



POSTING GUIDELINES & RULES OF ENGAGEMENT

Welcome to the Silicon Valley Democratic Club Members' Facebook Group

Who We Are

Established in 1981, Silicon Valley Democratic Club (SVDC)—formerly known as Santa Clara County Democratic Club—is a progressive organization dedicated to informing voters, encouraging citizen involvement in the political process, and promoting Democratic Party values and candidates. We draw our membership from all over Santa Clara County and it includes many current and former elected officials. You can learn more about the SVDC on our website at www.SiliconValleyDemClub.org

This group is limited to current members of the SVDC, and is "closed" to foster a safe-space environment for **respectful and civilized discourse**. This group is moderated, administrated and operated through the work of dedicated volunteers who believe in the importance of progressive action and respectful support.

If you do not see your post on our feed, it may have been found to be not in alignment with our guidelines and rules. Please become familiar with the guidelines and rules that follow to help us keep the momentum positive and climate supportive for this group. **For questions, please contact info@siliconvalleydemclub.org**

Posting Guidelines

Do your own research. We cannot extensively review every post, and we are not responsible for the actions or content of individual members or outside groups. Please use your own good judgement in evaluating them.

◆ POSTING IS MODERATED

All posts are subject to the approval of the admin team prior to posting to ensure they align with the spirit and intent of our safe-space guidelines. With a group this size, we simply cannot vet and verify every submission, so you must use your own judgement regarding their viability, effectiveness, accuracy etc. **Please submit posts with links that are timely, include meaningful discussion prompts with personal perspectives, include content warnings when applicable, and use appropriate hashtags.** We sometimes notify posters via Facebook Messenger when submissions are not approved. If you submit a post and don't see it in our feed, we suggest that you keep an eye on your "Message Requests" in Facebook Messenger. Our safe-space guidelines always apply, and overly offensive items or those deemed false will not be approved at the admin team's discretion and may result in the submitting member being blocked.

◆ CALLS TO ACTION – FROM THE ADMIN TEAM

From time to time, we will post a vetted call to action from the Admin Team. Our Admin Team will collaborate with our club committees and other organizations to check for validity and effectiveness, and then choose meaningful calls to action which are then posted with the hashtags **#Admin** and **#CallToAction**.

◆ MEMBER ACTION POSTS

--PLEASE TAG THESE POSTS WITH: #Action--

You are encouraged to share your own calls to actions with the group. It's tempting to just copy and paste that post you saw in your newsfeed, but the best calls to action are those that are well planned and fully researched. Inspiration might be in a friend's Facebook post, an article you read, or a conversation you have that motivates you to want to act. We want to capture your spark and share it with others, but we also have a responsibility to circulate only truthful, compelling and effective actions. The best way to start is to ask yourself a few key questions: What is the real purpose? Is it timely and relevant? Is it verifiable and accurate? Are we contacting the right people, and are the results achievable? Is it clear, concise, and meaningful?

◆ PERSONAL POSTS AND PROMPTS FOR DISCUSSION

--PLEASE TAG THESE POSTS WITH: #Personal or #Discussion--

As always, your personal stories, shared experiences and perspectives on today's issues are the glue that bonds us and keeps us motivated to act. These are always considered the highest priority. If you include a link, please remember to include your own context and prompt for thoughtful discussion in the group. Links with very short or no context may not be approved—let's save those for our personal timelines.

◆ MEMBER EVENTS

--PLEASE TAG THESE POSTS WITH: #Event--

We hope that you will continue to share the various marches, meetings, and events to which our members are invited to participate. We ask that you submit a brief description including the date of the event, and a link to find more information.

◆ MEMBER RESOURCES

--PLEASE TAG THESE POSTS WITH: #Resource--

One of the key benefits of participating in this group is the ability to share resources. If you find a great list of contact information, online library of materials, effective website or app, etc. please do share with the group by submitting a post tagged with **#Resource**.

◆ CONTENT / TRIGGER WARNINGS

--PLEASE TAG SENSITIVE POSTS at the top WITH: "CONTENT WARNING", "TRIGGER WARNING", "CW" or "TW"--

In order to preserve our safe-space environment, we ask you to include content or trigger warnings on posts that explicit discussion of specific sensitive topics. A trigger or content warning (TW and CW for short) is used to warn people of content that might illicit a strong or potentially harmful emotional response. It is important to use such warnings because it helps our members feel better prepared and allow them the opportunity to forego certain content. Content warnings are an important part of respectful discourse. You may be asked to add a warning to your post—failure to do so will result in your post not being approved or possibly deleted at the discretion of the Admin team. Please add "CONTENT WARNING, TRIGGER WARNING, CW, or TW" followed by the type of content (in one or two words). For example, "Content Warning – Sexual Violence"

We cannot cover every trigger, but these are the most commonly considered. Some things are so pervasive in the media (such as Racism and Sexism) that all members should expect to see discussions of these issues in this group, but graphic descriptions of these behaviors will often include violence or abuse, and should then include a warning.

Please include a content or trigger warning on descriptions or in-depth discussions of the following (simply mentioning the term does not require a warning):

Rape and Sexual Assault

Abuse (physical, mental, emotional, verbal, sexual)

Child abuse/pedophilia

Animal cruelty or death

Self-harm (or self-injurious behavior)

Suicide

Excessive violence

Pornography (including child pornography),
Incest

Kidnapping

Death or dying

Blood

Mental illness

Rules of Engagement

To keep our group a safe space and active community, our moderators use the following rules to assist with filtering posts and comments. **If you violate these rules, you can expect that your post or comment will not be approved, your membership may be blocked, and/or the comment thread may be locked.** *Please note: unlike some other groups, our admin team may delete posts and comments. Our commitment to an environment that fosters respectful discourse and positive communication is paramount.*

The moderators and administrators will use their discretion in dealing with inappropriate posts and comments. The rules and guidelines are subject to the interpretation of our Admin team and may be changed at any time without notice.

- Please do not post any unoriginal or duplicate content (news articles, memes, links, etc.)
- For linked items, we will only allow non-duplicate stories with your original context and appeal for discussion. We get a lot of these on our personal feeds. Let's save this space for personal sharing, productive discussion, calls to action, and coordinated efforts with activism groups.
- Please do not “hijack” comment threads by adding an unrelated link or other post in the comments.
- Please do not use excessive profanity or all capitals (this is considered shouting).
- **Please be polite and courteous. Healthy disagreement and constructive criticism are certainly allowed, but please direct arguments toward logic, views or concepts, and not individual members. Personal attacks, abusive language, material that is unlawful, obscene, defamatory or hateful is not allowed.**
- Please do not post any personal or third-party advertising or solicitation. This includes fundraising campaigns (such as Go Fund Me and others) for individuals. Any comments, posts or events including such will not be approved or may be removed without notice. Please contact the Admin Team to solicit for Democratic and Progressive Fundraisers.
- Please report any abusive content (choose REPORT TO ADMIN). We want such material removed as soon as possible, and you can help that happen.

◆ LOCKED THREADS

The Admin may lock comment threads for rule violations or if the discussion tone is no longer in alignment with our safe-space policy. Threads are locked from time to time to keep our threads timely and relevant.

◆ MEMBER CONFIDENTIALITY & SECURITY

As a member of the **SVDC** Facebook Group, you agree to keep all members' identities confidential. Please **DO NOT SHARE POSTS** (direct shares will only show as unavailable attachments outside of our group), and do not copy and paste any personal stories, posts or reveal identities of members without express written consent of that individual. **SCREENSHOTS of group activity ARE NEVER ALLOWED.** Members of this group are permitted to acknowledge their own participation in the group, but members are **NOT** authorized to identify themselves as representatives of SVDC without SVDC Eboard approval.

For your safety, **NEVER** include your phone number, address or other personal information in a post or comment. Your comments, posts, and events are visible to all members.

Thank you all so much for making this such an incredible community. Something amazing happens when folks come together in support, respect and meaningful action.

*Please Note: Opinions expressed in comments and posts made by those who participate in the **SVDC** Facebook group are the personal opinions of the authors and not of the **Silicon Valley Democratic Club** Facebook Group Admin Team or the governing board. Therefore, we cannot be held responsible for the accuracy or reliability of information posted by those who participate.*