

**BY LAWS  
SILICON VALLEY  
AFRO-UPRIS DEMOCRATIC CLUB  
FEBRUARY 2021**

**MISSION STATEMENT**

**The mission of the Afro-UPRIS democratic coalition is to harvest and nurture the already activated grass roots Afro leadership and cultivate the political voice and power of the Afro-American community in the Silicon Valley. Through unity and empowerment we aim to support our community to grow it's next generation of Political leaders, stimulate political awareness and political action within the African-American community; while advocating for African-Americans' priorities to shape the agenda of Government and the Democratic Party.**

**PURPOSE / GOALS**

**The purpose of Afro-UPRIS democratic club is to provide an organized voice in promoting and influencing the aims and goals of the African American community within the Democratic Party.**

**To meet this goal, the Club will organize activities and events which will promote leadership in political activities for African-Americans, educate the African American Community on the political process and the issues of importance of the African American Community and the Democratic Party, assist in the selection and election of African American Democrats to office locally, statewide and nationally, and which will provide a vehicle through which its members may participate at all levels of the Democratic Party.**

**Afro-UPRIS will work closely with the Santa Clara County Democratic Central Committee and organizations, which it chooses to affiliate with to meet these goals**

**Article 1                      Name**

**1.1**The name of this organization shall be the Afro-UPRIS Umoja Political Representation In the Silicon Valley) hereinafter referred to as AFRO-UPRIS

**1.2** The Club is an organization of the Democratic Party, duly accredited by the Santa Clara County Democratic Central Committee.

**1.3** *For any area not specifically articulated within these bylaws, we defer to the bylaws & associated documents of the Santa Clara County Democratic Central Committee.*

**Article II      Membership**

**2.1** All registered Democrats who support the Democratic Party and its Platform shall be eligible for membership upon payment of dues and must receive three (3) sponsor signatures from three officers or active members of the Coalition.

**2.2** *The sponsoring process is necessary to insure and maintain the integrity of the body. The goal is to engage those of unimpeachable character who will act in a manner that a partisan Democrat would be expected to in order to support our mission.*

**2.3** *If for whatever reason a potential member can not provide three sponsors they are eligible to go through an interview process. This interview process must be with one or more officers: President, VP, Outreach Ambassador, or Political Ambassador. Potential members must submit proof of party preference.*

**2.4** *Members can and will be expelled from the Club by a 2/3 vote for behavior deemed to be egregious or detrimental to the best interests of the body. Violations which may lead to of expulsion include but are not limited to the following; disclosure of confidential information, unbecoming conduct while acting on behalf of the Coalition, misrepresenting the Coalition in the public, etc.*

**2.5** *The membership shall run for twelve months from the month in which dues are paid on a calendar year basis and are due Jan 1 of each year. Membership renewals shall extend the term of the membership an additional 12 months.*

**2.6                              Dues Scale**

Student membership	\$10/year (with copy of ID)
Individual Membership	\$25/year
Family Membership	\$35/year

**Article III Officers (and the) Executive Committee & Board and Committees**

**3.1 The club shall have the following officers:**

**President**

**Vice President**

**Secretary**

**Treasurer**

**Outreach Ambassador**

**Youth Ambassador**

**Political Ambassador**

**3.2 There shall be an Executive Committee consisting of the elected officers of the Club**

**3.3 There shall be specific committees to carry out the work of the Club and each shall be chaired by its respective Ambassador.**

**3.4 There shall be an Executive Board (Board) consisting of the officers of the Club and appointed committee chairpersons.**

#### **Article IV Election of Officers and the Board 4.1**

##### **Qualifications for office**

**Officers (and Board Members), in order to be elected, must be members in good standing for at least 90 days prior to their election Members appointed to fill vacant positions on the Board must be in good standing at least 30 days prior to their appointment.**

#### **Article V Election**

**5.1 Effective in 2022 the election shall be held at the January Meeting.**

**The nominating committee shall be responsible for tallying votes. Officers who are declared elected shall assume their respective duties on March 1 of that year.**

#### **Article VI Political Endorsements**

**6.1 As permitted by law and the rules of the California Democratic Party, the Club may endorse Democratic candidates, ballot propositions, and local measures. The procedure varies according to the election type. In contested races, all candidates must be given equal opportunity to appear or make a written statement. No candidate shall be endorsed prior to one week following the filing deadline for the office sought.**

##### **6.2 Partisan offices**

**The (Board) Club may endorse any Democratic candidate(s) for partisan office in a general or special election by 2/3 vote.**

##### **6.3 Non Partisan offices**

**The (Board) Club may endorse any Democratic Candidate(s) for non-partisan office by a 2/3 vote not the entire Board.**

**If the (Board) Coalition choose not to endorse a Democratic candidate, or if none is available, no endorsement shall be made.**

# AFRO-UPRIS's Standing Committees

04-19-99

## 1. Political Action Committee

- (a) Develop understanding of African-American Community, through gathering of statistics etc.
- (b) Voter registration/Voter Turnout drives
- (c) Identify/develop/support African-Americans who are qualified Democratic Party candidates for elected offices
- (d) Develop strategies to support Democratic Party candidates who are committed to our cause
- (e) Develop strategies for Democratic Party Candidate Forums
- (f) In a secondary role, partner with other organizations to mobilize our community, (churches, etc.), regarding Social Justice issues.

## 2. Legislative Action Committee

- (a) Develop productive relationships with key members of Government, at all levels
- (b) Initiate and lobby for the passage of legislation that positively impacts the African-American Community
- (c) Vigorously lobby against legislation that negatively impacts the African-American Community
- (d) Develop partnerships with organizations that are advocating for or against legislation of mutual interest

## 3. Policy Committee

- (a) Craft the operating policies & bylaws by which the Coalition will operate and abide
- (b) Draft, revise and maintain the Coalitions' bylaws
- (c) Design rules of engagement & processes with respect to the endorsement of political candidates and initiatives
- (d) Craft resolutions that reflect the sentiment of the general membership for submission to governments, institutions and the Democratic Party
- (e) Ensure that Coalition's policies are in line with the bylaws of the Santa Clara County Democratic Central Committee and the Democratic Party.

## 4. Fundraising Committee

- (a) Develop strategies for raising funds needed as dictated by the annual budget
- (b) Develop strategies for on-going contributions as well as one-time contributions
- (c) Plan fundraising events
- (d) Develop fund raising packets
- (e) Develop mechanism to track contributors and contributions

- (f) Partner with Public Relations Committee to develop necessary literature and advertising materials.

#### 5. Public Relations Committee

- (a) Develop and implement a work-plan using multimedia approach to communicate our mission, goals, objectives and accomplishments to the community-at-large.
- (a) Evaluate the communications plan on an annual basis and revise as needed.
- (b) Collaborate with Fundraising Committee to develop communication strategy for fundraising events
- (c) Plan and hold Coalition Building and Networking events

#### 6. Membership Committee

- (a) Develop and implement membership recruiting strategy
- (b) Develop and implement membership orientation & communication system
- (c) Develop strategy to track meeting attendance
- (d) Collaborate with Public Relations Committee develop strategy to increase meeting attendance
- (e) Develop annual membership goals

#### 7. Budget Committee

- (a) Plan and track financial needs of our organization
- (b) Develop and implement tools to track budget and expenditures of our organization
- (c) Track change in FPPC regulations
- (d) Keep our organization compliant with FPPC Regulations
- (e) Collaborate with Fundraising Committee to develop fundraising goals

#### 8. Internship Program and Youth Committee

- (a) Develop and continue to innovate an internship program that works to mentor and build youth and individuals who wish to involve themselves in the democratic party
- (b) Plan and hold recruiting and info session events at local BSUs and other appropriate venues
- (c) Recruit and seek out homegrown Youth Afro-Leadership
- (d) Pair Interns with fitting committees and mentors if applicable

Each Committee will be overseen by an appointed officer holding an Ambassador position. It is the Duty of the Ambassador to report on standing items of these committees during larger body meetings. The Ambassador caucus will work together to receive new ideas, plans, goal, action items etc provided by the larger body club and delegate out to the appropriate committee.