



October 28, 2024

Chair Joy Silver  
Vice Chair Agi Kessler  
Riverside County Democratic Party (RCDP)

The enclosed pages are our responses to the RCDP Corrective Action Plan items as detailed in your letter of September 10<sup>th</sup>. This response was discussed and includes input from the Democrats of the Desert board of directors at a meeting on October 24, 2024. With a quorum present, the board approved the entirety of today's response. This board approved response is on the DOD website where the entire membership can review it.

The DOD board of directors respectfully requests that Democrats of the Desert be returned to its full charter status.

Best regards,

Marcie Maxwell  
DOD President

Note – Neither the DOD President nor the DOD board of directors authorized or approved the contents of any additional verbal or written responses including the emails that were sent personally by two individual DOD board members this morning.

Cc: DOD board of directors

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**DOD - Corrective Plan of Action - item 1. DOD IS ORDERED TO COMPLY WITH THEIR BYLAWS.**

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From Marcie Maxwell <marcie.maxwell@live.com>

Date Fri 10/25/2024 11:07 AM

To Marcie Maxwell <marcie.maxwell@live.com>

Response:

**Yes, we do comply with our bylaws; we did comply with our bylaws, we commit to compliance with our bylaws.**

Democrats of the Desert, like other RCDP chartered clubs is an all-volunteer organization without paid staff or an executive director in place. We do the best we can to know and follow our many DOD bylaws as well as the many rules within the CaDem and RCDP organizations. We also have state and federal finance laws to know and follow.

It is difficult for all as evidenced by the questions and issues that are heard / observed from multiple other clubs.

It is difficult when leadership and rules (and expectations) change at any level of Democrat organizations.

It is difficult when life (sickness, death, careers, families) happens within leadership or assignments.

It is difficult when outside influences bring their own priorities or interests into official Democrat organizations.

**Democrats of the Desert - as an organization or leaders or members - did not drift from our purpose or goals in the activities that resulted in this Corrective Action Plan.** We would appreciate support from RCDP, and RCDP's understanding that we are making the best efforts we can. We would appreciate RCDP's understanding that while your goals and our goals are to elect Democratic candidates and make progress on our Democratic values, each club and each community should have autonomy within the rules to do the club's work.

**The DOD Board of Directors reaffirms that we are following our bylaws as revised and approved in February 2024 and confirmed by RCDP 2024 charter approval.**

*Marcie Maxwell*

President, Democrats of the Desert

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**Corrective Plan of Action - Democrats of the Desert Board names and email addresses - October 2024**

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From Marcie Maxwell <marcie.maxwell@live.com>

Date Fri 10/25/2024 12:19 PM

To Marcie Maxwell <marcie.maxwell@live.com>

Marcie Maxwell	President	marcie.maxwell@live.com
Michael Finland	Vice President	canylaw@aol.com
La Verne Sheehan	Secretary	lajeanne66@gmail.com
Carlos Garcia	Treasurer	crlos@aol.com
Dori Smith	Programs Chair	dori@caberet2u.com
Cherie Johnson	Membership Chair	cherie.johnson.libra@gmail.com
Priscilla Richardson	Nominations Chair	pgscheldt@mindspring.com
Rob Westwood	Fundraising Chair	garwood49@aol.com
Patrick Weiss	Hospitality Chair	patrickdowdweiss@gmail.com
Melissa Fox	Women's Council Chair	melissa@melissafoxlaw.com
Yurema Arvizu	Voter Engagement Chair	yuremaarvizu@gmail.com
Janine Gregory	Young Democrats Chair	janineagregory@gmail.com
Steve Brooks	Citizens Advocacy Chair	sabrooks2016@outlook.com
Bob Hildebrand	Outreach Chair	robertinpd@gmail.com
Jean Tello	Endorsements Chair	jeanctello@gmail.com
Vacant	Communications Chair	

communications.chair@desertdemocrats.org

Note - The DOD website listing of board members is not current as our Communications Chair has resigned due to major health issues (and he is younger than most of us.) We will make the website changes as soon as we're able to onboard a new Communications Chair with technology expertise.

Note - The DOD Board of Directors is aware that the Immediate Past President Stephen Jaffe is no longer a resident of Riverside County nor a Registered Democrat voter in Riverside County. He is not a current paid member of DOD and has not attended a single DOD meeting since February 2023. For that reason, he is not listed above, and the DOD Board of Directors is determining how best to resolve his absence (or to allow his absence to simply resolve at term end in February 2025) according to the membership and directors' sections of our bylaws.

**Corrective Plan of Action response- Democrats of the Desert endorsements committee 2024**

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**From** Marcie Maxwell <marcie.maxwell@live.com>

**Date** Fri 10/25/2024 11:13 AM

**To** Marcie Maxwell <marcie.maxwell@live.com>

Endorsements Committee members participating:

Jean Tello - Chair

John Nyomarkay

Carlos Garcia

Zoom facilitator - Marcie Maxwell

Endorsements Committee members unavailable to participate:

Danny Lee - out of town organization commitments

Bill Baber - work commitments

The DOD Board of Directors notes that this question was also previously asked and answered in the RCDP hearing.

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**Corrective Plan of Action - DOD must identify the procedures for endorsements of candidates & propositions.**

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From Marcie Maxwell <marcie.maxwell@live.com>

Date Fri 10/25/2024 11:27 AM

To Marcie Maxwell <marcie.maxwell@live.com>

**Democrats of the Desert revised & approved bylaws (Feb 2024) state the ENDORSEMENTS POLICY as follows:**

9. Club Endorsement of Candidates 9.0 Endorsement of Partisan Candidates & Local (Non-Partisan) Endorsements. The Club shall support only candidates and nominees who are registered as Democrats for election to partisan and nonpartisan office, in accordance with the following list of rules, so as to ensure compliance with the By-laws of the club's chartering organization, the Riverside County Democratic Party (RCDP), specifically the RCDP's latest updated By-law sections regarding "Endorsements by Chartered Clubs."

9.0.1 The Club will endorse and provide financial support only to registered Democrats.

9.0.2 Non-Democratic candidates shall not be endorsed or rated in any way by the Club.

9.0.3 Club members will be notified at a club meeting, by a prior written communication, (email, post, or as otherwise opted for by the member), that endorsement consideration will be made for a particular race or races at least seven (7) days prior to the endorsement consideration. None of the Club's endorsements and ratings by shall be construed as the official ratings or endorsement that are not the endorsement(s) of either the California Democratic Party (CDP) or the RCDP. Words to that effect shall be included and clearly visible whenever and wherever the Club's rating or endorsement is referenced or made.

Procedures for the endorsement of candidates and propositions shall be determined by the Endorsements Committee.

Only Members who have been Members In Good Standing for more than sixty (60) days may vote on endorsement of candidate or ballot propositions under this Section.

**ADDITIONAL NOTE HERE:**

The revisions to bylaws section 9 "endorsements" were made because the previous endorsements policy in 2021 bylaws specifically required every candidate considered to have an interview and every individual interview scheduled required a seven-day notice to the entire membership. We are aware that some candidates for election and/or re-election **were not interviewed** and **that notice was not provided to DOD membership of each interview scheduled**. That meant DOD was out of compliance, and had a policy that was burdensome and did not work.

**NOTE:**

There is not one way for endorsements procedures, there are potentially many ways that are fair, and those procedures may differ and offer flexibility at each office level (congress, legislature, local), number of candidates, timing of endorsement activities, etc. We are aware that not every club - and for that matter organizations of all sorts making endorsements - handles endorsements and/or candidate support in the same ways.

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## ENDORSEMENTS PROCEDURES USED SINCE 02/2024 BYLAWS REVISION - THESE ARE NOT REQUIRED POLICY

### SPRING 2024 PROCEDURES:

In May 2024, the DOD Endorsements Committee wanted to meet and provide election support to the Democratic candidate in that race Joey Acuna. In the vacant Assembly District 36 seat, DOD did not endorse prior to the 2024 Primary Election.

If he wins, Acuna will likely hold one of only two Assembly seats in our valley so scheduling time to know him (and the differences between he and prior Assemblyman) was a priority for our club. As there was only one race and one Dem candidate and with ample time available, **the committee procedure was set to schedule and conduct a Zoom interview with Acuna.**

An endorsement recommendation was made by the committee and endorsement approved by the membership at the next membership meeting.

### SUMMER 2024 PROCEDURES:

In August 2024, in the midst of an important presidential and congressional race for our nation and region, the local candidate filing deadlines and extensions came on quickly. Our Endorsements Committee procedures were set for local offices as follows:

- Locate offices up for elections and Dem candidates who filed. Due to the large number of positions that will be on the ballot, we do not have a requirement to find or include all offices.
- Offer a questionnaire to local Democratic candidates requesting a review for potential endorsement.
- Candidates are asked to return their completed questionnaire by a deadline date.
- Committee to review candidate questionnaires, confirm candidate has spoken at a DOD meeting, review candidate's website, review other public information as available. If there are two candidates for one seat, candidates to be considered in the same way (ie. if one is interviewed, both would be interviewed - or neither).
- Committee MAY choose to interview candidates in one or more races but this step is not required.
- Committee members meet to discuss offices and candidates, and may recommend candidates to the membership for endorsement vote. Committee members understand that they are making recommendations only.
- Seven days notice is given via eblast to membership of races that may be considered for endorsements vote.
- Actual endorsements are made by the DOD voting members present at DOD meeting.

### SUMMER 2024 - SAMPLE LETTER SENT TO CANDIDATES:

Dear candidate,

Thank you for filing for local election in 2024!

Democrats of the Desert is interested in supporting Democratic candidates for office in the November 5, 2024 General Election. If you are a Registered Democrat and are interested in consideration for a recommendation and/or endorsement from DOD, please complete the attached questionnaire and return it to [jeanctello@gmail.com](mailto:jeanctello@gmail.com) no later than 7pm on August 19, 2024.

**The committee may request a Zoom interview** and will contact you individually. We will notify those candidates that our committee and/or the DOD board chooses to move forward to the Democrats of the Desert meeting for consideration by our membership with an invitation to speak at the August 24th, 2pm - 4pm, DOD meeting at the Palm Desert Library.

Please contact me at [jeanctello@gmail.com](mailto:jeanctello@gmail.com) if you have questions.

Best regards,

Jean Tello, Endorsements & Recommendations Chair

Democrats of the Desert

<https://www.desertdemocrats.org>

**The DOD Board of Directors affirms that these endorsement processes complied with the DOD bylaws as revised and approved in February 2024.**



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**Corrective Plan of Action -Open Meetings (Democrats of the Desert board meeting notice)**

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**From** Marcie Maxwell <marcie.maxwell@live.com>

**Date** Fri 10/25/2024 11:45 AM

**To** Marcie Maxwell <marcie.maxwell@live.com>

1 attachments (202 KB)

BYLAWS OF DEMOCRATS OF THE DESERT FEB2024 (1).pdf;

As required by the RCDP Plan of Correction - proof of the following:

- ALL DOD BOARD MEMBERS RECEIVED THE LINK BELOW TO THE CALIFORNIA DEMOCRATIC PARTY OPEN MEETINGS RULES POLICY STATEMENT ON OCTOBER 16, 2024.
- ON OCTOBER 16, 2024, AN EMAIL WAS SENT TO ALL DOD BOARD MEMBERS INCLUDING THE ATTACHED CURRENT DOD BYLAWS (LINKED ABOVE HERE). THE DOD OPEN MEETINGS POLICY IS WITHIN THOSE BYLAWS AS WELL AS A REFERENCE TO THE CADEM OPEN MEETINGS POLICY.
- THE CADEM OPEN MEETINGS RULES POLICY STATEMENT HAS BEEN ADDED AS AN ADDITIONAL LINK ON THE DEMOCRATS OF THE DESERT WEBSITE 'STAY INFORMED' PAGE. MEMBERS AND THE PUBLIC HAVE FULL ACCESS TO DOD WEBSITE PAGES.

**Democrats of the Desert Board of Directors affirms receipt of these documents and acknowledges placement of the CaDem document on our club website.**

**From:** Marcie Maxwell <marcie.maxwell@live.com>

**Sent:** Wednesday, October 16, 2024 5:44 PM

**To:** Marcie Maxwell <marcie.maxwell@live.com>

**Subject:** Democrats of the Desert board meeting notice

California Democratic Party Open Meetings Rules Policy Statement

<https://cadem.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/CDP-Cmte-Rules-Statement-OpenMeeting-18-07-14.pdf>

Marcie Maxwell

President, Democrats of the Desert

**Corrective Plan of Action - RCDP Chair, Vice Chair, AD36, AD47 on DOD email list**

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**From** Marcie Maxwell <marcie.maxwell@live.com>

**Date** Fri 10/25/2024 11:59 AM

**To** Marcie Maxwell <marcie.maxwell@live.com>

 4 attachments (21 MB)

IMG\_1548.jpg; IMG\_1547.jpg; IMG\_1549.jpg; IMG\_1550.jpg;

The four attached images here show that the positions of RCDP Chair, Vice Chair, AD 36, AD 47 have been added to the DOD email contact list.

Note - the AD 47 chair will have to accept the automated notification sent directly to her notifying her that she wants to receive DOD emails - this happens when someone has dropped off of our email list and re-adding requires recipient action.

**The DOD Board of Directors affirms that these communications connections has been completed.**

Marcie Maxwell

marcie.maxwell@live.com

Contact details

# Chairperson Riverside County Democrats

Email subscribed

Edit contact

Added by you on Oct 17, 2024 • Edited less than 1 min. ago

Details	Engagement	Notes (0)
<p><b>chairperson</b></p> <p>chair.rcdp@gmail.com</p> <p>Subscribed by you on Oct 17, 2024 at 11:18am PDT</p>		

★ DOD Email List

General Interest

## Basic details

First name

Chairperson

Last name

Riverside County Democrats



Contact details

# Vice Chairperson Riverside County Democrats

Email subscribed

Edit contact

Added by you on Oct 17, 2024 • Edited less than 1 min. ago

Details	Engagement	Notes (0)
<b>Campaign channel</b>		
<b>Email address</b>	vicechaircdp@gmail.com	
	Subscribed by you on Oct 17, 2024 at 11:20am PDT	
<b>Basic details</b>		
<b>First name</b>	Vice Chairperson	
<b>Last name</b>	Riverside County Democrats	

## Lists

★ DOD Email List

General Interest





Contact details

# Mary Ann Andreas

Email awaiting confirmation

Added by you on Feb 18, 2020 • Edited less than 1 min. ago

Details Engagement Notes (0)



Contact details have been saved.

## Campaign channel

Email address

martinandreas1@aol.com

Added on Oct 17, 2024 at 4:11pm PDT

## Basic details

First name

Edit contact

