

Bylaws of Escondido Chamber of Citizens (ECOC)

ARTICLE 1 - Name

Name - The organization shall be known as the *Escondido Chamber of Citizens* (ECOC).
The principal place of business and administrative office shall be located at 1021 Madison Ave. in Escondido, California.

Article 11 - Purpose

Section 1. Mission: The *Escondido Chamber of Citizens*' mission is to represent the interests of average citizens by gathering and conveying information about public concerns, and by working with local, county, and state officials to urge their support for the best possible quality of life.

Section 2. The object of the *Escondido Chamber of Citizens* is to preserve the integrity and intent of the General Plan of the City of Escondido through political and community effort with a particular focus on land use and quality of life.

Section 3. Goals

- Support candidates for city office, both elected and appointed; oppose candidates whose stand on issues is contrary to ECOC's values.
- Educate residents on land use issues.
- Advocate for legislation that is important to land use and quality of life.
- Participate in the legislative process by proposing or opposing ballot measures, initiatives, referendums and recall campaigns.
- Promote collaboration among groups from the North County who share similar goals.

Article 111 – Membership

Section 1. Any person who embraces the mission and goals of the organization and who has paid annual dues shall be eligible to enjoy membership.

Section 2. The Board of Directors by a majority vote, may grant *Honorary Life Membership* to any person in recognition of outstanding work performed on behalf of the *Escondido Chamber of Citizens*.

Section 3. The annual dues shall be set by the Board of Directors. Dues are payable once a year at the October general meeting.

Article IV – Board of Directors

Section 1. The Board of Directors (BOD) of the Escondido Chamber of Citizens shall be the President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, and up to three Directors.

Section 2. The duties of the elected officers shall be as follows:

1. **President.** The President shall set the agenda for and preside over all meetings of the Board of Directors and of the membership; serve as the official representative of the *Escondido Chamber of Citizens* in public forums; make decisions for the organization on policy when empowered to do so by the Board of Directors; and advise the membership of pertinent matters affecting the *Escondido Chamber of Citizens*. In addition the President will ensure that an annual review of the organization's treasury is conducted.

2. **Vice-President.** The Vice-President shall be the second ranking officer of the *Escondido Chamber of Citizens*, and shall preside at meetings of the BOD and of the General Membership Meetings in the absence of the president. The Vice-President shall perform such other duties as the President may direct.
3. **Secretary.** The Secretary shall maintain a record of all meetings of the BOD and of the membership; receive and maintain official *Escondido Chamber of Citizens* records of all business, events, and policies adopted. The Secretary shall handle the organization's correspondence as directed by the President.
4. **Treasurer.** The Treasurer shall maintain the financial records of *Escondido Chamber of Citizens*; receive and disburse funds of the organization; prepare an annual budget of anticipated revenues and expenses; report the financial status of ECOC to the Board of Directors and the membership on a regular basis; prepare and submit all required political Action Committee reports as required by law; work with the President on the annual audit of ECOC's finances and perform other such duties as the President may direct.
5. **Directors.** The Directors shall be responsible for their assigned portfolios to help reach selected goals of the *Escondido Chamber of Citizens*.

Section 3. Removal of Officers. An officer may be removed from office upon recommendation of a two-thirds majority of the Board of Directors on a roll call vote or upon submission of a petition signed by at least 25 percent of the members. Such recommendation or petition must be submitted to the membership at a general membership meeting and shall require a two-thirds majority of the members present and voting to remove the officer.

Section 4. Succession. In case of vacancy in the office of the President, the Vice-President shall assume the duties of president pending election of a replacement. For any elected position, the vacancy shall be announced to the membership in a mailer or e-notification. The election for the vacant position shall be held at the first General Membership Meeting following the vacancy. There shall be a call for nominations from the floor. Should there be none, a motion may be considered to elect a Board of Directors nominee.

Article V – Elections

Section 1. Election of the Board of Directors. The officers of the *Escondido Chamber of Citizens* Board of Directors shall be elected at the January General Membership Meeting (see Article VI, section 4) of odd-numbered years. The term of office shall be two years, running from that meeting through the 24-month period until the next January meeting of an odd-numbered year.

Section 2: Nominating Committee. Officers may be nominated in one of two ways: by a Nominating Committee or from the floor immediately prior to voting for each office. The Nominating Committee shall be appointed by the Board of Directors during the month of October preceding the election. The Nominating Committee shall report to the Board of Directors during the month of November preceding the election. The Nominating Committee shall be composed of at least three members, none of whom is seeking election for a position on the Board of Directors for the period of service of the nominees.

Section 3: Election of slates. The officers of the Board of Directors may be elected as a group. If there are contested races, the officers shall be elected individually in the order of President, Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary, and Director(s). The election of officers shall be by voice vote or show of hands. However, if there is only one nominee for each office, and provided there is no objection, the candidates can be elected by acclamation. To be elected, a nominee must receive a majority of the votes cast for that office. If no nominee receives a majority on the first ballot, a runoff shall be held between the two nominees receiving the greatest number of votes.

Section 4: Vacancies of positions: In the event a position is not filled in the biennial election or there is a vacancy because of resignation or removal, a special election shall be held to fill the position. The elections will be held as specified in Article IV, Section 4. in these bylaws.

Article V - Meetings

Section 1. Meetings of the Board of Directors (BOD). Meetings are held weekly unless otherwise cancelled by the President. The meeting shall be held at a pre-determined time and place by the BOD.

Section 2. Special BOD meetings. Special meetings of the BOD may be called for good cause upon approval of the majority of the BOD, and provided that three day notice is provided.

Section 3. BOD Quorum. A quorum at BOD meeting shall consist of the majority of the BOD.

Section 4. General Membership Meetings. General Membership Meetings shall generally be held monthly on the fourth Tuesday of the month for the purpose of updating, educating on issues, and/or discussing concerns in the community

Section 5. Quorum of General Membership Meetings: A quorum for meeting shall be ten percent of the current membership. A quorum must be present for any ECOC business conducted requiring a vote.

Article VI – Rules of Procedure

Section 1. Parliamentary authority. The current edition of *Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised* shall be the parliamentary authority for the ECOC on all questions not covered by these bylaws.

Section 2. Parliamentary appeal. Questions of interpretation of these bylaws may be appealed to the BOD, whose decision shall be final.

Article VII – Amendments to Bylaws

Amendment to bylaws. These bylaws may be amended by a two-thirds vote at a General Membership Meeting after the proposed amendment has been presented at the preceding General Membership Meeting.