

Constitution and Bylaws
NORTH VALLEY DEMOCRATIC CLUB

Preamble

In order to stimulate active interest in governmental affairs, to increase the efficiency of popular government, and to foster and perpetuate the ideals and principles of the Democratic Party, we hereby associate ourselves and establish the NORTH VALLEY DEMOCRATIC CLUB.

ARTICLE I: NAME

The name of this association shall be the NORTH VALLEY DEMOCRATIC CLUB and may, hereinafter, be referred to as the "Club."

ARTICLE II: POLICY

Sect. 1. It shall be the policy of this Club in all of its endeavors to contribute to the growth and influence of the Democratic Party, to develop leadership, to increase Party responsibility, and to maintain and promote harmony within Party ranks.

Sect. 2. This Club shall seek, in all of its operations, to be in harmony with the principles of the State and National platforms of the Democratic Party.

Sect. 3. This Club may endorse candidates or ballot measure positions, or take a position of no endorsement, by a vote of a majority of those members voting.

Sect. 4. This Club shall participate in the making of endorsements through delegates to Councils or Conventions in the districts in which the Club is authorized to act in such manner. The Club shall support, with an aggressive campaign, the candidates endorsed by these Councils or Conventions if these do not conflict with endorsements made by the Club.

Sect. 5. This Club shall not endorse any candidate but a Democrat for partisan or non-partisan office. In any race for which more Democrats are requesting the endorsement of the Club than there are seats to be filled, one-week notice to all Democratic candidates must be provided prior to the endorsement vote.

Sect. 6. This Club shall be a member of the California Democratic Council.

ARTICLE III: MEMBERSHIP

Sect. 1. All members of this Club shall be registered Democrats, or, if aliens, shall have declared their intentions to so register. Minors may be members if they self-identify as Democrats.

Sect. 2. A member shall be deemed to be in good standing and authorized to participate in all Club activities (except as described in Sect. 3), up to and including the 30th day of January of the year following the year for which the member shall have paid dues in full or had dues waived. When dues are paid or waived in November or December, membership in good standing shall be effective immediately though dues are considered paid for the following year. The amount of the Club dues shall be established by the membership.

Sect. 3. To be eligible to vote a member shall have been in good standing for at least forty-five days preceding the vote. To be eligible to vote a member shall also have been present for at least one prior meeting in the past year (any meeting 12 calendar months prior is deemed to be within the past year). Non-voting members in good standing have the right to participate in debate.

Sect. 4. Members may be expelled for cause by a vote of 2/3 of the membership at a regularly scheduled meeting, provided membership is notified in writing one week prior to meeting and the person against whom such action is to be taken is so notified also and given the right to defense.

ARTICLE IV: OFFICERS

Sect. 1. The Club shall elect the following officers:

- A. President
- B. Vice-President
- C. Secretary
- D. Treasurer

Other officers may be named by the Club as deemed necessary by the membership with terms coincident with those of the above officers. The offices of such other officers may be eliminated at any time as deemed necessary by the membership.

Sect. 2. The officers shall be elected every other year at the regular November or December membership meeting. The new officers shall be installed at the December or January club meeting.

Sect. 3. The officers shall hold office for a period of two years or until their successors are installed.

Sect. 4. Each of the officers shall have those duties normally associated with that office.

Sect. 5. The President, or in his/her absence, the Vice-President, or in the absence of both, the Secretary, shall preside over all meetings of the Club. In the absence of all three above named officers, a temporary presiding officer shall be elected from among the members.

Sect. 6. If a vacancy occurs in any of the offices, the remaining officers and executive committee shall fill the vacancy, with the approval of the membership at the next meeting.

ARTICLE V: COMMITTEES

Sect. 1. The following committees shall be activated as the Club deems necessary: Political Action, Ways and Means, Legislative and Resolutions, Social, Notifications, Membership, Program, Editorial and Newsletter, Bylaws, Publicity, Labor Liaison, Business Liaison, Women's Liaison, and Correspondence.

Sect. 2. Chairpersons of committees shall be appointed by the President, with the approval of a majority of the members present.

Sect. 3. The President, with the approval of the membership, shall be empowered to appoint chairpersons and members of such special committees as the President and the other officers may from time to time determine to be necessary, and to appoint such additional members to each of the standing committees as may from time to time be necessary.

ARTICLE VI: EXECUTIVE BOARD

Sect. 1. The Executive Board shall consist of the following:

- A. The elected officers.
- B. Chairpersons of standing and special committees.
- C. The immediate Past President.

Sect. 2. The Executive Board shall meet as necessary for the purpose of planning and directing the policies and activities of the club. A quorum shall consist of the smaller of six members or a majority of members of the Board. Neither proxies nor absentee voting shall be valid at meetings of the Board.

Sect. 3. Routine or recurring expenditures of one hundred dollars or less may be authorized in advance by the Executive Board or the officers and paid by the treasurer upon presentation.

Sect. 4. Members of the Executive Board shall be notified of the time and place of Board meetings at least three days prior to such meeting.

ARTICLE VII: MEETINGS

Sect. 1. Unless otherwise ordered by the Club, there shall be one general membership meeting each month.

Sect. 2. For a regular meeting of the club, a quorum shall consist of the smaller of eleven members or 20% of the total membership. For a special meeting of the club, the entire membership must be notified by mail at least one week in advance. At a special meeting, a quorum shall consist of 20% of the total membership.

Sect. 3. Neither proxies nor absentee voting shall be valid at any membership meeting.

Sect. 4. All contested elections shall be conducted by secret ballot.

Sect. 5. Except as provided in Article VI Section 3 above, all expenditures must be approved in advance by the membership.

Sect. 6. The chairperson of the notifications committee shall mail or phone notices of time and place of membership meetings approximately two weeks before the meeting.

ARTICLE VIII: DELEGATES

Sect. 1. The President or the President's designee shall be the first delegate to, and the chairperson of, any delegation from this Club to any council, convention, or other assemblage to which the Club is entitled to delegate representation.

Sect. 2. All other delegates and alternates for contested elections shall be elected at a membership meeting except as provided in Section 3 below. Election shall be by secret ballot if requested by at least one member.

Sect. 3. The President may appoint temporary delegates and alternate delegates with the approval of the membership or officers where there is a sudden or unexpected vacancy, or because of inability to

convene a regular meeting due to lack of time.

Sect. 4. A roster listing members in good standing shall be certified by the President and supplied to the California Democratic Party by July 1 of an odd numbered year or by any other date specified by the Party.

ARTICLE IX: AMENDMENTS

Sect. 1. Proposals to amend or change the Bylaws must originate (1) with the Committee on Bylaws, or (2) by motion of any member at a regular membership meeting, with approval of a majority of the members present.

Sect. 2. Proposed changes shall be considered and voted on at two successive monthly general membership meetings, including the meeting at which first proposed.

Sect. 3. Only those proposed changes which obtain a favorable vote at the first meeting shall be considered again at the second meeting.

Sect. 4. The officers shall cause to be mailed to each member a written text of all proposed changes two weeks prior to the second meeting.

Sect. 5. A two-thirds vote of approval of the members present shall be required at the second meeting for adoption of the proposed changes or amendments.

ARTICLE X: PARLIAMENTARY AUTHORITY

Sect. 1. *Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised*, shall govern this club in all cases to which they are applicable, and in which they are not inconsistent with these Bylaws.