

**By-Laws  
Democratic Central Committee  
County of Del Norte By-Laws**

**Article I**

**Section 1 NAME:**

The name of this organization shall be the Del Norte County Democratic Central Committee

**Section 2 Purpose:**

This committee shall conduct campaigns for the Democratic Party and its candidates for public office for which elections are held in Del Norte County. The committee may work with other Democratic county central committees and with the Democratic State Central Committee on matters of mutual concern. The committee shall conduct such other business as is deemed appropriate by its membership.

**Article II  
Membership**

**Section 1 REGULAR MEMBERS**

The regular members of this committee shall be those elected according to the provisions of the elections code or appointed pursuant to Section 7 of Article II.

**Section 2 EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS**

The ex-officio members of this Committee shall be those elected officials and Party nominees specified in the Elections Code.

**Section 3 ALTERNATES**

Any regular member may appoint an alternate for himself or herself, who shall have the same privileges and obligations as the member, but who may vote only in the absence of the member who made the appointment.

**Section 4 ASSOCIATES**

The Committee may appoint associate members and student associate members, who shall have all of the privileges of notice of participation in meetings, except for the privileges of appointing alternates and voting.

**Section 5 ELIGIBILITY**

All regular members, alternates and associates, shall be Residents of Del Norte County and registered as affiliated with the Democratic Party.

## **Section 6 TERM**

Membership shall terminate, subject to renewal by election or appointment, every four years and shall extend from the convening of the Committee in January of odd numbered years following the Presidential election to the next such convening.

## **Section 7 VACANCIES**

A vacancy on this Committee shall be deemed to exist in the event of the appointment or election of any ineligible person or whenever any member dies, resigns, becomes incapacitated to act and ceases to be eligible or is removed from membership pursuant to SECTION 8 of ARTICLE II. If the position of a regular member becomes vacant; such position may be filled by the vote of a majority of members present and voting at a meeting of this Committee.

## **Section 8 REMOVAL**

Any regular member of this committee may be removed by a 2/3 vote of members present and voting at a meeting of this Committee, provided that no vote to remove a member shall occur without due process, including prior (15 days) written notice to all members of such impending vote to remove and provided that no member shall be removed except:

- 1) The member publicly avows preference for or gives support to another party or candidate opposed by the Democratic Party's nominee for an office
- 2) A member publicly advocates that voters should not vote for the Party's nominee for an office: or,
- 3) The member fails to attend more than three consecutive meetings of this Committee. Any alternate shall be removed automatically if the position of the member who appointed the alternate becomes vacant. Any alternate may be removed by notice of the member who appointed the alternate. Any associate member of this Committee may be removed by majority vote of members present and voting at a meeting of the Committee, provided that the same due process granted to regular members, previously stipulated, is given to the associate member.

## **Section 9 DUAL MEMBERSHIP**

No one shall be both a regular member and an Ex-Officio member, or both a member and an alternate.

## **Section 10 DUES**

Annual dues of \$10 shall be paid by all members, regular, alternate and associate, at the first meeting in January, or within 30 days of appointment, no prorated. Payment of dues shall not be obligatory for any member to

whom it constitutes an economic hardship as decided by the Executive Board of this Committee.

### **Article III. Officers**

#### **Section 1 OFFICERS**

The officers of this Committee shall be a Chair, 2 Vice-Chairs, a Secretary and a Treasurer.

#### **Section 2 DUTIES**

The Chair shall carry out the policies of this Committee and its Executive Board and when present shall preside at meetings of this Committee and its Executive Board. The Chair shall appoint such committees as necessary and appoint the Chair of the standing or subcommittee with a majority vote of attending members. All decisions regarding contributions and expenditures shall be made by the committee based on the political objectives and interests of the committee and subject to the procedures contained in these bylaws. The Vice-Chair shall assist the Chair in the performance of the duties of that office. The Secretary shall record minutes of meetings of this Committee, shall give notice of meetings as required in these by-laws or by this Committee or the Executive Board and shall maintain all records of this Committee except those assigned to the Treasurer. The Treasurer shall take custody of all funds received by this Committee, shall open bank accounts for the deposit of funds received by this Committee, shall make disbursements at the direction of the Chair, the executive board or the Committee and shall make reports at the meetings of this Committee. Receiving and Making Contributions. All contributions received and made by the committee shall conform to the requirements of the Political Reform Act, including the campaign contribution limits and disclosure requirements. No agent or officer of the committee may accept a contribution subject to an implied or express condition, understanding or agreement that the contribution shall be made to another candidate or committee on behalf of another contributor, or while acting as the intermediary or agent for another, without disclosing to the recipient of the contribution the true identity of the contributor. Any person making an agreement in violation of this provision acts outside the scope of his or her authority and such agreement shall be deemed void.

#### **Section 3 ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

All officers shall be elected from among the regular members or ex officio members at the first meeting of this Committee held in January of odd-numbered years. Election shall be by majority vote of those present and voting.

#### **Section 4 TERM**

The term of office shall be for 2 years or until a successor is elected.

#### **Section 5 VACANCIES**

A vacancy in any office shall be filled by a vote of a majority of members present and voting at a meeting of this Committee, provided that prior notice of such vacancy and election shall be given to regular members.

#### **Section 6 REMOVAL**

An officer may be removed by a 2/3 vote of members present and voting at a meeting of this Committee, provided that no vote to remove an officer shall occur without due process, including prior (15 day) written notice to all members of such impending vote to the officer who is proposed to be removed and prior written notice, signed by at least three members of the Committee, of specific charges against the officer and the basis of such charges and provided that no officer shall be removed except for gross misconduct or neglect of duty in office.

### **Article IV Meetings**

#### **Section 1 MEETINGS**

This Committee shall meet in January of odd-numbered years and at such other times as determined by the Chair or when requested by at least 2 members of the executive board or at least four members of this Committee. All regular members shall be given prior notice of meetings of the Committee.

#### **Section 2 QUORUM**

One-Fourth of the regular members of this Committee or their alternates shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.

#### **Section 3 PLACE AND PROXIES**

No meeting of this Committee shall occur outside Del Norte County and no proxy voting shall be allowed at meetings of this Committee, but members of this Committee may assign or accept proxies to be used at meetings of other Democratic organizations.

#### **Section 4 PARLIAMENTARY PROCEDURE**

In all cases not provided for by Law or by these by-laws, the meetings of this Committee shall be governed by Robert's Rules of Order.

## **Article V Executive Board**

### **Section 1 EXECUTIVE BOARD**

There shall be an Executive Board of this Committee which shall have all the duties and powers of this Committee when it is not in actual session.

### **Section 2 MEMBERSHIP**

The Executive Board shall consist of the officers of this Committee.

### **Section 3 MEETINGS**

The Executive Board shall meet as determined by the Chair or when requested by at least two members of the Board. Three members of the Board shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.

## **Article VI Democratic Organizations**

### **Section 1 DEFINITON AND PURPOSE**

A Democratic Club is an organization of Democrats allies by defined geographic area, special interest or cultural community. A club's purpose is to support and strengthen the Democratic Party through the political development, activity and advocacy of its membership. A club's objectives are to foster active interest in the local, state and national Democratic Party, to support campaigns and to engage in grassroots outreach, organizing and recruitment.

### **Section 2 AUTHORIZATION (chartering)**

A Democratic Club shall annually (January) charter with the central committee to be authorized to use the name "Democratic" in their organizations title.

### **Section 3 REQUIREMENTS**

- A) Membership shall be open to all Democrats regardless of race, religion, national origin, gender, sexual orientation or gender identity.
- B) The Club shall have a minimum of ten (10) members who are registered Democrats.
- C) By-laws, membership roster and officers for the Democratic organization must be submitted to the Committee at the time of request for the charter
- D) Chartered Democratic organizations will be required to hold their endorsement procedure until after the central committee has endorsed.

#### **Section 4 DENIAL AND REVOCATION**

The Committee shall have the power and authority to deny or revoke a charter of any organization, for cause by majority vote. Cause for denial or revocation shall include: the endorsement of any candidate for public office running against an endorsed candidate of this Committee, by any organization granted a Charter by this Committee.

### **Article VII Endorsements**

#### **Section 1**

The Committee shall participate in the California Democratic Party partisan pre-convention endorsement conference. The voting procedure will establish the "endorsed" partisan candidate.

#### **Section 2**

Non –partisan candidates and ballot propositions and local measures

- A) The Committee may endorse candidates for non-partisan office providing:
- B) The candidate is a registered Democrat and has been registered with the Democratic Party for one year. Exceptions to this requirement will be reviewed on an individual basis, including becoming eligible to vote, age and new citizenship.
- C) Endorsements are not given to more candidates then there are open seats for the office
- D) All candidates who are registered Democrats are notified in writing of the date, time and location of all relevant meetings and of the endorsement process fifteen (15) days prior to the meeting.
- E) Candidates request the Committee endorsement in writing seven (7) days in advance of the endorsement meeting.
- F) A position on local ballot initiatives, measures and propositions may be taken by the Committee, however the Committee shall not take a position on statewide propositions that is contrary to that of the Democratic State Central Committee
- G) Voting is conducted by a voice vote, hand count or ballot (no secret ballots)
- H) No candidate can be present during debate on candidate endorsement
- I) Sixty percent (60 %) requirement needed for any endorsement.
- J) If the candidate or proposition fails to receive sixty percent, the committee can take a neutral position

#### **Section 3 RESCISSION OF ENDORSEMENT**

The Committee, by a two- thirds vote may rescind any endorsement previously made in a non-partisan race.

## **Article 8 Amendments**

**Section 1** These By-laws may be amended by a vote of two-thirds of the members present and voting at a meeting of this Committee, provided that prior written notice of a reading of a proposed amendment shall be given to all members.

**Passed and adopted**, by the Del Norte County Democratic Central Committee, County of Del Norte, State of California this Third Day of August 1983 by the following vote Ayes: all present

Nays: None

Abstain: One

**Amended** Article II, Section 4 (Associate) added student associate October 2004

**Amended** Article III Section 2 (Duties) added standing/ subcommittee appointments May 2, 2007

**Amended** Article VI added Article 7 & 8 August 7, 2007

**Amended** Article II Section 2 remove elected officer language to prohibit endorsements

**Amended** Article VI Section 3 Remove language "expressed intention of registering" September 9, 2008

**Amended** September 2010

**Amended** January 10, 2011

**Amended** December 10, 2012, Article III, Section 1 (adding second Vice Chair)

**Amended** July 11, 2016, Article II, Section 6 (defining four-year term) and Article III, Section 3 (clarifying ex officio members may serve as officers)