

IMPERIAL COUNTY DEMOCRATIC CENTRAL COMMITTEE

Minutes of the September 14, 2023, Regular Meeting

A regular meeting of the governing body of the Imperial County Democratic Party, the Imperial County Democratic Central Committee (hereinafter referred to as "ICDCC" or "Committee"), was held remotely via Zoom pursuant to Article 4, Section 7 of the Bylaws on Thursday, September 14, 2023, scheduled to begin at 6:00pm PT. The ADA-compliant in-person Zoom access point at the Board Chambers, 940 W Main St, 2nd Floor, El Centro, CA 92243, was open to the public.

1. CALL TO ORDER Chair Roxsanna Pacheco called the meeting to order at 6:10pm PT.

2. ROLL CALL Acting Secretary Jacob Rodriguez called the roll as follows:

EX OFFICIO:

Steve Padilla: Absent
Eduardo Garcia: Absent
Raul Ruiz: Absent

DISTRICT 1:

Jaysel Mendoza: Present*
Jesus Escobar: Absent
Roxsanna Pacheco: Present
Patricia Urena: Absent

DISTRICT 2:

Diahna Garcia-Ruiz: Absent
Maria Peinado: Present
Tomás Oliva: Present*
Jacob Rodriguez: Present

DISTRICT 3:

Guillermo Hernandez: Absent

DISTRICT 4:

Michael Bandiera: Present
Cynthia Harvie: Present
Michael Luellen II: Present
Daniela Vega: Present
Yulil Alonso-Garza: Present

DISTRICT 5:

Sonia Carter: Present
Bryan Vega: Present

*Denotes members present for roll call but who objected to venue of meeting. Even if excluded from computation, a quorum was present per Article 4, Section 2(b) of the Bylaws in either event.

**3. DISCUSSION
AND APPROVAL
OF THE AGENDA
AS MODIFIED**

The Committee discussed the provisional agenda for the meeting. Chair Pacheco made a motion, seconded by Vice Chair Luellen, to approve the agenda with modifications as follows:

1. Call to order and roll call
2. Discussion and approval of agenda
3. Announcements and reports by members
4. Information items: a) Receive and file officer resignations; b) Announce officer vacancies; c) Report of Chair's designation of Acting Secretary
5. Discussion of Bylaws endorsement process, CADEM approval process, and proposed Bylaws amendment
6. Roll call vote on adoption of proposed Bylaw amendment
7. Special officer elections (Chair, Secretary, and Co-Treasurer)
8. Set next meeting date and adjournment

The Committee adopted the motion by unanimous consent.

**4. ANNOUNCEMENTS
BY MEMBERS**

Roxsanna Pacheco announced her resignation as Chair with immediate effect and will remain a Member from District 1.

Vice Chair Luellen became Acting Chair and presiding officer pursuant to Article 3, Section 7 of the Bylaws.

The 8th Annual Imperial Valley Pride at Bucklin Park and the status of applying for an informational booth was discussed.

**5. INFORMATION
ITEMS**

a) Receive and file officer resignations: Acting Secretary Rodriguez officially reported the resignations of Daniela Vega as Co-Treasurer, dated September 1, 2023; Bryan Vega as Secretary, dated September 1, 2023; and Roxsanna Pacheco as Chair, dated September 14, 2023.

b) Announce officer vacancies: Acting Secretary Rodriguez declared the vacancies of Chair, Secretary, and Co-Treasurer.

c) Report of Chair's designation of Acting Secretary: Co-Treasurer Rodriguez notified the Committee that Chair Pacheco designated him as Acting Secretary pursuant to Article 3, Section 4(b) of the Bylaws on September 7, 2023.

**5. DISCUSSION
OF BYLAWS
ENDORSEMENT
PROCESS, CADEM
APPROVAL PROCESS,
AND PROPOSED
BYLAWS AMENDMENT**

A proposed Bylaws amendment introduced by Members Jacob Rodriguez, Bryan Vega, Daniela Vega, and Michael Luellen, dated August 10, 2023 (Attachment A), and first reported and read at the August 18, 2023, regular meeting of the Committee was discussed.

Proponent Rodriguez went over the proposal, prior discussions on the draft, the work of the former Ad Hoc Bylaws Committee, the CADEM Rules Committee's County Bylaws Subcommittee checklist and approval process, and answered questions from Members Bandiera and Peinado. The deadline for submitting the Bylaws for review is September 29, 2023.

**6. ROLL CALL VOTE
ON ADOPTION OF
PROPOSED BYLAW
AMENDMENT**

Michael Bandiera made a motion, seconded by Cynthia Harvie, to adopt the aforementioned proposed Bylaws amendment collectively introduced by Members Jacob Rodriguez, Bryan Vega, Daniela Vega, and Michael Luellen (Attachment A).

Pursuant to Article 9, Section 2(c) of the Bylaws, Acting Secretary Jacob Rodriguez called the roll, with those present voting as follows:

Roxsanna Pacheco: Aye
Maria Peinado: Aye
Jacob Rodriguez: Aye
Sonia Carter: Aye
Bryan Vega: Aye

Michael Bandiera: Aye
Cynthia Harvie: Aye
Michael Luellen II: Aye
Daniela Vega: Aye
Yulil Alonso-Garza: Aye

The motion to amend the Bylaws was unanimously adopted by the Central Committee by the above roll call vote and became effective immediately pursuant to Article 9, Section 4 of Bylaws.

7. SPECIAL OFFICER ELECTIONS

The Committee proceeded to the special election of three officers pursuant to Article 3, Section 2(a) of the Bylaws as follows:

a) Election of the Chair: By direction of the Acting Chair, Acting Secretary Rodriguez went over election procedures and opened nominations for the office of Chair. Roxsanna Pacheco and Yulil Alonso-Garza nominated Michael Luellen II. There being only one candidate for this contest, nominations were closed.

Pursuant to Article 3, Section 3 of the Bylaws, the Committee elected Michael Luellen II, of District 4, as Chair by acclamation. Per Article 3, Section 2(b) of the Bylaws, Chair Luellen assumed office immediately and gave brief remarks upon his election being declared.

b) Election of the Secretary: Chair Luellen opened nominations for the office of Secretary. Cynthia Harvie and Michael Bandiera nominated Jacob Rodriguez. There being only one candidate for this contest, nominations were closed.

Pursuant to Article 3, Section 3 of the Bylaws, the Committee elected Jacob Rodriguez, of District 2, as Secretary by acclamation. Per Article 3, Section 2(b) of the Bylaws, Secretary Rodriguez assumed office immediately and gave brief remarks upon his election being declared. Further, he notified the Committee that he resigned from the office of Co-Treasurer upon his election as Secretary.

c) Election of a Co-Treasurer: By direction of the Chair, Secretary Rodriguez opened nominations for the office of Co-Treasurer. Daniela Vega, Yulil Alonso-Garza, and Roxsanna Pacheco nominated Maria Peinado. There being only one candidate for this contest, nominations were closed.

Pursuant to Article 3, Section 3 of the Bylaws, the Committee elected Maria Peinado, of District 2, as Co-Treasurer by acclamation. Per Article 3, Section 2(b) of the Bylaws, Co-Treasurer Peinado assumed office immediately and gave brief remarks upon her election being declared.

8. ADJOURNMENT

Yulil Alonso-Garza made a motion which was seconded by Sonia Carter to adjourn and hold the next regular meeting on October 11, 2023, via Zoom or in-person, at the call of the Chair.

The motion to adjourn was carried unanimously with a voice vote.

The Chair declared the Central Committee adjourned at 6:46pm PT.

ATTACHMENT A

PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE ICDCC BYLAWS

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3 *1) Article 8, Section 1(c): "Representatives to State Central Committee" is amended as*
4 *follows:*

5 Any remaining representatives apportioned to the Central Committee which are not so elected under
6 subsections (a) or (b) of this Section shall be elected at-large. Alternate Members shall only be
7 eligible for election provided there are not sufficient numbers of Regular Members, who choose to
8 stand for election, to fill the delegation. **The at-large seats shall be used to balance the delegation**
9 **as equally as possible between self-identified females and persons other than self-identified**
10 **females to ensure compliance with the equal division rule provided in the bylaws of the State**
11 **Central Committee, which are hereby incorporated into these bylaws by reference.**

12
13 *2) Article 7, Section 2: "Endorsement Policy" is amended as follows:*

14 (a) The Central Committee recognizes that the bylaws and rules of the California Democratic Party
15 preclude it from taking independent action on partisan, legislative and statewide contests, except to
16 consider ratification of the positions of the California Democratic Party.

17 (b) It shall be the policy of the Central Committee to endorse candidates in non-partisan races and to
18 inform the county's voters of those candidates who uphold the principles and practices of the
19 Democratic Party. **The Central Committee shall not endorse candidates for county committees.**

20 (c) The Central Committee may endorse only as many candidates as there are seats to be filled for a
21 particular office in any one election. **All voting members of the Central Committee in good**
22 **standing may vote on all final endorsement decisions, regardless of the jurisdiction of the**
23 **office sought. For the purpose of voting on an endorsement, a member is regarded to be in**
24 **good standing if they are current on their dues imposed by these bylaws, or, have had them**
25 **duly waived or have entered into payment plan to pay them prior to the start of voting.**

26 (d) The Central Committee shall only endorse candidates who are registered as a Democratic voter
27 at the time of candidacy filing.
28

ATTACHMENT A

1 (e) The Central Committee shall not endorse any candidates before the close of the filing period for
2 the office. Provided, chartered clubs and organizations may endorse candidates prior to the close of
3 the filing period.

4 (f) The Central Committee shall encourage candidates to seek chartered club and organization
5 endorsements.

6 (g) The Central Committee shall notify all eligible candidates of the endorsement process and
7 timelines. Each candidate shall complete a ~~committee~~-provided questionnaire supporting their
8 candidacy and participate in an interview process **by appearing in-person or remotely at a public**
9 **meeting of the Central Committee.** The questionnaire and interview ~~notes~~ **must be completed**
10 **prior to become part of** an interview committee's recommendation to the Central Committee. The
11 Central Committee shall only endorse candidates who have completed the full process provided by
12 this Article ~~and have met the threshold for recommendation by a duly constituted interview~~
13 ~~committee.~~

14 **(h) Whenever an endorsement procedure is initiated, except as to ballot measures, the**
15 **Secretary, or their designee, shall be responsible for sending to all candidates notification, in**
16 **writing, to either the postal or email address the candidate has provided to the applicable**
17 **election official of:**

18 **(i) Their right to consideration in conformity with these bylaws, with a link or a copy**
19 **thereof provided; and**

20 **(ii) The date, time and place of all relevant meetings concerning their potential**
21 **endorsement by this Committee; and**

22 **(iii) The requirement that, in order to be considered for endorsement by this Committee,**
23 **they must be a registered Democrat at the time of filing for that office, as well as the**
24 **requirement to appear in-person or remotely at a public meeting of the Central Committee**
25 **for an interview by members; and**

26 **(iv) The content of the relevant, approved questionnaire by providing them with a copy of**
27 **the questionnaire; and**

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ATTACHMENT A

1 **(v) The instructions for return of their completed questionnaire and for scheduling their**
2 **interview with the Committee.**

3
4 ***3) Article 7, Section 3: "Candidate Endorsement Procedures" is amended as follows:***

5 (a) Voting to endorse a candidate, which must occur at a regular meeting, shall be based on the
6 recommendations of an interview committee constituted for that race, with names under
7 consideration duly listed on the agenda alphabetically.

8 (b) A sixty percent vote of the Central Committee members present and voting at the regular
9 meeting shall be required to ~~ratify or override the~~ **accept a** recommendation of an interview
10 committee **to endorse a candidate, otherwise, the Committee shall have no position. If the**
11 **interview committee's recommendation was no consensus or to not endorse, a motion to**
12 **endorse the candidate nonetheless may thereafter be entertained and adopted by an**
13 **affirmative vote of two-thirds of the Central Committee members present and voting.**

14 (c) Any voting member of the Central Committee may request that an individual recommendation
15 made by an interview committee be pulled from the agenda item and be discussed and voted upon
16 separately.

17 **(d) The Chair or the Central Committee, by a majority vote, may direct any or all**
18 **endorsement votes be conducted via a recorded paper or electronic ballot bearing the**
19 **respective name of each member voting.**

20 **(e) The names of each member who voted on an endorsement decision and how they voted**
21 **shall be entered in the minutes of the meeting and be publicly posted on the official website of**
22 **the Central Committee.**

ATTACHMENT A

1 **4) Article 7, Section 4: "Interview Committees" is amended as follows:**

2 (a) Interview committees shall be convened and coordinated by the Executive Committee or the
3 Chair, for each race where at least one qualified candidate seeks the endorsement of this Central
4 Committee.

5 (b) The interview committees shall review the questionnaires, interview candidates, and make
6 recommendations based on those interviews for endorsement of candidates to the Central
7 Committee.

8 (c) An interview committee shall consist of at least two ~~but not more than eleven~~ members or
9 alternates of the Central Committee.

10 (d) Every effort shall be made to ensure that a majority of the interview committee members reside
11 within the geographical jurisdiction of the office being considered.

12 (e) The Chair or designee shall be an ex-officio member of each interview committee, which are
13 considered ad hoc committees.

14 (f) Any member or alternate and chartered organization members may observe the interviews.

15 (g) The **chairs of** interview committee(s) shall collaborate with the Chair and Secretary to ensure
16 that all eligible candidates receive timely notice of the interview and recommendation procedures. It
17 is the responsibility of the candidate to respond and request an interview appointment.

18 (h) The Central Committee **or the relevant interview committee** must approve a uniform set of
19 interview questions to be asked of each candidate. Questions unique to a specific office may be
20 included if asked of all candidates for that office.

21 (i) Every reasonable effort should be made to ensure that the members of an interview committee
22 remain the same for all interviews for a particular office or race in order to ensure fairness and
23 uniformity.

24 (j) The ~~members of an~~ interview committee, by a sixty percent majority vote, may recommend
25 such candidate(s) within their remit to the Central Committee for endorsement. Recommendations
26 shall be limited to: endorse, no endorsement, no consensus.

ATTACHMENT A

1 5) *Article 7, Section 5: "Ballot Measure" is amended as follows:*

2 The Central Committee may, by at least a sixty percent vote, support or oppose county, city, and
3 special district ballot measures. If at least a sixty percent majority is not achieved, the Central
4 Committee shall have no position on the measure. **Whenever an endorsement procedure is**
5 **initiated as to a ballot measure, the Chair and Secretary shall be responsible for causing to be**
6 **posted on this Committee's public website not less than seven days prior to the first such**
7 **meeting the date, time, and place of all relevant meetings in the endorsement process for that**
8 **measure and, in the event additional meetings are added, reasonably in advance of any such**
9 **meetings.**

11 6) *Article 5, Section 8: "Methods of Delivery" is amended as follows:*

12 Wherever these bylaws or another internal Central Committee policy or procedure requires giving
13 or mailing of notice, such notice may be given by email ~~or fax~~ with the same force and effect as if
14 said notice had been mailed. **Publication or service of any Democratic Party notice via email**
15 **will be considered valid if:**

16 **(a) The sender and receiver have both consented, in writing, to sending and receiving notice in**
17 **this manner; and**

18 **(b) The notice was sent to or from the email address specified when giving consent, or most**
19 **recent email address specified on a subsequent notice of change of address by sender or**
20 **receiver; and**

21 **(c) The obligation to inform and procedure for informing of any change in email address has**
22 **been specified in writing; and**

23 **(d) There is an opportunity to opt out of such consent at an appropriate time.**

ATTACHMENT A

1 7) *A new subsection shall be appended to the end of Article 4, Section 8, to read as*
2 *follows:*

3 **(c) Notices of meetings and their proposed agendas shall be posted publicly on the official**
4 **website of the Central Committee and are subject to the same deadlines as for providing**
5 **individual members of the Committee notice thereof. Notice of meetings should, in**
6 **addition, be published in the local media and on social media, where feasible.**

7
8 8) *Article 4, Section 6, subsections (a) and (b): “Quadrennial Organizational Meetings”*
9 *are amended as follows:*

10 (a) The organizational meeting of the Central Committee shall be held in lieu of the regular meeting
11 in **July April or May** of the year of the quadrennial presidential primary election.

12 (b) The organizational meeting shall take place on the second Monday of **July April or May** at
13 6:00 PM Pacific Time, or, on some other date and time ~~after the second Monday of July~~ agreed
14 upon in writing by at least three-fourths of all members elected and ~~or~~ appointed in lieu of an
15 election.

ATTACHMENT A

1 9) *A new section, titled "Section 10. Recall of Officers," shall be appended to the end of*
2 *Article 3, to read as follows:*

3 Any officer of the Central Committee, or any representative or delegate to the State Central
4 Committee selected by this Committee, may be recalled by an affirmative majority vote plus
5 one of the eligible voting members present provided that:

6 (a) The recall has been requested by written petition submitted to the Secretary (or if the
7 Secretary is the object of the petition, the Chair) signed by at least eight voting members and
8 containing the alleged grounds for recall; and

9 (b) Written notice has been sent at least ten days prior to the regular meeting stating the
10 alleged grounds for recall to each member; and

11 (c) The subject of the recall is allowed thirty minutes during which they and any persons
12 selected by them shall be allowed to address the Central Committee immediately before the
13 vote.

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