

RURAL CAUCUS BY-LAWS
CALIFORNIA DEMOCRATIC PARTY STATE CENTRAL COMMITTEE

ARTICLE I

NAME AND PURPOSE

SECTION 1. NAME

The name of this organization shall be the Rural Caucus (This Caucus) of the California Democratic Party (The Party).

SECTION 2. PURPOSE

All persons registered as Democrats, pursuant to the laws of the State of California, may become members of This Caucus.

These By-Laws shall govern the organization, operation and function of This Caucus. This Caucus shall elect officers and shall conduct such other business as the policy and program of the Caucus may require.

This Caucus may not endorse candidates for partisan public office unless a candidate has received an official endorsement by the CDP as provided under the CDP's By-Laws. Unless a candidate has received an official endorsement, all motions of support, recommendation, or other expressions of approval, no matter how denominated, shall be out of order at any meeting of This Caucus but This Caucus may take positions on ballot measures.

It is the purpose of This Caucus to accurately represent the needs of rural democrats. This Caucus does not discriminate on the grounds of race, color, creed, national origin, sex, age, religion, ethnic identity, sexual orientation or economic status.

ARTICLE II

MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. MEMBERSHIP

This Caucus shall consist of any member of The Party who is registered to vote and has paid the dues as specified in Section 4.

Section 2. NOTIFICATION OF MEMBERSHIP

The Chair of This Caucus shall notify each member of This Caucus;

That he or she is a member of This Caucus;

Of the date, time and place of regular meeting of This Caucus.

The Chair of This Caucus shall enclose with each notification a copy of these By-laws.

Section 3. QUALIFICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

A person is eligible for membership for This Caucus if such person is registered to vote as a Democrat and has an interest in identifying and promoting rural issues of California.

ARTICLE II (cont.)

Section 4. DUES

Dues shall be paid by This Caucus's members. The membership shall establish time and manner by which these dues shall be paid before the next scheduled meeting of This Caucus.

The Dues of This Caucus may be waived in the cases of economic hardship.

ARTICLE III

OFFICERS

Section 1. OFFICERS

The officers of This Caucus shall be a Chair, 4 Vice Chairs, a Secretary and a Treasurer
††† 1) One vice chair shall be from Northern California, one from Central California and one from Southern California, and one from Western California.

All officers shall be elected to two-year terms.

The Treasurer shall at the end of his/her term turn over to the properly elected successor all records and documents associated with the office of Treasurer of This Caucus.

The officers shall be the executive committee and will have the power to conduct any business which cannot be delayed until the next scheduled meeting. Any action must be reported at the next caucus meeting for concurrence.

The Treasurer of This Caucus shall submit quarterly financial reports with the Treasurer of the Democratic State Party.

The Treasurer shall present a biennial fund raising and budget proposal and shall submit it to the Budget and Finance Committee or the State Chair for recommendation and approval.

Section 3. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

This Caucus's officers shall be elected to their two-year terms at the annual meeting of the State Central Committee during odd numbered years.

All officers shall be elected by the entire membership of This Caucus.

All voting for This Caucus's officers shall be by secret ballot except when there is but one candidate.

Section 4. VACANCIES

In the event that any office shall become vacant, the vacancy shall be filled on a temporary basis by the remaining officers of This Caucus and a new election for the office shall be held at the next regularly scheduled meeting.

Section 5. REMOVAL OF OFFICERS

An officer of This Caucus may be removed from office for cause that is, misconduct or neglect of duty in office as differentiated from the Party disloyalty reasons for removing a member from membership.

ARTICLE IV

MEETINGS

Section 1. REGULAR MEETINGS

This Caucus shall convene its first regularly meeting at a time that is consistent with the By-Laws and Rules of The Party (ARTICLE IV, SECTION 1a)

This Caucus shall hold at least four meeting each calendar year

Section 2. SPECIAL MEETINGS

This Caucus may hold special meetings in any of the following ways:

Upon call of the Chair;

Upon call of the officers;

Upon the call of the Chair within 15 days after receipt by the Chair of a written request signed by a majority of the members of This Caucus.

Section 3. PLACE OF MEETINGS

Regular meetings will be held at a time and place designated by the Executive Board of The Party.

Section 4. AGENDA

The agenda for all regular meetings shall be determined by the officers of This Caucus. Such agenda shall include provisions for the adoption of This Caucus's By-Laws, election of officers, and such other matters as may be deemed in the best interest of This Caucus.

Section 5. QUORUM

Ten percent (10%) of the membership of This Caucus including at least one officer shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business. If at any regular or special meeting of This Caucus, a quorum is not present, those present may adjourn until a time when a quorum shall be present.

Section 6. PROXIES

Members of This Caucus may be represented at any meeting of This Caucus by proxy consistent with the By-Laws of The Party (ARTICLE IV, Section 6).

Section 7. PARLIAMENTARY PROCEDURES AND VOTING

In all cases not provided for by law or by these By-Laws, the meetings of This Caucus shall be governed by Roberts Rules of Order.

ARTICLE V

AMENDMENT OF THE BY-LAWS

Section 1. AMENDMENT

These By-Laws may be amended at any meeting of This Caucus, provided that the Caucus amends these By-Laws in the following manner:

The amendment must be submitted to This Caucus and filed with Secretary no less than thirty days (30) prior to the meeting at which the amendment is to be voted on.

A copy of the amendment shall be sent with the meeting notice to each member of This Caucus at least ten days (10) in advance of the meeting at which the amendment is to be voted on.

These By-Laws may be amended by the vote of two-thirds (2/3) of those members of This Caucus actually present and voting at any meeting.

Section 3. EFFECTIVE DATE

By-laws or any amendment thereto shall become effective immediately upon their adoption.

Approved at the re-organization meeting of the Rural Caucus of the CDP at the 2001

State Convention March 30, 2001.

PROPOSED BY-LAWS AMENDMENT

January 11, 2006

DELETE Article I, Section 2, Subsection e

ADD A NEW Article I, Section 2, Subsection e AS FOLLOWS:

e. The purpose of the rural caucus is to identify and promote rural issues and Democratic candidates.

DELETE Article III, Section 1

ADD A NEW Article III, Section 1 AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. OFFICERS

a. The officers of This Caucus shall be a Chair, a Vice Chair, a Secretary, and a Treasurer. All officers shall be elected to two-year terms. The officers shall be the executive committee and will have the power to conduct any business which cannot be delayed until the next scheduled meeting. Any action must be reported at the next caucus meeting for concurrence.

b. The Chair shall preside over all meetings or delegate the function in the absence of both the Chair and the Vice Chair. The Chair shall distribute the agenda seven days prior to meetings or delegate this function to any appointed member of This Caucus.

c. The Vice Chair shall preside over meetings in the absence of the Chair and perform other functions as delegated by the Chair.

d. The Secretary's duties shall include but not be limited to the following: Taking minutes at all general and executive committee meetings of This Caucus and providing copies of minutes to the Chair and/or posting them online for review within two weeks after each meeting. The Secretary should also have, at each meeting, a list of all standing committees, and such special committees as are in existence at the time, as well as copies of these by-laws and minutes from prior meetings.

e. The Treasurer shall at the end of his or her term turn over to the properly elected successor all records and documents associated with the office of Treasurer of This Caucus. The Treasurer of This Caucus shall submit quarterly financial reports with the Treasurer of the Democratic State Party and at each official meeting of This Caucus.

REPLACE THE WORDS "executive board of the Party" in Article IV section 3 WITH "officers of the rural caucus"

REPLACE THE WORDS "30 days" in Article V Section 1 a (1) WITH "in writing"

Proposed by-law ammendment n April 28, 2007

†

Article III††† Officers

DELETE SECTION 1

a

The Officers of This Caucus shall be a Chair, a Vice Chair, a Secretary and a Treasurer

REPLACE WITH

Section 1 - Officers

a † The officers of This Caucus shall be a Chair, 4 Vice Chairs, a Secretary and a Treasurer

One vice chair shall be from Northern California, one from Central California and one from Southern California, and one from Western California.

Approved at the re-organization meeting of the Rural Caucus of the CDP at the 2007 State Convention April 28, 2007.

Normal

Normal

Heading 1

Heading 1

Default Paragraph Font

Default Paragraph Font

Body Text

Body Text

Header

Header

Footer

Footer

BeckyLC:\Documents and Settings\Jack\My

Documents\Rural_Caucus_By_Laws_1_11_06.doc

BeckyLC:\Documents and Settings\Jack\My

Documents\Rural_Caucus_By_Laws_1_11_06.doc

BeckySC:\Documents and Settings\Jack\My