



Bylaws

Revised
February 8, 2021

Tulare County Stonewall Democrats Bylaws

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ARTICLE I. NAME

The name of this organization shall be the Tulare County Stonewall Democrats.

A. Use of the club name shall only be used for purposes outside of the club with a vote of the membership or in conjunction with an endorsement of the club.

ARTICLE II. PURPOSE

Tulare County Stonewall Democrats (hereinafter called the Club) shall focus its efforts within the County of Tulare; to advance the goals of the Democratic Party (hereinafter called the Party), through public policy and political issue analysis, education, fund-raising, recruitment, coordination with other Democratic groups, and other activities to benefit the Party.

The club shall seek to publicize activities, and to build its membership from registered Democrats within the county. The Club shall develop a work plan, which shall be evaluated by the membership as needed. This work plan shall include a report on the number of registered Democrats within the County of Tulare, a report on Democratic voter turnout in, and a comparison Tulare County and surrounding area of local Democratic statistics to other political affiliations.

Work within the Tulare County Party, providing a strong voice and representation within the party structure; securing full equal rights of LGBT Citizens through effective legislation and policies; and encouraging LGBT persons to participate fully as Democrats at all levels of policy making and public service.

ARTICLE III. AFFILIATION

A. The Club is officially chartered with the Tulare County Democratic Central Committee (hereinafter called the Central Committee) and was duly chartered by the Central Committee on February 23, 2015.

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.

ARTICLE IV. MEMBERSHIP

A. **Members.** The Club has four (4) classes of members: Regular, Student, Ex-officio, and Life.

1. **Regular member.** A Regular Member is any person who meets the membership requirements as set forth in Article V.

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- 39 2. **Student Member.** A Student Member is any person who meets the
40 membership requirements as set forth in Article V and has a Student ID Card.
- 41 3. **Ex-officio Member.** A Ex-officio member is any person who qualifies by the
42 California Elections Code §7206-7207 as well as the California Democratic
43 Party Regional Director.
- 44 4. **Life Member.** A Life Member is a member selected by vote of the club who
45 has a lifetime of advancing Civil Rights and Equality.

ARTICLE V. MEMBERSHIP REQUIREMENTS

- 48 A. A voting member shall be any Democrat currently registered to vote in United
49 States elections who has either paid their dues or been granted a waiver for
50 economic hardship and:
- 51 1. **A.** Identifies Who believes in and supports the purpose of the Tulare
52 County Stonewall Democrats as lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender
53 (LGBT+), or
- 54 2. **B.** Who Believes in and supports the purpose of the Tulare County
55 Stonewall Democrats
- 56 B. The club shall provide membership to persons voting registration /
57 preregistration age (as defined in the Elections Code) who meet the eligibility
58 requirements for Club membership, and who are either (a) registered Democrats
59 or (b) ineligible to register as Democrats, but who have expressed an intent to
60 register as a Democrat upon becoming eligible and 2) extend full voting rights to
61 all such persons who meet the voting requirements of the Club.
- 62 C. Membership is effective upon receipt of all dues or approval of a dues waiver.
63 Voting rights vest immediately: a cut-off for voting purposes is set as the calling
64 to order and verification of Quorum of the meeting at which the voting right will
65 be exercised. If there is a review process for dues waivers, the fact that a
66 membership applicant has sought a dues waiver cannot affect the right to vote.
67 So, where members can pay their dues and vote on the same day, the process
68 must include an on-site, day of election pre-balloting dues waiver review and
69 resolution process.
- 70 D. Membership, including voting rights and the right to seek and hold office, in the
71 Club is available on an equal basis to those who pay dues and those who seek
72 and obtain a waiver. The effective date of each member's membership shall be
73 noted in writing next to the name of the member in the Club' roster of members
74 and any other Club membership records.
- 75 E. This organization does not require or use any test of membership or oath of
76 loyalty which has the effect of requiring prospective or current members to
77 acquiesce in, condone or support discrimination on the grounds of race, color,
78 creed, national origin, physical ability, sex, age, religion, ethnic identity, sexual
79 orientation, gender identity or economic status.

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80 F. A member is removed from the club roster for non-payment of dues by the date
81 required in these Bylaws, or for publicly endorsing or financially supporting
82 other than a Democrat in any election.

83 **G. Standing:** Upon meeting the above requirements a person is considered a
84 Member In Good Standing and is granted all the rights and privileges of
85 membership.

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ARTICLE VI. DUES

88 A. Dues shall be recommended by the Executive Board and reviewed at the first
89 meeting of each calendar year and presented to the General Membership for
90 approval.

91 B. Dues shall be \$20.00 (twenty dollars) per calendar year. Dues can be reduced to
92 no less than \$12.00 (twelve dollars) through attendance and participation. \$1.00
93 (one dollar) will be subtracted from dues for attendance at 2 (two) or more
94 meetings per quarter year. Participation in major events (maximum of 4 (four))
95 per calendar year for a reduction of \$1.00 (one dollar) per event. Student dues
96 shall be exempt from reduction.

97 C. Dues are due on January 1 and payable by January 31 of each calendar year.

98 D. Annual dues for new active Club members shall be prorated on a monthly basis.

99 E. **Student Membership:** Upon presentation of a current valid "Student Body
100 Card" a person shall be entitled to a 50% (fifty percent) reduction in their dues.
101 Payment of Student Membership Dues grants the full right to vote

102 F. Payment of dues shall not be obligatory to anyone for whom it constitutes an
103 economic hardship, and after due consideration with approval of the Executive
104 Board.

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ARTICLE VII. MORALS & DICIPLINE

108 A. **Morals Clause.** Any member shall not commit any act or do anything which
109 might reasonably be considered: (i) to be immoral, deceptive, scandalous or
110 obscene; or (ii) to injure, tarnish, damage or otherwise negatively affect the
111 reputation and goodwill associated with the Club or Democratic Party to include
112 but not limited to moral turpitude under federal, state or local law (regardless of
113 whether or not such act involving moral turpitude is a misdemeanor or felony).
114 Violation of this clause can be grounds for removal.

115 B. **Rules for Disciplinary Procedure.** See Rules for Disciplinary Procedure Policy
116 Document

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ARTICLE VIII. MEETINGS

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118 A. Regular Meetings

119 1) The Club shall hold regular monthly meetings on the second Monday of
120 the month unless changed to another day by majority vote of the
121 membership.

122 2) Regular meetings shall not be canceled more than 3 (three) times within
123 any calendar year and in no event shall more than 2 (two) regular
124 meetings be canceled in succession.

125 3) Meetings are open to all Democrats, or to anyone who expresses an
126 intention to register as such when an impediment due to age or
127 citizenship status disappears.

128 4) In the event of an Emergency meetings will be held VIA Electronic
129 Methods. (internet teleconference)

130 B. Special Meetings

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

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

135 C. Notice of Meeting

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

138 a. Notice in writing by US mail

139 b. Notice in writing by e-mail

140 c. Telephone message

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

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ARTICLE IX. RULES FOR MEETINGS

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

149 B. A quorum for any official meeting of the Club shall be 25% (twenty-five percent)
150 of the total organizational membership, or 5 (five) members, whichever is
151 smaller, as of 24 hours before the meeting, as reported by the secretary.

152 C. Unless otherwise specified in these Bylaws, the Club may adopt events and
153 conduct regular business with a vote of 50% (fifty percent) plus 1 (one) of the
154 members present at any meeting.

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- 155 D. The Club may pass resolutions not related to endorsements with a vote of 2/3
156 (two-thirds) of those present and voting at any meeting.
- 157 E. A process to consider the endorsement of candidates must be approved prior to
158 any suggestion of endorsements. If the discussion of an endorsement process is
159 noticed in the meeting agenda, such process must be approved by at least 2/3
160 (two-thirds) of those present and voting at any meeting. If the discussion of an
161 endorsement process is brought up from the floor as New Business, such process
162 must be approved by at least $\frac{3}{4}$ (three-fourths) of those present and voting at
163 any meeting. Under no circumstances may the Club consider the endorsement of
164 a candidate for public office who is not registered with the Democratic Party.
165 The minimum threshold for endorsement in a race with multiple Democratic
166 candidates is two-thirds of the members present and voting.

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ARTICLE X. OFFICERS

- 169 A. Club officers shall consist of: Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary, Treasurer and
170 Member At-Large. They shall be elected in December to serve one-year terms of
171 office. Club officers will comprise the “Pre-Endorsing Conference Representative
172 Selection Committee”. (see Article XII)
- 173 B. Election of Officers shall commence with the opening of nominations at the
174 November Regular Meeting and continuing through to the December Regular
175 Meeting in which the nominations will close and an election will take place for
176 the officers for the next year.
- 177 C. If the Chair vacates office, the Vice-Chair shall ascend to the position of Chair,
178 until an election is held to fill the Chair’s remaining term of office.
- 179 D. In the temporary absence of the Chair, the Vice-Chair shall serve as Chair. If the
180 position of Vice-Chair is vacant, the Secretary or Treasurer shall serve as Vice-
181 Chair.
- 182 E. **The Secretary** shall be responsible to ensure that all members are notified of
183 Club meetings, maintain an updated club roster, and shall maintain all written
184 records of the Club.
- 185 F. **The Treasurer** shall maintain all financial records of the club, be responsible for
186 bank accounts, ensure FPPC/FEC financial reports are submitted on time, and
187 will provide a monthly financial report at club meetings.
- 188 G. **Member At-Large** shall be selected from the club membership at-large and shall
189 serve on the Executive Committee and perform such duties as are assigned by
190 the club .
- 191 H. **The Chair** shall officiate at all meetings of the Club.

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- 192 I. The Chair may appoint members temporarily to fill un-expired terms of office,
193 subject to election by the membership at the next Club meeting 30 (thirty) days
194 after the office is vacated.
- 195 J. The Club shall be represented at meetings of the DPOC and any Assembly
196 District Committee meetings at which it may be entitled to membership, and at
197 meetings of the California Democratic Council. A person may serve as
198 representative to more than one outside body if the club membership approves.
- 199 K. The Club is encouraged to appoint a publicity officer, who shall have the
200 responsibility to develop and to implement a plan to increase the visibility of the
201 Club among Democrats within the County of Tulare.
- 202 L. The chair may appoint Club members to serve in other capacities as needed.
- 203 M. The Club may elect such other officers as may be deemed necessary from time to
204 time to conduct Club business.
- 205 N. The Executive Board shall be composed of the club officers and chairs of
206 standing committees, and shall be responsible for implementing the club's goal
207 and maintaining financial viability.
- 208 O. An elected officer can be removed from office by resolution of a two-thirds vote
209 of the Regular members at a General Meeting for such causes as missing three
210 unexcused consecutive meetings or non-performance of duties, providing the
211 membership and the officer have been notified ten days in advance of the
212 meeting of the proposed action against the officer.

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ARTICLE XI. COMMITTEES

- 215 A. The Standing Committees of the Club are:
- 216 1. Membership.
- 217 a. The Membership Committee shall be responsible to develop strategies
218 to expand the club
- 219 2. Scholarship
- 220 a. The Scholarship Committee shall be responsible to develop, distribute,
221 and review the Scholarship Applications
- 222 b. After review of the applications make a recommendation to the club for
223 a vote on who to award scholarships to.
- 224 3. Fundraising
- 225 a. The Fundraising Committee shall be responsible to develop strategies
226 to raise funds for the club
- 227 b. Organize and plan fundraising events
- 228 B. Ad-Hoc Committees Can be formed as needed by the Chair or a Majority Vote of
229 the Club.
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ARTICLE XII. NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS (Pre-Endorsing Conferences)

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A. Selection 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 a fraction thereof) 20 members in good standing registered to vote in the Assembly District who were listed on the roster submitted to Tulare County Democratic Central Committee and to the appropriate Regional Director of the CDP no later than the deadline set by the CDP 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 Chair, 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. Nominees will be solicited at a regular scheduled meeting. Nominees will be asked if they are willing to take the position and fulfill the responsibilities of the position.
- 3) Said representatives shall be selected by majority vote of the “Pre-Endorsing Conference Representative Selection Committee”. (see Article X § A). The selection meeting shall be timely as to fulfill the schedule set forth by the policies of the Democratic Party of California
- 4) A ratification vote of the club membership will be held at the next regular scheduled membership meeting.

ARTICLE XIII. CALIFORNIA DEMOCRATIC PARTY BY-LAWS

Any issues not specifically covered by these by-laws shall be governed by the by-laws of the California Democratic Party. In case of conflict in the by-laws, the CDP by-laws will be the governing document. The Club specifically recognizes its obligations to adhere to the General Provisions of the CDP Bylaws.

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ARTICLE XIV. AMENDMENTS

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These bylaws may be amended by a 2/3 (two-thirds) vote at a general membership meeting after the proposed amendment has been presented to the membership at a preceding meeting. Two week's notice must be provided of each meeting.

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277 **ADOPTED: Feb 8, 2021**

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279 **Certified by:** _____

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Edith La Vonne

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Secretary