



Constitution and By Laws 2025

Last updated 3/10/2025

CONSTITUTION & BY-LAWS

SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY DEMOCRATIC CLUB

PREAMBLE

In order to stimulate an active interest in governmental affairs, to increase the efficiency of popular government, to foster and perpetuate the ideals and principles of the Democratic Party and to provide for all people through its administration the highest degree of justice and social welfare, we do associate ourselves together to establish the San Joaquin Valley Democratic Club. We believe the Democratic Party is the best home for those devoted to securing fair and equal treatment for all people.

ARTICLE I - NAME AND GOVERNANCE

- Sec. 1. The name of this organization shall be the San Joaquin Valley Democratic Club.
- Sec. 2. The club shall be located in Fresno, California.
- Sec. 3. These By-Laws shall govern the operation and functions of the San Joaquin Valley Democratic Club in compliance with, and subject to, the By-Laws of the Fresno County Democratic Central Committee and the California Democratic Party.

ARTICLE II - PURPOSE AND OBJECTIVES

- Sec. 1. To develop policies consistent with support for the platform of the Democratic Party and to be responsible for their implementation.
- Sec. 2. To consistently increase membership, further the political education of members and encourage political participation.
- Sec. 3. To encourage qualified members to run for elective office and to recommend and support them for public appointments.
- Sec. 4. To promote the election of outstanding Democratic candidates for public endorsements, when authorized, and to provide campaign assistance.
- Sec. 5. To cooperate with other Democratic organizations in preserving, strengthening and advancing the principles of the Democratic Party.
- Sec. 6. To educate the community, and others, regarding the Democratic issues of concern to the community.
- Sec. 7. To cooperate with the Fresno County Democratic Central Committee (FCDCC), Democratic State Central Committee (DSCC), the National Democratic Committee (DNC) and the California Democratic Council (CDC).

ARTICLE III – MEMBERSHIP AND DUES

- Sec. 1. All members of the club shall be registered Democrats. If under the age of eighteen (18) years, or otherwise ineligible they shall declare their intention of so registering. A member shall be considered in good standing, if their dues are current, or have been waived due to economic hardship, their voting rights being subject to compliance with the other provisions of these bylaws.
- Sec. 2. The dues for regular members shall be \$15.00 per year, payable in January of each year and delinquent after 90 days. Dues may be increased upon recommendation of the Executive Board, subject to approval of the general membership, to become effective at the beginning of the next calendar year.

- a) Associate Members qualifying under the provisions of Sec. 4 of this Article, will have their membership dues waived.
- b) Members who are students and otherwise meeting membership qualifications listed in this Article, may receive the benefits of regular membership upon remittance of not less than 50 percent of the amount listed in Sec. 2 of this Article.
- c) Anyone claiming financial hardship will have their dues waived and may be a member of this club provided all other membership requirements are met.
- d) Anyone who has donated \$1,000.00 or more in a calendar year shall also have their dues considered current in each succeeding year thereafter and will be considered a "Lifetime Member". Such an individual is still subject to all other conditions and must maintain all other requirements in these bylaws. A lifetime member may be revoked by majority vote by the executive board, to be considered by membership at the next meeting, if the member is no longer operating in good faith.

Sec. 3. The club shall operate on the basis of a calendar year.

Sec. 4. Associate membership may be held by a person not of voting age but attaining at the age of 16, provided that they declare, in writing, their intention to register as a Democrat upon attainment of voting age.

Sec. 5. Associate members will not be included for chartering purposes, have voice but may not vote, not counted for purpose of quorum and may not hold elective office in the San Joaquin Valley Democratic Club.

Sec. 6. The San Joaquin Valley Democratic Club shall not discriminate against any member, or proposed member, on the basis of race, religion, sex, ethnicity, age, disability, social or economic status, marital status, or sexual orientation.

Sec. 7. The club shall retain adequate reserves in the treasury at the end of each year as may be deemed sufficient by the Executive Board.

ARTICLE IV – OFFICERS AND EXECUTIVE BOARD

Sec. 1. The elected officers shall be President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, and Communications Coordinator.

Sec. 2. Officers shall be nominated at the November meeting each year, elected at the December meeting, and installed at the first meeting in January of the following year. Only members who are in good standing may vote.

Sec. 3. Candidates for elective office shall be dues paying members.

Sec. 4. The Executive Board shall be composed of the elected officers plus the Immediate Past President.

- a) The Executive Board shall declare the office vacant of any elected or appointed Executive Board member who has been absent for three (3) Executive Board Meetings without informing the President or Secretary prior to the meeting(s).
- b) The Executive Board shall nominate members for vacant elective offices. The nominees shall be presented at the next General Membership Meeting, at which time nominations may be made from the floor. Officers elected to fill vacancies shall assume the duties of office immediately following election.

Sec. 5. The President may appoint Ad Hoc Committees for specific projects as may be deemed necessary and the Chairs of such committees shall serve as members of the Executive Board. The President shall appoint Committee Chairs subject to approval by

the Executive Board. Members and Chairs of all Committees must be appointed or re-appointed at the beginning of each calendar year.

Sec. 6. Nomination and Election of Officers:

- a) Nominations for elective office may be made by any regular voting member, in good standing during the regularly scheduled November meeting of each year provided a quorum is present.
- b) Nominations shall again be open, in accordance with the Sec. 6. (a) at the December meeting followed immediately by the election for each office by a simple majority of voting members in good standing provided a quorum is present.
- c) Newly elected officers shall assume the duties of their office at the next Executive Board Meeting following election.

ARTICLE V – DUTIES OF OFFICERS

Sec. 1. The President shall preside at all meetings of the general membership and the Executive Board. The President recommends meeting agendas with the approval of the Executive Board. The agenda for general membership meetings is subject to approval by the membership. The President shall serve as the official representative of the San Joaquin Valley Democratic Club.

Sec. 2. The Vice-President shall preside at meetings in the absence of the President and perform such other duties as directed by the President. The Vice-President shall also serve as Chair of the Program Committee, arranging for speakers and special presentations of interest to the general membership and the principles of this club.

Sec. 3. The Secretary shall properly record the minutes for all membership and Executive Board meetings and shall execute all official correspondence of the club as may be directed by the President and/or the Executive Board. The Secretary shall provide copies of all General Membership Meetings and Executive Board Meetings to the general membership at the next regular meeting of the general membership or by mail included with the meeting notice. The Secretary shall also serve as the San Joaquin Valley Democratic Club Historian.

Sec. 4. The Treasurer shall establish a club checking account at a convenient banking location with the approval of the Executive Board. The Treasurer shall conduct the banking and check disbursements for the club and shall maintain accurate records of all transaction and account balances.

- a) Upon the election of a new Treasurer, the President shall appoint an audit committee of at least three members to review and verify the accuracy of the bank account records from the out-going Treasurer.

Sec. 5. The Communications Coordinator, in conjunction with the Secretary, shall be responsible for information dissemination throughout the San Joaquin Valley Democratic Club membership and for public outreach publicity as may be deemed appropriate.

Sec. 6. Current elected officers shall remain in office until their respective successors are duly installed.

ARTICLE VI – MEETINGS

Sec. 1. General membership meetings shall be held monthly on dates and times as designated by the Executive Board.

Sec. 2. Executive Board meetings shall be held monthly, at a designated time and location, between general membership meetings, preferably a minimum of two weeks prior to the next general membership meeting.

- a) The purpose of the monthly Executive Board meeting includes, but is not limited to, confirming details for the next general membership meeting and assuring that proper notice of the general membership meeting is communicated to all club members and media.
- b) Any elected officer may also call a meeting of the Executive Board for due cause. Executive Board meetings may also be called upon request by any three (3) members of the Executive Board.

ARTICLE VII – QUORUM

Sec. 1. Twenty percent (20%) of members in good standing shall constitute a quorum at general membership meetings.

- a) No quorum shall be required for a general membership meeting unless a vote is required.

Sec. 2. Three (3) members of the Executive Board shall constitute a quorum at Executive Board meetings.

ARTICLE VIII – AMENDMENT OF BY-LAWS

Sec. 1. Upon recommendation and approval by the Executive Board, these By-Laws may be amended as needed at any general meeting by a simple majority vote of the members present, having satisfied a quorum, provided that proper advance notice has been given.

Sec. 2. All members must be advised, in writing, of any proposed vote on By-Laws amendments a minimum of 15 days prior to a vote by the general membership.

- a) Proposed By-Laws changes must be communicated, in writing, to the membership at a general membership meeting at least 30 days prior to a vote at the following general membership meeting.
- b) Proper advance notice, including proposed and deleted language, if any, shall be deemed in compliance with this section by publication in the club's newsletter prior to the meeting at which a vote for adoption is called.

ARTICLE IX – STANDING COMMITTEES

Sec. 1 Standing Committees may be established as follows: (1) By-Laws, (2) Legislation, (3) Resolutions, (4) Membership and Outreach. Additional Ad Hoc Committees may be appointed in accordance with Article IV, Section 5 of these By-Laws.

ARTICLE X – PARLIAMENTARY AUTHORITY

Sec. 1. Unless stated otherwise in these By-Laws, the latest edition of Robert's Rules of Order shall regulate the conduct of all meetings.

ARTICLE XI – ENDORSEMENTS

The San Joaquin Valley Democratic club may endorse Democratic candidates in primary, special, and general elections for both partisan and non-partisan offices. The San Joaquin Valley Democratic club may also take positions on ballot measures in those elections.

An endorsement will require a 3/5 majority vote by members present at a meeting that has been announced at least 1 month in advance and with a stated purpose of endorsement at that meeting.

ARTICLE XII – NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS

The only purpose of this section is to determine the election of Representatives to California Democratic Party (CDP) Pre-Endorsing Conferences.

1. Club representatives shall be allocated 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 fraction thereof) 20 members in good standing registered to vote in the Assembly District who were listed on the roster submitted to Fresno County Democratic Party and to the appropriate Regional Director of the CDP no later than the due date of the year immediately prior to the endorsing process.

2. For purposes of this Section:

- a) Only members in good standing, who are registered Democrats, as of the deadline shall be included on the roster;
- b) “Member in Good Standing” shall mean a member whose dues are current, or have been waived due to economic hardship;
- c) The status of such members shall be certified by the Club’s President, Secretary, or Treasurer; and,
- d) The Club’s representatives to any particular pre-endorsing conference be from the roster described above and that the overall list of representatives to all conferences be equally apportioned between men and women, to the extent possible.

3. Said representatives shall be selected by a vote of members present at the meeting announced as a nomination and election meeting at least 15 days in advance of the meeting.

- a) This meeting shall take place after the deadline from section 2a of this article, but no later than the month preceding the month that the deadline for submission of representatives is due with the Fresno County Democratic Party and the appropriate Regional Director of the CDP.
- b) The person(s) receiving the highest number of votes shall be the representatives of the San Joaquin Valley Democratic club. There will not be more people elected than positions available.
- c) In the event of a tie, only those in the tie shall advance to a runoff election for the remaining positions available.
- d) No member with a vote in the Pre-Endorsing Conferences from another group or organization shall be eligible to participate as a candidate for representative of the San Joaquin Valley Democratic club.