

EAST CALAVERAS DEMOCRATS

CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS

July 2007

I. Name

The name of this organization shall be the East Calaveras Democrats.

II. Purpose

The purpose of the East Calaveras Democrats is to publicize Democratic activities; increase visibility; assist Democratic candidates; and build the number of registered Democratic voters in the county. The Club will engage in public events; fund-raising; cooperation with other State Democratic Clubs and Democratic organizations; and other matters endorsed by or supported by the Democratic Party. The East Calaveras County Democratic Club will draw its membership and participate in activities in Calaveras County largely within Supervisorial Districts 3 and 4.

III. Affiliation

A. The Club is affiliated with the Calaveras County Democratic Central Committee (hereinafter called the Central Committee) and was duly chartered by the Committee on April 9, 2006.

B. As a chartered and affiliated club of the Central Committee, the Club shall comply with bylaws of the Central Committee and the California Democratic Party, as they apply to fully chartered local affiliates.

IV. Membership Requirements

A. Qualifications: Any individual qualifies for Club membership if:

1) The individual is a registered Democrat; or supports the purpose of the Club as stated in Article II, above.

B. Active Membership: A qualified individual shall be considered an active member only if

1) The member has attended at least one meeting prior to being eligible to vote and

2) The member has paid all club dues.

V. Dues

A. The annual membership dues shall be \$15.00 due on September 1 of each year. New memberships accepted during the year shall also be \$15.00 valid until the September due date. An exception shall be made for those joining after June 1st, the \$15.00 membership shall be deemed valid for 15 months until September of the following year. (This was approved at the June meeting 2007)

B. Dues paid after June 1st are considered paid for the following fiscal year.*

VI. Meetings

A. Regular Meetings

1) The Club shall hold regular monthly meetings on such day as the membership may determine.

2) Regular meetings shall not be canceled more than 3 times within any calendar year and in no event shall more than 2 regular meetings be canceled in succession.

B. Special Meetings

1) Special meetings may be called by the chair at any time, on notice as specified below.

2) In the absence of the chair, any two officers may call a special meeting, on notice as specified below.

C. Notice of Meeting

1) Notice of regular or special meetings shall be given at least 24 hours in advance to all active members, in any manner as follows:

a. Notice in writing by US mail

b. Notice in writing by e-mail

c. Telephone message

2) Notice of the meeting shall be deemed sufficient by any manner specified above if such notice includes the date, time and place of the meeting and is calculated to be received at least 24 hours prior to the meeting.

VII. Rules for Meetings

A. The Club shall use the newly revised Roberts Rules of Order to govern parliamentary procedure at all official meetings of the organization, except as specifically noted in these bylaws.

B. A quorum for any official meeting of the Club shall be 15 percent of the total organizational membership, or six members, whichever is smaller, as reported by the secretary as of 24 hours before the meeting.

C. Unless otherwise specified in these Bylaws, the Club may adopt events and conduct regular business with a vote of 50 percent plus one of the members present at any meeting.

D. The Club may pass resolutions not related to endorsements with a vote of 2/3 of those present and voting at any meeting.

E. A process to consider the endorsement of candidates must be approved prior to any suggestion of endorsements. If the discussion of an endorsement process is noticed in the meeting agenda, such process must be approved by at least 2/3 of those present and voting at any meeting. If the discussion of an endorsement process is brought up from the floor as New Business, such process must be approved by at least 2/3 of those present and voting at any meeting. Under no circumstances may the Club consider the endorsement of a candidate for public office who is not registered with the Democratic Party. The minimum threshold for endorsement in a race with multiple Democratic candidates is two-thirds of the members present and voting.

F. The Club may suspend specific portions of these bylaws and/or Roberts Rules of Order for purpose of emergency business by a vote of two-thirds of the membership present at a meeting, unless the item to be suspended calls for a higher qualification. In such case, the percent specified in that portion of the bylaws shall be required to suspend that text. The motion to suspend shall call out the particular section of the bylaws proposed to be suspended.

G. Changes to the constitution and bylaws not specifically referenced elsewhere must be noticed to the membership at least 72 hours before the vote in question, and must be approved by a majority vote of the Club.

VIII. Officers

A. Club officers shall consist of chair, vice-chair, secretary and treasurer. They shall be elected to serve one-year terms of office.

B. Election of officers shall be held in September of each year. If the chair vacates office, the vice-chair shall ascend to the position of chair, until an election is held to fill the chair's remaining term of office.

C. In the temporary absence of the chair, the vice-chair shall serve as chair. If the position of vice-chair is vacant, the secretary shall serve as vice-chair.

D. The Vice Chair Shall be responsible for building the Club membership.

E. The secretary shall be responsible to ensure that all members are notified of Club meetings, keep Club records and minutes and be responsible for the Club correspondence.

F. The treasurer shall maintain financial records of the Club, make financial reports at the monthly meetings and maintain a current membership list. Each year in August the Treasurer should prepare the annual budget for an approval vote in September.

G. The chair shall officiate at all meetings of the Club. It is the Chair's responsibility to prepare a calendar of the years activities and to appoint Committee Chairs to follow through on those activities.

H. The chair may appoint members temporarily to fill un-expired terms of office, subject to election by the membership at the next Club meeting 30 days after the office is vacated.

I. The Club shall be represented at meetings of the Central Committee and any Assembly District Committee meetings at which it may be entitled to membership, and at meetings of the California Democratic Council. A person may serve as representative to more than one outside body if the club membership approves.

J. The Club is encouraged to appoint a publicity officer, who shall have the responsibility to develop and to implement a plan to increase the visibility of the Club among Democrats within Eastern Calaveras County.

K. The chair may appoint Club members to serve in other capacities as needed.

L. The Club may elect such other officers as may be deemed necessary from time to time to conduct Club business.

Adopted this 14th day of July, 2007.

Certified by: _____

Secretary Caroline L. Nunn

* Amended June 9, 2007