

# **By-Laws of the Feel the Bern Democratic Club, Orange County**

In order to fulfill our responsibilities inherent in a democratic society, to stimulate active participation at all levels of government, and to perpetuate the progressive ideals of the Democratic Party, we do hereby associate ourselves together to establish the FEEL THE BERN DEMOCRATIC CLUB, ORANGE COUNTY

## **ARTICLE I- Mission**

By all of our endeavors, we shall seek to grow the community involvement in the Democratic Party by driving the values inherent to a party of the people. We will inspire and foster leadership among progressives in Orange County based on the values championed by Senator Bernie Sanders:

- People before profits
- Money out of politics
- Fight for income equality
- Racial and social equality
- Environmental justice
- Healthcare and Education as a human right

## **ARTICLE II- Membership**

Section 1- All members of the Feel the Bern Democratic Club, Orange County shall be registered Democrats except that a person who indicates an intention to register as a Democrat, upon becoming eligible to register, may be a member. Members must commit to uphold the clubs Mission Statement. The minimum age for membership shall be 14 years.

Section 2- A “member in good standing” is one who has affirmatively applied for membership and has paid dues for the current year or had them waived due to economic hardship. A grace period of 60 days following expiration of membership shall be granted, during which a person may exercise all privileges of membership, provided dues are paid or been waived before exercising the right to vote.

Section 3- Annual dues shall be proposed by the Executive Board of the Club and adopted by the membership at a duly-noticed regular or special meeting on an annual basis. Membership shall be for the calendar year. Membership with voting privileges becomes effective 60 days after club enrollment or 60 days after having dues waived at a club meeting. Payment of dues shall not be obligatory to anyone for whom it constitutes an economic hardship, and after due consideration with approval of the Executive Board.

Section 4 – Members become active upon completing registration for the club. They become voting members after the 60-day grace period as mentioned in Article II Section 3.

Section 5- A member may be removed from the club roster for non-payment of dues by the date required in these Bylaws.

Section 6 – The Club shall maintain a membership roster with the names and signatures of all current Club members. The names and signatures may be maintained on one or several sheets. The Membership roster shall not be shared with entities outside of this Club unless otherwise required by the chartering organizations.

### **ARTICLE III - Meetings**

Section 1- The Chair and the Executive Board shall schedule at least six regular meetings per year.

Section 2- Notice of regular and special meetings shall be sent at least 10 days in advance to:

- a) all members of the club
- b) the Chair of the Orange County Democratic Party (OCDP)
- c) all members of the OCDP Assembly District delegation in which a majority of the club's members reside
- d) the Co-Chairs of the OCDP Organizational Development & Chartering Committee

Notice of the meeting shall be deemed sufficient if such notice includes the date, time and place of the meeting and is calculated to be received at least 10 days prior to the meeting. Written notice of the meeting shall be made via social media (ie. Facebook), email, and newsletter (if a newsletter is created).

Section 3- The Chair or E-Board may call a special meeting should need arise. Notice of special meetings must include the limited purpose for which the meeting is being called, and no other business may be discussed or voted on at that meeting.

Section 4- A quorum shall exist at any regular or special meeting of this club for which written notice has been sent to all qualified members at least 10 days in for regular meeting, 48 hours for a special meeting, in advance of the meeting. A quorum for any official meeting of the Club shall be 25 percent of the total organizational membership, or ten members, whichever is smaller, as reported by the Vice Chair.

Section 5 - A quorum of any meeting of the Executive Board shall be a majority of the members of the Executive Board.

Section 6- Proxies shall not be valid at any meeting of this club or its Executive Board.

Section 7 – All meetings are open to the public, but only voting members may vote during general meetings. (See Article II, Section 3.)

Section 8 - Unless otherwise specified in these Bylaws, the Club may adopt events and conduct regular business with a simple majority of the members present at any meeting. The Club may pass resolutions not related to endorsements with a vote of 60% of those present and voting at any meeting.

#### **ARTICLE IV- Elected Officers and Committees**

Section 1- The elected officers of this club shall be Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary, Treasurer. A Parliamentarian shall be appointed by the Chair.

Section 2 – Standing committee leadership: Fundraising Director, Membership Director, Communications/Media Outreach Director, Strategic Political Director, Legislative Analyst, Regional Committee Chair(s), or as directed by the Executive Board,

Section 3- Standing and Ad Hoc Committee procedures: A standing committee shall meet at the request of the Chair, the executive committee, the club members, the chair of the committee or a majority of the committee members. This does not impede committees to meet without the request of the Chair Unless otherwise specified, no person may be a committee member unless such person is also a member of the Club.

Section 4- The Executive Board may, with the approval of the membership, establish and dissolve Ad Hoc and Standing Committees.

Committee members shall be appointed by the approval of the majority Executive Board.

Regional Committees are considered Standing Committees; however, their creation and dissolution must ratify by the members of the club. Regional Committees shall elect their own committee officers, including but not limited to Chair and Secretary. Committee members join the committee following the Regional Committee's own stipulations.

Section 5 - Should the club produce a newsletter, it shall include the office of the Orange County Democratic Party in the distribution list.

#### **ARTICLE V- The Executive Board**

Section 1- The Executive Board shall consist of the following elected officers: Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary, Treasurer, Past Chair.

Section 2- The Executive Board shall meet at the call of the Chair, who shall schedule one meeting prior to every general membership meeting to plan the club's activities and the agenda of the membership meetings.

Section 3- Meetings of the Executive Board shall be open to all members of this Club, but only members of the Executive Board shall have a vote.

## **ARTICLE VI- Duties of Executive Board Officers**

Section 1- The **Chair** shall be responsible for the overall coordination and delegation of the club's activities and act as its point of contact and spokesperson, in collaboration with the Communications /Media Outreach Director. The Chair shall have been a member in good standing of this club for at least one year prior to election.

Section 2- The **Vice Chair** shall preside over meetings in the absence of the Chair and oversees the leadership of Standing and Ad Hoc Committees. In collaboration with the Chair, the Vice Chair may write press releases and conduct other written correspondence of the club. When necessary, the Vice Chair will secure locations for meetings. The Vice Chair shall have been a member in good standing of this club for at least six months prior to election.

Section 3- The **Secretary** shall keep a written record and a copy of all reports submitted to the club. He or she shall present the minutes of the previous general membership meeting as well as a report on any executive committee meetings that have occurred subsequent to the last Club membership meeting. The Secretary shall maintain a current roll of the members, a list of officers and committee members, and records of resolutions and voting proceedings that have occurred in the Club. The Secretary shall send the approved minutes of past meetings to all members on a regular basis. In collaboration with the Vice Chair, the Secretary may write press releases and conduct the correspondence of the club. The Secretary shall have been a member in good standing of this club for at least six months prior to election.

Section 4- The **Treasurer** shall receive, disburse, and account for the funds of this club, in compliance with all federal, state, local, and PAC reporting laws. Routine and recurring expenditures of less than fifty dollars (\$50.00) may be authorized, in advance, by the Executive Board and paid upon presentation of invoice. When a club project has been approved in principle by the membership and a budget for the project authorized by the Executive Board, the board may authorize the Treasurer to make payments within the limits of the budget upon the presentation of invoice. The Treasurer shall furnish a complete financial statement at the end of his or her term of office, at monthly membership meetings and any time at the request of the Executive Board.

Section 5- **The Past Chair** shall serve for 1 year as counsel to the board, and support for the Club.

Section 6- No individual may be allowed to represent him/herself as an agent of the club to commit funds unless so authorized by the Executive Board.

Section 7- All requirements pertaining to the length of time one must be a member in good standing to be eligible for election as an officer shall be waived for the first year that the club is in existence.

Section 8 - An elected officer can be removed from office by resolution of two thirds vote of the Regular 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.

### **ARTICLE VII- Elections**

Section 1-The election of Executive Board members shall take place in November. The new officers shall be installed in December and begin their tenure of office in January. They shall serve for at least one year, or until successors are installed. An ad hoc elections committee created by the Executive Board will oversee the election process.

Section 2- A nominee to any office of this club must have agreed to serve in that capacity (either orally at the time of nomination or in writing after the October meeting of this club) in order to be included in the published list of nominees.

Section 4- Members must have been members in good standing for at least 60 days and be active members before voting for club officers. (See Article II Section 3)

Section 5- Delegates or alternates representing this Club in any other body, shall be elected by the membership.

### **ARTICLE VIII – Participation in CDP Endorsement Process**

Section 1- Club representatives to the California Democratic Party Pre-Endorsing Conferences shall be allocated as follows: one representative, resident in the Assembly District and duly registered as a member of the Democratic Party of California, for each full (not a fraction thereof) 20 members in good standing registered to vote in the Assembly District who are listed on the roster submitted to Orange County Democratic Party and to the appropriate Regional Director of the CDP no later than July 1 of the year immediately prior to the endorsing process.

Section 2 - Only members in good standing as of the July 1 deadline who are duly registered as a member of the Democratic Party of California will be included in the roster submitted for purposes of participation in the California Democratic Party endorsement process. The status of such members shall be certified by the Club's Char, Vice Chair, Secretary, or Treasurer.

Section 3- The Club's representatives to the CDP Pre-Endorsing Conferences may only be from the same roster described above. The overall list of representatives to all Pre- Endorsing Conferences shall be equally apportioned between men and women, to the extent possible.

Section 4- Said representatives shall be selected by majority vote of the Executive Board.

## **ARTICLE IX- Endorsement**

This club may consider the endorsement of candidates for any elective office, or its position on any ballot measure only according to the following procedures:

Section 1- Only candidates who are registered Democrats may be considered for endorsement.

Section 2- This article, along with the offices and measures to be considered, shall be published in the notice of the meeting at which endorsements are to be considered.

Section 3- All candidates eligible for the endorsement of this club shall be afforded the opportunity to address this club or have this club addressed on their behalf at the meeting at which endorsement for that office is to be considered.

Section 4- In order to be eligible to vote on an endorsement, a member must have been an active member in good standing of this club for at least 60 days prior to the meeting at which that endorsement is to be considered. This section will take effect 90 days after the club receives their initial charter from OCDP.

Section 5- A single vote will be taken on each office or ballot measure to be considered for endorsement. Voting, whether online or in person, will occur when endorsements are being discussed and voted on.

Section 6- The option of "No Endorsement" shall be available for every office or ballot measure.

Section 7- This club cannot endorsement candidate's contrary to endorsements by the DNC, the CDP, and the DPOC. However, this club can choose to issue no endorsement for said office or ballot measure. See Section 8 for voting requirements.

Section 8- Endorsement of a candidate or position on a ballot measure requires a 60% vote of those present and voting at the meeting at which the endorsement is considered. Blank ballots shall be ruled as abstentions and shall not count as part of the total number of votes cast. Votes for "No Endorsement" shall be counted as part of the total number of votes cast.

Section 9- This club may reconsider its endorsement in the run-off election for an office, in the event its endorsed candidate is no longer a candidate or there was a “No Endorsement” result in Section 8.

Section 10- At the request of any member, voting on endorsement shall be by secret ballot, those ballots to be counted in the presence of membership.

Section 11- No financial support may be provided to any candidate or ballot measure position who has not received the endorsement of the club.

Section 12 – Any candidate seeking endorsement from the club must agree to the Club’s Endorsement Agreement, which states the following: “I hereby acknowledge that the Feel the Bern Democratic Club, Orange County reserves the right to hold a vote amongst its membership to formally and publically withdraw its endorsement should my actions and votes no longer align with the Feel the Bern Democratic Club Mission Statement and should I no longer uphold those values.”

## **ARTICLE X- Amendments and Bylaws changes**

Section 1- These bylaws may be amended by a two-thirds vote at a general membership meeting after the proposed amendment has been presented to the membership at a preceding meeting. Two weeks’ notice must be provided of each meeting.

Section 2- An amendment passed as described in Section 1 of this article shall become effective at the next regular meeting of this club after the one at which it is considered.

Section 3- Changes to the constitution and bylaws not specifically referenced elsewhere must be noticed to the membership at least one meeting before the vote in question, and must be approved by a vote of 2/3 of those present and voting.

## **ARTICLE XI- Parliamentary Authority**

In matters of procedure not otherwise provided for in this constitution and bylaws, the most recent edition of Robert’s Rules of Order- Newly Revised, shall govern. In the absence of a Past Chair, the Parliamentarian will act as the tiebreaker for votes within the Executive Board.

## **ARTICLE XII- Nondiscrimination**

Feel the Bern Democratic Club, Orange County does not require or use any test of membership or oath of loyalty which has the effect of requiring prospective or current members to acquiesce in, condone or support discrimination on the grounds of race, color, creed, national origin, physical ability, sex, age, religion, ethnic identity, sexual orientation, gender identity, or

economic status.

**Article XIII – Eligibility to Vote**

No person shall be eligible to vote, make or second motions, or raise any point of parliamentary procedure if and when parliamentary procedure is being used, until such person shall have been a Club member for not less than 30 days.

*Adopted on this day, February 20 in 2019 by all members present,*

*Including*

*Jaci Iannello, Chair*

*Richard Hurt, Secretary*