

**CALIFORNIA DEMOCRATIC PARTY  
LEGISLATION COMMITTEE  
LEGISLATION POLICY AND PROCEDURES  
(Approved February 2022)**

**I. Name:**

- a) This body shall consist of the Standing Committee of the California Democratic Party State Central Committee (DSCC), known as the "Legislation Committee."

**II. Preamble:**

- a) It shall be the function of the Legislation Committee to evaluate, recommend endorse, or propose legislation when needed, in response to the duties and policies of the Party; to maintain a listing of all pending legislation that is of "must" and/or major concern to the Party; and to keep a record of the vote by the Democratic Party legislators on such legislative items as able.
- b) The Legislation Committee shall in consultation with the Chair of the State Central Committee, organize and coordinate activities to advance Party positions on legislative priorities, including, but not limited to, lobby days with legislators, grassroots mobilization, delegate outreach, and as needed, shall advise the Chair of the State Central Committee and make recommendations as to how to most effectively utilize Party resources for this purpose, consistent with guidelines adopted by the Rules committee.

**III. Scope:**

- a) The Legislation Committee shall consider bills originating from the California State Legislature or the United States Congress. In exceptional cases, the Legislation Committee may consider local legislation of a statewide concern. Bills under consideration should be in furtherance of an existing party resolution or platform plank.
- b) The Legislation Committee shall only consider legislation duly submitted for review and recommendation by
  - i. a Democratic County Central Committee
  - ii. a recognized Caucus of the DSCC
  - iii. Organizations Chartered by the DSCC
  - iv. request from the legislation's author, an elected Democratic legislator.
  - v. a majority of the Legislation Committee Co-Chairs
  - vi. a referral from the Chair of the DSCC
- c) Requests for review and recommendation must be properly submitted through an online "Legislative Position Request Form" on the party's website, unless a request originates from a majority of the Legislation Committee Co-Chairs, or the Chair of the State Central Committee.

In each calendar year, each Democratic County Central Committee may submit up to two (2) legislative items plus an additional item for every two (2) Assembly Districts which are contained in whole or in part in that County. Further, each of the other sources identified in Section III, Subsection b may submit no more than twelve (12) legislation items for review in each calendar year

- d) Old business items properly submitted for review by the Legislation Committee prior to the adoption of these Policies and Procedures may be considered by the Legislation Committee as determined by the Lead Chairs.
- e) Consideration of bills may result in a Legislative Committee recommendation including but not limited to: support, support if amended, oppose, oppose unless amended and neutral. A bill may also be laid on the table without taking any position.
  - i. In order to consider a position to oppose legislation sponsored by a Democrat, a 2/3rds vote threshold of the members of the Legislation Committee must be met, and at least fifteen (15) days notice must have been given to the proposed legislation's author or their chief of staff.
- f) Legislation Committee shall be guided by, but not limited to, the following when making recommendations on legislation:
  - i. Timeliness of the legislation.
  - ii. Positions taken by the DNC, DNC Committees, DSCC, CDP resolutions and/or platform committees, and/or positions taken by CDP Caucuses that may conflict with or adhere to issues related to the legislative request.
  - iii. Status of legislation in the CA State Legislature, U.S. Congress or other appropriate legislative body.
  - iv. Impact DSCC may have on the outcome of legislation.
  - v. Historical principles of the DNC and DSCC and communities it represents.
  - vi. Factors that may affect potential substantive changes to legislation, such as whether legislation requires 2/3 majority to pass legislative body.
  - vii. Constitutionality.
  - viii. Importance of the legislation.
  - ix. Number of bills on which a recommendation has been made.
  - x. Impact on Party resources.
  - xi. Degree of consensus in the Party.
- e) The Legislation Committee may also facilitate the sponsorship of legislation, taking into consideration the resources required to sponsor legislation, other potential stakeholders, capacity of committee members and party staff, and legal requirements of advocating for the passage of legislation.

#### **IV. Sub-Committees::**

- a) The Lead Chair(s) may, in consultation with the Co-Chairs, create and dissolve subcommittees within the Legislation Committee as appropriate.
- b) Members of the Legislation Committee may self-select to serve on a sub-committee.
- c) The Lead Chair(s) shall appoint the chair of each of the subcommittees.
- d) For a meeting of a subcommittee which has been duly noticed, quorum shall be 40% or 10 subcommittee members, whichever is less.
- e) Subcommittees shall meet and vote via either telephonic or electronic communication as

designated by the subcommittee chair, subject to the guidelines of the CDP regarding email, telephonic, and electronic communication. In-person meetings may only take place at scheduled DSCC meetings.

- f) Subcommittees may be tasked by Lead Chairs(s) to complete preparatory, operational, and follow up work as appropriate.
- g) The Lead Chair(s) shall be responsible for informing the Chair of the CDP on any change the Lead Chair(s) become aware of, to legislation on which the Legislation Committee has taken a position.

## V. Procedures:

### a) Requests:

- i. Legislative position requests may be submitted by any entity listed in Section III(b) through the procedures listed in Section III(c-e). Timely submitted legislative position requests shall be taken up at the first Legislation Committee meeting following the request.
- ii. In order to be considered timely, Legislative Position Requests must be received no later than thirty (30) calendar days prior to a meeting of the State Central Committee or Executive Board, unless the requested legislation was introduced, substantially amended, or given urgency status within the 30 calendar day period, or the request to review originates from a request from the DSCC Chair, in which case the committee may waive this requirement upon a simple majority vote of members present and voting.
  - 1. Substantial amendment is defined as language that changes one or more core functions of the legislation.
- iii. Late legislative requests may be heard by the Committee unless a two (2) members of the Committee present and voting dissents, or unless approved as a new, substantially amended, or urgency bill by the Committee. Once a late legislative request has received consent to be heard, it will be treated in the same way as if it had been submitted as a timely legislative request. The submitter may also be asked to provide 40 copies of the legislation request form and related materials depending on the time frame.

### b) Sub-Committees:

- i. The Lead Chair(s) of the Legislation Committee shall direct tasking as appropriate to each subcommittee.
- ii. The Lead Chairs shall ensure that the Legislative Position Request Forms for timely legislative position requests and consent calendars shall be distributed to Legislation Committee members no later than 72 hours before the first day of State Central Committee or Executive Board, whichever comes first. This task may be delegated to a subcommittee as appropriate.

### c) Committee of the Whole:

- i. Recommendations may be severed from the consent calendar upon objection of any member of the Legislation Committee.
  - ii. The order of legislative recommendation consideration shall be as follows:
    1. The consent calendar, excluding any severed items
    2. Positions severed from a consent calendar recommendation with the first vote being on the consent recommendation. No other motion, of any type, shall be in order until the consent calendar recommendation is disposed of by either being adopted or rejected.
    3. Floor Motions
  - iii. Except when presented as a consent calendar, the members of the Legislation Committee shall be given the opportunity to debate the recommendation. Speakers shall be limited to no more than three (3) speakers in favor and three (3) three speakers opposed, with a time limit of no more than 1 minute per speaker. The number of speakers or time allotted may be extended by a majority vote of those present and voting.
  - iv. A 60% vote of the Legislation Committee members present and voting is needed to make a legislative recommendation to the DSCC or DSCC E-Board. An abstention from a vote does not count toward "present and voting" count.
  - v. The Legislation Committee will present legislative position recommendations in the committee report to the next meeting of either State Central Committee convention body or Executive Board, whichever comes first.
- d) Sponsoring Legislation:
- i. Legislation sponsorship requests may be brought to the Legislation Committee by any source identified in Section III, Subsection b.
  - ii. The Lead Chairs, in consultation with committee co-chairs, may refer this request to an ad hoc drafting subcommittee by majority vote of the Legislation Committee, with an effort to fill the drafting subcommittee with members of the Legislation Committee that have relevant experience in the subject matter of the proposed legislation.
  - iii. The drafting subcommittee shall report at the next meeting, a report detailing draft language, potential authors, co-sponsors, supporters, opponents, feasibility, and findings to either recommend the Legislation Committee approve or deny the sponsorship request.
  - iv. The Legislation Committee may recommend to the State Central Committee or Executive Board committee sponsored legislation presented via the ad hoc committee mentioned in Section V(d) (ii) with a 60% vote of the Legislation Committee members present and voting.

- v. Any legislation sponsorship proposal may be made available to all State Central Committee members on the Legislation Committee's website and be included in any Committee Report to the convention or executive board floor.
- e) Post Meeting Powers:
- i. Reconsideration on legislative positions adopted by the Legislation Committee require a 2/3 vote of the Legislation Committee members present and voting. A vote for reconsideration must occur within one year of the committee taking its first position on the legislation up for reconsideration or at any time if amended.
  - ii. In the event that legislation that the California Democratic Party has taken a position on is substantially amended in such a way as to fundamentally change its nature so as to warrant a change in position, the Lead Chair(s) of the Legislation Committee may call upon a panel consisting of the Lead Chair(s) of the Legislation Committee and all Co-Chair's of the Legislation Committee to review the changes made to said legislation. A simple majority of panel members present and voting shall be sufficient to rescind a prior legislative position taken by the body. In the event that a legislative position is rescinded, it shall be taken up by the Legislation Committee at the next regular meeting as if it was a new piece of legislation.

#### **VI. General Provisions:**

- a) The Legislation Committee shall be guided by Roberts Rules of Order except where specified in this document.
- b) Due notice of Legislation Committee meetings must be made to all Legislation Committee members.
- c) Members of the Legislation Committee must disclose any conflict of interest to the best of their ability.
- d) The Legislation Committee shall ensure publication of committee reports and these bylaws on the party website.