

California Democratic Party Rules Subcommittee on Miscellaneous Items Agenda
Tuesday, April 29, 2025 at 6:00pm

- I. Meeting Called to Order**
- II. Roll Call**
- III. Adoption of Meeting Agenda**
- IV. Proposal by CDP Staff on Policy regarding In-Person v. Virtual Meetings**

See Exhibit A
- V. Proposal by Anne Mohr to amend:**
 - a. Article III, Section 2(Officers, Description of duties)**
 - b. Article XII, Section 3 (CRC Conduct Commission)**
 - c. Appendix A: Code of Conduct**
See Exhibit B
- VI. Adjournment**

EXHIBIT A



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.

EXHIBIT B



ARTICLE III: OFFICERS

Section 2. DESCRIPTION OF DUTIES

a. The State Chair shall be the chief executive officer and the official voice of This Committee, shall carry out the policies and purposes, and shall pursue its interests to the best of their abilities, including, but not limited to:

~~(1) nominating an Independent Ombudsperson, in consultation with the Statewide Officers of This Committee, subject to approval by a majority vote of the members of the Executive Board present and voting who shall:~~

(1) The chair shall, based on the need for fairness, with the consultation of the Statewide Officers, shall nominate an Independent Ombudsperson whose experience shall include investigative experience. The name of the nominee shall be included in the meeting agenda, and the Executive Board, with the consent of two-thirds (2/3) vote shall approve the nomination who shall:

(2) preparing a list of Investigators, in consultation with the Statewide Officers of This Committee and subject to approval by ~~a majority~~ a two-third (2/3) vote of the members of the Executive Board present and voting, from which the Independent Ombudsperson may select an Investigator to investigate a complaint of a violation of the Code of Conduct and to assist in the work of the Conduct Commission; who, in the judgement of the Chair of This Committee, are

ARTICLE XII: COMPLIANCE REVIEW COMMISSION AND CONDUCT COMMISSION

Section 3. CONDUCT COMMISSION

c. RATIFICATION AND RETENTION Persons nominated by the Chair shall be submitted to the Executive Board of This Committee for consideration for ratification by a ~~majority vote~~ two-third (2/3) of those members of the Executive Board, present and voting, a quorum being present. At the conclusion of the Term of Office, if a member desires to maintain their position, and every two years thereafter, the Executive Board shall conduct a vote as to whether to retain that member on the Commission, and that member shall continue to remain on the Commission only upon receiving a majority of all votes cast.

Appendix A: CODE OF CONDUCT

Reporting Procedure

~~Any~~ member of this Committee who experiences, witnesses, or learns of a perceived violation of this Code should promptly shall report within thirty (30) days of the date on which the alleged violation occurred to a Party leader or to the Party Ombudsperson. A Party leader who receives such a report must promptly report it to the Party Ombudsperson. The Ombudsperson will decide whether to initiate an investigation and remains available to the reporter throughout the investigation process and will oversee any investigation that ensues. If an investigation is to ensue, the accused shall be notified within (5) days of the filing of the complaint. The notification shall be in writing and shall include a phone call follow up in order to confirm proof of receipt.

The complainant and the accused shall have the following rights: Seek representation legal or otherwise, opportunity to present testimony, call witnesses, and question the complainant or accused and their witnesses.

Right to Appeal: In the event of a disciplinary sanction, the accused shall have the right to file an appeal to the Executive Board and staff members of CADEM by written notice to that effect, within fourteen (14) days from the date of receiving notice of such sanction. Upon receipt of such notice of appeal, a Special Meeting of the Executive Board shall be convened within seven (7) days to consider said appeal and all parties shall be notified of the date of the meeting to testify.