



Central Comm Meeting - Insufficient Notice of Proposal to Pay Chair

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To: <info@sdprogressives.com>

Dear Central Committee Members,

At tonight's Central Committee Meeting, the Chair may attempt to waive the Policies and Procedures to pass a policy to pay *himself* without proper notice.

We have to ask ourselves, **what is the urgency?**

The Chair of the party has never received compensation in the century-long history of our local party. Why can we not wait for this proposal to be properly noticed and considered by the committee?

Artificial urgency makes for bad policy.

To compensate the Chair as a full-time, full-benefit employee would be the most significant change to the County party in decades. This proposal would have huge implications for how our party operates. One would think that the committee would want as much time as possible to debate and consider such an important proposal.

This is the exactly the type of proposal we should want to get feedback on, allow input into its creation, consider various alternatives -- not shove through wording crafted by very few individuals, as fast as possible, in violation of the notification policy.

If this Chair Compensation Proposal is a solid proposal, it can withstand scrutiny until it can be properly noticed to the members.

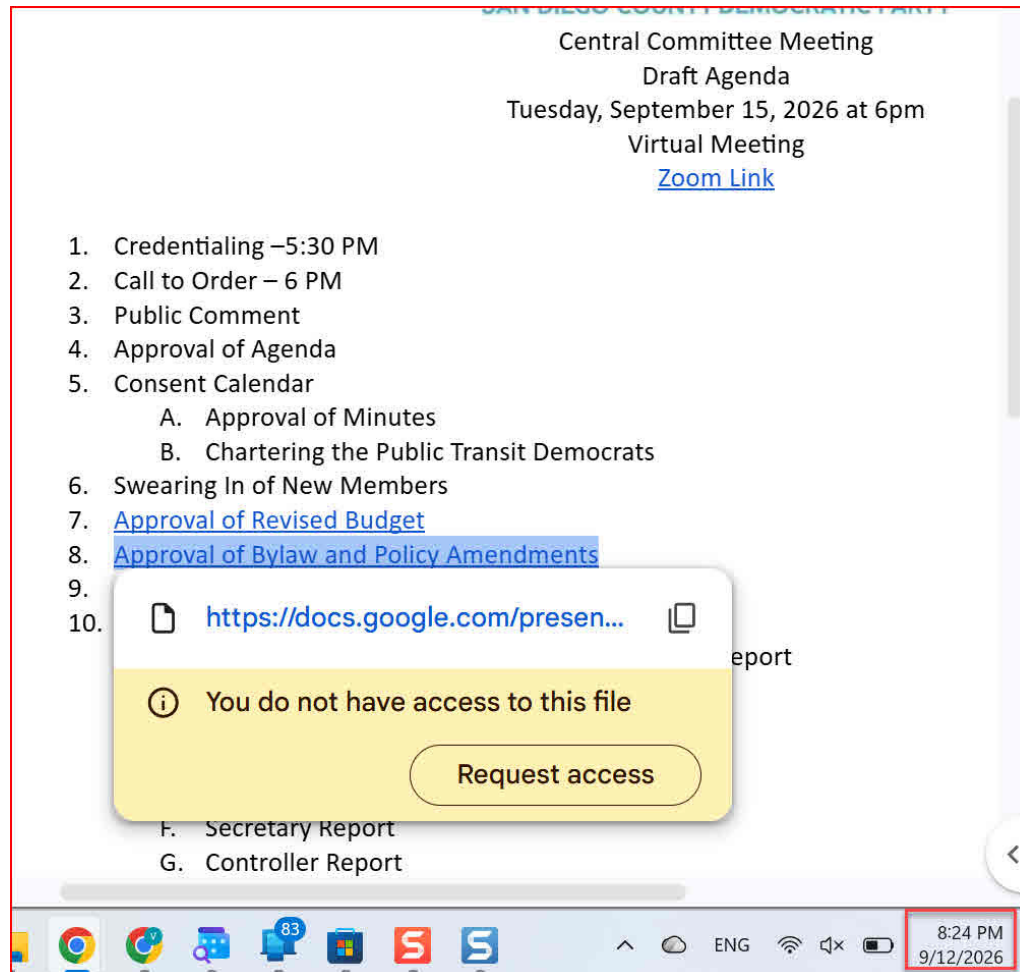
The proposal to compensate the party chair has been rushed to a central committee vote without the required notice or debate:

This proposal first appeared on the [agenda for the admin committee](#) as a single phrase, "*Paid Chair discussion*" on September 3rd, a mere 30 hours prior to their September 4th meeting.

The admin committee members did not have the opportunity to see or discuss the proposed wording of this amendment until the meeting where it was approved.

The September Central Committee meeting agenda was sent to members on September 7th. However, the agenda item only read "*Approval of Bylaws*

and Policy Amendments", with no mention made of the proposal to compensate the Chair. This agenda item contained a link, but as of Sunday morning, the Google Doc behind the link was private, not public. Anyone who clicked on the link would be directed to a "You Need Access" page.



According to the SDCDP Policy and Procedures, [Section XVII Amendment of the Rules](#):

"Administration Committee recommended wording of Bylaws and Policies and Procedures amendments shall be made available electronically to all members of This Committee at least seven (7) days prior to the Central Committee meeting. Any member who wishes to have a printed copy shall make that request at least three (3) business days prior to the Central Committee meeting."

By definition, the wording of the proposed change to the policy to compensate the Chair was not "made available". "Made Available" would mean that all members had access. Until 53 hours before the meeting, members had to *request* access to the restricted document.

When I alerted the committee to the failure to provide adequate notice for this item, the Google document containing the language of this proposal (and other proposed amendments) was finally made available to the committee members by making the document public (52 hours prior to the vote).

According to the Chair, four members had requested access to the Google Doc prior to Sunday, September 13th, and the wording was made available to them. This means the remaining 82 members had not received notice through official means. The Chair stated that "lots of" Central Committee members had seen the proposal, at least 30, since he had circulated it to them informally. However, the policy clearly states "*all members*", not 4, not 30, not those who were selected by the Chair to receive a copy.

This lack of notification clearly violates party policy. However, the Chair has made clear that he intends to consider this proposal at tonight's meeting, even if it means suspending the written policies and procedures to accomplish this.

It has been speculated (without evidence) that this urgency may stem from the current economic needs of the Chair. He may require compensation to devote himself to our party efforts during this election cycle. If this is the case - that the Chair needs money or benefits *at this moment*- would it not be more appropriate to extend a temporary, reasonable stipend through the election season? (The committee could then consider a more permanent pay and benefits package when we are not in the throes of an election).

In fact, I think a policy of extending a stipend to the chair for the three months leading up to an election (where the monthly stipend is no greater than the monthly salary of the highest paid permanent employee) would be a very reasonable compensation proposal. But the committee members have not had the opportunity to consider alternate proposals.

Please reject any attempts to waive the county party policies for notification that provide for serious consideration and debate for proposals as serious as this proposal.

Thank You,
Cynara Velazquez

Former Director of Clubs, San Diego County Democratic Party

P.S. This lack of notice affects all Policies and Procedures amendments being voted on at this evenings central committee meeting. It would be a violation of policies and procedures to consider any of these amendments this meeting.

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