

		<u>2025</u>
Ordinary Income/Expense		
	Income	
	Income	
	Chair's Executive Committee (\$2500)	75,000.00 30 members
	Chairwoman's Circle (\$1000)	65,000.00 65 members
	Trump Club (\$47/month - \$564/year)	28,200.00 50 members
	Reagan Club (\$500)	50,000.00 100 members
	Patriot Club (Legacy Recurring Clubs \$10-25/month)	4,000.00 Revenue will diminish as we transition people
	Program-Specific Asks: Email/Text	60,000.00 \$5000 monthly
	4 Full Central Cmte Event Tickets (\$50)	60,000.00 250 tickets at \$50 each- plus \$2500 sponsorship each
	5 Regional Chair "Meet the Electeds" Breakfasts	20,000.00 5 events X \$4000 average sponsorship/tickets each
	Regional Caucus Event Sponsors	25,000.00 \$1000 per caucus x 5 per year
	Taste of Freedom	80,000.00 300 tickets at \$200 each plus \$20k sponsorship
	Lincoln-Reagan Dinner	320,000.00
	Miscellaneous	25,000.00
	Direct Mail	25,000.00 **Mail will be profitable - this is revenue outside
	Total Income	<u>837,200.00</u>
	Expense	
	Finance Expenses	
	Direct Mailers (25k pieces at .65 cents x 4 per year)	65,000.00
	Bank and merchant fees	23,000.00
	5 Regional Chair Breakfasts with Electeds	10,000.00
	Lincoln/Reagan Dinner	180,000.00
	Harbor Cruise	12,000.00
	Remits	7,000.00
	Taste of Freedom	10,000.00
	Total Finance Expenses	<u>307,000.00</u>
	Staffing	
	Executive Director (\$7500/month)	90,000.00
	ED Payroll Tax	7,200.00
	Treasurer/Professional Services	40,000.00
	Coms, Fundraising, Events, & Volunteer Mgt Support	60,000.00
	Chairwoman's Reimbursements	12,000.00
	Other	15,000.00
	Total Salaries & Wages	224,200.00

	Program Costs	
	3 Full Central Cmte Events	30,000.00
	25 Bi-Monthly Regional Meetings \$1000 x 5 x 5	25,000.00
	Street Fairs/Coalition Outreach Direct Costs (Events)	10,000.00
	Candidate & Volunteer Training Events	1,500.00
	Central Committee Retreat/Endorsement Meetings	2,500.00
	Paid Outreach/FR: Online/Text Coms	60,000.00
	Total Program Costs	<u>129,000.00</u>
	Office Operations	
	Office Rent / Storage	30,000.00
	Phones, Licenses, Software, IT, etc.	7,500.00
	Insurance	12,000.00
	Office Equipment and Supplies	6,000.00
	Misc.	6,000.00
	Specialized Signage	2,500.00
	Data and Email Systems	12,000.00
	Total Office Operations	<u>76,000.00</u>
	Reserves	
	Operating Reserve	100,000.00
	Campaign Resserve (Not Victory \$s)	50,000.00
	Total Other Expenses	<u>150,000.00</u>
	Total Expense	<u>886,200.00</u>
Net Income	Balance	<u><u>-49,000.00</u></u>

From: Brad Gerbel <Brad@bradgerbel.com>

Date: May 6, 2025 at 10:59:38 AM PDT

Subject: Summary of ExCom Meeting and Instances of Ongoing Harassment

Dear Committee Members,

Last night, I attended a portion of the Executive Committee meeting.

Thankfully, we learned that the Lincoln-Reagan Dinner is moving forward. The Chairwoman reported that the Party has received payment for only four tables so far. However, one Caucus Chair mentioned they have approximately \$20,000 in checks at home, which, once deposited, should improve the current numbers. To date, the Party has made \$25,000 in deposits to the Marriott.

While tables are being sold, it appears that payments are coming in slowly. The main speaker has not yet been announced, but one confirmed speaker is Scott Presler, known for leading a successful Republican voter registration effort in Pennsylvania during the 2024 cycle.

It was stated that the Party currently has a six-figure balance in the bank. However, no clarification was given regarding how much of that amount consists of McCann dollars in the Victory Fund. Transparency on this point is critical, as those funds are not available to cover general operating expenses. Without this disclosure, there is a risk of misinterpreting the Party's actual financial health.

Additionally, the ExCom meeting did not include discussion of the ongoing Republican recall efforts in East County. As referenced in Trace Thill's recent Slack post, this is a significant issue that warrants attention.

Justin Schlaefli said on Slack yesterday "How can we condemn when it seems like we have members of our own leadership team posting about fellow Republicans and shopping stories to the media, doxxing, and otherwise threatening members of our own committee? Our Chairwoman refuses to get to the bottom of these issues or put a stop to it." He went on to say: "Our leadership not only doesn't condemn such tactics but seems to quietly either applaud such things or otherwise make excuses for it."

In the past month, a fake Twitter account has targeted one of our Caucus Chairs as well as other members and alternates.

Content from this account originates from the Party's Slack channel, and several Executive Committee members follow the account, which suggests tacit approval of the ongoing harassment by several members of the ExCom.

These issues, combined with reports of multiple other harassment incidents, underscore the need for Directors & Officers (D&O) insurance. I have been informed that such coverage is still not in place, which is unwise under the circumstances.

Finally, upon returning home last night, I learned that Secretary Dan Bickford contacted the member I represent on the Central Committee. A screenshot is below:



This communication is part of a broader pattern of ongoing harassment by the Party's Secretary. I request that Mr. Bickford be removed as an officer of the Party immediately.

Brad Gerbel

From: Brad Gerbel <Brad@bradgerbel.com>
Date: April 15, 2025 at 8:53:46 AM PDT
Subject: Urgent: Liability Exposure Due to Lack of Directors and Officers Insurance

Dear Members of the Central Committee,

I am writing to bring to your attention a matter of serious legal and financial risk that affects every Central Committee member of the Republican Party of San Diego County (“the Party”).

In light of recent threats of litigation involving the Party, I attempted over the weekend to contact Vice Chair Alana Sorensen to confirm whether the Party currently maintains Directors and Officers (“D&O”) Liability Insurance. Unfortunately, she did not respond to my phone calls or text messages.

After last night’s meeting, I asked Vice Chair Sorensen in person whether the Party has D&O insurance—she did not know the answer. I then approached Chairwoman Whitsell, who informed me that such coverage is no longer in place.

Since most members are unaware of this change, I feel compelled to bring it to your attention immediately.

This issue carries serious implications. Section 4.03 of the Party’s Bylaws provides for the indemnification of officers, Executive Committee members, and Committee members from monetary judgments, fines, penalties, and associated legal costs—**except** in cases of intentional, grossly reckless, or grossly negligent conduct:

“The Committee shall indemnify and hold harmless its officers, the Executive Director, Executive Committee, and Committee members from any monetary judgment, fine or penalty, including costs of suit and reasonable attorneys’ fees resulting from any official acts or omissions... except when involving intentional, grossly reckless or grossly negligent acts...” (Bylaws, §4.03)

However, indemnification is only meaningful if the Party has the financial means to fulfill such obligations. Given our current financial state, it is unlikely that sufficient funds would be available to protect members in the event of a lawsuit. Without D&O insurance, **individual members may face personal liability.**

When I first began serving as 2nd Vice Chairman four years ago, my first concern was whether the Party had D&O insurance. Chairwoman Whitsell dismissed my recommendation to secure coverage. Around that same time, I learned of a lawsuit in Coronado involving a long-standing social club. The club—uninsured—was sued after a member who had consumed alcohol at one of their events tripped over equipment, sustained injuries, and filed suit against the club **and its individual members.** I raised this incident as a warning, but no action was taken.

It was only after a local Republican candidate, while canvassing with a Party-provided app, was threatened with legal action by a voter who objected to having his name in the app, that Chairwoman Whitsell finally obtained insurance. That coverage is now gone.

It is the fiduciary responsibility of the Executive Committee to take all reasonable steps to protect the Party and its members, including by maintaining adequate insurance coverage. Without it, we are all left exposed.

I urge the Executive Committee to act without delay to secure Directors and Officers Insurance. This is not only prudent—it is essential to upholding the Bylaws and ensuring the Party's ability to operate responsibly and sustainably.

Sincerely,

Brad Gerbel

From: "Richards, Jacob" <jacob@sandiegorepublicans.org>

Date: April 16, 2025 at 5:06:39 PM PDT

To: Paula Whitsell <paula@sandiegorepublicans.org>

Subject: Directors & Officers Insurance

It is correct that the party's Directors & Officers insurance has lapsed. We became aware of this issue when we learned that our prior administration had not paid the premium for the policy.

The annual insurance premium of approximately \$12,000 demands due consideration, especially given the precarious financial condition in which we found the party when we assumed the leadership in December. Our cash position was and remains well below our longstanding policy target, a circumstance we do not expect to remediate until after our Lincoln-Reagan Dinner fundraiser.

Central Committee members may wish to know that the party did not have any D&O coverage in place until 2021 – until then it was the prevailing view among leadership that D&O insurance was not necessary. Be assured that no decision on the matter will be taken without briefing and soliciting the views of the Executive Committee after the Lincoln Reagan dinner.

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Jacob Richards
Executive Director
Republican Party of San Diego County

From: "Admin, RPSDC" <admin@sandiegorepublicans.org>
Date: February 27, 2025 at 3:50:22 PM PST
Cc: Jacob Richards <jacob@sandiegorepublicans.org>, Paula Whitsell <paula@sandiegorepublicans.org>
Subject: Good News!

Fellow Central Committee members:

I'm delighted to report that we have successfully negotiated new lease terms which will enable us to remain at our current Mission Valley location.

As you may know, our prior lease was for \$5,000 per month. Our landlord had been insisting on an increase to \$6,000, which was more than we were prepared to pay. In response we took a hardline position and made preparations to vacate the premises on March 1. The big clue to the landlord that we were serious came when we started moving our packed boxes off premises, to go into storage. That did the trick and negotiations resumed.

In the end we came to terms that improved our position nicely. No rent payment will be due for the month of March and thereafter will be \$4,250, a 15% reduction off the old rate.

In addition, to take pressure off our cash flow while we recover from election season, our actual monthly payments for the remainder of 2025 will only be \$3,150. The difference between that amount and the \$4,250 agreed rent will be deferred until next year, with catch up payments due in January and February. All in, these terms enable us to come in under budget on that item for the remainder of the year.

Also, going forward the lease will run month-to-month. We will retain the option to depart at any time but the landlord has promised not to raise the rent. The real estate gods smiled upon us. We're happy to avoid the disruption and expense of what would likely have been two moves (one to temporary space and then to a more permanent location).

Much thanks to all of the Members, staff, and volunteers who helped pack and move boxes. It wasn't a fire drill -- the landlord got the message and we were able to do a bit of housecleaning in the process.

Now it's time to get back to business.

Best regards,

Paula

--

Paula Whitsell
Chair
paula@sandiegorepublicans.org
619-940-5767

The Republican Party
 *of San Diego County*

From: Brad Gerbel <Brad@bradgerbel.com>
Date: May 5, 2025 at 3:42:17 PM PDT
Subject: Addressing Real Party Issues

Dear Central Committee Members:

One recurring concern I continue to hear is that the donor community has lost trust in the Party. I have heard this not once, but repeatedly throughout this year. It often arises in the context of the Victory Fund—donors have expressed reluctance to contribute due to concerns about the Party’s financial health. Their concerns need to be addressed. I never heard this kind of talk when Tony was the Victory Chair, but we were in a stronger financial position back then.

The Lincoln Club held its spring PAC meeting the day after our April Central Committee meeting—the same meeting where Carl took the microphone, got on stage, and was observed yelling at a young Central Committee member regarding proposed changes to the draft minutes of the prior meeting. The events of the previous day were widely discussed at the PAC meeting—not quietly, but openly and frequently by the donors and elected officials in attendance.

News of that meeting did not remain confined to San Diego. I have heard about it from individuals in both Sacramento and Orange County. There is growing commentary, with some referring to the organization as “Carl’s Party.”

Despite the significance of the April meeting, I’ve been informed that tonight’s Executive Committee agenda includes no discussion of the events that occurred. There is, however, a proposed Code of Conduct for meetings on tonight’s agenda. I recall that a memo regarding conduct was circulated prior to the organizational meeting in December—and yet the issues persist. No action has been taken to address the root causes of the disruptive behavior. There has been no formal acknowledgment that some attendees felt unsafe and left the April meeting. Each of the three Central Committee meetings held since the new leadership assumed office in December has followed a similar pattern, and the conditions remain unaddressed.

Following the April meeting, I contacted the Second Vice Chair to report a bylaw violation—specifically, the absence of the Treasurer’s Report, which is a required component of each meeting in the bylaws. Given the Party’s financial challenges, a financial update should be considered essential, but it was not even on the agenda.

Additionally, the draft minutes do not accurately reflect what occurred. There is no mention of DeMaio taking the microphone and shouting at attendees from the stage. Furthermore, the minutes indicate that the Chairwoman gave a Chair’s Report, even though she adjourned the meeting prior to delivering it.

There are also unanswered questions regarding the Lincoln-Reagan Dinner. I reviewed my email archive from 2023, when the Party last held a routine Lincoln-Reagan event. On April 18, 2023, an announcement was sent that tickets were available; on April 24, a follow-up email was issued; on May 1, only 150 tickets remained; on May 9, the speaker was announced; and by May 12, the dinner was sold out, but extra tables were added to

accommodate 120 more attendees. I mention this timeline because, to date, I have not seen similar communications this year, and several people have expressed concerns that something may be wrong.

Lastly, I had expected Directors and Officers (D&O) insurance to appear on the Executive Committee agenda for tonight, but I'm told it is not on the agenda.

I want to remind all Executive Committee members that their role includes providing oversight, and they have a fiduciary duty to carry out that responsibility. The year is one-third over and I have not seen a budget to actual analysis provided to the members—we need to know if we are on track to meeting the financial objectives presented to us at the beginning of the year.

Brad Gerbel

From: **Richards, Jacob** <jacob@sandiegorepublicans.org>
Date: Mon, Apr 14, 2025 at 12:57 PM
Subject: April 14th Governor's Forum Will Be a Landmark Event
To: Paula Whitsell <paula@sandiegorepublicans.org>

We're proud to share that our April 14th "Meet the Candidates for Governor" event will be a resounding success — and even better, it completely paid for itself!

Thanks to strong attendance and the support of our donors, this event not only energizes our base but also reinforces our mission: to lead the charge in flipping California and electing conservative leadership statewide.

Attendees have the rare opportunity to hear directly from several top-tier Republican candidates for Governor — a first for any county party in the state. The energy in the county is undeniable, and it's clear that momentum is building.

We're proving that smart, mission-driven events can both inform and sustain our movement.

Thank you to everyone who helped make it happen — stay tuned. We're just getting started!

Attached are the February 17th meeting minutes to be approved tonight. See everyone soon!

--

Jacob Richards
Executive Director
Republican Party of San Diego County

From: "Richards, Jacob" <jacob@sandiegorepublicans.org>
Date: May 21, 2025 at 10:10:33 AM PDT
To: Paula Whitsell <paula@sandiegorepublicans.org>
Subject: Big News: KC Crosbie to Speak at Our Lincoln-Reagan Dinner!

Dear Friends,

We're excited to announce a major highlight for this year's Lincoln-Reagan Dinner: **KC Crosbie**, Co-Chair of the Republican National Committee and former RNC Treasurer, will be joining us as our featured speaker!

KC is a national leader in the conservative movement and a powerful voice for the grassroots. Her insights, experience, and vision for the future of the Republican Party will make this event one you won't want to miss.

And we have more good news — thanks to your support, we've already raised **over \$200,000** toward our fundraising goal, putting us well on track to **surpass last year's numbers** and fuel key efforts to win elections across San Diego County.

This dinner will bring together top conservative leaders, elected officials, and Republican activists from across the region — and it's shaping up to be a very successful event.

If you haven't secured your table or ticket, now's the time! We are selling out fast!

Thank you for standing with us as we grow the movement and get ready to flip seats in 2026.

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Jacob Richards
Executive Director
Republican Party of San Diego County

From: "Richards, Jacob" <jacob@sandiegorepublicans.org>
Date: April 24, 2025 at 8:20:18 AM PDT
To: Paula Whitsell <paula@sandiegorepublicans.org>
Subject: Event Postponed – May 12th Breakfast with the Electeds

Hi All

We regret to inform you that the **May 12th “Breakfast with the Electeds”** has been **postponed** to a later date this year. A key element of the program had to cancel unexpectedly, and we want to ensure the event delivers full value to our attendees.

We apologize for any confusion or inconvenience this may have caused and appreciate your understanding. A new date will be announced soon.

Thank you for your continued support, and we look forward to seeing you at an upcoming event!

--

Jacob Richards
Executive Director
Republican Party of San Diego County

From: "Richards, Jacob" <jacob@sandiegorepublicans.org>

Date: May 8, 2025 at 3:47:52 PM PDT

To: Paula Whitsell <paula@sandiegorepublicans.org>

Subject: Lincoln-Reagan Dinner Is Exceeding Expectations — Help Us Cross the Finish Line

Dear Republicans,

Planning for this year's Lincoln-Reagan Dinner is going incredibly well — and we're on pace for a very impactful event!

Last year, during an election year, we hosted 646 attendees. This year in a tougher off year environment, we're already on track to **eclipse that number** — a strong signal that momentum is growing and our Republican movement in San Diego is stronger than ever.

To date, we've secured **\$354,000 in commitments** and already collected **\$121,000**. That's a powerful start — but we're not finished.

Now is the time to **reach out to your personal and professional networks**. Every table sponsored, every dollar contributed, helps us build the infrastructure we need to win elections and set the Republican Party of San Diego County up for long-term success.

Let's keep up the pace and make this the most successful Lincoln-Reagan Dinner yet. Together, we're showing that San Diego is red, ready, and rising.

Forward!!

--

Jacob Richards
Executive Director
Republican Party of San Diego County