

## BY-LAWS

### SAN RAMON VALLEY DEMOCRATIC CLUB

- Article 1      Name, purposes and affiliation
- Section 1.1      Name: The name of the Club shall be the San Ramon Valley Democratic Club.
- Section 1.2      Nature of the Club: The Club is organized as a not-for-profit political organization and is to function as a local affiliate of the California Democratic Party, in accordance with applicable State and Federal laws.
- Section 1.3      Purpose of the Club: The Club is formed to carry out the following purposes of its members.
- a.      To support and elect Democratic candidates to State and Federal offices and to encourage new candidates who share our Democratic ideals.
  - b.      To foster continuing Democratic action in the San Ramon Valley community and to provide an enduring local structure affiliated with the California Democratic Party.
  - c.      To develop and encourage a grass-roots voice within the California Democratic Party and to foster continuing adherence to Democratic ideals within the Party.
  - d.      To work to secure the future of the Party and its ideals in the community.
  - e.      To promote accessibility to Party activities among all interested citizens and to encourage more Democrats to become active in political affairs.
  - f.      To have fun being Democrats.
- Section 1.4      Affiliation: The Club shall affiliate, and remain affiliated, to the Contra Costa County Democratic Central Committee. In order to secure such affiliation, members agree that:
- a.      Club members shall not endorse any person not a registered Democrat against a registered Democrat in any partisan election.
  - b.      The Club shall not authorize the publication of its Democratic Party affiliation in support of any candidate not a Democrat in any race. This provision will **not be enforced** with regard to races in which the State or County Democratic Central Committee has declared a Democratic candidate to be offensive to the principles of the Democratic Party.
- Article 2      Membership
- Section 2.1      Members: Membership in the Club shall be open to all registered Democrats and to all persons under the age of voting registration who shall declare their loyalty to the Democratic Party and their intent to affiliate with it in the future.
- a.      Membership will **not** be open to members of any organization found by the Club, by a majority of the members at a properly noticed General Meeting, or the County Central Committee, to be repugnant to the principles of the Democratic Party.

- b. Diversity shall be encouraged and the Club shall actively recruit members in an effort to have a diverse Club membership.

Section 2.2 Demographic focus: The focus of the Club shall be the organizing of Democratic action in the communities of Alamo, Blackhawk, Danville, Diablo, Walnut Creek and San Ramon and in the surrounding areas, as shall best serve the purposes of the Club. The Club shall carry out Democratic action in concert with other affiliated organizations of the Democratic Party and with other organizations as shall best serve the purposes of the Club.

Section 2.3 Dues: The Board of Directors shall have the authority to establish classes of membership, such as individual, family, senior, junior, handicapped, etc.

- a. Dues shall be set so as to provide the Club with funds for its activities but not set excessively so as to discourage membership.
- b. Dues shall be billed to members in January of each year.

### Article 3 Officers

Section 3.1 The officers shall be:

- a. President
- b. Vice President
- c. Immediate Past President
- d. Secretary
- e. Treasurer

Section 3.2 The duties of the officers shall be:

- a. The President shall act as the Chief Executive and conduct the meetings of the members and of the Board of Directors.
- b. The Vice President shall act as Program Chair and shall act in the absence of the President.
- c. The Immediate Past President shall act as the Parliamentarian and shall act in the absence of both the President and Vice President.
- d. The Secretary shall record the minutes of all Board of Director meetings. In the absence of the Secretary, the President shall appoint an Acting Secretary.
- e. The Treasurer shall keep an accurate record of all receipts and expenditures.

### Article 4 Board of Directors

Section 4.1 Members of the Board of Directors shall be:

- a. Officers
- b. Chairpersons of such permanent committees as the Board of Directors shall establish.
- c. Editor of the newsletter.

Article 5	Elections	
	Section 5.1	The Nominating Committee shall be appointed by the President in February of each year. The appointments must be approved by the Board of Directors.
	Section 5.2	The nominees for officers shall be submitted to the membership in April of each year. Nominations may also be made from the floor by any member in good standing.
	Section 5.3	Election of officers shall take place at the General Meeting in May of each year.
	Section 5.4	Election of officers shall be conducted by a show of hands by the general membership at the May meeting.
Article 6	Meetings	
	Section 6.1	General meetings shall be held as designated by the Board of Directors.
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. General meetings shall be scheduled, when practical, at least six months in advance.</li> <li>b. There shall be at least four General Meetings a year.</li> </ul>
	Section 6.2	Board of Director Meetings. The Board of Director Meetings shall be held within two weeks following the General Meetings.
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Extra meetings may be called by the President, or in his or her absence, by the Vice President, or if both are unavailable, by the Immediate Past President.</li> <li>b. Five (5) members of the Board of Directors shall constitute a quorum.</li> <li>c. A summary of such a meeting shall be presented at the next General Meeting by the President or an attending member of the Board of Directors.</li> </ul>
	Section 6.3	Procedure of Meetings. All meetings shall be conducted in accordance with Robert's Rules of Order, 8th Edition, or later.
Article 7	Endorsements	
	Section 7.1	Office Endorsement. Subject to the requirements of the By-Laws of the Democratic Party of the State of California and the Laws of the State of California, the Club may make candidate endorsements for any local, State or Federal election. To receive endorsement by the club a candidate for State or Federal office must be a registered Democrat and be nominated for endorsement by at least three (3) members in good standing.
	Section 7.2	Procedure for endorsement. A candidate for any of the above offices may be endorsed by a majority vote of the members at a properly noticed General Meeting.
Article 8	Removal of officers, directors, and members	
	Section 8.1	An officer or a director of the Club may be removed from office for such cause as:

- a. Misconduct in exercising his or her duties; neglect of duty in office; affiliating with or registering to vote as a member of another political party, or publicly avowing preference for another political party; publicly advocating that voters should not vote for nominees of the Democratic Party, or publicly avowing a preference for a candidate who is opposed to the nominee of the Democratic Party; or affiliating with an organization that is repugnant to the principles of the Democratic Party.

Section 8.2 Process of removal of an officer or a director:

- a. A petition for removal shall be in writing, be signed by least five (5) club members in good standing, shall state the grounds for the proposed removal and be delivered to either the President or the Secretary at least three (3) weeks prior the next General Meeting.
- b. Upon receipt of such petition, the members of the Club and the accused person shall be informed, and the petition shall be placed on the agenda for the next General Meeting.
- c. At said General Meeting, the accused person shall be afforded an opportunity to respond to the charges.
- d. Removal shall require a two-thirds vote of the members present, by secret ballot, and, if approved, to be followed immediately by the election of an Acting Officer to complete the term of the removed officer.

Section 8.3 A member of the Club may be removed for such cause as:

- a. Failing to meet the requirements for membership as set forth above.

Section 8.4 Process of removal of a member:

- a. A petition for removal shall be in writing, be signed by at least three (3) members in good standing and shall state the grounds for the proposed removal.
- b. The procedure shall then be that as set forth for removal of an officer or a director.

Article 9 Amendments

Section 9.1 The By-Laws may be amended by the members at any General Meeting, provided that:

- a. Such an amendment is placed on the agenda at least thirty (30) days prior to such meeting, to allow for notice to all members in good standing. A proposal for an amendment shall be in writing, be signed by at least three (3) members in good standing and shall require a two-thirds vote by the members in attendance at said meeting.
- b. An approved amendment shall take effect in thirty (30) days.

Article 10 Supersedure

Section 10.1 Upon adoption by a majority vote of the members in good standing, the By-Laws set forth herein shall supersede any prior by-laws of predecessor clubs; that is, the San Ramon Valley Democratic Club.