

Bylaws
The California Teachers Association
Climate & Environmental Caucus
(10/5/2022)

Preamble

The mission of the Climate & Environmental Caucus shall be to advocate for the CTA, its individual locals, and for its members to work towards a 100% clean energy future, a world where the effects of our current environmental crisis are not shouldered by our most vulnerable populations – a future that uplifts the worth and dignity of all people.

Caucus members will take an active role in making policies and decisions that affect teachers and students.

We will actively participate in all local, state and national teachers unions, associations and support the goals, objectives, policies and programs of CTA affecting teachers and students.

Article I: Name and Purpose

Section 1: Name

A. The body shall be referred to as the Climate & Environmental Caucus (CEC) of the California Teachers Association.

Section 2: The CEC is established for the purpose;

- A. to work towards a 100% clean-energy economy.
- B. to promote the cause(s) of the Climate & Environmental Caucus throughout the State of California.
- C. to keep CTA aware of its commitment to minority groups, parent groups, student groups and all other marginalized groups affected by the climate crisis.
- D. to continue to promote the needs of ALL teachers in California.

Article II: Membership

Section 1: Categories of Membership & Voting Rights

A. Membership in the CTA Climate & Environmental Caucus shall consist of three classifications: Active, Associate, Retired and Aspiring Educator.

Section 2: Qualifications

A. Active Member: Any member of the CTA who shall agree to subscribe to the purpose of the caucus, abide by the provisions of this governance document, shall upon payment of the prescribed annual contribution, be eligible for active caucus membership and shall have the following rights and privileges of membership.

B. Associate Member:-Any CTA member who is interested in advancing the cause of public education as related to the purpose of the California Teachers Association Climate & Environmental Caucus. Any person who is not eligible for any other class of membership in the California Teachers Association Climate & Environmental Caucus.

C. Aspiring Educator: Any student member of the CTA, who shall agree to subscribe to the purpose of the caucus and abide by the provisions of this governance document. Upon payment of the prescribed annual contribution, shall be eligible for membership in the California Teachers Association Climate & Environmental Caucus.

D. Retired Member: Any person who has retired from the education profession, who shall agree to the purpose of the caucus and abide by the provisions of this governance document shall upon payment of the prescribed annual contribution, be eligible for membership in the California Teachers Association Climate & Environmental Caucus.

Section 3: Rights and Privileges of Membership

A. Active Membership of the Caucus shall have the following rights and Privileges:

1. To hold an elected or appointed office.
2. The right to vote.
3. The right to any communication concerning the work of the Caucus and related CTA activities.

B. Associate and Retired shall have all the rights and privileges of the Active Members.

C. Student Members shall have all the rights and privileges of the Active Members excluding the right to hold an elective or appointed office.

Section 4: Term of Membership

A. The term of membership shall be on a yearly basis beginning-June 26th.

B. The fiscal year of the Caucus shall be for the same period as stated in Item A. Section IV.

Article III: Officers

Section 1: Offices and Qualifications

A. The officers of the Caucus shall consist of the following: Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson, Secretary, Treasurer, Parliamentarian, and Representative. A candidate for office shall be an Active member of the Caucus.

Section 2: Nominations and Elections

A. Nominations for officer positions shall be made verbally before Adjournment of the caucus meeting at the March CTA-RA.

B. Elections will be held during the first caucus meeting of the June CTA-RA. If no candidate for any specific office receives a clear majority of the votes cast, a run-off election between the top two vote-getters will be held during the last caucus meeting of the CTA-RA.

C. Officers may be nominated by an eligible member and elected by a majority of those eligible members who are in attendance.

D. Officers shall be elected at the last meeting of the CTA State Council during a Caucus Meeting.

E. The election of the officers may be by voice vote or secret ballot as determined by the Chairperson.

Section 3: Duties And Responsibilities of Officers

A. Chairperson

1. Shall preside at all meetings of the Caucus.

2. Shall appoint the Chairperson of any standing, ad hoc or special committee, and designate representatives to such committees, except as otherwise provided by these bylaws.

3. Shall appoint any interim assistants.
4. Shall be official spokesperson and official representative of the Caucus.
5. Shall call special meetings of the Caucus when necessary.
6. Shall communicate with potential members before the first State Council meeting.

B. Vice-Chairperson

1. Shall preside in the absence of the Chairperson.
2. Shall promote membership in the Caucus.
3. Shall chair the election interview committee for the caucus and bring the committee recommendation to the caucus for ratification.

C. Secretary

1. Shall record and keep record of the proceedings of the Caucus.
2. Shall report the proceedings of the Caucus.
3. Shall establish and maintain a record of the count of members and roster of the Caucus.

D. Treasurer

1. Shall receive, record, and disburse all monies of the Caucus.
2. Shall maintain the financial records account of the Caucus.
3. Shall make an annual financial report to the Caucus.

E. Parliamentarian

1. Shall be appointed by the caucus chair at their discretion.
2. Shall ensure that the meetings of the caucus adhere to Robert's Rules of Order-newly revised.
3. Shall perform other duties as assigned by the chair.

F. Representative

1. Serves as a liaison with other caucus chairs to see where we can coordinate efforts on shared objectives including but not limited to candidates, NBIs and policies.
2. Serves as a liaison with other state & national environmental caucuses and organizations.

Section 4: Term of Officers

A. All officers shall serve for a period of two (2) years

1. Elections shall be staggered as follows:

i) Chairperson, Secretary, and Treasurer shall be on even numbered years.

ii) Vice-Chairperson and Representative shall be elected on odd numbered years.

B. Officers shall have a term limit of two (2), two (2) year terms, in any one (1) office.

Article IV: Meetings

Section 1: There shall be at least one meeting of the CTA Environmental & Climate Caucus during the CTA-RA.

Section 2: A quorum shall consist of the members present at each meeting.

Section 3: Powers and Duties of the Caucus

A. The caucus shall have the following powers and duties;

1. To elect the officers of the Caucus.
2. To approve resolutions and platforms.
3. To remove officers by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of those in Attendance.
4. To endorse any candidate for State or National office.
5. To assess the Caucus members for the purpose of advancing the objectives of the Caucus.
6. To serve as the legislative and policy forming body of the Caucus.

Article V: Reports

Section 1: The caucus shall receive reports from all committees and officers.

Section 2: Committees are expected to meet at least once per quarter in addition to the State Council meeting.

Article VI: Amendments

Section 1: Any amendments to these Bylaws must be introduced in writing at least one meeting prior to the time upon which it will be voted.

Section 2: Voting on amendments shall be by secret ballot, and requires a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the members in attendance.

Section 3: Amendments will be presented and considered at the meeting immediately following their submission.

Section 4: Proposed amendments become effective at the close of business at the end of the current RA.

Section 5: By-laws will be available for review and reference at caucus meetings.

Article VII: Committees

Section 1: There shall be the following standing committees: Communications, Floor Strategy, Social, Membership, and Endorsement.

Section 2: The Chair shall have the authority to create ad hoc committees as needed.

Section 3: Committee members shall elect committee chairs by secret ballot

Section 4: The Chair is an ex-officio member of every committee.

Article VIII: Vacancies

Section 1: In the event that an elected officer is unable or unwilling to fulfill their duties, the ranking officer shall appoint a replacement to fulfill the remainder of the term.

A. If the elected chair is unable or unwilling to fulfill their duties, the vice-chair with the most seniority as determined by number of consecutive caucus meetings attended prior to the current meeting will assume the duties of chair.

Article IX: Finance

Section 1: Active Members must contribute the annual dues of \$20.00.

Section 2: Associate Members must contribute the annual dues of \$20.00.

Section 3: Aspiring Educator Members free

Section 4: Retired Members \$20.00.

Section 5: Any caucus member that is a NEA delegate is encouraged to join the NEA/BATs caucus.

Section 6: Student Members free

Section 7 Any caucus member that is a NEA delegate is encouraged to join the NEA Climate Caucus.

Section 8: Any caucus member that is a AFT delegate is encouraged to join the AFT Climate caucus.

Article X: Parliamentary Authority

Section 1: The most current edition of Robert's Rules of Order shall be the authority on all questions of procedure not specifically stated in these By-Laws or in the Standing Rules.

Article XII: Endorsements

Section 1: Endorsement interviews shall be conducted by the endorsement committee on the CTA designated day and reports shall be shared with the caucus by the endorsement committee.

Section 2: The CTA Environmental & Climate Caucus shall endorse candidates for office who receive 60% or more of the votes cast. Every ballot will have a "No Endorsement" option.

Adopted:

Bylaws Committee

Name

Name

Name