

# TULARE COUNTY DEMOCRATIC CENTRAL COMMITTEE BYLAWS 

Rev. June 16, 2022

# Tulare County Democratic Central Committee Bylaws 

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## Tulare County Democratic Central Committee Bylaws

September 12, 2020
This text supersedes all older versions of these Bylaws

## ARTICLE I: NAME AND PURPOSE

NAME
Section 1 The name of this organization shall be the TULARE COUNTY DEMOCRATIC CENTRAL COMMITTEE ("Central Committee").

## PURPOSE

Section 2 This Central Committee shall serve as the official voice of the Democratic Party of Tulare County and shall perform all duties to benefit the Democratic Party in conformity with the California Election Code and the Democratic State Central Committee. The Central Committee shall make every reasonable effort to see that at least one qualified registered democrat is a candidate for each local non-partisan office and to raise funds sufficient to provide significant support to endorsed candidates needing and wishing support.

## ARTICLE II: MEMBERSHIP

## MEMBERS

Section 1 The Central Committee shall have three (3) classes of members: Regular, Ex-officio, and Alternate.

## REGULAR MEMBERS

Section 2 The Regular members to the Central Committee shall be those persons who have been elected or appointed to fill vacancies pursuant to State of California Election Code applicable to County Democratic Central Committees and are full voting members.

## EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS <br> Section 3 Ex-officio members of the Central Committee shall be those persons who have been defined as such by the State of California Elections Code §7206-7207 and shall enjoy all of the rights and privileges as Regular members, including the right to vote.

## ALTERNATE MEMBERS

Section 4 Each Regular or Ex-officio member may appoint an Alternate member if they so desire to serve at the pleasure of the member. That alternate member shall have the right to vote only with the written authorization of the member who appointed him or her. An alternate member for a Regular member must meet the same qualifications as the Regular member and may vote only in the absence of the member who appointed him or her. An Alternate member for an Ex-officio member must reside in the Ex-officio member's portion of the district within Tulare County, must be a registered Democrat, and may vote only in the absence of the Ex-officio member who appointed him or her.

DUES
Section 5 The Central Committee will establish annual membership dues, The Central Committee will establish annual membership dues, applicable to all three classes of members, payable before appointment can be officially recognized. Changes in dues shall need approval by two- thirds $(2 / 3)$ of the voting members present at a meeting when the change in dues rate is proposed.

Section 6 Any member may request a waiver of dues from the Treasurer due to hardship situations. That request shall be granted and the member will be responsible for volunteering time at a rate of one (1) hour per dollar of dues waived. The Secretary shall track the hours donated by the member. The request for and granting of the dues waiver shall be kept confidential.

Section $7 \quad$ The Treasurer shall notify a member whose dues are in arrears thirty (30) days by certified mail with return receipt requested. Any member whose dues are in arrears shall not be allowed to vote in any meeting of the Central Committee until such time as he or she has satisfied his or her dues obligation by payment or waiver.

## RESIGNATIONS

Section $8 \quad$ Any Regular or Alternate member may resign at any time by filing a written, signed resignation with the Secretary, which specifies an effective date.

Section 9 Each of the following situations shall constitute automatic resignation of a Regular or Alternate member from the Central Committee:
(a) The removal of residence by an elected or appointed member of the Central Committee from the supervisor district from which he or she was elected or appointed;
(b) Appointment or election of an ineligible person;
(c) Dismissal of the Alternate by the appointing Regular or Ex-officio member;
(d) Registering as a member of another political party outside of the Democratic Party or;
(e) Non-payment of dues to the Central Committee within thirty (30) days following a delinquency notice given in accordance with Article II, Section 7 of these bylaws

REMOVAL
Section 10 The Central Committee may remove any member who, during his or her term of membership:
(a) Uses the name of the Central Committee without expressed authorization; by the Chair or the Central Committee as a whole;
(b) Publicly avows preference for another political party;
(c) Publicly advocates that the voters should not vote for the candidate endorsed by the California Democratic Party or by this Central Committee for any office;
(d) Publicly gives support to or avows a preference for a candidate nominated by another political party. This includes any type of statements of support to any type of media, or displays of political paraphernalia on the member's body or property promoting a candidate nominated by another political party.
(e) Commits any of the following transgressions, including but not limited to: persistent violations of the rules; assaults on the floor; speaking or making statements on behalf of the Central Committee without written authorization from the Chairperson or the Committee; slanderous or insulting remarks; disorderly conduct; disobedience to instructions given by the Chairperson or the majority of Central Committee members; threats to hurt a member of the Central Committee; defrauding or cheating the Central Committee; misuse of funds; false charges and accusations; disclosing financial records not subject to public reporting; violation of the oath; vilification of a member or the Chairperson or the organization as a whole; commits the Central Committee to expending funds without authorization; and, willful destruction of Central Committee property; or
(f) Excessive unexcused absences may be grounds for removal.

Section 11 Removal of a member may be effected in the following manner:
a) At least two members of the Executive Board or five members of the Central Committee must sign and submit to the Secretary of the Central Committee a written statement of charges containing grounds for removal;
b) The Secretary upon receipt of the statement shall mail a letter containing a copy of the statement of charges brought against him/her by certified mail with return receipt within five (5) business days to the accused. The letter shall notify the accused member that they have fifteen (15) days. from receipt of the letter, to either request a hearing before the Officers of the Central Committee or they may immediately resign from the Central Committee without prejudice.
c) A closed hearing by the Officers of the Central Committee shall take place no later than fifteen (15) days from the receipt of the request for a hearing. At the hearing, the accused member shall be afforded the opportunity to respond to the statement of charges and the ability to question witnesses. The accused shall have the right to be represented by lay counsel. Such hearing shall be conducted in such a fashion as to afford the accused member due process.
d) The Officers of the Central Committee will deliberate the findings and either dismiss the charge(s) or issue a recommendation, The recommendation will be taken up at the next regularly scheduled meeting of the Central Committee and placed on the agenda as a closed session item to be heard by only those members present and eligible to vote. A two-thirds (2/3) vote of voting members present shall be sufficient to remove the accused.

Section 12 Vacancies on the Central Committee exist whenever a Regular member dies, resigns, or is removed for just cause, or becomes unable to perform their duties.

## FILLING OF VACANCIES

Section 13 Whenever a vacancy occurs among the Regular members of the Central Committee, the vacancy shall be filled by the appointment of certified nominees by the affirmative vote of a majority of the members present at the next regular meeting after the meeting during which nominations for the vacancy take place and nominations have been certified. Nominations will be considered certified once the Central Committee Secretary has verified the nominees' qualifications have been met. A nominee who has never served on the Central Committee as a Regular member, Ex-officio or Alternate member may be appointed only if the nominee has previously attended two meetings of this Central Committee. A nominee who has served on the Central Committee has previously attended two or more meetings as a Regular, Ex-officio or Alternate member may be nominated to fill a vacancy.

## ARTICLE III: MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS

## REGULAR MEETINGS

Section 1 Regular meetings of the Central Committee shall be held each calendar month unless otherwise directed by the affirmative vote of the majority of the voting members. The Executive Committee, whenever there is good cause, may change the date of a regular meeting, provided that proper notice is given. Meetings are open to all Democrats, or to anyone who expresses an intention to register as such when an impediment due to age or citizenship status disappears.

## SPECIAL MEETINGS <br> Section 2 The Chairperson, with the concurrence of a majority of the Executive Committee, may call a special meeting at any time provided that proper notice is given. <br> Section 3 If at least ten (10) Regular and or Ex-officio members of the Central Committee make a written request for a special meeting, such meeting must be called, provided that no business other than that specified in the call may be transacted and provided that proper notice has been given.

## ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING

Section 4 An organizational meeting shall called to gather newly-elected and ex-officio members on the first week of the month immediately following the certification of Statewide or Presidential Primary Election results by the Tulare County Registrar of Voters. Election of Officers, appointment of standing committees, setting the schedule for regular meetings, and establishment of annual membership dues amounts will take place at the Organizational Meeting.

## PROPER NOTICE OF MEETINGS

Section 5 The Secretary of the Central Committee shall notify each Regular, Ex-officio, and Alternate member of the Central Committee by postal mail, telephone or electronic mail at least seven (7) days in advance of a regular, special and organizational meeting of the Central Committee. Such notice shall state the date, time, and place of the meeting and
shall include a statement of any special business to be brought before the Central Committee. Any notice of regular or special meeting shall include an agenda. Requests of additions to the agenda can be sent before the agenda is published. Once it is published, members may request additions at the beginning of the meeting. Any notice of an organizational meeting shall include a list of the elected Regular and Ex-officio members.

## QUORUM

Section 6
Seven (7) eligible-to-vote members shall constitute a quorum of the Central Committee at any meeting. The Secretary, or Chair in the Secretary's absence, shall verify the quorum immediately following the roll call of members.

## ATTENDANCE

Section $7 \quad$ The absence of a Regular member is excused if his or her Alternate is in attendance or if he or she contacts the Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson, or Secretary by electronic mail, postal mail, telephone (followed by handwritten note), or by hand written note prior to the meeting.

## RULES OF ORDER

Section 8 In all cases to which they apply and do not conflict with the provisions of these Bylaws, Robert's Rules of Order (newly revised) shall govern all meetings of the Central Committee.

## ARTICLE IV: OFFICERS OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE

## OFFICERS

Section $1 \quad$ There shall be five (5) Officers of the Central Committee: a Chairperson, ViceChairperson, Secretary, Treasurer, and a Member At-Large elected from among the Regular and Ex-officio members of the Central Committee.

## CHAIRPERSON

Section 2 The Chairperson shall preside at all meetings of the Central Committee and the Executive Committee. The Chairperson shall appoint all standing committees and special committee chairpersons, shall approve all membership appointments to standing and special committees, and shall be an Ex-officio member of all standing and special committees. The Chairperson is the chief spokesperson of the Central Committee.

## VICE CHAIRPERSON

Section 3 The Vice Chairperson shall, in the absence of the Chairperson, preside over the meetings of the Central Committee and Executive Committee, and shall perform such other duties as the Central Committee or the Executive Committee may assign to him/her.

## SECRETARY <br> Section 4 The Secretary shall keep the minutes, amended minutes and historical records of the Central Committee and the Executive Committee. The Secretary shall carry on the correspondence of the Central Committee under the direction of the Chairperson, and shall send out all notices required by the State of California Elections Code and these

bylaws. The Secretary shall keep the list of all the members; notify members of their election to office or appointment to committees and furnish them with the proper documents; and prepare the agenda for the meetings unless the Chairperson prefers to do so.

Any release of non-financial records of the Central Committee to non-members shall be at the discretion of the Chairperson.

## TREASURER

Section 5 The Treasurer shall receive funds and disburse payment upon order of the Central Committee or the Executive Committee of the Central committee. All funds of the Central Committee will be maintained in a bank account held in the name of this Central Committee. Authorized signers on the bank account shall be the Chairperson, Vice Chairperson and Secretary. All vouchers and checks for payment must be co-signed by two of the authorized signers. The Treasurer shall keep updated financial records and file the appropriate federal, state and local disclosures and reports pursuant to federal, state, and local campaign finance law. The Treasurer shall make a written financial report at every regular meeting and Board meeting, or for any other occasion requested by the Chairperson or a majority of the Central Committee.

Financial records or reports not subject to public disclosure by the Political Reform Act or successor statutes shall be considered the confidential property of the Central Committee and any release to the public shall be at the sole discretion of the Central Committee. Unless pre-approved by a majority of Central Committee members, there shall be no release of confidential financial data by electronic methods. Any requests by members for old copies of financial reports shall be fulfilled by hard copy and at the rate of 25 cents per page at the convenience of the Treasurer.

## MEMBER AT-LARGE <br> Section 6 A member selected from the Central Committee at-large shall serve on the Executive Committee and perform such duties as are assigned to him or her by the Central Committee.

TERM
Section 7 The Officers shall serve two (2) year terms commencing at the organizational meeting.

## FILLING OF VACANCIES <br> Section 8 Whenever a vacancy occurs among the Officers of the Central Committee, that vacancy shall be filled at the next regular meeting of the Central Committee by election of a duly qualified nominee by an affirmative vote of a majority of the voting members present.

## REMOVAL

Section 9 Any Officer of the Central Committee may be removed from office for failure to perform their duties in a responsible manner, including failure to attend board and regular Central Committee meetings. A request to remove an Officer shall be presented in writing to the Central Committee Secretary by one or more regular or ex-officio Central Committee member(s). The written request will include a numeration of the charges
preferred against the Officer. A letter with a copy of the complainant's charges will be sent to the Officer by certified mail with return receipt requested. The Officer will be given the choice to present their case against removal to the Central Committee at the next regular Central Committee meeting fifteen (15) or more days from the receipt of the certified letter, or to resign as an Officer of the Central Committee. If the Officer chooses to present their case to the Central Committee, the subject will be placed on the meeting agenda. The vote required for removal of an Officer shall be two-thirds $(2 / 3)$ of those eligible to vote at that meeting. If the Officer in question is the Secretary, then the request for removal shall be presented to the Chair of the Central Committee.

## RESIGNATION

Section 10 Any Officer other than the Chairperson may resign at any time by filing a written, signed resignation with the Chairperson, which specifies the effective date of such resignation.

Section 11 The Chairperson may resign at any time by filing a written, signed resignation with the Vice Chairperson, specifying the effective date of such resignation. Resignations will be kept on file by the Secretary.

## VACANCIES

Section 12 A vacancy of an Officer of the Central Committee, except the Chairperson, shall be filled by election at the next regular meeting.

Section 13 Should a vacancy of the Chairperson be declared, the Vice Chairperson shall preside and serve as acting-Chairperson until the vacancy is filled. The Vice Chairperson shall preside over the election of a new Chairperson unless the Vice Chairperson is a candidate for the office, is absent, or is unable to preside, in which case the remaining officers shall preside in this order: the Treasurer, first, and Secretary, second. If all of the Officers have accepted nomination for office or are unable to preside, the members present shall select an acting-Chairperson for the purpose and duration of conducting the election.

## ARTICLE V: EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

## MEMBERSHIP

Section 1 The Officers of the Central Committee shall constitute the Executive Committee

## DUTIES

Section 2 The Executive Committee shall have the power to act for the Central Committee on matters needing immediate attention or when the calling of a special meeting of the Central Committee is not feasible, and shall perform such other functions, as the Central Committee shall direct.

MEETINGS
Section 3 Once a month a meeting of the Executive Committee shall be held on a date and time the Chairperson designates.

## ARTICLE VI: PARLIAMENTARIAN

Section 1 The Chairperson may appoint one of the members of the Central Committee to serve as Parliamentarian for the Central Committee and the Executive Committee. The Parliamentarian shall advise the Chairperson, when so requested, on procedural matters. All such advice by the Parliamentarian shall be based on Robert's Rules of Order (Newly Revised) and these Bylaws. The Parliamentarian shall serve the same term as the officers and shall have no voting rights, except as his/her class of membership may otherwise allow.

## ARTICLE VII: SERGEANT-AT-ARMS

Section 1 The Chairperson may appoint a Sergeant-at-Arms who shall maintain order and may expel any member of the public who is found by the Chairperson to be out of order. The Sergeant-at-Arms shall have no voting privileges except as his/her class of membership may otherwise allow.

## ARTICLE VIII: COMMITTEES

## STANDING COMMITTEES

Section 1 The Standing Committees of the Central Committee shall be: Bylaws, Budget and Finance, Credentials, Fundraising, Public Relations/Issues, Voter Registration, and Political Development. Each Committee shall submit a proposed budget/line item to the Treasurer for consideration in the annual budget requests throughout the year as needed.

Section 2 The Bylaws Committee shall be responsible for preparing all proposed bylaw revisions and presenting them to the Central Committee in accordance with Article XIII of these bylaws and preparing and distributing copies of these bylaws to all Regular, Ex-officio, and Alternate members of the Central Committee.

Section 3 The Budget and Finance Committee shall be responsible for preparing an annual budget for the Central Committee and all of its standing and special committees and presenting this budget to the Central Committee for its approval. The Budget and Finance Committee will update the budget throughout the year as needed. Requests to make specific, non-recurring expenditures under line items delineated in the annual and updated budget shall be evaluated by the Budget and Finance Committee as a whole at a regular or special meeting.

Section $4 \quad$ The Fundraising Committee shall be responsible for planning and implementing fundraising events for the Central Committee.

Section $5 \quad$ The Public Relations/Issues Committee shall be responsible for such activities as organizing booths and displays at appropriate public functions; publishing a regular Central Committee newsletter; and bringing political issues of importance to the
attention of the Central Committee and the community.

| Section 6 | The Voter Registration Committee shall develop and implement an on-going voter <br> registration program for Tulare County and coordinate with the Chairperson to obtain <br> current voter registration lists as they become available. |
| :--- | :--- |
| Section 7 | The Political Development Committee shall develop and implement planning for <br> candidate development and support. The committee shall recruit and screen local <br> candidates and work to involve county Democratic clubs in campaign and get-out-the- <br> vote (GOTV) activities. |

## SPECIAL COMMITTEES

Section 8 Special or ad hoc committees may be established by the Chairperson upon his or her own initiative or by direction of the committees.

## COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS <br> Section 9 The Chairpersons of all standing committees must be Regular or Ex-officio members of the Central Committee


#### Abstract

AUTHORITY Section 10 All standing and special committees derive their authority to act from the Central Committee. No standing or special committee nor its Chairperson(s) shall have the authority to enter into financial arrangements, raise or expend funds or perform any other acts on behalf of the committee until having presented plans and gained approval from the Central Committee.


## ARTICLE IX: REPRESENTATION TO THE DEMOCRATIC STATE

 CENTRAL COMMITTEEDEMOCRATIC STATE CENTRAL COMMITTEE<br>Section 1 Following each regular general election, the Central Committee shall elect members to the Democratic State Central Committee ("DSCC") within the timeframe and in the number and proportions as established in the Bylaws and Rules of the California Democratic Party. Persons elected as members of the DSCC shall be from among those members of the Central Committee as of the date of the first regular meeting of the DSCC. Members of the DSCC shall be elected by the Central Committee on an at-large basis.

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF DSCC

Section $2 \quad$ Following each regular general election, the Central Committee shall elect its representative(s) to the Executive Committee of the DSCC in the number and proportions as established in the Bylaws and Rules of the California Democratic Party. Only currently serving members of the DSCC shall be eligible for election by the Central Committee to be its representative(s) to the Executive Committee of the DSCC.

VACANCIES TO THE DSCC OR EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE DSCC
Section 3 In the event vacancies occur among members elected to the DSCC or to the Executive Committee of the DSCC, the Chairperson of the Central Committee shall have the
authority to appoint members to fill vacancies temporarily until the next meeting at which an election can take place to fill those vacancies.

## ARTICLE X: ENDORSEMENTS AND PUBLIC ANNOUCEMENTS

## ENDORSEMENT

Section 1 An endorsement shall mean a formal expression of support or opposition to a candidate, proposition or issue.

## USE OF COMMITTEE NAME

Section 2 Use of the name of the Tulare County Democratic Central Committee, either expressed or implied, shall not be given to any person, group, or proposition for the purpose of claiming the support or showing the opposition from the Central Committee without first being granted an endorsement in the manner set forth in this article.

## ENDORSEMENT OF PROPOSTIONS OR ISSUES

Section 3 As a general rule, a proposed endorsement of a proposition or a candidate shall be presented at a regular meeting of the Central Committee and any action on the proposal shall be taken at the next regular meeting. However, a vote of endorsement of a proposition or issue may be made at the first regular meeting or at a special meeting, if either meeting is properly noticed and the item seeking endorsement is prominently displayed on the agenda. In either case, the item(s) shall receive endorsement from the Central Committee by a majority vote of the members present.

## ENDORSEMENT OF CANDIDATES FOR PUBLIC OFFICE

Section 4 The Political Development Committee will interview and make recommendations of worthy candidates for endorsement by the Central Committee using the following criteria:

- The Central Committee endorsement shall be extended only to registered Democrats.
- Endorsement shall not be given to more candidates than there are seats open for the office in question.
- No vote on endorsement shall be taken by secret ballot.

The Political Development Committee's final selection will be brought before the Central Committee membership for vote at a properly-noticed, regular meeting. An affirmative vote of voting members present shall be sufficient to endorse a candidate.

## NEWS RELEASES

Section 5 No news releases or public statements on behalf of the Central Committee shall be released except by approval of the Chairperson.

## ARTICLE XI: DEMOCRATIC CLUBS

## RECOGNITION OF DEMOCRATIC CLUBS

Section 1 The Central Committee shall prescribe a uniform procedure for the recognition of Democratic Clubs and for the issuance and revocation of charters, and for the conduct and regulation thereof; such procedure shall contain, but not be limited to, the provisions of this article.

## CHARTERING OF DEMOCRATIC CLUBS

Section $2 \quad$ No club shall be chartered by the Central Committee until it has held at least two (2) regular monthly meetings, has evidenced its standing as an organization devoted to Democratic principles, and has a minimum often (10) members.

Section 3 The Central Committee and its chartered clubs recognize that they are political organizations which are vehicles for promoting Democratic Party principles and supporting the election of Democratic candidates to public office. Therefore, all clubs chartered by the Central Committee shall have provisions in their bylaws which:
(a) Prohibit non-Democratic candidates or persons from speaking and/or soliciting support at club meetings prior to adjournment;
(b) State that under no circumstances may the club consider the endorsement of a candidate for public office who is not registered with the Democratic Party

Section $4 \quad$ At the time of filing its application for a charter and at the beginning of each year following, each club shall furnish to the Central Committee a copy of its constitution and/or bylaws, a list of the club's officers, a list of the names and addresses of all its voting members, and a check for five dollars (\$5.00) drawn on the club bank account payable to the Central Committee.

Section $5 \quad$ This Central Committee shall provide to each Democratic Club recognized by this Central Committee a charter signed by the Central Committee's Chairperson.

Section $6 \quad$ All other rules and regulations regarding clubs are addressed in the policy manual.

## ARTICLE XII: EMPLOYEE(S) OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE

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\begin{array}{ll}
\text { Section } 1 & \text { No member, alternate member, ex-officio member nor spouse of any member or } \\
\text { alternate shall be eligible for employment by the Central Committee. }
\end{array}
$$

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## ARTICLE XIV: AMENDMENT OF BYLAWS

Section $1 \quad$ These bylaws may be amended by a vote of two-thirds (2/3) of those present at any regular meeting of the Central Committee. The proposed amendment(s) shall be presented in writing at a regular meeting and shall be voted on at the next regular meeting of the Central Committee. The proper notice of the second meeting, mailed or otherwise communicated by the Secretary, shall state the proposed amendment(s).

## ARTICLE XV: EFFECTIVE DATE OF BYLAWS

Section $1 \quad$ These bylaws shall become effective with the adoption by the Central Committee. Should any conflict exist between past actions of the Central Committee and these bylaws, these set of bylaws shall prevail.

Adopted: April 17, 2012


[^0]:    ARTICLE XIII: POLICY
    Section 1 The Central Committee shall maintain and publish a current Policy Handbook to implement rules set forth in these Bylaws. The Central Committee shall distribute copies (either electronic or paper) of the handbook to all Central Committee members and Chartered Clubs of this Central Committee.

