

California Democratic Party Rules Subcommittee on Standing Committees Agenda
Monday, August 7, 2023 at 7:00pm

I. Meeting Called to Order

II. Roll Call

III. Adoption of Meeting Agenda

IV. Alegria Proposal to Amend Article III, Section 1, Article II, Section 12 and Article V, Section 4

Standing Committee Chairs and Committee Members should be held the same standard as Officers as it relates to any form of monetary compensation from any elected official, lobbyist, Union, political campaign or Political Action Committee.

See Exhibit A

V. Testimony

VI. Discussion

VII. Adjournment

EXHIBIT A

RULES COMMITTEE, Friday, May 26, 2023

Agenda Item V. Proposed Bylaw Amendments and Item VII. New Business

Good afternoon, my name is Maria Alegria, AD 15 and Past Chair of the DPCCC. I would like to speak to the following issues:

ARTICLE III: OFFICERS Section 1. STATEWIDE OFFICERS.

Standing Committee Chairs and Committee Members should be held to the same standard as Officers as it relates to any form of monetary compensation from any elected official, lobbyist, Union, political campaign or Political Action Committee, the Rules Committee should include this language under this Section.

Item VII - New Business

Similarly, the Bylaws should be amended in the following sections to include Standing Committee Chairs and Committee members:

1. **Conflict of Issue Disclosure: Article II (2), Section 12.** This section is too narrow and should be expanded to include any matters that impact resolutions or legislation before Standing Committees.
2. Currently, the Resolutions Procedural Rules of the Resolution Committee states, "Committee members are discouraged from directly authoring or sponsoring resolutions as it could constitute a conflict of interest and may be asked to recuse themselves from participating or voting in committee proceeding where such a conflict exists." (August 21, 2021).
 - a. **Case in Point:** Lead Co-Chair Agi Kessler of the Resolutions Committee, gutted a Resolution to *Protect Traditional Medicare and the Choices of Traditional Medicare Beneficiaries* without disclosing her professional qualifications as a "Medical Practice Consultant and Contractor" and "Vice President of Information Machines, Inc." in Woodland Hills, CA. Lead Co-Chair Agi Kessler discloses in her bio on LinkedIn, an affiliation with NextGen EHR, an American software and services company that develops and sells electronic health records (EHR) and practice management systems to the healthcare industry. I am concerned that her affiliation with companies that incentivize profits while taking away the choice of Traditional Medicare beneficiaries is contrary to the California Democratic Party's principles and platform to Stop the Privatization of Medicare.

We must hold all leadership members of the California Democratic Party to the highest ethical standard. We need more transparency and accountability, not less.

3. Article V. Section 4. Responsibilities of Co-Chairs.

- a. A section should be added to address the responsibility of Chairs, Co-Chairs and Committee members to disclose a **Conflict of Interest** "if such member is a paid employee or independent contractor of a political committee or owner, paid employee or independent contractor of a consulting firm...."

Thank you for considering my comments and I look forward to working with you on these very important amendments to our Bylaws which will make our State Party stronger.

Maria Alegria
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