



## **SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY DEMOCRATIC PARTY CODE OF CONDUCT**

### **Expected Behavior**

The San Bernardino County Democratic Party (SBCDP) is committed to providing a welcoming, respectful, friendly, safe, supportive, and harassment-free environment for members, employees, and all others associated with the SBCDP. The SBCDP expects all leaders, members, employees, and others associated with the SBCDP to act professionally, respecting the personal rights and dignities of all individuals involved with the party so as to create a productive, inclusive environment for all.

All individuals should feel welcome and safe within the SBCDP, regardless of their sex, gender, gender identity, gender expression, sexual orientation, pregnancy, race, color, ethnicity, national origin, ancestry, religion, creed, age, physical or mental disability, medical condition, genetic information, marital status, military or veteran status, body size, domestic violence victim status, or any other legally protected classifications.

The SBCDP's behavior standards are not limited to SBCDP meetings. Harassment will not be tolerated at any and all events sponsored by or affiliated with the SBCDP, as well as in SBCDP-related calls, texts, emails, and social media like Facebook, Instagram, and SnapChat.

### **Harassment**

The SBCDP will not tolerate harassment—that is, disrespectful or unprofessional conduct based on any of the protected categories listed above. Prohibited harassment can be:

- verbal (such as slurs, jokes, insults, epithets, gestures, or teasing based on the protected categories listed above),
- visual (such as the posting or distribution of offensive posters, symbols, cartoons, drawings, computer displays, or emails based on the protected categories listed above),  
or
- physical (such as physically threatening another person, blocking someone's way, touching private parts, making physical contact in an unwelcome manner, etc.).

The SBCDP will not tolerate sexual harassment, that is,

- harassment based on sex or conduct of a sexual nature, which includes
  - harassment based on sex (including pregnancy, childbirth, breastfeeding, or related medical conditions),
  - gender, gender identity or gender expression.

Prohibited sexual harassment may include all of the actions described above as harassment, as well as other unwelcome sex-based conduct, such as

- unwelcome or unsolicited sexual advances,
- requests for sexual favors, conversations regarding sexual activities, or other verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature.

Sexually harassing conduct need not be motivated by sexual desire and may include situations that began as reciprocal relationships, but that later cease to be reciprocal.

The SBCDP prohibits *quid pro quo* sexual harassment, such as when submission to sexual conduct is made explicitly or implicitly a term or condition of an individual's membership in the party, appointment to committee, leadership, or other role within the SBCDP; or submission to or rejection of sexual conduct by an individual is used as the basis for decisions affecting that individual.

The SBCDP prohibits the creation of a hostile environment, that is, conduct that creates an intimidating, hostile or otherwise offensive environment, including but not limited to:

- unwelcome sexual advances, flirtation, teasing, sexually suggestive or obscene letters, invitations, notes, emails, voicemails or gifts;
- sex, gender or sexual orientation-related comments, slurs, jokes, remarks or epithets;
- leering, obscene or vulgar gestures or making sexual gestures;
- displaying or distributing sexually suggestive or derogatory objects, pictures, cartoons, or posters or any such items;
- impeding or blocking movement, unwelcome touching or assaulting others;
- any abusive yelling or screaming, other verbal threats, or disrespectful language (in any form) directed at a person;
- any sexual advances that are unwelcome as well as reprisals or threats after a negative response to sexual advances; and
- conduct or comments consistently targeted at one gender, even if the content is not sexual.

The examples above are just that—examples. In general, any conduct listed above or that is based on the protected classifications listed above that could interfere with an individual's participation in the SBCDP or could create an offensive environment will be considered harassment in violation of this code of conduct. This is the case even if the offending individual

did not mean to be offensive. It is essential that we all be sensitive to the feelings of others.

### **Retaliation Prohibited**

The SBCDP takes very seriously its responsibility to provide all members with a welcoming, respectful, and safe environment and urges any member who feels uncomfortable, unwelcome, or unsafe to report harassment (of themselves or observed with respect to others) as soon as possible. Retaliation for reporting harassment or discrimination, or participating in an investigation with respect to harassment or discrimination, is prohibited. Retaliation may include, but is not limited to, exclusion from meetings or committees, ostracism, badmouthing, or other conduct that may limit engagement with the SBCDP, or that would be reasonably likely to deter a reasonable SBCDP member from reporting harassment or participating in a harassment investigation.

*Approved at SBCDCC General Mtg - August 27, 2020*