



## ***Hello There CDP Children's Caucus!***

Thank you for joining us for this new, 2023-24 session of the California Democratic Party! (CDP, *aka* Cadem). I want to commend Ann for a terrific meeting last weekend at CDP's Memorial Day convention. She kicked off the program with observations from the folks who helped credential our election, members of an extracurricular high school club, Arcadia Young Democrats. Their reflections on youth apathy, healthcare rights, gun control and resource distribution centered a set of core themes that an array of officials from the federal, state and local levels were able to address: protecting democracy and rights of healthcare and identity; poverty, environmental justice, the economy and equitable resource distribution; investing in kids through housing; and vitally, bringing more safety to our kid's lives through gun control.

It was stimulating hearing the politician's plans, and these call us to engage our own plan of action, here within the Children's Caucus.

### ***Focused Intention***

Our challenge is to find ways to accomplish some purpose, effectively, all within the auspices of the Democratic Party because we do indeed speak together as with *OneVoice*.

**Our first task:** self-organizing into working committees centered on an issue or theme that inspires a passion within you, for collective work to effect some change.

1. **IDENTIFY THE ISSUES** which animate sufficient agreement to form a functional group. Toward that end we ask that you [open this form](#) and help us characterize what issues motivate your advocacy.
2. **MEET AND CONFER** via zoom.
3. **FORMULATE A PLAN OF ACTION** specific to the committee's focus, and useful generally without breaching constraints as a caucus of the CDP.

Some issues might best be forwarded by raising awareness of its idiosyncrasies, or complexity. Some might present multiple paths forward, with the matter important to address through debate, as with an airing of ideas and proposals, a raising of public consciousness. Some issues are matters before the legislature, which we can discuss even though not our prerogative (as an affiliated caucus of the CDP) to lobby for independently. We may learn from experts among us, and advocate our position to the CDP Legislation Committee. We can learn to teach our communities what they will need in lobbying legislators effectively. We can collect, and share information and disseminate ways to use it.

### ***The Go-To Defender Of Schools Under Attack***

I'd like to see us, here in the Children's Caucus, become a go-to place for support when our schools come under attack – "What did you do?" "How did you stand up, fight back, what was effective"? This is the sort of crowd-sourcing wisdom I believe we here in this Caucus have plenty of



collective knowledge for addressing. I hope to see you organize here together, to make ourselves and our support, available to our own, up and down the state. It's going to be a challenging election season of MAGA incursions directed especially at the issues which touch our children. We have to organize together, to learn from one another how to meet the challenge of meeting them.

## Change We Can Feel

Please consider this opportunity to [self-organize into effective groups](#), and to make some change to affect our children ... *within the CA Democratic Party too!*

The **VERY** first committee I would like to kickoff would be devoted to drafting a set of policies for children at CDP conventions and meetings.

There were many kids present over the Memorial Day convention, of all ages and degrees of autonomy. But there was also much confusion about where children were permitted: were floor passes required, to be paid starting from what age; if 15 year-olds can provide meaningful testimony and assistance at caucuses, what provisions could be made to permit membership? Could child-care be provided or at the least stations with age-appropriate activities; some provision for child/family-friendly attendance?

We should convene a swift-acting committee, [with the goal of producing suggestions for policy](#) around children at CDP convention/meetings. These rules are engaged on-the-ground by CDP's operations team; policy is set by the [Standing Committee on Rules](#) which next convenes in Visalia for the August Eboard. More on this meeting and the process of moving suggestions in the next newsletter.

If you would be willing to share of your expertise and experience attending CDP events with children by your side, and have an interest in seeing our Party do better by its own kids right within this institution itself, please consider indicating an interest in the *Children's Policy Committee* listed first [here](#).

Thanks for weighing in! Please don't hesitate to be in touch with ideas and plans – hopefully via [this form](#) or just directly through email. Look for revitalized and improved social media coming to a screen near you!

Sara Roos  
Chair, CDP Children's Caucus (2023-24)

*Special thanks to the following for meeting help: Koreen Cea, Kathy Patterson, Evelyn Tsoi, Kai Wetterau, Ellie Gladstone-Prang, Rohan Thakar, Willie Chuu.*

## A note on membership and inclusion

You needn't be a delegate to the CDP to belong to the CDP Children's Caucus! Membership is open to all California Democrats, interested in supporting children's issues. It is a good way to engage the state Party, without being a voting delegate to it. Dues are collected annually [here](#); hardship waivers are available through [chair.cademcc@gmail.com](mailto:chair.cademcc@gmail.com). If you no longer wish to receive news from the Children's Caucus, please accept our apologies for troubling you, and simply unsubscribe through the link below.



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