

JEWISH DEMOCRATIC CLUB OF SILICON VALLEY -- BYLAWS

Adopted on 1 May 2023

I. Name

A. The name of the organization shall be the Jewish Democratic Club of Silicon Valley (JDCSV).

II. Purpose

The purpose of this organization shall be:

A. To foster Democratic ideals by stimulating active interest in the Democratic Party, to support the party platform, contribute to party leadership, to provide a constructive role for volunteers in Democratic politics, and to promote an activist base.

B. To advocate for the values of the Jewish community (including Tikkun Olam, i.e., Repairing the World, social equality, justice, and the defense of a democratic, inclusive, secure Israel) within the Democratic Party and its constituent parts.

C. To advocate for the election and support of the Democratic Party and Democratic candidates to the Jewish and Pro-Israel community. JDCSV supports a two-state solution that allows Palestinian citizens to exercise self-determination within their borders and Israeli citizens to exercise self-determination within their borders.

D. All activities of the JDCSV shall be in conformance with State law and the basic principles of the Democratic Party.

III. Membership

Section 1 – Eligibility

Any person shall be eligible for membership in the JDCSV who:

A. Resides in Santa Clara, San Mateo, or Santa Cruz County, or is an elected official whose district includes territory in one or more of the above three counties.

B. If eligible to vote, is a registered Democrat or has expressed intent to register as a Democrat, or

C. If unable to register to vote and is over the age of 16, has expressed an affiliation with the Democratic Party.

- D. Has submitted a completed Membership Application.
- E. General membership shall be predicated on the payment of dues and voting privileges will be extended to members in accordance with parameters as outlined in Section 4 and 5.

Section 2 – Honorary Members

JDCSV may, upon approval of the Executive Board, bestow additional classes of membership to any Democrat who meets the donor criteria set forth by the Executive Board, except that no class shall have voting rights greater than any Individual Member.

Section 3 – Good Standing

A member in good standing is any registered Democrat who:

- A. Meets the Article III Membership, Section 1 Eligibility requirements.
- B. Subscribes to the purpose and mission of the JDCSV.
- C. Whose membership dues are current or have been waived.

Section 4 – Dues

Dues in an amount set by the Executive Board shall be due and payable upon joining the JDCSV, and annually at the anniversary of that initial date of joining the JDCSV. Dues are non-refundable, in whole or in part, unless required by law. Payment of dues shall not be obligatory to anyone for whom it constitutes an economic hardship after due consideration and approval by the Officers, JDCSV may allocate part of membership dues to any California Democratic Party Chartered organization or Council of Clubs in which it affiliates without additional approvals from the Membership.

Section 5 – Voting

Except for the initial organizing meeting and the next 2 general meetings, a member in good standing who has attended at least at least two (2) prior meetings/events within the last year or been a member for at least 90 days shall be eligible to vote.

The JDCSV Executive Board may utilize membership records, credentials reports and testimony to assist in determining the eligibility to vote for Members in Good Standing. No proxy voting shall be permitted. Each eligible member may vote in person, by mail, or by email according to procedures established by the Executive Board.

IV. Executive Board

JDCSV shall be governed by an Executive Board comprised of Officers and Directors, all of whom must be members of JDCSV in good standing.

Section 1 –Officers

Elected officers of the JDCSV shall be the President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer. All officers must be registered Democrats.

An elected officer may be removed from office by resolution of a two-thirds vote of the members at a General Meeting for such causes as missing three unexcused consecutive meetings or non-performance of duties, providing the membership and the officer have been notified ten days in advance of the meeting of the proposed action against the officer.

Section 2 – Directors

A. At Large Directors

There shall be up to eight (8) elected At Large directors, who shall be elected at the same time and manner as the Officers.

B. Appointed Directors

Appointed Directors shall begin their term upon appointment and expire at the end of the Officers' term of office.

The following directors shall be appointed by a majority vote of the Officers and At Large Directors.

1. Honorary Chairperson

By a two-thirds vote, the Executive Board may appoint a voting Honorary Chairperson to the Executive Board.

2. Parliamentarian

Shall have the responsibility of maintaining and interpreting these bylaws and the application of Robert's Rules of Order upon the General Membership and Executive Board meetings.

3. Communications Director

Shall be responsible for correspondence, newsletters, press releases and web sites of and by JDCSV.

4. Membership Director

Shall work with the Secretary and Membership Outreach Director to maintain and organize Membership rolls for JDCSV and manage data for General meetings.

5. Membership Outreach Director

Will work with Membership Director to enhance and expand membership in all counties associated with JDCSV. Will assist with renewals of current members.

6. Events Director

Shall work with the President and other Officers to coordinate all events.

7. Fundraising Director

Shall be responsible for organizing fundraising.

8. Jewish and Democratic Education Outreach director

Will create information and programming related to Jewish and Democratic education to our Club and our Communities in our Counties.

Section 3 – Duties

A. President

The President shall be the Chief Executive Officer of the JDCSV. He/she shall preside over all general meetings of the JDCSV and the Executive Board, make appointments to other positions as required, and act as official spokesperson of the JDCSV. In addition, the President should stimulate active interest in the political process, provide a constructive role for active volunteers, contribute to effective leadership and individual responsibility, and promote harmony among the JDCSV membership, other clubs, and within the Santa Clara County, San Mateo County and Santa Cruz County Democratic Parties.

B. Vice-President

The Vice President shall serve at the direction of the President. He/she shall preside at meetings if the President is unable to do so or if requested by the President to do so. The Vice-President shall take over the duties of President in the absence of that officer and is responsible for the annual audit.

C. Secretary

The Secretary shall keep a correct and accurate record, i.e. take minutes, of attendance and proceedings of all Executive Board meetings, circulate draft minutes to the JDCSV Board members in a timely fashion, take minutes of any formal business conducted at general membership meetings such as motions made or resolutions passed, record votes, ensure that the approved minutes and documents of these meetings are available for member access on the JDCSV website, conduct correspondence, maintain the JDCSV's records, and be responsible for internal correspondence.

D. Treasurer

The Treasurer shall be responsible for the collection of dues, receive and deposit all JDCSV funds received, maintain an accurate record of JDCSV receipts and expenditures, sign all checks as authorized by the Executive Board, make the record of JDCSV receipts and expenditures available to any member when

requested, provide a report of the JDCSV financial status at JDCSV meetings as requested, provide an annual written report of JDCSV financial status, and make the books and all other financial records of the JDCSV available to the audit committee. In addition, the Treasurer shall be responsible for filing FPPC/FEC financial reports as required. The Treasurer may be appointed or delegated to a professional treasurer by a majority vote of the Executive Board and in doing so, shall not be an elected member.

Section 4 – Elections

Except for the initial election of Officers and At Large Directors, each Officer and At Large Director shall be elected at the general meeting held in January 2023 and every other January thereafter i.e., every two (2) years. The term of office is until the next election.

A nominating committee shall be appointed by the President and approved by the Executive Board of 2 to 4 volunteers from the membership. The nominating committee shall select at least one candidate for each elective office and report their selections one month prior to the election meeting. At the election meeting, the floor will be open for additional nominations. Starting 1 year after the initial approval of the bylaws by the membership, any candidate for the position of President must have been a member in good standing for at least the past 1 year.

Any of the voting methods listed in Article III. Membership, Section 5 – Voting, are valid for any election. For in person or online video conference meetings, the election may be held by show of hands or voice vote for uncontested offices. A secret ballot will be used for any contested offices. Those nominees who receive a majority vote shall be declared elected. If no person receives a majority of votes cast, a run-off shall be held between those two persons receiving the greatest number of votes. The person receiving the majority of the votes shall be declared elected.

Section 5 – Vacancies

Should any officer resign or fail to attend three general meetings or Executive Board meetings in a row without a cause that is approved by the Executive Board, the Executive Board shall declare that office vacant. This board vacancy shall be filled by a nomination of the President and confirmed by a majority vote of the Executive Board within 45 days of the position being declared vacant. This successor will hold this office and complete the unexpired term. Director positions, both elected and appointed, may remain vacant until the next general election or appointed as delineated above.

Section 6 – Organizing Meeting

Upon the adoption of these bylaws, JDCSV may elect initial Officers and At Large Directors as set forth in Article IV, Section 4.

V. Meetings

Section 1 – General Meetings

There shall be a minimum of four quarterly General meetings each year. Video conferencing may be an acceptable form of conducting General meetings. Other General meetings shall be held at such times and places as specified by a majority of the Executive Board. Each General meeting requires a quorum.

Section 2 – Quorum

A quorum at any general meeting shall be the number of members of the Executive Board plus ten percent (10%) of those whose membership is in good standing. A quorum at a candidate endorsing, electing, or bylaws amending meeting shall be the number of officers plus fifteen percent (15%) of those whose membership is in good standing. A member in good standing, who votes by any voting method recognized in Article III. Membership, Section 5 – Voting, shall be counted toward a quorum.

Section 3 – Notices

At least two (2) weeks prior to a general meeting at which the following items will be discussed and voted upon, meeting notices shall be emailed to each member of the JDCSV in good standing:

- JDCSV elections and filling of vacancies
- Proposed amendments to bylaws
- Proposed resolutions
- Endorsements of candidates and/or ballot measures

All prospective Democratic candidates must be invited to endorsement meetings for their race at least five business days prior to the meeting.

Such notice shall specify the time, place and date of the general meeting and describe the event.

VI. Executive Board Operations

Section 1 – Function

The Executive Board shall approve all expenditures and carry out the JDCSV business between general meetings in a manner consistent with actions taken at the general meetings, and perform any other duties provided for in these bylaws. The President, or their delegate, shall pre-approve any written correspondence on behalf of the JDCSV. The President, or their delegate, shall be the sole spokesperson of the JDCSV.

Section 2 – Meetings

The JDCSV Executive Board shall meet no less often than quarterly at a time and place designated by the President upon 10 days email or written notice. Video and phone

conferencing may be an acceptable form of conducting Executive Board meetings. The President shall call a meeting, with advance notice, of the Executive Board as needed. Special meetings may be called by a majority of the current members of the Executive Board at any time. A majority of the then current members of the Executive Board shall constitute a quorum.

VII. Standing Committees

The standing committees for the JDCSV shall include both Audit and Nominating committees. Other committees may include Political Action, Membership, Fund Raising, Program, Special Events, Communications, Hospitality and others as identified by the President and ratified by the Executive Board.

VIII. Candidate Endorsements

- A. Only candidates who are registered Democrats are eligible for JDCSV endorsement.
- B. All endorsements of candidates or resolutions concerning ballot measures or public issues must be in accordance with the standards established by the Santa Clara County, San Mateo County, Santa Cruz County, and the California State Democratic Parties.
- C. Any Statewide Proposition may be endorsed by JDCSV upon the 60% vote of either the Executive Board or the General Membership.
- D. JDCSV shall not endorse a candidate for office on the ballot in a primary, general or runoff election, unless a motion is passed either by the Executive Board by a 60% majority or a 60% majority of the membership. JDCSV may not, under any circumstance endorse a non-Democrat in any race, partisan or non-partisan.
- E. JDCSV may, in lieu of an endorsement of a single candidate, provide grades based on candidate questionnaires or interviews based on the following:
 1. Strong Support – Candidate exemplifies extraordinary leadership in interacting with the Jewish community – This may be considered an endorsement.
 2. Support – Candidate’s positions, values and history with the Jewish community are consistent with those of the California Democratic Party and JDCSV – This may be considered an endorsement.
 3. Neutral – Candidate’s position or lack of history with the Jewish community are not well defined.
 4. Oppose – Candidate’s positions, conduct and history of interaction with the Jewish community are antagonistic or in conflict with the values of the Jewish community and/or California Democratic Party.

IX. JDCSV Representatives

Section 1 – California Democratic Party (CDP)

In order to be eligible to participate in CDP pre-endorsing conferences, the JDCSV's President, Secretary, or Treasurer will ratify the roster of Democratic members in good standing by July 1 of each odd-numbered year identifying SCCDP Requirement that only Democrats be endorsed.

Section 2 – County Democratic Parties

Under the JDCSV's charter with any Democratic County committee, to the extent JDCSV may participate or vote in the proceedings of any county democratic committee, its President or a designate of the President shall be its representative. If the President is already a Democratic County committee member or chooses not to serve, a different representative may be selected to serve his or her term according to the provisions of Sections 3 and 4 of this Article.

Section 3 – Selection

JDCSV representatives to the California Democratic Party and any other official representatives, delegates, and alternates from the JDCSV to conferences, caucuses, councils, conventions, and other meetings – shall be selected by a vote of members in good standing at a duly noticed JDCSV General meeting or, if that cannot occur at a regular or special meeting, by designation of the President and ratified by the Executive Board. Representatives should be equally apportioned between men and women to the extent possible.

Section 4 – Adherence to JDCSV Positions

JDCSV representatives described in this Article, when participating in voting and discussion in that capacity, shall adhere to and represent the JDCSV's official positions on endorsements and other matters wherever applicable, and shall agree to do so prior to their selection.

Section 5 – Other County Representatives

The Executive Board will designate a county Voter Registration Liaison. The Executive Board will designate representatives of any other positions that it is authorized to do so by the County Democratic Party.

X. Amendments

These bylaws may be amended by a 60% vote at a general meeting (with a quorum being present) after such notice has been provided as specified in Article V, Section 3 of these bylaws.

XI. Decorum and Code of Conduct

Section 1

The JDCSV is committed to providing a welcoming, respectful, friendly, safe, supportive, and harassment-free environment for club members and all others associated with the Club and expects all such individuals to act professionally, respecting the personal rights and dignities of all so as to create a productive, inclusive environment. All individuals should feel welcome and safe within the Club regardless of their sex, gender, gender identity, gender expression, sexual orientation, pregnancy, race, color, ethnicity, national origin, ancestry, religion, creed, age, physical or mental disability, medical condition, genetic information, marital status, military or veteran status, body size, domestic violence victim status, or any other legally protected classifications.

Section 2

All members shall conduct themselves in a manner consistent with the bylaws and Code of Conduct of the California Democratic Party (as set forth herein), and the Santa Clara County, San Mateo County, and Santa Cruz County Democratic Party Codes of Conduct.

Section 3 – Adoption of the CDP Code of Conduct

The JDCSV hereby adopts the Code of Conduct of the CDP and incorporates the CDP Code, as it now exists or as it may hereafter be amended, as a part of these bylaws. A copy of the current CDP Code can be found at

<https://cadem.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/Code-of-Conduct-FINAL-1.pdf>

and is appended to these bylaws. If the CDP Code is hereafter amended by the CDP, the amended CDP Code shall be considered to:

- A. Have superseded the version appended hereto (is so appended),
- B. Be operative as if appended hereto, and at the earliest possible convenience, the current CDP Code shall be appended to these bylaws, without need for further action by this Caucus.

Section 4 –Violations

Any violation of the Code shall be considered a violation of these bylaws and shall subject the member to discipline thereunder, if applicable. Such discipline shall be in addition to any disciplinary actions by the CDP or any of its constituent parts.

Section 5 – Availability

Copies of the CDP Code shall be:

Made a part of the notices of any and all meetings of this club by inclusion of an appropriate link and made available to members attending any such meeting by the officer responsible for check in.

Section 6 – Filing

In addition to the process for the filing of any disciplinary charges under these bylaws, or

under the bylaws of the CDP, the parliamentarian of this club or, in their absence or when the conduct in issue involves the parliamentarian, any officer of this club is responsible for and charged with receiving and ensuring the prompt processing of any complaint of violation of the CDP Code. These two (2) tracks, for processing such a complaint, are not mutually exclusive and the failure to process a complaint under these bylaws shall not constitute a failure to exhaust administrative remedies barring initiation of any process under the auspices of the CDP Conduct Commission.

Section 7

Notwithstanding the imposition of any remedy concerning an alleged violation of any code of conduct, as set forth herein, any member whose actions are deemed to be prejudicial or detrimental to the JDCSV by the Executive Board may be expelled from membership by a two-thirds vote at any general meeting at which a quorum exists.

XII. Adoption

These bylaws shall become effective immediately upon their adoption and shall be the governing rules of the JDCSV.