

Rancho Bernardo Democratic Club

Bylaws (Update 04/08/2018)

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ARTICLE I – NAME

The name of this organization shall be the Rancho Bernardo Democratic Club, hereafter referred to as RBDC.

ARTICLE II – PURPOSE

The purpose of the RBDC shall be to foster democratic ideals by stimulating active interest in the Democratic Party, to support the party platform, contribute to party leadership and responsibility, to provide a constructive role for volunteers in Democratic politics, and to promote an activist base.

ARTICLE III – MEMBERSHIP**SECTION 1 – ELIGIBILITY**

Membership shall comprise two categories: members and associates. Anyone registered as a Democrat or ineligible to vote (due to age, non-residency or other legal impediment) but pledges to register as a Democrat when eligible, and supports the purpose of the Club as stated in Article II above, shall be eligible for membership in the RBDC. Those not registered as a member of any party shall be eligible for Club Associate membership, but shall have no voting rights for issues directly related to the Democratic Party. A minimum of 2/3 of membership (members and associates) shall be registered Democrats. If ambiguous, “members” shall refer to members only, not associates.

Section 2 – GOOD STANDING

A Democrat, whose annual dues are currently paid, or waived (due to financial hardship and approved by Executive Board), shall be considered a member in good standing. Any member whose actions are judged prejudicial or detrimental to the club by the Executive Board may be expelled from membership at any general meeting for which a quorum (See Article V, Section 2) exists if two-thirds of the members present concur.

SECTION 3 – MEMBERSHIP DUES

Membership Dues shall be reviewed mid-year and recommended by the Executive Board, for approval by the membership, to go into effect for the next membership year. Dues are due and payable upon joining the club, and annually at the beginning of every club calendar year thereafter. Payment of dues shall not be obligatory to anyone for whom it constitutes an economic hardship after due consideration and approval by the Executive Board. (See Addendum A for membership contribution levels, and benefits)

SECTION 4 – VOTING

A member in good standing who has attended at least one meeting during the prior calendar year shall be eligible to vote on matters pertaining to official Democratic Party business or changes to current club structure. Any member who has joined within the current calendar year shall be required to attend at least one meeting prior to election in order to be eligible to vote. An associate in good standing who has attended at least one meeting during the prior calendar year shall be eligible to vote on issues not directly related to the Democratic Party business and not expressly prohibited by the party. No proxy or absentee voting shall be permitted.

ARTICLE IV – OFFICERS

SECTION 1 – ELECTED OFFICERS

Elected officers of this club shall be the President, Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer. All officers must be registered Democrats. Each shall be elected at the general meeting in March, as long as a quorum is present (See Article V, Section 2), and hold office for two years. The President and Secretary shall be elected on even numbered years; The Vice-President and Treasurer shall be elected on odd numbered years.

An elected officer may be removed from office by resolution of a two-thirds vote of the members in good standing at a General Meeting for which a quorum is present for such causes as missing three consecutive meetings or non-performance of duties, providing the membership and the officer have been notified ten days in advance of the meeting of the proposed action against the officer.

SECTION 2 – DUTIES

A. President

The President shall be the Chief Executive Officer of the club. He/she shall preside over all meetings of the club and the executive board; make appointments to other positions as required; establish committees as needed; act as official spokesperson of the club. In addition, the President should stimulate active interest in the political process, provide a constructive role for the active volunteers; contribute to effective leadership and individual responsibility; promote harmony among the club membership, between other clubs and within the San Diego County Democratic Party. The President may also sign checks as authorized by the Executive Board.

B. Vice-President

The Vice President shall serve at the direction of the President. He/she shall preside at meetings if the President is unable to do so, or is requested by the President to do so. The Vice-President shall take over the duties of President in the absence of that officer, and is responsible for the annual audit of club finances and membership. The Vice-President may also sign checks as authorized by the Executive Board.

C. Secretary

The Secretary shall keep the minutes of the general meetings, executive board meetings, review correspondence prior to being sent to the membership, and, along with the President and Treasurer, maintain the club's membership and financial records.

D. Treasurer

The Treasurer shall be responsible for the collection of dues, review and deposit all club funds received; maintain an accurate record of club receipts and expenditures; make the record of club receipts and expenditures available to any member when requested; provide a report of the club financial status at club meetings as requested; provide an annual written report of club financial status; make the books and all other financial records of the club available to the audit committee each year ; Sign all checks as authorized by the Executive Board. In addition, the Treasurer shall be responsible for filing FPPC/FEC financial report on time as required, and presenting a monthly Treasurer's Report which will include the account balance and number of paid members at each Executive Board meeting.

SECTION 3 – ELECTIONS

A. **Timing:** Elections shall be held annually during the March general meeting. A nominating committee shall be appointed from the membership by the President, Vice-President, and Secretary of 3, 5 or 7 members in good standing, in which the immediate Past President will always be a part unless he/she so chooses not to be or such individual is no longer a member in good standing. The nominating committee shall select at least one candidate for each elective office and report their selections at the general meeting one month prior to the election meeting.

B. **Format:** At the election meeting the floor shall be open for additional nominations. The election may be held by show of hands or voice vote for uncontested offices. A secret ballot shall be used for any contested office. Those nominees who receive a majority vote shall be declared elected. If no person receives a majority of votes cast, a run-off shall be held between those two persons receiving the greatest number of votes. The person receiving the majority of the votes shall be declared elected.

SECTION 4 – VACANCIES

Should any officer resign or be removed per Article IV, Section 1, the Executive Board shall declare that office vacant and appoint a successor to that office to complete the unexpired term. Any such appointment shall be voted upon by the membership at the next general meeting. Voting shall be by secret ballot with a majority of those members in good standing present required to elect. At that meeting, nominations to fill the vacancy shall also be accepted from the floor.

SECTION 5 – APPOINTED OFFICERS

The President shall appoint a parliamentarian and any other officers not otherwise specified by these bylaws as required for the general well-being of the club. These Appointed Officers must be approved by a majority membership vote at the general meeting following presidential appointment.

ARTICLE V – MEETINGS

SECTION 1 – GENERAL MEETINGS

There shall be a minimum of six general meetings each year, at least one of which shall be in *January*. *Other general meetings shall be held at such times and places as specified by a majority of the Executive Board*. General Meetings shall take place the 4th Monday of each month unless otherwise indicated.

SECTION 2 – QUORUM

A quorum at any general meeting shall be ten percent (10%) of those whose membership is in good standing, plus the total of elected and appointed officers. A quorum at an endorsing/electing meeting shall be twenty percent (20%) of those whose membership is in good standing, plus the total of elected and appointed officers. A quorum of the Executive Board shall be a majority of its elected members.

SECTION 3 – PARLIAMENTARY AUTHORITY

The parliamentary authority is the most recent edition of Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised.

SECTION 4 – NOTICES

At least two (2) weeks prior to a general meeting at which the following items will be discussed and voted upon, meeting notices shall be emailed to each member of the club in good standing:

- Club elections and filling of vacancies
- Proposed amendments to bylaws
- Proposed resolutions
- Endorsements of candidates and/or ballot measures

Such notice shall specify the time, place and date of the general meeting and describe the event.

ARTICLE VI – EXECUTIVE BOARD

SECTION 1 – FUNCTION

The Executive Board shall approve all expenditures and carry out the club business between general meetings in a manner consistent with actions taken at the general meetings, and perform any other duties provided for in these bylaws. The President shall pre-approve any written correspondence on behalf of the club. The President shall be the sole spokesperson of the club.

SECTION 2 – MEMBERSHIP

Membership of the Executive Board shall include all of the currently elected club officers, and appointed officers who have been voted on by club membership.

SECTION 3 – MEETINGS

The President shall call a meeting, with advance notice, of the Executive Board as needed. Special meetings may be called by a majority of the currently elected members of the Executive Board at any time. A majority of the then currently elected members of the Executive Board shall constitute a quorum. All meetings shall be open to club members in good standing should they request to attend.

ARTICLE VII – STANDING COMMITTEES

The standing committees for the club shall include both Audit and Nominating committees. Other committees may include Political Action, Membership, Fund Raising, Program, Special Events, Communications, Hospitality and others as identified by the President and ratified by the Executive Board.

ARTICLE VIII – CANDIDATE ENDORSEMENTS

A. Only candidates who are registered Democrats are eligible for Club endorsement. Non-Democrats can be rated acceptable or unacceptable.

B. All endorsements of candidates or resolutions concerning ballot measures or public issues must be in accordance with the standards established by the California State Democratic Party and the San Diego County Democratic Party. It is also the tradition and stated goal of the Club not to make endorsements or to pass resolutions which will adversely affect the unity of the Democratic Party.

C. A motion to endorse a candidate or take a position on a Proposition or public issue must receive the vote of sixty percent (60%) of the RBDC members in good standing who are present and voting, as long as a quorum has been met per Article V Section 2.

D. The endorsement voting procedure shall be conducted in the following stages:

1. All candidates for a given office will be listed together along with the options of No Endorsement and No Position for the initial round of voting
 - a. No Endorsement: This means the Club does not take a position in support of any candidate in this race.
 - b. No Position: This means the Club has decided not to proceed with a decision at this time, but can vote on a future date instead.
2. In the event that no candidates received at least 60% of the vote during the first round, a second FINAL round of voting will be conducted between any candidate with a top 2 vote total remaining on the ballot with the option of No Endorsement. A candidate is still required to get 60% of the vote in order to earn the Club Endorsement. If no candidate receives 60% of the vote, then the Club position will automatically be that of No Endorsement

E. Candidate Rating: Should no candidate receive the Club Endorsement, all candidates can be considered for one of the following ratings: a) Qualified; b) No Position; c) unqualified. Candidates may be considered as a group, as individuals, or in any combination thereof.

1. A Qualified rating requires a majority vote (50% +1) of those present and voting. A Qualified rating expresses the Club view that a candidate meets the general standards of representing the ideals of the Democratic Party.
2. A No Position rating means the Club membership does not believe sufficient information is available on such candidate/s. This position is achieved should no candidate or combination thereof receive a majority vote for a Qualified rating.
3. An Unqualified rating requires a supermajority vote (67%) of those present and voting. An Unqualified rating expresses the Club view that a candidate has views that run significantly counter to Democratic Party ideals and the Democratic Party platform.

ARTICLE IX – CLUB REPRESENTATIVES

SECTION 1. California Democratic Party (CDP)

In order to be eligible to participate in CDP pre-endorsing conferences, the Club's President, Secretary, or Treasurer shall ratify the roster of Democratic members in good standing by July 1 of each odd-numbered year identifying the legislative districts and representatives for each district and submit it to the CDP and SDCDP. Representatives shall be equally apportioned between men and women to the extent possible.

SECTION 2. San Diego County Democratic Party (SDCDP) Associate Member

Under the club's charter with the SDCDP, the President is the representative to the SDCDP Central Committee as an Associate Member, and the representative to the North Area Caucus as a full member. If the President is already a Central Committee member or chooses not to serve, a different representative may be selected to serve his or her term according to the provisions of Sections 3 and 4 of this Article. An Associate Member application, for the President or any other representative, must be submitted to the SDCDP within 30 days of his or her selection by the club.

SECTION 3. Selection

Club representatives to the CDP and SDCDP – and any other official representatives, delegates, and alternates from the club to conferences, caucuses, councils, conventions, and other meetings – shall be selected by a vote of members in good standing at a duly noticed club meeting or, if that cannot occur at a regular or special meeting, by designation of the President.

SECTION 4. Adherence to Club Positions

Club representatives described in this Article, when participating in voting and discussion in that capacity, shall adhere to and represent the club's official positions on endorsements and other matters wherever applicable, and shall agree to do so prior to their selection.

SECTION 5. Other SDCDP Representatives

A. The Executive Board shall designate a GO Team Liaison.

B. The Executive Board shall designate a SDCDP Voter Registration Liaison.

ARTICLE X – AFFILIATION

The club shall affiliate as an associate member of the County Democratic Central Committee and pay the current annual chartering fee.

ARTICLE XI – AMENDMENTS

These bylaws may be amended by a majority vote of members in good standing at a general meeting after such amendment has been presented at the preceding general meeting and notice has been provided as specified in Article V, Section 4 of and submitting to these bylaws.

ARTICLE XII – ADOPTION

These bylaws shall become effective immediately upon their adoption and shall be the governing rules of the club.

Date: ~~December 7, 2015~~ ~~April 29, 2017~~, ~~July 2, 2017~~, ~~July 27, 2017~~, ~~August 27, 2017~~, ~~August 28, 2017~~, ~~April 8, 2018~~, ~~05/21/2018~~