



South Orange County Young Democrats

General Body Meeting #3 — Minutes

Wednesday, July 8, 2026

Location: Virtual — Google Meet

Presiding: Jack Whitney, President

Approximate Attendance: 11 members and guests

Elected Officers Present: Jack Whitney (President), Fatima Muniz (Vice President), Jasel Steinmetz (Treasurer), Ben Bartlett (Secretary).

Appointed Officers Present: Joshua Brons (Political Director), Brandon Thede (Media Director), John Paculdo Koenigshofer (Parliamentarian; Board Advisor).

7:10 PM — Call to Order and Approval of Agenda

President Jack Whitney called the meeting to order at 7:10 PM. He noted the meeting was scheduled on short notice and held virtually, and that the club plans to return to full speed in August with an in-person meeting and invited guest speaker(s) as the club turns toward the November general election. The evening's agenda — a welcome icebreaker, introduction of the newly appointed board members, board reports, the club boundary revision item, a June primary debrief, jobs and internships, announcements, and open forum — was moved, seconded, and approved by voice vote without opposition.

7:12 PM — Welcome and Member Icebreaker

Attendees introduced themselves and shared one local issue they would fix overnight. Topics included high-speed rail in California, reducing barriers to medium- and high-density housing, expanding regional light rail, adding park space in Garden Grove, supporting small-business entrepreneurship, autonomous-vehicle testing in Orange County, removing extremist recruitment flyers in Rancho Santa Margarita, San Clemente's maritime-security lease agreement, repairing the San Clemente rail corridor and beach trail, and strengthening non-profit youth sports leagues. Guests included Jose Teano of Artesia and Sahand Cyrusian, who joined during the meeting.

7:22 PM — Approval of GBM #2 Minutes

The minutes of the May 13, 2026 endorsement meeting (GBM #2) were shared with the body for review. A motion to approve the minutes was moved by Ben Bartlett and seconded by Joshua Brons. Approved by voice vote without opposition.

7:23 PM — Introduction of Appointed Board Members

The club welcomed its three appointed board members, whose uncontested appointments were previously approved by the Executive Board in accordance with the bylaws:

- **Joshua Brons, Political Director** — outlined a three-part focus: defending Supervisor Katrina Foley's District 5 seat, strengthening the club's relationship with the Democratic Women of South Orange County, and building a relationship with the Canyon Democrats.

- **Brandon Thede, Media Director** — outlined plans to grow the club's media presence, with social media as the core channel, so the club's communications reflect its values and reach a wider audience.
- **John Paculdo Koenigshofer, Parliamentarian** — aims to make Robert's Rules and meeting procedure more accessible so members can participate confidently, including a plain-language procedures guide in development with Treasurer Steinmetz.

7:28 PM — Board Reports

- **President (Whitney):** Building the club's relationship with the Democratic Women of South Orange County, including upcoming collaboration on Latino community outreach and voter registration ahead of the general election. Represented the club at Mission Viejo Pride alongside the Orange County Young Democrats.
- **Vice President (Muniz):** Working with the President on the Hispanic Outreach committee effort with the Democratic Women of South Orange County.
- **Treasurer (Steinmetz):** Developing the Robert's Rules guide with the Parliamentarian to support new-member participation and retention; working to establish the club's bank account, a prerequisite for future fundraising.
- **Secretary (Bartlett):** Maintaining the club's social-media presence; beginning work on a club website, a shared Google calendar, and a complete, maintained roster.
- **Media Director (Thede):** Requested early lists of campaign events for at-risk endorsed candidates so the club can promote and mobilize in time; the Secretary and Political Director will assist.
- **Political Director (Brons)** had nothing to report, having been appointed the previous day. The Parliamentarian recognized President Whitney for representing the club at Mission Viejo Pride.

7:35 PM — Club Boundary Revisions (Tabled from GBM #1)

The chair opened the boundary revision item and noted two procedural concerns: attendance was largely limited to the board, and no proposed amendments had been received in advance as the bylaws require. Because the club's boundaries are defined in the bylaws (Article II, Section 2), any revision constitutes a bylaw amendment, which must be submitted in writing to the President and Secretary at least fourteen days before the meeting at which it is considered, and requires a two-thirds vote to adopt.

Motion — Reclassification: A motion to formally classify the boundary revision as a bylaw amendment, subject to the amendment procedures above, was moved by the Parliamentarian and seconded. **Vote: 5 in favor, 1 opposed, 0 abstentions. The motion passed.**

In discussion, members debated whether hard geographic boundaries serve the club. Perspectives included removing the geographic requirement for membership while retaining the defined area for endorsement scope; concern that removing boundaries entirely could invite bad-faith participation, mitigated by the existing two-meeting requirement for voting membership; and a suggestion from Sahand Cyrusian to align the club's boundaries with the South Orange County Community College District. Elizabeth La encouraged continuing the conversation with a broader group, including at the July 18 mixer with OCYD.

The body entered closed session at approximately 7:52 PM on a motion duly made and seconded; the closed-session discussion is not recorded in these minutes. The body exited closed session at approximately 8:06 PM on a motion duly made and seconded.

Motion — Postponement: A motion to postpone the boundary item to the August general body meeting — where submitted written amendments will be taken up under the bylaws' amendment procedure — was moved by Brandon Thede and seconded by Jasel Steinmetz. Approved without opposition.

Next steps: the board will prepare several concrete boundary options for consideration; instructions for submitting written amendment proposals will be emailed to the membership and posted to the club's Instagram; and members were reminded that proposals are due in writing to the President and Secretary at least fourteen days before the August meeting.

8:07 PM — June Primary Debrief

Eight of the club's nine endorsed candidates advanced to the November general election. The body discussed the results, noting Republican turnout ran roughly five points above typical levels. Supervisor Katrina Foley's District 5 runoff — decided by a narrow margin in the primary — was identified as the club's top priority race for the fall. The Parliamentarian noted the club has more endorsements ahead, including statewide contests, city councils, school boards, and community college districts, with a focus on supporting Democratic incumbents; potential engagement in California Democratic Party processes will be revisited after November.

8:11 PM — Jobs and Internships

The chair reviewed the club's open policy for its jobs and internships page: volunteer, internship, and staff opportunities for any Democratic candidate will be promoted to members, whether or not the club has endorsed in the race. Opportunities are expected to grow as the general election approaches.

8:12 PM — Announcements

- **OCYD Summer Staffer Social** — Saturday, July 18, 12:00–3:00 PM, Irvine.
- **CYD State Leadership Summit** — July 30 – August 1, San Diego, held alongside the California Democratic Party executive board meeting; members are encouraged to attend and build statewide relationships.
- The Media Director noted the club is not yet listed on the California Young Democrats website and will pursue a correction.

8:14 PM — Open Forum

Members raised the creation of a central communication platform for the club and broader Democratic community, comparing Discord and Slack; the board will form a group chat and evaluate platforms. Elizabeth La shared Civic Forum, a civic-engagement RSVP application she built, and offered it for club use. Ideas for high-school outreach and a future "Meet the Board" social-media series were noted for follow-up.

8:18 PM — Adjournment

With no further business, the chair adjourned the meeting at 8:18 PM. The next general body meeting is planned for August, to be held in person, with location and confirmed date to be announced. Proposed bylaw amendments regarding club boundaries must be submitted in writing to the President and Secretary at least fourteen days in advance.

Minutes prepared by Ben Bartlett, Secretary