

CALIFORNIA DEMOCRATIC RURAL CAUCUS BY-LAWS  
CALIFORNIA DEMOCRATIC PARTY STATE CENTRAL COMMITTEE  
NOVEMBER 2009

1 **ARTICLE I**

2 **NAME AND PURPOSE**

3 SECTION 1: NAME

4 The name of this organization shall be the Rural Caucus (This Caucus) of the California  
5 Democratic Party (The Party).

6

7 SECTION 2: PURPOSE

8 A. The purpose of this Caucus shall be to promote rural issues and to elect Democratic  
9 candidates.

10 B. All persons registered as Democrats, pursuant to the laws of the State of California,  
11 may become members of This Caucus.

12 C. These By-Laws shall govern the organization, operation, and function of This Caucus.

13 D. This Caucus shall elect officers and shall conduct such other business as the policy  
14 and program of the Caucus may require.

15 E. This Caucus may not endorse candidates for partisan public office unless a candidate  
16 has received an (official endorsement) by the CDP as provided under the CDP's By-Laws.

17 F. Unless a candidate has received an official endorsement all motions of support,  
18 recommendation, or other expressions of approval, no matter how denominated, shall  
19 be

20 out of order at any meeting of This Caucus but This Caucus may take positions on ballot  
21 measures.

22 G. It is the purpose of This Caucus to accurately represent the needs of rural Democrats.

23 H. This Caucus does not discriminate on the grounds of race, color, creed, national  
24 origin, sex, age, religion, ethnic identity, sexual orientation or economic status.

25

26 **ARTICLE II**

27 **MEMBERSHIP**

28

29 Section I: MEMBERSHIP

30 QUALIFICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

31 A person is eligible for membership for This Caucus is such person is registered to vote  
32 as a Democrat and has an interest in identifying and promoting rural issues of California.

33 B. Subscribes to the purposes of the Rural Caucus,  
34 and has paid dues as specified in Section 4.

35

36 Section 2: NOTIFICATION OF MEMBERSHIP

37 A. The Chair of This Caucus shall notify each member of This Caucus, that he or she is a  
38 member of This Caucus; and of the date, and place of regular meeting of This Caucus.

39 B. The Chair of This Caucus shall enclose with each notification a copy of these By-laws.

40

41

42

CALIFORNIA DEMOCRATIC RURAL CAUCUS BY-LAWS  
CALIFORNIA DEMOCRATIC PARTY STATE CENTRAL COMMITTEE  
NOVEMBER 2009

1 Section 4: DUES

2 A. Dues shall be paid by This Caucuses members 'The membership shall establish time  
3 and manner and amount (\$10.00) of the payment of Dues.

4 B. The Dues of This Caucus may be waived in the cases of economic hardship.

5 C. This Caucus shall neither raise nor disburse funds other than minimal dues and  
6 standard or routine costs of regular meetings.

7

8 **ARTICLE III**

9 **OFFICERS**

10

11 Section I: OFFICERS

12 A. The officers of This Caucus shall be a Chair, 10 Vice Chairs, one of whom will be voted  
13 by the other Vice Chairs as "Chief Vice Chair", a Secretary, and a Treasurer.

14 B. The Chief Vice Chair shall preside over meetings or delegate the function in the  
15 absence of the Chair or Chief Vice Chair, and perform other functions as delegated by  
16 the Chair.

17 C. Regions of Responsibility for the 10 Vice Chairs shall be as follows:

18 1. Northern Coastal: Del Norte, Humboldt, Mendocino, Lake, Sonoma, Napa;

19 2. Northern: Siskiyou, Modoc, Trinity, Shasta, Lassen, Plumas and Sierra;

20 3. Northern Central: Tehama, Glenn, Butte, Colusa, Yuba, Sutter, Yolo;

21 4. Bay Area: Solano, Contra Costa, Alameda, San Francisco, San Mateo, Santa  
22 Clara, Marin;

23 5. Gold Country: Placer, El Dorado, Alpine, Amador, Calaveras, Tuolumne,  
24 Nevada;

25 6. Central: San Joaquin, Stanislaus, Merced, Mariposa, San Benito, Madera, Fresno;

26 7. Mid Coastal: Santa Cruz, Monterey, San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, Ventura;

27 8. South Central: Kings, Tulare, Kern;

28 9. Southern Coastal: Los Angeles, Orange, San Diego; and

29 10. Inland Empire: Inyo, San Bernardino, Riverside, Imperial, Mono.

30

31 D. All officers shall be elected to two year terms, meet the following qualifications and  
32 have the following duties and responsibilities:

33

34 1. The Caucus Chair must be a member of This Committee,

35 2. The Chair of the Caucus is the Executive Board Representative,

36 3. The Chair shall preside over all meetings or delegate the function in the absence  
37 of both the Chair and the Chief Vice Chair,

38 4. The Chair shall distribute the agenda seven days prior to meetings or delegate this  
39 function to any appointed member of This Caucus.

40 5. The Chief Vice Chair shall preside over meetings in the absence of the Chair and  
41 perform other functions as delegated by the Chair,

42 6. The Secretary's duties shall include but not be limited to the following: Taking

CALIFORNIA DEMOCRATIC RURAL CAUCUS BY-LAWS  
CALIFORNIA DEMOCRATIC PARTY STATE CENTRAL COMMITTEE  
NOVEMBER 2009

1 minutes at all general and executive committee meetings of This Caucus and  
2 providing copies of minutes to the Chair and/or posting them online for review  
3 within two weeks after each meeting. The Secretary should also have, at each  
4 meeting, a list of all standing committees, and such special committees as are in  
5 existence at the time, as well as copies of these by-laws and minutes from prior  
6 meetings,

7 7. The Treasurer shall at the end of his/her term turn over to the properly elected  
8 successor all records and documents associated with the office of Treasurer of  
9 This Caucus. The Treasurer of This Caucus shall submit quarterly financial  
10 reports with the Treasurer of the Democratic State Party. The Treasurer shall  
11 promptly account for all Caucus funds and prepare financial reports, as required  
12 by the Finance Committee of the DSCC. The Treasurer shall present a biennial  
13 fund raising and budget proposal and shall submit it to the Budget and Finance  
14 Committee or the State Chair for recommendation and approval,

15 8. The officers shall be the Executive Committee and will have the power to conduct  
16 any business which cannot be delayed until the next scheduled meeting. As the  
17 Executive Committee is representative of the membership, no vote may be taken  
18 by secret ballot. Any such action must be reported at the next caucus meeting for  
19 concurrence.

20  
21 E. Between each CDP Executive Board and/or Convention, each Regional Vice Chair must  
22 convene at least one properly noticed teleconference or in person meeting of all Rural Caucus  
23 members, and County chairs, resident in the Counties represented by that Vice Chair. If a Vice  
24 Chair fails to perform this function, the non-performing Vice Chair's position will fall vacant and  
25 be subject to nomination and election at the the Executive Board or Convention at which the  
26 non-performance is announced. Notice by E-mail will be acceptable.

27  
28 F. The Chair shall announce at each Rural Caucus meeting which regions have held  
29 teleconference or in-person meetings, since the last Executive Board meeting or Convention,  
30 and which regions failed to do so.

31  
32 Section 3: ELECTION OF OFFICERS

33 A. This Caucuses officers shall be elected to their two-year terms at the annual meeting  
34 of the State Central Committee during odd numbered years.

35 B. All officers shall be elected by the entire membership of This Caucus.

36 C. All voting for This Caucuses officers shall be by secret ballot except when there is but  
37 one candidate.

38  
39 Section 4: VACANCIES

40 In the event that any office shall become vacant, the vacancy shall be filled on a  
41 temporary basis by the remaining officers of This Caucus and a new election for the  
42 office shall be held at the next regularly scheduled meeting.

CALIFORNIA DEMOCRATIC RURAL CAUCUS BY-LAWS  
CALIFORNIA DEMOCRATIC PARTY STATE CENTRAL COMMITTEE  
NOVEMBER 2009

1 Section 5: REMOVAL OF OFFICERS

2 A. An officer of This Caucus may be removed from office for cause, that is, misconduct  
3 or neglect of duty in office.

4 B. An officer of This Caucus may be removed for Party disloyalty (endorsement or  
5 support of a non Democrat).

6  
7 **ARTICLE IV**  
8 **MEETINGS**

9 Section 1: PUBLIC MEETINGS

10 All public meetings of This Caucus shall be open to all members of the Democratic Party  
11 and members of the Press or invited guests regardless of race, color, creed, national  
12 origin, sex, age, religion, ethnic identity, sexual orientation, persons with disabilities as  
13 defined by the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 or economic status.

14 Section 2: REGULAR MEETINGS

15 A. This Caucus shall convene its first regularly meeting at the Convention of The Party in  
16 odd-numbered years.

17 B. This Caucus shall hold meetings at each regularly scheduled meeting of the Executive  
18 Board of The Party, unless cancelled by a majority vote of the Executive Board of This  
19 Caucus. This Caucus shall also meet upon call of the chair or a majority vote of the  
20 Executive Board of This Caucus.

21  
22 Section 3: SPECIAL MEETINGS

23 A. This Caucus may hold special meetings in any of the following ways:

24 1. Upon call of the Chair;

25 2. Upon call of the officers; or,

26 3. Upon the call of the Chair within 15 days after receipt by the Chair of a written  
27 request signed by a majority of the members of This Caucus.

28  
29 Section 4: PLACE OF MEETINGS

30 Regular meetings will be held at a time and place designated by the Executive Board of  
31 The Party.

32 Section 5: AGENDA

33 A. The agenda for all regular meetings shall be determined by the officers of This  
34 Caucus.

35 B. Such agenda shall include provisions for the adoption of This Caucuses By-Laws,  
36 election of officers, and such other matters as may be deemed in the best interest of  
37 This Caucus.

38 Section 6: QUORUM

39 Ten percent (10%) of the membership of This Caucus including at least one officer shall  
40 constitute a quorum for the transaction of business. If at any regular or special meeting  
41 of This Caucus, a quorum is not present, those present may adjourn until a time when a  
42 quorum shall be present.

CALIFORNIA DEMOCRATIC RURAL CAUCUS BY-LAWS  
CALIFORNIA DEMOCRATIC PARTY STATE CENTRAL COMMITTEE  
NOVEMBER 2009

1 Section 7: PROXIES

2 Members of This Caucus may be represented at any meeting of This Caucus by proxy  
3 consistent with the By-Laws of The Party (ARTICLE IV, Section 6).

4 Section 8: PARLIAMENTARY PROCEDURE AND VOTING

5 Issues of Rural Caucus policy may be voted on by the Executive board of the Rural  
6 Caucus via email or electronically and then recommended to the body for electronic  
7 vote.

8 In all cases not provided for by law or by these By-Laws, the meetings of This Caucus  
9 shall be governed by Roberts Rules of Order.

10  
11 **ARTICLE V**

12 **OBLIGATIONS UNDER GENERAL PROVISIONS OF CDP BYLAWS**

13 The Rural Caucus specifically recognizes it's obligations to adhere to the General  
14 Provisions of the CDP Bylaws.

15  
16 **ARTICLE VI**

17 **AMENDMENT OF THE BY-LAWS**

18 Section 1: AMENDMENT

19 A. These by-laws may be amended at any meeting of This Caucus, provided that the  
20 Caucus amends these by-laws in the following manner:

21 1. The amendment must be submitted to This Caucus and filed with Secretary no  
22 less than thirty days (30) prior to the meeting at which the amendment is to be  
23 voted on.

24 2. A copy of the amendment shall be sent with the meeting notice to each member  
25 of This Caucus at least ten days (10) in advance of the meeting at which the  
26 amendment is to be voted on, and,

27 3. Two-thirds (2/3) of those members of This Caucus actually present and voting at  
28 any meeting have approved the amendment.

29 Section 2: EFFECTIVE DATE

30 These by-laws or any amendment thereto shall become effective immediately upon  
31 their adoption.

32