING COMMITTEE DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES	16
Section 6:	ADDITIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES.....	19
Section 7:	SPECIAL COMMITTEES	19
ARTICLE VI:	ASSEMBLY DISTRICTS AND ASSEMBLY DISTRICT	
	ELECTION MEETINGS.....	19
Section 1.	ASSEMBLY DISTRICT ELECTION MEETINGS.....	19
ARTICLE VII:	EXECUTIVE BOARD	22
Section 1.	EXECUTIVE BOARD	22
Section 2.	EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERSHIP	22
Section 3.	EXECUTIVE BOARD ORGANIZATION.....	23
Section 4.	EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETINGS	23
Section 5.	EXECUTIVE BOARD VOTING.....	23
Section 6.	EXECUTIVE BOARD QUORUM	24
Section 7.	EXECUTIVE BOARD RESOLUTIONS.....	24
ARTICLE VIII:	ENDORSEMENT OF CANDIDATES FOR PARTISAN AND	
	NONPARTISAN OFFICE, AND ENDORSEMENT AND	
	OPPOSITION TO STATE BALLOT PROPOSITIONS,	
	INITIATIVES, REFERENDUM, AND RECALL.....	25
Section 1.	PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES.....	25
Section 2.	PARTISAN PUBLIC OFFICES OTHER THAN PRESIDENT	25
Section 3.	NONPARTISAN OFFICES	33
Section 4.	STATE BALLOT PROPOSITIONS, INITIATIVES,	
	REFERENDUM, OR RECALL	34

ARTICLE IX:	ELECTION OF DEMOCRATIC NATIONAL COMMITTEE	
	MEMBERS.....	35
Section 1.	ELECTION BY EXECUTIVE BOARD.....	35
Section 2.	NOTICE.....	35
Section 3.	NUMBER.....	35
Section 4.	ELIGIBILITY AND NOMINATION.....	36
Section 5.	DETERMINING ELECTION.....	36
Section 6.	VACANCIES.....	36
Section 7.	TERM OF OFFICE.....	36
ARTICLE X:	CHARTERS.....	36
Section 1.	AUTHORITY.....	36
Section 2.	GRANTING.....	36
Section 3.	DENIAL AND REVOCATION.....	37
Section 4.	APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS.....	38
ARTICLE XI:	COMPLIANCE REVIEW COMMISSION.....	38
Section 1.	COMPOSITION AND QUORUM.....	38
Section 2.	JURISDICTION.....	38
Section 3.	STANDING.....	39
Section 4.	CHALLENGES.....	39
Section 5.	POWERS.....	39
Section 6.	APPEAL.....	39
ARTICLE XII:	GENERAL POLICIES.....	40
Section 1.	PUBLIC MEETINGS.....	40
Section 2.	TESTS AND OATHS.....	40
Section 3.	NOTICE OF AGENDAS AND MEETINGS.....	40
Section 4.	REGISTRATION.....	40
Section 5.	FULL PUBLICATION OF SELECTION PROCEDURES.....	40
Section 6.	TIMELY PUBLICATION OF SELECTION PROCEDURES.....	40
Section 7.	TIMELY PUBLICATION OF SELECTION QUALIFICATIONS.....	40
Section 8.	QUALIFICATIONS FOR RIGHT TO VOTE IN PRIMARY.....	41
Section 9.	SECRET BALLOT AND VOTER'S RIGHT TO KNOW.....	41
Section 10.	E-MAIL NOTICE.....	41
ARTICLE XIII:	AMENDMENT OF THE BY-LAWS.....	42
Section 1.	AMENDMENT.....	42
Section 2.	EFFECTIVE DATE.....	42

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28
29
30
31
32
33
34
35
36
37
38
39
40
41
42
43
44
45
46
47
48
49
50
51

- (1) One member for each elective public office named in Section 2a of this Article.
- (2) Members appointed pursuant to Section 3 of this Article.
- (3) Members elected by County Central Committees of the Party pursuant to Section 4 of this Article.
- (4) Members elected by Assembly District Election Meetings pursuant to Section 5 of this Article.
- (5) National Committee members of the Party.
- (6) The immediate past state officers of This Committee.
- (7) Four (4) officers of the California Democratic Council. These shall consist of the State President and three (3) other officers, as determined by the California Democratic Council.
- (8) Four (4) officers of the California Young Democrats. These shall consist of the State President and three (3) other officers, as determined by the California Young Democrats.

- b. Membership shall terminate, subject to renewal, every two years and shall extend from the convening of the first regular meeting of this Committee in the odd numbered year to the convening of the first regular meeting held in the next odd-numbered year, with vacancies occurring during this period filled in accordance with the provisions of Section 9 of this Article.
- c. There shall be no dual memberships. The membership of any Democrat who is elected or otherwise designated to hold an office named in subdivision (a) of this section who resigns or is removed shall terminate upon selection of their replacement. A member who becomes eligible for membership on some other grounds during his or her two-year term shall inform the State Chair of the eligibility and identify the position which he or she wishes to represent.
- d. All members of This Committee must be duly registered members of the Democratic Party of California.

Section 2. PUBLIC OFFICE MEMBERS

- a. For purposes of this Section, the following public officers shall be referenced:
 - (1) Governor
 - (2) Lieutenant Governor
 - (3) Treasurer
 - (4) Controller

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28
29
30
31
32
33
34
35
36
37
38
39
40
41
42
43
44
45
46
47
48
49
50
51

- (5) Attorney General
- (6) Secretary of State
- (7) Insurance Commissioner
- (8) Superintendent of Public Instruction, as per Article II, Section 6
- (9) Members of the State Board of Equalization
- (10) Members of the State Legislature
- (11) Members of the United States Senate and the House of Representatives from California.

- b. Any Democrat who is elected or otherwise designated to hold an office named in subdivision (a) of this section and whose term of office extends beyond January of the next odd-numbered year shall be a member of This Committee for the two-year period commencing at the first regular meeting of that year. Any Democrat who is elected in a special election shall serve the remainder of the term.
- c. Any Democrat who is elected or otherwise designated to hold an office named in subdivision (a) of this section during the two-year period commencing in January of the odd-numbered year shall be a member of This Committee upon election or designation for the remainder of the two-year period.
- d. In the case of an office named in subdivision (a) of this section to which a Democrat has not been selected at the most recent general election in which a nomination for that office was made, the Democratic Party nominee at the most recent primary election shall be a member of This Committee during the two-year period commencing at the first regular meeting of an odd-numbered year or until such time during that period that a Democrat is elected or designated to hold that office.
- e. In the case of an office named in subdivision (a) of this section for which a special election was held and no Democrat was elected, the highest vote-getting Democrat shall be a member of This Committee during the remainder of the two year term, unless the prior nominee for this office is still a member of This Committee by virtue of having been nominated to that office.
- f. In the case of an office named in subdivision (a) for which subdivisions (b), (c), and (d) are all inapplicable, one member shall be appointed as follows:
 - (1) If a state legislative office is involved, by appointment of a voter who resides in the district in question by the relevant County Central Committee of the Party. The relevant County Central Committee is determined as follows:
 - (a) If the district is situated wholly within a single county, the County Central Committee for the county in which the district is situated;
 - (b) If the vacancy occurs in a district comprising two or more counties and is caused by disqualification or death, the County Central

1 Committee for the county in which the disqualified, deceased or
2 resigned member resided;

3
4 (c) If the vacancy occurs in a district comprising two or more counties
5 and is not caused by disqualification or death, the County Central
6 Committee for the county in which the non-Democratic legislator or
7 the most recent non-Democratic nominee for the office in question
8 resides.

9
10 (2) If the office of the U.S. Senate or any of the statewide offices named in
11 subdivision (a) of this section is involved, by appointment by the Executive
12 Board of This Committee.

13
14 (3) If the office of a member of the United States House of Representatives is
15 involved, by appointment by the Executive Board of This Committee of a
16 voter who resides within the Congressional District to be represented.

17
18 g. Any member of This Committee whose membership is held pursuant to subdivision
19 (b), (c), or (d) of this Section shall be known as a "Public Office Member."

20
21 **Section 3. APPOINTED MEMBERS**

22
23 a. Each member identified in Section 2b or 2c of this Article shall be entitled to appoint
24 six members, at least three of whom shall be of the opposite sex; except that
25 members elected to Congress and the State Assembly shall be entitled to appoint five
26 members, at least three of whom shall be of the opposite sex.

27
28 b. Each member identified in Section 2d or 2e of this Article shall be entitled to appoint
29 three members, at least two of whom shall be of the opposite sex; except that
30 nominee members for Congress and the State Assembly shall appoint two members,
31 at least one of whom shall be of the opposite sex.

32
33 c. Appointment of members to This Committee shall be made in writing in the form
34 prescribed by the Secretary of This Committee, signed by the appointing member
35 and delivered to the State Chair of the Party. Appointees shall serve at the pleasure
36 of the appointing member. Delivery of notification of appointment to This
37 Committee shall be made no later than February 7 following the General Election, in
38 order to be eligible to vote at the next meeting of This Committee, except in the case
39 of a special election not certified by Feb 7, delivery of notification of appointment to
40 This Committee shall be made not later than fourteen (14) days after certification of
41 the election.

42
43 **Section 4. MEMBERS ELECTED BY COUNTY CENTRAL COMMITTEES**

44
45 a. Each County Central Committee of the Party shall elect, from its own members as
46 defined by its by-laws, representatives who shall serve at the pleasure of the County
47 Central Committee to This Committee as follows: four members as base
48 representation, plus one member for each 10,000 registered Democrats or fraction
49 thereof.

1 b. The number of registered Democrats shall be as of the most recent report of
2 registration to the Secretary of State. The Secretary of This Committee shall secure
3 the registration totals received by the Secretary of State seven days prior to the
4 General Election, and shall forthwith notify the respective County and District
5 Committees of the Party registrations and the allocation of members to be elected
6 under provisions of the Elections Code.
7

8 c. Elections shall be held by January 31 following the regular general statewide
9 election. Those committees that reorganize in January shall elect their representatives
10 to This Committee at their organizational meetings.
11

12 d. Persons elected as members shall be divided as equally as possible between men and
13 women and shall be members of the County Central Committee as of the date of the
14 first regular meeting of This Committee.
15

16 e. In order for the representative to be eligible to vote at the next meeting of This
17 Committee, no later than February 7 of an odd-numbered year, the County Chair
18 shall notify the State Chair of the Party in writing signed by him or her of the names
19 and addresses of the persons elected to membership of This Committee. Those
20 committees which reorganize in January shall make this notification within three
21 days of the elections held pursuant to subsection (c).
22

23 f. County Central Committees may provide for the election of their allocation of
24 membership on an at-large basis or by Supervisorial or Assembly Districts, or by any
25 combination thereof.
26

27 **Section 5. MEMBERS ELECTED BY ASSEMBLY DISTRICT ELECTION**
28 **MEETINGS**
29

30 a. Each Assembly District Election Meeting, as provided in Article VI of these
31 By-Laws, shall elect twelve of its members as members of This Committee.
32

33 b. Persons elected as members shall be as equally divided as possible between men and
34 women. In the event less than six of one sex should be candidates for election as
35 representatives to This Committee, they shall be deemed automatically elected, with
36 the balance of the delegation being of the other sex.
37

38 **Section 6. STATEWIDE NON-PARTISAN OFFICES**
39

40 The highest vote-getting candidate for a Statewide Non-Partisan office registered as a
41 Democrat, at the time of the close of filing, shall be a member of This Committee. If elected,
42 such candidate shall be entitled to appoint six members of This Committee, at least three of
43 whom must be of the opposite sex. If not elected, such candidate shall be entitled to appoint
44 three members of This Committee, at least two of whom must be of the opposite sex. In the
45 case of an office for which the above does not apply, one member shall be appointed by the
46 Executive Board of This Committee to fill the appointor's position.
47

48 **Section 7. NOTIFICATION OF APPOINTMENT OR ELECTION**
49

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

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28
29
30
31
32
33
34
35
36
37
38
39
40
41
42
43
44
45
46
47
48
49
50
51

- (1) That he or she is a member of This Committee;
 - (2) Of the date, time and place of the first regular meeting of This Committee;
 - (3) That the meeting may be attended either in person or by proxy;
 - (4) That every proxy shall be filed in the office of the State Chair no later than 5 p.m. of the day preceding the meeting of This Committee;
 - (5) The proxy shall be in writing signed by the member under penalty of perjury.
- b. The Chair of This Committee shall enclose, with each notification of appointment or election, one proxy form.
 - c. The Chair of This Committee shall provide all members with appropriate notice and forms of proxy prior to each special meeting of This Committee.

Section 8. QUALIFICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

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

Section 9. REMOVAL FROM MEMBERSHIP

- a. This Committee may remove any member if, during his/her term of membership, such member affiliates with or registers as a member of another party; publicly avows preference for another party; publicly advocates that the voters should not vote for the endorsed candidate of This Party for any office; or who publicly gives support to or avows a preference for a candidate nominated by another party; or fails to pay the prescribed dues as provided in Section 10 of this Article.
- b. Removal of a member may be effected in the following manner:
 - (1) At least two members of the Executive Board must sign and submit to the Secretary of This Committee a written statement of charges containing the grounds for removal.
 - (2) The Secretary of This Committee, upon receipt of the statement of charges, must send to the accused member by timely registered mail, a copy of the statement of charges and a letter stating: that the accused member may either resign or have a hearing before the officers of This Committee named in Article III, Section 2 that at such hearing, the accused member shall be afforded an opportunity to respond to the statement of charges and to confront the witnesses against such member; and that such member may be represented by counsel at such hearing.
 - (3) If the accused member does not resign, the Secretary of This Committee shall send a copy of the statement of charges to all officers of This Committee along with a notice of the hearing date.

- 1 (4) At the hearing the officers shall examine the statement of charges brought
2 against the accused member. The accused member shall be afforded an
3 opportunity to respond to the charges, to confront any witnesses against such
4 members, and may be represented by counsel if desired. Such hearing shall
5 be conducted in such fashion as to afford the accused member due process of
6 law. After such hearing upon motion for removal, the accused member may
7 be removed by a vote of not less than two-thirds of the officers present and
8 voting.
9

10 **Section 10. VACANCIES**

11
12 a. A vacancy on This Committee shall be deemed to exist in the event of the
13 appointment or election to membership of an ineligible person or whenever any
14 member dies, resigns or is removed, becomes incapacitated to act, is removed from
15 membership pursuant to Section 8 of this Article, resigns from public office per
16 section 2a of this Article, ceases to be a Central Committee county resident, assumes
17 membership through other means, or ceases to be a member of the Party.
18

19 b. Vacancies shall be filled as follows:
20

21 (1) Should a member appointed to membership pursuant to Section 3 of this
22 Article cease to be a member for any reason specified in subdivision (a) of
23 this Section, the vacancy shall be filled not less than three days preceding the
24 next meeting of This Committee by the original appointing member. The
25 original appointing member shall notify in writing the State Chair of the
26 Party of all appointments made pursuant to this subdivision. If the original
27 appointing person is no longer a member of This Committee or does not wish
28 to fill the vacancy, the State Chair of This Committee shall do so.
29

30 (2) Should a member elected to membership by a County Central Committee
31 cease to be a member for any reason specified in subdivision (a) of this
32 Section, notice shall be given to the County Central Committee by This
33 Committee as soon as possible after occurrence of the vacancy, and the
34 County Central Committee shall fill the vacancy at its next meeting
35 following the notification. The County Committee Chair shall notify in
36 writing the State Chair of the Party of the election held pursuant to this
37 subdivision.
38

39 (3) Should a member elected to membership by an Assembly District Election
40 Meeting cease to be a member for any reason specified in subdivision (a) of this
41 Section, then the vacancy shall be filled by the person of the gender necessary to
42 maintain, achieve or improve equal division as between men and women who
43 received the next most number of votes at the relevant Assembly District Election
44 Meeting. In the event that this method does not provide a person to fill the vacancy,
45 then the current Assembly District Representative to the Executive Board shall
46 call a public meeting of the remaining members of This Committee resident in the
47 Assembly District, who shall fill the vacancy with a registered Democrat resident in
48 the Assembly District who is the gender necessary to maintain, achieve or improve
49 equal division as between men and women. This meeting shall be called with at
50 least 10 days notice to the members of This Committee resident in the Assembly
51 District. Once the vacancy is filled, the Assembly District Representative to the

1 Executive Board shall notify, in writing, State Chair of the Party of the selection
2 made pursuant to this subdivision.
3

4 **Section 11. DUES**
5

- 6 a. Dues shall be paid by This Committee's members. The Executive Board shall
7 establish the time and manner by which these dues shall be paid before the next
8 scheduled meeting of This Committee.
9
- 10 b. Any member who fails to pay the prescribed dues may be removed from This
11 Committee in the manner prescribed in Section 8 of this Article, except that payment
12 of dues shall not be obligatory for any member to whom it constitutes an economic
13 hardship.
14
- 15 c. The name of any elected or appointed member who, without cause, fails to pay the
16 prescribed dues shall be forwarded to the appointing member or the chair of the
17 electing body before the initiation of removal proceedings.
18
19

20 **ARTICLE III: OFFICERS**

21
22 **Section 1. STATEWIDE OFFICERS***
23

- 24 a. The statewide officers of This Committee shall be a State Chair, a male Vice Chair, a
25 female Vice Chair, a Secretary; and a Controller.
26
- 27 b. All statewide officers shall be elected to four year terms.
28
- 29 c. The Vice Chair of the opposite sex as the Chair shall be designated the First Vice
30 Chair.
31
- 32 d. A prerequisite for candidacy to a statewide office is that a candidate be a member of
33 This Committee by the time the election takes place.
34
- 35 e. The Executive Board shall have the power to compensate the State Chair. Any
36 decrease in compensation shall not take effect until the next election of the State
37 Chair, except upon two-thirds vote of the Executive Board.
38

39 **Section 2. DESCRIPTION OF DUTIES**
40

- 41 a. The State Chair shall be the chief executive officer and the official voice of This
42 Committee, shall carry out the policies and purposes, and shall pursue its interests to
43 the best of his/her abilities.
44

* These By-Laws were amended in July 2007 to change from a Northern and Southern Vice Chair, to a Male Vice Chair and a Female Vice Chair. This is to be effective with the election of officers taking place at the 2009 Convention, or upon the vacancy of either of the Vice Chairs who were elected at the 2005 Convention, whichever occurs first.

- 1 b. The First Vice Chair shall assist the Chair in the performance of the duties of that
2 office. To the extent necessary, the First Vice Chair shall exercise the powers of the
3 Chair in the event of the Chair's absence. In the event that the office of Chair is
4 vacated, the First Vice Chair succeeds to the office of Chair until a new Chair has
5 been selected as provided in Section 5a below. The First Vice Chair shall be
6 responsible for organizational maintenance and development consistent with the
7 policies of the State Chair and This Committee.
8
- 9 c. The Second Vice Chair shall assist the State Chair in the performance of the duties of
10 that office. The Second Vice Chair shall be responsible for organizational
11 maintenance and development consistent with the policies of the State Chair and
12 This Committee. In the event of a vacancy in both the office of the Chair and the
13 First Vice Chair, the Second Vice Chair succeeds to the office of Chair until a new
14 Chair has been selected as provided in Section 5a below.
15
- 16 d. The Secretary shall maintain all records of This Committee, shall serve all required
17 notices, shall discharge such other duties as pertain to this office, and shall turn over
18 at the end of his/her term of office all records and documents associated with the
19 office of Secretary to This Committee, except as may be otherwise noted herein.
20
- 21 e. The Controller shall have access to the financial records maintained by This
22 Committee, shall prepare and deliver at each Executive Board meeting a report on
23 the financial affairs of This Committee, shall serve as Chair of the Finance
24 Committee, and shall turn over at the end of his/her term all records and documents
25 associated with the office of Controller to This Committee.
26

27 **Section 3. ELECTION OF STATEWIDE OFFICERS**
28

- 29 a. The Statewide officers shall be elected to their four-year terms at the first meeting of
30 This Committee held immediately following the conclusion of a presidential election
31 year. The election for Officers shall take place as set forth on the agenda mailed to
32 the members.
33
- 34 b. All statewide officers shall be elected by the entire membership of This Committee.
35
- 36 c. A candidate for any statewide office shall file a notice of intent-to-run for that office
37 which must be received by the Secretary of the Party by 5p.m. of the day which is
38 sixteen (16) calendar days prior to the opening of credentialing for the
39 Convention. No withdrawals shall be allowed after that date. Should the
40 incumbent officeholder fail to file the notice of intent to run by that date, then the
41 filing deadline shall be extended to the day which is nine (9) days prior to the
42 opening of credentialing for the Convention. No withdrawals shall be allowed
43 after that date.
44
- 45 d. Following the close of nominations for officers, no additional nominations shall be
46 permitted, except for an office for which no person has been nominated prior to the
47 close of nominations or for which all persons nominated have withdrawn.
48
- 49 e. No vote for any person shall be counted unless the person has been duly nominated
50 for, and has accepted that nomination for the office for which such vote is cast.
51

- 1 f. In the event only one person is nominated for any office and such person accepts the
2 nomination, the Secretary of the meeting shall be directed to cast a unanimous ballot
3 for such candidate at the time of the election.
4
- 5 g. In the event no candidate receives a majority vote on the 1st ballot, a runoff election
6 (2nd ballot) shall be held between the two persons receiving the largest number of
7 votes actually cast for all candidates who have been duly nominated for and accepted
8 the nomination for the office involved.
9

10 **Section 4. REGIONAL DIRECTORS**

- 11
- 12 a. There shall be 16-25 Regional Directors of This Committee who, with its Statewide
13 officers, shall constitute the State Officers of the California Democratic Party.
14
- 15 b. Regional Directors shall be elected for two year terms on Saturday of the first
16 Convention of This Committee held in odd numbered years. Regional Directors shall
17 be elected at Regional Caucuses, each comprised of all members of This Committee
18 resident in the respective regions.
19
- 20 c. Elections of Regional Directors shall be governed by the provisions set forth in
21 Article III, Section 3, subsections c.-g.
22
- 23 d. The Regional Directors shall assist the statewide officers in the maintenance and
24 development of the Party organization within their respective regions. They are
25 responsible for developing, assisting, and coordinating the County Central
26 Committees, Clubs & other Democratic organizations within their region, and shall
27 convene a regional meeting of the members of This Committee in the region with
28 sufficient time for input, or timely resolutions, prior to each meeting of This
29 Committee or its Executive Board.
30
- 31 e. A candidate for Regional Director must be a member of This Committee, and may
32 only file for Regional Director position of the State Party Region in which he/she
33 is registered to vote. Should a Regional Director re-register outside of his/her
34 Region during his/her term of office, he/she shall be assumed to have vacated the
35 office.
36

37 **Section 5. VACANCIES**

- 38
- 39 a. In the event that any statewide office shall become vacant, the vacancy shall be filled
40 on a temporary basis by the Executive Board of This Committee and a new election
41 for that office shall be held at the next State Convention of This Committee. The
42 person elected must be from the same section as the person who vacated the given
43 office, and he/she shall serve the remainder of the four year term of that office. The
44 election shall be held consistent with the provisions found in Section 3 above.
45
- 46 b. In the event that any Regional Directorship shall become vacant, the vacancy shall be
47 filled by the Executive Board of This Committee. The person elected must be from
48 the same region as the person who vacated the given office, and he/she shall serve
49 the remainder of the two-year term of that office.
50

51 **Section 6. REMOVAL OF OFFICERS**

1
2 An officer of this organization may be removed from office for misconduct or neglect of
3 duty in office by the following procedures:
4

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

42 **ARTICLE IV: MEETINGS**

43 44 **Section 1. REGULAR MEETINGS**

- 45
46 a. The Democratic State Central Committee shall convene a regular meeting no later
47 than April 30th of each year. The State Chair shall determine the precise dates,
48 consistent with this provision. The roll of eligible voters at this meeting of This
49 Committee shall consist of those members who have qualified as of February 7, of
50 the year of that meeting. Once qualified as of February 7, one who remains

1 otherwise qualified to maintain their membership on This Committee, shall vote in
2 the district(s) in which they are registered.

- 3
4 b. The State Chair shall call This Committee to order at the time set forth in the agenda
5 mailed to each member, and as soon as practicable thereafter shall cause the roll to
6 be called from the list of certified members and proxies. The Officers of This
7 Committee shall serve as the Officers of any meeting of This Committee and the
8 Committees previously appointed by the Chair of This Committee shall serve as the
9 Committees of any meeting of This Committee, as may be deemed necessary by the
10 Chair of This Committee and subject to the right of the Chair to fill any vacancies on
11 said Committees to insure a full complement of members. In the event there is no
12 Chair of This Committee, the First Vice-Chair shall preside and act in his/her stead.
13

14 **Section 2. SPECIAL MEETINGS**

15
16 This Committee may hold special meetings in any of the following ways: upon call of the
17 State Chair; upon call of the Executive Board; or upon the call of the State Chair within 15
18 days after receipt by the Chair of a written request signed by a majority of the members of
19 This Committee.
20

21 **Section 3. PLACE OF MEETINGS**

22
23 The regular meetings of This Committee shall be held in a suitable location determined by
24 the Executive Board or, if the Executive Board does not meet, by the State Chair of the
25 Party.
26

27 **Section 4. AGENDA**

- 28
29 a. The agenda for all regular meetings shall be determined by the Executive Board of
30 the Party.
31
32 b. Such agenda shall include provisions for adoption of a Party Platform, election of
33 Party officers, election of National Committee Members, adoption of Party By-Laws,
34 and such other matters as may be deemed in the best interest of the Party.
35

36 **Section 5. QUORUM**

37
38 A majority of the credentialed members of the organization represented either in person or
39 by proxy shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business. If at any regular or special
40 meeting of this organization, or a committee thereof, a quorum is not present, those present
41 may adjourn until a time when a quorum shall be present.
42

43 **Section 6. PROXIES**

- 44
45 a. Members of This Committee may be represented at any meeting of This Committee
46 by proxy. A member may give his/her proxy to a registered member of the
47 California Democratic Party, of the same sex whenever possible, who is not already
48 a member of This Committee subject to the following limitations:
49

- 1 (1) A member elected by a County Central Committee may only give his/her
2 proxy to a member, as defined by its by-laws, of the same County Central
3 Committee.
4
5 (2) A member elected by an Assembly District Election Meeting may only give
6 his/her proxy to a registered Democrat resident in the same Assembly
7 District.
8
9 (3) A proxy holder shall only vote in the district in which the person for whom
10 he/she is a proxy resides.
11
12 b. Proxies shall be signed by the member under penalty of perjury and shall be in the
13 form prescribed by the Secretary of This Committee.
14
15 c. No proxy shall be recognized unless filed with This Committee prior to the close of
16 registration for a meeting of This Committee.
17
18 d. Revocation or change of proxies shall be recognized by the Credentials Committee
19 only upon a signed and dated, written request made by the member which is
20 submitted by the member either in person, by facsimile transmission, or the original
21 is otherwise delivered to that committee.
22
23 e. No person may hold more than one proxy. Voting by proxy shall not be permitted
24 with respect to standing or special committees of This Committee.
25

26 **Section 7. PARLIAMENTARY PROCEDURES AND VOTING**

- 27
28 a. In all cases not provided for by law or by these By-Laws, the meeting of this
29 organization shall be governed by ROBERTS RULES OF ORDER.
30
31 b. When a voice or standing vote is taken at a meeting of This Committee, it shall be
32 the duty of Regional Directors to monitor their delegation to insure that only those
33 eligible are voting.
34
35 c. When a roll call vote is taken, the roll call shall be conducted by the Regional
36 Directors who shall report the vote of their delegation to the Tally Clerk.
37
38 d. On any demand by a member for a roll call vote, the Chair must present the demand
39 to the floor. Upon approval by at least 300 members by a standing vote, the roll shall
40 be called in the manner prescribed in subdivision (c) of this Section.
41
42 e. During any vote, the Chair may cause the floor to be cleared of persons who are not
43 members of This Committee or do not carry a proxy therefrom.
44

45 **Section 8. RESOLUTION PROCEDURES**

- 46
47 a. Form
48
49 (1) All resolutions must be typed.
50

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28
29
30
31
32
33
34
35
36
37
38
39
40
41
42
43
44
45
46
47
48
49
50
51

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

b. Timely Resolutions

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

c. Late / Floor Resolutions

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

d. Resolutions pending at the close of a Convention of This Committee shall be referred to the Executive Board of This Committee. All such resolutions shall first be presented to the Resolutions Committee for recommendation to the Executive Board. The Resolutions Committee shall recommend: adoption, adoption with amendment, or rejection. Such resolutions shall be presented to the Executive Board for consideration in its original form unless the sponsor agrees to the amendment(s) recommended by the Resolutions Committee.

1 **Section 9. SEATING**

2
3 Seating at meetings of This Committee shall be organized by Assembly Districts.
4

5 **Section 10. SPECIAL GROUP CAUCUSES**

6
7 a. In order to implement policy guidelines for Special Group Caucuses, This
8 Committee may grant official recognition to a statewide caucus of individual
9 members sharing demographic or similar identity pertaining to their individual status
10 for the purpose of participation in the policy decisions and the outreach programs of
11 the Party. Recognition shall be subject to the following provisions:
12

13 (1) A Caucus membership list and Caucus By-Laws are submitted for approval
14 to the Executive Board by way of the Rules Committee.
15

16 (2) The Caucus membership list is comprised of at least one percent of the full
17 membership of This Committee, with each person on such list affirming by
18 signature support for the official recognition of such a Caucus and affirming
19 that he or she shares the demographic or similar identity which defines the
20 Caucus.
21

22 (3) The Caucus By-Laws are consistent with the By-Laws of this organization
23 and recognize the obligations of the caucus under the General Provisions of
24 the By-Laws of This Committee.
25

26 (4) Each Special Group Caucus recognized by This Committee shall neither
27 raise nor disburse funds other than nominal dues, and standard or routine
28 costs of regular meetings, which shall be promptly accounted for and
29 processed according to rules promulgated by the Finance Committee.
30

31 (5) A Statewide Organization representing or sharing substantially similar
32 interests has not been issued a charter under the provisions of Article X of
33 these bylaws.
34

35 b. Failure to comply with subsections 1-5 above may subject a recognized caucus to
36 decertification by This Committee.
37

38 c. Official recognition of a Caucus shall extend throughout the remainder of the
39 two-year term of membership on This Committee.
40

41 d. The Chair of an officially recognized Caucus must be a member of This Committee
42 and shall be a member of the Executive Board of This Committee.
43

44 e. Membership and full voting rights in an officially recognized Caucus shall be open
45 to all registered Democrats who meet the membership requirements of such Caucus
46 By-Laws.
47
48

1 **ARTICLE V: STANDING COMMITTEES AND SPECIAL**
2 **COMMITTEES**

3
4 **Section 1. STANDING COMMITTEES**

5
6 This Committee shall have the following Standing Committees with the duties as set forth
7 herein below: Credentials; Rules; Resolutions; Platform; Affirmative Action; Legislation;
8 Finance; Voter Services; and Organizational Development.
9

10 **Section 2. CONSOLIDATION OF COMMITTEES**

11
12 The Chair of This Committee, during his/her tenure, may also consolidate, or if once done,
13 deconsolidate, standing committees as deemed appropriate, subject to ratification by the
14 Executive Board of This Committee.
15

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

17
18 Except as set forth hereinbelow, The Chair of This Committee shall appoint from fifteen
19 to twenty-five members of This Committee to each of the Standing Committees
20 mentioned herein. For all Committees without exception, the Chair of This Committee,
21 in making these appointments, shall take into consideration the Party's commitment to
22 non-discrimination, affirmative action, inclusiveness, and diversity including, but not
23 limited to such things as: race, color, creed, national origin, sex, age, religion, ethnic
24 identity, sexual orientation, persons with disabilities as defined by the Americans with
25 Disabilities Act of 1990, economic status. The geographical location of the appointees,
26 including their residence in urban, suburban, or rural communities, shall also guide the
27 Chair of This Committee in making appointments to each Standing Committee.
28

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

30
31 The Chair of This Committee shall appoint co-chairs of each Standing Committee from
32 among its members.
33

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

35
36 **a. Credentials Committee:**

37 The Credentials Committee shall be comprised of 25-40 members. It shall be the
38 duty of the Credentials Committee to approve the credentials of all persons appointed
39 or elected to This Committee, to present a list of qualified members to the Chair of
40 This Committee as soon as practicable, and to hear certain appeals from decisions of
41 the Compliance Review Commission, as specified in Article XI. The Credentials
42 Committee shall review and approve all proxies in accordance with Section 6 of
43 Article IV of these By-Laws. All challenges of members or proxies shall be referred
44 to the Credentials Committee for resolution
45

46 **b. Rules Committee:**

47 It shall be the duty of the Rules Committee to keep the By-Laws and Rules of This
48 Committee consistent with the aims and policies of This Committee, to propose
49 changes in the rules and By-Laws and special rules when necessary, to adopt
50 guidelines upon recommendation of the Organizational Development Committee for

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

5
6 **c. Resolutions Committee:**

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

13
14 **d. Platform Committee:**

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

21
22 **e. Finance Committee:**

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

29
30 **f. Affirmative Action Committee:**

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

- 40
41 (1) The delegates to all State Conventions and Conferences;
42
43 (2) The members of all standing committees of the State Central Committee of
44 the California Democratic Party;
45
46 (3) California delegates to all National Conventions and Conferences;
47
48 (4) The staff of the State Party.

49
50 **g. Legislation Committee:**

1 It shall be the function of the Legislation Committee to propose legislation when
2 needed, in response to the duties and policies of the Party; to maintain a listing of all
3 pending legislation that is of "must" and/or major concern to the Party; and to keep a
4 record of the vote by the Democratic Party legislators on such legislative items.
5

6 **h. Voter Services Committee:**

7 The Voter Services Committee shall be composed of between 50 and 75 members. It
8 shall be the duty of the Voter Services Committee:
9

- 10 (1) To develop a system of grass roots organizing at the precinct level to
11 facilitate active participation of voters in Democratic Party activities;
- 12
- 13 (2) To coordinate programs to increase Democratic Party voter registration;
- 14
- 15 (3) To organize new citizen swearing in events;
- 16
- 17 (4) To organize outreach at college campuses and other sources of potential new
18 Democratic registrants;
- 19
- 20 (5) To recommend goals and guidelines for the State Party voter contact
21 program, such as an operational plan for an effective vote-by-mail campaign
22 in each special and general election for state and local campaigns;
- 23
- 24 (6) To develop a plan to increase the percentage of Democratic voters who
25 register for permanent vote-by-mail status.
- 26
- 27 (7) To coordinate training seminars which include instruction on campaign
28 management, issues, and financial reporting requirements;
- 29
- 30 (8) To make every reasonable effort to assure that with respect to each and every
31 partisan office that there shall be at least one Democratic candidate who has
32 filed, who wishes the Party's endorsement, and who is worthy of
33 consideration for that endorsement as allowed for in Article VIII,
34 Endorsement of Candidates;
- 35
- 36 (9) To review those non-partisan races in which there was no Democrat
37 candidate in the preceding election to that office and to ensure there shall be
38 at least one Democratic candidate for the next election to that office;
- 39

40 **i. Organizational Development Committee:**

41 It shall be the duty of the Organizational Development Committee:
42

- 43 (1) To recommend to the State Chair local, state and national political strategies,
44 activities, and policies designed to improve the organizational effectiveness
45 of the Party;
- 46
- 47 (2) To propose a plan for redistricting of the Regions after each State
48 Reapportionment is adopted;
- 49
- 50 (3) To propose guidelines to the Rules Committee, for their consideration and
51 approval, concerning the Chartering of Organizations under Article X of

1 these bylaws; and,

- 2
3 (4) To recommend to the Executive Board the granting or rejection, of
4 applications for Charter of organizations under Article X of these bylaws
5 pursuant to guidelines adopted by the Rules Committee.
6

7 **Section 6: ADDITIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES**

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

- 10
11 a. prepare an Action Plan within three months of their appointment, and annually
12 thereafter, for consideration and adoption by those committees at their next meeting
13 with individual assignments for the members of the committee,
14
15 b. transmit the Action Plan to the Executive Board of This Committee for consideration
16 and adoption, and
17
18 c. make regular reports to the Executive Board on their Committee's activities and
19 progress on the Action Plans.
20
21 d. make annual reports to the State Delegates on their Committee's activities and
22 progress on the Action Plans. This would be made public to the state delegates 14
23 days before the Convention by listing it on the Party's website.
24

25 **Section 7: SPECIAL COMMITTEES**

26 The Chair of This Committee may appoint such special committees as he or she deems
27 appropriate.
28
29

30 **ARTICLE VI: ASSEMBLY DISTRICTS AND ASSEMBLY DISTRICT**
31 **ELECTION MEETINGS**

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

- 34
35 a. Regular, biennial Assembly District Election Meetings shall be held within each
36 Assembly District in the State:
37
38 (1) The Election Meetings shall be held on the Saturday or Sunday of the
39 second full weekend in January in odd-numbered years, with such meeting
40 beginning no earlier than 10 am nor begin later than 3 pm.
41
42 (2) Persons eligible to participate shall be all registered Democrats residing in
43 the Assembly District who were eligible to participate as such in the
44 preceding General Election; provided however, that if a person turned 18,
45 or became a United States citizen by virtue of naturalization, after the last
46 day for registration for said election, execution on the day of the Election
47 Meeting of a legally valid voter registration form showing a residence
48 within the Assembly District shall constitute prima facie evidence of
49 eligibility to participate.
50

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28
29
30
31
32
33
34
35
36
37
38
39
40
41
42
43
44
45
46
47
48
49
50

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

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

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

- c. The Convener shall make every reasonable effort to make known to all registered Democrats in the District of the date, time, place, and purpose of the Election Meeting, the rules for participation in the Election Meeting, and the filing deadlines and rules for candidates for delegate, by transmitting notice of the Election Meeting no later than December 21 of the year preceding the holding of the Election Meeting to the following persons:
 - (1) All members of This Committee residing in the District (to be obtained from the Secretary of This Committee).
 - (2) All members of the County Committee residing in the District (if one or more counties lie wholly within the District, then the notice shall be transmitted to all members of those County Committees) (to be obtained from the Chairs of any County Committees which lie wholly or in part within the Assembly District).
 - (3) All attendees of the previous Assembly District Election Meeting (to be obtained from the Secretary of This Committee).

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

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

- f. A registration fee for all voting participants, for the purpose of defraying the cost of the Election Meeting, shall be collected. Such fee shall not exceed five dollars (\$5.00). The registration fee shall be waived for those participants who claim economic hardship.

- 1 g. A list of names, addresses, e-mail addresses, and phones of all persons attending the
2 Election Meeting as participants shall be forwarded by the Convener to the Chair of
3 This Committee within three days after the Election Meeting is held.
4
- 5 h. Each Election Meeting participant shall be asked, on a form provided by the
6 Secretary of This Committee, to indicate his or her willingness to assume an
7 organizational responsibility for one or more precincts within the district or to
8 assume another specified organizational responsibility for the Party. Copies of a list
9 of the persons so expressing such willingness to assume responsibility and of the
10 responsibility each person is agreed to assume shall be sent by the Convener to the
11 Chair of This Committee and the Chair(s) of the appropriate County Committee(s).
12
- 13 i. The Rules Committee of This Committee shall promulgate procedures governing the
14 conduct of the Election Meeting, including the election of 12 delegates to This
15 Committee as set forth in Article II, Section 5, and one representative to the
16 Executive Board, as set forth in Article VII, Section 2(c), which Rules shall include,
17 for candidates for delegate, a filing period 12 days prior to the biennial Assembly
18 District Election Meetings and call for the posting of eligible delegate names on the
19 Party's website.
20
- 21 j. The Convener shall transmit to the Chair of This Committee the names and titles of
22 those elected pursuant to the previous paragraph.
23
- 24 k. Assembly District Representatives to the State Executive Board.
25
- 26 (1) An Assembly District Representative to the State Executive Board shall be
27 chosen at each Assembly District Election Meeting from among those
28 persons who will be delegates (resident in the respective Assembly District)
29 to the forthcoming biennial convention of This Committee by virtue of being
30 a member of This Committee pursuant to Article II, Section 2b, 2d, 2e;
31 Article II, Section 3; or Article II, Section 5.
32
- 33 (2) In the event that an Assembly District has not been represented at two
34 successive meetings of the Executive Board, the Representative shall be
35 subject to removal from the board upon notification of the Regional
36 Director in whose region the Assembly District is contained.
37
- 38 (3) In the event of a vacancy of the office of Assembly District Representative
39 to the State Executive Board (either by operation of this subsection k or
40 otherwise), the Regional Director for the applicable Assembly District shall
41 call a public meeting of the members of This Committee resident in the
42 Assembly District, who shall fill the vacancy from among those
43 persons enumerated in paragraph (1) of this subsection k. This meeting shall
44 be called with at least 10 days notice to the members of This Committee
45 resident in the Assembly District. For the purpose of this meeting only, a
46 quorum shall be 5 (five) members of This Committee resident in the
47 Assembly District. Once the vacancy is filled, the person who called the
48 meeting to fill the vacancy shall notify, in writing, the State Chair of the
49 Party of the selection made pursuant to this subdivision.”
50
51

1 **ARTICLE VII: EXECUTIVE BOARD**

2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28
29
30
31
32
33
34
35
36
37
38
39
40
41
42
43
44
45
46
47
48
49

Section 1. EXECUTIVE BOARD

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

Section 2. EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERSHIP

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

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

- 1 f. The President of the California Democratic Council and of the California Young
2 Democrats.
3
4 g. The chair or co-chairs of each Standing Committee of This Committee.
5
6 h. The Chair of each caucus officially recognized by This Committee pursuant to
7 Article IV, Section 10 of these By-Laws.
8

9 **Section 3. EXECUTIVE BOARD ORGANIZATION**

10
11 The State Chair shall be the Chair of the Executive Board, and the State Secretary shall be
12 the Secretary of the Executive Board.
13

14 **Section 4. EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETINGS**

- 15
16 a. The Executive Board shall convene in regular meetings at least three times in each
17 calendar year. Such regular meetings shall be held at such time and place as the
18 Executive Board may designate so long as no two consecutive meetings are held in
19 the same Section.
20
21 b. The Executive Board may convene in special meetings in the following manner:
22
23 (1) At the call of the State Chair and at such time and in such place as he or she
24 may designate; or,
25
26 (2) Upon written request, designating the time and place of such special meeting,
27 submitted to the State Chair signed by fifty (50) or more members of the
28 Executive Board.
29
30 c. Notice of the regular and special meetings shall be given by the Secretary. The
31 Secretary shall mail notices to each member of the Executive Board at least ten days
32 prior to the meeting. If, upon good cause, the time is shortened by the Chair of This
33 Committee, upon advice and consent of the remaining Statewide Officers of This
34 Committee, notice must be given at least three days prior to the meeting. Notice of
35 any vote on endorsements of candidates or endorsements of, or opposition to,
36 propositions, initiatives, referendum, or recall, shall be sent at least thirty days
37 prior to the meeting, unless, upon good cause, the Chair of This Committee, upon
38 advice and consent of the remaining Statewide Officers of This Committee,
39 shortens notice to no less than ten days.
40

41 **Section 5. EXECUTIVE BOARD VOTING**

- 42
43 a. Members of the Executive Board may vote in person or by proxy. A person holding
44 the proxy must be a member of This Committee but not a member of the Executive
45 Board; no person may hold more than one proxy. A member of the Executive Board
46 may give his/her proxy to another member of This Committee who is not already a
47 member of the Executive Board subject to the following limitations:
48
49 (1) If the member is a representative of a County Central Committee, such
50 member may designate in writing as his or her proxyholder only a person
51 who is a member or alternate of the same County Committee.

1
2 (2) If the member is an Assembly District Representative, such member may
3 designate in writing as his or her proxyholder only a person who is a member
4 of This Committee resident in the same Assembly District.
5

6 b. Proxies shall be filed in writing with the Secretary of This Committee.
7

8 c. Voting by proxy shall not be permitted with respect to any Standing or Special
9 Committee.
10

11 **Section 6. EXECUTIVE BOARD QUORUM**
12

13 One hundred (100) members of the Executive Board shall constitute a quorum for the
14 transaction of business.
15

16 **Section 7. EXECUTIVE BOARD RESOLUTIONS**
17

18 Submission of resolutions to the Executive Board shall be in accordance with the following
19 procedures:
20

21 a. Resolutions must be received thirty (30) calendar days prior to a meeting of the
22 Executive Board by the State Chair of the Party, except as provided for in
23 subdivision (d) below.
24

25 b. All resolutions must be signed by the author and sponsored by a member of This
26 Committee.
27

28 c. Copies of resolutions submitted according to the above procedures shall be mailed by
29 the State Chair to all members of the Resolutions Committee prior to an Executive
30 Board meeting.
31

32 d. All resolutions must be presented for consideration at the Resolutions Committee
33 meeting preceding the Executive Board general session. Twenty-five (25) copies of
34 any late resolutions must be delivered by the sponsor(s) of the resolution to one of
35 the Co-Chairs of the Resolutions Committee. In order to be considered by the
36 Executive Board, a timely resolution must be approved by the Resolutions
37 Committee and a late resolution must have the unanimous consent of the Resolutions
38 Committee members present to be considered for approval. Any resolution heard by
39 the Committee failing to obtain approval may be considered by the Executive Board
40 with the signatures of one hundred thirty-five (135) credentialed Executive Board
41 members or forty percent (40%) of the entire Executive Board, whichever is fewer.
42 The signatures must be turned in by 9:00 a.m. on the morning of the general session
43 to Party Officers, Resolutions Co-Chairs or staff.
44

45 e. If the resolution is presented from the floor, the sponsor(s) must submit to the
46 Secretary sufficient copies for each member of the Executive Board present.
47
48

1 **ARTICLE VIII: ENDORSEMENT OF CANDIDATES FOR PARTISAN**
2 **AND NONPARTISAN OFFICE, AND ENDORSEMENT**
3 **AND OPPOSITION TO STATE BALLOT**
4 **PROPOSITIONS, INITIATIVES, REFERENDUM, AND**
5 **RECALL**

6
7 **Section 1. PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES**
8

- 9 a. The State Central Committee of the California Democratic Party, Democratic County
10 Central Committees, and all official units of the California Democratic Party shall
11 not endorse any candidate for delegate to the Democratic National Convention and
12 shall not endorse candidates for President of the United States until the Democratic
13 National Convention has been held.
14
- 15 b. Individual members of the organizational units identified in subsection (a) of this
16 section are in no way precluded from endorsing delegates to the Democratic National
17 Convention nor a candidate for the Democratic Presidential nomination. The Party
18 office of members making such an endorsement may be indicated in that
19 endorsement for identification purposes only.
20

21 **Section 2. PARTISAN PUBLIC OFFICES OTHER THAN PRESIDENT**
22

- 23 a. Endorsement of candidates for the Democratic nomination to any partisan office
24 other than President shall take place during a duly noticed "endorsing convention" of
25 This Committee held after the closing date for filing
26 declarations-of-intent-of-candidacy for the offices to be voted upon. (See subsection
27 (e) below for an exception to this provision.)
28
- 29 b. This Committee shall make every reasonable effort to assure that with respect to each
30 and every office embraced by the provisions of subsection (a) above there shall be at
31 least one candidate who has filed, who wishes the Party's endorsement, and who is
32 worthy of consideration for that endorsement.
33
- 34 c. Endorsing caucuses of This Committee shall be comprised of all members of This
35 Committee resident and registered to vote in the relevant district. Endorsement
36 caucuses in any given primary race shall be chaired by persons designated by the
37 Chair of This Committee. The Chair of This Committee may also appoint a
38 Parliamentarian who is a member of either the Rules or Credentials Committee of
39 This Committee, and a Secretary for each Endorsing Caucus.
40
- 41 (1) Endorsing caucuses shall be held at places and times during the endorsing
42 convention which are designated by the Chair of This Committee consistent
43 with achieving an orderly, convenient and fair process.
44
- 45 (2) Each candidate entered in a forthcoming Democratic primary, in which a
46 candidate received over fifty percent (50%) of the vote at the pre-endorsing
47 conference, or the pre-endorsing conference was unable to make a
48 recommendation due to the lack of a quorum, and who is subject to the
49 provisions of this section may request to be considered for the Democratic

1 Party endorsement, and may request to appear before the relevant endorsing
2 caucus.

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

9
10 (4) Fifty percent plus one of the credentialed members of an endorsing caucus
11 shall constitute a quorum.

12
13 (5) Voting at all the endorsing caucuses shall be by signed written ballot, the
14 results of which shall be read off as though it were a roll call vote. Once
15 received by the designated Regional Director, a ballot, absentee or otherwise,
16 may not be retracted, rescinded, or otherwise changed and shall be counted in
17 the totals.

18
19 (6) Members of an endorsing caucus shall be presented with a "no endorsement"
20 option on all endorsement votes.

21
22 (7) No endorsing caucus may endorse more candidates than there are seats for
23 the office in question.

24
25 (8) Endorsement of an incumbent candidate seeking reelection shall require a
26 vote of simple majority of the caucus members present and voting.
27 Endorsement of all non-incumbent candidates shall require sixty percent
28 (60%) of those caucus members present and voting. In the event This
29 Committee fails to endorse on the first ballot, no further votes shall be taken
30 and the position of This Committee in that race shall be "NO
31 CONSENSUS."

32
33 d. Decisions of endorsing caucuses and the recommendations of pre-endorsing
34 conferences which appear on the consent calendar as provided under Article VIII,
35 Section 2i(12), shall be subject to ratification by the full membership of This
36 Committee at a time certain noticed in the printed convention agenda, except with
37 respect to candidates for statewide public office.

38
39 (1) In the case of a statewide public office, This Committee's ratification of the
40 endorsing caucus' decision shall be assumed, since the endorsing caucus is
41 comprised of all members of This Committee. The office of State Board of
42 Equalization shall be considered as a statewide office and shall be voted upon
43 by all members of This Committee.

44
45 (2) Ratification of endorsing caucus decisions on which no objection has been
46 filed under the provisions of (3) below may be achieved by a vote of
47 acclamation on a consent calendar which embraces as many such decisions
48 as deemed appropriate by the Chair of This Committee.

49
50 (3) Formal objection to the ratification of an endorsing caucus decision may only
51 be made after the recommendation of the Endorsing Caucus has been made,

1 and must be signed by at least 300 credentialed members of This committee
2 on a form prescribed by the Secretary issued after the decision of the
3 Endorsing Caucus has been made and filed with the State Chair no later than
4 11:00 p.m. the evening before the period set aside for ratification votes. In the
5 event a formal objection is filed, each candidate shall be entitled to designate
6 one observer who may be present during the signature verification process.
7

8 (4) Consideration by This Committee of endorsing caucus decisions to which
9 objection has been filed under (3) above shall occur prior to voting on the
10 ratification of other caucus decisions and shall include the presentation of
11 arguments for and against ratification.
12

13 (5) In the event fifty percent plus one of the members of This Committee present
14 and voting fail to vote to ratify an endorsing caucus decision to which formal
15 objection has been filed, the endorsing caucus decision shall be considered
16 "vacated".
17

18 (6) The California Democratic Party shall be considered to have made "no
19 endorsement" where a caucus decision has been vacated unless the members
20 of This Committee decide to endorse a substitute candidate.
21

22 (a) Substitute candidates may be nominated from the floor immediately
23 following the vacating of the relevant endorsing caucus.
24

25 (b) Substitute candidates must have been considered for endorsement by
26 the relevant endorsing caucus.
27

28 (c) To become the endorsed candidate of the California Democratic
29 Party, a substitute candidate must receive seventy-five percent (75%)
30 of the vote of the members of This Committee present and voting.
31

32 e. Special Elections:
33

34 (1) In the case of a special election where an endorsement cannot be made at the
35 biennial endorsing convention of the California Democratic Party, the Chair
36 of This Committee shall cause to be convened an endorsing caucus of the
37 members of This Committee resident in the relevant district and shall appoint
38 a Special Elections Appeals Committee not less than one (1) or more than
39 fourteen (14) days after the close of candidate filing. The endorsing caucus
40 shall be comprised of all members of This Committee resident in the district
41 at the time of the Governor's Proclamation of the election. Such caucus shall
42 otherwise proceed in accordance with the relevant procedures provided for in
43 subsection (c) above and its decision shall become the endorsement of This
44 Committee unless, within five (5) days a majority of the statewide officers of
45 This Committee or five (5) members of This Committee resident in the
46 district object in writing to the State Chair.
47

48 (2) A Special Elections Appeals Committee will make the final determination at
49 a meeting no later than five (5) days after an objection has been filed. This
50 committee shall be comprised of the statewide officers; the Regional Director
51 of the relevant district, two (2) Executive Board members from each of the

1 following committees: Rules, Credentials and Candidate Recruitment and
2 Development.

3
4 (3) The Special Elections Appeals Committee shall allow persons in
5 teleconference meetings to constitute a quorum for any action.
6

7 f. Only Democratic candidates for nomination to partisan public office who have been
8 endorsed in accordance with the foregoing provisions shall be deemed official
9 candidates of the California Democratic Party and be entitled to the privileges and
10 benefits associated therewith.
11

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

14
15 (1) hopes and expects that all of its members will make every reasonable effort
16 to recruit and encourage persons of the highest quality to seek the Party's
17 nomination and endorsement in races for partisan public office;
18

19 (2) hopes and expects that all of its members will make every reasonable effort
20 to see that endorsed candidates receive the Party's nomination and, in due
21 course, are victorious in the general election;
22

23 (3) hopes and expects that all of its members will make every reasonable effort
24 to see that those aspirants for the Party's endorsement who fail to receive that
25 endorsement withdraw as candidates in the Democratic primary and
26 encourage a unified effort on behalf of the endorsed candidates; and
27

28 (4) intends to protect the integrity of its endorsing power by precluding --
29 including through the use of legal process -- other entities from representing
30 themselves as purveyors of an official Democratic Party endorsement.
31

32 h. To assure the effectiveness of the Democratic Party's endorsing process, This
33 Committee is committed to the principle that the Democratic Party as an organization
34 shall speak with one voice with respect to the endorsement of candidates for
35 nomination to partisan public office. It is also committed to the principle that This
36 Committee's endorsement process shall be broadly and fairly representative of the
37 various components of the Party.
38

39 Any official unit of the California Democratic Party or any County Central
40 Committee which renders an independent, unauthorized endorsement of a candidate
41 for partisan public office shall forfeit its right to representation on This Committee
42 and the privileges and benefits which may be attached thereto for a period of 12
43 months from the time it renders such an endorsement, or the remainder of the term of
44 the current State Central Committee, whichever is longer.
45

46 i. "Pre-endorsing Conferences" are a public meeting of the Democratic Party and shall
47 be held at the regional level prior to the State endorsing convention, and shall be
48 open to all registered Democrats.
49

- 1 (1) The time and place of each pre-endorsing conference shall be determined by
2 the State Chair in consultation with the Party's Regional Directors and shall
3 be set on a date after the closing of the filing of the declaration of candidacy.
4
- 5 (2) Absentee ballot voting shall be allowed for each office to be voted upon at
6 the pre-endorsing conference provided that the participation of a majority of
7 the eligible members of This Committee as delegates to the pre-endorsing
8 conference, either in person, or by absentee ballot, shall constitute a quorum.
9 In the absence of such quorum no recommendation for endorsement shall
10 take place; however, the relevant convention endorsing caucus shall consider
11 the race "de novo". The ballot shall consist of a written, signed statement
12 from the eligible voter and shall be recorded as part of the roll call vote if
13 received by the designated Regional Director prior to the beginning of the
14 roll call vote in the designated district. In the event that any Senate District
15 or Congressional District falls into more than one Region, the State Chair
16 shall assign those districts to a single regional pre-endorsement conference
17 for the purposes of making the recommendation set forth in this section, due
18 consideration being given to conflicting conference dates so as to allow for
19 full participation.
20
- 21 (3) The State Chair shall be responsible for providing each voting participant
22 with notification of the time and place of the relevant pre-endorsing
23 conference. Regional Directors shall be responsible, upon the advice and
24 assistance of the State Chair, for generally publicizing pre-endorsement
25 conferences.
26
- 27 (4) Each pre-endorsing conference shall be convened by the relevant Regional
28 Director or, in the event that there is no Regional Director available for this
29 purpose or the Regional Director is a candidate for nomination to a partisan
30 public office, by a person designated by the State Chair. The State Chair
31 shall designate a Chair and a Secretary for each Regional pre-endorsing
32 conference.
33
- 34 (5) Voting participants at each pre-endorsing conference shall be:
35
- 36 (a) All members of This Committee resident in the district;
 - 37
 - 38 (b) All regular County Committee members resident in the district;
 - 39
 - 40 (c) Designated Assembly District representatives from chartered clubs
41 and organizations.
42
- 43 1. Representatives from each Democratic Club or other
44 Democratic organization chartered by This Committee or
45 by a County Central Committee, provided the Chair of the
46 Chartering Organization has certified the validity of the
47 Charter, with such representatives allocated as follows: one
48 representative, resident in the District and duly registered
49 as a member of the Democratic Party of California, for
50 each full (not a fraction thereof) 20 members registered to
51 vote in the District who are duly registered as members of

1 the Democratic Party of California, provided that the
2 organization has provided the Regional Director with a
3 roster of names and addresses of its members and potential
4 representatives. Club members who hold dual club
5 memberships may only be counted for representation once.
6 Such representatives must be registered Democrats. In the
7 event a name is listed on two or more rosters, only one
8 name shall be counted and the Regional Director shall first
9 count the name on the roster of the organization which does
10 not deprive another organization of representation, if
11 possible; provided, however, if that is not possible, the
12 name on the roster which was first turned in will be
13 counted unless the individual is listed as a Representative
14 from another organization, in which case the individual
15 shall be counted only on the roster of the organization
16 sought to be represented.

- 17
- 18 2. The certifying authority for the representatives referred to
19 in this paragraph shall be the Chair of the chartered
20 organization.
- 21
- 22 3. These A.D. representatives may vote only in the districts in
23 which they reside.
- 24

25 (6) No proxy voting shall be allowed at pre-endorsing conferences. In order to
26 effectuate notice to all potential voters, and to determine and certify
27 eligibility to vote, it shall be the responsibility of each Regional Director,
28 with the assistance of the relevant County Committee Chair(s) and the
29 Executive Board representative from each Assembly District to identify by
30 name all persons who will be eligible voters at his/her regional pre-endorsing
31 conference and to transmit the names of all such voters to the State Chair,
32 along with the Assembly District, Senate District and Congressional District
33 in which each resides no later than the February 7 before the pre-endorsing
34 conference. A roster of the certified eligible voters shall be maintained by
35 that Regional Director and shall be provided to the Chair of This Committee
36 and to each candidate who has requested consideration. In order to be a
37 voting member of a pre-endorsing conference, an individual's membership
38 must have been certified as indicated herein and his/her name must appear, or
39 have had the right to appear, on the certified roster submitted by February 7.

40

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

45

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

50

- 1 (9) Once the names of candidates for a given office have been thus offered, a
2 single roll call vote, via signed written ballot, in the same form as the
3 absentee ballot, shall be taken as to the preferences of the eligible voting
4 participants. Once received by the designated Regional Director, a ballot
5 may not be retracted, rescinded, or otherwise changed and shall be counted in
6 the totals. A "no preference" option shall be available at the time of each
7 vote.
8
- 9 (10) Eligibility to vote with respect to a given office shall be limited to those
10 conference participants resident in the election district in question.
11
- 12 (11) The Chair of the pre-endorsing conference is responsible for transmitting to
13 the State Chair, in writing, the results of all votes taken within three days of
14 the pre-endorsing conference.
15
- 16 (12) A candidate's name may be placed on the consent calendar of This
17 Committee's endorsing convention upon receiving a seventy percent (70%)
18 vote at a pre-endorsing conference. The consent calendar shall be approved
19 by a simple majority vote of This Committee. Upon approval of the consent
20 calendar the candidate shall become the endorsed candidate of the
21 Democratic Party. A name may be removed from the consent calendar by at
22 least twenty percent (20%) of the members of This Committee resident and
23 qualified as of February 7 of the year of the meeting in the District in
24 question or by 300 members of This Committee by filing a letter of objection
25 with the State Chair no later than ten (10) days prior to the State Endorsing
26 Convention. If a name is removed from the consent calendar, the By-Laws
27 of This Committee regarding endorsements shall apply.
28

29 j. All winners of the Democratic primaries will be deemed to be the nominee of the
30 Democratic Party and the endorsed candidates of This Committee unless within five
31 (5) days after Secretary of State certification of the Primary Election either:
32

- 33 (1) Seventy-five percent (75%) of the members of This Committee resident in
34 the district in question, or,
35
- 36 (2) 300 members of This Committee, or,
37
- 38 (3) 100 members of the Executive Board of This Committee, or,
39
- 40 (4) two-thirds (2/3rds) of the State Officers of This Committee;
41

42 sign and file with the Secretary of This Committee a Letter of Objection objecting to
43 the endorsement of a particular Nominee of the Democratic Party. Said Letter of
44 Objection shall also be served on the Nominee in question by the objecting parties by
45 first class mail at the time the Letter of Objection is filed with the Secretary of This
46 Committee. A certificate of service with the Letter of Objection shall be filed with
47 the Secretary of This Committee along with the filing of the Letter of Objection. The
48 Secretary of This Committee shall, upon receipt of said documents, serve a copy of
49 them on the Nominee and the members of the Executive Board of This Committee
50 within ten (10) days of filing of said objection and at least ten (10) days prior to the
51 next Executive Board meeting. In the event that seventy-five percent (75%) of the

1 Executive Board of This Committee, present and voting, objects to the endorsement
2 of that particular nominee of the Party, said nominee shall not be the endorsed
3 candidate of the Democratic Party. In the event that the first meeting of the
4 Executive Board of This Committee after the primary election occurs on a date
5 which does not allow for the above notice, the Letter of Objection shall be
6 considered at a special meeting of the Executive Board of This Committee which
7 shall be noticed no later than sixty days after the Primary Election.
8

9 k. The only form of endorsement of a candidate for partisan public office is an "official
10 endorsement" as provided for under these By-Laws. Unless a candidate has received
11 an "official endorsement" all motions of support, recommendation, or other
12 expressions of approval, no matter how denominated, shall be out of order at any
13 meeting of This Committee, its Executive Board, its Regions, its Assembly District
14 Committees or its Caucuses.
15

16 l. This Committee shall not endorse candidates for County Central Committee.
17

18 m. This Committee shall not endorse in partisan primary races in districts subject to
19 reapportionment unless reapportionment has been implemented within ninety (90)
20 days of a duly noticed "endorsing convention" of This Committee.
21

22 n. In the event a duly noticed "endorsing convention" is not scheduled at least forty-
23 nine (49) days prior to the partisan primary:
24

25 (1) Pre-endorsing conferences may place on a consent calendar of the Executive
26 Board of This Committee
27

28 (a) by a majority vote of those present and voting, the name of an
29 incumbent Democratic Party Candidate for partisan public office, or
30

31 (b) by a sixty (60) percent vote of those present and voting, the name of a
32 non-incumbent Democratic Party candidate for partisan public office.
33

34 Such consent calendar shall be voted upon by the Executive Board of This
35 Committee in a single motion which may be approved by a majority vote of
36 those present and voting.
37

38 (2) The name of any candidate may be removed from the consent calendar by a
39 majority of the members of the Executive Board resident in the district
40 involved, or by any thirty (30) members of the Executive Board, by filing a
41 letter of objection with the State Chair no later than ten (10) days before the
42 Executive Board meeting at which the consent calendar is to be considered.
43

44 (3) For each name removed from the consent calendar, a separate vote shall be
45 taken by the Executive Board, which may, by a majority vote of those
46 present and voting, ratify the pre-endorsing conference recommendation for
47 endorsement.
48

49 In the event of ratification, the recommendation shall become the endorsement of
50 This Committee. Failure to ratify a recommendation shall result in no endorsement
51 in that race.

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28
29
30
31
32
33
34
35
36
37
38
39
40
41
42
43
44
45
46
47
48
49
50
51

Section 3. NONPARTISAN OFFICES

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

- b. A Democratic candidate for nonpartisan office who has been endorsed by his/her County Central Committee shall also be considered to be the endorsed candidate of the California Democratic Party and shall be entitled to such privileges and benefits as may be attached thereto (e.g., an opportunity, where appropriate, to include his/her name in informational material distributed with the California Democratic Party's mailing permit) provided that: (1) The endorsing provisions of the relevant County Central Committee by-laws have been reviewed and approved by This Committee as consistent with its own By-Laws and with the fundamental rules of fairness to which the California Democratic Party is committed; and (2) A Democratic candidate who has been denied endorsement does not successfully argue before This Committee that there has been a significant violation of the endorsing provisions of the relevant County Central Committee when it rendered its endorsement. Any claim of by-laws violation must be filed with the State Party Chair within five (5) days of County Committee endorsement. A 2/3 vote shall be necessary to uphold the violation claim.

- c. In order for the endorsement of the County Central Committees to become the official endorsements of the California Democratic Party, the following must be met:
 - (1) A Democratic County Central Committee endorsement shall be extended only to registered Democrats.
 - (2) Endorsement shall not be given to more candidates than there are seats open for the office in question.
 - (3) All endorsements shall be made in accordance with the Committee By-Laws provisions duly adopted at least six months prior to making such an endorsement.
 - (4) No vote on endorsement shall be taken by secret ballot.

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

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

- f. This Committee shall be responsible for endorsing candidates in any race for nonpartisan office not identified in subsection a. above. In the event an endorsed candidate of This Committee for any such race is not in any runoff which may occur, the Executive Board of This Committee, at its next regularly scheduled meeting after the Primary Election, may endorse any registered Democrat by a sixty percent (60%)

1 vote of those present and voting. In the case of nonpartisan offices which are not
2 statewide but embrace all or part of two or more counties, This Committee shall
3 delegate its endorsing power to a specially organized body including Democratic
4 County Central Committee members resident in the election district. It shall be the
5 responsibility of the State Chair, in consultation with the relevant County Committee
6 Chairs to determine the manner in which that delegated power is to be implemented
7 (e.g., to determine the voting rights of Associate members of the relevant County
8 Committees, whether and how endorsing votes may be weighted to take into account
9 the distribution of the district population among the affected counties, etc.

10
11 g. To the extent permissible, the position of a Democratic County Central Committee
12 on a local proposition being put before the voters within its jurisdiction may be
13 communicated in informational material distributed with the California Democratic
14 Party's mailing permit so long as the following conditions obtain:

- 15
16 (1) the County Committee position has been duly adopted in accordance with the
17 Committee by-laws reviewed and approved by This Committee;
18
19 (2) the material does not express the endorsement of a candidate for local
20 nonpartisan office who is not also an endorsed candidate of the California
21 Democratic Party under subsection (b) above;

22
23 h. The County Committee position shall be the position of This Committee unless an
24 objection is filed with the State Party Chair which: (a) is signed by at least one-half
25 of the members of This Committee resident in the relevant county, and (b) is
26 submitted within five days of the adoption of the County Central Committee
27 position.

28
29 i. The provisions of this section (with the exception of subsections g(1), g(2) and h
30 above) shall become effective if and when Party endorsements in nonpartisan office
31 races become legally permissible.

32
33 j. This Committee hopes and expects that every County Central Committee shall make
34 every reasonable effort:

- 35
36 (1) to see that at least one qualified, registered Democrat is a candidate for each
37 local nonpartisan office within its endorsing jurisdiction;
38
39 (2) to raise funds sufficient to provide significant support to endorsed candidates
40 needing and wishing support;
41
42 (3) to persuade Democrats running against endorsed candidates to withdraw
43 from their races and to extend their support to those carrying the
44 endorsement;
45
46 (4) to protect the integrity of its endorsement power by precluding -- including
47 through the use of legal process -- other entries from representing
48 themselves as purveyors of an official Democratic Party endorsement.

49
50 **Section 4. STATE BALLOT PROPOSITIONS, INITIATIVES, REFERENDUM, OR**
51 **RECALL**

- 1
2 a. Resolutions to endorse or oppose any state ballot proposition, initiative, or
3 referendum and resolutions to support or remain neutral in a recall election, shall
4 require sixty percent (60%) majority for approval by the Executive Board.
5
6 b. The vote on such resolutions concerning state ballot propositions, initiative, or
7 referendum and resolutions to support or remain neutral in a recall election shall be
8 taken up at the regularly scheduled meeting of This Committee or its Executive
9 Board immediately preceding the recall or statewide election involved.
10
11 c. This Committee shall oppose the recall of any public office member registered as a
12 Democrat mentioned in Article II, Section 2 of these By-Laws unless, within ten (10)
13 days from the date of qualification of the recall petition, a resolution is presented to
14 the Secretary of This Committee proposing that This Committee either support or
15 remain neutral on the recall signed by either:
16
17 (1) a majority of the members of This Committee resident in the district effected,
18 or,
19
20 (2) a majority of the State Officers of This Committee.
21
22 d. In the event such a resolution proposing that This Committee either support or
23 remain neutral on a recall petition of any public office member registered as a
24 Democrat mentioned in Article II, Section 2 of these By-Laws is presented to the
25 Secretary of This Committee, and no meeting of This Committee or its Executive
26 Board is scheduled within thirty (30) days prior to the recall election, the Chair of
27 This Committee shall call a special meeting of the Executive Board of This
28 Committee no later than thirty (30) days prior to the recall election to consider the
29 resolution. Failure to adopt the proposed resolution shall result in opposition to the
30 recall.
31
32

33 **ARTICLE IX: ELECTION OF DEMOCRATIC NATIONAL**
34 **COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

35
36 **Section 1. ELECTION BY EXECUTIVE BOARD**
37

38 The members of the California Delegation to the Democratic National Committee shall be
39 elected by the Executive Board of This Committee.
40

41 **Section 2. NOTICE**
42

43 Notice of such election shall be given to all members of This Committee at least thirty days
44 prior to the meeting at which the election is to take place and as provided in Article XII of
45 the By-Laws and Rules of the California Democratic Party.
46

47 **Section 3. NUMBER**
48

49 The number of members elected shall correspond to the number of votes apportioned to
50 California by the Democratic National Committee.

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28
29
30
31
32
33
34
35
36
37
38
39
40
41
42
43
44
45
46
47
48
49
50

Section 4. ELIGIBILITY AND NOMINATION

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

Section 5. DETERMINING ELECTION

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

Section 6. VACANCIES

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

Section 7. TERM OF OFFICE

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

ARTICLE X: CHARTERS

Section 1. AUTHORITY

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

Section 2. GRANTING

- a. This Committee may only charter organizations having as their objective the advancement of the Democratic Party.
- b. Chartered Organizations are intended to be independent of the California Democratic Party and not “affiliated” therewith, as that term is defined by the Bipartisan Campaign Reform Act and other applicable Local, State and Federal laws, rules and regulations. This Committee shall not engage in any activities that directly or indirectly establish, finance, maintain, or control any organization chartered under this Article.

- 1
2 c. Any Charter which has been granted by This Committee shall be effective from the
3 date said charter was granted, until revoked for cause as set forth herein.
4
5 d. Charter shall only be granted upon recommendation of the Organizational
6 Development Committee pursuant to guidelines adopted by the Rules Committee.
7

8 **Section 3. DENIAL AND REVOCATION**
9

- 10 a. This Committee shall have the power and authority to deny or revoke a charter of
11 any organization, for cause by majority vote. Cause for denial or revocation shall
12 include:
13
14 (1) Having less than thirty (30) members in the geographical area from which the
15 organization draws its membership,
16
17 (2) Failing to grant membership to any registered Democrats resident in the
18 geographical area from which the organization draws its membership who
19 seeks to join,
20
21 (3) The knowing enrollment of a person registered as anything other than a
22 member of the Democratic Party as a voting member of the organization,
23
24 (4) The endorsement of a non-Democrat for elective office,
25
26 (5) The endorsement of any candidate for public office running against an
27 endorsed candidate of This Committee, by any organization granted a
28 Charter by This Committee after the adoption of this Article X on July 31,
29 2005, (NOTE: This Committee previously granted a Charter to the
30 California Democratic Council in 1952, prior to This Committee's authority
31 to endorse candidates and prior to the adoption of the Chartering rules
32 contained herein, and the California Democratic Council is specifically
33 exempted from this possible grounds for revocation of Charter),
34
35 (6) Transferring of organization's assets, including funds, from the organization's
36 accounts to a non-Democrat running for elective office or his/her controlled
37 committee(s),
38
39 (7) Acting in violation of Local, State or Federal laws or regulations, and/or,
40
41 (8) A finding of fact having been made by This Committee that the organization
42 has failed to act in, and/or has acted in a manner adverse or detrimental to,
43 the best interests of the Democratic Party.
44
45 b. No organization's charter may be revoked for cause without sixty (60) days written
46 notice of grounds of revocation having been mailed to the Chair of the organization
47 in question, and the rights of response before This Committee having been granted to
48 said organization's designated representative. For purposes of this section the Chair
49 shall mean the last person designated in writing to This Committee as Chair.
50

- 1 c. The Charters of geographically based organizations shall be automatically revoked
2 thirty (30) days after the passage of any reapportionment law altering the boundaries
3 of that organization’s defined district boundary becomes final.
4

5 **Section 4. APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS**
6

7 All organizations desiring to be chartered by This Committee shall make application for such
8 charter in writing. The application shall be on a form provided by the Secretary of This
9 Committee and shall contain such information as may be required by the Rules Committee.
10

11
12 **ARTICLE XI: COMPLIANCE REVIEW COMMISSION**
13

14 **Section 1. COMPOSITION AND QUORUM**
15

16 The Compliance Review Commission shall be composed of three (3) members of the
17 Standing Committee on Credentials and three (3) members of the Standing Committee on
18 Rules, as designated by the Chair of This Committee. A quorum shall be a majority of those
19 persons. The Compliance Review Commission may meet by telephone or other means of
20 electronic communication.
21

22 **Section 2. JURISDICTION**
23

24 a. The Compliance Review Commission shall have initial jurisdiction over all
25 challenges and/or appeals arising under Article II (Membership); Article VI
26 (Assembly Districts and Assembly District Election Meetings); Article VII
27 (Executive Board), Article VIII (Endorsements, etc.), Article X (Charters) and
28 Article XII (General Policies). The Compliance Review Commission shall have
29 jurisdiction to hear and decide any challenge that is initiated before the 42nd day
30 prior to any meeting of This Committee or its Executive Board.
31

32 b. Challenges to the credentials of members initiated after the 42nd day prior to any
33 meeting of This Committee or its Executive Board shall be processed by the
34 Credentials Committee.
35

36 c. All other challenges initiated after the 42nd day prior to any meeting of This
37 Committee or its Executive Board may either be heard and decided by the
38 Compliance Review Commission or referred to either the Standing Committee on
39 Credentials or the Standing Committee on Rules in the discretion of the Compliance
40 Review Commission.
41

42 d. Challenges arising under Article VIII shall only be heard by the Compliance Review
43 Commission if the challenge was made when the plenary session of This Committee
44 was not in session.
45

46 e. During the period 120 days prior to any Primary or General Partisan Election, the
47 Compliance Review Commission may, upon written request by the Chair of This
48 Committee, issue an Order of Temporary Suspension of Charter, for a period of
49 thirty days, of any charter issued by This Committee, for alleged violation of any of
50 the above provisions, provided the request of the Chair of This Committee for

1 suspension sets forth in writing the reasons therefore, and said request is served on
2 the Chair of the Organization in question at his/her last known address of record on
3 file with This Committee, the Secretary of This Committee, and the Chairs of the
4 Rules, Credentials, and Organizational Development Committees of This
5 Committee. In the event of the issuance of an Order of Temporary Suspension of
6 Charter, the Compliance Review Commission shall also issue an Order to Show
7 Cause why the suspension should not become permanent and request written
8 argument thereon be submitted to the Secretary of This Committee within ten days,
9 after which the Compliance Review Commission may take action under Section 6
10 herein, including the issuance of an Order of Revocation of Charter or rescission of
11 the Order of Temporary Suspension of Charter.

12
13 **Section 3. STANDING**

14
15 Any party to a challenge must be adversely affected to bring the challenge.

16
17 **Section 4. CHALLENGES**

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

25
26 **Section 5. POWERS**

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

31
32 **Section 6. APPEAL**

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

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28
29
30
31
32
33
34
35
36
37
38
39
40
41
42
43
44
45
46
47
48
49
50
51
52
53

ARTICLE XII: GENERAL POLICIES

Section 1. PUBLIC MEETINGS

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

Section 2. TESTS AND OATHS

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

Section 3. NOTICE OF AGENDAS AND MEETINGS

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

Section 4. REGISTRATION

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

Section 5. FULL PUBLICATION OF SELECTION PROCEDURES

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

Section 6. TIMELY PUBLICATION OF SELECTION PROCEDURES

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

Section 7. TIMELY PUBLICATION OF SELECTION QUALIFICATIONS

The Democratic Party shall publicize fully and in such a manner as to assure notice to all interested parties a complete description of the legal and practical qualifications of all officers and representatives of the State Democratic Party. Such publication shall be done in timely fashion so that all prospective candidates or applicants for any elected or appointed

1 position within the State Democratic Party will have full and adequate opportunity to
2 compete for office.

3
4 **Section 8. QUALIFICATIONS FOR RIGHT TO VOTE IN PRIMARY**

5
6 No person shall be entitled to vote for a Democratic candidate at a partisan primary election
7 unless he or she is: 1) a registered Democrat, or 2) registered as a Decline-to-State who
8 requests a Democratic ballot, and is recorded as having done so.

9
10 **Section 9. SECRET BALLOT AND VOTER'S RIGHT TO KNOW**

11
12 a. The Democratic Party is committed to:

13
14 (1) the preservation of the right of the voter to a secret, secure, and counted
15 ballot at the first determining step of the delegate selection process and the
16 first level of participation at which an individual Democrat expresses
17 his/her personal and individual preference, and

18
19 (2) the voter's right to know how his/her representatives have voted.

20
21 b. Based upon Resolution of the DNC Rules Committee adopted on June 23, 1994:

22
23 (1) voters at the first determining step of the delegate selection process and
24 first level of participation shall have an absolute right to a secret ballot
25 which is secure and counted when he/she is expressing his/her own
26 personal and individual preference, and

27
28 (2) no vote by secret ballot may be taken at any meeting of any official
29 Democratic Party body beyond the first determining step at which an
30 individual Democrat expresses his/her personal and individual preference
31 on an action that constitutes part of the delegate selection process for the
32 Democratic National Convention.

33
34 c. Based upon Article Nine, Section 12 of the Charter of the Democratic Party of the
35 United States of America, which prohibits secret ballots as an infringement of the
36 voter's right to know how their representatives have voted, except as noted herein
37 above, no vote by secret ballot shall be taken at any meeting of the California
38 Democratic Party, its Assembly District Assembly District Election Meetings, or
39 its Caucuses.

40
41 d. Any person who has been determined to have been elected on a secret ballot after
42 12/31/01, beyond the first determining step in the delegate selection process, or
43 first level of participation in violation of these rules, shall be denied credentials
44 by the Credentials Committee of This Committee and shall not be recognized or
45 seated by This Committee at any meeting of This Committee, its Executive
46 Board, its Assembly District Election Meetings, or its Caucuses."

47
48 **Section 10. E-MAIL NOTICE**

49
50 Publication of any notice provided for by these bylaws, may be given by means of e-mail
51 provided that:

52
53 a. Members of This Committee must have consented, in writing, to receive CDP
54 notice in that manner,

- b. Members of This Committee have been advised of their obligation to inform the Secretary of any change in their e-mail address,
- c. Any such notice is denominated “Official CDP Notice” in the subject line, and
- d. Members of This Committee are given the option, in writing, of maintaining the confidentiality of their email address, or making same public.

ARTICLE XIII: AMENDMENT OF THE BY-LAWS

Section 1. AMENDMENT

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

- a. The amendment must be submitted to the Rules Committee and filed with the Secretary at a meeting held no less than thirty days prior to the meeting at which the amendment is to be voted on.
- b. A copy of the amendment shall be sent with the meeting notice to each member of the Executive Board at least ten days in advance of the meeting at which the amendment is to be voted on.
- c. If the Rules Committee fails to approve a proposed amendment, such amendment may be presented from the floor with the consent of a majority of those present.
- d. These By-Laws shall not be amended by the vote of less than a majority of the total number of members of the Executive Board, or two-thirds (2/3) of those members of the Executive Board present and voting at any meeting thereof, whichever is smaller.

Section 2. EFFECTIVE DATE

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