



Memorandum

TO: Rules Committee

From: Ben Seinfeld and Emma Harper

Date: August 17, 2023

RE: Request for Bylaw Amendments on In-Person v. Virtual Meetings

The California Democratic Party embraced virtual meetings during the Pandemic as a way to continue the business of the party. The bylaws were amended to allow virtual meetings during the pandemic. With the end of Public Health Orders at the Federal, State, and Local Level, CADEM has the opportunity to go back to in person meetings, but also review what meetings the party runs that could remain virtual.

The CADEM staff is requesting the Rules Committee review the attached proposal and investigate what bylaws should be adopted to provide the party greater flexibility in authorizing virtual meetings.

Proposal

Staff has compiled a list of all meetings mentioned in the bylaws and put them into Table 1, on page 2. We also provided context of whether the meeting can be held virtually and what was the best format in the opinion of staff. Additionally, we proposed Rules that could be applied to each meeting type, who decides if a meeting is virtual, and what conditions would need to be met.

For logistical and credentialing reasons, the staff does not believe that there should be any Hybrid Meeting options. If a meeting is in person, there can be broadcasting options, but anyone watching the meeting should not be able to participate as a full member of the meeting. This creates serious credentialing challenges for staff and all those involved in running a meeting.

Conclusion

Staff hopes that this starts the discussion of creating new rules around in-person and virtual meetings. We are happy to provide additional testimony and information as requested by the committee.

TABLE 1

Meeting	Can it be Virtual?	What is preferred	Proposed Rule
Convention "Meetings of this Committee"	Yes	In-Person	In-Person, unless health order
Executive Board	Yes	In-Person/Virtual for most winter EBoard Meetings	In-Person, unless health order, or a National Convention, Convention, or Executive Board within 60 days of the proposed Executive Board. Consideration for the November EBoard to be virtual if possible.
Special Executive Board	Yes	Virtual	In-Person or Virtual at the discretion of the officers.
Regional Meetings	Yes	Hybrid/Virtual	At the discretion of the Regional Director
Endorsing Caucus	Yes	Virtual	In-Person (brick and mortar location must be set for in advance) or Virtual at the discretion of the officers.
Special Endorsing Caucus	Yes	Virtual	In-Person (brick and mortar location must be set for in advance) or Virtual at the discretion of the officers.
Pre-Endorsing Conference	Yes	Virtual	In-Person or Virtual at the discretion of the officers.
Compliance Review Commission	Yes	Virtual	In-Person or Virtual at the discretion of the CRC.
Standing Committee	Yes	Either	Must match the format of meetings of this Committee. Outside of meetings of this committee, In-Person or Virtual at the discretion of the Lead Co-Chairs.
Special Elections Appeals Committee	Yes	Virtual	In-Person or Virtual at the discretion of the officers.
Primary Endorsement Review Committee	Yes	In-Person	Preference is to match the format of meetings of this Committee. May be changed at the discretion of the officers.
Statewide Officers - Membership Removal	Yes	Either	Preference is to match the format of meetings of this Committee. May be changed at the discretion of the officers.

ADEM Election Meetings	Not Sure	In-Person	In-Person, unless health order
DNC Delegation Meeting	Yes	Either	Must match the format of meetings of this Committee. Outside of meetings of this committee, In-Person or Virtual at the discretion of the officers.
DNC Selection Committee	Yes	Virtual	Must match the format of meetings of this Committee. Outside of meetings of this committee, In-Person or Virtual at the discretion of the officers.
DNC District Level Delegate Elections	Not Sure	In-Person	At the discretion of the Presidential Campaigns in accordance with DNC rules and procedures.
Caucus Meetings	Yes	Either	At the discretion of the Caucus Chair. Caucus Meeting with Officer elections must be in person. In-Person meetings may be broadcasted.
ADEM Vacancy Fill Elections	Yes	Virtual	There is no need to hold this meeting in person, as a sudden vacancy may be caused due to someone vacating the position and must be filled quickly.