Overview of the California Democratic Party Endorsement Process
For U.S. House, State Senate, and State Assembly Races in 2018

Updated 11/20/17

Step 1: CDP Pre-Endorsing Conferences (CDP Bylaws Art. VIII, Sec. 3 g)

- **Purpose**: The CDP Pre-Endorsing Conferences are held locally in each CDP Region in which the Assembly, Senate, and Congressional Districts are located to issue endorsement recommendations.
- **Date/Time**: 2018 CDP Pre-Endorsing Conferences will be held on January 27 or 28, 2018. Times will vary for each CDP Region; please check CDP Endorsement webpage for more details.
- **Voting Body**: Those eligible to vote in the CDP Pre-Endorsing Conferences include:
  o Democratic State Central Committee (DSCC) Members with full voting rights as of November 30, 2017
  o Regular Democratic County Central Committee Members as of November 30, 2017
  o Representatives of participating Democratic Chartered Clubs/Organizations (CCOs)
  o At least five eligible DSCC members, either in person or by vote-by-mail ballot, constitute quorum.
- **Voting Process**: Vote-by-mail voting is allowed; proxy voting is not. 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 cast for that specific race at the pre-endorsing conference.
- **Rule on Incumbents**: Incumbent U.S. Representatives, State Senators, or State Assembly Members are automatically placed on the endorsement consent calendar of the CDP State Convention for consideration, unless 20% of the delegates in a given district file an objection 10 days prior to the CDP Pre-Endorsing Conference.

Step 2: CDP Endorsing Caucuses (CDP Bylaws Art. VIII, Sec. 3 c)

- **Purpose**: CDP Endorsing Caucuses are held during the CDP State Convention if:
  o A candidate received over 50% but less than 70% of valid votes cast during the Pre-Endorsing Conferences, or
  o A candidate received 70% or more of valid votes cast at the Pre-Endorsing Conference, but the endorsement recommendation was pulled due to a challenge. (CDP Bylaws Art. VIII, Sec. 3 g(13))
- **Date/Time**: The CDP Endorsing Caucuses are held at the CDP State Convention on Saturday, February 24, 2018. (Specific times will be made available on the State Convention Agenda.)
- **Voting Body**: Only current DSCC Members with full voting rights are eligible to vote during Endorsing Caucuses. Fifty percent plus one of the credentialed DSCC members of an Endorsing Caucus constitute a quorum.
- **Voting Process**: Proxy voting is allowed, vote-by-mail voting is not. A candidate requires 60% of valid votes cast by credentialed, present and voting delegates or their qualified proxies to secure the caucus recommendation for endorsement.

Step 3: CDP Convention Floor (CDP Bylaws Art. VIII, Sec. 3 d; Art. VIII, Sec. 3 g (13))

- **Purpose**: Ratification of the entire endorsement consent calendar (containing the recommendations from both the Pre-Endorsing Conferences and Endorsing Caucuses) will take place by a floor vote.
- **Date/Time**: The CDP Convention General Session Floor on Sunday, February 25, 2018.
- **Voting Body**: All DSCC members or their qualified proxies can vote to ratify the endorsement consent calendar.
- **Voting Process**: Proxy voting is allowed, vote-by-mail voting is not.
- **Rules Generally**: All unchallenged endorsement recommendations are placed on the endorsement consent calendar.
  o Challenged endorsement recommendations are adjudicated prior to the consent calendar ratification.
  o Process to object to a particular recommendation is available to all candidates.
  o Process to object varies depending on the percentage of votes received from the CDP Endorsing Caucus. Please refer to the CDP Bylaws for exact process.
CDP Endorsement Key Dates

2017

July 1 (Sat)  Deadline by which members of a Chartered Club/Organization (CCO) must be “in good standing” in order for them to be included on the roster submitted to the Chartering Authority and appropriate Regional Director.

July 15 (Sat)  Deadline for Chartered Clubs/Organizations to submit roster of “members in good standing” to Chartering Authority and appropriate Regional Director.

November 2 (Thu)  Deadline for CCO potential representatives to be submitted to the both the Chartering Authority and the appropriate Regional Director.

November 30 (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.

December 4 (Mon)  Candidate Filing & Registration for Endorsement Consideration Begins. Forms and documents will be available on Endorsements webpage: www.cadem.org/endorsements.

2018

January 17 (Wed)  5:00pm deadline (10 days prior to Pre-Endorsing Conferences) to file a challenge with CDP to object to the automatic placement of an incumbent officeholder seeking re-election on the consent calendar of the State Convention.

January 19 (Fri)  5:00pm deadline for receipt by mail of candidate filing fees & signed 2018 Registration Form to CDP. Checks and registration forms may be hand delivered to the Pre-Endorsing Conference.

January 27-28 (Sat-Sun)  Pre-Endorsing Conferences: Participating candidates’ filing fee & 2018 registration forms due to the Regional Convener at the conference before voting begins for that particular office

February 13 (Tues)  Deadline (10 days prior to State Convention) to file a challenge with CDP to remove an endorsement recommendation from consent calendar

February 23-25 (Fri-Sun)  State Convention: Endorsing Caucuses as necessary, ratification of endorsements

March 14 (Wed)  Political Party Endorsements: Deadline to include party endorsements in the official sample ballot

June 5 (Tues)  California Primary

Note: The CDP Bylaws supersede any distributed information regarding the CDP Endorsement Process. A current copy can be found at www.cadem.org.