

Palos Verdes
Democrats
Founded 1952



Palos Verdes Democrats

POLICY AGAINST HARASSMENT AND WORKPLACE VIOLENCE

The Palos Verdes Democrats are committed to the goal of each contractor, volunteer and member interacting with any of the foregoing having a work environment free from harassment and workplace violence. In keeping with this goal, the Palos Verdes Democrats are committed to providing each member, contractor and volunteer with a work environment free of unlawful harassment and workplace violence. The Palos Verdes Democrats will not tolerate any form of discrimination or harassment by anyone involved in the operation of the Palos Verdes Democrats and, as such, prohibits unlawful discrimination against or harassment by all such persons, including officers, applicants, volunteers, interns, members, and persons providing services pursuant to a contract (hereinafter collectively “covered persons”). The Palos Verdes Democrats considers discrimination and/or harassment to be the kind of serious violation of Party norms which can result in disciplinary action to the offending person.

1. Anti-Harassment Policy

Prohibited harassment or discrimination refers to harassment or discrimination on the basis of sex, race, color, ancestry, citizenship, national origin, religion, age, physical or mental disability, medical condition, pregnancy, marital status, military and veteran status, sexual orientation, or gender identity or expression, being transgender or a gender non-conforming individual or any other characteristic protected by federal, state, or local laws. Prohibited harassment and discrimination also includes conduct based on the perception that anyone has any of the aforementioned characteristics, or is associated with a person who has or is perceived as having any of those characteristics. “Military and veteran status” is defined broadly as “a member or veteran of the United States Armed Forces, United States Armed Forces Reserve, the United States National Guard, and the California National Guard.” All such harassment, whether or not unlawful, is prohibited; and the Palos Verdes Democrats has a zero-tolerance policy when it comes to prohibited harassment. The Palos Verdes Democrats’ anti-harassment policy applies to all persons involved in the operation of any campaign funded or operated by the Palos Verdes Democrats and it applies to prohibited and unlawful harassment by any such contractor, or volunteer, including supervisors, those one supervises and coworkers.

The Palos Verdes Democrats’ prohibition of unlawful discrimination and harassment specifically includes, but is not limited to, the following behavior to the extent it violates applicable laws or constitutes unlawful hostile or discriminatory conditions:

- VERBAL CONDUCT such as epithets, derogatory jokes or comments, slurs or unwanted sexual advances, invitations, or comments;

- VISUAL CONDUCT such as derogatory and/or sexually-oriented posters, photography, videos, cartoons, drawings, or gestures;
- PHYSICAL CONDUCT including assault, unwanted touching, intentionally blocking normal movement, or interfering with work directed at an individual because of the individual's sex, race, or any other protected characteristic;
- THREATS AND DEMANDS to submit to sexual requests in order to keep a job or avoid some other loss, and offers of job benefits in return for sexual favors.
- ANY RETALIATION for having reported or threatened to report harassment.

Depending on the circumstances, examples of these behaviors include but are not limited to:

- unwanted sexual advances or requests for sexual favors;
- sexual jokes and innuendo;
- verbal abuse or advances of a sexual nature;
- commentary about an individual's body, sexual prowess or sexual deficiencies;
- leering, catcalls or touching;
- insulting or obscene comments or gestures;
- display or circulation in the workplace of sexually suggestive objects or pictures (including through e-mail); and
- other unwelcome physical, verbal or visual conduct of a sexual nature.

No covered person may threaten or insinuate, either explicitly or implicitly, that an individual's refusal to submit to sexual advances will adversely affect the individual's employment, compensation, advancement, assigned duties, or any other term or condition of employment or career development.

Harassment based on any other protected characteristic is likewise strictly prohibited. This policy prohibits unacceptable conduct in all interactions arising in connection with the operation of the Palos Verdes Democrats.

This policy is meant to be expansive and also includes a prohibition of harassment by members or visitors to the Palos Verdes Democrats' events

The obligation to treat others with dignity and respect extends to cyberspace. "Cyberbullying" is the willful and repeated use of cell phones, computers, and other electronic communication devices to harass and threaten others. Instant messaging, chat rooms and other social media, e-mails, and messages posted on websites are common means of engaging in this type of misconduct. It is not limited to words, but includes images, sounds, data or intelligence. Cyberbullying can include, but is not limited to, defamatory, inaccurate, disparaging, violent, abusive, profane, or sexually oriented material (including so-called "sexting"), and sometimes includes efforts to embarrass or bombard another.

Cyberbullying incidents frequently run afoul of the other prohibitions in this policy with no less serious disciplinary consequences, but even when it does not, it is severe misconduct for which there is zero tolerance.

If you believe that you have been unlawfully harassed or witnessed unlawful harassment, submit a written complaint to the President of the Palos Verdes Democrats, or one of the Palos Verdes Democrats' board members as soon as possible after the incident. You are never required to file a complaint with the harasser(s). Your complaint should include details of the incident or incidents, names of the individuals involved, and names of any witnesses.

If you are uncomfortable providing details of the incident to the person to whom you report the incident, the Palos Verdes Democrats will use its best efforts to provide you with access to a non-officer to collect that data. The Palos Verdes Democrats will immediately undertake an effective, thorough, and objective investigation of the harassment allegations.

If the Palos Verdes Democrats determines that unlawful harassment has occurred, effective remedial action will be taken in accordance with the circumstances involved. Any member determined by the Palos Verdes Democrats to be responsible for unlawful harassment will be subject to appropriate disciplinary action, up to and including membership termination. To the extent consistent with law, the Palos Verdes Democrats' Board ordinarily will advise all parties concerned of the results of the investigation. The Palos Verdes Democrats will not retaliate against any member, volunteer or other covered person for filing a complaint and will not tolerate or permit retaliation by management, or co-workers.

The Palos Verdes Democrats encourages anyone to report any incidents of harassment forbidden by this policy *immediately* so that complaints can be quickly and fairly resolved. You also should be aware that the Federal Equal Employment Opportunity Commission and the California Department of Fair Employment and Housing investigate and prosecute complaints of prohibited harassment.

EEOC, LA District Office
Roybal Federal Building
255 East Temple St., 4th Floor
Los Angeles, CA 90012
Phone: 1-800-669-4000

Fax: 213-894-1118
TTY: 1-800-669-6820
ASL Video Phone: 844-234-5122

California DFEH, Los Angeles Office
320 W. 4th Street, 10th Floor
Los Angeles, CA 90013

Phone: 800-884-1684 (TTY) or California's Relay
Service at 711

TTY: 800-700-2320
Email: contact.center@dfeh.ca.gov

If you think you have been harassed or that you have been retaliated against for resisting or complaining, you may file a complaint with the appropriate agency.

If you have any questions concerning this policy, please feel free to contact the Palos Verdes Democrats President or other member of the Board.

2. Violence Policy

The Palos Verdes Democrats is committed to providing an environment that is free from acts of violence or threats of violence. In keeping with this commitment, the Palos Verdes Democrats

has established a policy that provides “zero tolerance” for actual or threatened violence against one’s co-workers, supervisors, visitors or any other persons who are at our meetings and have contact with our members, contractors, and volunteers. Safety and security is everyone’s responsibility.

Compliance with this anti-violence policy is a condition of your membership (if you are a member) or your permission to attend our meetings (if you are a non-member).

Every verbal or physical threat of violence must be treated seriously and reported immediately to the President of the Palos Verdes Democrats, or one of board members. You are never required to file a complaint with the person making the threat. Your complaint should include details of the incident or incidents, names of the individuals involved, and names of any witnesses. If you are uncomfortable providing details of the incident to the person to whom you report the incident, the Palos Verdes Democrats will use its best efforts to provide you with access to a non-officer to collect that data. The Palos Verdes Democrats will immediately undertake an effective, thorough, and objective investigation of the harassment allegations.

If the Palos Verdes Democrats determines that violence or other misconduct has occurred, effective remedial action will be taken in accordance with the circumstances involved. Any member determined by the Palos Verdes Democrats to be responsible for violence or other such misconduct will be subject to appropriate disciplinary action, up to and including termination. To the extent consistent with law, the President of the Palos Verdes Democrats board ordinarily will advise all parties concerned of the results of the investigation. The Palos Verdes Democrats will not retaliate against any person for filing a complaint and will not tolerate or permit retaliation by members.

In situations where a member, contractor, or volunteer becomes aware of an imminent act of violence, threat of imminent violence or actual violence, emergency assistance should be sought immediately. In such circumstances, the member, contractor, or volunteer should notify someone in charge and/or appropriate law enforcement authorities, as the circumstances demand. When promptly and properly notified of such an emergency, it is the policy of the Palos Verdes Democrats to do whatever it can to ensure that appropriate action is taken.

Other resources you may wish to access include:

Domestic Violence: 800-766-SAFE


Trans Lifeline: 877-565-8860

Suicide Prevention: 800-273-8255

Sexual Violence: 800-656-HOPE

The signature and date below indicate that the Palos Verdes Democrats’ President has received and reviewed these policies and acknowledges the understanding that they apply to our club.

Dated: 17 Nov. 2019


Rascha Hall, PV Democrats’ President