



## MEMORANDUM

**To:** Interested Parties  
**From:** Clark Lee and Kasey Walukones  
**Date:** March 2018  
**RE:** Special Election Endorsing Caucus General Information – Endorsed Candidate Did Not File as “Party Preference: Democratic” Candidate

Updated 3/21/18

### **Introduction:**

Pursuant to CDP By-Laws, Article VIII, Section 3.f., the endorsement of the California Democratic Party (CDP) is contingent on the endorsed candidate of a relevant district successfully filing for the office in which the candidate is running as a “Party Preference: Democratic” candidate. Failure to do so nullifies the CDP endorsement for the relevant district. In such case, the CDP Chair may call an Endorsing Caucus to be convened by using the special election endorsement process prescribed in CDP By-Laws, Article VIII, Section 3.e. on Special Elections and Appeals Committee.

CDP By-Laws, Article VIII, Section 3.f. states: *Failure to File as “Party Preference: Democratic”:* *Endorsement is contingent on such candidate successfully filing for their office as “Party Preference: Democratic” and any such failure to do so shall nullify any endorsement. In the event of such nullification, the Chair of This Committee may utilize the process in subsection e. above, causing to be convened an endorsing caucus of the members of This Committee resident in the relevant district as of the close of Candidacy filing for this race.*

### **Democratic Party Endorsement Generally:**

Pursuant to the CDP By-Laws, the only form of Democratic Party endorsement is an “official endorsement” as described in Article VIII of the CDP By-Laws and summarized in this document.

CDP By-Laws, Article VIII, Section 1.a. states: *Unless a candidate, or position on a State Ballot Proposition, Initiative, Referendum, or Recall, has received an “official endorsement” all motions of support, recommendation, or other expressions of approval, or disapproval, whether express or implied as pertains to a candidacy for public office, or position on a State Ballot Proposition, Initiative, Referendum, or Recall, no matter how denominated, shall be out of order at any meeting of This Committee, its Executive Board, its Regions, its Assembly District Committees or its Caucuses; provided, however, that nothing herein shall prevent This Committee’s Regions, or its Caucuses, from calling on the California Democratic Party to take any action.*

### **Applicable Special Election Endorsing Caucus Process:**

#### **Voting Eligibility:**

The CDP Chair may call a Special Election Endorsing Caucus of the 2017-2019 Democratic State Central Committee (DSCC) members who are resident and registered to vote in the relevant district as of the close of candidate filing for the relevant district with one exception: DSCC members appointed by elected officials or “highest vote-getting Democrats” are not eligible to vote in the Endorsing Caucus unless the appointed member is registered to vote in the same electoral district that the appointer represents. In other words, out-of-district appointed DSCC Members are not eligible to vote in the Endorsing Caucus. (CDP By-Laws, Art. VIII, Sec. 3.f; Art. VIII, Sec. 3.e.(1).)

#### **Candidates:**

- **Eligibility** - Each candidate registered as a Democrat in the relevant district may request to be considered for the CDP endorsement. (CDP By-Laws, Art. VIII, Sec. 1.h.)
- **Registration & Filing Fee** - To seek the endorsement, a candidate completes a Candidate Registration Form along with a non-reimbursable filing fee. The non-reimbursable filing fee must be paid prior to the Endorsing Caucus. The fee structure is as follows: U.S. House of Representatives: \$350; State Senate: \$500; State Assembly: \$250. (CDP By-Laws, Art. VIII, Sec. 3.c.(3).)

- **Affirm Reading of CDP Platform** - Candidates seeking CDP endorsement consideration shall affirm in writing that they have read the most current CDP Platform. (CDP Bylaws Art. VIII, Sec. 3.c.(3).) The CDP adopts platform every two years. The current platform was adopted on February 25, 2018. The platform is available online at [www.cadem.org/plaform](http://www.cadem.org/plaform).

#### **At the Endorsing Caucus Meeting:**

- **Quorum** - Fifty percent plus one of the credentialed members of an Endorsing Caucus shall constitute a quorum, whether in-person or voting by mail. (CDP By-Laws, Art. VIII, Sec. 3.c.(4).)
- **Voting** - Voting at the Endorsing Caucus is by signed written ballot, the results of which shall be read off as though it were a roll call vote. Members must be present at the Endorsing Caucus to vote or send in their vote-by-mail ballot to the Regional Director/Convener chairing the Endorsing Caucus. No proxy voting is allowed. (CDP By-Laws, Art. VIII, Sec. 3.e.(1).(b).)
- **Valid Votes** - Per CDP By-Laws, in order to vote, and have one's vote counted, at any meeting of This Committee, a member must have timely: (1) paid their dues to the CDP, or had them waived, (2) registered for the meeting, if registration was required, (3) obtained their credential prior to the closing of credentialing, if credentials were issued for the meeting, and (4) completed and returned to the proper authority any ballot that may be issued. (CDP By-Laws, Art. IV, Sec. 7.b.)
- **Voting Choices** - Each member may vote for one of the candidates who has filed to participate in the endorsement process or vote for "No Endorsement" on the ballot. (CDP By-Laws, Art. VIII, Sec. 3.c.(6).)
- **Threshold** - A candidate must receive at least 60% (sixty percent) of the votes of the Endorsing Caucus members present and voting to be endorsed. "No Endorsement" is counted as a vote; however, pursuant to *Robert's Rules of Order*, an abstention will not be counted. In the event that no candidate receives 60% and "No Endorsement" fails to achieve a majority, it is deemed that the Endorsing Caucus has failed to make an endorsement and the position is "No Consensus." (CDP By-Laws, Art. VIII, Sec. 3.c.(8).)
- **One Endorsed Candidate** - The Endorsing Caucus may not endorse more candidate for an office than the number to be elected for that office. (CDP By-Laws, Art. VIII, Sec. 1.i.)
- **Endorsement** - The decision of the Endorsing Caucus shall become the official endorsement of the California Democratic Party and is effective at the end of the Endorsing Caucus. (CDP By-Laws, Art. VIII, Sec. 3.e.(1).(b).)

#### **Objection/Appeal Process:**

- **Filing** - Any objection must be made in writing and filed within two (2) days of the Endorsing Caucus with CDP Chair Eric C. Bauman and must be signed by either: (1) a majority of the five statewide officers or (2) 20% of the DSCC members of the Endorsing Caucus of the relevant district. (CDP By-Laws, Art. VIII, Sec. 3.e.(1).(b).) The filing should be sent to CDP Chair Eric C. Bauman ([ericbauman@cadem.org](mailto:ericbauman@cadem.org)), cc Political Director Clark Lee ([clark@cadem.org](mailto:clark@cadem.org)) and Dep. Political Director Kasey Walukones ([kasey@cadem.org](mailto:kasey@cadem.org)). It can be sent via fax to (916) 442-5715 or via mail to: 1830 9th St., Sacramento, CA 95811. Please note that the deadline is a *received by* deadline.
- **Special Elections Appeals Committee** - If an objection is filed, a Special Elections Appeals Committee will make the final determination at a meeting no later than five (5) days after an objection has been filed. The Special Elections Appeals Committee shall be comprised of the statewide officers; the Regional Director of Assembly District 51, two (2) Executive Board members, appointed by the State Chair, from each of the following committees: Rules, Credentials, and Voter Services. (CDP By-Laws, Art. VIII, Sec. 3.e.(2).; Art. VIII, Sec. 3.e.(3).)

#### **Questions/Further Information**

If you have any questions, please contact Kasey Walukones ([kasey@cadem.org](mailto:kasey@cadem.org)) or Clark Lee ([clark@cadem.org](mailto:clark@cadem.org)) / (916) 442-5707.

**Note:** The CDP By-Laws supersedes any information provided by staff regarding the endorsement process, including the information in this document. All candidates, DSCC members, and interested parties are urged to review the CDP By-Laws. A current copy can be found on the CDP website at [www.cadem.org](http://www.cadem.org). Endorsements information is available on the CDP Endorsements webpage at [www.cadem.org/endorsements](http://www.cadem.org/endorsements).