

JEWISH DEMOCRATIC CLUB OF SILICON VALLEY -- BYLAWS

Adopted at General Meeting 14 July 2021

I. Name

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 (Repairing the World), social equality, justice, and the defense of a democratic, inclusive, secure Israel) within the Democratic Party and its constituent parts; and
- 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.

III. Membership

Section 1 - Eligibility

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

1. Resides in Santa Clara County or San Mateo County, and
2. If eligible to vote, is a registered Democrat or has expressed intent to register as a Democrat, or

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

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

Everyone eligible to be a member of the JDCSV and who has paid his or her annual dues, or has received a waiver of such, shall be a member in good standing.

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 three prior meetings 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 two elected at large directors, one who is a self-identified female and the other who is not a self-identified female, which 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. Event Director

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

2. Political Director

Shall work with the Officers and At-Large Directors to coordinate political activities in support of Democratic candidates and the JDCSV agenda.

3. Communications Director

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

4. Finance Chair

Shall be responsible for organizing fundraising.

5. Membership Director

Shall work with Secretary to maintain and organize Membership roll for JDCSV and manage credentials for General meetings.

6. 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.

7. Honorary Chairperson

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

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, between other clubs and within the Santa Clara County and San Mateo County Democratic Party.

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 the minutes of the general meetings, Executive Board meetings, conduct correspondence, maintain the JDCSV's records, and is responsible for internal communications.

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. 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.

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.

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. 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 twenty percent (20%) of those whose membership is in good standing.

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 California State Democratic Party and the Santa Clara County Democratic Party.
- 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:

- a. Strong Support – Candidate exemplifies extraordinary leadership in interacting with the Jewish community – This may be considered an endorsement.
- b. 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.
- c. Neutral – Candidate’s position or lack of history with the Jewish community are not well defined.
- d. 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 the 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 2 successive monthly general meetings (with a quorum being present at both) after such notice has been provided as specified in Article V, Section 3 of these bylaws, except that Articles II and this Article cannot be amended without at least a 70% vote of the Membership and Executive Board at 2 successive monthly General meetings, a quorum being present at each.

XI. Decorum and Conduct

- a. All members shall conduct themselves in a manner consistent with the bylaws and Code of Conduct of the California Democratic Party, and the Santa Clara County and the San Mateo County Democratic Party Codes of Conduct.
- b. Any member whose actions are judged 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.

Secretary: _____ Date: _____

President: _____ Date: _____