

**California Democratic Party  
May 2023 State Re-Organizing State Convention  
Sunday, May 28, 2023  
Reports Packet**

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Available online at <https://cdpconvention.org/>

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## Organizing Standing Committee

Good morning Democrats! On behalf of our fellow Chairs and Co-Chairs, we are honored to present our Organizing Committee report!

All weekend long you've been hearing about the stakes for our upcoming elections. The very fabric of our Democracy lies in the balance and we are indeed in a fight for the soul of our nation. As California Democrats, we are on the front lines of that fight. We lead the nation in volunteer engagement, and we build our power with a diverse coalition of groups, including our Democratic Clubs, our grassroots organizations like Indivisible and Swing Left, and, of course, our Union brothers, sisters, and siblings.

Our party has now become a body that gets volunteers into action with opportunities for service and voter outreach right here at our convention and at Executive board meetings.

We are the resistance turned into the persistence and I will say it again, we don't agonize, we organize!

We've had a lot of success since we rebranded the Organizing Committee and refined our charter to better reflect our collective goals. But I'm not going to sugarcoat it. We fell short in 2022. We were able to stave off a "so-called" red wave, but we lost control of the House, and working folks all over our country have been suffering the consequences.

MAGA Republicans are now focused on taking away our fundamental freedoms, including making it *harder* to vote, trying to erase the truth about our country's history, launching culture wars of hate that threaten the lives of our diverse communities, and attacking women's basic autonomy.

But we know how we win. We win when we all get involved. And the road to reelecting Joe Biden and Kamala Harris, holding and expanding our Senate majority, and taking back the house, runs through California!

These pivotal races will be tight, and they will be tough, but they are all within the margin of effort! So I ask you all right now, what do you want, what are you willing to do about it?

The work starts now. Our organizing department has the tools and dedicated organizers to win up and down our great state, but they need you! So let's start connecting with voters, building out our forever organizing programs, and in 2024 we will turn the house blue!

**California Democratic Party Rules Committee Report**  
**Friday, May 26, 2023**

- I. The Committee was called to order at 1:07pm. A roll call established a quorum with 18 members present. 2 members joined the meeting in progress
- II. M/S/P to adopt meeting agenda
- III. Subcommittee Reports
  - A. Received oral report from ADEMs Subcommittee. Earlier in the day, the Subcommittee conducted a hearing to take testimony and feedback regarding the 2023 ADEMs process and to hear suggestions for improvements for the 2025 ADEMs. The Subcommittee summarized the main themes of the testimony.
  - B. M/S/P to approve report on Caucuses Subcommittee  
RECOMMENDATION OF THE SUBCOMMITTEE ON CAUCUSES  
CDP RULES COMMITTEE CONCERNING AMENDMENTS TO  
BYLAWS ARTICLE XI. SPECIAL GROUP CAUCUSES  
(5/26/23)  
ARTICLE XI: SPECIAL GROUP CAUCUSES  
Section 1. DEFINITION  
A caucus is a statewide organization:
    - a. Which is a constituent part of This Committee, governed by its decisions, and must may not take official positions on legislation, resolutions, or other matters, which are contrary to positions taken by This Committee, but, to the extent consistent with its purpose as set forth in Section 2 of this Article XI, may call on This Committee to take action.
    - b. Consisting of Caucus Sponsors, who are members of the Caucus and of This Committee, constituting at least one percent (1%) of the full membership of This Committee,
    - c. Which extends membership to persons of voting registration/preregistration age (as defined in the Elections Code), who meet the eligibility requirements for Caucus membership, and who are either (i) registered Democrats or (ii) ineligible to register as Democrats, but who have expressed an intent to register as a Democrat upon becoming eligible;. aAnd which extends full voting rights to all such persons who meet the voting requirements of that Caucus.
    - d. Which has been found by the Rules Committee to be in compliance with the requirements noted herein and has also been found to meet the Guidelines for Certification or Re-Certification of Caucuses referred to below both at the time of the application for certification/recertification and at all times during the certification/recertification period thereafter;  
(1) the finding of compliance at the time of the application shall be, based on a review of the application and investigation by the Rules Committee, whose findings shall be conclusive unless reversed by a majority of the Executive Board;,  
(2) the finding of continuing/ongoing compliance shall be made by the Rules Committee under rules of procedure it shall promulgate and publish, which shall include such hearing as it deems appropriate under the circumstances.
    - e. Which has been considered for certification by the Rules Committee and has been

certified by the Executive Board of This Committee in order to carry out the Purposes noted herein,

f. Whose Chair is a member of This Committee, and by virtue of the Caucus being certified, shall be a member of the Executive Board of This Committee; provided that in exceptional circumstances, as defined and authorized by the Rules Committee, an interim Chair serving only until such time as the Caucus may conduct an election may be excused from being a member of This Committee; provided, further, that the Caucus' representative on the Executive Board must be a member of This Committee, and,

g. If not initially certified prior to 1/1/10, the Caucus' Sponsors are DSCC members, who represent a common identity, demographic or interest which is historically or currently under-represented in Democratic Party affairs and cannot adequately be represented in Democratic Party affairs by a current caucus or chartered organization, and which has provided a reasonable explanation, determined to have been supported by clear and convincing evidence, as to why Chartering as a Statewide Organization under Article X of these Bylaws, would not be a more appropriate course of action

## Section 2. PURPOSE

The purpose of a caucus is to:

- a. Participate in the policy decisions of the Party, by, among other things, proposing Resolutions to the Resolutions Committee, Legislation to the Legislation Committee, bylaw amendments to the Rules Committee, or other such proposals to other Standing Committees, or to the Chair of This Committee, as may be necessary to carry out its goals and objectives. Caucuses are to conduct all of their affairs with an eye toward full and proactive compliance with: (i) the expectations and intent set forth in Article VIII, Section 1.c; (ii) the "one voice" rule in Article VIII, Section 1.d; and (iii) the prohibitions on endorsements in Article VII, Sections 1.h, 1.j and 2.a. No Caucus may take independent positions on such matters which are contrary to the positions of This Committee, provided, however, that nothing herein shall prevent This Committee's Regions, or its Caucuses from calling on the California Democratic Party to take any action consistent with its status as a constituent part of This Committee;
- b. Encourage participation, within the Caucus' community of interest, in the outreach programs of the Party, including such things as This Committee's Voter Registration and Get Out the Vote activities; but any such participation shall be limited to activities conducted by or in partnership with the Party. Any other such voter outreach or campaign activities are inconsistent with the Caucus' purpose and, as a result, are prohibited.
- c. Promulgate and implement a Statement of Purpose and Intended Activity, aimed at expanding and strengthening the Party, subject to approval by the Rules Committee; and,
- d. Make the Party more welcoming and more relevant to members of the public, the electorate, and This Committee, who identify with the goals of the Caucus.

## Section 3. GUIDELINES FOR CERTIFICATION, RE-CERTIFICATION, AND DECERTIFICATION OF CAUCUSES

The Rules Committee shall promulgate Guidelines for Certification, Re-Certification, and Decertification of Caucuses, which shall include the process and conditions necessary to certify, re-certify, or decertify a caucus. These Guidelines shall include, as a condition of Certification and Re-Certification, a requirement that Caucuses adopt the Code of Conduct

and make information about reporting process for violations of the Code of Conduct readily available to members.

#### Section 4. CERTIFICATION / RE-CERTIFICATION

Certification, and re-certification, shall be subject to the following provisions:

a. Form of Application – All organizations desiring to be certified, or re-certified, by This Committee as a caucus shall make application for such certification in writing on a form obtained from the Secretary of This Committee.

b. Submission of Application – An application for Caucus Certification, or Recertification must be submitted to the Secretary of This Committee, and to the Chair(s) of the Rules Committee of This Committee, at the email addresses designated for this purpose. The deadline for submission of an application shall be no later than fourteen (14) after the first regular meeting of the Convention of This Committee ~~in the year in which the Caucus is intended to be recertified or initially certified~~ after the year in which a regular Gubernatorial election is conducted; provided, however, that an applicant seeking initial certification as a Caucus may also apply in the fourteen-day period immediately following the first regular meeting of the Convention of This Committee in any other odd year. No application submitted outside that time-frame shall be considered.

c. Acknowledgment of Receipt of Application – The Secretary of This Committee or the Chair(s) of the Rules Committee shall, where applicable, acknowledge receipt of the application within five (5) business days of determination of receipt by no later than the thirtieth day after the first regular meeting of the Convention of This Committee in the year in which the application is submitted, and send confirmation thereof, to the Chair of the Caucus, or proposed Caucus, to the email address designated for this purpose. This acknowledgment shall also ~~identify any required submissions which, from a facial review of the application, appear to be missing~~ and identify a deadline for the submission of any such missing documents, ~~or obviously deficient, documents or information necessary for the Rules Committee~~ to determine certification or re-certification, other than bylaws provisions. Such deficiencies in documentation or information may be corrected via amended application within sixty (60) days after the first meeting of the Convention of This Committee in the year in which the Caucus is intended to be re-certified or initially certified.

d. Time-line for Consideration of Application; ~~Notice of Deficiencies~~

(1) Special Rules for Applications Submitted before the 2025 Regular Convention. Should at any time during its period of provisional certification, a Caucus recommended for provisional certification as of July 17, 2023, meet the requirements for recertification and become eligible for full certification at the next meeting of the Executive Board of This Committee, the Rules Committee shall recommend that Caucus for full recertification.

For proposed Caucuses that have submitted an initial application during 2023, the Guidelines shall set forth the timeline for consideration.

(2) Rules for Applications In and After 2025

For applications in and after 2025, the Rules Committee shall advise the Caucus or proposed Caucus of its recommendation by no later than ninety (90) days after the deadline for

submission of the application or, if there has been a notice that required elements of the application were missing and, thus, that the application was deficient, by no later than ninety (90) days after the deadline set for cure of the deficiency.

~~No later than forty five (45) days prior to the expiration of the term of Official Certification, or in the case of a proposed new caucus the second meeting of the Executive Board of This Committee held after submission of the application, a Chair of the Rules Committee of This Committee designated for this purpose, shall notify the Chair of the Caucus, or proposed Caucus, in detail, of any deficiencies in documentation or information, including the substance of any amendments to Caucus Bylaws necessary to bring the Application into compliance along with the proposed recommendation regarding certification or re-certification.~~

e. Failure by the Rules Committee to Provide Timely Notice of Deficiencies Its Recommended Disposition of the Application by the Rules Committee – Absent agreement to the contrary by the Rules Committee, failure of the Rules Committee to give timely ~~Notice of its~~ recommendation concerning disposition of the application ~~Deficiencies~~ shall be considered as a recommendation for Certification by the Rules Committee and allow the Chair of the Caucus, to make a motion for a specific finding of compliance with the Guidelines for Certification, Re-Certification, and Decertification of Caucuses by the Executive Board of This Committee and Certification of the Caucus, provided fifteen (15) days notice of intent to make such motion is first given to the Secretary of This Committee, and to the Chair(s) of the Rules Committee of This Committee, at the email addresses designated for this purpose.

~~f. Recommended Action on Application – The Rules Committee of This Committee, shall make a recommendation regarding action on the application to the Executive Board of This Committee, prior to the expiration of the term of Official Certification, or in the case of a proposed new caucus the second meeting of the Executive Board of This Committee held after submission of the application.~~

~~g.f.~~ Contents of Application – The application shall contain such information as may be required by the Rules Committee.

#### Section 5. TERM OF CERTIFICATION

a. All Caucuses that are provisionally or fully certified as of July 11, 2022, shall have their current certification status extended through August 31, 2023, unless revoked for cause as set forth herein; provided, however, that, during this extended certification period, provisional certification may be converted to full certification and full certification may be converted to provisional certification in accordance with procedures for such conversion consistent with this Article XI promulgated by the Rules Committee. The provisions of this subsection (a) shall expire as of September 1, 2023, and without further action of This Committee or its Executive Board, shall no longer be a part of these Bylaws or this Article XI as of that date. The Secretary of This Committee, upon recommendation of the Rules Committee, shall cause subsection b and its subparts to be renumbered accordingly.

b. All official Certifications of a Caucus made effective on or after September 1, 2023, shall extend through the following dates:

(1) For recertifications, unless revoked for cause as set forth herein, the later of August 31 of the year after the year in which the next regular Gubernatorial election is held or the

adjournment of the first Executive Board meeting of This Committee held after the first regular meeting of the Convention of This Committee in the year after the year in which the next regular Gubernatorial election is held; or

(2) For initial certifications, unless revoked for cause as set forth herein, the earlier of two years after the effective date of the initial certification or the first Executive Board meeting of This Committee held after the first regular meeting of the Convention of This Committee in the year after the year in which the next Gubernatorial election is held.

(3) Notwithstanding the certification terms set forth herein, full certification may be converted to provisional certification and provisional certification may be converted to full certification in accordance with procedures for such conversion consistent with this Article XI promulgated by the Rules Committee; provided that no such conversion shall extend the term of certification of a Caucus.

#### Section 6. DECERTIFICATION

a. After notice and an opportunity to be heard, and upon a finding by the Rules Committee that a certified caucus has failed to maintain compliance with the above, the Rules Committee may enter into an agreement with the Caucus or, in the absence of an agreement, order the Caucus to take certain remedial steps to again achieve compliance.

~~b. adopt or maintain the Code of Conduct as part of its own bylaws with a provision that each member is bound by its terms, and/or~~

~~e. has willfully, intentionally, or repeatedly failed to address violations of the Code of Conduct within the caucus,~~

b. In the event that, after the hearing referenced in subsection (a) above, the Rules Committee determines that remedial steps are an insufficient remedy or in the event that, after a subsequent hearing, the Rules Committee determines that the Caucus has failed or refused to successfully undertake the agreed upon or ordered remedial steps, the Rules Committee shall report a recommendation to de-certify the Caucus to the Executive Board of This Committee. The report shall specifically note the grounds and basis for the Rules Committee's recommendation. ~~may decertify a Caucus by majority vote. In the event the Rules Committee should make a finding of non-compliance with the Guidelines, it shall report a recommendation to de-certify the Caucus specifically noting the grounds and basis for its decision.~~ Such recommendation may only be overturned by the Executive Board of This Committee, by majority vote, but and only if the Executive Board makes specific findings that the Rules Committee was incorrect in each of its findings that formed the basis of the Rules Committee's recommendation to decertify, or that all such defects have been remedied.

#### Section 7. RECOGNITION OF HISTORICAL IMPORTANCE

This Committee recognizes that the Black African American, Asian Pacific Islander, Chicano Latino, Labor, LGBTQ, and Women's Caucuses were the original six caucuses certified pursuant to the definition contained in the 1985-7, or prior, Bylaws, defining a caucus as "ethnic minority members or other broad elements of the membership" and as such recognizes the historical significance in maintaining their existence.

C. M/S/P to approve report on Chartered Organizations Subcommittee

- a. The following Statewide Chartered Organizations are fully compliant with the Annual Report submissions: California Young Democrats (CYD), Brownie Mary Democrats of California, California Democratic Rental Council, Democrats for Israel California, California Democratic Council (CDC) - exempt.
  - b. The California Armenian American Democrats (CAAD) charter was found to be acting in good faith. The Annual Report was submitted late, but complete. The Subcommittee Chair's recommendation is conditional acceptance predicated on receipt of a complete report before the next e-board meeting.
  - c. The Annual Report was not submitted for Federation of Democratic Central Committee Members
  - d. The following applicants are newly approved Statewide Chartered Organizations: Iranian American Democrats of California and AD12 Democrats Club
- D. County Bylaws Subcommittee
- The Subcommittee met to revise the County Bylaws Review Check Form process to make it more efficient and to ensure all deadlines statewide are met for every Central Committee with an estimated turnaround time of 90 days. Specific information regarding the submission process will be emailed to all Central Committee Chairs.
- M/S/P to approve the Checklist as amended in the Committee.
- E. M/S/P to approve Proposal of the Endorsements Subcommittee to amend Article VIII Section 3 g (2) "Pre-endorsing Conferences..." as follows::
- Absentee ballot voting shall be allowed for each office to be voted upon at the pre-endorsing conference provided that the participation of at least five of the eligible members of This Committee as delegates to the pre- endorsing conference, either in person, or by vote-by-mail ballot, shall constitute a quorum. In the absence of such quorum no recommendation for endorsement shall take place; however, the relevant convention endorsing caucus shall consider the race "de novo". The ballot shall consist of a written, signed statement from the eligible voter and shall be recorded as part of the roll call vote if received by the designated Regional Director *or through an alternative electronic process promulgated by the Chair of This Committee or their designee* prior to the beginning of the roll call vote in the designated district. In the event that any Senate District or Congressional District falls into more than one Region, the State Chair shall assign those districts to a single regional pre- endorsement conference for the purposes of making the recommendation set forth in this section, due consideration being given to conflicting conference dates so as to allow for full participation.
- F. Received oral report from the Miscellaneous Items Subcommittee
- G. Received oral report from the Officers, Elections, Duties, Etc. Subcommittee
- IV. Proposed Bylaws Amendments
- A. M/S/P to refer Proposal by Christopher Duvali to amend Article XII: Compliance Review Commission to Subcommittee on Miscellaneous Issues
  - B. M/S/P to refer Proposal by Christopher Duvali to amend Article III: Officers to Subcommittee on Officers, Election, Duties, Etc
  - C. M/S/P to approve proposal by Garry Shay to amend Articles V and VIII to codify the power of the Rules Committee to recommend that endorsements of a particular County Committee shall be come the endorsement of the DSCC, after review of that County Committee's bylaws and/or procedures, as follows:

ARTICLE V: STANDING COMMITTEES AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES

\* \* \*

Section 5. STANDING COMMITTEE DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

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h. Rules:

It shall be the duty of the Rules Committee to:

INSERT A NEW 8) AND RENUMBER ACCORDINGLY:

**8) promulgate Procedures for recommending to This Committee that endorsements received from a particular County Central Committee shall become the endorsements of This Committee, and to make such recommendations.**

STRIKE ARTICLE VIII, SECTION 4 B(1) & C AND REPLACE AS FOLLOWS:

**ARTICLE VIII: ENDORSEMENT OF CANDIDATES FOR PARTISAN AND NONPARTISAN OFFICE, AND ENDORSEMENT AND OPPOSITION TO STATE BALLOT PROPOSITIONS, INITIATIVES, REFERENDUM, AND RECALL**

\* \* \*

**Section 4. NONPARTISAN OFFICES**

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**b. Process for California Democratic Party Endorsement, Objection Process:**

A Democratic candidate for nonpartisan office who has been endorsed by their County Central Committee shall also be considered to be the endorsed candidate of the California Democratic Party and shall be entitled to such privileges and benefits as may be attached thereto provided that:

(1) **it is recommended by the Rules Committee that endorsements received thereunder also be the endorsements of This Committee, and such recommendation is concurred in**

by This Committee as **being** consistent with its own By-Laws and with the fundamental rules of fairness to which the California Democratic Party is committed; and

(2) A Democratic candidate who has been denied endorsement does not successfully argue before This Committee that there has been a significant violation of the endorsing provisions of the relevant County Central Committee when it rendered its endorsement. Any claim of by-laws violation must be filed with the State Party Chair within seven (7) days of County Committee endorsement. A 2/3 vote shall be necessary to uphold the violation claim.

**c. Requirements of County Bylaws for Approval of Endorsement Process:**

In order for the endorsement of the County Central Committees to become the official endorsements of the California Democratic Party, the following **must be found to have been met by the Rules Committee as part of its recommendation:**

(1) A Democratic County Central Committee endorsement shall be extended only to registered Democrats.

(2) Endorsement shall not be given to more candidates than there are seats open for the office in question.

(3) All endorsements shall be made in accordance with the County Committee's duly adopted By-Laws provisions.

(4) No vote on endorsement shall be taken by secret ballot.

- V. Compliance Review Commission (CRC)
  - A. After hearing an appeal, M/S/P to sustain the decision of the CRC relating to the Los Angeles Democratic Party Challenge filed on February 18, 2023 by Larry Agran
  - B. After considering an appeal, M/S/P to sustain the decision of the CRC relating to the Democratic Party of Contra Costa Challenge filed on May 13, 2021 by Jason Bezis
  - C. After hearing an appeal, M/S/P to sustain the decision of the CRC relating to the Assembly District Election Meetings (ADEMs) challenge filed on February 15, 2023 by Amar Shergill
  - D. M/S/P to receive and file the decision of the CRC relating to the San Bernardino County Democratic Central Committee Challenge filed on April 14, 2023 by Timothy Prince
- VI. New business: a Bylaws amendment was suggested by Maria Alegria to include a section of matters that are before standing committees in Article II, Section 12. It will be agendized for a future meeting of the Rules Committee
- VII. M/S/P Adjourn at 3:44pm

PAGE	RESO #	RESOLUTION TITLE	AUTHOR / CONTACT	CODE [1]
1	23-05.011	Resolution Against the Destructive and Restrictive Construction on the Southern Border	Cynara Velazquez, AD 77 Octavio Aguilar, AD 76	2
1	23-05.013	Resolution in Support of Armenians in the MENA Identity Group for the 2030 Census	Dr. Suzie Abajian, AD 52 Elen Asatryan, AD 44	2
1	23-05.090	California's Referendum System Needs Reform Now	Resolutions Committee	1
2	23-05.091	BETTER WAGES AND WORKING CONDITIONS FOR CALIFORNIA'S FAST FOOD WORKERS	Resolutions Committee	1
2	23-05.087	Resolution to Address the Urgent Need for High-Quality Healthcare Workers in California	Resolutions Committee	1
3	23-05.031	Right-Wing School Boards' Attack on the Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) and LGBTQIA+ Communities	Dr. Jenn Carson, AD 61	2
3	23-05.055	INCREASE VOTER PARTICIPATION IN ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE COMMUNITIES	Clara Solis, AD 52	2
3	23-05.057	Expanding Unemployment Benefits to Undocumented Immigrant Workers	Mark Gonzalez, AD 52	2
4	23-05.059	Supporting Reparations for Black Californians	Eugene W. Fields, AD 59	2
4	23-05.061	Resolution Promoting Development and Implementation of A Plan to Significantly Reduce Homelessness in California	Rosemarie Smallcombe, AD 05	2
5	23-05.062	Unionize California Resolution	Glenn Loveall	2
		Codes:		
		1=Debate/passed		
		2=Debate/passed as amended		

1 **Resolution 23-05.011**

2 **Resolution Against the Destructive and Restrictive Construction on the Southern Border**

3 **WHEREAS**, the binational Friendship Park was created as a safe space for families and residents  
4 separated by the border to come together to visit loved ones, yet Border Patrol efforts are underway  
5 to wall-off the border in a manner that would destroy the binational Friendship Park, by building  
6 intrusive and destructive barriers under the false pretense of "maintenance"; and

7 **WHEREAS**, construction is under way to extend the border barrier through the Tijuana River,  
8 thereby blocking the flow of water which will threaten people and ecosystems on both sides of the  
9 border, and also creating significant flood risk; and

10 **WHEREAS**, the ongoing construction makes it difficult or impossible for those seeking asylum to  
11 reach the United States border,

12 **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the California Democratic Party condemns all efforts to wall-  
13 off the United States-Mexico border by means of unnecessary and dangerous construction that  
14 damages the environment and separates communities, and limits or prevents access to requesting  
15 asylum.

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16 **Resolution 23-05.013**

17 **RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF INCLUSION OF ARMENIANS IN THE MENA IDENTITY**  
18 **GROUP FOR THE 2030 CENSUS**

19 **WHEREAS** California is home to the largest number of Armenian Americans in the U.S. including  
20 immigrants, refugees and English Learners, and meaningful and comprehensive data on the  
21 Armenian American population of California is currently lacking, making the Armenian American  
22 community, together with other Middle Eastern and North African (MENA) communities, invisible and  
23 underserved within the U.S.; and

24 **WHEREAS** the U.S. Office of Management and Budget recently released a new draft questionnaire  
25 for the 2030 Census that includes a new MENA Category with subcategories such as Lebanese,  
26 Syrian, Iranian, and other populations; and

27 **WHEREAS** Armenian Americans constitute a transnational group across MENA and are historically  
28 one of the largest and most impacted groups of immigrants in the United States from the MENA  
29 region, and the inclusion of the MENA category and a specific Armenian checkbox within the MENA  
30 category of the 2030 Census would provide California with more accurate data on all of its residents,  
31 which would ultimately bring more resources and funding for the State to support underserved  
32 populations;

33 **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that California Democratic Party supports the inclusion of an  
34 Armenian checkbox within the MENA category of the 2030 Census, and urges the United States Office  
35 of Management and Budget to adopt this recommendation.

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36 **Resolution 23-05.090**

37 **CALIFORNIA'S REFERENDUM SYSTEM NEEDS REFORM NOW**

38 **WHEREAS**, in 1911, California voters took power back for themselves and away from  
39 wealthy corporations by creating the tool of the referendum, a check and balance on power where  
40 voters get to decide whether to keep legislation or overturn legislation, and now, more than one  
41 hundred years later, California's referendum process is being abused by the same corporations it  
42 was intended to check, including tobacco companies, bail bondsmen, plastics companies, and  
43 most recently oil and fast-food corporations; and

44 **WHEREAS**, these corporations use their corporate profits to confuse voters both during the signature  
45 drive and the campaign, corrupting the entire referendum system in order to freeze and overturn  
46 new laws, and

1 WHEREAS, these corporations now spend more than \$20 million dollars to qualify for a  
2 referendum without any public support, using mostly out-of-state bounty hunters, paid per signature,  
3 using unscrupulous tactics, including lying to voters about the intent of petitions and hiding  
4 disclosures designed to increase transparency around who funded their paid signature drive, and  
5 once the referendum is qualified, voters are then subject to California’s confusing referendum  
6 ballot question, where a “Yes” vote actually means “No” in order to oppose a referendum.

7 THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the California Democratic Party calls for immediate reform of  
8 California’s referendum system, including establishing a system that requires volunteer signature  
9 gathers, increased transparency including requiring petitions and the ballot label to include the  
10 petition's top funders, registration, and training for referendum petition circulators, simplifying the  
11 ballot label so voters can clearly choose whether to keep the legislation or overturn the legislation  
12 and ensures these reforms are applied to initiatives that also act like referendum.

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13 **Resolution 23-05.091**

14 **BETTER WAGES AND WORKING CONDITIONS FOR CALIFORNIA’S FAST FOOD WORKERS**

15 WHEREAS, fast food workers are the largest and fastest growing group of low-wage workers in the  
16 state, and for years, the fast food sector has been rife with abuse, low pay, few benefits, and  
17 minimal job security, with California fast food workers subject to high rates of employment violations,  
18 including wage theft, sexual harassment and discrimination, as well as heightened health and safety  
19 risks; and

20 WHEREAS, the numerous complaints filed by fast food workers with state and local health  
21 departments illustrate that many fast food operators routinely have flouted protections, including, but  
22 not limited to, failing to provide adequate protection against workplace violence, denying workers  
23 sick pay, and demanding that workers come to work when they are sick; and

24 WHEREAS, a joint UC Berkeley and UCLA study found that two-thirds of California’s half million fast-  
25 food workers rely on safety net programs, and an Economic Roundtable study found that a larger  
26 share of fast food workers live in poverty than any other industry, making up 11 percent of all  
27 homeless workers in California, while multi-billion dollar fast-food corporations are collecting record  
28 profits, with the top five fast food corporations making \$14.5 billion in profits in 2021 and \$12 billion  
29 in profits in 2022.

30 THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the California Democratic Party stands in strong support with  
31 California’s fast food workers and calls for the immediate setting of sector wide minimum wage,  
32 health, safety, and employment standards for fast food workers because existing enforcement and  
33 regulatory mechanisms have proved inadequate in ensuring fast food worker health, safety, and  
34 welfare.

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35 **Resolution 23-05.087**

36 **Resolution to Address the Urgent Need for High-Quality Healthcare Workers in California**

37 **Whereas**, the California Democratic Party asserts that healthcare is a human right; in California and  
38 Nationwide, there is a shortage of healthcare workers to deliver care to all sectors of our population,  
39 young and aging, making it impossible to live up to our promise and ideals on healthcare delivery,  
40 and

41 **Whereas**, California was already facing a shortage of at least 500,000 healthcare workers before  
42 Covid; after facing the trauma and dangerous working conditions of the pandemic and struggling  
43 with low pay and poor working conditions, huge numbers of healthcare workers are leaving the field  
44 and many others are considering leaving; this is experienced not only in California but nationwide in  
45 85% of hospitals, medical groups, home health providers, and other healthcare facilities by their  
46 inability to hire and fill open positions; and

1 **Whereas**, all workers deserve a living wage, including healthcare workers, in recognition of the  
2 growing need for public action to deliver fair compensation, to these essential workers, there is a  
3 growing movement to increase healthcare worker wages in cities across California, and several cities  
4 have voted to set a \$25/hour minimum wage in an effort of wage fairness and to solve the  
5 healthcare staffing crisis,

6 **Therefore Be It Resolved**, that the California Democratic Party strongly supports immediate action  
7 to address the urgent patient care crisis caused by the shortage of workers needed to provide high-  
8 quality healthcare workers in California including evaluation of minimum hourly wage compensation.

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9 **Resolution 23-05.031**

10 **Right-Wing School Boards' Attack on the Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC)**  
11 **and LGBTQIA+ Communities**

12 WHEREAS, school boards such as the Temecula Valley Unified School Board, the Chino Valley Unified  
13 School Board, and the Placentia Yorba Linda Unified School Board have attempted to erase African  
14 American, Native American, Asian American, Latino, Women's, and LGBTQIA+ history under the  
15 guise of a K-12 ban on Critical Race Theory, an academic concept taught to law students, not to  
16 school children; and

17 WHEREAS, 'Anti-Critical Race Theory' ('Anti-CRT') and 'Don't Say Gay' activists around the country  
18 have banned books like "Ruby Bridges Goes to School," "The March on Washington," "Kite Runner,"  
19 "Pride: The Story of Harvey Milk and the Rainbow Flag" and even books about menstruation like, "Go  
20 with the Flow"; and

21 WHEREAS, "Parent Revolt," a project of the California Republican Party, is focused on recruiting  
22 Republican candidates to run for school boards to conduct similar bans in 10,000 California schools  
23 serving 9 million children (mostly children of color);

24 THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the California Democratic Party opposes Republican efforts to use  
25 school boards as a platform to promote homophobic 'Don't Say Gay' restrictions and alternative facts  
26 about systemic racism; and

27 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the California Democratic Party supports diversity, equity, inclusion,  
28 culturally responsive teaching, and anti-bias and anti-racism initiatives in schools to build a more  
29 equitable future.

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30 **Resolution 23-05.055**

31 **INCREASE VOTER PARTICIPATION IN ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE COMMUNITIES**

32 WHEREAS, an environmental justice community or neighborhood, composed predominantly of Latino,  
33 Black, Indigenous, and people of color living at or below the poverty line that are subjected to a  
34 disproportionate burden of environmental hazards which significantly reduces their quality of life,  
35 have not had their voices heard by public policymakers, and have experienced historically lower than  
36 average voter turnout in previous election cycles; and

37 WHEREAS, in California all voters receive a vote-by-mail ballot and there has been a decrease in in-  
38 person polling locations which has impacted participation amongst some older voters and many  
39 campaigns do not engage with voters, perpetuating low turnout; and

40 WHEREAS, prioritizing voting accessibility and outreach specifically for environmental justice  
41 communities is more essential than ever to overcome efforts by right-wing forces that seek to impose  
42 policies that further harm local communities;

43 THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the California Democratic Party supports accessible voting,  
44 outreach and improved voter turnout in environmental justice communities to ensure participatory  
45 democracy.

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46 **Resolution 23-05.057**

47 **Expanding Unemployment Benefits to Undocumented Immigrant Workers**

1 WHEREAS Los Angeles County is home to approximately 3.4 million immigrants of different statuses,  
2 backgrounds, and cultures, making it the largest community of immigrants in the United States, and  
3 research shows that undocumented immigrant workers in Los Angeles County are disproportionately  
4 represented in low-wage industries, such as domestic service, food service, janitorial services,  
5 hospitality, and agriculture while making less than nearly half the median hourly wage than all other  
6 workers in the county; and

7 WHEREAS undocumented immigrant workers in California not only contribute their labor, but also  
8 \$3.7 billion in state and local taxes, and taxes on their wages generate an estimated \$302 million to  
9 the Unemployment Insurance system every year, yet cannot access any unemployment benefits  
10 when they temporarily lose their job due to historic exclusions from the safety net; and

11 WHEREAS the lack of access to unemployment benefits forces undocumented immigrant workers to  
12 exhaust their life savings, accumulate greater debt, and compromise their health and well-being to  
13 simply afford basic necessities like rent and food for themselves and their loved ones;

14 THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the California Democratic Party supports creating an Excluded  
15 Workers Program in order to provide unemployment benefits to undocumented immigrant workers  
16 who are excluded from unemployment insurance solely due to their immigration status; and

17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the California Democratic Party shall communicate this resolution to  
18 the Governor's office, and the California Assembly and Senate leadership.

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19 **Resolution 23-05.059**

20 **Supporting Reparations for Black Californians**

21 **WHEREAS** Black people, who make up 8% of California's population have been unjustly enslaved,  
22 segregated, and incarcerated through systemic racism over centuries that will take time to dismantle;  
23 and

24 **WHEREAS** Black people have been unjustly targeted by law enforcement and criminal justice  
25 procedures, incarcerated at disproportionate rates, and subsequently excluded from full participation  
26 in the benefits of citizenship that include voting, employment, housing, and health care; and

27 **WHEREAS** Black people have been segregated from mainstream education and within present-day  
28 school programs, with Black students experiencing the denial of education through admission,  
29 retention, and graduation rates for every level of education and through discriminatory disciplinary  
30 practices;

31 **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the California Democratic Party supports the need for making  
32 amends through acknowledgment, apology, and reparations for the massive pain, suffering, and loss  
33 caused by enslavement, segregation, and the continued discrimination and systemic racism against  
34 black people across the nation and in the State of California.

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35 **Resolution 23-05.061**

36 **Resolution Promoting Development and Implementation of A Plan to Significantly**  
37 **Reduce Homelessness in California**

38 **WHEREAS**, California Democrats believe that shelter, including affordable housing, is a basic human  
39 right, we acknowledge that homelessness is an urgent humanitarian crisis with an estimated 172,000  
40 unsheltered individuals across California creating an undertow of massive economic and systemic  
41 inequities, as well as a tangled web of decisions made by well-intentioned policies and programs built  
42 over decades, that continues to stymie efforts to support those who are unhoused or at risk of  
43 becoming unhoused; and

44 **WHEREAS**, unlike other areas of government such as education, child welfare, infrastructure, and  
45 many other policy areas, California lacks a comprehensive plan to address those who are unhoused  
46 and at risk of becoming unhoused effectively and equitably and we must acknowledge the current  
47 approach to addressing homelessness is fragmented and lacks clear lines of responsibility,

1 accountability and sustainability so that at present, it is not possible to make meaningful progress in  
2 helping those who are unhoused and housing insecure; and

3 **WHEREAS**, discussions among experts on homelessness and many who work to reduce  
4 homelessness have led to the conclusion that California must effect a paradigm shift and develop a  
5 consistent, coherent plan to address homelessness, one which includes broad goals and specific  
6 policy proposals to ensure clear lines of responsibility and accountability for every level of  
7 government and improves the way California collectively responds to those who are unhoused or at  
8 risk of becoming unhoused, and can provide a comprehensive roadmap to reducing and mitigating  
9 homelessness; and since counties run or administer most health and human services programs on  
10 behalf of the state and federal government including mental health and substance use disorder  
11 services, counties must lead in the development and implementation of that plan with input from  
12 many other agencies, organizations, cities, and members of the public,

13 **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the California Democratic Party supports every effort to  
14 reduce homelessness in California and applauds the work of a growing coalition of local government,  
15 public safety, social justice, health, labor, housing, community, and other organizations throughout  
16 the state which acknowledges that homelessness is indeed a crisis that must be elevated to be an  
17 important shared California priority deserving of a comprehensive plan for resolution and supports  
18 the implementation of such a plan to significantly reduce homelessness in California.

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19 **Resolution 23-05.062**

20 **Unionize California Resolution**

21 **WHEREAS** economic and social inequalities have risen in California, the United States, and across  
22 the World to levels undermining the quality of life of workers everywhere, perpetuating historical and  
23 current social disparities, and contributing to rising threats to democracy; and

24 **WHEREAS** unions are a countervailing force to economic and political elites, providing  
25 representation to workers, improving wages, benefits, and working conditions, combating social  
26 inequalities, and supporting the democratic form of government; and

27 **WHEREAS** the labor movement plays a necessary role in the creation of an economy that truly  
28 benefits all workers and for an equitable society,

29 **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the California Democratic Party supports the Unionize  
30 California program launched by the California Labor Federation (AFL-CIO) and its efforts to connect  
31 with and unionize workers across all sectors.

California Democratic Party  
May 2023 Statewide ReOrg Convention  
Legislation Committee

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May 27, 2023

The California Democratic Party's Legislation Committee report:

The Legislation Committee convened at 4:00PM on Saturday, May 27th. The committee does not normally convene at convention but met solely to discuss procedures, hear subcommittee reports and receive public comment. No new legislation was considered for endorsement recommendation at this convention. New legislation will be considered at the summer 2023 Executive Board meeting.

The Chairs reviewed the process the committee took over the past year to update the rules on committee procedures. Each of the co-Chairs gave reports on their various subcommittees authorized under the new procedures. The subcommittees were Communications, Legislation Submission, Meeting Day Logistics and Post-Endorsement Advocacy. The subcommittee goals were to promote inclusion, diversity and representation as well as advocate for the California Democratic Party's legislative priorities.

The Chairs also previewed the process for submitting legislation to be considered at the summer 2023 Executive Board. The committee ended with public comment and a group picture. It has been the pleasure of this committee to help further the California Democratic Party's legislation advocacy efforts. Thank you!

In Solidarity,

Co-Chairs Margie Granado, A.J. Thomas, Cory Allen, Sascha Bittner, Georgette Bradford, Heidi Martinez, Guy Strahl, and Amy Wiwuga