

POLITICAL STANDING RULES FOR THE SANTA CRUZ GROUP OF THE VENTANA CHAPTER OF THE SIERRA CLUB

Section 1. Organization

1.1 Santa Cruz Sierra Club Group

1.2 Establishment. This Political Committee is established by action of Santa Cruz Group of the Ventana Chapter of the Sierra Club (hereinafter Group), and is governed by these Standing Rules, consistent with the provisions of the Bylaws and Standing Rules of the Group and by the Club, by applicable law, and by the policies and directives of the Board. This Political Committee is an integral part of the Group and the Sierra Club and is not a separate political or legal entity.

1.3 Purpose. The purpose of the Group Political Committee is to help the Group in its efforts to preserve the environment through nonpartisan grassroots political action. Political Committee activities shall include evaluating political issues and positions, planning and conducting the endorsement and support of candidates for public office, and developing and leading the efforts necessary for those processes. The Political Committee program may include federal, state, and local government races as well as ballot measures, and shall be conducted in compliance with applicable law and in accordance with the Club's electoral compliance guidelines and the Bylaws and Standing Rules of Sierra Club California.

Section 2. Membership

2.1 Members. The Political Committee shall consist of a Chair and at least one member from the Group. The Group Chair with the concurrence of the Executive Committee may appoint additional members as needed. Members shall have a willingness to become familiar with and to follow the Sierra Club Political Committee Compliance Guidelines and these Group Political Committee Standing Rules, and other applicable Sierra Club Standing Rules and policies. Political Committee members shall also be willing to participate in Political Committee deliberations and be willing to avoid any appearance of partiality during the endorsement process. Only Club members in good standing may serve on the Group Political Committee.

2.2 Officers. The Group Political shall be appointed by the Group Chair, subject to the approval of the Group Executive Committee.

2.3 Participation/Conflict of Interest. All Sierra Club members in good standing are entitled to participate in the activities of the Political Committee. Members with a conflict of interest, however, shall abide by Sierra Club Standing Rule 16-1-1 and not be present during final deliberations and voting.

2.4 Endorsement Interviewers. The Political Chair may appoint teams of Club members to

conduct endorsement interviews of candidates. Except in extraordinary circumstances, Club members who have already made a personal endorsement in an election should not serve on an interview team for that election.

Section 3. Jurisdiction

3.1 Districts Shared with Other Chapters. When a state legislative or Congressional district is shared with another Chapter it is the responsibility of the Political Chair to ensure that consultation is conducted according to the rules prescribed by the Compliance Guidelines and Sierra Club California Standing Rules. If an electoral district overlaps all or part of two or more Sierra Club chapters, all chapters that represent 25 percent or more of the Club members living in a given electoral district must approve activities on behalf of candidates in that district. Any chapter that includes 10 percent or more of the Club members in the district should be consulted even if formal concurrence is not required. When concurrence from another Chapter is needed for an endorsement, the Political Chair will confirm that such concurrence has been obtained before requesting approval from the SCPT (for federal races) or review body designated by Sierra Club California (for local or state legislative races).

Section 4. Endorsements

4.1 Internal Approval Procedures For Political Action. All endorsing entities shall approve endorsement decisions by a two-thirds vote as specified by the SCPT Compliance Guidelines beginning at section 2- 600. Voting may take place in person, by telephone, or by email according to Club and Chapter rules.

4.2 Municipal and County Candidate Endorsements. Endorsements are initiated at the Group level, according to procedures described in the Compliance Guidelines, and approved by a two-thirds vote of the Group Executive Committee, which will then send the recommendation to the Chapter Political Chair for review. It is the responsibility of the Group Political Chair or another designee of the Group Executive Committee to complete the Candidate Review Form required by Sierra Club California. If the Chapter Political Chair finds that appropriate procedures have been followed they will forward the Candidate Review Form to the Chapter Executive Committee with a recommendation for action; if the Chapter Executive Committee approves the endorsement by a two-thirds majority the Chapter Political Chair will add the details of the Chapter Executive Committee vote to the Candidate Review Form and send it to the review body designated by Sierra Club California for final approval. It is the responsibility of the Chapter Political Chair to expeditiously inform the Group Political Chair that the endorsement has been finalized.

4.3 Local Ballot Measure Positions. The process outlined in Sec 4.2 is to be followed, with the following exceptions:

1. The Local Ballot Measure Review Form is substituted for the Candidate Review Form
2. Final approval rests with the Local Ballot Measure Review Committee, an entity of Sierra

Club California

4.4 State Legislative Endorsements. Endorsements are initiated by the Group or Chapter Political Committee, which will distribute questionnaires and conduct interviews as needed. When the Political Committee or Interview Team recommends an endorsement, the Group or Chapter Political Chair will complete the Candidate Review Form required by Sierra Club California and forward it to the Group or Chapter Executive Committee with a recommendation for action; if initiated at the Group level and if the Group Executive Committee approves the endorsement by a two-thirds majority, the endorsement shall be forwarded to the Chapter. If the Chapter Executive Committee approves the endorsement by a two-thirds majority, the Chapter Political Chair will add the details of the Chapter Executive Committee vote to the Candidate Review Form and send it to the review body designated by Sierra Club California and California Legislative Committee designee for final approval. It is the responsibility of the Chapter Political Chair to expeditiously inform the Chapter Executive Committee and the Group Executive Committee and the candidate that the endorsement has been finalized.

4.5 Congressional Endorsements. Endorsements are initiated by the Chapter Political Committee, which will distribute questionnaires and conduct interviews as needed. When the Political Committee or Interview Team recommends an endorsement, the Chapter Political Chair will complete Form 1 and forward it to the Chapter Executive Committee with a recommendation for action; if the Chapter Executive Committee approves the endorsement by a two-thirds majority the Chapter Political Chair will add the details of the Chapter Executive Committee vote to Form 1 and send it to the Sierra Club Political Team (political.desk@sierraclub.org) for final approval. It is the responsibility of the Chapter Political Chair to expeditiously inform the Chapter Executive Committee and the candidate that the endorsement has been finalized.

Section 5. Political activity

5.1 Club Guidelines. Political activity, including use of membership lists, Club newsletters, Club list-serves, and email lists, shall be in accordance with federal and state electoral law, and with the SCPT Compliance Guidelines.

5.2 Communications. The Group Political Chair or designee is the sole spokesperson to the press, to other organizations and to candidates. The Group Political Chair or designee should approve all press releases, campaign literature and appearances at press conferences, political rallies and other events. The Political Chair or their designee should similarly approve Chapter and Group activities on behalf of candidates.

5.3 Public Criticisms of Endorsed Candidates. The Political Chair, the Chapter Chair, the Chapter Conservation Chair, and (for local races or ballot measures) the Group Chair and Group Political Chair must approve in advance any criticisms of an endorsed candidate made in the name of the Sierra Club or one of its Groups during an election campaign.

Section 6. Interpretation and Amendment of Standing Rules

6.1 Interpretation of Standing Rules. All questions as to the construction or meaning of these Standing Rules are to be referred to the Group Executive Committee for decision. All procedures not prescribed by the Bylaws and Standing Rules of the Club, these Standing Rules, or the Bylaws of the Chapter, shall be governed by the current edition of Robert's Rules of Order, newly revised.

6.2 Amendment. The Group Executive Committee may amend these Standing Rules by a majority vote at a regular meeting; however, revisions to these Standing Rules shall be generally made before the endorsement process to ensure that revisions are not made to facilitate specific endorsement decisions. Amendments must be in conformance with SCPT Compliance Guidelines.

ENDORISING ENTITIES MATRIX

	Entity 1	Entity 2	Entity 3
US Congress	Interview team or Chapter Political Committee (optional)	Chapter Executive Committee	SCPT
State Legislature	Interview team or Chapter Political Committee (optional)	Chapter Executive Committee	review body designated by Sierra Club California and CLC designee
Local races	Group Executive Committee	Chapter Executive Committee	review body designated by Sierra Club California
Local Ballot Measures	Group Executive Committee	Chapter Executive Committee	SCC Local Ballot Measure Review Committee