

CDP RURAL CAUCUS
STATEMENT OF PURPOSE AND WORK PLAN FOR RECHARTERING

for submission to
CDP RULES COMMITTEE

2019

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

The purpose of this caucus is to implement the Rural Plank as adopted in the CDP 2020 Platform by educating elected and appointed officials on its contents and purpose, help candidates adopt it as part of their campaign platforms and utilize it as talking points in voter engagement.

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of this Caucus is to promote Democratic rural values, identify, discuss and address issues of particular concern to rural Californians and to elect Democratic candidates in rural areas at all levels of government. To achieve these goals this caucus will work to engage rural Democrats to assist the party in a) identifying rural interests and issues; b) identifying opportunities for resolves and solutions, including legislative; c) identifying viable candidates to help achieve those resolves and solutions, and d) using rural caucus resources to support this mission.

OFFICER DUTIES

ALL OFFICERS

1. Represent Rural California by being active and visible on rural-oriented county boards, committees, courts and other governmental organizations and on social media.
2. Publicize the Rural Plank, educate elected officials and appointees on its purpose and contents, help rural Democratic candidates incorporate the Plank in their campaigns, use it to advantage in recruiting, in voter registration campaigns, in local papers, radio and social media and GOTV.
3. Help the County Committees engage with rural voters, provide publicity and outreach for on-ballot elections, become a resource for rural Democrats who might otherwise feel isolated and alone.
 - a. First up is Elizabeth Betancourt in the AD 1 Special Election November 5.
4. Collaborate with local County Committees and Democratic clubs to support their Get Out the Vote and campaign efforts for June 2020 and November 2020.
5. Promote rural region CDP endorsed candidates by helping extend the reach of the County Central Committees in our rural communities by helping coordinate resources for at least **four campaigns in March 2020 and six in November 2020.**
6. Continue to grow the Rural Caucus membership by at least **ten (10) percent, year-over-year.**

CHAIR

1. Represent the entire membership and advocate for all rural interests and concerns.
2. Work collaboratively with our Officers, the Regional Directors and CDP leadership to implement the Rural Plank as adopted in the CDP 2020 Platform by educating elected and appointed officials on its contents and purpose, help candidates adopt it as part of their campaign platforms and utilize it as talking points in voter engagement.

- a. Review the Platform **annually** with the membership for possible updates – primarily the Rural Plank, but also other planks that impact our communities.
3. Host an “Officer’s Meeting” at least **quarterly**.
4. Attend **at least two** Regional Meetings and **at least two** County Central Committee Meetings and/or fundraising events throughout the state annually.
5. Help build a stronger rural voice within the Party, garner the tools and resources we need to elect Democrats in rural areas at every level of government, and help our counties effectively network around the state, communicating with Party leadership **monthly**.
6. Strengthen our voice and sense of community with regular, ongoing communications to the membership via the Listserv, Facebook, our website and via a **monthly** “Letter from the Chair”.
 - a. Ensure the Rural Caucus Website is updated **at least quarterly**.
7. Be inclusive, transparent and accessible.

REGIONAL CHAIRS

1. Communicate with Rural Caucus members in their respective region, attending **at least two** Regional Meetings per year, **two** County Central Committee Meetings and report to the entire membership **at least twice a year** on the issues and concerns of local priority in the Caucus Newsletter and/or at Caucus Meetings.
2. Identify areas which merit potential support from local Democratic organizations, from the full Rural Caucus or for possible referral by the Rural Caucus for consideration by the statewide CDP.
3. Publicize the Rural Caucus as a resource and invite members of County Committees and Democratic clubs to join and attend our meetings.
4. Help get Democrats elected at every level of government.
 - a. Reach out to blue counties with a Rural Caucus membership to help with electioneering (canvassing, phone banking, text banking) on behalf of endorsed Democratic candidates in contested races that will be red-to-blue flips.
 - b. Encourage and publicize regional and area candidate forums.
 - c. **At least quarterly**, observe rural-oriented voter registration efforts by Democratic County Committees or Democratic clubs, publicize successes and best practices as well as lessons learned from failures to CDP Rural Caucus members, Democratic rural-focused organizations across the state and Party leadership.
 - d. Provide the Communications Officer with County Committee and Democratic club events to promote on the website, on Facebook and in the Caucus Newsletter, as well as highlights from recent regional meetings and events, sharing local successes and best practices.
5. **After each election**, review successes and improvement points with County Committees and Democratic clubs and assist the Rural Caucus to develop a timely short written summary report of campaign efforts to be submitted to the CDP Rules Committee by **April 30 and December 31, 2020**.

INITIATIVES/ISSUES

1. Water Policy
 - a. Continue **monthly** discussion group meetings, headed by Mike Smith and featuring expert presentations, in collaboration with members of the Environmental Caucus, to help guide the Party in advancing the best policies.
 - b. Serve as a watchdog to ensure the Clean Water for All Act is implemented quickly and gets the needed monies to underserved communities as intended.

- c. Become active with local Water Districts to ensure our rural communities have a voice in essential water policy decisions.
 - d. Mobilize the Rural Caucus membership to contact our elected officials to develop a plan to help farming communities adapt to disruptions caused by the implementation of the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA).
2. Rural Broadband
 - a. Develop and sponsor legislation to network all 78 county fairgrounds in the state to provide public safety grade communications for disaster response and recovery.
 - b. The Chair to attend three California Broadband Council meetings annually as a member of the CBC Advisory Group.
 3. PG&E
 - a. Work on getting the pending Resolution approved by the CDP Resolutions Committee and converted into legislation or Executive Order from the Governor to de-privatize PG&E.
 4. Wildfire Insurance
 - a. Develop and sponsor legislation re: wildfire mitigation, insurance and energy grid resiliency issues to be introduced in February.
 5. Census 2020
 - a. Develop a plan and timeline to help rural communities fully participate in the Census to ensure we get our fair share of Federal resources and Congressional representation.
 - Coordinate efforts with the CDP
 - Establish communications with the California Complete Count Committee, whose next meeting is December 3
 - Census Day is April 1
 - b. Recognizing that Census 2020 is the first census count to be conducted online, work with the CDP and State to advocate for verifiable safeguards that assure a fair and accurate count free from outside or partisan interference ... and develop plans and outreach helping our communities get access to the Internet.
 6. Cost of Candidates Statements
 - a. Continue to press on this issue with the Secretary of State's Office.

Dashboard

1. Communications
 - Emails to membership 12 times a year
 - Newsletter to members 4 times a year
 - Update Website quarterly
 - Post on Facebook weekly
2. Candidates/Campaigns
 - Help coordinate resources for at least 10 candidates
3. Legislation
 - Develop and sponsor at least 1 bill per calendar year.
4. Increase Membership
 - Increase membership by 10% year over year

5. Building Awareness

Attend at least two Regional and two County Central Committee meetings/events

Meet with at least 24 elected officials

Communicate with Party leadership monthly

6. Platform Development

Review the platform for updates annually