

## **BY-LAWS OF THE DESERT STONEWALL DEMOCRATS**

**Section 1. NAME:** The name of this organization shall be the DESERT STONEWALL DEMOCRATS. The fiscal year of the DSD shall be from January 1 to December 31 each year.

**Section 2. MISSION STATEMENT:** The Desert Stonewall Democrats (DSD) organization is devoted to advancing equal rights for all people, regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity. DSD supports the Democratic Party and Democratic candidates who support our mission. DSD draws its strength from a nationwide network of individuals and clubs composed of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) Democrats who are working to realize the following goals:

- To educate the LGBT community and people who are supportive of it about the vast differences that exist between the two major parties on the issues of concern to our community;
- To lead our party to improve its record on issues of importance to our community, and to work for the nomination of Democratic candidates from the local to national level, including qualified openly LGBT candidates who will be fully supportive of our fight for equality;
- To encourage our community to support and vote for Democratic candidates who are committed to defeating homophobia and prejudice; and
- To work with local LGBT Democratic clubs and individuals to encourage and foster activism to achieve these goals.

**Section 3. PRINCIPAL OFFICE AND AGENT FOR SERVICE OF PROCESS:** The principal office of DSD shall be in the State of California, County of Riverside, Democratic Party Headquarters, 67555 E Palm Canyon Dr, Cathedral City, CA 92234. The Agent for Service of Process is the DSD Chair located 67555 E Palm Canyon Dr, Cathedral City, CA 92234. The Steering Committee (hereinafter described) may change the location of the Principal Office and such change shall be recorded as an amendment to these Bylaws.

### **Section 4. MEMBERSHIP:**

4.01 Any registered Democrat subscribing to the purposes of the DSD, as described in the Mission Statement and complying with the provisions of these bylaws, and who is current in the payment of dues, may become a member (“Member”).

4.02 All members of the DSD shall be entitled to participate in decisions and activities provided that they have been a member for at least sixty days.

4.03 Individuals who are not registered Democrats in the State of California may become associates of the DSD. Associates are not eligible to vote, hold a position with, or represent the DSD.

4.04 Any member whose actions are judged by the majority of the Steering Committee to be prejudicial or detrimental to the chapter may be expelled from the DSD, upon recommendation of the Steering Committee, by a two-thirds vote of those members present and voting at a called meeting of DSD.

4.05 In order to be a “Member in Good Standing” each member shall pay annual dues as set forth by the Steering Committee. Dues shall be renewed on the anniversary of the date the Member joined DSD. Dues may be waived for any individual Democrat for financial or other reason with a majority vote of the Steering Committee.

4.06 For the purpose of election of Representatives to the California Democratic Party Pre-Endorsing Conferences, a member shall be considered in good standing if they are a registered Democrat in the State of California, their dues are current or waived and they meet other requirements for voting enumerated in these bylaws. Only members in good standing as of July 1 will be included in the roster of members submitted to the California Democratic Party for purposes of participation in the endorsement process. The members of DSD are dedicated to the principles of the Democratic Party.

#### **Section 5. OFFICERS & DIRECTORS:**

5.01 The following officers shall be elected by the DSD membership: Chair, Vice-chair, Secretary and Treasurer (“Officer” or collectively “Officers”). Elected officers shall take office in January and hold office for two years or until his or her successor is elected. The two-year terms for officers are staggered with Chair and Vice-Chair being elected on even years and Secretary and Treasurer on odd years. In order to be considered for candidacy as an “Officer,” a Member shall be in good standing and have been a Member for at least one-year.

5.02 Chair: The Chair shall set the agenda for and preside over all meetings of the Steering Committee and of the membership; appoint directors of the standing committees; appoint such other committees as may be deemed necessary; serve as the official representative of the DSD in public forums; make decisions for the DSD on policy when specifically empowered to do so by the Steering Committee; advise the membership of pertinent matters affecting the welfare of the Democratic Party and the DSD; disburse funds of the DSD within limits set by the Steering Committee; and act as Treasurer in the absence or inability of the Treasurer.

5.03 Vice-Chair: The Vice-Chair acts in the place and stead of the Chair in the event of the absence, inability, or refusal of the Chair to act, and shall discharge such other duties as may be prescribed by the Steering Committee or by these bylaws.

5.04 Secretary: The Secretary shall handle all correspondence between the DSD and other organizations with the approval of the Chair; serve notice of the meeting of the Steering Committee and of the members; keep appropriate records showing the members of record of the DSD; shall certify elections; shall have custody of the seal. The Secretary shall record any votes of the Steering Committee or members; keep the minutes of all meetings and proceedings of the Steering Committee and of the members; receive and maintain in official club records the reports of elected officers, directors of standing committees and chairs of recognized caucuses; maintain a compendium of standing rules, resolutions and policies adopted by the Steering Committee of the membership; and perform such other duties as may be required under the bylaws and the Steering Committee.

5.05 Treasurer: The Treasurer shall maintain the financial records of the DSD; receive and disburse funds of the DSD; prepare and submit reports in compliance with State and Federal requirements for PACs; prepare an annual budget of anticipated revenues and expenses; provide addenda to the budget as required; report the financial status of the DSD to the Steering Committee and the membership on a regular basis; make an annual report to the membership; and provide all information necessary for periodic audits as may be directed by the Steering Committee.

5.06 Restrictions on Expenditures and Obligations: No officer or member of DSD shall make any expenditure of DSD funds, except pre-authorized incidental sums or budgeted authorizations, without the approval of the Steering Committee or the membership.

5.07 Vacancies: Vacancy in an office shall occur upon the death; resignation; changing his or her party registration to some party other than the Democratic Party; unexcused absence from three (3) or more regularly scheduled Steering Committee meetings resulting in removal from office (Section 6.05); or removal for cause.

5.08 Removal for Cause: Any officer may be removed from office for failure to abide by these bylaws; and by repeated utterances or activity that brings discredit and disgrace to this organization; or who without authority, claimed this organization endorsed some candidate or cause. The Chair or an officer may at a regular meeting of the Steering Committee, move the Committee to cite an officer or member engaging in activities justifying removal for cause to show cause why such officer or member should not be removed from office and/or membership. The person cited shall be given written notice to be heard before the Steering Committee in not less than ten, nor more than fifteen days from the date such notice is given. At such a hearing, the Steering Committee may dismiss the charges; sanction the member with recommendations of probation; or revoke his or her membership. The hearing shall be closed except as to members of the Steering Committee, unless the person cited requests an open hearing.

**Section 6. STEERING COMMITTEE:**

6.01 The Steering Committee is responsible for the administration of the affairs of the DSD between the meeting of the membership and, further, shall recommend policies, actions and procedures to the general membership for consideration, adoption and implementation.

6.02 Members of the Steering Committee shall be the officers of DSD and the Directors at Large, as duly elected by the membership. The Directors at Large shall be determined by the Steering Committee and shall not exceed eleven in total.

6.03 Legal Counsel. The Steering Committee may, from time to time, employ a legal counsel to advise the DSD on legal matters.

6.04 Standing Committees: The Chair, at his or her discretion, may appoint a Director at Large to chair each Standing Committee. The Chair may also appoint other members to sit as ex Officio members of each Committee. The following Standing Committees are hereby authorized but may be added to or deleted by the Steering Committee:

(1) Political action; (2) Membership & Outreach; (3) Financial, chaired by the Treasurer; (4) Communications; (5) Major Events & Fundraising; and (6) Program.

6.05 Committee Members' Responsibilities: Members of the Steering Committee and Standing Committees are expected to attend **all** scheduled committee meetings. Three (3) or more unexcused absences in a 12-month period shall be cause for removal from all committees.

**Section 7. MEETINGS:**

7.01 Regular meetings of the DSD shall be at such times and places as set by the Steering Committee. The usual time and place for the regular meetings is the third Tuesday of each month at 6:00 p.m. at the Mizell Senior Center in Palm Springs, California. Meetings may also be conducted using on-line methods (e.g., Zoom) either exclusively or in addition to the in-person meeting ("a hybrid"). The time and location of the regular meeting can be changed by a majority vote of the Steering Committee. Notice of all meetings shall be given to members in a timely fashion and may be done by mail, telephone or by electronic emails (see section 7.03). Meetings shall be conducted in general in conformance with Robert's Rules of Order.

7.02 Special meetings may be called by the Chair, by two-thirds of the Steering Committee, or by a majority of the members of record.

7.03 Notice.

- a. A “Notice” of regular meeting or other communications from DSD shall be sent by email to all members at least seven (7) days prior to the meeting date. When Notice is sent regarding a meeting or other event, notice of the date, time and place shall also be posted electronically (e.g., on the DSD website and/or social media page(s)).
- b. Members who wish to receive notices and communications from DSD by a means other than email shall notify the DSD Chair and shall, in that notification provide directions as to how the member wishes to receive such notices and communications.

7.04 Quorums: A quorum for the monthly membership meeting shall be ten percent (10%) of the members in good standing at the time of the meeting. The Chair shall be responsible to ensure that a quorum has been reached and maintained in order to conduct business.

- a. A quorum for the Steering Committee meetings shall be a majority of the Committee members. At either Steering Committee or membership meetings, the Chair shall preside or, if not present, the Vice Chair or, if not present, the Secretary or, if not present, the Treasurer, in order of priority.

7.05 The agenda of each meeting and minutes of the previous meeting shall be passed out at the time of the meeting. However, for political endorsements by the DSD, such recommendations shall be distributed to members not fewer than ten days before the general meeting of DSD.

## **Section 8. NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS:**

8.01 Officers of the DSD shall be elected at a membership meeting to be scheduled during the month of January each year and shall assume office at that time.

8.02 Officers may be nominated in one or two ways, by the Nominating Committee or from the floor immediately prior to the voting for each office; however, anyone making a nomination from the floor must first obtain the consent of the person being nominated. The Nominating Committee shall consist of the members of the Steering Committee and such persons as the Chair shall appoint and shall report its slate of recommended officers to the meeting that precedes the election meeting. Members shall be given at least one week’s notice of both meetings. A goal of the Nominating Committee shall be to reach diversity if reasonably possible.

8.03 The officers are to be elected individually. To be elected, a nominee must receive a majority of the votes cast for that office. If no nominee receives a majority of the votes on the first ballot, a runoff shall be held between the two nominees receiving the greatest number of votes. If there is only one nominee for an office, the ballot shall include a choice of no election for that office that shall be included in tabulating the votes cast.

8.04 Nominees for election as officers must have been dues-paid members for one (1) year; nominees for appointment to the Steering Committee must have been dues-paid members for at least 180 days prior to taking office.

8.05 If a position is not filled in the annual election of officers or there is a vacancy because of resignation or removal, except for the position of Chair, a special election shall be held to fill the position according to the procedures for nominating and electing officers in the annual election. An officer elected in a special election shall take office immediately. When there is a vacancy in the office of Chair, the position shall be filled by the Vice Chair and a special election shall be held to elect a new Vice Chair.

8.06 To be eligible to vote in an election, members must have been in good standing for at least sixty (60) days prior to the election. For the election of DSD officers only, absentee ballots shall be accepted from members who are eligible to vote but unable to attend the meeting at which the election is held and shall be counted toward establishing a quorum. Policies and procedures for absentee balloting shall be prescribed by the Steering Committee.

8.07 A Representative to the California Democratic Party Pre-Endorsing Conference may be nominated in one or two ways, by the Nominating Committee or from the floor immediately prior to the voting; however, anyone making a nomination from the floor must first obtain the consent of the person being nominated. The Nominating Committee shall consist of the members of the Steering Committee and such persons as the Chair shall appoint and shall report its slate of recommended Representatives to the meeting that precedes the election meeting. Members shall be given at least one week's notice of both meetings. A goal of the Nominating Committee shall be to reach diversity if reasonably possible. To be eligible to be nominated, a member must be on the roster submitted the prior July 1. To be elected as a Representative, a nominee must receive a majority of the votes cast. Rights of inspection do not include the membership records of the DSD.

**Section 9. RECORDS:** The Secretary shall keep at its principal office the original or a correct copy of the Articles of Incorporation and of these bylaws, as may be amended, that shall be open to inspection by members during normal office hours and make them available for copying, e.g. from the DSD website. All other records of the DSD, such as minutes and accounting records, shall be kept at the principal office or at such other place as directed by the Steering Committee. Rights of inspection do not include the membership records of the DSD.

**Section 10. AMENDMENTS:** These bylaws may be amended by a two-thirds vote at any regular membership meeting, providing that the proposed amendment has been submitted to the membership in writing at least ten (10) calendar days and no more than thirty (30) calendar days

before the meeting. Communication of proposed changes by email shall constitute “Notice” as required by this section. The posting of proposed changes on the website or other social media does not constitute “notice” as required by this section. Members with email access will be served by mailing those members copies of the proposed changes.

**Section 11. RULES OF ENDORSEMENT:** DSD may, pursuant to this section, adopt Standing Rules of Endorsement that will govern the endorsement of candidates. In non-partisan races, these endorsements become recommendations to the Riverside County Democratic Party’s endorsement process.

11.01 Members shall receive no less than seven (7) days prior notice to hold an “Endorsement Meeting.”

11.02 Only members who have been in good standing for at least sixty (60) days prior to the Endorsement Meeting shall be permitted to vote.

a) Lapsed members, defined as a member whose membership has expired within 180 days of the Endorsement Meeting shall be allowed to vote provided that the member pays dues prior to the endorsement vote.

b) Proxy voting and absentee voting is not permitted. Candidates, DSD Officers and Steering Committee members are eligible to vote, provided that they are in good standing.

11.03 Number of Votes Required. An affirmative vote of at least sixty (60%) percent of the members present and eligible to vote shall be required to make an endorsement. The vote required is measured by all those eligible members “present,” not just those “present and voting.” If a candidate was endorsed in the Primary, that endorsement shall remain in effect for the General/run-off Election, unless rescinded.

11.04 DSD shall not rate non-Democrats in any race. Furthermore, any endorsement of a candidate that is not an endorsement of the CDP or the RCDP must specifically state that it is solely the endorsement of the DSD.

**Section 12. CONFLICTS:** Should any provision of these bylaws be contrary to the bylaws of the California Democratic Party, the Riverside County Democratic Party, DSD will yield. If there is a conflict between the rules and regulations between the California Democratic Party and the Riverside County Democratic Party, the California Democratic Party will be followed.

ADOPTED by vote of the Membership of the Desert Stonewall Democrats, this the 20<sup>th</sup> day of June 2023.

In Witness Whereof, I, David Weiner, Chair of the Stonewall Democrats have caused the seal of this organization to be affixed hereto on 6/23/23, 2023.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D Weiner', written over a horizontal line.

David Weiner

Chair, Desert Stonewall Democrats