

CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS
OF THE
LOS ANGELES COUNTY DEMOCRATIC CENTRAL COMMITTEE

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1 **LOS ANGELES COUNTY DEMOCRATIC CENTRAL COMMITTEE**
2 **CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS**
3
4

5 **ARTICLE I. DEFINITION**
6

7 **Section A. NAME**
8

9 The name of this organization shall be the LOS ANGELES COUNTY DEMOCRATIC
10 CENTRAL COMMITTEE (LACDCC). It shall be referred to herein as This Committee.
11

12 **Section B. CONTINUITY**
13

14 This Committee is, and shall function as, a continuing body. To that end, upon the election
15 of new officers or appointment of new chairs, of their removal from office, resignation or
16 protracted illness, the Chair shall appoint two (2) officers or chairs of This Committee,
17 whose responsibility shall be to ensure the safe and intact transfer of all records,
18 correspondence, files, books, financial records and documents as they pertain to This
19 Committee to the newly elected or appointed officers or chairs to ensure the continued
20 operation and function of said office and/or committee.
21

22 **Section C. PURPOSES**
23

- 24 1. To serve as the official governing body of the Democratic Party in the County of
25 Los Angeles in cooperation with the State and National Committees.
- 26 2. To conduct the Democratic Party campaign in the County of Los Angeles under the
27 general direction of the State Central Committee.
- 28 3. To build party organization on district, regional, and county levels to register voters
29 as Democrats and turn out Democratic voters.
- 30 4. To encourage the fullest possible participation of all Democratic voters.
- 31 5. To develop party policies and positions and to communicate them to the public
32 and to all officeholders.
- 33 6. To provide a forum for the study and discussion of public issues.
- 34 7. To conduct a public relations program for the Democratic Party throughout
35 Los Angeles County and to represent the Democratic Party within the county.
- 36 8. To interview, develop and endorse Democratic candidates for public office.
- 37 9. To nominate a qualified Democrat to fill any vacancy occurring in a party nominee
38 position within this county where applicable law so allows.
- 39 10. To charter Democratic organizations within Los Angeles County.
- 40 11. To ensure, as far as possible, the election of the Democratic Party
41 Nominees for President and Vice-President of the United States and candidates
42 endorsed by the National, State or applicable County Democratic Party.
43
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1 12. To perform such other duties and services as will benefit the Democratic
2 Party.
3

4 **Section D. DEMOCRATIC VOTERS**
5

6 As used in these Constitution and By-Laws, the terms “Democrat,” “Democratic voter” and
7 “registered Democrat” refer to a voter who has indicated a preference for the Democratic
8 Party on her/his voter registration form.
9

10 **Section E. HIGHEST FINISHING DEMOCRAT**
11

12 As used in these Constitution and By-Laws, the term “Highest Finishing Democrat” refers
13 to the registered Democrat who receives the most votes in the most recent general
14 election for the offices of United States Senate, United States House of Representatives, a
15 California state constitutional office, the California State Senate or the California Assembly.
16 In the event fewer than two (2) registered Democrats appear on the ballot in the most
17 recent general election for one (1) of these offices, the “Highest Finishing Democrat” shall
18 be the Democrat who received the most votes in the primary election for the most recent
19 general election for that office.
20

21 **ARTICLE II. MEMBERSHIP**
22

23 **Section A. TYPES OF MEMBERS**
24

25 There are five (5) types of members of This Committee: Elected Members, Appointed
26 Members, Ex-Officio Members (all of which are classified as "Regular Members"),
27 Alternate Members, and Associate Members. Their rights and duties are as specified
28 within.
29

30 **1. Elected Members**
31

32 a. In accordance with Section 7203 of the Election Code each Assembly
33 District contained wholly or partially within Los Angeles County shall be
34 entitled to be represented by seven (7) members residing in and elected
35 from that portion of the Assembly District contained within Los Angeles
36 County.
37

38 b. In accordance with Section 7205 of the Election Code This Committee may
39 provide for the division of some or all of its constituent Assembly Districts
40 into divisions. A resident of each division will be elected to represent that
41 division, but will be elected at-large from the Assembly District. Upon
42 petition by a majority of the Regular Members of an Assembly District
43 Delegation This Committee will authorize that District to be divided into
44 seven (7) equally populated divisions effective at the next election of
45 members of This Committee (subject to the deadline imposed by the County
46 Registrar of Voters). Upon petition to This Committee by a majority of the
47 Regular Members of an Assembly District divided into divisions, that District
48 will no longer be so divided.
49

50 **2. Appointed Members**
51

52 a. A registered Democrat residing in an Assembly District may be appointed

1 by This Committee to fill a vacancy occurring in that Assembly District.

2
3 b. This Committee may appoint only a person who has been recommended by
4 the Delegation of that District, except that if the Delegation fails to make a
5 recommendation within three (3) months of the occurrence of the vacancy,
6 This Committee may appoint any registered Democrat residing in the
7 District who is recommended by the Policy Committee.

8
9 c. Appointed members shall be entitled to the same rights and privileges as
10 Elected Members of This Committee except that they must use the
11 designation "Appointed Incumbent" rather than "Incumbent" upon seeking
12 election to This Committee.

13
14 **3. Ex-Officio Members**

15
16 a. Ex-Officio Members of This Committee shall be the following, if registered to
17 vote in Los Angeles County:

18
19 (i) Incumbent office holders of the following offices who are registered
20 to vote as Democrats: United States Senate, United States House
21 of Representatives, a California state constitutional office, the
22 California Assembly or the California State Senate; the Los Angeles
23 County Sheriff, the Los Angeles County District Attorney, the Los
24 Angeles County Assessor, or a member of the Los Angeles County
25 Board of Supervisors;

26
27 (ii) The most recent Highest Finishing Democrat for the following
28 offices: United States Senate, United States House of
29 Representatives, a California state constitutional office, the
30 California Assembly or the California State Senate;

31
32 (iii) Statewide Chairs or Presidents of official or chartered statewide
33 Democratic Party Organizations; and Statewide Special Group
34 Caucuses;

35
36 (iv) Members of the Democratic National Committee;

37
38 (v) State Officers of the California Democratic Party;

39
40 (vi) Assembly District Representatives to the Executive Board of the
41 California Democratic Party;

42
43 (vii) The Chair of This Committee at the expiration of the immediately
44 preceding term of office for Elected Members of This Committee;

45
46 (viii) The Treasurer of This Committee, appointed under Article VI.A; and,

47
48 (ix) The Legal Counsel of This Committee, appointed under Article VI.
49 B.

50
51 b. Incumbent office holders of, and the Highest Finishing Democrat for the
52 offices of, the United States House of Representatives, the State Board of

1 Equalization, the State Senate, and the State Assembly whose districts
2 extend into Los Angeles County, but who are themselves not registered to
3 vote in Los Angeles County, shall have the right to appoint a voting
4 alternate, provided such alternate is registered to vote in Los Angeles
5 County.
6

7 c. The term of office of Ex-Officio Members whose membership in This
8 Committee is based on their status as the Highest Finishing Democrat shall
9 be as follows:

10
11 (i) The Highest Finishing Democrat serves on This Committee until the
12 end of the term of office of the office for which that member was a
13 candidate or, in the case of an office in which the officeholder's term
14 is cut short (by, for example, death or resignation of the
15 officeholder), until the seating of a successor. So, for example, the
16 Highest Finishing Democrat in a State Senate race held in 2014
17 remains seated until December 2018 unless the current
18 officeholder's term is cut short for some reason.
19

20 (ii) (A) If fewer than two (2) Democrats advance to the general election
21 ballot, the "Highest Finishing Democrat" is the Democrat who
22 received the most votes in the primary election and shall be seated
23 when the primary election results are certified.
24 (B) If two (2) Democrats advance to the general election ballot, no
25 one is the "Highest Finishing Democrat" after the primary election;
26 and, therefore, the Democrat who receives the most votes in the
27 general election achieves membership as a result of incumbency
28 rather than as the "Highest Finishing Democrat."
29

30 d. Ex-Officio Members shall be entitled to the same rights and privileges as
31 Elected Members of This Committee except that they may not use the
32 designation of "Incumbent" upon seeking election to This Committee.
33

34 **4. Regular Members**

35
36 a. A Regular Member is any Elected, Appointed or Ex-Officio Member of This
37 Committee.
38

39 b. Any Regular Member who wishes to exercise membership rights including
40 the right to appoint an Alternate Member must meet the dues requirement
41 of This Committee.
42

43 c. A Regular Member is a member of the Assembly District Delegation and
44 Region for the Assembly District in which she/he resides.
45

46 **5. Alternate Members**

47
48 a. Any Regular Member in good standing may appoint an Alternate Member,
49 subject to the approval of This Committee, who shall serve at the member's
50 pleasure, upon presentation of written authorization to the Chair of the
51 Credentials Committee. Except at the Organizational Meeting, such
52 appointment shall not be submitted to This Committee for approval unless

1 the Chair of the Credentials Committee has been notified of the
2 appointment at least fifteen (15) days prior to the meeting at which the
3 appointment is to be announced.
4

- 5 b. An Alternate Member for an Elected or Appointed Member must reside in
6 the same Assembly District. An Alternate Member for an Ex-Officio
7 Member must reside in that political subdivision of Los Angeles County
8 which the Appointing Member was elected to represent or for which the
9 Appointing Member was the Highest Finishing Democrat.
10
11 c. An Alternate Member shall meet the same dues requirement of This
12 Committee as a Regular Member.
13
14 d. An Alternate Member has right of voice and motion at meetings of This
15 Committee even if the Appointing Member is present but may vote only in
16 the absence of that member. An Alternate Member may serve on a
17 standing or special committee with a Regular Member; may serve as a
18 representative of This Committee to the State Committee or its Executive
19 Board, provided all Regular Members who are candidates for representative
20 are first given the opportunity to be elected; but may not be elected or
21 appointed to serve as an officer of This Committee.
22
23 e. An Alternate Member shall be considered a member of the Assembly
24 District Delegation and Region for the Assembly District and Region in
25 which the Appointing Member resides except where an Alternate Member is
26 a voting alternate for the Highest Finishing Democrat or a Democratic
27 officeholder whose District extends into Los Angeles County but who is not
28 himself/herself registered to vote in Los Angeles County. In the case of
29 such an exception, the voting Alternate Member shall be considered a
30 member of the Assembly District Delegation and Region in which the voting
31 Alternate Member is registered to vote.
32

33 **6. Associate Members**

- 34
35 a. (i) An Associate Member shall have the right to voice, but not to make
36 motions or vote, on matters before This Committee.
37
38 (ii) In addition, Associate Members shall have the right to be appointed
39 to a special or Standing Committee, except for any committee which
40 authorizes the expenditure of campaign funds, which determines
41 campaign strategy or execution or which recommends
42 endorsements. Associate Members shall have full rights when
43 serving in such a capacity, except they shall not serve as chairs or
44 co-chairs of Standing Committees.
45
46 b. An Associate Member shall meet the same dues requirement of This
47 Committee as an Alternate Member.
48
49 c. (i) Each club chartered by This Committee shall have the right to
50 designate one (1) of the club's members as an Associate Member.
51 This designation may be revoked upon written notice by the club to
52 This Committee.

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- (ii) In addition, the Chair of This Committee shall have the right to nominate Associate Members who, in the Chair's opinion, possess qualifications or skills that would assist in meeting the objectives of This Committee.
 - (iii) Upon verification of the Democratic Party voter registration of the designee or nominee and that the designee or nominee has not been removed from membership in This Committee during the current term, The Policy Committee shall ratify or reject the designee or nominee.
 - (iv) Upon ratification and payment of dues, the individual will become an Associate Member as of the next meeting of This Committee at least fifteen (15) days after ratification. The Associate Member's term will expire at the end of the term.
- d. Upon ratification, the Chair of This Committee may appoint Associate Members to a special or Standing Committee of This Committee.
 - e. On no committee of This Committee, including any special committees, shall more than twenty percent (20%) of its membership be Associate Members of This Committee.
 - f. Associate Members shall be considered nonvoting members of the Assembly District in which they reside, but shall not be considered members of that Delegation for purposes of allocation of Standing Committee assignments under Article VII.B.3.

Section B. SEATING OF MEMBERS

- 1. Elected Members of This Committee shall be seated on the second Monday in July following the primary election in which members of This Committee are elected. The meeting at which such seating takes place shall be known as the "Organizational Meeting of This Committee."
- 2.
 - a. Appointed Members shall be seated immediately upon appointment by This Committee.
 - b. Ex-Officio Members whose ex officio status derives from their status as incumbent public officeholders shall be seated upon taking the public office.
 - c. Ex-Officio Members by virtue of their status as the "Highest Finishing Democrat" shall take office as of the date of certification of the primary election.
 - d. Ex-Officio Members by virtue of their status as members of the Democratic National Committee, Statewide Officers and Regional Directors of the California Democratic Party, and California Democratic Party Executive Board members elected at Assembly District election meetings shall be seated when they take their Party office.
 - e. Ex-Officio Members whose ex officio status derives from their chairpersonship/presidency of statewide chartered organizations or California Democratic Party Special Group Caucuses shall be seated when their respective elections become final under the applicable organizational bylaws.

- f. The Treasurer of This Committee and the Legal Counsel of This Committee shall be seated at the time they assume office.
- g. Alternate Members shall be seated immediately upon approval by This Committee.

Section C. TERMINATION OF MEMBERSHIP

1. Voluntary Termination

- a. A member may tender his or her resignation only in writing.
- b. No member may cast more than one vote. Consistent with this principle, any Elected, Appointed or Alternate Member of This Committee who is an Ex-Officio Member of This Committee shall, as of the thirtieth day after being seated as an Ex-Officio Member, be deemed to have tendered a resignation in writing from the membership status other than ex officio status. A member may retain her/his status as a member by virtue of election or appointment, as well as his/her status as an ex officio, if he/she notifies the Chair in writing, during the thirty-day period after being seated, of his/her desire to retain membership by virtue of more than one membership status. The Credentials Committee shall include, in its next report to This Committee, the names of any members who opt to retain membership by virtue of more than one membership status.
- c. It is the policy of This Committee to provide written notice of the provisions of this Article II, C.1 to members who hold membership in This Committee by virtue of more than one membership status, but the failure to do so shall not invalidate any resignation from elected or appointed membership where the member has not timely exercised his/her option to retain more than one membership status.

2. Termination for Lack of Attendance

- a. For purposes of this Article II.C.2 (Termination for Lack of Attendance), a member who attends a meeting of This Committee or has his/her alternate attend in his/her place shall be counted as present, not absent.
- b. The absence of an Elected or Appointed Member from three (3) regular meetings of This Committee within a term year (July to June) shall automatically terminate the membership of that member.
- c. It is the duty of all members to attend all meetings of This Committee and any Standing Committees to which they are appointed and to assure that their attendance at all such meetings is recorded.
- d. A notice shall be sent to an Elected or Appointed Member after his/her second absence in a term year warning of the automatic termination of that member's membership if the member fails to attend a third meeting in that term year.

1 3. **Termination for Failure to Pay Dues**

- 2
- 3 a. The Controller shall certify to the Chair of the Credentials Committee the
- 4 fact of nonpayment of dues of any Elected or Appointed Member within sixty
- 5 (60) days of the date on which the dues were payable.
- 6
- 7 b. A notice shall be sent via Certified Mail stating the amount owing and
- 8 stating that if the amount is not paid within ten (10) days of receipt of the
- 9 notice the membership is automatically terminated.
- 10
- 11 c. Unless the dues set forth in the notice are paid within the ten (10) days, the
- 12 member's membership will be automatically terminated, the member will be
- 13 notified in writing and the termination will be announced at the next regular
- 14 meeting of This Committee.
- 15

16 4. **Termination for Additional Grounds**

- 17
- 18 a. The additional grounds for termination of membership are as follows:
- 19
- 20 (i) A member supports a non-Democratic candidate for public office;
- 21
- 22 (ii) An elected official or Appointed Member moves out of the Assembly
- 23 District;
- 24
- 25 (iii) Death or mental incapacity;
- 26
- 27 (iv) A member ceases to be a registered Democrat in Los Angeles
- 28 County;
- 29
- 30 (v) A member commits This Committee to unauthorized expenditures;
- 31
- 32 (vi) Knowing membership in an organization which should under
- 33 California Election Code, Sec. 20201 and/or Article XV of these
- 34 Constitution and By-Laws, be chartered, but does not have such a
- 35 charter and does not have an application for charter pending;
- 36
- 37 (vii) A member's financial obligation to This Committee (other than dues)
- 38 are more than thirty (30) days past due from the date written notice
- 39 of failure to meet such obligation has been given by the Controller of
- 40 This Committee to said member. A member may, to avoid removal,
- 41 bring any such obligation current at any time prior to actual removal.
- 42 An administrative fee to cover costs of processing, not to exceed
- 43 Five Dollars (\$5.00) plus any bank charges, may be assessed in
- 44 addition to the actual obligation.
- 45
- 46 b. Except in the case of death or mental incapacity the Policy Committee shall
- 47 not declare the termination of a membership under one (1) of these
- 48 additional grounds until the member has been notified by Certified Mail that
- 49 she/he has the right to appear before the Policy Committee to negate the
- 50 charges.
- 51
- 52 c. Termination of membership under Article II.C.4.a.(vi) above shall only be

1 declared upon recommendation of the Credentials Committee and a sixty
2 percent (60%) vote of This Committee's members present and voting,
3 provided, however, that the member is first:

4
5 (i) Informed by Certified Mail that he/she is a member of such an
6 organization; and,
7

8 (ii) Given thirty (30) days to resign said membership, or the organization
9 in question applies for charter within said thirty (30) days; and,
10

11 (iii) Accorded the due process rights of written notice of the charges
12 against him/her, right of response before both the Credentials
13 Committee and This Committee, and is given the right to
14 representation by counsel.
15

16 d. If the organization in question applies for a charter within the thirty (30) day
17 time period after the member is notified as provided above, termination of
18 membership under Article II.C.4.a.(vi) above shall only be recommended
19 and declared if:
20

21 (i) The charter application is denied; and,
22

23 (ii) The member is informed by Certified Mail of said denial of charter
24 application; and,
25

26 (iii) The member does not resign his/her membership in the organization
27 in question within thirty (30) days of receipt of said notice of denial
28 and notify This Committee of same; and,
29

30 (iv) The due process rights referred to herein above have been
31 accorded the member; and,
32

33 (v) The Credentials Committee recommends termination; and,
34

35 (vi) This Committee, by sixty percent (60%) vote of those persons
36 present and voting, votes to terminate the member's membership.
37

38 e. Declaration of the termination of membership may only be overruled at the
39 next meeting of This Committee. Upon such overruling, all acts pursuant to
40 the acceptance of the declaration shall be voided.
41

42 **Section D. FILLING OF VACANCIES**
43

44 1. Upon termination of the membership of any member, This Committee may appoint,
45 at any meeting by affirmative vote of the majority of the members voting, as a
46 member to fill that vacancy, any registered Democrat from Assembly Districts from
47 which the member whose membership was terminated was elected or appointed.

48 2. Upon the failure to elect from any Assembly District members sufficient in number
49 to equal those provided in California Election Code, Section 7203, or ineligible to be
50 members, This Committee may appoint at any meeting by affirmative vote of the
51 majority of the members present and voting, as members any registered Democrat
52 from that District, so that District's representation equals the number provided for in

1 the Election Code.

2
3 3. This Committee may not appoint as a member from an Assembly District one who
4 has not been recommended by the Delegation of the District for such appointment;
5 provided that upon the failure of that Delegation to so recommend a person during
6 the three (3) months following the occurrence of the vacancy to be filled, This
7 Committee may appoint any registered Democrat who has been recommended by
8 the Policy Committee for such appointment.

9
10 4. Despite the above, once new members have been elected in the direct primary
11 election, any vacancy shall be filled automatically by the top vote getting member-
12 elect residing in the District not already a Regular Member of This Committee.

13
14 **ARTICLE III. DUES**

15
16 **Section A. PAYMENT OF DUES**

17
18 1. The dues of This Committee shall be established by the Policy Committee and any
19 change in the dues must be announced to the members of This Committee not less
20 than thirty (30) days prior to the date each year on which dues are due and
21 payable. Dues for Elected and Ex-Officio Members shall be payable at the
22 Organizational Meeting and in the same month of the following year.

23
24 2. Dues for Appointed and Alternate Members are payable upon appointment.

25
26 **Section B. DEFERRAL OR WAIVER OF DUES**

27
28 Any member may request in writing or in person that the Credentials Committee allow the
29 deferral or waiver of dues on the grounds of economic hardship. Denial by the Credentials
30 Committee may be appealed to the Policy Committee.

31
32 **ARTICLE IV. OFFICERS**

33
34 **Section A. OFFICERS OF THIS COMMITTEE**

35
36 1. The officers of This Committee shall be a Chair, Vice-Chair (Male), Vice-Chair
37 (Female), Recording Secretary, Corresponding Secretary, Controller,
38 Parliamentarian, the Immediate Past Chair, and one (1) Vice-Chair from each
39 Region. The office of Treasurer is an appointed position requiring an expert in
40 campaign finance and reporting. As such, the Treasurer is not an officer for
41 purposes of internal governance, but shall be a principal of This Committee for the
42 purposes of campaign finance report filing and compliance with applicable
43 campaign finance, tax and related law. Except for the Treasurer, no officer of This
44 Committee may be an employee of This Committee.

45
46 2. Any Regular Member in good standing of This Committee is eligible to be an officer
47 of This Committee.

48 3. The following officers of This Committee shall be elected: a Chair, Vice-Chair
49 (Male), Vice-Chair (Female), Recording Secretary, Corresponding Secretary,
50 Controller, and one (1) Vice-Chair from each Region. The following officers shall
51 not be elected: Immediate Past Chair, who serves by virtue of his/her status as
52 such, and the Parliamentarian, who shall be appointed by the Chair of This

1 Committee.

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Section B. DUTIES OF OFFICERS

1. Chair

- a. The Chair shall be chief executive of This Committee with full power to enforce the provisions of these Constitution and By-Laws. She/he shall chair the Policy Committee and shall perform such other duties as are usually incident to the office.
- b. The Chair shall preside at all meetings of This Committee and the Policy Committee, shall appoint, and may at his/her discretion remove, a Parliamentarian, Chairs of Standing Committees and such special committees as are required to carry out the program of This Committee, a Newsletter Editor, an Internet Coordinator, Fair Booth Coordinator, Legal Counsel, a Treasurer and a Sergeant-at-Arms.
- c. Appointments to the offices described in Article IV.B.1.b., above, shall be subject to confirmation by the Policy Committee. Upon signed, written petition from two (2) or more Policy Committee members, the Policy Committee, by two-thirds (2/3) majority vote, may overturn the Chair's decision to remove from office any of the above appointees.
- d. The Chair shall be an Ex-Officio Member of all standing and special committees.

2. Vice-Chair (Male) and Vice-Chair (Female)

- a. The Vice-Chair (Male) and Vice-Chair (Female) shall perform the duties and have the powers of the Chair when the latter is unable to act. In the event of the removal, resignation or death of the Chair, the Vice-Chair of the opposite sex shall exercise the powers and duties of the Chair. At the next meeting for which due notice can be given, an election shall be held for the office of Chair. Each Vice-Chair shall assist in the performance of the duties of the Chair upon request.

3. Regional Vice-Chair

- a. The Regional Vice-Chairs shall represent This Committee's Chair on all matters referred to them by him/her.
- b. The Regional Vice-Chair shall coordinate work of This Committee in their Regions and shall assist the Chairs of the Assembly District Delegations in their Regions.
- c. The Regional Vice-Chairs shall preside over the meetings of their Regions.
- d. Each Regional Vice-Chair shall appoint members of This Committee resident in his/her Region to each Standing Committee as provided in elsewhere in these Constitution and By-Laws.

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e. Each Regional Vice-Chair shall oversee the activities of such Standing Committees as the Chair of This Committee assigns.

4. **Recording Secretary**

a. The Recording Secretary shall be the recording officer of This Committee and the Policy Committee and the custodian of their records, except as otherwise provided.

b. The Recording Secretary shall attest to all official actions of This Committee such as the election of officers, and termination and appointment of members and all such matters that require official attestation.

c. The Recording Secretary shall keep the roll of the membership of This Committee and of the Policy Committee.

d. In the event of a vacancy in the office of Recording Secretary, an election shall be held to fill the vacancy at the next meeting for which due notice can be given.

5. **Corresponding Secretary**

a. The Corresponding Secretary shall conduct the correspondence of This Committee and of the Policy Committee, except as otherwise provided.

b. The Corresponding Secretary shall send out notices and minutes of the meetings of This Committee and of the Policy Committee.

c. The Corresponding Secretary shall take the roll at meetings of This Committee and of the Policy Committee.

d. In the event of a vacancy in the office of Corresponding Secretary, an election shall be held to fill the vacancy at the next meeting for which due notice can be given.

e. The Corresponding Secretary shall perform other duties as directed by This Committee, the Policy Committee or the Chair.

6. **Controller**

a. The Controller shall be responsible for preparing a budget as set forth in Article VIII.A. herein below.

b. The Controller shall have the right to inspect all financial records upon demand.

c. The Controller shall present written Financial Summaries comparing year to date actual receipts, disbursements and balances with year to date budgeted receipts, disbursements, and balances to This Committee on a Quarterly basis and to the Policy Committee at each of its regular meetings.

1 7. **Parliamentarian**

- 2
- 3 a. The Parliamentarian's duties shall be those usually performed by such
- 4 officer and such other duties as the Chair, the Policy Committee, or This
- 5 Committee may assign. The Parliamentarian, shall, at the request of the
- 6 Chair, render an opinion on all questions pertaining to these Constitution
- 7 and By-Laws and the procedures of This Committee when requested.
- 8

9 **ARTICLE V. ELECTIONS AND RECALL**

10

11 **Section A. OFFICERS OF THIS COMMITTEE**

12

- 13 1. The Chair, Vice-Chair (Male), Vice Chair (Female), Secretaries, and Controller shall
- 14 be elected at the Organizational Meeting by all Regular Members of This
- 15 Committee.
- 16
- 17 2. Nominations for these offices shall be accepted at the Organizational Meeting. A
- 18 member may nominate himself/herself.
- 19
- 20 3. Rules for the election shall be established by the Rules and Legal Committee
- 21 subject to approval by the Policy Committee.
- 22

23 **Section B. REGIONAL VICE-CHAIRS**

24

- 25 1. Each Regional Vice-Chair shall be elected within thirty (30) days after the
- 26 Organizational Meeting of This Committee by those members of This Committee
- 27 residing in the Region. A Regional Secretary shall be elected at the same time.
- 28
- 29 2. Should a vacancy occur during the term of a Regional Vice-Chair, the Secretary of
- 30 that Region shall notify all the members of that Region that a meeting will be held
- 31 (within thirty (30) days of the declaration of the vacancy) to fill the vacancy. If the
- 32 Secretary does not send the notice, the Chair may instruct the Corresponding
- 33 Secretary to send the notice. The notice shall be sent no less than five (5) days
- 34 prior to the meeting, which shall be held in the Region or in conjunction with a
- 35 regular meeting of This Committee.
- 36

37 **Section C. ASSEMBLY DISTRICT DELEGATION OFFICERS**

38

- 39 1. Each Assembly District Delegation shall elect a Chair and a Vice-Chair at the
- 40 Organizational Meeting of This Committee or the Delegation's first regular meeting
- 41 after the Organizational Meeting.
- 42
- 43 2. In the absence of the Delegation Chair from any duly called Delegation meeting, or
- 44 in the event of a vacancy, the Vice-Chair shall perform the duties and have the
- 45 powers of the Delegation Chair during the course of the meeting or until the
- 46 vacancy is filled, as applicable. The Vice-Chair shall be responsible for the taking
- 47 of minutes at any Delegation meeting.
- 48
- 49 3. a. Should a vacancy occur in the office of Delegation Chair during the term of
- 50 the Delegation Chair, the Vice-Chair of that Delegation shall notify all the
- 51 members of that Delegation that a meeting will be held (within thirty (30)
- 52 days of the declaration of the vacancy) to fill the vacancy.

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- b. Should a vacancy occur in the office of Delegation Vice-Chair during the term of the Delegation Vice-Chair, the Delegation Chair shall notify all members of that Delegation that a meeting will be held (within thirty (30) days of the declaration of the vacancy) to fill the vacancy.
 - c. If the applicable Delegation officer (Chair or Vice-Chair) does not send the notice, the Chair of This Committee may cause notice to be given to the Delegation.
 - d. The notice shall be sent no less than five (5) days prior to the meeting to fill the vacancy, which shall be in the district or in conjunction with a regular meeting of This Committee

12 **Section D. REPRESENTATIVES TO STATE COMMITTEE**

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- 1. The regular membership of each Assembly District Delegation shall automatically be elected as This Committee's representative to the State Committee provided written intent to serve has been filed with This Committee. Any representatives apportioned to This Committee which are not so elected shall be elected at-large. The at-large Delegates shall be used to balance the Delegation as equally as possible between males and females. Alternate Members shall only be eligible for election provided there are not sufficient numbers of Regular Members, who choose to stand for election, to fill the Delegation. Within these parameters, the at-large candidates for representative receiving the most votes within their respective gender category shall be deemed elected. These representatives shall serve until their successors are elected, provided they remain members of This Committee. Representatives to the Executive Board of the State Committee shall be elected pursuant to the Rules adopted by This Committee consistent with the Constitution and By-Laws of the State Committee and This Committee. Vacancies shall be filled by election, due notice having been given.

30 **Section E. RECALL OF OFFICERS**

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- 1. Any officer of This Committee may be recalled by affirmative vote of two-thirds (2/3) of the eligible members present and voting provided that:
 - a. The officer's recall has been requested by the Policy Committee or by written petition signed by thirty (30) Regular Members and containing the alleged grounds for recall;
 - b. Written notice has been sent at least ten (10) days prior to the regular meeting stating the alleged grounds to each member;
 - c. The officer is allowed thirty (30) minutes during which the officer and/or any persons selected by the officer shall be allowed to address this committee immediately before the vote.
 - 2. The method in this Section shall be in addition to any method provided by a Region for recall of its Regional Vice-Chair.

49 **ARTICLE VI. TREASURER AND LEGAL COUNSEL**

50
51 **Section A. TREASURER**

1. A Treasurer may be appointed by the Chair of This Committee, subject to approval of the Policy Committee. The Treasurer may be an existing member of the Policy Committee, an employee of This Committee or an outside vendor. The principal duty of the Treasurer is to prepare and execute the statements required to be filed under the political campaign finance laws to which This Committee is subject. It is also a duty of the Treasurer to assure that a competent bookkeeper utilizing a system with an appropriate division of duties (which, at a minimum, shall meet the safe-harbor requirements promulgated by applicable governmental authorities) maintains the books of This Committee.
2. Notwithstanding any other provision of these Constitution and By-Laws, subject to the approval of the Policy Committee, the Treasurer may be compensated by This Committee, either as an employee or as independent contractor.
3. This Committee may enter into an indemnification agreement with the Treasurer. Any such agreement must be ratified by a vote of two-thirds (2/3) of This Committee of those present and voting, a quorum being present.
4. The Treasurer may be assisted by employee(s) or outside vendor(s) of This Committee expert in campaign finance laws to which This Committee is subject, and employee(s) or outside vendor(s), which may be the same or different from the campaign finance expert, to keep the books of This Committee.

Section B. LEGAL COUNSEL

1. The Chair of This Committee, subject to approval by the Policy Committee, may hire or retain Legal Counsel, including a general counsel, to provide such legal services as may be required.
2. Notwithstanding any other provision of these Constitution and By-laws, subject to the approval of the Policy Committee, Legal Counsel may be compensated by This Committee either as an employee or as an independent contractor.

ARTICLE VII. COMMITTEES

Section A. POLICY COMMITTEE

1. The Policy Committee of This Committee shall be the officers of This Committee, the Co-Chairs of Standing Committees, the Newsletter Editor, the Internet Coordinator, the Fair Booth Coordinator, the Sergeant-at-Arms and the Regional Endorsement Coordinators: a quorum being ten (10) members consisting of at least four (4) County-Wide Officers, three (3) Regional Vice-Chairs, and three (3) other members. For purposes of any Policy Committee meetings during the first sixty (60) calendar days after the Organizational Meeting of This Committee, a quorum of the Policy Committee shall consist of a majority of the County-Wide Officers and Regional Vice-Chairs who, at the time of the meeting, are current members of This Committee. While both shall have the right to speak, neither the Treasurer, nor the Legal Counsel, shall have a vote on the Policy Committee, nor count towards a quorum.
2. The Policy Committee shall be charged with general oversight of the operations of This Committee, including the review and approval of contracts, the hiring and

1 termination of staff, and the resolution of complaints against officers, members, and
2 employees of This Committee, as well as organizations chartered by This
3 Committee.
4

5 3. The Policy Committee shall be responsible for formulating, and overseeing the
6 implementation of, the general policy of This Committee. The Policy Committee
7 may exercise any of the powers of This Committee on an emergency basis if it
8 finds such action to be essential to maintenance of This Committee's operations
9 and programs. Any emergency action requires an affirmative vote of not less than
10 sixty percent (60%) of those members present and voting at a meeting with a
11 quorum. The exercise of emergency powers is to be rare and reserved to
12 situations where immediate action is genuinely essential. Nothing in this Section
13 A.3 shall in any way authorize any deviation from the process for the endorsement
14 of candidates or ballot measures set forth elsewhere in these Constitution and
15 By-Laws. Any emergency action undertaken under the authority of this Section A.3
16 shall be reported at the next meeting of This Committee.
17

18 4. Any member of the Policy Committee (except for the Chair of This Committee or
19 any member who is also a member of the Audit Committee) is eligible to serve as
20 Treasurer of This Committee.
21

22 **Section B. OTHER STANDING COMMITTEES**

23 1. The following Standing Committees shall be established:
24
25

Ballot Measures	Election Protection and Oversight	Organizational Chartering and Development
Budget	Events	Program and Education
Campaign Services	Finance	Resolutions
Candidate Interview	Judicial Interview	Rules & Legal
Community Outreach	Labor	Voter Registration and Development
Credentials	Legislative Action	

26 2. The Chair of This Committee shall appoint two (2) Co-Chairs of each Standing
27 Committee with the consent of the Policy Committee, within sixty (60) days after the
28 Organizational Meeting of This Committee. One (1) Co-Chair of each Standing
29 Committee may be an Alternate Member. Additionally, the Chair of This Committee
30 shall appoint at least one (1) additional member to each Committee, which, along
31 with the Committee Co-Chairs shall constitute the initial membership of each
32 Standing Committee. The Chair of This Committee shall consider geographic
33 diversity when appointing Co-Chairs of Standing Committees. A separate process
34 for appointments to the Budget, Finance and Audit Committees are described in
35 Article VII.B.4 and Article VII.D.1.
36

37 3. Each Regional Vice-Chair shall appoint members of his/her Region to the following
38

1 directly to This Committee; provided, however, that any such subcommittees
2 shall have not less than three (3) members and appointments thereto shall be
3 made with due consideration for the principles of fairness and inclusion to which
4 the Democratic Party is committed.
5

- 6 6. A quorum for Standing Committees shall be a majority of the filled positions with
7 a maximum quorum requirement of one (1) Co-Chair and four (4) members,
8 except with regard to Endorsement Recommendation Committees, which shall
9 be as specified in Article XI.A.11.

10
11 **Section D. AUDIT COMMITTEE**

- 12
13 1. The Audit Committee shall consist of three (3) members appointed by the Policy
14 Committee and approved by This Committee at the regular meeting following the
15 Organizational Meeting. Members of the Audit Committee may not serve as
16 Treasurer.
17
18 2. The members of the Audit Committee shall select the chair from among its
19 members and so notify the Recording Secretary.
20
21 3. The members of the Audit Committee can be recalled in the same manner as an
22 officer of This Committee.
23
24 4. The Audit Committee shall audit the financial records of This Committee at least
25 once a year at a time determined by the Audit Committee. The chair of the Audit
26 Committee shall report the results of the audit at the next meeting of This
27 Committee.
28
29 5. The Audit Committee may inspect the financial records and reports of This
30 Committee or any subordinated body at any time. It is an affirmative duty of the
31 Audit Committee to assure that the Treasurer has arranged for a bookkeeper
32 utilizing a system with an appropriate division of duties (which, at a minimum,
33 shall meet the safe-harbor requirements promulgated by applicable
34 governmental authorities) to maintain the books of This Committee.
35
36 6. The chair of the Audit Committee shall serve as member of the Policy
37 Committee.
38

39 **Section E. CHAIR'S ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

40
41 The Chair of This Committee may appoint non-member Democrats residing in Los
42 Angeles County to the Chair's Advisory Committee, which shall advise the Chair on
43 request.
44

45 **Section F. REMOVAL OF MEMBERS FROM POLICY COMMITTEE**

- 46
47 1. Notwithstanding any other provision of these Constitution and By-Laws, any
48 member of the Policy Committee who misses three (3) of any four (4)
49 consecutive properly noticed meetings of the Policy Committee is automatically
50 removed from the Policy Committee.
51
52 a. Any Policy Committee member subject to removal pursuant to this

1 Section and who wishes to contest such removal must file a written
2 appeal at least ten (10) days before the next regularly scheduled meeting
3 of This Committee. At that meeting, the appeal will be heard, and shall
4 be decided by a majority vote of the members of the Committee in
5 attendance.
6

7 b. In the absence of a timely-filed appeal, the Chair will announce the
8 automatic removal of Policy Committee members removed pursuant to
9 this Section during the Chair's report at the next regularly scheduled
10 meeting of This Committee.
11

12 2. Removal of a member from the Policy Committee pursuant to this Section shall
13 be deemed to create a vacancy in the position, which shall be filled pursuant to
14 these Constitution and By-Laws.
15

16 3. This Section shall not apply to the Treasurer or to other members of the Policy
17 Committee appointed by the Chair.
18

19 **ARTICLE VIII. BUDGET AND FINANCE**

20
21 **Section A. BUDGET**
22

23 An annual budget shall be proposed by the Controller to the Budget Committee and to
24 the Finance Committee in joint session. The Controller shall timely provide copies of the
25 proposed annual budget to the chairs of all Standing Committees in sufficient time to
26 afford each Standing Committee an opportunity for input into the final proposed budget.
27 The Budget and Finance Committees, in joint session, shall adopt the final proposed
28 budget and propose it to This Committee at the February meeting.
29

30 **Section B. EXPENDITURES**
31

32 1. All appropriations and bills shall be presented to the Treasurer, who shall pay all
33 approved budgeted bills and appropriations without further authorization. The
34 Treasurer or the Treasurer's authorized representative or designee shall report
35 all such expenditures at the next meeting of This Committee.
36

37 2. No expenditures shall be made from the general fund except as provided for in
38 the budget. Any unbudgeted expenditures must first be referred to the Budget
39 Committee for its approval. In exigent circumstances, the Chair and the
40 Controller in conjunction with one (1) officer of This Committee elected on a
41 county-wide basis by the entire Committee may authorize an unbudgeted
42 expenditure without referral to the Budget or any other Committee, provided that
43 they have made a specific finding that there are identifiable offsetting revenues
44 that have a likelihood of eminent collection.
45

46 3. The Chair, Treasurer, Vice Chair (Male), and Vice-Chair (Female) are hereby
47 authorized to sign checks on any account carried in the name of This Committee,
48 provided the expenditure has been duly authorized. All checks shall require two
49 (2) signatures. The Treasurer or Chair shall be a signatory on every check.
50

51 4. No member of This Committee shall make any financial commitment involving
52 the expenditure of This Committee's funds other than those provided herein

1 unless such person has been so authorized by a motion passed by This
2 Committee specifically authorizing such expenditure or commitment. Violation of
3 this provision shall constitute grounds for termination of the member's
4 membership. Any member of This Committee may file the charges.
5

6 **Section C. RECEIPTS**
7

- 8 1. All funds received either by donation or by sale of tickets or other items in
9 connection with the activities of any Committee of This Committee shall be
10 deposited into the Treasury of This Committee. Such funds shall then be made
11 available to the responsible Committee chair upon request to the Treasurer of
12 This Committee. Any unused funds shall be returned to the general fund upon
13 completion of the Committee's activity.
14

15 **ARTICLE IX. MEETINGS**
16

17 **Section A. REGULAR MEETINGS**
18

- 19 1. This Committee shall meet on the evening of the second Tuesday of each month
20 except the Chair may designate another weekday evening (other than a Friday)
21 for the meeting if the second Tuesday is a legal holiday or if there falls upon the
22 second Tuesday an event that would make holding the meeting inappropriate in
23 the opinion of the Policy Committee. Should a regular meeting be held on any
24 evening other than the second Tuesday of the month, the absence from such a
25 meeting shall not count for purposes of removal from This Committee.
26
- 27 2. This Committee may cancel its next regular meeting provided that notice of such
28 cancellation is sent to all members of This Committee at least seven (7) days
29 before the date of the meeting being canceled and provided that no two (2)
30 consecutive meetings are canceled.
31
- 32 3. The Organizational Meeting of This Committee shall replace the regular meeting
33 of This Committee in July of the year following the election of new members and
34 shall take place on the second Monday of July.
35
- 36 4. The Chair shall schedule meetings at times which provide for the maximum
37 participation of the members.
38
- 39 5. Written notice of all regular meetings of This Committee shall be sent to all
40 members of This Committee at least seven (7) days prior to each meeting. Such
41 notice shall contain time, place and proposed agenda for the meeting. All
42 members of the Policy Committee shall be given notice of all Policy Committee
43 meetings in written form, which can be electronic (where the member has
44 consented to electronic notice), or by telephone at least seven (7) days prior to
45 each meeting. By that same deadline, notice of all Policy Committee meetings
46 shall be posted on This Committee's website. All such meeting notices shall
47 contain the time, place and proposed agenda for each meeting.
48

49 **Section B. SPECIAL MEETINGS**
50

- 51 1. The Chair of This Committee may call a special meeting of This Committee on
52 any day that is not a legal holiday. The Chair may call a special meeting of the

1 Policy Committee on any day not a legal holiday.
2

- 3 2. Any thirty (30) Regular Members representing a majority of Assembly Districts
4 may call a special meeting of This Committee on any day not a legal holiday.
5 The names of those calling the meeting shall be included in the written notice of
6 the meeting.
7
- 8 3. Only the business specified in the written notice of a special meeting shall be
9 conducted at such meeting.
10
- 11 4. Written notice of all special meetings of This Committee shall be sent to all
12 members of This Committee at least seven (7) days prior to such meeting.
13 Reasonable advance notice shall be given to all members of the Policy
14 Committee of all special meetings of the Policy Committee in written form, which
15 can be electronic (where the member has consented to electronic notice), or by
16 telephone. In addition, reasonable advance written notice of all special meetings
17 of the Policy Committee meetings shall be posted on This Committee's website.
18 All such meeting notices shall contain the time, place and business to be
19 considered.
20

21 **Section C. EMERGENCY MEETINGS**
22

- 23 1. The Chair may call an emergency meeting of This Committee to determine the
24 nominee of the Party to partisan office in the event of a vacancy described in
25 Article I.C of these Constitution and By-Laws.
26
- 27 2. As much notice as possible shall be given.
28

29 **Section D. PROCEDURES**
30

- 31 1. The proceedings of This Committee, and of the Policy Committee, shall be
32 governed by Robert's Rules of Order, except as otherwise provided herein,
33 applicable rules or By-Laws of the Democratic National Committee or California
34 Democratic Party or the Election Code. Rules of procedure for Standing and
35 special Committees, Regions and Assembly Districts Delegations may be made
36 by those bodies provided they do not conflict with rules set forth in these
37 Constitution and By-Laws, including Article VII.C.4.
38
- 39 2. A quorum for transaction of business at any meeting of This Committee shall
40 consist of fifty (50) members representing a majority of the Assembly Districts.
41
- 42 3. Except as otherwise provided herein or in Robert's Rules of Order, all actions
43 taken by This Committee or any subordinate body of This Committee shall be by
44 affirmative vote of a majority of those members eligible to vote who are present
45 and voting, a quorum being present. Abstaining members count as being
46 present for purposes of a quorum, but abstentions do not count for purposes of
47 determining the outcome of a vote. Secret ballots shall not be allowed on any
48 vote. In the event a written ballot is utilized in any proceeding, it shall bear the
49 printed name and signature of the voter, and shall be maintained by This
50 Committee for a period of at least ninety (90) days. In the case of ballots
51 regarding endorsement recommendation(s) or endorsement(s), such ballots shall

1 be maintained for not less than ninety (90) days or until the day after the next
2 regular meeting of This Committee after the election in question, whichever is
3 later.

- 4 4. A member must be present in order to participate in the business of This
5 Committee or any subordinate body of This Committee. No proxy or absentee
6 voting shall be permitted.
7
8 5. All Regular, Alternate and Associate Members of This Committee shall have the
9 right to speak at meetings of This Committee. Only members of the Policy
10 Committee shall have the right to speak at meetings of the Policy Committee
11 except as otherwise authorized by the Policy Committee.
12
13 6. Privilege of the floor may be granted if:
14
15 a. The speaker has been requested to speak by the Chair.
16
17 b. The speaker has been requested to report on the activities of a sub-
18 committee by the chair of that sub-committee.
19
20 c. Time is ceded by someone eligible for the floor.
21

22 **Section E. GENERAL POLICIES**

23
24 The Los Angeles County Democratic Party acknowledges and adopts, as its own, the
25 following General Policies of the National and State Democratic Party:
26

- 27 1. All public meetings at all levels of the Democratic Party shall be open to all
28 members of the Democratic Party without regard to race, color, creed, national
29 origin, sex, age, religion, ethnic identity, sexual orientation, disabilities as defined
30 by the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 or economic status.
31
32 2. There shall be no membership requirements tests, or loyalty oaths for This
33 Committee or at any other level of the Democratic Party causing or requiring,
34 either directly or indirectly, prospective or current members of the Democratic
35 Party to acquiesce in, condone or support discrimination on the grounds of race,
36 color, creed, national origin, sex, age, religion, ethnic identity, sexual orientation,
37 disabilities as defined by the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 or economic
38 status.
39
40 3. This Committee shall support nondiscriminatory, and the broadest possible, voter
41 registration.
42
43 4. This Committee shall publicize fully and in such a manner as to assure notice to
44 all interested parties a full description of the legal and practical procedures for
45 selection of Democratic Party Officers and representatives on all levels.
46

47 **Section F. EMAIL NOTICE**

- 48
49 1. This Committee may provide any notice via email if:
50
51 a. The recipient has consented, in writing, on forms provided by This
Committee to receiving notice in this manner;

- 1 b. The notice is sent to the email address specified when the recipient gave
2 consent, or the most recent email address specified on a subsequent
3 notice of change of address by the recipient;
- 4 c. The obligation to inform, and procedure for informing, This Committee of
5 any change in email address, has been specified in writing;
- 6 d. The recipient has received from This Committee an initial email
7 confirmation of their consent to receiving notice via email, and has
8 reconfirmed that consent by means of a return email;
- 9 e. The recipient agrees, in writing, that This Committee is not responsible
10 should the recipient fail to open, receive, view or read their incoming
11 emails and, therefore, did not receive actual knowledge of the material
12 contained in the email notice in a timely manner;
- 13 f. The recipient acknowledges in writing that they have been informed, in
14 writing, that their email address will be made public unless they exercise
15 an option to maintain the confidentiality of their address on a form
16 provided by This Committee. The confidentiality from public disclosure
17 does not preclude the dissemination of the recipient's email address to
18 the staff of This Committee or others with a need to know the member's
19 email address in order to provide effective notice to the recipient; and
- 20 g. Any email providing notice shall contain;
- 21 (i) information about how a recipient who has previously consented
22 to email notice can "opt out" of receiving future notices by email;
23 and
- 24 (ii) information about how to submit a change of email address.
- 25 2. Notice to This Committee of the change of the email address of a person
26 consenting to email notice is to be provided to This Committee in writing.
27 Similarly, to be effective, notice of the revocation of such consent (that is, of a
28 person who has consented to email notice choosing to terminate that consent
29 and opt out of email notice on a going forward basis) shall be provided to This
30 Committee in writing.

31
32 **ARTICLE X. CANDIDATE NOMINATION**

33
34 This Committee, alone or in conjunction with other County Committee or State
35 Committee members, shall nominate candidates to fill vacancies as provided by Section
36 8806 of the Election Code.

37
38 **ARTICLE XI. ENDORSEMENT**

39
40 **Section A. GENERAL PROVISIONS**

41

1 The following general provisions shall govern all endorsement recommendation and
2 endorsement proceedings of This Committee or its Endorsement Recommendation
3 Committees:
4

5 **1. Definition and Jurisdiction of Endorsement Recommendation Committee**

6
7 **a. Jurisdiction**

8
9 The following Committees may be referred to as Endorsement
10 Recommendation Committees and shall have the following jurisdiction:
11

- 12 (i) Assembly District Delegation(s) – The Assembly District
13 Delegation of each Assembly District in which a candidate for a
14 particular race is on the ballot, shall have jurisdiction over Local
15 Races; defined herein as races covering less than four (4)
16 Assembly Districts, excluding Los Angeles County offices,
17 municipal offices of the City of Los Angeles, Los Angeles Unified
18 School District, and Los Angeles Community College District. If
19 more than one (1) Assembly District Delegation has jurisdiction,
20 they shall meet jointly. If more than four (4) Assembly District
21 Delegations would have jurisdictions, the race shall be considered
22 by the Candidate Interview Committee. Meetings shall be held at
23 the call of the Chair of This Committee, or his or her designee;
24
- 25 (ii) Candidate Interview Committee – The Candidate Interview
26 Committee shall have jurisdiction over all Non-Judicial Races that
27 involve Los Angeles County offices, municipal offices of the City of
28 Los Angeles, Los Angeles Unified School District, and Los
29 Angeles Community College District elections and/or other non-
30 partisan races covering more than four (4) Assembly Districts;
31
- 32 (iii) Judicial Interview Committee – The Judicial Interview Committee
33 shall have jurisdiction over all Judicial Races and retention
34 questions; and,
35
- 36 (iv) Ballot Measure Committee – The Ballot Measure Committee shall
37 have jurisdiction over all measure contests including state and
38 local initiatives, propositions, and referenda, other than recall
39 elections.
40
- 41 (v) Screening and Early Endorsement Recommendation Committee
42 (SEER Committee) – The SEER Committee shall have jurisdiction
43 over non-partisan races that have been placed into a “Candidate
44 Recruitment Track”, which may allow certain participating
45 candidates to receive early endorsements.
46

47 **2. Percentage Required for Endorsement or Recommendation for**
48 **Endorsement**

49
50 This Committee may endorse, and Endorsement Recommendation Committees
51 may recommend, by affirmative vote of sixty percent (60%) of those members
52 voting any Democrat who has filed as a candidate for non-partisan office or for

1 partisan office in a special election; blank ballots, void ballots, and abstentions
2 shall not count towards the total. The same sixty percent (60%) requirement
3 shall apply to endorsements in support of, or opposition to, ballot measures.
4

5 **3. Validity of Written Ballot**

6
7 To be valid, a written ballot must include the printed name of the member or
8 alternate casting the ballot and their signature.
9

10 **4. Calculation of Percentages**

11
12 The sixty percent (60%) threshold is calculated by multiplying the number of
13 ballots cast--excluding blank ballots, void ballots, and abstentions--by .6 and if a
14 whole number is not obtained, rounding up to the next whole number.
15

16 *[For example: If one hundred (100) votes are cast, sixty percent (60%) is sixty*
17 *(60) votes; however, if one hundred two (102) votes are cast, multiplication by .6*
18 *results in 61.2, which is rounded up to the next whole number. Accordingly,*
19 *sixty-two (62) votes would be needed to make an endorsement or*
20 *recommendation of endorsement.]*
21

22 **5. Prohibition on Multiple Endorsements**

23
24 This Committee shall not endorse more candidates for an office than the number
25 to be elected for that office.
26

27 **6. Only One Form of Endorsement**

28
29 This Committee shall make no form of endorsement other than an official
30 endorsement as expressly described in these Constitution and By-Laws.
31

32 **7. Prohibition on Supporting or Endorsing Non-Democrats**

33
34 This Committee shall not in any way support or endorse a candidate who is not a
35 registered Democrat.
36

37 **8. Notice of Endorsement Proceedings, Service of Standard Candidate**
38 **Questionnaire & Proof of Service**

39
40 a. Whenever an endorsement procedure is initiated, except as to ballot
41 measures, the Chair of the relevant Endorsement Recommendation
42 Committee, or his/her designee, shall be responsible for sending to all
43 candidates notification in writing of:
44

45 (i) The date, time and place of all relevant meetings;

46 (ii) Their right to consideration;

47 (iii) The requirement that, in order to be considered for endorsement
48 by This Committee, they must be registered Democrats as of the
49 close of filing or the first consideration by an Endorsement
50 Recommendation Committee of their race, whichever is earlier;
51
52

- (iv) The content of the Standard Candidate Questionnaire adopted by the Policy Committee of This Committee by providing them with a copy of the questionnaire;
- (v) The instructions for return of the completed Standard Candidate Questionnaire; and,
- (vi) The instructions for payment of Administrative Fees.

These requirements do not apply to the Early Endorsement Procedure for races on the Candidate Recruitment Track.

- b. The Chair of This Committee may reassign the above responsibilities to another member of This Committee.
- c. The above written notification shall be sent at least seven (7) days prior to the meeting of the Endorsement Recommendation Committee.
- d. A proof of service of notification shall be maintained by This Committee for a period of at least thirty (30) days after the relevant election.

9. Special Notice Provisions for Ballot Measures

Whenever an endorsement procedure is initiated as to a ballot measure, the Chair of the Ballot Measure Committee or his/her designee, shall be responsible for causing to be posted on This Committee’s public website not less than seven days prior to the first such meeting the date, time and place of all relevant meetings in the endorsement process for that measure and, in the event additional meetings are added, reasonably in advance of any such meetings. The Chair of This Committee or his/her designee shall endeavor to provide members of This Committee with reasonable advance notice by electronic mail of the date, time and place of all such relevant meetings. The failure of the Chair of This Committee to provide such notice by electronic mail shall not be sufficient grounds for challenging an endorsement recommendation or endorsement decision.

10. Application of the Open Meetings Rule to Endorsement Recommendation Process; Notification of Committee Actions and Recommendations

- a. The Rule of this Party that all public meetings of This Committee are open to all registered Democrats applies with full force and effect to meetings of Endorsement Recommendation Committees.

The meetings of Endorsement Recommendation Committees are public meetings subject to this rule with the following exceptions:

- (i) Endorsement interviews and review and discussion of completed candidate questionnaires may reflect deliberations about campaign strategy and, as a result, are not public parts of any Endorsement Recommendation Committee meetings. As a result, only members of the Endorsement Recommendation Committee,

1 officers of This Committee and the Chair's designees, unless
2 otherwise excluded herein, may attend these parts of any
3 Endorsement Recommendation Committee meetings.
4

5 (ii) A candidate for the office under consideration at the relevant
6 portion of the Endorsement Recommendation Committee meeting
7 and any other persons serving in paid employment at the pleasure
8 of such candidate may only attend the non-public portion of the
9 meeting dealing with her/his race in which that candidate is being
10 interviewed and shall otherwise be excluded therefrom.
11

12 b. Voting on recommendations to This Committee, including debate on any
13 such motion, is a public part of any Endorsement Recommendation
14 Committee meeting and recommendations of an Endorsement
15 Recommendation Committee are public information and are not to be
16 kept secret.
17

18 To that end, and to insure the free and fair flow of information regarding
19 such recommendations, the chair of an Endorsement Recommendation
20 Committee:
21

22 (i) Shall, within seventy-two (72) hours of a decision of an
23 Endorsement Recommendation Committee, diligently attempt to
24 notify the Chair of This Committee, along with all candidates
25 whose races have been considered, of the content of the
26 recommendations of the Endorsement Recommendations
27 Committee; and,
28

29 (ii) May provide such notice either orally, in writing, telephonically, or
30 electronically, or by any other form of actual notice.
31

32 **11. Conflict of Interest Provisions**
33

34 a. A member of This Committee may not vote on nor make a motion
35 concerning a recommendation for endorsement of a candidate during
36 proceedings of an Endorsement Recommendation Committee if:
37

38 (i) The member is a candidate for the public office under
39 consideration; or,
40

41 (ii) The member is a paid employee or independent contractor of the
42 controlled committee of a candidate for the office under
43 consideration; or,
44

45 (iii) The member is an employee who serves or works in paid
46 employment at the pleasure of a person standing for election to
47 the office under consideration; provided, however, that nothing in
48 this rule shall preclude any person serving on a non-salaried basis
49 as an appointee to a public panel, board or commission from
50 voting on such a recommendation for endorsement.
51

52 b. Disqualified members may, however, participate in discussion and

1 debate.

2
3 **12. Quorum**

4
5 **a. Minimum Participation**

6
7 **(i) Endorsement Recommendation Committees Consisting of an**
8 **Assembly District(s)**

9
10 Assembly District Delegations meeting as Endorsement
11 Recommendation Committees, either alone or in conjunction with
12 other Assembly District Delegations, have the following quorum
13 requirements:

- 14
15 a) In the case of a single Assembly District Delegation, a
16 majority of the filled positions of all Regular Members, with
17 a maximum quorum requirement of six (6);
18
19 b) In the case of a two (2) Assembly District Delegations
20 meeting jointly, a majority of the filled positions of all
21 Regular Members, with a maximum quorum requirement of
22 nine (9);
23
24 c) In the case of a three (3) Assembly District Delegations
25 meeting jointly, a majority of the filled positions of all
26 Regular Members, with a maximum quorum requirement of
27 twelve (12); and
28
29 d) In the case of a four (4) Assembly District Delegations
30 meeting jointly, a majority of the filled positions of all
31 Regular Members, with a maximum quorum requirement of
32 fifteen (15).
33

34 *[Note: Regular Members are defined as Elected, Appointed, and*
35 *Ex-Officio Members. A majority is calculated by first determining*
36 *the number of filled positions and then subtracting any disqualified*
37 *members as described in XI.A.10 above.]*
38

39 **(ii) Endorsement Recommendation Committees Consisting of a**
40 **Standing or Ad Hoc Committee**

41
42 A quorum of any meeting of an Endorsement Recommendation
43 Committee, which is a Standing Committee, an Ad Hoc
44 Committee or any subcommittee thereof, is a majority of the filled
45 positions.
46

47 *[Note: A majority is calculated by first determining the number of*
48 *filled positions and then subtracting any disqualified members as*
49 *described in XI.A.10 above.]*
50

51 **b. Effect of Disqualification on Quorum**
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(i) **Endorsement Recommendation Committees Consisting of an Assembly District(s)**

In the event a member of an Assembly District Delegation is disqualified from participating in a specific race, that member's alternate may participate and shall be counted for purposes of determining a quorum, unless the alternate is otherwise disqualified. If both the member and alternate are disqualified, neither shall be counted as a member of the Delegation for purposes of determining a quorum, for that specific race.

(ii) **Endorsement Recommendation Committees Consisting of a Standing or Ad Hoc Committee**

Whenever a member of a Standing Committee or Ad Hoc Committee considering endorsements is disqualified from voting, that individual shall not be counted as a member of the Standing Committee or Ad Hoc Committee for purposes of determining a quorum, for that specific race.

13. **Participation of Alternate Members**

a. Alternates may only vote on endorsement recommendations at the Assembly District level, if:

- (i) The Appointing Member is not present at the time of the vote, or
- (ii) Their Appointing Member is disqualified, whether or not the Appointing Member is present at the time of the vote.

b. Alternate Members serving on Endorsement Recommendation Committees that are Standing or Ad Hoc Committees have the same rights and privileges as Regular Members on the committee.

14. **Exclusive Procedure**

Except as provided in this Article XI.E.,G.,H. and J., the only valid motions to endorse must originate from an Endorsement Recommendation Committee. No other motions to endorse shall be in order. If a motion to endorse originating from an Endorsement Recommendation Committee is not adopted, balloting shall proceed as provided in Article XI.D.5.

15. **Binding Nature of Rules**

The rules in this Article XI are substantive and may not be suspended, modified, supplemented or waived by any Endorsement Recommendation Committee nor by This Committee, except as specifically provided herein.

Section B. PREREQUISITES TO CANDIDATE ENDORSEMENT PROCESS

1. **Initiation of Endorsement Process**

- 1 a. Endorsement procedures for a candidate shall only take place when
- 2 requested in writing by a candidate who has taken out papers for a non-
- 3 partisan office, or by a member of This Committee.
- 4
- 5 b. In any race in which the Chair of This Committee reasonably believes that
- 6 the Endorsement Recommendation Committee responsible for initiating
- 7 an Endorsement Recommendation process will fail to do so, or has failed
- 8 to do so, upon proper request, the responsibility for making such
- 9 recommendation may be reassigned by the Chair of This Committee to
- 10 the Candidate Interview Committee or Policy Committee.
- 11

12 **2. Restriction on Timing of Endorsement**

13

14 No endorsement or recommendation for endorsement shall take place until the

15 deadline for filing has passed unless the race has been placed in the Candidate

16 Recruitment Track. Nothing in this section shall prevent:

- 17
- 18 a. The scheduling of meetings;
- 19
- 20 b. The Notice of Endorsement Proceedings; and/or
- 21
- 22 c. The Service of a Standard Candidate Questionnaire prior to the close of
- 23 filing.
- 24

25 **3. Administrative Fees for Endorsement & Waiver**

26

27 **a. Fees**

28

29 Each candidate seeking the endorsement of This Committee shall submit

30 to the relevant Endorsement Recommendations Committee Chair, a non-

31 refundable administrative filing fee of One Hundred Dollars (\$100) in the

32 case of races involving more than four (4) Assembly Districts and Fifty

33 Dollars (\$50) in all other cases. This fee shall be submitted by the time of

34 the Endorsement Recommendations Committee Meeting in which his/her

35 name is considered.

36

37 **b. Waiver**

38

39 In the event of economic hardship, candidates may offset the filing fee by

40 submitting proof of registration of new Democrat voters who have been

41 registered within the three (3) months immediately preceding the

42 Endorsement Recommendation Committee meeting. Each registration

43 shall reduce the filing fee by One Dollar (\$1) for each proof of such

44 registration submitted. Except as otherwise expressly provided herein,

45 the fee and/or proof of registration must be delivered by the time of the

46 Endorsement Recommendation Committee meeting. A waiver of all or

47 part of the filing fee may also be granted for economic hardship by the

48 Chair of This Committee.

49

50 **4. Submission of Completed Standard Candidate Questionnaire**

51

1 The Candidate or the Candidate's designee is to submit at least ten (10) copies
2 of the completed Standard Candidate Questionnaire to the Chair of the
3 Endorsement Recommendation Committee prior to consideration of that
4 particular race. Completed Standard Candidate Questionnaires are an adjunct to
5 deliberations about electoral strategy. The Chair of the Endorsement
6 Recommendation Committee and any other person with custody of an original or
7 copy thereof shall take such steps as are necessary to safeguard the
8 confidentiality of such completed Standard Candidate Questionnaires pursuant to
9 the written guidance promulgated by the Policy Committee of This Committee.

10
11 **5. Eligibility of Candidates for Endorsement**

12
13 Only a candidate who has timely paid or had waived the applicable administrative
14 filing fee and timely submitted a completed Standard Candidate Questionnaire
15 shall be eligible for endorsement.
16

17 **6. Candidate Recruitment Track and Early Endorsement Procedure**

18
19 a. Overview and Purpose – In rare circumstances, This Committee may
20 select certain races and candidates to qualify to be included in a
21 Candidate Recruitment Track, which allows them to receive training,
22 endorsements and support before the close of filing.
23

24 b. Selection of Races – Any member of This Committee may suggest non-
25 partisan races to be considered for the Candidate Recruitment Track to
26 the Co-Chairs of the Campaign Services Committee. The Chair of This
27 Committee, in consultation with the Co-Chairs of the Campaign Services
28 Committee, may select non-partisan races to be included in the
29 Candidate Recruitment Track. To be selected, races must exhibit at least
30 one (1) of the following characteristics:
31

- 32 (i) Currently or historically held by a non-Democrat;
33
34 (ii) Historically difficult for a Democrat to be victorious;
35
36 (iii) Democratic disadvantage in voter registration; and/or,
37
38 (iv) Democratic disadvantage in voter performance.
39

40 c. Candidate Recruitment – After a race is selected, members of the
41 Assembly District Delegation(s) in whose jurisdiction(s) the race is
42 situated, the Campaign Services Committee, organizations chartered by
43 This Committee, the Chair of This Committee and its staff may all offer
44 people to be considered for the screening and early endorsement
45 process.
46

47 d. Recommendation of Candidates for Early Endorsement – After a race is

1 selected, the Chair of This Committee shall appoint a “Screening and
2 Early Endorsement Recommendation Committee” (SEER Committee), for
3 that race which shall consist of:

- 4 (i) The Co-Chair(s) of the Campaign Services Committee;
- 5
- 6 (ii) The Chair(s) of the affected Assembly District Delegation(s), or
7 their designee(s), who must be members of This Committee;
- 8
- 9 (iii) The Regional Vice-Chair(s) and Regional Endorsement
10 Coordinator(s) of the affected Region(s);
- 11
- 12 (iv) Associate Members appointed by a chartered organization who
13 reside in the affected Assembly District(s) (who shall be non-
14 voting members); and
- 15
- 16 (v) The Chair of This Committee’s designee, who may be an
17 employee of This Committee.
- 18

19 e. SEER Committee Duties – The SEER Committee shall have the
20 responsibility to conduct a screening process to determine whether
21 suggested candidates are appropriate to receive an early endorsement.
22 The SEER Committee, by a vote of sixty percent (60%) of those present
23 and voting, may vote to recommend a candidate or candidates for early
24 endorsement in a race that has been selected. As with all endorsements,
25 blank ballots, void ballots and abstentions do not count toward the total.
26 The SEER Committee need not recommend candidates for all open seats
27 in a selected race.

28

29 f. Consideration of Candidates for Early Endorsement – The SEER
30 Committee’s candidate recommendations shall be considered at a regular
31 meeting of This Committee at which time, subject to the ordinary rules
32 concerning severance, the sole motion before the body will be whether to
33 accept or reject the SEER Committee’s recommendation.

34

35 g. Percentage Required for Early Endorsement – This Committee may make
36 an Early Endorsement of a candidate who has been recommended for
37 Early Endorsement by the SEER Committee. Early endorsement
38 requires an affirmative vote of sixty percent (60%) of those members
39 voting any Democrat; blank ballots, void ballots, and abstentions shall not
40 count towards the total.

41

42 h. Effect of the Early Endorsement Process on This Committee’s General
43 Endorsement Process

- 44
- 45 (i) Early endorsements shall carry through to the date of the election

1 or subsequent run-off election unless revoked by means outlined
2 in these Constitution and By-Laws.

3
4 (ii) Should early endorsement(s) be granted to fewer candidates than
5 the number of open seats in a given race, other candidates shall
6 be eligible to be considered for endorsement to the remaining
7 seats through the general endorsement process.

8
9 (iii) Otherwise eligible candidates who do not receive an early
10 endorsement shall be eligible to participate and be considered in
11 the general endorsement process.

12
13 **Section C. ENDORSEMENT RECOMMENDATION COMMITTEES AND PROCESS**

14
15 **1. Regional Endorsement Coordinators**

16
17 **a. Appointment and Jurisdiction**

18
19 The Chair of This Committee shall appoint one Regional Endorsement
20 Coordinator for each Region who shall be responsible for coordinating
21 local endorsements in their Region. If a local race includes portions of
22 more than one (1) Region, the Chair of This Committee shall determine
23 which of the Regional Endorsement Coordinators shall be responsible for
24 coordinating that endorsement.

25
26 **2. Calendar**

27
28 a. For all endorsement procedures, a calendar shall be established which
29 includes the dates of all elections, the date/time/location for Endorsement
30 Recommendation Committee meetings, and dates by which notice shall
31 be required to be served for those meetings.

32
33 b. For Endorsement Recommendation Committees that are Standing
34 Committees, the chairs of those committees shall be responsible for
35 creating this calendar.

36
37 c. For Endorsement Recommendation Committees that are Assembly
38 District Delegations, the Regional Endorsing Coordinator, in consultation
39 with the Assembly District Delegation Chair(s), shall be responsible for
40 creating this calendar for races in or assigned to their respective regions.

41
42 **3. Endorsement Recommendation Committee Meetings, Options and Actions**

43
44 **a. Endorsement Recommendation Options and Required Percentage**

45
46 An Endorsement Recommendation Committee may, upon affirmative vote
47 of sixty percent (60%) of those present and voting, with blank ballots, void
48 ballots, and abstentions not being counted toward the total, make any of
49 the following recommendations:
50

1 (i) Recommend This Committee endorse a particular candidate or
2 position.

3
4 (ii) Recommend This Committee take a position of “No
5 Endorsement”.

6
7 b. **“No Consensus”**

8
9 In the event an Endorsement Recommendation Committee considers a
10 race and fails to make one of the recommendations set forth in Article XI.
11 C.3.a. above, the report of the Endorsement Recommendation
12 Committee shall be “No Consensus”.

13
14 c. **Recommendation of Finding of Unacceptability**

15
16 In rare circumstances, an Endorsement Recommendation Committee
17 may also recommend This Committee make a finding that a specific
18 candidate is “Unacceptable”.

19
20 **Section D. ENDORSEMENT PROCESS**

21
22 1. **Presentation of Endorsement Recommendation Committee Report**

23
24 a. **Consent Calendar**

25
26 A consent calendar may be used at the discretion of the Chair of This
27 Committee, provided:

28
29 (i) It is only used for a report of the Candidate Interview Committee,
30 Judicial Interview Committee, and/or Ballot Measure Committee;

31
32 (ii) It is not used by (an) Assembly District Delegation(s); and,

33
34 (iii) It is in writing and distributed at or before the meeting at which the
35 consent calendar is considered.

36
37 b. **Endorsement Recommendation Committee Reports Not on a
38 Consent Calendar**

39
40 (i) The chair or designated spokesperson of an Endorsement
41 Recommendation Committee shall present a report on its
42 recommendation(s) including a brief description of its process and
43 setting forth in full the reason for its recommendation(s).

44
45 (ii) Each jurisdiction will be presented and voted on individually.

46
47 (iii) For purposes of this Article XI, a jurisdiction is the County, a city, a
48 school or community college district or any other district (i.e.: a
49 water or library district).

50
51 (iv) At-large offices will be presented and voted on separately from all
52 other offices.

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Example A) In a city that has multiple City Council Members that are each elected in separate districts, plus an elected Mayor and Treasurer, all endorsement recommendations will be presented as a single motion.

Example B) In a city that has multiple City Council Members that are elected at-large by all voters in the city, plus an elected Mayor and Treasurer, the endorsement recommendations for Mayor and Treasurer will be presented as a single motion, with all of the recommendations for the at-large City Council presented as a separate motion.

(v) Any office, including an at-large office, for which the Endorsement Recommendation Committee's report reflects "No Consensus" shall be considered separately under a separate procedure for addressing a "No Consensus" result.

2. Severance

Candidates, at-large offices and/or ballot measure positions may be severed from a consent calendar or a motion from an Endorsement Recommendation Committee upon request of a credentialed member of This Committee seconded by twenty (20) members who show their voting credentials. No written petitions are required for this process.

A severance request, however denominated, in connection with an at-large race shall result in all recommendations (candidates or other positions) in that race being severed and considered separately and individually.

A report that the Endorsement Recommendation Committee reached a "No Consensus" result with respect to an office does not need to be severed as it shall be dealt with separately under a separate procedure.

3. Order of Consideration

The order of endorsement recommendation consideration shall be as follows:

- a. All parts of a consent calendar, or Endorsement Recommendation Committee's motion, which have not been severed;
- b. Candidates or positions severed from a consent calendar or Endorsement Recommendation Committee recommendation, with the first vote being on the Endorsement Recommendation Committee's recommendation;

In at-large races where severance has been requested and has been seconded by twenty (20) members, balloting for each seat shall occur separately and individually considering each recommended candidate or position, one (1) at a time in alphabetical order by last name. Each of the Endorsement Recommendation Committee's recommendations shall be

1 considered before any other balloting is to occur;

- 2
- 3 c. One (1) or more written ballot(s) including all eligible candidates not
- 4 already endorsed, with the option of No Endorsement being included in all
- 5 such balloting;
- 6
- 7 d. Consideration of races or seats under the separate procedure for
- 8 addressing a “No Consensus” result;
- 9
- 10 d. Ballot measure positions other than “No Consensus”; and
- 11
- 12 e. Consideration of ballot measures under the separate procedure for
- 13 addressing a “No Consensus” result.
- 14

15 **4. Debate**

- 16
- 17 a. Except when presented as a consent calendar or when subject to the
- 18 separate procedure for addressing a “No Consensus” result, after the
- 19 presentation of an Endorsement Recommendation Committee report, the
- 20 members of This Committee shall be given the opportunity to debate the
- 21 recommendation. Speakers shall be limited to no more than three (3)
- 22 speakers in favor and three (3) speakers opposed, with a time limit of no
- 23 more than one (1) minute per speaker. The number of speakers or time
- 24 allotted may be extended by a majority vote of those present and voting.
- 25
- 26 b. In the event a race is severed from an Endorsement Recommendation
- 27 Committee’s report, debate and the first vote will be held on the
- 28 Endorsement Recommendations Committee’s recommendation for the
- 29 severed race.
- 30

31 **5. Failure to Adopt Endorsement Committee Recommendation**

- 32
- 33 a. In the event the Endorsement Recommendation Committee’s
- 34 recommendation is not adopted, This Committee shall consider
- 35 endorsement by written ballot.
- 36
- 37 b. After the defeat of an endorsement recommendation presented by an
- 38 Assembly District Delegation(s), there shall be only one (1) ballot. The
- 39 ballot shall include the option of “No Endorsement” and all eligible
- 40 candidates who have not yet been endorsed.
- 41

42 In at-large races, each member may cast her/his ballot for up to the

43 number of seats on which no position concerning endorsement has yet

44 been adopted. The candidates with the highest number of votes up to the

45 number of seats available for endorsement shall be endorsed; provided

46 that each endorsed candidate must receive the sixty percent (60%)

47 minimum threshold of valid ballots cast as set forth in Article XI.A.2. If

48 there is a tie among such candidates, the tie shall be broken by lot.

49

50 In the event no candidate is endorsed for an office or a seat in an at-large

51 race, it shall be deemed that This Committee has taken a position of “No

52 Consensus.”

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- c. After the defeat of an endorsement recommendation presented by the Candidate Interview Committee or the Judicial Interview Committee, there shall be up to three (3) ballots. "No Endorsement" shall be an option in all balloting. The first ballot shall include all eligible candidates.
 - (i) In the event no candidate receives the sixty percent (60%) majority required for endorsement on the first ballot, any candidate not receiving twenty percent (20%) shall be dropped, and a second ballot shall be conducted. In the event no candidate receives a sixty percent (60%) majority on the first ballot, but all candidates receive at least twenty percent (20%) of the vote, balloting shall cease.
 - (ii) In the event no candidate receives the sixty percent (60%) majority required for endorsement on the second ballot, any candidate not receiving twenty percent (20%) shall be dropped and a third ballot shall be conducted. In the event no candidate receives a sixty percent (60%) majority on the second ballot, but all candidates receive at least twenty percent (20%) of the vote, balloting shall cease.
 - (iii) In the event no candidate is endorsed it shall be deemed that This Committee has taken a position of "No Consensus".
 - d. If an endorsement recommendation presented by the Ballot Measure Committee is defeated, there shall be only one (1) ballot, which shall include the option of "Yes" (support), "No" (oppose), and "No Endorsement".
6. **Separate Procedure for Consideration by This Committee of an Endorsement Recommendation Committee Report Reflecting a "No Consensus" Result**
- a. Races involving Candidates for Public Office
 - (i) After all consideration of the Endorsement Recommendation Committee's report recommending the endorsement of one or more candidates and any findings that (a) candidate(s) for the office in question is/are unacceptable has been completed, This Committee shall consider by written ballot whether to endorse, notwithstanding the Endorsement Recommendation Committee's failure to reach a consensus.
 - (ii). In considering this question, there shall be only one (1) ballot. The ballot shall include all eligible candidates who have not yet been endorsed and the option of "No Endorsement."
 - (iii). Unless authorized by an affirmative vote, there shall be no presentations by the candidates or their designees or other debate; provided that if any candidate/candidate's designee is

1 afforded the opportunity to address This Committee, all other
2 qualified candidates must be afforded the same opportunity.

3
4 b. **Ballot Measures**

5
6 When the Ballot Measure Committee has considered a ballot measure
7 and failed to reach a consensus, it shall so report. This Committee shall
8 proceed to vote on an endorsement. There shall be only one (1) ballot.
9 The ballot shall include the options of support, oppose and “No
10 Endorsement.”

11
12
13 7. **Waiver of Written Ballot**

14
15 The requirement of written ballot may be waived by a majority vote of those
16 present and voting at any stage in the proceedings.

17
18 8. **Failure to Endorse**

19
20 In the event of a failure of This Committee to endorse or take a position, This
21 Committee’s position shall be “No Consensus”

22
23 9. **Determination of Publication**

24
25 In the event a position of “No Consensus” shall be sustained, or otherwise
26 become the position of This Committee, the Chair of This Committee shall
27 determine whether such race shall be listed in any publication of This Committee.
28

29 **Section E. CHALLENGES**

30
31 1. **Challenges to Recommendation and Endorsement Process**

32
33 a. **Standing to Challenge**

34
35 Any alleged violation of this Article XI, or any other error or omission in
36 the recommendation process of This Committee's endorsement
37 procedure must be challenged by any of the following:

- 38 (i) A member of This Committee;
- 39 (ii) A candidate whose race is being considered; or,
- 40 (iii) In the case of a ballot measure a representative of a qualified
41 committee primarily formed to support or oppose that ballot
42 measure;
- 43 (iii) In the case of a ballot measure a representative of a qualified
44 committee primarily formed to support or oppose that ballot
45 measure;

46
47 b. **Timing of Challenge**

48 (i) **To Recommendation Process**

49
50 In order to allow for a timely remedy, any challenge to the
51 recommendation process should be made to the officer presiding
52

1 at the time of the challenge and at the earliest possible point in
2 time. Except as otherwise provided in Article XI.E.2.b. below, all
3 challenges to the recommendation process must be made before
4 a vote to endorse is taken by This Committee.

5
6 (ii) **To Endorsement Process**

7
8 Except as otherwise provided in Article XI.E.2.b. below, a
9 challenge to any error or omission in the endorsement or
10 recommendation process must be made before the vote to
11 endorse is taken by This Committee. In the event of such a
12 challenge, the challenge must be made to the Chair of This
13 Committee prior to a vote to endorse taking place, and should be
14 in writing.

15
16 c. **Challenge to Member's Right to Vote**

17
18 If a timely challenge relates to the eligibility of a member of the
19 recommending body to vote and the challenged member does not agree
20 that the challenge should be sustained, the challenged member shall be
21 allowed to vote a provisional ballot.

22
23 2. **Appeals and Determinations of Challenges**

24
25 a. **Composition of Appeals Committee**

26
27 The validity of any challenge concerning the recommendation or
28 endorsement process shall be determined by an Appeals Committee
29 consisting of the Chair of This Committee, its Parliamentarian and one
30 (1) Rules and Legal Committee Co-Chair selected by the Chair of This
31 Committee.

32
33 b. **Authority of Appeals Committee**

34
35 The Appeals Committee shall have authority to resolve the challenge and
36 to order such remedy as may be just and equitable. Remedies may
37 include, but are not limited to, disqualifying a challenged ballot, directing
38 that a challenged ballot be counted, or directing that endorsement in the
39 race be considered by This Committee by written ballot containing the
40 names of all of the candidates determined to be eligible by the Appeals
41 Committee. The decision of the Appeals Committee shall be final. In the
42 event a challenge is filed after the vote to endorse occurs, the Appeals
43 Committee may determine that compelling unusual circumstances exist
44 and vote to hear the challenge. In the event such a post-endorsement
45 appeal is sustained by unanimous vote of the Appeals Committee, the
46 Appeals Committee may suspend the endorsement.

47
48 c. **Erroneous Endorsement of Non-Democrats**

49
50 In the event the Chair of This Committee determines that an endorsed
51 candidate was not a registered Democrat as of the close of filing or the
52 time the Endorsement Recommendation Committee first meets,

1 whichever is earlier, or any time thereafter, the endorsement shall be
2 void.

3
4 **Section F. COMMUNICATION OF REGISTRATION STATUS**

5
6 Nothing in this Article XI shall preclude This Committee from communicating to voters
7 that any candidate for public office is not registered to vote as a Democrat.
8

9 **Section G. SPECIAL PROCEDURES FOR RUNOFF/GENERAL ELECTIONS IN WHICH THIS**
10 **COMMITTEE HAS NO ENDORSED CANDIDATE AND A CANDIDATE ELIGIBLE FOR**
11 **ENDORSEMENT IN THE INITIAL/PRIMARY ELECTION REMAINS ELIGIBLE FOR**
12 **ELECTION**

13
14 1. **Continued Endorsement of Candidates Still Eligible for Election Who Were**
15 **Endorsed in the First Round of Voting**
16

17 Unless properly revoked, the endorsement of a candidate for election in a first
18 round of voting continues in the second round of voting, however denominated
19 (e.g. runoff or general election) if that candidate remains eligible for election in
20 the second round of voting.
21

22 2. **Endorsement in the Second Round of Voting for Races in Which No**
23 **Endorsed Candidate is Still Eligible for Election**
24

25 In a race in which there is a second round of voting, and no endorsed candidate
26 of This Committee remains eligible for election, but one (1) or more candidates
27 eligible for This Committee's endorsement in the first round of voting remain(s)
28 eligible for election in the second round of voting, This Committee may endorse a
29 candidate in the second round of voting. Such an endorsement shall be made
30 solely in accordance with the procedures set forth in this Article XI.G.
31

32 a. Request

33
34 The endorsement process for the second round of voting shall be
35 commenced only upon request of either:
36

- 37 (i) A candidate eligible for endorsement in the first round of voting
38 who remains eligible for election in the second round of voting; or,
39
40 (ii) A member of This Committee.
41

42 b. Notice

43
44 The Chair of This Committee shall cause written notice of This
45 Committee's intention to consider endorsement in the second round of
46 voting to be sent to all candidates who were eligible for This Committee's
47 endorsement in the first round of voting and who remain eligible for
48 election in the second round of voting. Such notice shall be provided not
49 less than seven (7) days before the meeting of This Committee at which
50 such an endorsement is to be considered.
51

52 c. Balloting and Debate

1
2 At the meeting of This Committee at which endorsement in the second
3 round of voting is to be considered, there shall be only one (1) ballot. The
4 ballot shall include the option of “No Endorsement” along with the names
5 of all candidates who were eligible for This Committee’s endorsement in
6 the first round of voting and who remain eligible for election in the second
7 round of voting. If any candidate receives a sixty percent (60%)
8 affirmative vote, that candidate shall receive This Committee’s
9 endorsement in the second round of voting in that race.

10
11 Unless authorized by an affirmative vote, there shall be no presentations
12 by the candidates or their designees or other debate; provided that if any
13 candidate/candidate’s designee is afforded the opportunity to address
14 This Committee, all other qualified candidates must be afforded the same
15 opportunity.
16

17 d. “No Consensus” Endorsement Where No Candidate Receives a Sixty
18 Percent (60%) Affirmative Vote
19

20 If no candidate receives a sixty percent (60%) affirmative vote, This
21 Committee’s endorsement shall be “No Consensus.”
22

23 **Section H. PROVISIONS FOR POLICY COMMITTEE ENDORSEMENT IN SPECIAL ELECTIONS**

24
25 If a special election in Los Angeles County is to take place within thirty (30) days after
26 the close of filing, the Policy Committee may endorse any Democrat who has filed for
27 that office. Any such endorsement shall require a sixty percent (60%) affirmative vote of
28 those persons present and voting, blank ballots, void ballots, and abstentions not
29 counting towards the total. If there is a scheduled meeting of This Committee prior to
30 the election the Policy Committee may delegate its endorsement power to This
31 Committee.
32

33 **Section I. RECALL**

34
35 **1. Motion to Support or Oppose Recall**

36
37 The motion to support or oppose the recall of an elected public official in a non-
38 partisan race may be made and seconded without the necessity of prior notice.
39 This motion requires the affirmative vote of sixty percent (60%) of the members
40 voting, blank ballots, void ballots, and abstentions not counting towards the total.
41

42 **2. Motion to Endorse Successor Candidate**

43
44 A motion to endorse a successor candidate in a recall election is subject to all of
45 the same provisions of this Article XI that would apply to a motion to endorse a
46 candidate in a regularly scheduled election.
47

48 **Section J. PROCEDURE FOR RECONSIDERATION, RESCISSION OR REVOCATION OF**
49 **ENDORSEMENT**

50
51 **1. Intent**
52

1 The following procedures shall be the exclusive procedures governing motions,
2 however denominated, to Reconsider, Rescind, or Revoke any position resulting
3 from the Endorsement process set forth in this Article XI. These procedures take
4 the place of, and supplant, the procedures specified in the edition of Robert's
5 Rules of Order which governs the proceedings of This Committee.
6

7 **2. Sole Method**
8

9 Once the consideration of an endorsement has been terminated, the resulting
10 position may only be revisited, whether by a motion to Reconsider, Rescind, or
11 Revoke the resulting position, by the process specified herein or by an appeal or
12 challenge under Article XI.E. Consideration of an endorsement is terminated by
13 endorsing a candidate or position, or taking a position of "No Endorsement" or
14 "No Consensus."
15

16 **3. Process for Reconsideration, Rescission, or Revocation of an**
17 **Endorsement Position**
18

19 The following is the process and pre-requisites of a motion to Reconsider,
20 Rescind, or Revoke an Endorsement Position:
21

22 a. Maker of the Motion
23

24 A motion to Reconsider, Rescind, or Revoke an Endorsement Position
25 may be made by:
26

- 27 (i) Any member of This Committee;
- 28
- 29 (ii) A sixty percent (60%) majority vote at a Policy Committee
30 meeting, a quorum being present.
31

32 b. Notice of Intent to Make a Motion
33

- 34 (i) Except when initiated by a sixty percent (60%) majority of the
35 Policy Committee, notice of intention to make a motion for
36 Reconsideration, Rescission or Revocation of an endorsement
37 shall be made in writing and submitted to the Chair of This
38 Committee at This Committee's address of record at least ten (10)
39 days before the next regular meeting of This Committee.
40
- 41 (ii) Notwithstanding anything in Article XI.J.3.b.(i), no prior notice of
42 intention to make a motion for Reconsideration, Rescission or
43 Revocation of an endorsement is necessary when the motion is
44 made at the same meeting at which the vote concerning the
45 endorsement at issue is being conducted.
46

47 c. Content of Notice of Intent to Make a Motion
48

49 The notice of intent to make a motion for Reconsideration, Rescission or
50 Revocation of an endorsement must state:
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- (i) The name of the maker of the motion or that it is coming from the Policy Committee;
 - (ii) The specifics about the subject of the motion;
 - a) If a candidate, the name and jurisdiction of the specific candidate(s);
 - b) If a ballot measure, the title of the measure, the letter or number used to designate the measure on the ballot and the jurisdiction;
 - c) If the position that is the subject of the motion is “No Endorsement” or “No Consensus,” the position adopted by This Committee along with the specific office and jurisdiction;
 - d) If the matter is a finding of unacceptability of a candidate, the name and jurisdiction of the specific candidate(s) and the fact that the subject of the motion is the finding of unacceptability shall be identified.
 - (iii) The reason for the motion, which must include a specific statement setting forth either:
 - a) New and material information not available to This Committee at the time the original endorsement vote was taken; and/or,
 - b) Extraordinary circumstances, which make revisiting an endorsement necessary.
 - (iv) If applicable, the reason(s) the information was not presented at the same meeting at which the vote concerning the endorsement was conducted.
- d. Seconding Requirements
- The requirements of seconding a motion to Reconsider, Rescind, or Revoke an Endorsement Position are:
- (i) That a second is not needed if the motion comes from the Policy Committee; or
 - (ii) Affirmative declaration of fifty (50) members of This Committee who show their voting credentials if the motion is made by a single member of This Committee.
- e. Notice of Motion
- (i) No notice of a motion for Reconsideration, Rescission or Revocation is needed when made at the same meeting at which the vote concerning the endorsement at issue is being conducted.

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(ii) In all other cases, at least seven (7) days advance written notice of a motion for Reconsideration, Rescission or Revocation shall be given to the members of This Committee and, if the subject of the motion is an endorsement for a public office, the candidates who were eligible to have received the endorsement of This Committee at the time it was last considered. Notice to such candidates shall include the content of the Notice of Intent to Make a Motion, where applicable.

f. Debate

Once a motion for Reconsideration, Rescission or Revocation of an endorsement position is duly made and seconded, the members of This Committee shall be given the opportunity to debate it.

Before any speakers are recognized from the floor, the maker of the motion shall be afforded up to three (3) minutes to present their position and the affected candidate or ballot measure sponsor shall be afforded up to three (3) minutes to respond. Either side may designate a speaker in their stead.

Thereafter, speakers shall be limited to no more than three (3) speakers in favor and three (3) speakers opposed, with a time limit of no more than one (1) minute per speaker. The number of speakers or time allotted may be extended by a majority vote of those present and voting.

g. Seventy Percent (70%) Affirmative Vote Required.

An affirmative vote of seventy percent (70%) of those members present and voting is necessary to adopt a motion for Reconsideration, Rescission or Revocation of an endorsement position.

h. Effect of Adoption

Upon the adoption of a motion for Reconsideration, Rescission or Revocation of an endorsement position:

- (i) The endorsement shall be considered invalidated and of no force or effect.
- (ii) This Committee shall immediately proceed to the consideration of endorsement by way of a single ballot.
- (iii) The ballot shall include all candidates eligible to be considered for endorsement at the time This Committee made its original endorsement, including the option of "No Endorsement".
- (iv) In at-large races, ballots shall not include any candidate who has a current and valid endorsement.

1 (v) Failure of any candidate, position, or the option of "No
2 Endorsement" to receive an affirmative vote of sixty percent (60%)
3 of those members present and voting shall result in a position of
4 "No Consensus".

5
6 i. Suspension of Endorsement

7
8 Whenever the Chair of This Committee finds that new and material
9 information not available to This Committee at the time of the original
10 endorsement vote was taken and /or extraordinary circumstances may
11 exist and that there may be a need for immediate action, the Chair of This
12 Committee shall promptly convene the Appeals Committee to consider
13 appropriate immediate action, including a temporary suspension of This
14 Committee's endorsement until the next Policy Committee meeting. In
15 the event of any such finding by the Chair of This Committee, the Policy
16 Committee, when it next meets, shall hear and decide whether to make a
17 motion for Reconsideration, Rescission or Revocation and whether to
18 extend any temporary suspension until that motion can be acted upon by
19 This Committee.
20

21
22 **ARTICLE XII. RESOLUTIONS**

23
24 **Section A. INTRODUCTION**

25
26 1. The following shall govern the submission of resolutions:

27
28 a. All resolutions must be typed;

29
30 b. Twenty (20) copies of each resolution must be provided to the
31 Chair of the Resolutions Committee at least seven (7) days in
32 advance of the meeting at which it is to be considered;

33
34 c. Whereas clauses must be limited to three (3) or less and resolved
35 clauses to two (2) or less;

36
37 d. All resolutions must contain an "action clause" indicating the
38 action requested;

39
40 e. Resolutions must be no longer than one (1) side of one (1)
41 typewritten page (8-1/2" x 11").

42
43 2. The Resolutions Committee shall:

44
45 a. Consider only those resolutions submitted by a member of This
46 Committee, an Assembly District Committee, a Region, a
47 Committee of This Committee, or by an entity chartered by This
48 Committee.

49
50 b. Combine similar resolutions by re-writing.

51
52 c. Reject resolutions which repeat past positions unless substantially

1 new actions are proposed.

- 2
- 3 d. Consider only those resolutions which by subject matter do not fall
- 4 within the scope of the Legislative Action, Policy, Ballot Measures
- 5 and Rules and Legal Committee(s).
- 6

- 7 3. Except upon majority vote, the Resolutions Committee shall not consider any
- 8 resolutions not in conformity with the foregoing rules.
- 9
- 10 4. Except as otherwise provided below a resolution must first be presented to the
- 11 Resolutions Committee. There shall be at least three (3) copies provided.
- 12
- 13 5. For a resolution to be brought up directly on the floor of This Committee it must
- 14 be signed by twenty-five (25) Regular Members from at least five (5) Assembly
- 15 Districts.
- 16

17 **Section B. PASSAGE**

18

- 19 1. A resolution approved by the Resolutions Committee shall be brought up
- 20 automatically for consideration as part of the Resolutions Committee Report.
- 21
- 22 2. A resolution not approved by the Resolutions Committee must meet the same
- 23 signature requirements as one coming directly to the floor. These resolutions
- 24 shall be considered during presentation of the report of the Resolutions
- 25 Committee.
- 26
- 27 3. No resolution shall be passed except upon sixty percent (60%) affirmative vote.
- 28

29

30 **ARTICLE XIII. REGIONS**

31

32 **Section A. COMPOSITION**

33

34 This Committee shall have no less than five (5) and no more than seven (7) Regions the

35 composition of which shall be determined by majority vote of the Committee "no less

36 than thirty (30) and no more than ninety (90) days before" the Organizational Meeting

37 upon recommendation of the Policy Committee.

38

39 **Section B. DUTIES**

40

- 41 1. The Region shall implement the duties and functions of This Committee in the
- 42 local districts and shall assist in broadening the participation and initiative of the
- 43 members in the Region.
- 44
- 45 2. Specifically each Region shall be responsible for:
- 46
- 47 a. Coordinating regional programs developed in the local districts and
- 48 carrying out county-wide programs in the Region.
- 49
- 50 b. Regional meetings of certain Standing Committees.
- 51
- 52 c. Such other duties and functions as may contribute to more visible and

1 viable presence of the Democratic Party in the Region.

- 2
3 3. Rules of procedure consistent with these Constitution and By-Laws may be made
4 by each Region.

5
6 **Section C. MEMBERSHIP**

- 7
8 1. All Regular Members of This Committee residing in a given Region shall be
9 members of that Region.
10
11 2. Alternate Members shall be members of the Region in which their Appointing
12 Member resides, except when serving as an alternate for the Highest Finishing
13 Democrat or Democratic officeholder whose District extends into Los Angeles
14 County, but who is not himself/herself registered to vote in Los Angeles County.
15 In the case of such an exception, the Alternate Member shall be a member of the
16 Region in which the Alternate Member is registered to vote.
17
18 3. Club Presidents, Democratic State Central Committee members, elected officials
19 and other Democratic leaders may be included as non-voting members.
20

21 **Section D. MEETINGS**

- 22
23 1. Each Region shall hold at least one (1) meeting every two (2) months at the call
24 of the Regional Vice-Chair. All meetings shall be held in the Region or in
25 conjunction with a regular meeting of This Committee. Failure of the Regional
26 Vice-Chair to call these meetings will authorize the Policy Committee to remove
27 the Regional Vice-Chair and authorize new elections.
28
29 2. Written notice containing the time, place, and agenda shall be sent to each
30 member at least seven (7) days prior to any meeting.
31
32 3. Within two (2) weeks after any Region meeting the Secretary shall send a copy
33 of the minutes and a list of those in attendance to the Recording Secretary of
34 This Committee.
35

36 **ARTICLE XIV. ASSEMBLY DISTRICT DELEGATIONS**

37
38 **Section A. MEMBERSHIP**

- 39
40 1. All Regular Members of This Committee residing in a given Assembly District
41 shall be members of that Assembly District Delegation.
42
43 2. Alternate Members shall be members of the Assembly District Delegation in
44 which their Appointing Member resides, except when serving as an alternate for
45 the Highest Finishing Democrat or Democratic officeholder whose District
46 extends into Los Angeles County, but who is not himself/herself registered to
47 vote in Los Angeles County. In the case of such an exception, the Alternate
48 Member shall be a member of the Assembly District Delegation in which the
49 Alternate Member is registered to vote.
50

51 **Section B. MEETINGS**

- 1 1. The first meeting of the Delegation shall be called by the previous Chair, if re-
2 elected to This Committee, or by the Assembly nominee. If the meeting is not
3 called within two (2) weeks after the Organizational Meeting of This Committee,
4 the Chair of This Committee shall appoint a member of the Delegation to call the
5 meeting.
6
 - 7 2. Each Delegation shall meet at least every two (2) months at the call of the
8 Delegation Chair. Failure to call these meetings will authorize the Policy
9 Committee to remove the Delegation Chair upon request of the Delegation and to
10 authorize new elections.
11
 - 12 3. Written notice containing the time, place, and agenda shall be sent to each
13 member at least seven (7) days prior to the meeting.
14
 - 15 4. Two (2) or more Delegations may hold regular or special meetings together.
16 Meetings maybe held in conjunction with a meeting of a Region or This
17 Committee.
18
 - 19 5. Within two (2) weeks after any meeting, the Secretary of the Delegation shall
20 send a copy of the minutes and a list of those attending to the Recording
21 Secretary of This Committee.
22
 - 23 6. Assembly District Delegation(s) have the following quorum requirements:
24
 - 25 a. In the case of a single Assembly District Delegation, a majority of the
26 filled positions of all Regular Members, with a maximum quorum
27 requirement of six (6);
28
 - 29 b. In the case of a two (2) Assembly District Delegations meeting jointly, a
30 majority of the filled positions of all Regular Members, with a maximum
31 quorum requirement of nine (9);
32
 - 33 c. In the case of a three (3) Assembly District Delegations meeting jointly, a
34 majority of the filled positions of all Regular Members, with a maximum
35 quorum requirement of twelve (12); and
36
 - 37 d. In the case of a four (4) Assembly District Delegations meeting jointly, a
38 majority of the filled positions of all Regular Members, with a maximum
39 quorum requirement of fifteen (15).
40
- 41 *[Note: Regular Members are defined as Elected, Appointed, and Ex-*
42 *Officio Members. A majority is calculated by first determining the number*
43 *of filled positions and then subtracting any disqualified members as*
44 *described in XI.A.10.b above]*
45

46 **Section C. RULES**

- 47
- 48 1. Rules of Procedure consistent with these Constitution and By-Laws may be
49 made by each Delegation.
50
- 51 2. This Committee may determine any issue or election that any Delegation has
52 been unable to resolve at three (3) or more meetings in which there was voting

1 on the issue or elections.

2
3 **ARTICLE XV. CHARTERS**

4
5 **Section A. AUTHORITY**

- 6
7 1. Pursuant to California Elections Code Section 20201, all organizations which
8 include in any part of their name the name of the Democratic Party and directly or
9 indirectly solicit funds in Los Angeles County for any purpose whatsoever under
10 the representation, either express or implied, that the funds are being solicited for
11 the use of the Democratic Party must first be chartered by one (1) of the
12 following:
13
14 a. The Los Angeles County Democratic Central Committee;
15
16 b. The California State Democratic Central Committee; or,
17
18 c. A majority of the members of the California Delegation of the Democratic
19 National Committee.
20

21 **Section B. GRANTING**

- 22
23 1. Subject to the provisions set forth herein below, This Committee may charter any
24 organization that has as its objective the advancement of the Democratic Party.
25
26 2. Any charter granted by This Committee shall be effective from the date said
27 charter is granted to the date of the regular meeting in January of the following
28 year, unless revoked as hereinafter provided.
29
30 3. There shall be three (3) types of organizations eligible for charter:
31
32 a. A membership organization, including a Democratic Club;
33
34 b. A council made up of representatives from various Democratic Party and
35 chartered organizations; and,
36
37 c. A political action committee.
38

39 Eligibility to charter shall also be contingent upon meeting the following
40 requirements;

- 41
42 (i). A membership organization, including a Democratic Club, shall
43 require that its voting members be registered Democrats, or
44 persons ineligible to register as Democrats who express an intent
45 to register as a Democrat upon becoming eligible. It shall also
46 require that its members pay dues, and affirmatively apply for
47 membership in a manner in which the member, at a minimum, is
48 identified by name and address.

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50 A membership organization, including a Democratic Club, may
51 have a category of nonvoting allies who are registered voters who
52 disclosed no preference for a political party (or, prior to that

1 designation, registered as “decline to state”) on their voter
2 registration card. The designation in the organization’s bylaws
3 and any filing with any Democratic Party organization of any such
4 nonvoting members must make their nonvoting status clear.
5

6 (ii). Any organization comprised entirely of a specified membership
7 made up of representatives from a Democratic Party Central
8 Committee and/or Democratic Party chartered organizations who
9 are members by virtue of their office/title shall require that its
10 voting members be registered Democrats, or persons ineligible to
11 register as Democrats who express an intent to register as a
12 Democrat upon becoming eligible.
13

- 14 4. This Committee may only charter an organization, which has been recommended
15 for chartering by:
16
17 a. The Organizational Chartering and Development Committee of This
18 Committee; or
19
20 b. If the organization seeking a charter is a membership organization,
21 including a Democratic Club, the majority of the members of the
22 Assembly District Delegation in which a majority of the members of the
23 organization reside.
24
25 5. This Committee shall have no authority to grant a charter to an organization
26 which has not complied with the provisions of Article XV.B.4 above.
27

28 **Section C. DENIAL AND REVOCATION**
29

- 30 1. This Committee shall have the power and authority to deny or revoke a charter of
31 any organization, for cause by majority vote. Cause for denial or revocation shall
32 include:
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34 a. The endorsement of a non-Democrat for elective office;
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36 b. Use of the name of the Democratic Party without a charter;
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38 c. In the case of a "membership" organization, knowing enrollment of a
39 person registered to vote as anything other than a member of the
40 Democratic Party as a voting member of the organization;
41
42 d. Transferring of funds from the organization's accounts to an account of a
43 non-Democrat running for elective office;
44
45 e. Acting in violation of State or Federal laws or regulations; and/or
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47 f. Taking an affirmative action, or having a stated purpose of the
48 organization, which a two-thirds majority of those members of This
49 Committee voting, after affording the chartered organization an
50 opportunity to be heard, finds to be inimical to the interests of Democratic
51 Party.
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2. No organization's charter may be revoked without sixty (60) days written notice of grounds of revocation having been mailed to the Chair of the organization in question, and the rights of response before This Committee having been granted to said organization's designated representative. For purposes of this Section the Chair shall mean the last person designated in writing to This Committee as Chair.

8 **Section D. APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS**

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1. All organizations which fall under the mandatory chartering provisions of Election Code Section 20201 and desire to be chartered by This Committee shall make application for such charter in writing. The application shall contain:
 - a. The name of the organization;
 - b. A copy of the Constitution and By-Laws of the organization, and if applicable, its Articles of Incorporation, all of which must contain such provisions as This Committee may require;
 - c. Agreement by the organization that it will give ten (10) days written notice of any and all of its meetings, both regular and special, to:
 - (i) All members of the Assembly District Delegation which recommended its charter; or,
 - (ii) The Chair of This Committee and the chair(s) of the Organizational Chartering and Development Committee of This Committee if the organization was not recommended for charter by an Assembly District Delegation.
 - d. The names, addresses, and phone numbers of all persons appearing on the organization's Statement of Organization filed with the applicable filing officer, including the organization's officers which shall include as a minimum a chair and a treasurer.
 - e. The identification number(s) used by the organization when filing statements with the Secretary of State, the Fair Political Practices Commission, and/or the Federal Elections Committee.
 - f. A written certificate signed by the President and Secretary of the organization, certifying that each of its members is a registered Democrat or is a person devoted to the principles of the Democratic Party and ineligible to register as a voter because of inability to meet registration requirements. The certificate shall further certify that any such member intends to register as a Democrat immediately upon becoming eligible.
 - g. Individual signatures, addresses and telephone numbers of the organization's members who have not signed another organization's charter application as set forth below:
 - (i) For membership organizations recognized as an affiliate of the California Young Democrats or College Democrats of America:

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- not less than ten (10) members;
- (ii) For all other membership organizations, including all other Democratic Clubs: not less than twenty (20) members;
- (iii) Because political action committees are not membership organizations, the only signatures required for political action committees are of a responsible official agreeing to comply with the chartering requirements and making the certifications required by the application form.
- h. The appropriate chartering fee.
- i. Unless an organization is a political action committee, it shall also include the following in its application:
 - (i) A complete roster (in hard copy and electronic format, if available) containing the names, addresses, and phone numbers of all its members.
 - (ii) Constitution and By-Laws which contain provisions indicating that the organization has regularly scheduled meetings.
 - (iii) An agreement that the organization will send notice to each member of the Assembly District Delegation in which a majority of the members reside. Said notice shall be given to the Chair of This Committee and the chair(s) of the Organizational Chartering and Development Committee if such organization does not have a majority of its membership in one (1) Assembly District.
- 2. This Committee may charter by a sixty percent (60%) vote of those present and voting, one (1) organization using the name Los Angeles County Democratic Central Committee Political Action Committee. Any group of persons desiring to be chartered by This Committee to use the name Los Angeles County Democratic Central Committee Political Action Committee shall make written application for charter. In addition to those items set forth in Article XV.D.1 above, the application shall contain:
 - a. A copy of the Constitution and By-Laws of the organization and, if applicable, the Articles of Incorporation. These documents must indicate that the group having decision-making authority in the organization consists of at least one (1) person from each Supervisorial District in this county.
 - b. An agreement that the political action committee will not oppose any candidate which This Committee has endorsed.
 - c. An agreement that the political action committee will not support or oppose a proposition, ballot measure or recall in opposition to a position which This Committee has adopted.
- 3. This Committee, upon recommendation of the Policy Committee, may adjust the

1 chartering fees. Such adjustments shall be made no more frequently than once
2 per calendar year. In addition, the Policy Committee shall establish uniform late
3 application fees/penalties for organizations filing their application for a charter in
4 an untimely manner may, in its discretion, modify the late application fee/penalty;
5 provided that no such modification may take effect until the calendar year
6 immediately following the calendar year in which the modification was adopted.
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8 **ARTICLE XVI. AMENDMENTS**
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10 Proposed amendments to the Constitution and By-Laws must be submitted in writing at
11 a regular meeting of This Committee, presented thereat, and at the next regular meeting
12 may be adopted by two-thirds (2/3) affirmative vote of those members present and
13 voting, a quorum being present. A notice in writing shall be mailed at least seven (7)
14 days prior to the meeting at which the vote will be taken to all members of This
15 Committee.