ADA and the RCDP

It is a duty of the Riverside County Democratic Party (RCDP) to affirm, when necessary, non-discrimination policies consistent with the Democratic Party Platform and Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). The RCDP endeavors to make a clear affirmation of specific non-discrimination policies that lie within the purview of the RCDP.

The statement in the box below must be included as part of all communications with regard to Public Entity or Private Residence meetings, event invitations, or notices of opportunity for education, entertainment or volunteering. This requirement applies for the RCDP and any organization Chartered, Sponsored or requesting or expecting support from the RCDP.

Reasonable accommodations will be provided for persons with disabilities. Please call ______ 48 hours in advance to make your request or for any questions, including but not limited to the program, parking, restroom facilities, American Sign Language requirements, or alternate format materials.
**Why Access Is Important:**

**Accessibility is the right thing to do; Civil Rights are not optional**

By making our events, meetings and offices accessible, we create an inclusive environment for people with a disability. Accessible venues and technologies enable people with disabilities to make independent decisions, and provide greater opportunity for participation, interaction, education and employment. If we ignore accessibility issues we are limiting information and participation for a protected constituency.

**Accessibility is the law**

The California Democratic Party supports the Federal and State implementation of the Americans with Disability Act (ADA). The ADA is a Civil Rights Act equal to the Civil Rights Act of 1964. The Democratic Party has had non-discrimination policies in place for decades and we have adopted Platform language which includes compliance with the federal Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. The California Democratic Party formally and officially adopted the ADA into its Platform in 2003.

**Accessibility creates marketing opportunity**

Accessibility provides organizations and businesses reach to new customers and new markets. Today Non-Profit and commercial entities are looking at their own social responsibilities as well as the financial benefits of making their products and services accessible to a larger consumer base. Political organizations and candidates should use the same concept to maximize influence with increased voter participation.

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**What is required for a Democratic event or meeting to be compliant with accessibility rules?**

**Public Places**

All public places are required to be accessible to and usable by persons with disabilities, unless the facility can show that access and barrier removal is a hardship on its operation. “Hardship” has been defined as significant difficulty or expense relative to the barrier removal. If the facility is given 48 hours advance notice of an accommodation request, such as parking or assistive listening, the event/meeting organizer(s) must provide any assistance requested, in compliance with the ADA.

**Private Residences**

Democrat organizations and candidates who sponsor programs or events in a private home shall notify the home owner and/or the host that disabled access may be required. A review of the home shall be done with a check list of features. A discussion with the home owner of possible requests for access and/or accommodations will provide the home owner/host with information of what is necessary and what accommodations may be requested. When planning a program in a private residence, the RCDP ADA committee is your resource for compliance information and how to meet any accommodation requests.