

CDP RULES PACKET

May 30, 2025

California Democratic Party Rules Committee Agenda
Friday, May 30, 2025 at 2:00pm
Anaheim Convention Center
Room 201 ABC

- I. Roll Call
- II. Meeting Called to Order
- III. Adoption of Meeting Agenda p.2-3
- IV. Recognition of Former Committee Members p.4-5
- V. Subcommittee Reports p.6-35
 - A. ADEMs Subcommittee Oral Report
 - Chair: King, Members: Fernandez, Bowler, Jaycox, Torello and Woods
 - 2025 ADEM Hearing - Join to give oral testimony**
 - Friday, May 30, 2025
 - 5:00 - 6:00PM
 - Room 201 ABC
 - Online Testimony Submission -
<https://fs3.formsite.com/CADEM2011/RulesTestimony/index>
 - B. Caucuses Subcommittee p.7-11
 - a. Report from Subcommittee on Caucuses
 - Chair: Zakson, Members: Alcala, Bowler, Burckhard, Chairez, Lee, and Woods-Gray
 - C. Chartered Organizations Subcommittee p.12-14
 - a. Report from Subcommittee on Chartered Organizations
 - Chair: Fernandez, Members: Narayana, Bitner, Glazer, James, Shay and Zernitskaya
 - D. County Bylaws Subcommittee p.15-16
 - a. Report from Subcommittee on County Bylaws
 - Chair: Torello, Members: Glazer, Alari, Chairez, Gallotta, Jaycox, Narayana, and Woods
 - E. Endorsements Subcommittee p.17-33
 - a. Report from Subcommittee on Endorsements
 - Chair: Bowler, Members: Alari, Hernandez, James, King, Lee, Phillips, and Shay
 - Bylaws Amendments:**
 - I. CDP Staff proposal to amend BOE District Endorsements and Delegate Representation
 - II. CDP Staff proposal to amend Voting at Pre-Endorsing Conference (Electronic) and procedures on Club Representatives for Pre-Endorsing Conferences
 - III. CDP Staff Proposal related to CADEM engagement and front-line Races
 - F. Miscellaneous Items Subcommittee p.34-35
 - a. Report from Subcommittee on Misc. Items
 - Chair: Hernandez, Members: Jaycox, Phillips, Zakson, Schultz, Fernandez and Shay
- VI. Proposed Bylaw Amendments p.36-46
 - A. Proposal by Senior Caucus amendment to Caucus Bylaws to add 2 additional Officer position p.37-39

- B. Proposal by Andrew Lachman regarding the California Democratic Policy Positions on Foreign Policy Matters to amend Article IV p.40-42
- C. Proposal by Andrew Lachman regarding the California Democratic Policy Positions on Foreign Policy Matters to amend Article IV - Version 2 p.43-44
- D. Proposal by Emilie Gatfield to Amend Bylaws regarding Chartered Organizations p.45-46
- VII. Compliance Review Commission (CRC) p.47-83
 - A. CDP Chicano Latino Caucus Challenge - Nilza Serrano
 - a. Complaint p.48-69
 - b. CRC Decision p.70-78
 - B. Receive and File p.79-83
 - a. Mibs McCarthy Monterey County Democratic Central Committee
- VIII. New Business
- VIII. Adjournment

RECOGNITION OF FORMER COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Rules Subcommittee Appointments

Point	Committee	Chair	Vice Chair	Member 1	Member 2	Member 3	Member 4	Member 5	Member 6	Member 7	Member 8
Coby	ADEMS	Coby King	Sarah Souza*	Mcclina Woods	Robin Torello	Anita Narayana	Katie Jaycox	Peter Gallotta	James Aguilar*	Kathy Bowler	Nick Schultz
Coby	Caucuses	Laurence Zakson	Izeah Chairez	Jose Alcala	Olivia Lee	Jimmie Woods-Gray	Kathy Bowler	Michael Burckhard	Moises Garcia*	Adrianna Zhang*	
Coby	Endorsements	Kathy Bowler	Steven Alari	Coby King	Valeria Hernandez	Olivia Lee	G. Anthony Phillips	James Aguilar	Adrianna Zhang*	Cassandra James	Garry Shay
Valeria	Miscellaneous	Valeria Hernandez	Katie Jaycox	G. Anthony Phillips	Laurence Zakson	Moises Garcia*	Nick Schultz	Maria Harris*		Nicole Fernandez	Garry Shay
Valeria	County Bylaws	Robin Torello	Glenn Glazer	Mcclina Woods	Izeah Chairez	Steven Alari	Peter Gallotta	Katie Jaycox	Anita Narayana	Sarah Souza*	
Valeria	Standing Committees	Garry Shay	Olivia Lee	Jimmie Woods-Gray	Michael Burckhard	Jose Alcala	Katie Jaycox	Harris Mojadedi	Maria Harris	Steven Alari	
Valeria	Officers, Elections, Duties, etc.	G. Anthony Phillips	Jose Alcala	Kathy Bowler	Nicole Fernandez	Izeah Chairez	Harris Mojadedi	Sascha Bittner	Nick Schultz	Natalya Zernitskaya	Garry Shay
Coby	Chartered Organizations	Nicole Fernandez	Anita Narayana	Glenn Glazer	Sarah Souza*	Garry Shay	Sascha Bittner	Maria Harris*	Cassandra James	Natalya Zernitskaya	
N/A	Redistricting Ad Hoc (Joint with JEDI)	Izeah Chairez		Katie Jaycox	Anita Naranya	Harris Mooldedi					

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

SUBCOMMITTEE ON CAUCUES REPORT

MEMORANDUM

TO: Rules Committee

FROM: Subcommittee on Caucuses, CDP Rules Committee

RE: Report from the Subcommittee on Caucuses

DATE: May 26, 2025

We write to: update the full Rules Committee on the Subcommittee's review of the annual reports of the Caucuses; recommend authorization for a change in the Senior Caucus bylaws; seek guidance on some issues that have come up with respect to Caucus bylaws; and advise of some necessary upcoming Subcommittee actions after the Convention upon the reconstitution of the Subcommittee.

1. Annual Reports: Under Section 4.E.9 of the California Democratic Party Guidelines for Certification, Re-Certification and Decertification of Caucuses, adopted by CDP Rules Committee – October 20, certified/recertified, Caucuses must agree:

“that the Caucus shall not amend its Bylaws after the provisional or full certification/recertification of the Caucus without first obtaining the written approval of Rules Committee of the proposed amendment, such approval indicating solely that the proposed amendment is consistent with the terms of certification/recertification and not that the proposed amendment is desirable or appropriate or should be adopted. And an Agreement that the Caucus shall provide the Secretary of This Committee and the Chair(s) of the Rules Committee the following (in electronic editable form where appropriate):

- (a) A written report on the Caucus' activities and progress towards fulfillment of the Caucus' Statement of Purpose and Intended Activity, as evidenced through measurable objective standards, on an annual basis, no later than February 7th of each year. ***
- (b) A complete “Roster of Members” containing the names, addresses, phone numbers, and where appropriate, their email addresses, of all its members, noting whether a particular member holds an office in the Caucus and/or has organizational responsibility for a particular activity, on an annual basis, no later than February 7th of each year.
- (c) At least ten (10) days written or electronic notice of any and all of its meetings, both regular and special;
- (d) Copies of any amendments to the Bylaws of the Caucus adopted after certification, within ten (10) days of their adoption; and,
- (e) Proof of the Caucus' continued adherence to and compliance with the findings of the Rules Committee as set forth in Article XI of the Bylaws of This Committee, if requested by the Rules Committee.

The Subcommittee on Caucuses is pleased to report that every Caucus made some kind of

submission, although not all were timely. The following Caucuses fulfilled this requirement and the Subcommittee is pleased to confirm their full compliance:

Arab American;
Asian Pacific Islander;
Small Business; and
LGBTQ

The balance of the reports are in various states of review, but the bylaws of the following 9 Caucuses are identical to what was submitted previously and are hereby found in compliance by the Subcommittee:

Children's
Environmental
Irish-American
Native American
Veterans
Senior

2. The Senior Caucus has sought authorization to make a change in its Bylaws. The addition of new officers is a change that is allowed under the Guidelines and Template Bylaws. And nothing about the addition these offices runs afoul of any other rule, guideline or norm. Accordingly, the Subcommittee recommends the amendment be authorized once vetted for any grammatical or similar technical corrections by the Subcommittee.
3. A. The CLC sought to have certain of its officers not only represent various Regions, but be elected by Caucus members residing in those Regions. The CLC was provisionally recertified without addressing that issue and its bylaws were given provisional approval notwithstanding that provision. The regional election provision was an issue in a CRC appeal. We seek Rules Committee input on the appropriateness of this provision. The Subcommittee did not meet to make a recommendation.

The Subcommittee can meet to make a recommendation or the full Rules Committee can provide direction. The Subcommittee chair believes that allowing elections by region will necessitate additional changes in the template bylaws, and, at his request, this report so advises the full Rules Committee.

B. The Guidelines for Certification, Re-Certification and Decertification of Caucuses, adopted by CDP Rules Committee – October 20 provide for each Caucus' written report on the Caucus' activities and progress towards fulfillment of the Caucus' Statement of Purpose and Intended Activity be "evidenced through measurable objective standards," but provides little other guidance. The Subcommittee has noted that a number of Caucuses have identified as intended activity only Caucus meetings and presentations and have identified as measurable goals only the number of meetings and increases in Caucuses membership.

Article XI, Section 2 of the CDP Bylaws provides:

Section 2. PURPOSE

The purpose of a caucus is to:

- a. Participate in the policy decisions of the Party, by, among other things, proposing Resolutions to the Resolutions Committee, Legislation to the Legislation Committee, bylaw amendments to the Rules Committee, or other such proposals to other Standing Committees, or to the Chair of This Committee, as may be necessary to carry out its goals and objectives. Caucuses are to conduct all of their affairs with an eye toward full and proactive compliance with: (i) the expectations and intent set forth in Article VIII, Section 1.c; (ii) the “one voice” rule in Article VIII, Section 1.d; and (iii) the prohibitions on endorsements in Article VII, Sections 1.h, 1.j and 2.a. No Caucus may take independent positions on such matters which are contrary to the positions of This Committee, provided, however, that nothing herein shall prevent This Committee’s Regions, or its Caucuses from calling on the California Democratic Party to take any action consistent with its status as a constituent part of This Committee.
- b. Encourage participation, within the Caucus’ community of interest, in the outreach programs of the Party, including such things as This Committee’s Voter Registration and Get Out the Vote activities, but any such participation shall be limited to activities conducted by or in partnership with the Party, Any other such voter outreach or campaign activities are inconsistent with the Caucus’ purpose and, as a result, are prohibited.
- c. Promulgate and implement a Statement of Purpose and Intended Activity, aimed at expanding and strengthening the Party, subject to approval by the Rules Committee; and,
- d. Make the Party more welcoming and more relevant to members of the public, the electorate, and This Committee, who identify with the goals of the Caucus

In light of this, the Subcommittee seeks direction from the full Rules Committee whether it should bring forward to the full Rules Committee amendments to the Guidelines requiring that the intended activities and goals not be limited to Caucus meetings, presentations and membership but must include other efforts to encourage participation, within the Caucus’ community of interest, in the outreach programs of the Party, including such things as This Committee’s Voter Registration and Get Out the Vote activities conducted by or in partnership with the Party, and efforts outside of Caucus meetings to make the Party more welcoming and more relevant to members of the public, the electorate, and This Committee, who identify with the goals of the Caucus

4. New Caucus leadership is being elected at this Convention. In addition, new annual reports will be due in February 2026.
 - a. Accordingly, the Subcommittee intends, upon being reconstituted (in addition to reviewing the outstanding Caucus annual reports) to do a post-election informational meeting with Caucus officers and election committee members, as

well as any other interested persons, on how the Caucus elections ran under the new rules.

- b. The Subcommittee also intends, upon being reconstituted, to hold a workshop for new Caucus leaders on: (i) the template bylaws and bylaws amendment process; (ii) preparation of annual reports; (iii) permitted and non-permitted Caucus activities; and (iv) message vetting and approval processes.

The Subcommittee on Caucuses appreciates the input and support of the full Rules Committee and thanks you for your attention to these important matters.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON CHARTERED ORGANIZATION REPORT

TO: Rules Committee, California Democratic Party

FR: Sub-Committee on Endorsements: Nicole Fernandez, Subcommittee Lead Chair

RE: Report of the Sub-Committee on Statewide Chartered Organizations

DA: May 12, 2025

The Subcommittee on Endorsements met on Monday, May 12, 2025 and the following below is the report for that meeting:

I. With 6 members present there was a quorum. Members present: Nicole Fernandez; Sascha Bittner; Glenn Glazer; Cassandra James; Garry Shay and Natalya Zernitskaya

II. Statewide Chartered Organizations Annual Reports

Per CDP Bylaws all Charters must submit an annual written report of their organization's activities and progress towards fulfillment of their organization's stated goals and purposes. This progress should be evidenced through the objective measures or standards in which the organization established in the Statement of Purpose and Intended Activity submitted with your charter's application. Failure to submit will require that the Subcommittee on Chartered Organizations begin steps to revoke a charter.

STATEWIDE CHARTERED ORGANIZATIONS

CDC/CYD/FDCC Exempt from annual reporting:

- California Young Democrats (CYD)
- California Democratic Council (CDC)

California Armenian American Democrats

No issues found. Approved

Brownie Mary Democrats of California

No issues found. Approved

California Democratic Renters Council

No issues found. Approved

California Jewish Democrats

Conditionally approved, pending revision of their language to certify that their members are Democrats.

Iranian American Democrats of California

No issues found. Approved

GEOGRAPHICALLY BASED CHARTERED ORGANIZATIONS

AD12 Democrats

No issues found. Approved

III. New Application Submissions

a. United Avance California Democratic Federation

b. California Democrats for Justice in Palestine

Following the full Rules Subcommittee meeting held on February 20th, members of the subcommittee, alongside the Lead Co-Chairs, conducted further discussions to evaluate potential overlaps between newly submitted Statewide Chartered Organization applications and existing CDP Caucuses.

The primary focus of these follow-up meetings was to assess how similarities in proposed charters could impact the current structure and operations of existing Caucuses. Over the course of two additional meetings, the subcommittee reviewed several approaches and explored potential solutions to address these concerns.

After extensive deliberation, the subcommittee reached a consensus to table both applications and any new applications. This temporary pause allows the subcommittee to await further guidance from the full Rules Committee and incoming party leadership, before proceeding with any decisions.

The Subcommittee will meet with Rules Committee leads in June after the 2025 May Convention for further guidance. The next Subcommittee meeting will be for all Caucus, Statewide Chartered Organizations (SCO) and SCO Applicants.

Testimony can be submitted online through the Rules Committee online Testimony submission <https://cadem.org/standing-committees/>

IV. CA High School Democrats (CAHSD) Proposed Bylaws Amendment

Rules Committee Subcommittee on Chartered Organizations must propose amendments to the Bylaws and the chartering guidelines to allow CAHSD to be automatically chartered with CADEM without the need for an application.

The committee lead will continue collaborating with the CAHSD to draft an amendment to the bylaws.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON COUNTY BYLAWS REPORT

MEMORANDUM

To: Coby King and Valeria Hernandez, Lead Chairs of the CDP Rules Committee

From: Robin Torello, Chair of the Subcommittee on County Bylaws

Date: May 21, 2025

For: May 30, 2025 – June 1, 2025 CADEM Convention

Re: Status Report of the Subcommittee on County Bylaws

The California Democratic Party (CADEM) Bylaws, state that a Democratic candidate for nonpartisan office who have been endorsed by their County Central Committee shall also be considered to be the endorsed candidate of CADEM provided that the endorsing provisions of the relevant County Central Committee bylaws have been reviewed and approved by CADEM as consistent with its own Bylaws and with the fundamental rules of fairness.

On April 22, 2025, the County Bylaws subcommittee met via Zoom to begin the outreach to Democratic Central Committees who are interested in providing their endorsement candidates in 2025 or 2026 with the ability to use the CADEM endorsement during election process.

With a quorum at hand, the subcommittee members present agreed to use the letter and materials provided during 2023/2024 with some word and dates changes for updating purposes. The letter will reflect the first deadline for review of July 1, 2025 in order to meet the next tentative Executive Board sometime in August 2025.

The Democratic Central Committees will receive a letter along with a subcommittee Bylaws form. The letter reflects what is required to qualify for review and possible approval.

CADEM subcommittee employee, Unique Wilson, prepared the amended version of the letter and was peer reviewed by Glenn Glazer and Robin Torello. Unique Wilson then forwarded the letter and material to the Central Committees over the following week.

To date, no request has been received to date.

Respectfully submitted,

Robin Torello, Chair of the Subcommittee on County Bylaws
Glenn Glazer, Vice-Chair of the Subcommittee on County Bylaws

SUBCOMMITTEE ON ENDORSEMENTS REPORT

TO: Rules Committee, California Democratic Party

FR: Sub-Committee on Endorsements: Kathy Bowler, Subcommittee Lead Chair

RE: Report of the Sub-Committee on Endorsements

DA: April 28, 2025

The Subcommittee on Endorsements met on Monday, April 28, 2025 and the following below is the report for that meeting:

I. With 6 members present there was a quorum. Members present: Kathy Bowler; Steven Alari; Coby King; Olivia Lee; G. Anthony Phillips; Garry Shay and Valeria Hernandez joined the meeting in progress

II. CDP Staff proposal to amend BOE District Endorsements and Delegate Representation

Explanation: Historically BOE Endorsements have been treated as Statewide endorsements for logistical reasons. First, it would be nearly impossible to have a 4 separate BOE caucus meetings, following the traditional vote method of counting in the room. Second, it was too difficult to separate ballots to only have the races on them that people are eligible to vote for. The solution was to have all voters vote for all BOE races.

This has created confusion and complaints in the past or people asking why they are voting for a candidate that is not statewide that does not represent them. Additionally, there has been confusion about whether BOE members can appoint people outside of their districts.

The solution to this is available to us as we have been running elections on Election Buddy and can easily give voters a unique ballot to them with the Correct BOE race and District Endorsing Caucuses.

The Bylaw changes below make BOE Delegates District Appointments, Allow them to be a part of the Statewide Endorsing Caucus, and remove them as being listed as a Statewide Office.

After discussion there was a motion to adopt the amendment as amended.

See Exhibit A

I. CDP Staff proposal to amend Voting at Pre-Endorsing Conference (Electronic) and procedures on Club Representatives for Pre-Endorsing Conferences

Explanation: CADEM has gotten very good about administering elections using Electionbuddy over the last couple of years. We would like to expand this to the

administration of Pre-Endorsing Conference Elections. Additionally, it creates an opportunity for us to clean up some other rules around the process that work for an in person meeting, but not a virtual one.

Explanation: The current process for removing duplicate club members for assigning representatives is a difficult process, taking anywhere from 12-24 hours each cycle to do. The process is very technical and at times arbitrary decisions need to be made on which club will be getting an extra representative or not. Furthermore, it is very difficult to be able to recreate your work to show how you got the final result of removing duplicates.

CADEM staff would like to create a process that would continue to improve transparency and automated efficiency.

Article VIII, Section 3.g. Club Representative Amendments

After discussion there was a motion to adopt the amendment with the direction for staff to return with revised language ensuring that, for clubs to obtain their first representative, they must have at least three-quarters of a representative.

Article VIII, Section 3.g. – Pre-Endorsing Conferences Electronic Voting Amendments

After discussion there was a motion to adopt the amendment.

See Exhibit B

II. CDP Staff Proposal related to CADEM engagement and front-line Races

This bylaw is intended to provide a very narrow scope for when CADEM can engage in Incumbent Protection work. The focus of this bylaw is to allow the Party to begin working with and coordinating with incumbents in Frontline districts to improve their chances of protecting their seats from being flipped to the Republican Party.

After discussion there was a motion to adopt the amendment with minor correction to the listed section of the Bylaws.

See Exhibit C

III. Adjournment

EXHIBIT A

TO: Rules Committee

From: Ben Seinfeld and Emma Harper

Date: December 5, 2024

RE: Bylaw Amendments on BOE District Endorsements And Delegate Representation

Historically BOE Endorsements have been treated as Statewide endorsements for logistical reasons. First, it would be nearly impossible to have a 4 separate BOE caucus meetings, following the traditional vote method of counting in the room. Second, it was too difficult to separate ballots to only have the races on them that people are eligible to vote for. The solution was to have all voters vote for all BOE races.

This has created confusion and complaints in the past or people asking why they are voting for a candidate that is not statewide that does not represent them. Additionally, there has been confusion about whether BOE members can appoint people outside of their districts.

The solution to this is available to us as we have been running elections on Election Buddy and can easily give voters a unique ballot to them with the Correct BOE race and District Endorsing Caucuses.

The Bylaw changes below make BOE Delegates District Appointments, Allow them to be a part of the Statewide Endorsing Caucus, and remove them as being listed as a Statewide Office.

AMENDMENTS

Amend Art. VIII, Sec 3 (c)

Endorsing caucuses of This Committee shall be comprised of all members of This Committee resident and registered to vote in the relevant district except that those members appointed by the appointing authorities for the offices described in Article II, sections 2a(11), 2a(12) and 2a(14) and not appointed pursuant to Article II, section 3c shall not be eligible to participate (or be counted in any calculation of percentages needed for endorsement under this Article) unless the appointee is registered to vote in the same electoral district as the one that the appointing authority represents. Endorsement caucuses in any given primary race shall be chaired by persons designated by the Chair of This Committee. The Chair of This Committee may also appoint a Parliamentarian who is a member of either the Rules or Credentials Committee of This Committee, and a Secretary for each Endorsing Caucus.

Amend Art. VIII, Sec 3 (c)(1)

Endorsing caucuses shall be held at places and times during the endorsing convention which are designated by the Chair of This Committee consistent with achieving an orderly, convenient and fair process. Endorsing Caucuses for the office of State Board of Equalization ~~may~~ will be conducted during a General Session, of an Endorsing Convention, and voting shall be conducted electronically among provided the eligible voters in each relevant district shall remain as described

hereinabove.

Amend Art. VIII, Sec 3 (d)(1)

In the case of a statewide public office, This Committee's ratification of the endorsing caucus' decision shall be assumed, since the endorsing caucus is comprised of all members of This Committee. ~~The office of State Board of Equalization shall be considered as a statewide office and shall be voted upon by all members of This Committee.~~

Amend Art. VIII, Sec 3 (d)(3)(b)(1)

upon written motion by at least ten (10) members of the relevant caucus in the case of an Assembly District or at least twenty (20) members of the relevant caucus in the case of a State Senate or Congressional District, except that those members appointed by the appointing authorities for the offices described in Article II, sections 2a(11), 2a(12) and 2a(14) and not appointed pursuant to Article II, section 3c shall not be eligible to participate in such motions or petitions unless the appointee is registered to vote in the same electoral district as the one that the appointing authority represents, or

Amend Art. VIII, Sec 3 (e)(1)(a)

those members appointed by the appointing authorities for the offices described in Article II, sections 2a(11), 2a(12) and 2a(14) and not appointed pursuant to Article II, section 3c shall not be eligible to participate (or be counted in any calculation of percentages needed for endorsement under this section) unless the appointee is registered to vote in the same electoral district as the one that the appointing authority represents, and

Amend Art. VIII, Sec 3 (g)(5)(a)

All members of This Committee resident in the district, except that those members appointed by the appointing authorities for the offices described in Article II, sections 2a(11), 2a(12) and 2a(14) and not appointed pursuant to Article II, section 3c shall not be eligible to participate (or be counted in any calculation of percentages needed for endorsement under this section) unless the appointee is registered to vote in the same electoral district as the one that the appointing authority represents;

Amend Art. VIII, Sec 3 (h)(1)(b)(1)

those members appointed by the appointing authorities for the offices described in Article II, sections 2a(11), 2a(12) and 2a(14) and not appointed pursuant to Article II, section 3c shall not be eligible to participate (or be counted in any calculation of percentages needed for endorsement under this section) unless the appointee is registered to vote in the same electoral District as the one that the appointing authority represents, and

Amend Art. VIII, Sec 3 (i)

For those races subject to review by the Election Appeals Committee via the filing of a Letter of Objection, within fifteen (15) days after Secretary of State certification of the Primary Election, twenty percent (20%) of the members of This Committee resident in the district in question except that those members appointed by the appointing authorities for the offices described in

Article II, sections 2a(11), 2a(12) and 2a(14) and not appointed pursuant to Article II, section 3c shall not be eligible to participate (or be counted in any calculation of percentages needed for endorsement under this section) unless the appointee is registered to vote in the same electoral District as the one that the appointing authority represents, must sign and file with the Secretary of This Committee a Letter of Objection objecting to the endorsement of a particular candidate. Said Letter of Objection shall also be served on the candidate in question by the objecting parties by first class mail at the time the Letter of Objection is filed with the Secretary of This Committee. A certificate of service with the Letter of Objection shall be filed with the Secretary of This Committee along with the filing of the Letter of Objection. The Secretary of This Committee shall, upon receipt of said documents, serve a copy of them on the candidate and the members of the Election Appeals Committee within ten (10) days of filing of said objection. In the event a majority of the Election Appeals Committee objects to the endorsement of that particular candidate, such candidate shall not be the endorsed candidate of the Democratic Party.

Amend Art. VIII, Sec 3 (j)(1)

For districted races, the Chair of This Committee shall cause to be convened an endorsing caucus of the members of This Committee resident in the each relevant district, except that those members appointed by the appointing authorities for the offices described in Article II, sections 2a(11), 2a(12) and 2a(14) and not appointed pursuant to Article II, section 3c shall not be eligible to participate (or be counted in any calculation of percentages needed for endorsement under this section) unless the appointee is registered to vote in the same electoral District as the one that the appointing authority represents may group such districts on a regional basis as necessary and shall designate a convenor. No proxy voting shall be allowed - each member shall be sent a vote-by-mail ballot which shall be read off as though it were a roll call vote. Once received by the designated convenor of the caucus, a ballot may not be retracted, rescinded, or otherwise changed and shall be counted in the totals. Lost ballots may be replaced at the caucus prior to the close of balloting. Each caucus may place on a consent calendar of the Executive Board of This Committee:

EXHIBIT B

- g. ***“Pre-endorsing Conferences” Time, Place, Absentee Voting, Notice, Convenor, Participants, Certification of Roster, No Proxy Voting, Address by Candidate, Offering of Name, Single Roll Call Vote, Prohibition on Vote Retraction, Participant’s Residency, Transmission of Results, Incumbent Consent Calendar Placement and Removal Process, Process for Endorsement in General Election:*** “Pre-endorsing Conferences” are a public meeting of the Democratic Party and shall be held at the regional level prior to the State endorsing convention, and shall be open to all registered Democrats.
- (1) The time and place of each pre-endorsing conference shall be determined by the State Chair in consultation with the Party's Regional Directors.
 - (2) ~~Voting shall be conducted utilizing an electronic ballot system. Absentee ballot voting shall be allowed for each office to be voted upon at the pre-endorsing conference provided that t~~ The participation of at least five of the eligible members of This Committee as delegates to the pre- endorsing conference, ~~either in person, or by vote by mail ballot,~~ shall constitute a quorum. In the absence of such quorum no recommendation for endorsement shall take place; however, the relevant convention endorsing caucus shall consider the race “de novo”. ~~The ballot shall consist of a written, signed statement from the eligible voter and shall be recorded as part of the roll call vote if received by the designated Regional Director or through an alternative electronic process promulgated by the Chair of This Committee or their designee prior to the beginning of the roll call vote in the designated district. In the event that any Senate District or Congressional District falls into more than one Region, the State Chair shall assign those districts to a single regional pre-endorsement conference for the purposes of making the recommendation set forth in this section, due consideration being given to conflicting conference dates so as to allow for full participation.~~
 - (3) The State Chair shall be responsible for providing each voting participant with notification of the time and place of the relevant pre-endorsing conference. Regional Directors shall be responsible, upon the advice and assistance of the State Chair, for generally publicizing pre-endorsement conferences.
 - (4) Each pre-endorsing conference shall be convened by the relevant Regional Director or, in the event that there is no Regional Director available for this purpose or the Regional Director is a candidate for nomination to a partisan public office, or has a demonstrable conflict of interest (as determined by a majority of the Statewide Officers of This Committee), by a person designated by the State Chair. The State Chair shall designate a Chair and a Secretary for each Regional pre-endorsing conference.

- (5) Voting participants at each pre-endorsing conference shall be:
- (a) All members of This Committee resident in the district, except that those members appointed by the appointing authorities for the offices described in Article II, sections 2a(11), 2a(12) and 2a(14) and not appointed pursuant to Article II, section 3c shall not be eligible to participate (or be counted in any calculation of percentages needed for endorsement under this section) unless the appointee is registered to vote in the same electoral district as the one that the appointing authority represents;
 - (b) All regular County Committee members resident in the district;
 - (c) Designated Assembly District representatives from chartered clubs and organizations.
 - 1. Representatives from each Democratic Club or other Democratic organization chartered by This Committee or by a County Central Committee in the year prior to the pre- endorsing conferences shall be eligible to participate, as follows:
 - (a) The Chair of the Chartering Organization shall have certified the validity of the Charter, and that the Club was chartered and has submitted a roster of members in good standing duly registered as a member of the Democratic Party of California to the Chair of the Chartering Organization and to the appropriate Regional Director and the Secretary of This Committee no later than a date that is announced by the state chair and is between 300 and 310 days prior to the following statewide primary election of the year immediately prior to the endorsing process, and that:
 - i. The rules of by-laws of the Club contain a provision that only members in good standing as of a date that is announced by the State Chair and is between 315 and 325 days prior to the following statewide primary election and is 14 days prior to the date specified in Section 3(g)(5)(c)(1)(a) above shall be included on the roster;
 - ii. The rules or by-laws of the Club define the phrase “member in good standing”;

iii. The status of such members be certified by the Club's President, Secretary, or Treasurer;

iv. The Club's representatives to any particular pre-endorsing conference be from the list described above and that the overall list of representatives to all conferences adhere to the Equal Division Rule, to the extent possible. A Club member may only be the club representative for one club. The club representative may not already be a member of the Pre-Endorsing Conference by way of Sec 3 (g)(5)(a) and Sec 3 (g)(5)(b) above.

v. Either (1) the rules or by-laws of the Club shall outline the process by which representatives to the pre-endorsing conference shall be selected, ensuring that only members in good standing participate in the process or (2) the representatives shall be selected at a duly-noticed meeting of the Club, affirmed by a vote of those members in good standing in attendance and voting.

(b) Club representatives shall be allocated—calculated as follows:—one representative, resident in the Assembly District and duly registered as a member of the Democratic Party of California, for each full (not a fraction thereof) 20 members in good standing registered to vote in the Assembly District who were listed on the roster referred to above.

i. After Clubs have submitted their club rosters, verification of the club members democratic registration shall be checked in the voter file. Any club members that are not registered democrats will be omitted from the club's member list. The total number of club members submitted after checking voter registration, shall be referred to as Total Submitted Members herein.

ii. All club member lists shall be compared against each other to identify club members who are a member of multiple clubs. In the event that a club member is a member of multiple clubs, that club member shall be counted as a fraction equal to 1 divided by the number of clubs they are a member of. All other club members shall be counted as 1. The sum of club members including fractional representation shall be referred to as Fractional Value.

iii. For clubs that have 20 or more Total Submitted Members and a Fractional Value of 15 or more in an assembly district, the Fractional Value shall be divided by 20 and rounded to the nearest whole number. That number will be the number of Club Representatives a Club will receive in that assembly district.

(b) —

~~(c) Club members who hold dual club memberships may only be counted for representation once. Such representatives must be registered Democrats. In the event a name is listed on two or more rosters, only one name shall be counted and the Regional Director shall first count the name on the roster of the organization which does not deprive another organization of representation, if possible; provided, however, if that is not possible, the name on the roster which was first turned in will be counted unless the individual is listed as a Representative from another organization, in which case the individual shall be counted only on the roster of the organization sought to be represented.~~

2. The certifying authority for the representatives referred to in this paragraph shall be the Chair of the chartered organization.
 3. These A.D. representatives may vote only in the districts in which they reside.
- (6) No proxy voting shall be allowed at pre-endorsing conferences. In order to effectuate notice to all potential voters, and to determine and certify eligibility to vote, it shall be the responsibility of each Regional Director, with the assistance of the relevant County Committee Chair(s) and the Executive Board representative from each Assembly District to identify by name all persons who will be eligible voters at their regional pre-endorsing conference and to transmit the names of all such voters to the State Chair, along with the Assembly District, Senate District and Congressional District in which each resides by a date selected by the Chair of This Committee and publicized on the Party's website that is between forty-five (45) and ninety (90) days prior to the State Endorsing Convention. A roster of the certified eligible voters shall be maintained by that Regional Director and shall be provided to the Chair of This Committee and to each candidate who has requested consideration. In order to be a voting member of a pre-endorsing conference, an individual's membership must have been certified as indicated herein and their name must appear, or have had the right to appear, on the certified roster as described above. Nothing in this section relieves a Democratic Club of its obligation to submit its roster to the Regional Director by the date selected

pursuant to Section 3(g)(5)(c)(1)(a) above.

(7) Candidates for partisan non-statewide public office and who commit to filing as "Party Preference: Democratic", are required to fill out the Endorsement Registration Form to be eligible for this Committee's Endorsement Process. Candidates must fill out the Endorsement Registration Form at least five (5) days prior to the Pre-Endorsing Conference Meetings. Should the incumbent candidate fail to file the notice of intent to run by that date, then the filing deadline shall be extended to a day, which is three (3) days prior to the Pre-Endorsing Conference Meetings. No withdrawals shall be allowed after that date. All candidates must also have paid the Candidate Filing Fee, set by the Finance Committee, to complete the registration process within 24 hours of the registration deadline.

~~(7)~~(8) Pre-Endorsing Conference Meetings shall have a posted start time of 11 AM. Each candidate, who complete d t h e registration process , for partisan, non-statewide public office whose jurisdiction extends into, or is included in a given Region, and who commits to filing as "Party Preference: Democratic," shall be permitted to address the relevant pre-endorsing conference or to designate a representative to address said conference, provided that such candidate is not seeking the endorsement of This Committee for another office which will be elected on the same date. At 12 PM (Noon) ballots will be sent electronically to all eligible voters. Ballots must be turned in by 12 PM (Noon) seven (7) calendar days after they are sent out. A "no preference" option shall be available at the time of each vote. Once submitted, a ballot may not be retracted, rescinded, or otherwise changed and shall be counted in the totals.

~~(8) Any voting participant may offer for conference consideration the name of a candidate for partisan, non-statewide public office whose jurisdiction extends into, or is included within the given Region, provided the fee referred to in Section 3.c.(3) above has been paid and that such candidate is not seeking the endorsement of This Committee for another office which will be elected on the same date.~~

~~(9) — Once the names of candidates for a given office have been thus offered, a single roll call vote, via signed written ballot, in the same form as the vote by mail ballot, shall be taken as to the preferences of the eligible voting participants. Once received by the designated Regional Director, a ballot may not be retracted, rescinded, or otherwise changed and shall be counted in the totals. A "no preference" option shall be available at the time of each vote.~~

~~(10)~~(9) Eligibility to vote with respect to a given office shall be limited to those conference participants resident in the election district in question.

~~(11)~~(10) ~~The Chair of the pre-endorsing conference is responsible for transmitting to the State Chair, in writing, the results of all votes taken within three days of the pre-endorsing conference. The results of the Pre-Endorsing Conference will be promptly posted publicly \following the conclusion of voting.~~

(12)(11) An incumbent seeking election to the same office currently held shall be automatically placed on the consent calendar of This Committee's endorsing convention unless:

- (a) There is more than one incumbent seeking the same office, or
- (b) By a date that is between:
 - 1. the date that the pre-endorsing conference roster of eligible participants has been determined by the Chair of This Committee, and
 - 2. ten (10) days prior to the pre-endorsing conference, twenty percent (20%) of the eligible participants or two-thirds of a body composed of the Statewide Officers of This Committee plus the Regional Director(s) whose region(s) include(s) all or part of the district represented by the incumbent file a petition to include the incumbent in the endorsement process otherwise indicated in this Section.

(13)(12) The name of a non-incumbent or of an incumbent subject to Section 3.g.(1~~12~~)(a) or Section 3.g.(1~~12~~)(b) may be placed on the consent calendar of This Committee's endorsing convention upon receiving at least seventy percent (70%) vote, of those valid votes cast, at a pre-endorsing conference. The consent calendar shall be approved by a simple majority vote of This Committee. Upon approval of the consent calendar the candidate shall become the endorsed candidate of the Democratic Party. A name may be removed from the consent calendar by at least twenty percent (20%) of the members of This Committee resident and qualified by a date selected by the Chair of This Committee and publicized on the Party's website that is between forty-five (45) and ninety (90) days prior to the State Endorsing Convention in the District in question or by at least twenty percent (20%) of the members of This Committee by filing a letter of objection with the State Chair no later than ten (10) days prior to the State Endorsing Convention. If a name is removed from the consent calendar, the By-Laws of This Committee regarding endorsements shall apply.

EXHIBIT C

TO: Rules Committee
From: Ben Seinfeld
Date: May 1, 2025
RE: Bylaw Amendments on Party Support in Frontline District Races

It is more important than ever for the California Democratic Party to be in Campaign Mode both in the On and Off years of an election cycle. This bylaw is intended to provide a very narrow scope for when CADEM can engage in Incumbent Protection work. The focus of this bylaw is to allow the Party to begin working with and coordinating with incumbents in Frontline districts to improve their chances of protecting their seats from being flipped to the Republican Party.

Below is a list of the incumbents, whom the party could begin doing member protection work for and take necessary action to ensure that that member retains their seat from being flipped, if this bylaw were passed.

At Risk District	Candidate	Percent Won By
CA 09	Harder	3.60%
CA 13	Gray	0.08%
CA 21	Costa	5.20%
CA 27	Whitesides	2.60%
CA 45	Tran	0.20%
CA 47	Min	2.80%
CA 49	Levin	4.40%

AMENDMENTS

Add Art. VIII, Sec 1, ~~k~~.

k. Actions in Support of Identified Frontline District Races

Notwithstanding anything in Section 1(a) of this Article or anything elsewhere in these Bylaws, the Chair of This Committee, in consultation with the Statewide Officers, may designate certain Federal and State Legislative Districts as “frontline districts.” To constitute a “frontline district,” the district must be one in which:

- (1) There is an incumbent Democrat; and
- (2) (A) The district has been publicly designated as a target by another party,
or
(B) the incumbent defeated a candidate of another party in the most recent General Election by a margin of less than ten (10) points

Promptly after the designation of a district as “frontline district,” the Chair of This Committee shall notify in writing the Chair(s) of the Organizing Committee and the Regional Director(s) of the region(s) in which the frontline district is located of the designation.

After such notice, the Chair of This Committee, in consultation with the Statewide Officers, may, with respect to any designated “frontline district,” take such action as the Chair deems fit to ensure that the district remains represented by a Democratic Party candidate. Such action shall not constitute an endorsement of This Committee and shall not involve any actions seeking to affect the endorsement process of This Committee. Additionally, the authority, under this Section (~~k~~), of the Chair of This Committee to act shall terminate as of 90 days before the start of the endorsing convention.

The authorization to act in this subsection (~~k~~) is limited exclusively to actions expressly authorized by the Chair of This Committee and neither This Committee nor any of its constituent parts may take any action unless so authorized. In addition, the authorization to act provided in this subsection (~~k~~) is limited to actions of This Committee and does not authorize any action by any County Central Committee.

**SUBCOMMITTEE
ON
MISCELLANEOUS
ITEMS REPORT**

TO: Rules Committee, California Democratic Party

FR: Sub-Committee on Miscellaneous Items: Valeria Hernandez Subcommittee Lead Chair

RE: Report of the Sub-Committee on Miscellaneous

DA: April 29, 2025

The Subcommittee on Miscellaneous Items met on Tuesday, April 29, 2025 and the following information below is the report for that meeting:

I. With 5 members present there was a quorum. Members present: Valeria Hernandez; Nicole Fernandez; Katie Jaycox; Garry Shay; and Laurence Zakson

II. Proposal by CDP Staff on Policy regarding In-Person v Virtual Meetings

Subcommittee allowed time for more testimony but no one signed up to testify verbally. The Subcommittee plans to have suggested language prepared after convention and put forward to the body in November.

III. 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**

In order for the California Democratic Party to reflect the constitution of the United States of America and the Constitution of California, Blue Revolution California proposes these rules changes.

Due to the lack of transparency, fairness, due process, and clarity of procedure the submitted is fundamental for this Democratic organization.

The current wording lacks detailed description of each step in the procedural process beyond the reporting of a violation of the Code of Conduct.

After discussion there was a motion to refer all amendments to the next meeting of this Subcommittee.

NEW PROPOSED BYLAW AMENDMENTS

PROPOSAL TO AMEND CAUCUS BYLAWS TO ADD 2 ADDITIONAL OFFICER POSITION

Proposal to add two additional officer positions to the Senior Caucus

Justification

The Senior Caucus Board decided that, to carry out our plans for 2025, we should add 2 "Officer At-Large" positions. This will also give us the opportunity to have a more diverse group of officers.

If approved, we plan to have a member vote at an upcoming the Senior Caucus member so that the 2 new positions can be voted in at the Caucus officer Elections in May 2025 during the December Eboard meeting week.

Details

Affected are Article VI (on p. 7 of the Bylaws at: <https://cadem.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/09/2024-Final-Bylaws-Senior-Caucus-.pdf>) that lists the existing positions and where we found a typo. Article VIII starting on page 12 that describes their duties is also affected.

The Proposed Amendments to Article VI:

- "will" was changed to "one" in Section A paragraph 2
- "two officers at large" was added in Section A paragraph 5e and
- the former 5e was changed to 5f.

The Proposed Amendments to Article VIII:

- The description of duties was added as paragraph 2 and
 - the former paragraph 2 was changed to paragraph 3.
-

The Proposed amendment wording.

Article VI

The officers of This Caucus shall be:

1. The Caucus Chair, who, except as otherwise provided herein in the event of an officer temporarily acting as interim Chair due to a vacancy, must be a member of the DSCC.
2. The Caucus Principal Vice-Chair. The Principal Vice Chair shall be a member of the DSCC and is ~~will~~ **one** of the three Caucus Regional Vice-Chairs, as appointed in Article VIII, Section B and is a member of the DSCC. The Principal Vice chair position will rotate starting with the Vice Chair – Northern California at the beginning of each two-year term and rotate to Central, then South every quarter among the Vice Chairs that are DSCC members.
3. The Caucus Secretary,
4. The Caucus Treasurer and,
5. The following additional officers:
 - a. The Vice Chair - Northern California
 - b. The Vice Chair - Central California

c. The Vice Chair - Southern California

d. Caucus Communications Director

e. Two (2) Officers At-Large

e f. Chair Emeritus/Emerita

Article VIII

E. The following additional officers and Executive Board members shall be members of the Executive Board.

1. Communications Officer: The Communications Officer shall:

a. be responsible for maintaining the Caucus social media accounts, moderating the Caucus listserv (when and as necessary), and such other duties as the Executive Committee may require.

2. Officers At-Large shall:

a. perform any duties or Ad-hoc committee chair assignments as the Executive Committee may require.

2 3. Chair Emeritus/Emerita: The Chair Emerita/Emeritus shall:

a. be an honorary position given to a past chair elected by the Executive Board and holds no Caucus Executive Board voting privilege.

**PROPOSAL
REGARDING THE CA
DEMOCRATIC POLICY
POSITIONS ON
FOREIGN
POLICY MATTERS**

PROPOSAL REGARDING CALIFORNIA DEMOCRATIC POLICY POSITIONS ON FOREIGN POLICY MATTERS

The Problem: Foreign policy issues have proven deeply divisive within the party and unlike domestic policy issues where the party can influence legislation or executive actions, the party has very little direct impact on foreign policy. There may be limited times when the party is united and wishes to make a collective statement, but at the moment, divisions over foreign policy are distracting the party from making an impact on domestic issues such as health care, combating climate change, and criminal justice reform.

Further, the party lacks expertise to properly and fully address the complexities of international law and foreign policy. County Committees also lack the expertise to fact check resolutions that address complex foreign policy and international law issues, or track the intricacies of domestic policy developments in other countries, resulting in resolutions coming down to battles between outside groups.

Having the party address Foreign policy also provides equity risks in promoting xenophobia, antisemitism and islamophobia. For instance, placing persons of certain religious and nationalities in the position of defending (or opposing) the governments of the countries their families moved here from or connects promotes xenophobic tropes.

We do recognize certain limited exceptions that directly involve California such as immigration policy, wars and climate change. California shares a border with another country and immigration flows into California, Climate change is a global issue where California has long played an outsized role (and is largely covered in other planks) and most of the policy is meant to impact local, state and federal regulation. As we have done for decades, the party should take a stand on matters of war where Californians will be sent directly into combat areas. Finally, in cases that do not involve these areas but we are largely united as a party, we should have the opportunity to speak, as we have done on Ukraine or the protests in Iran.

Proposal:

- a. Remove foreign policy from the “International and World Peace” section of the CADEM Platform (immigration and wars would not be removed)
- b. Adopt the Democratic National Committee platform on foreign policy in lieu of the state party taking positions on the platform
- c. Bar the adoption of foreign policy matters by county parties and the state party in resolutions or legislation. One option is that CADEM may only adopt resolutions or legislation with respect to foreign policy matters if the applicable

Policy Committee agrees to consider the resolution or legislation by a $\frac{2}{3}$ vote in the affirmative, the committee approves the resolution or legislation by a $\frac{2}{3}$ vote in the affirmative; Executive Board or State Committee (as applicable to the meeting which adopted) votes to approve support for such legislation or resolution by a $\frac{2}{3}$ vote in the affirmative .

This would allow the party to focus on California and national issues, war and immigration matters, those in which we can exercise influence in policy outcomes, but at the same time, leaves the door open for the party to take a stance on foreign policy matters in which we as a party could be united as a matter of principle.

ARTICLE IV - MEETINGS

(new) Section 10.

- a.** The platform of the Democratic National Committee shall be the platform of the California Democratic Party at all levels with respect to Foreign Policy matters and as such, the California Democratic Party shall not address Foreign Policy issues in the state Platform.
- b.** The California Democratic Party shall not support or oppose, at any level any a) legislation or b) adopt any Resolution involving foreign policy.
- c.** For purposes of this Section 10, "Foreign Policy" shall mean a government, private company, non-government organization or international organization's strategy, acts, or omissions in dealing with other nations, citizens of other nations located in those nations, or dealing with non-government organizations, international organizations, or private companies and is different from the commitment of US military personnel in combat, immigration policy or complying with climate change obligations.

**PROPOSAL
REGARDING THE CA
DEMOCRATIC POLICY
POSITIONS ON
FOREIGN
POLICY MATTERS
VERSION 2**

ARTICLE IV - MEETINGS

(new) Section 10.

a. The platform of the Democratic National Committee shall be the platform of the California Democratic Party at all levels with respect to Foreign Policy matters and as such, the California Democratic Party shall not address Foreign Policy issues in the state Platform.

b. The California Democratic Party shall not support or oppose, at any level, any legislation or adopt any Resolution involving foreign policy unless 1) the Resolutions or Legislation Committee ("Policy Committee") has voted in affirmative by two thirds (2/3) of its membership to consider the resolution or legislation, as applicable, 2) such resolution or legislation has been adopted by the relevant Policy Committee by a two thirds (2/3) vote of its membership and 3) the Committee has voted by 2/3 of its membership during a Convention or two thirds (2/3) of the membership at the California Democratic Party Executive Board. No County Central Committee may support or oppose legislation or resolutions regarding Foreign Policy.

c. For purposes of this Section 10, "Foreign Policy" shall mean a government, private company, non-government organization or international organization's strategy, acts, or omissions in dealing with other nations, citizens of other nations located in those nations, or dealing with non-government organizations, international organizations, or private companies and is different from the commitment of US military personnel in combat, immigration policy or complying with climate change obligations.

**PROPOSAL BY
EMILIE GATFIELD
TO AMEND BYLAWS
REGARDING
CHARTERED
ORGANIZATIONS**

Delete **Art. II, Sec 1 (a)(8)**

Amend **Art VII, Section 2(f)**

The President of the California Young Democrats, and of the California College Democrats, unless the Chair/President is already an Executive Board member. If this is the case, the organization may choose another officer as its Executive Board member.

Deleted: of the California Democratic Council,

Amend **Art X, Section 3(a)(5)**

The endorsement of any candidate for public office running against an endorsed candidate of This Committee, by any organization granted a Charter by This Committee after the adoption of this Article X on July 31, 2005, (NOTE: This Committee previously granted a Charter to the California Young Democrats in 1932, prior to This Committee's authority to endorse candidates and prior to the adoption of the Chartering rules contained herein, and the California Young Democrats and the California College Democrats are specifically exempted from this possible grounds for revocation of Charter.) Further, for the period through the earlier of December 31, 2026, or the further amendment of this Section 3(a)(5) of Article X, the California College Democrats shall be considered provisionally chartered and are specifically exempted from this subsection for the duration of this provisional chartering.

Deleted: and to the California Democratic Council in 1952

Deleted: Democratic Council

Delete **Guidelines re: Chartering of Organizations 3, E, 1**

Amend **Guidelines re: Chartering of Organizations 4, B, 5**

The endorsement of any candidate for public office running against an endorsed candidate of This Committee, by any organization granted a Charter by This Committee after the adoption of this Article X on July 31, 2005, (NOTE: This Committee previously granted a Charter to the California Young Democrats in 1932, prior to This Committee's authority to endorse candidates and prior to the adoption of the Chartering rules contained herein, and the California Young Democrats and the California College Democrats are specifically exempted from this possible grounds for revocation of Charter.) Further, for the period through the earlier of December 31, 2026, or the further amendment of this Section 3(a)(5) of Article X, the California College Democrats shall be considered provisionally chartered and are specifically exempted from this subsection for the duration of this provisional chartering.

Deleted: The endorsement of any candidate for public office running against an endorsed candidate of This Committee, by any organization granted a Charter by This Committee after the adoption of this Article X on July 31, 2005, (NOTE: This Committee previously granted a Charter to the California Democratic Council in 1952, prior to This Committee's authority to endorse candidates and prior to the adoption of the Chartering rules contained herein, and the California Democratic Council is specifically exempted from this possible grounds for revocation of Charter)

COMPLIANCE REVIEW COMMISSION (CRC)

COMPLAINT

**La Nueva Voz
Chicano Latino Caucus Slate**

TO: Compliance Review Commission
FROM: Nilza Serrano (on behalf of the La Nueva Voz Candidate Slate)
DATE: May 23, 2025
SUBJECT: Chicano Latino Caucus Pre-Election Emergency Challenge

Dear Compliance Review Commission Members,

On behalf of Gracie Torres, Irene Huerta, Kristie Hernandez, Robert Sandoval, Emiliano Rojas, Sandra Vargas, Nathan Castillo, Mickey Chavez, Gloria Alvarado, Ana Gonzalez, Eileen Navarro, Sal Abrica, David Mariscal, hereinafter “the Challengers,” Nilza Serrano challenges the conduct of the Chicano Latino Caucus in the running of their officer elections and requests that the CRC immediately deem the Elections Committee unfit to run the 5/31 elections and address additional remedies listed below.

The Chicano Latino Caucus (CLC) is set to hold their elections on Saturday, May 31, 2025 at 4:30pm at the Anaheim Convention Center.

The CLC Elections Committee, led by Maria Grivaja (hereinafter the “Elections Chair”), has conducted the pre-election procedures with gross negligence, causing our caucus’s entire election to be in chaos and challengeable on the merits of the CLC Bylaws and the CADEM Bylaws.

As more fully discussed below, the CLC Elections Committee has failed in their responsibilities to provide caucus members and candidates accurate and timely information, ensure that no candidates up for election are conducting any portion of the election process or respond to election inquiries or remedy irregularities identified in those inquiries..The CLC Elections Committee has further withheld information from candidates regarding caucus members who the committee has unilaterally made eligible to vote.

While we respect and acknowledge the procedural rules of this committee when filing challenges, the complexity of this issue has created a 6th page, and we are requesting an accommodation to ensure all the facts are presented. Per CADEM Bylaws (Article I - Caucuses and Article XIII, Section 6 - Timely Publication of Selection Procedures) we believe that this Commission has jurisdiction over this pre-election challenge given the information provided hereafter.

BACKGROUND

On April 7, 2025, the Chicano Latino Caucus (CLC) issued its "Second Announcement" for the 2025 elections (Exhibit A), which were to be held during the CADEM Reorganizing Convention. Though termed a "Second Announcement," Challengers are not aware of a preceding "First Announcement." The notice included instructions for open nominations, deadlines, balloting procedures, and accommodations.

The instructions stated nominations should be sent to both the Elections Chair and Secretary, but failed to specify which Secretary (Recording or Corresponding) and did not include contact information for either. While the Elections Chair's contact details were provided, this omission created confusion.

After submitting their intent to run, several candidates received emails around April 15 from the Elections Chair, stating their nominations were incomplete due to missing personal details (name, address, email, CLC membership status). All candidates promptly supplied the information and were subsequently approved.

On May 4, Ms. Grivaja distributed the membership roster, as required by the bylaws. However, the list lacked critical data—email addresses, phone numbers, and regional affiliation—necessary for Regional Vice Chair elections.

On May 5, candidates submitted an "Election Inquiry" email (Exhibit B) seeking clarification on the process, particularly following a caucus-wide email sent that day. Given past disputes (e.g., CRC Decision Vasquez – April 16, 2024), candidates sought confirmation that all participants were receiving accurate, consistent information—especially regarding credentialing, waivers, and balloting.

Further requests followed, including one from candidate Gracie Torres (Exhibit C). On May 6, the Elections Chair responded that she lacked volunteers to sort the roster and suggested candidates sort it themselves. Ms. Torres volunteered to assist. On May 8, the Elections Chair spoke with Ms. Serrano and Ms. Torres but did not respond to other inquiries. When asked how regional elections would proceed without regional data, the

Elections Chair again advised candidates to sort the list themselves. Additional inquiries were made about how special accommodation waivers for disability were being approved and were to be handled, and again these inquiries went unanswered. This particular point is concerning because there has been a history of illegal “ballot stuffing,” and we strongly suspect that if this election is conducted this unchecked method will be used again in this election.

Additional questions sent on May 14 went unanswered by the Elections Chair. A misdirected response from Mr. Alcala, who was CC’d, indicated continued confusion.

On May 20, a Certification Report (Exhibit D) was sent out, temporarily decertifying 14 candidates without explanation beyond unspecified nomination errors. Candidates were told to submit waiver requests by May 26, later revised to May 21. All 14 La Nueva Voz candidates submitted identical waivers; 13 were approved. The sole denial was Chair candidate Nilza Serrano, whose waiver was rejected based on the Elections Chair’s arbitrary interpretation of “conduct” and unfounded claims about the candidate’s actions and the transparency of the Elections Committee.

The Elections Chair’s justification included the false claim that Secretary contact information had been provided and was publicly available. This led to an appeal to the full Elections Committee through Vice Chair Cynthia Rodriguez, who subsequently approved Ms. Serrano’s waiver.

Also on May 20, Ms. Serrano submitted an official election dispute email on behalf of the slate (Exhibit F), detailing unresolved procedural concerns. The Elections Chair

replied with an inappropriate response mistakenly sent to the group. Ms. Serrano then called for her resignation due to bias and misconduct. Shortly afterward, the Elections Chair denied Ms. Serrano's certification waiver, further escalating concerns.

VIOLATIONS

1. The CLC Elections Committee failed in their responsibility to provide caucus members accurate and timely information pertaining to the open nomination portion of the election procedures (CDP Bylaws - Article XIII, Section 6 - Timely Publication of Selection Procedures)
2. The CLC Elections Committee failed in their responsibility to provide candidates accurate and timely information pertaining to the membership roster which is required to be provided to all candidates. (CDP Bylaws - Article XIII, Section 6 - Timely Publication of Selection Procedures), including by failing to provide information regarding individuals added to the membership roster and made eligible to vote through hardship, disability and special accommodation waiver or how those waivers were processed and approved.
3. The CLC Elections Committee failed to ensure that no candidates up for election conducted any portion of this election pursuant to the CLC Bylaws (Article VII Section B).
4. The CLC Elections Committee failed to respond to any portion of the election inquiries sent to them or attempt to remedy any portion of the inquiries in question. (CDP Bylaws - Article XIII, Section 6 - Timely Publication of Selection Procedures)

REQUESTED REMEDIES

1. We request that an Independent Election Administrator take over the 2025 Chicano Caucus Elections
2. We request that all challengers be placed on the ballot per their original intent-to-run nomination.
3. We request that the CLC provide proof that all Membership Hardship Waivers were submitted on time.
4. We request that the CLC provide proof that all Disability and Special Accommodation Waivers were submitted on time.
5. We request the cancellation of the Vote by Mail/Email ballots for failure to provide any information to the candidates on how it is administered and who requested a ballot.

Submitted: Thursday, May 22, 2025
Nilza Serrano, Assembly District 52
1575 Hill Drive, LA CA 90041
Nilza@nilzaserrano.com
323-807-2601

From: Nilza Serrano nilza@nilzaserrano.com
Subject: Fwd: Second Announcement of Chicano Latino Caucus Elections
Date: May 22, 2025 at 17:36
To: La Nueva Voz Slate lanuevavozclc@gmail.com

NS

Begin forwarded message:

From: Chicano Latino Caucus CDP <cmaslaw-yahoo.com@shared1.ccsend.com>
Date: April 7, 2025 at 10:18:10 AM PDT
To: SMR0788@gmail.com
Subject: Second Announcement of Chicano Latino Caucus Elections
Reply-To: cmaslaw@yahoo.com



CHICANO LATINO CAUCUS OPINION

Largest Latino Democratic Organization in the Nation

April 7, 2025

**Pay Annual CLC Membership Dues to Vote
In the CLC At the May 31, 2025 State
Democratic Convention. Join and pay dues
at cadem.org "Registration" Tab OR at the
following URL:**

[https://onlinecampaigntools.com/WebForms/ViewForm?
key=v3OgtUdQThjhzNZ%2FYfwUPw%3D%3D#%5Bpage=1%5D](https://onlinecampaigntools.com/WebForms/ViewForm?key=v3OgtUdQThjhzNZ%2FYfwUPw%3D%3D#%5Bpage=1%5D)



Chair



SECOND ANNOUNCEMENT OF CHICANO LATINO CAUCUS ELECTIONS

By Carlos Alcala, Chair Chicano Latino Caucus

Election Agenda for May Meeting of the Chicano Latino Caucus,
California Democratic Party May 31, 2025 in Anaheim,
California

The May 31, 2025, Chicano Latino Caucus, CDP meeting will
include election of officers for 2025-2027 as the first order of
business

a. the offices to be filled;

Chair, Recording Secretary, Correspondence
Secretary Treasurer, fourteen regional Vice Chairs for all
regions. The regions are as follows:

1. Northern: Bay Area: San Francisco, Del Norte, Humboldt,
Mendocino, Trinity, Lake, Sonoma, and Marin.
2. Northern: Sacramento Area Siskiyou, Modoc, Shasta,
Lassen, Tehama, Plumas, Butte, Glenn, Colusa, Sierra, Sutter,
Nevada, Placer, El Dorado, alpine, Sacramento, Yolo, Yuba,
Napa, Amador, and Solano.
3. Central Coast North Region: Monterey: Santa Cruz, San
Benito, San Luis Obispo,
4. Central Valley North: Mariposa: Mono, San Joaquin,
Stanislaus, Merced, Calaveras, Tuolumne/Tuolumne, and
Mariposa.
5. Central Coast South: Santa Barbara/Ventura
6. Los Angeles, East Los Angeles and West Los Angeles
7. Orange County
8. Inland Empire North: San Bernardino County
9. Inland Empire South: Riverside and Imperial
10. San Diego
11. Central Valley Mid: Fresno/Tulare: Fresno, Tulare, Kings,
Madera and Inyo.
12. Central Valley South: Bakersfield and Kern County
13. South Bay: Santa Clara and San Mateo
14. East Bay, Alameda, Contra Costa

Regional Vice Chairs must be residents of the region they seek
to represent. Regional Vice Chairs will be elected by voters
from that region.

b. the term;

The term of office shall be two years.

c. any applicable deadlines;

4/11: Open nominations – *Article XII.E.1. Nominations for all
officer positions open on April 11, 2025. Nominations must be in*

Carlos Alcala
cmaslaw@yahoo.com
916 277-5504
Corresponding Secretary
Krisna Velasco

Secretary Recording
Gabriel Medina

Treasurer Vacant

Parliamentarian
Duane Goff

Sgt at Arms Mariana
Sabenario

Vice Chair Region 1 Bay
Stephanie Cajina

Vice Chair Region 2
Northern California
Norma Alcala

Vice Chair Region 3
Monterey
Alexis Garcia-Arrazalo

Vice Chair Region 4
Stanislaus, San Joaquin,
Merced
Tomy Madrigal

Vice Chair Region 5
Coastal
AJ Valenzuela

Vice chair Region 6 East
LA Xilonin Cruz Gonzalez

Vice Chair Region 6 West
LA and SF Valley Magali
Sanchez-Hall

Vice Chair Region 7
Orange County Betty
Valencia

Vice Chair Region 8 San
Bernardino Dr. Rita
Ramirez

Vice chair Region 9
Riverside Imperial Sandy
Pina

Vice Chair Region 10 San
Diego Marggie Castellano

Vice Chair Region 11 Kern,
Inouye Emilio Huerta

Vice Chair Region 12 San
Jose Oloivia Navarro

Vice Chair Region 13
Fresno, Tulare, Kings Lucia
Vasquez

Vice Chair Chicano Studies
Professors UCLA Prof Raul
Hinojosa

Vice Chair Greater
Southern California Young
Adults Zenaida Huerta

Vice chair Cental

officer positions open on April 11, 2025, nominations must be in writing to the Elections committee Chair, Maria Grijalva at mariagrij@gmail.com and the Secretary. All candidates for Chair and Principal/First Vice-Chair must be DSCC members as of this date – *Article X.B.1* Any nomination by mail must be received by the Secretary and the Chair of the Election Committee by twenty-eight (28) days prior to the meeting at which the election is to be conducted. The nomination must be in a Form stating the name, address, email, and state that the nominee is a voting member of the Chicano Latino Caucus.

4/26: 12:00 AM midnight: **Deadline for new members to qualify for voting in the Caucus officer elections.** You must pay dues online at <https://onlinecampaigntools.com/WebForms/ViewForm?key=v3OgtUdQThjhzNZ%2FYfwUPw%3D%3D#%5Bpage=1%5D>

OR apply for a hardship waiver with the Elections Committee Chair Maria Grijalva at mariagrij@gmail.com or apply to the Chair person Carlos Alcala at cmaslaw@yahoo.com or to the Membership Chair, Magali Sanchez Hall at mssanchezhall7@gmail.com Phone (646) 436-0306

5/3: 12:00 AM midnight: Close of nominations (except those from the floor, when permitted*) – *Article X.E.*

Finalize the membership list – *Articles III.B.1, 2 and XII.B.2*

All candidates must be members by this date, even if they are nominated from the floor. – *Article X.B*

All candidates for Chair and Principal/First Vice-Chair must be DSCC members as of this date – *Article X.B.1*

5/4: Send out to candidates notice that a “finalized” list of eligible voters is available; make such list available to candidates who request it – *Article XII.B.2*

Caucus Meeting Date: May 31, 2025 is our preferred date and time but this is not yet approved.

The election is the first item of business after the approval of the credentials report at the close of credentials - *Article X.A.*

*Nominations from the floor are allowed when there are fewer candidates for an office or Executive Board membership than the number to be elected to that office or Executive Board membership. - *Article X.F*

d. the list of eligible voters is available to the candidates on written request to the Chair at cmaslaw@yahoo.com

e. list shall be equally available to incumbent and non-incumbent candidates

f. the balloting process, including that provision will be made for provisional ballots and any accommodations available to persons with disabilities;

Ballots shall be cast in person by members who registered at least 28 days before the election. Disabled persons will be allowed to vote by email but must request a reasonable accommodation no later than ten

Vice Chair Northern
California Young Adults
Vacant

Vice Chair Northern
California Young Adults
Sarah Souza

Vice Chair Migrants North
Bishop Jorge Garcia

Vice Chair Migrants South
Cesar Gamboa

San Francisco
LDC Rep
Victoria De Alba

Dolores Huerta LDC Rep
Maria Grijalva

San Mateo LDC Rep Vacant

Northern Admin
Coordinator Theresa
Riviera

Chair Latina Advisory
Gloria Hernandez

Chair Membership
Magali Sanchez Hall

Chair Appointments Marha
Acevedo
Chair Resolutions Tristan
Brown

Chair Voter Registration

days before the election by contacting the Chair. Provisional ballots will be counted separately

g. There will be equal treatment for purposes of voting and seeking of office for members who pay dues and those who obtain/seek membership by means of a due waiver; and

h. Notice: If you need a reasonable accommodation to vote due to a disability, then you may request a mail/electronic as an accommodation by making a written request to the Elections committee Chair Maria Grijalva at mariagrij@gmail.com,

Y

Visit our Website



Paid for By the California Democratic Party, 1830 9thst Street, Sacramento CA 95811 Not authorized by any candidate or candidate committee. The views expressed herein do not necessarily express the views of the Democratic Party.

Chicano Latino Caucus, CDP | [335 Woodhaven Place](#) | [West Sacramento, CA 95605 US](#)

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From: La Nueva Voz Slate lanuevavozclc@gmail.com
Subject: ELECTION INQUIRY: Re: Chicano Latino Caucus Elections
Date: May 5, 2025 at 15:38
To: mariagrij@gmail.com
Cc: chair@cadem.org, Caucus CDP caucus@cadem.org, Kristie Hernandez kristiehz@yahoo.com, mrs.gracietorres@gmail.com, cobyk@cobyking.com, inkedrenie@gmail.com, Nilza Serrano nilza@nilzaserrano.com, valeria.hernandez@me.com, lzakson@gmail.com, davidam2828@gmail.com, natecastillo23@gmail.com

LS

Hi Maria!

Thank you for sending this out to members. I know we're sending a handful of clarifying emails, but we want to ensure that we have all the correct information!

Please provide timely updates to the below as we are approaching election day:

1) This email just sent out below makes it seem like members will be able to continue to pay dues through the 31st to vote during the elections. The instructions state that only those who have paid through April 29th are eligible to vote. **Please let us know if this was an error and that the membership lists provided to candidates yesterday are closed for this election.**

2) Given that Mr. Alcala is now a candidate for re-election, there seems to be a clear conflict of interest in the election instructions that membership list requests go to him and not you or the Caucus membership chair. **How is this being fixed to ensure that there is no conflict and that Mr. Alcala has no additional conflict in this election going forward?**

3) Two of our candidates are either missing or mis-labeled in their regions: *Nathan Castillo is missing in the open seat for Region 5. David Marsical is mis-labeled in the open seat for Region 12.* **Can you update and send out the correction to members?**

4) We're requesting an updated roster to include the breakdown of Regions so that regional candidates are aware of the eligible voters in their region. **Given the potential conflict advantage, can you provide that to all candidates NLT Wednesday, 5/7.**

5) Those members requesting disability wavers can request wavers up through May 20th (10 day before the election). **Can you ensure that all candidates will be provided:**

1. **The final number of requested disability ballots.**
2. **A list of who has requested those ballots**
3. **How those ballots will be distributed and counted.**

Thank you again for your attention to this, and we look forward to working with you in the next term!

- Team La Nueva Voz

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Chicano Latino Caucus CDP <cmaslaw-yahoo.com@shared1.ccsend.com>

Date: Mon, May 5, 2025 at 2:42 PM

Subject: Chicano Latino Caucus Elections



From: GRACIE TORRES mrs.gracietorres@gmail.com
Subject: Re: Membership List - Candidate's email
Date: May 6, 2025 at 16:31
To: Maria Grijalva mariagrij@gmail.com
Cc: caucus@cadem.org, Infest_jdenunzio11@gmail.com, rubenn_75@yahoo.com

GT

Hi Maria,

Thank you for your response. We know how tedious this process is, and the volunteers it takes to run a successful election. We're happy to volunteer to help sort if you have information that we can use and provide it back so you can get it to all the eligible candidates.

Additionally, which version of the bylaws are you all using for this election? The bylaws from the website or the bylaws from the Annual Report? Can you provide us the section of the bylaws the pertain to regional voting and the process of how that's conducted? Thanks so much!

GRACIE TORRES, MSEES

(She/Her/Ella)

C: 951-970-8692 | E: mrs.gracietorres@gmail.com | W:
www.gracietorres.com

On May 6, 2025, at 7:57 AM, Maria Grijalva <mariagrij@gmail.com> wrote:

Hi Gracie, I found no volunteers to add columns and sort the file for us on short notice. As you may know, we don't have paid staff. I tried to recruit volunteers.

The CDP reports do not list CLC regions or counties. Candidates can sort the file individually by examining the city from which their voters are from.

😞 Sorry to disappoint. The sorting is tedious.

Please feel free to share any more ideas. Thank you.

Maria Grijalva
CLC Elections Committee
916 214 2961

On Mon, May 5, 2025 at 12:26 PM Maria Grijalva <mariagrij@gmail.com> wrote:

Hi Gracie. Yes, definitely. Thank you for asking. We will add a County column, and or Region column. We will work on that and send out the list again this week. Thank you for being so helpful.

Maria Grijalva
CLC Elections Committee
916 214 2961

On Mon, May 5, 2025 at 11:33 AM GRACIE TORRES <mrs.gracietorres@gmail.com> wrote:
Maria,

Thank you! Will candidates will be receiving the membership list broken down by regions considering Regional Candidates have to be voted on by region?

GRACIE TORRES, MSEES

(She/Her/Ella)

C: 951-970-8692 | E: mrs.gracietorres@gmail.com | W:
www.gracietorres.com

On May 4, 2025, at 8:20 PM, Maria Grijalva <mariagrij@gmail.com> wrote:

May 4th 2025

Dear CLC Candidates,

Thank you for waiting. Per your request, attached is the 2025 membership list of the Chicano Latino Caucus, CDP.

The following are the Terms of Use:

The CDP CLC Member list is as of the deadline prescribed by the CDP Bylaws and Rules. No changes may be made to the list past that deadline except as permitted by the CDP Bylaws or as necessary to mitigate possible issues (e.g., voter registration discrepancy or changes, voter contact information update), or clerical error.

The list will be sent in a Digital/Electronic (in MS Excel format) via email to candidates requesting the List. The list comes with w/ name, mailing address, phone number, and/or email.

Please note that some information is not included due to the members' privacy.

The California Democratic Party (CDP) Chicano Latino Caucus Member List is only to be used by the requester for communicating with Members regarding official CDP business, including but not limited to the endorsement process, matters before CDP Standing Committees, and events taking place at CDP Conventions and Executive Board Meetings.

The list may not be transferred, sold, duplicated, posted, or published in any medium, in whole or in part. This list may not be used for the purposes of soliciting membership for or the administration of private delegate groups on social media platforms such as Facebook.

The list may not be used for commercial or any other purposes not authorized by the CDP CLC. Unauthorized use of the list beyond permissible purposes is strictly prohibited. Failure to adhere to the terms will result in revocation of the requester's right to use said list, loss of the requester's right to request Member Lists for a period not to exceed five (5) years, and, if applicable, prosecution or other legal action.

If you have any questions, please feel free to email or phone me.

Maria Grijalva, Chair
CLC Elections Committee
W. Sacramento, CA, USA
Tel: 916 214 2961

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Maria Grijalva

W. Sacramento CA USA
Tel: 916 214 2961

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Maria Grijalva
W. Sacramento CA USA
Tel: 916 214 2961

CDP CLC 2025 Candidate Certification Report

The following is the candidate certification report for officer elections, 2025 Chicano Latino Caucus, CA Democratic Party, California. The candidacy criterion for officer positions was published multiple times, specifying instructions that members were to send nominations to the Chair of the Elections Committee and the Secretary. One courtesy email was sent to candidates asking them to resubmit incomplete nominations. The candidacy criteria are derived from the new bylaws, which were imposed upon the CLC and mandated by the CDP. There are 23 candidates in total.

1. The following members have been disqualified for failing to provide sufficient information: Genesis Coronado
2. The following individual(s) were disqualified because the candidate was not a member of the CLC at the time of nomination: Byron Beltran
3. The following members could not be certified because they failed to comply with the notice and criteria listed for an announcement nomination. Article 10.B.1. requires that any nomination by mail must be received by the Secretary and Chair of the Elections Committee 28 days before an election. The following members did not comply: Members Lydia Serrano, Kristie Hernandez, Gracie Torres, Irene Hunter, Jorge Garcia, Robert Sandoval, Emiliano Rosas, Sandra Vargas, Michael Chavez, Ana Gonzalez, Gloria Alvarado, Eileen Navarro, Sal Abrica, and David Mariscal. These fourteen candidates are not certified to run based on the current bylaws.

[Each member who is not certified can apply for a Waiver of the bylaws to the Elections Committee (mariagrij@gmail.com), which is the final decision at the Caucus level. If the Elections Committee grants a waiver, then the candidates can be certified.]

The Elections Committee will consider Waiver applications for the next six days, until May 25, Sunday. Emails dated after May 25 will not be considered.

4. The following members complied with the CPD CLC bylaws &/or the notice:

Carlos Alcala, Norma Alcala, Olivia Navaro, Magali Sanchez-Hall, Tony Madigal, Mary Jane Sanchez, Krisna Velasco, Rafael Trujillo, Ramon Barajas. Nine candidates complied.

I certify that, to the best of my knowledge and belief, the statements in this report are true and correct.


Maria Grijalva
CLC Elections Committee Chair

DATE: MAY 19, 2025

Maria Grijalva, Chair
CLC Elections Committee
Tel: 916 214 2961

Certification Report (2).pdf
632 KB



From: Nilza Serrano nilza@nilzaserrano.com 
Subject: Fwd: Waiver
Date: May 22, 2025 at 04:57
To: La Nueva Voz Slate lanuevavozclc@gmail.com

NS

Nilza Serrano
Office 323-254-2020
Cell 323-807-2601

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Maria Grijalva** <mariagrij@gmail.com>
Date: Thu, May 22, 2025 at 4:48 AM
Subject: Waiver
To: Nilza Serrano <nilza@nilzaserrano.com>
CC: caucus@cadem.org <caucus@cadem.org>, Cynthia Rodriguez <lawmom2@hotmail.com>, <rubenn_75@yahoo.com>, Infest <denunzio11@gmail.com>

Waiver Review

Madam,

In response to your request for the Waiver. I can not in good conscience approve this request.

We are in an era of tyranny and fascism, your conduct is reflective of this new era. The goal of the CLC has always been to run fair and conflict-free elections, until you came along. Never in our history have there been unfair elections until you came along, demonstrating a paranoid sense of persecution regarding this election. Based on your early emails, you believe & have a fear that someone will steal the election. This sounds familiar, although you are wrong.

Let's stick to the facts. A disqualification from a ballot does not mean a challenger is being targeted (using your own words). To be clear, no one is targeting any challenger if the challenger did not comply with the bylaws. If ANY challenger does not follow the instructions, the bylaws, the challenger does not go onto the ballot. Either you meet the criteria of the bylaws, or you don't. You do not. Any candidate who does not comply with the requirements is disqualified. Any attempt to twist words around will not be tolerated. This waiver was placed at the discretion of the Elections Chair.

I have gone beyond the call of duty to be helpful, but I will not tolerate your attempt to be bullied. I am a volunteer here; I am a senior citizen with mobility disabilities and health issues. I don't deserve to be threatened under the guise of political enthusiasm/assertiveness. I have been an active member of the CLC for over a decade. I am a member of the Native American, Progressive, and Rural Caucus. My BA is in psychology, and my Master's training prepared me to be a school principal. I've been involved in local politics since my early twenties. I'm also a former candidate for public office. A paralegal and a retired state civil servant. For more than 10 years, I wrote administrative law/regulations and public policy at DMV. I have a lot of technical background experience. I run a small civil rights

nonprofit organization. My experience has taught me that certain behavioral indicators serve as early red flags.

It appears that you don't understand. I did not write the bylaws. I'm just the messenger. Again, I am a volunteer, I was asked to be the elections committee chair and follow the bylaws. I follow the law. As the Chair, it's my responsibility to ensure candidates qualify to run for the CLC. Candidates who do not comply with instructions are not qualified to run. I take my duty to CLC members very seriously. Naturally, more weight is placed on statewide positions. The Chair's position is an administrative and leadership position. The Chair breaks a tie, interprets the bylaws, and inspires and motivates members. Have you been a model of inspiration to me as a member, to current board members, and all the candidates?

I bent myself backwards trying to be helpful to you and your slate of candidates. I can not in good conscious help set aside the bylaws to facilitate your candidacy to the most important position of this caucus, given your conduct and mode of operation. It seems you have trouble following simple instructions, then turn around to blame others for your failures. How can I approve your waiver given the facts? I can not, especially in light of your threat to prematurely demand an investigation and a new election without cause. Such conduct is not taken lightly, nor is it seen as good-faith efforts of a leader.

You complain about procedures and certification. All the information, including Corresponding Secretary Krishna Velasco's email, has been published with every newsletter. See Exhibit 3. The corresponding secretary is known to you personally. She is a member of your club. Understand, the nomination procedures were written by the CDP. If you have an issue with them, please take it up with the Rules Committee. Did you follow the nomination notice/the bylaws? Did you provide poor instructions to the slate of candidates, causing them to get disqualified?

The instructions are pretty simple: a carbon copy of the nomination is sent to the chair of the elections committee and the secretary. The secretary's name and email address are listed on the officer roster in the newsletters.. After you didn't follow instructions the first time, we made an exception because your entire slate had made the identical mistake. The slate candidates didn't read the instructions because they trusted your instructions.

You disqualified yourselves twice. We were still bending over backwards to be helpful when I sent the certification report advising you to submit a Waiver to comply with the CDP requirements. This was a third opportunity to comply. The waiver was provided to help you, yet instead of simply requesting a waiver, you blamed the notice for your failure to read simple English. Your carelessness almost got the entire slate disqualified again a third time, had it not been for my helpfulness. To boot, you threaten a new election and an investigation if things don't go your way (does that sound familiar?). I am attaching Exhibits 2 & 3, copies of your incomplete nominations. Yet, your carelessness almost got the entire slate

disqualified again, had it not been for our patience.

Every slate candidate followed your erroneous instructions again, blaming the notice without looking at the notice. Never mind, I stayed up until 3:00 a.m. cleaning up the eligible voting member list that night. Are those leadership skills?

Lastly, a good administrative leader will not insist on receiving private, protected member information. In your first request, you ask “how many [handicap] ballots, and by whom ... due to disability.” If you were disabled, would you like this fact to be shared with candidates seeking your vote? The fact is, the ADA protects the privacy of disabled Americans.

There are great technical differences between the head of a club’s slate and being an authorized representative. A leader ought to have a clear understanding of these technical differences. Unfortunately, you are not familiar with technical processes.

Your reactive conduct to my erroneous email-reply speaks volumes. I accidentally provided you with private and personal communication. No doubt it wasn’t a professional thing to do, but your handling of the matter speaks volumes. Your spontaneous reaction (as a leader) was to accuse me of overstepping my authority and demand I step down as Chair. Next thing I know, my email was made public. Additionally, you caused Ana Gonzalez to ask the elections committee for my resignation. Does this reflect leadership abilities and skills?

Should I approve a waiver for a ‘leader’ who is so rushed for time that they can not follow simple instructions? In turn, this leader provides poor instructions to an entire slate of candidates? Candidates who trust you to know what you are doing, to be ethical, above board, and provide them with instructions that don’t get everyone disqualified.

Again, I can not in good conscious approve this waiver. I am sorry to disappoint you. I am not being biased against you as a challenger. Nor is anyone targeting you as a challenger. Your inability to follow simple directions three times disqualifies you from this waiver. I do not think you qualify for the position. In today’s age of tyranny and fascism, you must learn that no one is above the law. Everyone must follow the bylaws. We tried to work with you to no avail. I am so sorry for your actions.

Procedurally, you are welcome to appeal this Chair's decision directly to the Elections Committee. The vice chair is Cynthia Rodriguez, lawmom2@hotmail, or do a Reply All.

Waiver Denial N Serrano.pdf
111 KB



From: Nilza Serrano lanuevavozclc@gmail.com
Subject: FOLLOW-UP: TIMELY: Chicano Latino Caucus Election Dispute - 5/20
Date: May 21, 2025 at 11:20
To: Maria Grijalva mariagrij@gmail.com
Cc: Caucus CDP caucus@cadem.org, chair@cadem.org, Nilza Serrano nilza@nilzaserrano.com, mrs.gracietorres@gmail.com, Kristie Hernandez kristiehz@yahoo.com, inkedrenie@gmail.com, r.sandoval@ibtlocal350.com, Emiliano Rosas emiliano@emilianorosas.org, Sandravi83@gmail.com, mickchvz@gmail.com, Gloria Alvarado Gloria@oclabor.org, Ana Gonzalez anagonzalez4rialto@gmail.com, Eileennav83@gmail.com, Sal Abrica Salabrica@yahoo.com, davidam2828@gmail.com, emma@cadem.org, cobyk@cobyking.com, valeria.hernandez@me.com, rubenn_75@yahoo.com, Infest Nation jdenunzio11@gmail.com, lawmom2@hotmail.com
Bcc: laracommunications@earthlink.net, Izakson@gmail.com, Jane Wishon janewishon@gmail.com, Lester Aponte lesteraponte@gmail.com, Sean M. Rivas smr0788@gmail.com

Hi Maria and CLC Elections Committee Members,

We wanted to follow up on this timely request.

Additionally, we are aware that waiver approvals have gone out for a handful of our candidates but not all. **Considering each email was identical in nature**, I'm sure you're following up with every candidate with the same approval response and it's just taking a little longer than expected.

The following candidates have received an approval email from you yesterday (5/20):

- Sal Abrica (1:51pm approval email)
- Emiliano Rojas (11:55am approval email)
- Gloria Alvarado (12:01pm approval email)
- Robert Sandoval (1:55pm approval email)
- Ana Gonzalez (7:34pm approval email)
- Kristie Hernandez (7:27pm approval email)

The following candidates have sent you emails on 5/20, and have not received an approval email as of now:

- Nilza Serrano (8:18am email request sent)
- Gracie Torres (8:56am email request sent)
- Irene Huerta (12:33pm email request sent)
- David Mariscal (10:26am email request sent)
- Eileen Navarro (5:00pm email request sent)

Time stamps are to show the time email requests went out, to the time that others were approved.

Especially given the fact that ballots are potentially going out to those who have requested disability/reasonable accommodation waivers, we are hoping these approvals are coming in shortly and no one is being targeted for being a challenger to the current officers.

Please let our candidates know when they have been approved TODAY, and please let us all know when we can expect answers to your status as the Elections Chair AND to the questions below.

Thank you!

Nilza Serrano, Gracie Torres, Irene Huerta, Kristie Hernandez, Robert Sandoval, Emiliano Rojas, Sandra Vargas, Mickey Chavez, Gloria Alvarado, Ana Gonzalez, Eileen Navarro, Sal Abrica, and David Mariscal

On Tue, May 20, 2025 at 4:12 PM Nilza Serrano <lanuevavozclc@gmail.com> wrote:

Hi Maria,

I imagine you replied to this email and intended it for someone else, and I received it as a response in error.

As such, it's clear that you have overstepped your authority as Elections Chair, have shown a clear bias, and your inability to lead our Caucus elections fairly.

As I said before, on behalf of our entire slate, in addition to the questions in dispute before - I'm requesting that you recuse yourself as Elections Chair from leading these elections.

Please respond timely, as we are days away from this election.

Thank you!

Nilza

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Maria Grijalva** <mariagrij@gmail.com>
 Date: Tue, May 20, 2025 at 4:04 PM
 Subject: Re: TIMELY: Chicano Latino Caucus Election Dispute - 5/20
 To: Nilza Serrano <lanuevavozclc@gmail.com>

This b**** cannot speak on the behalf of other candidates

Maria Grijalva

W. Sacramento CA USA
Tel: 916 214 2961

On Tue, May 20, 2025, 2:20 PM Nilza Serrano <lanuevavozclc@gmail.com> wrote:
Dear Chicano Caucus Elections Committee Members,

I am writing on behalf of candidates for the upcoming election to request the following Election related matters be adequately addressed by this committee prior to the election on 5/31 to ensure that our caucus is running a fair and proper election.

Per the CADEM bylaws we are attempting to address this dispute here first, and failure to address or remedy these questions under the CADEM Bylaws (Article XIII, Section 6 - Timely Publication of Selection Procedures) could result in an immediate appeal post-election to the CADEM Compliance Review Committee under their jurisdiction (Article XII: Section 2a and 2d) and we will be requesting a full review of the election, up to holding a new set of elections.

Nomination Procedures and Certification

It's come to our attention that all challenger nominees for this election were not certified (5/20 email from Election Chair Maria Grivaja) and a request for an appeal to this committee was recommended to all candidates by 5/21 at 11pm.

In the certification:

1. No singular basis was written for the reasoning for not certifying candidates other than citing the bylaws.

2. Your own election instructions to candidates did not comply with the bylaws, as written, as you all did not provide adequate contact information to caucus members interested in running for office.

We are kindly requesting an answer as to why the Elections Committee failed to include all relevant information to caucus members and ask that this be remedied in a timely manner.

Regional Vice Chair Election

All candidates received the initial membership roster that included basic information for each member, in some cases information was missing. What's more troubling is the lack of Regional information for candidates for Regional Vice Chair.

While we are aware that candidates can sort their lists into regions, we are concerned that incomplete lists will result in caucus members being unaware which region they will be voting in, and candidates will not know how many eligible voting members are in each region.

We are hoping to not have a repeat of the Compliance Review Committee's ruling in the 2023 Challenge in the Regional Vice Chair Race for Region 4.

Can you please let all candidates know how you will be conducting this election without an adequate regional breakdown of information listed for all caucus members (Article X Section C, and Article XI of the Caucus Bylaws,) and how you plan to remedy this for candidates to reach out to members in their region (Article XII Section C of the Caucus Bylaws).

We are kindly requesting an answer as to why the Elections Committee failed to include all relevant information to caucus members and ask that this be remedied in a timely manner.

Disability/Reasonable Accommodation Waivers

Per the Caucus Bylaws Article XII Section 5f, the election procedures require all caucus members to be aware of the balloting process for provisional ballot and any accommodations made to those with disabilities. We have asked on numerous occasions to be made aware of how the balloting process will happen, and how and who are determining eligibility.

Can you provide information on when caucus members will know:

- 1. The final number of requested disability/reasonable accommodation ballots.**
- 2. A list of who has requested those ballots**
- 3. How those ballots will be distributed and counted.**

Additionally, in your election instructions waiver accommodation requests were to be sent to the Chair of this Caucus, Mr. Carlos Alcala, who currently stands as a candidate for this election which is in violation of the Caucus election procedures ensuring that those overseeing all or portions of elections not be a candidate for office.

As reasonable accommodate ballots are due to go out tomorrow, we are concerned that there will be a serious conflict in the request for waivers and that it stands to reason that there could be improper handling of those requests by Mr. Alcala as a candidate standing for office thus almost ensuring that those ballots could be deemed invalidated.

Can you ensure that this election committee will provide sufficient information to members and candidates prior to the election to ensure that these requests and the ballots are handled properly per the bylaws?

Accuracy of Ballots

Mispelled or complete inaccurate names have been sent out in the recent certification report. We want to ensure that all names of candidates are recorded accurately and placed on the ballot. correctly, and that no ballot includes anything other than the candidate name and the office for which they are seeking.

Can you confirm the accuracy of ballots going out for reasonable accommodations AND ballots being cast in person on 5/31?

Thank you for your attention to this matter. While we understand there are learning curves for any election, we want to ensure that no election committee is stonewalling answers or creating an unfair election for our Caucus.

We look forward to your reply and resolution to these election concerns shortly!

Nilza Serrano
Candidate for Chair
Chicano Latino Caucus Member

On Behalf of the following candidates:

Gracie Torres, Irene Huerta, Kristie Hernandez, Robert Sandoval, Emiliano Rojas, Sandra Vargas, Mickey Chavez, Gloria Alvarado, Ana Gonzalez, Eileen Navarro, Sal Abrica, and David Mariscal

CRC DECISION

MEMORANDUM

TO: All Interested Parties

FROM: Compliance Review Commission (CRC)

DATE: May 26, 2025

RE: **COMPLIANCE REVIEW COMMISSION (CRC) DECISION RELATING TO A CHALLENGE FILED BY NILZA SERRANO**

INTRODUCTION:

EMERGENCY MEETING & USE OF AN EXPEDITED PROCESS

In response to a challenge to the CDP Chicano Latino Caucus (CLC) election filed on May 23, 2025, the Compliance Review Commission (CRC) held an emergency meeting on May 25, 2025.

In advance of that meeting, on May 23, 2025, the CRC directed the officers and Election Committee (Committee) of the CLC to file a response by 2 p.m. on May 25, 2025, and to produce certain records responsive to the allegations in the challenge. The CRC, in that directive, noted that it would “decide at the hearing whether (1) the response is adequate and affords each interested party a fair opportunity to respond or (2) whether affording the time or a response set forth in Section 4.L of the Procedural Rules is required and a decision of the [c]hallenge must take place after the scheduled date of the Caucus election.”

On May 25, 2025, interested parties opposed to the challenge submitted testimony and extensive evidentiary materials in response to the challenge. Those responding were CLC Chair Carlos Alcalá; CLC Corresponding Secretary Krisna Velasco; Committee Chair Maria Grijalva; and CLC Vice-Chair, Region 8 Rafael Trujillo.

On the date of the hearing, the CRC determined that the evidence submitted was sufficient to allow the CRC to make a reasoned decision and that the extensive arguments, testimony and evidentiary submissions evidenced that each party had a fair opportunity to respond. Accordingly, the CRC voted unanimously to admit all of the testimony and exhibits and proceed with a hearing on the merits.

In so ruling, the CRC noted that, as Chair Alcalá correctly noted, its Procedural Rules provide for a minimum of five days for a response. However, the Procedural Rules are promulgated by the Rules Committee under Article V, Section 5(h)(6), which expressly states that the Procedural Rules are “subordinate” to the CDP Bylaws (CDP Bylaws). And Article XII, Section 2(d) of the CDP Bylaws affords the CRC broad authority over matters within its jurisdiction by stating that the CRC “shall have the power and authority to take such actions as are necessary to provide a fair and just remedy including, but not limited to, the holding of new elections.” The CRC recognizes that this authority extends to exercising its authority in exigent circumstances to shorten time-frames for responses, to hold

emergency meetings and otherwise to expedite the review process. The CRC further recognizes that this authority does not excuse the CRC from the requirement to provide interested parties with due process. And the CRC recognizes that this authority should be exercised sparingly.

The CRC has exercised its authority to proceed in this expedited manner in this case only after: (1) verifying through a review of the extensive documentary evidence and the testimony submitted by the responding parties that each party had a sufficient opportunity to review the challenge and respond and, thus, the requirements of due process were met; and (2) determining that exigent circumstances exist here due to the confluence of a number of unusual factors. These factors include: (a) the fact that the CLC has had persistent issues with compliance with CDP requirements and is the only Caucus currently provisionally certified; (b) the challenge here turns on a deprivation of the information necessary to allow the participants in the election (both voters and candidates) a full and fair opportunity to participate; (c) the imminence of the CLC Caucus election; and (d) the importance of the ability of the CLC to participate in Party affairs and the Party's electoral efforts given the results of the recent election – which showed a weakened showing of the Party among Chicano and Latino voters – and the historical importance and significance of the CLC to the Party recognized in Article XI, Section 7 of the CDP Bylaws.

THE CHALLENGE & RESPONSE

On May 23, 2025, the CDP Chicano Latino Caucus member and candidate, Nilza Serrano filed a challenge relating to the actions and decisions of the Committee. The challenge alleges that the Committee had “grossly mismanaged” the pre-election process, violating both CLC Bylaws and CDP Bylaws. According to the challenge, the conduct of the Committee deprived candidates and voters of vital information required for informed participation in the CLC Caucus election in violation of CDP Bylaws Article XIII, Section 6 - Failure to timely publish procedures and CLC Bylaws Article VII, Section B – due to candidates being involved in election administration and lack of response to formal election inquiries.

The challengers alleged that the Committee failed to provide accurate and timely information to candidates and members. They also alleged unclear and incomplete contact information for the submission of nominations and a lack of response to requests for clarification to this and other inquiries. The challenge alleged that the Committee did provide a membership roster listing qualified voters, but that the roster lacked essential information like contact details and the region in which voters were resident. The challenger also questioned the Committee Chair's explanation of the process for granting special voting waivers (hardship and disability) and cited unresolved concerns about previous instances of "ballot stuffing" and other irregularities.

The challenge alleged the temporary disqualification of 14 candidates on May 20 without clear justification. Specifically, while 13 submitted waivers were approved, Nilza Serrano, a candidate for Caucus Chair, had her waiver initially denied, a decision characterized as biased and retaliatory. The challengers assert that the later approval of the waiver was not

evidence of effectiveness of the internal challenge process, but, rather, evidence of bias by Committee Chair Maria Grijalva. The challenger also alleged that the communications from Committee Chair Grijalva – including an instruction to sort the assuredly incomplete rosters themselves – were inappropriate, arbitrary and disrespectful.

The challengers requested the following remedies:

1. The appointment of an Independent Election Administrator.
2. Placement of all challengers on the ballot based on their original submissions.
3. Proof that all Membership Hardship Waivers were submitted and processed properly.
4. Proof that all Disability/Special Accommodation Waivers were properly submitted and approved.
5. Cancellation of Vote-by-Mail/Email ballots due to lack of transparency about the process and voter list.

Chicano Latino Caucuses Response submitted by Chair Carlos Alcalá:

The Chicano Latino Caucus (CLC) responded with a formal response by Chair Carlos Alcalá and extensive submissions by the Committee and other officers.

Due Process Violation: Chair Alcalá argued that the expedited hearing process violates due process and CRC procedural rules, particularly Rule 4(L), which mandates a minimum of five days' notice. The hearing was scheduled with less than 48 hours' notice over a holiday weekend, denying the Respondent adequate time to prepare.

Standing: Several challengers (including David Mariscal, Irene Huerta, and Kristie Hernandez) are running unopposed and are not aggrieved, thus lack standing under CRC Rule 3. Nathan Castillo and others were disqualified for valid reasons unrelated to the challenge.

Failure to Exhaust Remedies: Challengers did not first appeal within the CLC's internal process as required by the bylaws. No decision has yet been made by the Election Committee; so, the CRC lacks jurisdiction.

Untimely Filing: Some allegations concern events that occurred well beyond the 7-day filing window mandated by CRC Rule 4(A), including announcements on March 31 and April 7.

The Allegations are Unfounded:

- **Election Notices:** The March 31 notice was timely and met all required criteria. Nilza Serrano may not have received it due to late registration.
- **Membership List:** An accurate and comprehensive list was provided on May 4 and updated on May 20. The CLC is not allowed to distinguish between dues-paying and hardship members.
- **Candidate Involvement:** No evidence shows that candidates are improperly conducting the election; supporting activities by individuals like Mr. Alcalá do not constitute violations.

- **Sorting by Region:** The CLC is not obligated to sort voters by region for candidates; such information is available but must be determined by the candidates themselves.
- 2. **Requested Remedy Unjustified:** The challenger's request for the CRC to take over the election is unsupported, as the CLC followed all proper procedures while the challenger failed to follow internal rules.

DOCUMENTS INITIALLY RECEIVED AND REVIEWED:

Documents received and reviewed by the CRC associated with the challenge included the following:

1. Challenge submitted by Nilza Serrano, CDP Chicano Latino Caucus member and candidate on May 23, 2025, and 6 supporting documents. On behalf of: Gracie Torres, Irene Huerta, Kristie Hernandez, Robert Sandoval, Emiliano Rojas, Sandra Vargas, Nathan Castillo, Mickey Chavez, Gloria Alvarado, Ana Gonzalez, Eileen Navarro, Sal Abrica, and David Mariscal
 - a. Exhibit A – Second Email Announcement of Chicano Latino Caucus Election on April 7, 2025
 - b. Exhibit B – May 5, 2025 Election Inquiry Email
 - c. Exhibit C – May 6, 2025 - Gracie Torres Membership List - Candidate's Email Email
 - d. Exhibit D – May 22, 2025 - CDC CLC 2025 Elections Certification Report
 - e. Exhibit E – May 22, 2025 - Nilza Serrano Waiver Review Email
 - f. Exhibit F – May 21, 2025 - TIMELY: Chicano Latino Caucus Election Dispute Email
2. Testimony submitted by CLC Chair, Carlos Alcala; Maria Grijalva, Election Committee Chair; Krisna Velasco, CLC Corresponding Secretary; Rafael Trujillo, CLC Vice Chair, Region 8 in opposition of the challenge.
3. Testimony submitted by CLC member and candidate Emiliano Rojas in support of the challenge.

TIMELINESS:

According to CDP Bylaws, Article XII, Section 2:

“All challenges must be commenced by the filing of a written challenge with the Secretary of This Committee, with copies served on the Chair of This Committee, as well as the appointing person, and the chair of the relevant organization, where applicable no later than seven (7) calendar days after the alleged violation occurred. Upon a showing of good cause, sustained by unanimous vote, the Compliance Review Commission may waive this requirement.”

(All By-Law references are to the California Democratic Party Bylaws, as amended through December 2024, unless otherwise indicated.)

Given the ongoing nature of the violations at issue and the fact that the election has yet to be held, the CRC found no basis for concluding that the submission was late. As to Chair Alcala's allegation that the challenge was premature because no challenge can be filed until after the May 31, 2025, election meeting date, the CRC rejects the notion that the CLC Caucus Bylaws preclude a finding of a violation before the meeting date. Rather, the CLC Caucus Bylaws are better read as establishing the date of the election as the date by which all challenges must be resolved unless the Committee makes a finding that an extension of up to 10 days is required.

STANDING, JURISDICTION & EXHAUSTION OF REMEDIES:

Article XII, Section 2.a(1) of the CDP Bylaws states:

“The Compliance Review Commission shall have initial jurisdiction over all challenges and/or appeals arising under these Bylaws.”

Further, the CRC Procedural Rules, Section 2, B. state in pertinent part that a challenge must,

“Explain[] the basis of CRC's jurisdiction... If the CRC cannot discern the section of the CDP Bylaws alleged to have been violated or which grants jurisdiction to the CRC, it may dismiss the challenge.”

According to Article XII, Section 3:

“Any party to a challenge must be adversely affected to bring the challenge.”

The CRC notes that in Article XIII (General Policies) Section 5 the CDP Bylaws provides for the publication fully “and in such a manner as to assure notice to all interested parties a full description of the legal and practical procedures for selection of Democratic Party Officers and representatives on all levels” and Section 7 for the publication “fully and in such a manner as to assure notice to all interested parties a full description of the legal and practical procedures for selection of Democratic Party Officers and representatives on all levels.”

These violations go to the informational and participation rights of all members of the Caucus. As a result, “all interested parties” have standing. As each of the challengers is a candidate or aspired to be a candidate, each is an interested party and has standing.

The record is replete with communications with the Committee and efforts by the challengers to obtain relief from the Committee. While more formal challenges could have been formulated and ideally would have been, the evidence here is sufficient to establish that the challengers made a reasonable attempt to exhaust internal remedies.

FINDINGS:

The Caucus and its Committee had an obligation to afford candidates information about the procedures for qualification, the identification of voters, the regional races in which voters were eligible to vote, the voters who had been granted accommodations and, as a result, would not be present at the Caucus meeting in person to cast their ballots and about the ballots and balloting.

The challengers here have sufficiently demonstrated that the Committee made errors in notification of the procedures for qualification. However, the waiver process appears to have cured these errors and, as a result, while the existence of these errors have been considered as background facts, they do not form the basis for the CRC's decision here.

The Committee refused to provide information about in which regional race each of the voters was eligible to vote, and the voters who had been granted accommodations and, as a result, would not be present at the Caucus meeting in person to cast their ballots. The Committee also appears to have made significant errors in the construction of the sample ballot.

This evidence is insufficient to establish bias by the members of the Committee. Bias would require proof that candidates were somehow treated differentially. The evidence manifestly does not establish such differential treatment.

Article XIII (General Policies) Section 5 the CDP Bylaws provides for the publication fully "and in such a manner as to assure notice to all interested parties a full description of the legal and practical procedures for selection of Democratic Party Officers and representatives on all levels" and Section 7 for the publication "fully and in such a manner as to assure notice to all interested parties a full description of the legal and practical procedures for selection of Democratic Party Officers and representatives on all levels."

It appears that the Committee attempted to satisfy the minimum requirements of the Caucus Bylaws, but did not consider – nor did it make any effort to comply with – the requirements of Article XIII, Sections 5 & 7. It is unclear from the evidence if this was due to a deliberate disregard for these requirements or something less culpable, such as gross negligence. However, it is clear that the Committee's actions were in disregard of these minimum safeguards.

In such circumstances, the claims of bias are hereby dismissed as insufficiently supported by the evidence. While serious violations have been established, the CRC does not agree with the challengers that the evidence establishes bias as the motivation for the violations at issue. That said, the preponderance of the evidence does establish, however, that the Caucus has violated Article XIII, Sections 5 & 7 of the CDP Bylaws.

ORDER:

The CRC makes the following Order:

In light of the violation found and the desire of the CDP to have Caucus officers elected and installed by the end of this Convention, the CRC hereby orders:

1. Pursuant to Section 5, Subsection D.4 of the CRC Procedures, the Co-Chairs of the CRC shall name a committee of three independent Democrats to conduct the CLC election. In the place of the CLC election Committee, the independent administrative committee shall conduct the election, make all election-related decisions, and otherwise have all powers and authority delegated under the Caucus bylaws to the CLC Election Committee.
2. As soon as practicable, but in no event later than the deadline set by the independent administrative committee, the CLC officers and Election Committee shall supply all requested documents and records – including, but not limited to, any membership records, documents concerning hardship waivers and their disposition, and accommodation requests and their disposition --- in its/their custody to the independent administrative committee, shall render such assistance as it/they is/are able to assure compliance with this order and otherwise is divested of any authority over the election. All such authority is delegated to the independent administrative committee.
3. Pursuant to Section 5, Subsection D.4 of the CRC Procedures, any member of the CRC shall be entitled to serve as an election observer and any such observer shall have access to such records and documents as are necessary to observe the CLC Caucus elections. Members of the CRC shall provide the independent administrative committee with technical guidance, upon request.
4. The Chair of This Committee (i.e. the CDP Chair) shall be given authority to use the CLC Membership Balance for any costs associated with compliance with this order.

Pursuant to paragraph 1 above, the following Democrats have been appointed to the independent administrative committee: Richard Rios, Margie Granado, Steven Auclair.

Appeal of this order, if any, must be filed with the CDP Secretary, with copies to the Chair of the CDP State Central Committee, within twelve days of the date of this decision. Thus, any appeal must be filed on or before June 7, 2025 with the Sacramento office of the California Democratic Party, and shall be an appeal to the next meeting of CDP Rules Committee upon conclusion of the response period.

Please note that per CDP Bylaws, Article XII, Section 2e, the filing of an appeal shall not stay any decision of the CRC. Parties may additionally respond in person or virtually, depending on how the meeting is being conducted, if so desired, provided there has been a timely filing of an appeal and notice of intent to testify is provided in writing to the Lead Chairs of the Rules Committee by 5 PM on Saturday, June 7, 2025, at the Sacramento office of the California Democratic Party. The Rules Committee may accept such additional testimony, written or oral, considering the nature and import thereof, as well as the time available for its proper consideration, as it deems appropriate, in its discretion.

All exhibits, testimonies, and other documents in this matter shall be transferred to the Rules Committee for review and appropriate follow-up.

Accordingly, this decision is so ordered, and is in effect, unless, and until, a successful appeal is made, decided, and contrary orders made whether by the CRC, or by the Rules Committee. CRC shall retain jurisdiction up until the time of an appeal, if any, is heard by the Rules Committee.

Respectfully submitted by a 6-0 vote of the members of the CRC,

Tim Allison, Vice-Chair, Credentials Committee
Nicole Fernandez, Vice-Chair, Rules Committee
Valeria Hernandez, Co- Chair, Rules Committee
Jane Wishon, Co-Chair, Credentials Committee
Paul Seo, Vice-Chair, Credentials Committee
Laurence Zakson, Vice-Chair, Rules Committee

RECEIVE AND FILE

MEMORANDUM

TO: All Interested Parties

FROM: Compliance Review Commission (CRC)

DATE: November 13, 2024

RE: **COMPLIANCE REVIEW COMMISSION (CRC) DECISION RELATING TO A CHALLENGE FILED BY MIBS MCCARTHY**

INTRODUCTION:

On October 18, 2024, Mibs McCarthy, the Monterey County Democratic Central Committee (MCDCC) Development Chair filed a challenge regarding allegations that a group of MCDCC members undermined the MCDCC elected Executive Committee and Chair Karen Araujo.

DOCUMENTS INITIALLY RECEIVED AND REVIEWED:

Documents received and reviewed by the CRC associated with the challenge included the following:

1. Challenge submitted by Monterey County Democratic Central Committee (CDCC) Development Chair and Executive Board Member of the CDP, Mibs McCarthy, on October 11, 2024, and 7 supporting documents
 - a. Exhibit A – April 2023 meeting agenda
 - b. Exhibit B – Resolution to remove the chair (Karen Araujo)
 - c. Exhibit C – Chair Araujo’s response to the Resolution to Remove her
 - d. Exhibit D – August 12, 2024 special meeting agenda
 - e. Exhibit E – August 12, 2024 special meeting minutes
 - f. Exhibit F – August 27, 2024 agenda
 - g. Exhibit G – August 27 2024 continued to sept 3 minutes

TIMELINESS:

According to CDP Bylaws, Article XII, Section 2:

“All challenges must be commenced by the filing of a written challenge with the Secretary of This Committee, with copies served on the Chair of This Committee, as well as the appointing person, and the chair of the relevant organization, where

applicable no later than seven (7) calendar days after the alleged violation occurred. Upon a showing of good cause, sustained by unanimous vote, the Compliance Review Commission may waive this requirement.”

(All By-Law references are to the California Democratic Party Bylaws, as amended through May 2024, unless otherwise indicated.)

Ms. McCarthy originally submitted a challenge October 11, 2024 for an incident that took place on August 2, 2024. Although there were subsequent meetings (on August 27 and September 3, 2024) following the alleged incident, even if those meetings were relevant to timeliness, the challenge was not submitted within the seven (7) calendar day requirement for timeliness.

There is no need to examine whether there was “good cause” to waive the requirement for a timely challenge because the CRC has found no basis for jurisdiction.

JURISDICTION:

Article XII, Section 2.a(1) states:

“The Compliance Review Commission shall have initial jurisdiction over all challenges and/or appeals arising under these Bylaws.”

Further, the CRC Procedural Rules, Section 2, B. state in pertinent part that a challenge must,

“Explain[] the basis of CRC’s jurisdiction... If the CRC cannot discern the section of the CDP Bylaws alleged to have been violated or which grants jurisdiction to the CRC, it may dismiss the challenge.”

The challenger was directed by the CRC, through staff, to clarify a sufficient basis for jurisdiction to hear the challenge. Despite being on notice of the need to specify the basis for jurisdiction, the challenger manifestly failed to do so.

This failure is particularly important here inasmuch as the CRC is not a general appellate body for county committees, which under state and federal law are separate legal entities from the CDP. As the CRC has explained many times, while there are exceptions to this rule, in general, the CDP (through the CRC) will not intervene in the business of a county committee unless the actions being complained about directly affect the county committee’s representation on the CDP State Central Committee or Executive Board or, in the case of a county committee whose endorsements are deemed to be the CDP’s endorsements, directly affect the endorsement process. CRC Procedural Rules Section 5.F.

And where, as here, the challenger, who bears the burden of proof on this issue, has not provided any arguments for assertion of jurisdiction, summary dismissal is appropriate.

STANDING:

According to Article XII, Section 3:

“Any party to a challenge must be adversely affected to bring the challenge.”

The CRC did not find it necessary to address the issue of standing as there was no jurisdiction found.

FINDINGS:

As the CRC has explained in many previous decisions, the CRC does not have plenary jurisdiction over actions of County Central Committees, which under state and federal law are independent and separate legal entities from the CDP. Moreover, as a general rule, it is not the business of the CDP or the CRC to police the activities and expenditures of a County Central Committee. The most common exception to the rule is where the actions complained about seriously violate Article XIII of the CDP By-laws, which details procedural rights of all Democrats, especially sections 1 through 7, relating to meetings being public, tests and oaths, and most of all, notice.

Here, there are no such claims, and thus there is no evidentiary predicate for jurisdiction.

ORDER:

Based upon the above facts and the Bylaws of the CDP, the CRC makes the following Order:

1. Based on the information presented, the CRC voted to dismiss for lack of jurisdiction.
2. The CRC finds all or, at least, most of allegations must be decided at the local level as county parties are considered separate independent organizations.

Appeal of this order, if any, must be filed with the CDP Secretary, with copies to the Chair of the CDP State Central Committee, within twelve days of the date of this decision. Thus, any appeal must be filed on or before November 25, 2024 with the Sacramento office of the California Democratic Party, and shall be an appeal to the next meeting of CDP Rules Committee upon conclusion of the response period.

Please note that per CDP Bylaws, Article XII, Section 2e, the filing of an appeal shall not stay any decision of the CRC. Parties may additionally respond in person or virtually, depending on how the meeting is being conducted, if so desired, provided there has been a timely filing of an appeal and notice of intent to testify is provided in writing to the Lead Chair of the Rules Committee by 5 PM on Monday, November 25, 2024, at the Sacramento office of the California Democratic Party. The Rules Committee may accept such additional testimony, written or oral, considering the nature and import thereof, as well as the time available for its proper consideration, as it deems appropriate, in its discretion.

Accordingly, this decision is so ordered, and is in effect, unless, and until, a successful appeal is made, decided, and contrary orders made whether by the CRC, or by the Rules Committee. CRC shall retain jurisdiction up until the time of an appeal, if any, is heard by the Rules Committee.

Respectfully submitted by a 6-0 vote of the members of the CRC,

Tim Allison, Vice-Chair, Credentials Committee
Nicole Fernandez, Vice-Chair, Rules Committee
Valeria Hernandez, Co- Chair, Rules Committee
Lara Larramendi, Co-Chair, Credentials Committee
Paul Seo, Vice-Chair, Credentials Committee
Laurence Zakson, Vice-Chair, Rules Committee