

DEMOCRATIC CLUBS ENABLEMENT ACT

ARTICLE I

NAME, SCOPE, ENABLING AUTHORITY, AND DEFINITIONS

Section 1. Name. The name of this Act shall be the Democratic Clubs Enablement Act.

Section 2. Purposes.

(a) This Act will serve to supplement and further define the duties and responsibilities of the Director for Clubs as specified in the Executive Board Duties and Responsibilities Act.

(b) This Act will outline the procedures for chartering and accrediting Democratic Clubs in Santa Clara County by the Santa Clara County Democratic Central Committee (SCCDCC) as specified in Article I.C.3. of the SCCDCC Bylaws.

(c) This Act shall also outline the procedures for reaccrediting Democratic Clubs, specify how a club may lose its accreditation, specify the regulations concerning endorsements of candidates, and provide for the accreditation of all Democratic Clubs.

Section 3. Enabling Authority. The SCCDCC is the primary accrediting authority for the Democratic Clubs in Santa Clara County.

Section 4. Certain Definitions. A Democratic Club, as defined by this Act, is a grassroots organization which supports the Democratic Party and its candidates and principles and meets the requirements set forth below.

Section 5. Role and Authority of the Director of Clubs. The Director for Clubs will be responsible for seeing that Democratic Clubs are properly accredited, should encourage the formation of clubs and will act as liaison between the SCCDCC and the Democratic Clubs.

ARTICLE II

PROCEDURES FOR ACCREDITATION AND REACCREDITATION

Section 1. For accreditation, all Democratic Clubs shall:

(a) maintain a membership of twenty (20) registered Democrats residing in Santa Clara County; and

(b) submit the following documents to the Director of Clubs:

(i) A membership list containing at least twenty (20) registered Democrats residing in Santa Clara County who designate this as their primary club, which must include, for each their full name as registered to vote, residence address as registered to vote, phone number, and email address (if available);

(ii) A set of current bylaws;

(iii) A list of current officers;

(iv) A financial statement indicating membership support for the club;

(v) Evidence that the club has an active bank account; and

(vi) Documentation of ongoing programs, if renewing accreditation, or planned programs if requesting accreditation for the first time or after a hiatus.

Section 2. Democratic Clubs in Santa Clara County must consider any registered Democrat residing in Santa Clara County as eligible for membership.

Section 3. For re-accreditation, all Democratic Clubs, in addition to the requirements of Section 1(b), shall in the past year:

(a) have conducted at least one operational meeting per quarter;

(b) have sponsored at least one event open to either all Democrats or the public; and

(c) if the Democratic Club has been chartered for 4 years or more, shall maintain a membership of at least 35 members.

Section 4. If a club fails to satisfy the requirements for re-accreditation, that club may elect to take Provisionary Status for two years rather than lose their accreditation as long as they maintain at least 20 eligible members. The Chair and the Director of Clubs shall work with all clubs on Provisionary Status to set up a plan to get the club into compliance and ensure that they have access to a mentor, who is either a current member of the Central Committee or a current or previous club leader. A club on Provisionary status shall be entitled to appoint an *ex officio* non-voting member to the Central Committee, but shall not have the right to send a representative to the Endorsement Committee.

Section 5. The Director for Clubs shall, at a regular meeting of the SCCDCC, introduce a motion to accredit a prospective club. This must be approved by a majority of SCCDCC members present and shall also be the procedure for reaccreditation.

Section 6. Once accredited, a Democratic club is responsible for continuous updating of their membership lists.

Section 7. An accredited club should submit accreditation documents by the December meeting of the even numbered year of every term of the SCCDCC in order to be considered for reaccreditation.

Section 8. The Director for Clubs shall work with clubs to see that they fulfill their obligations to the SCCDCC and the California Democratic Party.

ARTICLE III ENDORSEMENT OF CANDIDATES

Section 1. The SCCDCC believes that the Democratic Party is strengthened when it speaks with a single voice. Thus, Democratic Clubs are strongly encouraged to cooperate with the SCCDCC Endorsement Committee, to appoint a member representative to serve on the Endorsement Committee and to abide by the decisions of that committee. If a club decides to endorse separately, it must have fair, open, democratic and agreed-upon endorsement procedures. If possible, to promote a unified/consistent Democratic Party, separate club endorsements should not be made until after the SCCDCC makes public its official endorsements.

Section 2. Clubs shall endorse only Democratic candidates for office, *provided however*, that a club may endorse a non-Democrat if there is no Democrat running for that office, or, if there are multiple seats up for election, a club may endorse a non-Democrat if there are fewer Democrats running than there are seats up for election.

Section 3. Any club that endorses a candidate for office who is not a registered Democrat and is running against an endorsed Democrat shall, in addition to any other sanctions the SCCDCC may deem appropriate, automatically and without any further consideration or action of the SCCDCC lose their voting privileges in all endorsement decisions, including their right to appoint a member to the Endorsement Committee, through the end of the general election cycle following the election cycle in which the endorsement was made. For purposes of this section, an “election cycle” includes a primary election and its associated general election. So, for example, an endorsement contrary to this section in a primary election would result in a loss of voting privileges with respect to both the general election of that cycle and through the general election of the following cycle.

Section 4. Endorsements made by accredited Democratic Clubs shall not be construed as official endorsements of the SCCDCC, the SCCDP or the CDP. In all cases where a Democratic Club endorsement is different from that of the SCCDCC, words to that effect must be clearly visible wherever the club endorsement is referred to.

Section 5. The Director for Clubs shall be responsible for working with clubs in the development of candidates and in matters concerning endorsements.

Section 6. Disputes between an accredited club and the Director for Clubs regarding endorsements will be referred to the Executive Board for resolution.

ARTICLE IV PUBLICATIONS

Accredited Democratic Clubs are encouraged to patronize union shop printers for all publications, stationery, and leaflets. The County Chair of the SCCDCC and the Director for Clubs shall be responsible for working with union printers to develop Democratic Club rates whenever possible.

ARTICLE V SANCTIONS

The Director for Clubs shall be responsible for advising the SCCDCC when an accredited club is in violation of these articles. An affirmative vote of sixty percent of the voting members of the SCCDCC at a regular meeting of the SCCDCC is necessary to remove a club's accreditation.

ARTICLE VI MISCELLANEOUS

The Director for Clubs shall provide periodic updates of services that the SCCDCC can provide to Democratic Clubs. The Director of Community Outreach and/or Political Director shall brief accredited clubs every year on voter registration and encourage clubs to be involved in this important activity. The clubs should inform the Director for Clubs of their activities and should send any regular publications such as newsletters to this officer as well as to the County Chair. The Director for Clubs shall, in conjunction with the County Chair, be the liaison of the SCCDCC to the California Democratic Council. The clubs should be aware that the County Chair is the official Democratic Party spokesperson for the county and that when club officers talk to the media they are speaking as club representatives, not officials of the Santa Clara County Democratic Party or the California Democratic Party.

Sponsored by Victor Wilson, and the Constituent Services Committee, 6 January 1994. Adopted with amendments by SCCDCC, 6 January 1994.

Amended by SCCDCC 3 August 1995 to reflect change in name of Director.

Amended by SCCDCC 1 May 1997 to reflect changes in names of Directors.

Amended by SCCDCC on June 4 2009.

Amended by SCCDCC on 5 May 2011.

Amended by SCCDCC on 6 January 2022.

Amended by SCCDCC on 7 August 2025.