



CALIFORNIA
DEMOCRATIC
PARTY

MEMORANDUM

To: Interested Parties
From: Chris Myers and Kasey Carlson
Date: September 2015
RE: 2016 Congressional/Legislative Pre-Primary Endorsement Information

WHAT'S NEW FOR 2016

Major changes in the CDP's Endorsement process:

- **In District/Out of District:** Delegates that are appointed by an elected official/Nominee must reside in the representative's district to be eligible to vote in the pre-endorsement conference and/or endorsing caucus. All delegates are eligible to vote on matters before the entire delegation.
- **Additional Appointments:** Leaders of the Assembly, Senate, and Congress receive 30 appointments each who can reside anywhere in the state and still be eligible to vote at all levels of the endorsement process. The CDP officers receive 6 appointments with the same restrictions as the Leg Leaders.
- **ADEMs Increased:** The ADEM delegation increased by two (1 female/1 male) for a total of 14 delegates per Assembly District.
- **Club Process and Timeline:** To participate CCOs must submit roster to the CCO's Chartering Authority and appropriate Regional Director(s) no later than July 1, 2015. Roster must include members in good standing as defined in the CCO's rules and/or bylaws. The club must have a process in their rules and/or bylaws that governs the selection of potential representatives or select them at a duly noticed meeting by those members who are in good standing.
- **Incumbents Automatic:** Incumbents are automatically considered endorsed unless 20% of the delegates in the district file an objection 10 days prior to the pre-endorsement conference.
- **May only seek one office:** Candidates may only seek the endorsement recommendation for one office.

PRE-ENDORSEMENT CONFERENCES

Pre-Endorsement Conferences for Congressional, Assembly, and odd-numbered Senate Districts will take place January 2016. Each region will hold a pre-endorsement with assigned Assembly, Senate, and Congressional Districts. A list of the regions, conference dates and times, assigned districts and other information will be available in mid-December.

ELIGIBLE CANDIDATES

Candidates eligible to seek a Pre-Primary Endorsement are those who have submitted a signed 2016 CDP Candidate Registration Form and paid the appropriate filing fee (Assembly \$250, Congress \$350, Senate \$500) in a timely manner and who agree to file as Party Preference Democratic are eligible to be endorsed. Only candidates who request the endorsement are eligible to be voted on at the Pre-Endorsing Conference. Incumbents who seek our endorsement are automatically considered endorsed unless a successful objection has been filed 10-days prior to the pre-endorsement conferences. A candidate can obtain a list of eligible voters once they have submitted a signed form and paid the appropriate filing fee.

ELIGIBLE VOTERS

Eligible voters include DSCC Members with full voting rights, regular County Central Committee Members and Designated Representatives of Chartered Clubs or Chartered Organizations (1 per 20 Democrats in each AD). The list of eligible voters will be finalized December 3 and will be available within two weeks. The number of AD Representatives for a Chartered Club or Organization (CCOs) within each AD, calculated as 1 Representative per 20 members registered to vote in the district, is based on the AD boundaries. **All eligible voters will vote in the districts based on where they are registered.** If they cannot attend the conference, Voting-by-Mail (VBM) is allowed, but proxy voting is not. VBM voting is allowed in part because a voter's conference for two or three districts may be happening at different locations on the same day at the same time.

CHAIRMAN

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Chartered Clubs or Organizations (CCOs) must submit a roster of members in good standing to both the Chartering Authority and the appropriate Regional Director(s) by July 1, 2015. CCOs must have a provision that only members in good standing shall be included on the roster and must define the phrase "member in good standing" in their rules or bylaws. The CCO's President, Secretary or Treasurer must certify the status of the "members in good standing." The CCO's shall choose their potential representatives based on process outlined in their rules or bylaws where only members in good standing can participate in the process or those potential representatives be selected at a duly noticed meeting affirmed by a vote of those members in good standing in attendance and voting.

VOTING (recommendation of candidates for the consent calendar)

Votes are public per DNC By-laws. A single vote is taken, with each voter choosing one of the eligible candidates or "no endorsement." A candidate will be recommended for placement on the consent calendar with a vote of 70% of the valid votes at the conference. If no candidate receives the required 70%, but one candidate receives more than 50%, the race will be decided by a caucus of DSCC members held during the State Convention. If no candidate receives more than 50% of the valid votes at the conference, the CDP will take a position of "no consensus" for the endorsement.

An endorsement recommendation can be pulled by filing a formal objection at least 10 days prior to Convention signed by 20% of the DSCC within the districts or 20% of the DSCC statewide (approximately 600).

ENDORISING CAUCUSES (if necessary)

Endorsing caucuses will be held at the State Convention for those races in which: no candidate received 70% of the pre-endorsement conference vote, but a candidate received over 50%; there was no quorum for the pre-endorsement conference; a proper challenge was filed.

CANDIDATES

All candidates that were eligible to be voted upon at the pre-endorsement conference are eligible to be voted on at the endorsing caucus.

ELIGIBLE VOTERS

Eligible voters include DSCC members registered in the district or their qualified proxy, who are credentialed during credentialing hours and have paid their dues. Proxy voting, as outlined in the By-Laws, is allowed and voting-by-mail is not.

VOTING (recommendation of candidates for the consent calendar)

Votes are public per DNC By-laws. A single vote is taken, with each voter choosing one of the eligible candidates or "no endorsement." Non-incumbent candidates need 60% and incumbents need a majority of credentialed and voting delegates to secure the caucus recommendation for endorsement. However, if two or more incumbents are seeking the endorsement of the same caucus, each candidate will need at least 60% to secure the caucus recommendation. If no candidate receives the required threshold, the caucus shall have taken the position of "no consensus" for endorsement. If a candidate is recommended but receives less than two-thirds of the vote at the caucus, an endorsement recommendation can be formally objected filing a form signed by 300 DSCC members with the CDP by 11:00pm the Saturday of Convention. If a candidate received at least two-thirds of the vote, a formal motion to pull an endorsement recommendation can be submitted either by two members of the Pre-Primary Endorsement Review Committee (PERC) or the required number of credentialed members of the relevant caucus (10 for Assembly, 20 for Senate/Congress) filing a written motion by 8:00pm the Saturday of Convention. In the case a motion is filed, the PERC will meet Sunday morning to vote to uphold or deny the motion. If the motion is upheld, the endorsement recommendation will be pulled.

Those candidates that have been recommended for endorsement at the pre-endorsing conferences before the convention and candidates recommended at the endorsing caucuses will go on a consent calendar to be ratified by the convention body on Sunday. Any recommendations that are pulled will be considered prior to the consent calendar.

PLATFORM

The California Democratic State Central Committee (CDP) adopts a platform every two years. The Party's current platform was adopted on March 9, 2014. The platform is available here: www.cadem.org/platform

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FURTHER INFORMATION

Rules, Voting Procedures, etc. will be mailed to all candidates and eligible voters in mid-December. If you have any questions, please feel free to call Chris Myers or Kasey Carlson at (916) 442-5707 or email them at chris@cadem.org or kasey@cadem.org

The CDP By-Laws supersedes any information provided by staff regarding the endorsement process. A current copy can be found on our website at www.cadem.org

CDP Endorsement Key Dates

2015

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| July 1 | Deadline for Chartered Clubs/Organizations to submit roster of members in good standing to Chartering Authority and appropriate Regional Director. |
| November 20 | Deadline for CCO representatives to be submitted to both the Chartering Authority and the appropriate Regional Director. |
| December 3 (Thu) | DSCC Delegate Deadline: Close of all additions or changes to delegate /endorsement voter lists. The roster of eligible voters will be available approximately two weeks later. |

2016

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| January 20 (Wed) | 5:00pm deadline (10 days prior to pre-endorsement conferences) to file a challenge with CDP to object to the automatic endorsement of an incumbent officeholder seeking re-election. |
| January 22 (Fri) | 5:00pm deadline for receipt by mail of candidate filing fees & signed 2016 Registration Form to CDP. Checks and Registration Forms may be hand delivered to the Pre-Endorsement Conference |
| January 30-31 (Sat-Sun) | Pre-endorsement Conferences: Participating candidates' filing fee & 2016 Reg. form due to the Regional Convener at the conference before voting begins for that particular office |
| February 16 | Deadline (10 days prior to State Convention) to file a challenge with CDP to remove an endorsement recommendation from consent calendar |
| February 26-28 (Fri-Sun) | State Convention: Endorsing caucuses as necessary, ratification of endorsements |
| March 16 (Wed) | Political Party Endorsements: Deadline to include party endorsements in the official sample ballot |
| June 7 (Tues) | California Primary |