**CDP RURAL CAUCUS**

**STATEMENT OF PURPOSE AND WORK PLAN**

**2024**

**STATEMENT OF PURPOSE**

The purpose of this caucus is to implement the Rural Plank as adopted in the CDP 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 and promoting rural interests and issues;

b) identifying and promoting policy and legislative opportunities that benefit our rural communities;

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**

**CHAIR**

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.
4. Collaborate with local County Committees and Democratic clubs to support their Get Out the Vote and campaign efforts for March 2024 and November 2024.
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 2024 and six in November 2024.**
6. Continue to grow the Rural Caucus membership by at least **ten (10) percent, year-over-year**.
   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.
      1. 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.

**KEY INITIATIVES**

Electioneering: The Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee has designated  **33 districts**  as “in play” this year.[Eight of them are here in California. The Rural Caucus focus is on CA 13 and CA 22.](https://click.ngpvan.com/k/67054869/418433081/-1528242380?&refcode=EM_FR_072523_B1_45d&amount=5&nvep=ew0KICAiVGVuYW50VXJpIjogIm5ncHZhbjovL3Zhbi9OR1AvTkdQMzUvMS84MDk5NCIsDQogICJEaXN0cmlidXRpb25VbmlxdWVJZCI6ICJkNzgxMDQ2MC00NzJiLWVlMTEtYjhmMC0wMDIyNDgzMmViNzMiLA0KICAiRW1haWxBZGRyZXNzIjogIkpveUBpcm9uaG9yc2V2aW5leWFyZHMuY29tIg0KfQ%3D%3D&hmac=q9WkAARmQF_kVix_YL_ZA0q6Lp65u8qxxZmo2naaoAs=)

Organize and host a Water Forum to assess the value of headwaters and promote heightened conservation efforts across watersheds from their origin to downstream beneficiaries.

Organize and host a “Rural Renaissance” event with Senate Pro Tem Mike McGuire and Assembly Speaker Robert Rivas, who both represent rural districts.

The Housing Subcommittee has introduced a pilot program to take a deep dive into the Housing Element in four or five counties across the state, to develop common needs in rural communities that we can take to the legislature.  We have three counties already:  Mono, Siskiyou, and Sonoma, and we’d like to add one or two more, particularly in the Central Valley.

Fight AT&T’s proposal to abandon hardwired copper lines that will leave rural residents vulnerable. Every Californian must have access to reliable phone service.

* 1. 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**.
  2. 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”.
     1. Ensure the Rural Caucus Website is updated **at least quarterly.**
  3. 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 via email, in a 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.
   1. 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.
   2. Encourage and publicize regional and area candidate forums.
   3. **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.
   4. 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
   1. Help guide the Party in advancing the best policies on protecting our watersheds
   2. Serve as a watchdog to ensure the Clean Water for All Act is funded and implemented to help underserved communities as intended.
   3. Become active with local Water Districts to ensure our rural communities have a voice in essential water policy decisions.
2. Rural Broadband
   1. Ensure that the State Broadband for All Act is funded and implemented as promised by the Governor’s Office to include rural areas.
   2. The Chair attends three California Broadband Council meetings annually as a member of the CBC Advisory Group.
3. Wildfire Insurance
   1. Develop and sponsor legislation re: wildfire mitigation, insurance, energy grid resiliency issues, and tax benefits for home hardening.

**Dashboard**

1. Communications

Emails to membership 12 times a year Update Website quarterly

Post on Facebook weekly

1. Candidates/Campaigns

Help coordinate resources for at least 10 candidates

1. Legislation

Develop and sponsor at least 1 bill per calendar year.

1. Increase Membership

Increase membership by 10% year over year

1. 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

1. Platform Development

Review the platform for updates annually