

CALIFORNIA DEMOCRATIC PARTY
CHILDREN'S CAUCUS

Parents, educators, and child advocates organizing on behalf of children

BY-LAWS

I. NAME

The name of this organization shall be the Children's Caucus of the California Democratic Party, otherwise known as the "Children's Caucus."

II. PURPOSE

II.A. To identify those issues affecting children, including but not limited to education, child abuse, juvenile justice, child care, health care, and poverty; to make the political and legislative system more responsive to the needs of children; and to give children a voice within the political process.

II.B. To promote the interests of, and be a strong voice for, children within the Democratic Party.

III. MEMBERSHIP

III.A. Membership shall be comprised of:

III.A.1. Duly credentialed, dues-paying members of the California Democratic Party State Central Committee who are parents or legal guardians of children and who subscribe to the purposes of this Caucus.

III.A.2. Other duly credentialed, dues-paying members of the California Democratic Party State Central Committee who subscribe to the purposes of this Caucus.

III.A.3. Other Democrats currently registered to vote in California who subscribe to the purposes of this Caucus.

III.B. All members must have signed a statement of support for this Caucus.

III.C. All members must be current in their dues, or have received a waiver of dues, in order to be eligible to vote in meetings of this Caucus.

III.D. For the purposes of the demographic or similar identity clause of the State Party By-laws, only members described in section III.A.1 above shall be counted towards meeting the minimum membership requirement of the California Democratic Party.

IV. DUES

IV.A. With the exception of the initial term of existence, dues shall be set by the Caucus at the annual California Democratic Party Convention meeting.

IV.B. Dues for the initial term of this Caucus shall be set at the meeting of this Caucus where these by-laws are ratified.

IV.C. Individuals for whom payment of dues would constitute a financial hardship may request a waiver from the Executive Board of this Caucus.

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V. MEETINGS

- V.A. Regular meetings of this Caucus shall be held in conjunction with the regularly scheduled meetings of the Democratic State Central Committee and the Executive Board of that Committee.
- V.B. Special meetings of this Caucus may be called in the following manner:
- V.B.1. By the Chairperson of this Caucus.
 - V.B.2. By written request to the Chairperson. Such request shall be signed by at least one-tenth of the voting members of this Caucus. Notification of the special meeting must be mailed within 15 days immediately following receipt of the written request.
 - V.B.3. Upon call of three members of the Executive Board of this Caucus.
 - V.B.4. Notice of special meetings shall be mailed to all Caucus members.
 - V.B.5. Special meetings shall be scheduled at least 30 days, but no later than 60 days, following the mailing of the notification.
- V.C. A quorum of this Caucus shall be ten per cent (10%) of the duly-credentialed, dues-paying members of this Caucus, or a number equal to one per cent (1%) of the duly-credentialed, dues-paying members of the Democratic State Central Committee, whichever is smaller.
- V.D. All meetings shall be conducted in accordance with the latest edition of Robert's Rules of Order.

VI. OFFICERS

- VI.A. The elected officers of this Caucus shall be:
- VI.A.1. Chairperson.
 - VI.A.2. Northern Vice-Chairperson.
 - VI.A.3. Southern Vice-Chairperson.
 - VI.A.4. Secretary.
 - VI.A.5. Treasurer.
- VI.B. The appointed officers of this Caucus shall be:
- VI.B.1. Parliamentarian.
Appointed officers shall serve at the pleasure of the Chairperson.
- VI.C. The Chairperson and the Vice-Chairpersons must be members of the Democratic State Central Committee.
- VI.D. The duties of the officers shall be as follows:

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VI.D. 1. The chairperson shall preside over all meetings of this Caucus, shall be the official voice of the caucus, and shall carry out the policies of the Caucus as mandated by the membership and the Executive Committee, by State Party By-laws, the Chairperson becomes a member of the State Executive Board.

VI.D. 2. The Vice-Chairpersons shall assist the Chairperson in the performance of his or her duties, and shall represent this Caucus in their respective sections of the state when the chairperson is unable to do so. The vice-Chairperson from the opposite section of the State as the Chairperson shall serve as the Chairperson's alternate to the State Executive Board.

VI.D.3. The Secretary shall maintain the minutes of the meeting of this Caucus and shall be responsible for maintaining current lists of Caucus members.

VID.4. The Treasurer shall take custody of all funds raised or received by this caucus, and shall maintain all proper records of their receipt and expenditure. The Treasurer shall be authorized to open and maintain a bank account in the name of the Caucus, and shall report at each regular or special meeting of the Caucus on the status of all such funds. All such reports shall be made in writing, with copies available to all Caucus members. Quarterly financial reports shall be submitted to the Treasurer of the California Democratic Party. All checks shall require the signature of two officers of this Caucus, and all checks shall be printed with two signatures required on them. Signature cards shall be updated as soon as possible after new officers is elected

VII. Election of Officers

VII. A. With the exception of the initial term of existence, all officers shall be elected to two-year terms at the Democratic State Central Committee meeting held odd- number years.

VII. B. Election of officers for the initial term of existence of this caucus shall be held at the first meeting of the Caucus, immediately following ratification of these by-laws. These terms shall expire with the next Democratic State Central Committee meeting held in an odd-number year.

VII. C. Anyone interested in running for office may provide the Secretary with a statement of candidacy of twenty-five--(25) word or less, at least thirty (30) days prior to the annual meeting. A compilation of all such statements received prior to thirty days before the election shall mailed to the membership at least two weeks before the meeting, provided that sufficient funds are available in the Caucus treasury to pay for the costs of mailing.

VII.D. Nomination for officers shall also be accepted at the election meeting, and election shall be by a simple majority of members present and voting at the election meeting.

VII.E. Election shall be conducted by a secret ballot unless there is only one candidate and a vote can be taken by acclamation.

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VII. ~~§~~ There shall be no proxy voting in the election of officers.

VII. ~~§~~ A person must be a member of this Caucus for at least 30 days prior to elections to be a candidate for office, and to be eligible to contest or vote in the elections.

VII. ~~§~~ A vacancy in the office of Chairperson shall be filled by the Vice-Chairperson of the same section as the Chairperson, which shall then create a vacancy in the office of that Vice-Chairperson.

VII. A vacancy in any other office shall be filled by appointment by the Chairperson and ratified by the remaining officers.

VIII. COMMITTEES

VIII.A. Standing committees may exist, and their chairs shall be appointed by the Executive Board of this Caucus

VIII.B. Other committees may from time to time be requested by this Caucus. The chairs of these committees shall also be appointed by the Executive Board of this Caucus.

IX. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

IX.A. The Executive Committee of this Caucus shall be comprised of the elected officers and the chairs of all standing committees.

IX.B. The duties of the Executive Committee shall be as follows:

IX.B.1. To exercise all executive power on behalf of this Caucus between meetings.

IX.B.2. To appoint the chairs of standing and other committees.

IX.B.3. To plan the agenda of all meetings of this Caucus.

IX.C. The Executive Committee shall meet prior to the regularly scheduled meetings of the Caucus.

IX.D. A quorum of the Executive Committee shall be a majority of the officers, excluding vacancies.

IX.E. The Executive Committee shall inform the members of this Caucus of all decisions and recommendations made by the Executive Committee or any standing or other committee of the Caucus.

X. ENDORSEMENTS

X.A. This Caucus, as a body constituted within the California Democratic Party and subject to its by-laws, shall make no independent endorsement of any candidate for partisan or non-partisan public office unless that candidate has been endorsed by the California Democratic Party through its endorsement process. This shall not bind any member of the Caucus from making an individual, public endorsement of any candidate, whether endorsed or not endorsed by the Party.

X.B. This Caucus reserves its right, under the Constitutional guarantee of free speech, to provide a hearing to any Democratic candidate for public office whether endorsed or not endorsed by the California Democratic Party

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X.C. This Caucus reserves its right, under the Constitutional guarantee of free speech, to publish views of any and all Democratic candidates, whether endorsed or not endorsed, especially on those issues of particular interest to Caucus members. This shall not constitute an endorsement.

XI. AMENDMENTS

XI.A. These by-laws may be amended at any meeting of this Caucus, by a two-thirds majority of the members present and voting.

XI.B. The proposed amendment or amendments must be submitted in writing to, and received by, the Chairperson of this Caucus not less than forty-five (45) days prior to the meeting at which the proposed amendment(s) are to be voted upon.

XI.C. A copy of the proposed amendment(s) must be mailed to each member of this Caucus at least thirty (30) days prior to the meeting at which the proposed amendment(s) are to be voted upon.

XII. INITIAL RATIFICATION AND EFFECTIVE DATE

XII.A. These by-laws shall be ratified by a simple majority vote of the members of this Caucus present and voting at a regular or special meeting of this Caucus.

XII.B. These by-laws shall be effective immediately upon ratification.

XII.C. The initial term of this Caucus shall commence with the ratification of these by-laws and end at the first annual convention held after that ratification.

Adopted 7 April 1995

Amended 20 January 1996, to remove minors as members