

**California Democratic Party Rules Subcommittee on Officers, Elections, Duties, Etc.  
Agenda  
Tuesday, August 8, 2023 at 6:30pm**

- I. Meeting Called to Order**
- II. Roll Call**
- III. Adoption of Meeting Agenda**
- IV. De Leon Proposal introducing a ranked choice voting process to Statewide Officer Elections and Regional Director elections**  
  
See Exhibit A
- V. Duvali Proposal to amend Article III, Section 1**  
The amendments to the bylaws are submitted to implement democracy and social Justice within the California Democratic Party.  
  
See Exhibit B
- VI. Adjournment**

# EXHIBIT A

### **Section 3. ELECTION OF STATEWIDE OFFICERS**

- a. The Statewide officers shall be elected to their four-year terms at the first meeting of This Committee held immediately following the conclusion of a presidential election year. The election for Officers shall take place as set forth on the agenda mailed to the members. All statewide officers shall be elected by the entire membership of This Committee.
- b. A candidate for any statewide office shall file a notice of intent-to-run for that office which must be received by the Secretary of the Party by 5p.m. of the day which is sixteen (16) calendar days prior to the opening of credentialing for the Convention. No withdrawals shall be allowed after that date. Should the incumbent officeholder fail to file the notice of intent to run by that date, then the filing deadline shall be extended to the day which is nine (9) days prior to the opening of credentialing for the Convention. No withdrawals shall be allowed after that date.
- c. Following the close of nominations for officers, no additional nominations shall be permitted, except for an office for which no person has been nominated prior to the close of nominations or for which all persons nominated have withdrawn.
- d. The selection of statewide officers shall be conducted through a ranked choice voting process:**
  - (1) The ballot shall give voters the option of ranking candidates in order of their preference.**
  - (2) For each statewide officer race, voters can make up to or as many rankings as there are candidates in that race.**
  - (3) If a candidate receives a majority (over 50 percent) of first preferences, that candidate is elected.**
  - (4) If no candidate receives a majority of first preferences, an instant runoff re-tabulation shall be completed within 5 business days of the election. The instant runoff re-tabulation shall be conducted in rounds. In each round, each voter's ballot shall count as a single vote for whichever continuing candidate the voter has ranked highest. The candidate with the fewest votes after each round shall be eliminated from contention until only two candidates remain, with the candidate then receiving the greatest number of votes being elected.**
  - (5) To implement and administer these standards, additional rules consistent with this subsection may be adopted.**
- e. No vote for any person shall be counted unless the person has been duly nominated for and accepted that nomination for the office for which such vote is cast.
- f. In the event only one person is nominated for any office and such person accepts the nomination, the Secretary of the meeting shall be directed to cast a unanimous ballot for such candidate at the time of the election.
- g. In the event no candidate receives a majority vote at the conclusion of the ranked choice voting process, a runoff election shall be held between the two persons receiving the largest number of votes actually cast for all candidates who have been duly nominated for and accepted the nomination.**

### **Section 4. REGIONAL DIRECTORS**

- a. There shall be 16-25 Regional Directors of This Committee who, with its Statewide officers, shall constitute the State Officers of the California Democratic Party.

b. Regional Directors shall be elected for two-year terms on Saturday of the first Convention of This Committee held in odd numbered years. Regional Directors shall be elected at Regional Caucuses, each composed of all members of This Committee resident in the respective regions.

c. Elections of Regional Directors shall be governed by the provisions set forth in Article III, Section 3, subsections **c.-g.**

d. The Regional Directors shall assist the statewide officers in the maintenance and 15 development of the Party organization within their respective regions. They are responsible for developing, assisting, and coordinating the County Central Committees, Clubs & other Democratic organizations within their region, and shall convene a regional meeting of the members of This Committee in the region with sufficient time for input, or timely resolutions, prior to each meeting of This Committee or its Executive Board.

e. A candidate for Regional Director must be a member of This Committee, and may only file for Regional Director position of the State Party Region in which they are registered to vote. Should a Regional Director re-register outside of their Region during their term of office, they shall be assumed to have vacated the office.

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June 8, 2022



## **Memorandum**

**TO:** Rules Committee - Officers, Elections, Duties, Etc. Subcommittee  
**From:** Ben Seinfeld  
**Date:** July 25, 2023  
**RE:** Feasibility of Rank Choice Voting for CADEM Officer Elections

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### **BACKGROUND**

On Friday, November 18, 2022 the Rules Committee requested that CADEM Staff put together a staff report on the feasibility of Rank Choice Voting for CADEM Officer Elections.

### **ELECTRONIC VOTING MECHANISMS**

Since the onset of the Pandemic, the Party has begun to move away from paper ballot elections and focusing on electronic methods of voting for internal party elections, where possible. Electronic methods of voting were deemed safe and reliable for internal party elections, as the electorate is a closed universe, as opposed to ADEM Elections which is an open voting universe and has additional verification requirements for participants.

The Parties first engagement with Electronic voting was for the 2021 Officer Elections, where a combination of electronic voting and paper ballots were utilized. For the 2022 Endorsement and 2023 Officer Elections, only electronic voting was utilized. In all three of these elections, an election administrator vendor was utilized. The vendor indicated to the party that Rank Choice Voting was an available option if requested.

For the 2024 Endorsement, CADEM staff is currently planning on using an online electronic voting platform like ElectionBuddy. ElectionBuddy does provide an option for Rank Choice Voting and there are no additional costs.

### **CONCLUSION**

Staff would be able to run a ranked choice voting election if instructed to.

# EXHIBIT B

These amendments to the bylaws are submitted to have implement democracy and social Justice within the California Democratic Part.

Currently the California Democratic Party lacks democracy due to the State Officers having to outsource income, other than the Chair, causing them to not serve the party, yet to serve their income source thus placing them in a conflict of interest. The Executive Board has the power to implement these as State Party paid positions removing the conflict of interest and implementing transparent democracy within our California State Democratic Party.

### ARTICLE III: OFFICERS

#### Section 1. STATEWIDE OFFICERS

- a. The statewide officers of This Committee shall be a State Chair, a male Vice Chair, a female Vice Chair, a Secretary and a Controller.
- b. While holding office, no statewide officer can accept any form of monetary compensation from any elected official, lobbyist, Union, political campaign or Political Action Committee, and if doing so, will be removed from office, per the procedures in ARTICLE III, Section 6, of the California Democratic Party State Central Committee By-Laws.
- c. All statewide officers shall be elected to four year terms.
- d. The Vice Chair of the opposite sex as the Chair shall be designated the First Vice Chair.
- e. A prerequisite for candidacy to a statewide office is that a candidate be a member of This Committee by the time the election takes place.
- f. The Executive Board shall have the power to compensate the State Chair, male Vice Chair, female Vice Chair, Secretary and Controller. Any decrease in compensation shall not take effect until the next election of the ~~State Chair~~ statewide officers, except upon two-thirds vote of the Executive Board.