



MEMORANDUM

**To: Pre-Endorsing Conference Eligible Voters
(Democratic State Central Committee Members with Full Voting Rights, Regular Democratic County Central Committee Members, and Chartered Club/Organization Representatives)**

From: Clark Lee and Kasey Walukones

Date: December 2017

RE: 2018 CDP Pre-Endorsing Conferences General Information – Endorsement Consideration for U.S. House, State Senate, and State Assembly Election Contests (Updated December 20, 2017)

OVERVIEW

The California Democratic Party (CDP) Pre-Endorsing Conferences are public meetings held at the CDP Regional level prior to the State Convention to consider the endorsement recommendations for U.S. House, State Senate, and State Assembly election contests. (CDP Bylaws Art. VIII, Sec. 3.g.) Endorsement recommendations are placed on the consent calendar of the State Convention for ratification. (CDP Bylaws Art. VIII, Sec. 3.d.)

Eligible voters of the Pre-Endorsing Conferences include:

- Democratic State Central Committee (DSCC) Members with full voting rights,
- Regular County Central Committee Members, and
- Designated representatives of Chartered Clubs and Organizations (CCOs) (1 per 20 Democrats in each Assembly District). (CDP Bylaws Art. VIII, Sec. 3.g.(5).)

This memo includes general information for the eligible voters of the Pre-Endorsing Conferences and an overview of the CDP endorsement process. For more information, please visit the CDP Endorsements webpage at www.cadem.org/endorsements.

Please note that the districts in which you are eligible to vote may be assigned to different Pre-Endorsing Conferences. Please visit the CDP Endorsements webpage to find the information for your district(s).

Key Points on 2018 Endorsement Process

Major changes made to the CDP's endorsement process were first enacted in the 2016 cycle. Additional changes were adopted on November 19, 2017, at the CDP Executive Board Meeting. Below are some key points to note:

- **Democratic Club Participation Process and Timeline:** To participate in the Pre-Endorsing Conferences, Chartered Club and Organizations (CCOs) must submit roster to the CCO's Chartering Authority and appropriate Regional Director(s) no later than July 15, 2017. Roster must include members "in good standing" as of July 1, 2017 as defined in the CCO's rules and/or bylaws. The CCO's President, Secretary or Treasurer must certify the status of the "members in good standing." The CCO must have a process in their rules and/or bylaws that governs the selection of potential representatives or must select them at a duly noticed meeting affirmed by a vote of those members who are in good standing in attendance and voting. (CDP Bylaws Art. VIII, Sec. 3.g.(5).(c).)
- **May only seek one office:** Each candidate may only seek the endorsement consideration for one office. (CDP Bylaws Art. VIII, Sec. 3.c.(2).; Art. VIII, Sec. 3.g.(7).; Art. VIII, Sec. 3.g.(8).)
- **New as of November 2017: Candidates 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 28, 2016. The platform is available online at www.cadem.org/plaform.

- **New as of November 2017: Endorsing Caucus Threshold to Receive CDP Endorsement Recommendation:** At Endorsing Caucuses held at the State Convention, all candidates require 60% of valid votes cast by credentialed, present and voting delegates or their qualified proxies to receive the endorsement recommendation. (CDP Bylaws Art. VIII, Sec. 3.c.(8).) Please note that only Democratic State Central Committee (DSCC) Members (state delegates) with full voting rights are eligible to vote at the Endorsing Caucuses.

PRE-ENDORSING CONFERENCES

Pre-Endorsing Conferences for U.S. House (Congressional) Districts, State Assembly Districts, and even-numbered State Senate Districts will take place January 27-28 2018. Each of the 21 CDP regions will hold a Pre-Endorsing Conference with assigned Assembly, Senate, and U.S. House Districts. As noted above, this means that the districts in which you are eligible to vote may be assigned to different Pre-Endorsing Conferences. A list of the regions, conference dates and times, assigned districts, and other information will be available posted on the CDP Endorsements webpage by early January 2018. (CDP Bylaws Art. VIII, Sec. 3.g.)

ELIGIBLE CANDIDATES

All Democratic candidates (regardless of incumbency status) wishing to seek CDP endorsement consideration must register and file for endorsement. Candidates eligible to seek Pre-Primary Endorsement are those who have submitted a signed 2018 CDP Candidate Registration Form and paid the appropriate filing fee (Assembly \$250, Congress \$350, State Senate \$500) in a timely manner and who agree to file as Party Preference Democratic. Only candidates who request endorsement consideration are eligible to be voted on at the Pre-Endorsing Conference. (CDP Bylaws Art. VIII, Sec. 3.c.(3).; Art. VIII, Sec. 3.g.(8).)

Incumbents who seek endorsement are automatically placed on the endorsement consent calendar for consideration at the CDP State Convention unless a successful objection has been filed 10-days prior to the Pre-Endorsing Conferences by 20% of the eligible participants of the Pre-Endorsing Conference for the relevant district; if this occurs, the incumbent will go through the CDP endorsement process, beginning with the Pre-Endorsing Conference process. (CDP Bylaws Art. VIII, Sec. 3.g.(12).; Art. VIII, Sec. 3.g.(13).)

A candidate can obtain a list of eligible voters once the candidate has submitted a signed registration form and paid the appropriate filing fee. (CDP Bylaws Art. VIII, Sec. 3.g.(6).)

ELIGIBLE VOTERS

Eligible voters include:

- Democratic State Central Committee (DSCC) Members with full voting rights,
- Regular County Central Committee Members, and
- Designated representatives of Chartered Clubs and Organizations (CCOs) (1 per 20 Democrats in each Assembly District). (CDP Bylaws Art. VIII, Sec. 3.g.(5).)

The number of Assembly District Representatives for a CCO within each Assembly District is calculated as 1 representative per 20 members in good standing registered to vote in the Assembly District on the roster of members in good standing submitted (see above). (CDP Bylaws Art. VIII, Sec. 3.g.(5).(c).1.(b).)

The list of eligible voters will be finalized November 30, 2017. (CDP 2018 State Convention Rule #2)

All eligible voters will vote in the districts based on where they are registered. (CDP Bylaws Art. VIII, Sec. 3.g.(5).; Art. VIII, Sec. 3.g.(10).)

VOTING (Recommendation of Candidates for Inclusion on the Endorsement Consent Calendar)

- Votes are public per DNC By-Laws and CDP By-Laws. (CDP Bylaws Art. XIII, Sec. 9)

- If a Pre-Endorsing Conference voter cannot attend the Pre-Endorsing Conference, Voting-by-Mail (VBM) is allowed, but proxy voting is not. VBM voting is allowed in part because a voter’s Pre-Endorsing Conferences for two or three districts may be happening at different locations on the same day at the same time. (CDP Bylaws Art. VIII, Sec. 3.g.(2).; Art. VIII, Sec. 3.g.(6).) Please see VBM ballot and instructions on the CDP Endorsements webpage for your districts: www.cadem.org/endorsements.
- A single vote is taken, with each voter choosing one of the eligible candidates or “No Endorsement.” Once a ballot is received by the designated Regional Director/Convener, the ballot may not be retracted, rescinded, or otherwise changed. (CDP Bylaws Art. VIII, Sec. 3.g.(9))
- A single roll call vote, via signed written ballot (ballots read aloud in the manner of a roll call vote), is taken for each relevant district. (CDP Bylaws Art. VIII, Sec. 3.g.(9)).
- 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 conference. (CDP Bylaws Art. VIII, Sec. 3.g.(9).; Art. VIII, Sec. 3.c.(6).; Art. VIII, Sec. 3.g.(13).)
- If no candidate receives the required 70%, but one candidate receives more than 50%, the race will be considered by an Endorsing Caucus of credentialed DSCC members with full voting rights in the district held during the State Convention. (CDP Bylaws Art. VIII, Sec. 3 c.(2).)
- If no candidate receives more than 50% of the valid votes cast at the conference, the CDP will take a position of “No Consensus” for the endorsement in the relevant district. This would be the end of the pre-primary endorsement process for that district.

A Pre-Endorsing Conference recommendation can be pulled by filing a formal objection at least 10 days prior to the State Convention signed by 20% of the eligible voters within the district or 20% of the DSCC members statewide (approximately 650). (CDP Bylaws Art. VIII, Sec. 3.g.(13).)

ADDITIONAL ENDORSEMENT PROCESSES

The endorsement processes outlined below occur after the Pre-Endorsing Conferences and involve DSCC Members only.

ENDORING CAUCUSES (If Necessary)

Endorsing Caucuses will be held at the State Convention for those races in which:

- No candidate received 70% of the Pre-Endorsing Conference vote, but a candidate received over 50%;
- There was no quorum for the Pre-Endorsing Conference, or
- A proper objection was filed after the Pre-Endorsing Conference. (CDP Bylaws Art. VIII, Sec. 3 c.(2).; Art. VIII, Sec. 3.g.(13).)

ELIGIBLE CANDIDATES

All candidates who were eligible to be considered at the Pre-Endorsing Conference are eligible to be voted on at the Endorsing Caucus for the relevant district. (CDP Bylaws Art. VIII, Sec. 3.c.(2).; Art. VIII, Sec. 3.c.(3).)

ELIGIBLE VOTERS

Eligible voters include DSCC members with full voting rights who are registered in the district in which they are elected or from which they are appointed, or their qualified proxy, who are credentialed during credentialing hours. Proxy voting, as outlined in the Bylaws, is allowed; voting by mail is not. (CDP Bylaws Art. VIII, Sec. 3.c.; Art. IV, Sec. 6; Art. IV, Sec. 7.b.)

VOTING (Recommendation of Candidates for Inclusion on the Consent Calendar)

- Votes are public per DNC By-Laws and CDP By-Laws. (CDP Bylaws Art. XIII, Sec. 9)
- Once a ballot is received by the chair of the Endorsing Caucus, the ballot may not be retracted,

rescinded, or otherwise changed. (CDP Bylaws Art. VIII, Sec. 3.c.(6).; Art. VIII, Sec. 3.c.(5).)

- A roll call vote, via signed written ballot (ballots read aloud in the manner of a roll call vote), is taken for each relevant district. (CDP Bylaws Art. VIII, Sec. 3.c.(5).)
- **New as of November 2017:** A single vote is taken, with each voter choosing one of the eligible candidates or “no endorsement.” A candidate requires 60% of valid votes cast by credentialed, present and voting delegates or their qualified proxies to receive the endorsement recommendation. If no candidate receives the required threshold, the caucus shall have taken the position of “no consensus” for endorsement. (CDP Bylaws Art. VIII, Sec. 3.c.(5).; Art. VIII, Sec. 3.c.(8).)
- If a candidate is recommended but receives less than two-thirds of the vote at the caucus, an endorsement recommendation can be formally objected by filing a form signed by 300 credentialed DSCC members with the CDP by 11:00 pm on the Saturday of the State Convention. (CDP Bylaws Art. VIII, Sec. 3.d.(3).(a).)
- 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 State Senate/U.S. House) filing a written motion by 8:00 pm on the Saturday of the State Convention. (CDP Bylaws Art. VIII, Sec. 3.d.(3).(b).)
- In the case a motion is filed, PERC will meet Sunday morning to vote to uphold or deny the motion. If the motion is upheld, the endorsement recommendation will be pulled. (CDP Bylaws Art. VIII, Sec. 3.d.(3).(b))

CONSENT CALENDAR

The endorsement consent calendar is considered on Sunday of the State Convention. (CDP Bylaws Art. VIII, Sec. 3.d.)

ELIGIBLE CANDIDATES

Those candidates who have been recommended for endorsement at the Pre-Endorsing Conferences and at the Endorsing Caucuses will be placed on the endorsement consent calendar to be ratified by the Convention body on Sunday. Those recommendations previously pulled from the consent calendar will be considered by the full body prior to the ratification of the consent calendar. A majority vote is required to ratify an Endorsing Caucus decision to which formal objection has been filed. (CDP Bylaws Art. VIII, Sec. 3.d.(4).)

ELIGIBLE VOTERS

Eligible voters include all DSCC members, or their qualified proxy, who are credentialed during credentialing hours. (CDP Bylaws Art. VIII, Sec. 3.d.; Art. IV, Sec. 6; Art. IV, Sec. 7.b.)

VOTING

- Votes are public per DNC By-Laws and CDP By-Laws. (CDP Bylaws Art. XIII, Sec. 9)
- As noted above, those endorsement recommendations previously pulled from the consent calendar will be considered by the full body prior to the ratification of the consent calendar. A majority vote is required to ratify an Endorsing Caucus decision to which formal objection has been filed. (CDP Bylaws Art. VIII, Sec. 3.d.(4).)
- Ratification of consent calendar may be achieved by acclamation. (CDP Bylaws Art. VIII, Sec. 3.d.(2).)

FURTHER INFORMATION

More information is available on the CDP Endorsements webpage at www.cadem.org/endorsements. If you have any questions, please feel free to email endorsements@cadem.org or contact (916) 442-5707.

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: Visit www.cadem.org/endorsements for location and other details. Participating candidates’ filing fee & 2018 registration forms due to the Regional Director/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 on consent calendar**
- March 14 (Wed)** **Political Party Endorsements: Deadline to include party endorsements in the official sample ballot (statutory deadline)**
- June 5 (Tues)** **California Primary**

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

**This memo may be updated based on amendments made to the bylaws regarding the CDP endorsement process or logistics planning details.*