



California Democratic Party

2014

ENDORSEMENT PROCESS

FOR

Eligible Voters & Democratic Candidates

PRE-ENDORSEMENT CONFERENCES

February 8 or 9

STATE CONVENTION

March 7-9

Los Angeles, CA

ATTN: Kasey Carlson
1401 21st Street, Suite 200
Sacramento, CA 95811-5221
(916) 442-5707 / 442-5715 FAX

PRODUCED BY THE CALIFORNIA DEMOCRATIC PARTY



MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

Democratic Candidates and Eligible Voters:

Welcome to the 2014 California Democratic Party endorsement process.

This booklet was designed by the staff to provide guidance for those seeking endorsement by the CDP and for those participating as voters in the endorsement process. For candidates, the following pages contain all of the necessary forms to register to seek the Democratic Party endorsement. For eligible voters, this booklet provides information about the Pre-Endorsement Conferences, procedures for in-person voting and voting-by-mail, and the ratification of endorsement decisions at the March 2014 State Convention.

Please note that all of the conferences will be held on **Saturday, February 8 or Sunday, February 9**. For those unable to attend the conferences personally, it is important to follow the vote-by-mail rules closely to ensure that your votes reach their proper destinations.

As always, we want to devote as many resources as possible to defeat Republicans across our state. While the endorsement process can be turbulent at times, it is important to remember our goals for 2014:

- Re-elect Governor Jerry Brown and all of our endorsed statewide candidates.
- Regain our majority in the U.S. House of Representatives.
- Increase our majorities in the California State Senate and Assembly.

Hopefully, this booklet will answer all of your questions regarding the endorsement process. However, if you should have further questions, please feel free to contact your Regional Director/Convener or contact the CDP Sacramento office at (916) 442-5707.

Thank you again for all of your participation in, and dedication to, CDP activities. See you at the State Convention in Los Angeles!

Peace and Friendship,



SENATOR JOHN BURTON (RET.)
Chairman

To the Voters:

All eligible voters (DSCC members, regular County Central Committee members and designated Representatives of Chartered Clubs and Organizations) will be voting in Assembly, Senate and Congressional races. Because only the even-numbered State Senate seats are up this year, many of you will **not** be voting for a State Senate candidate.

Eligible voters should make every effort possible to attend their Pre-Endorsement Conferences in person. **Voting-by-mail (VBM) is allowed – proxy voting is not. VBM is allowed because a voter's conference for two or three districts may be happening at different locations on the same day at the same time.** Also, VBMs are a solution for those for whom attending the conference in person would be a hardship.

There is one generic VBM ballot, to be used for each district. A separate ballot must be submitted for each Assembly District (AD), State Senate District (SD), and Congressional District (CD) in which the voter resides and is eligible to vote (though some voters will need only two). **If you are not sure in which districts you are eligible to vote, contact your County Clerk or Registrar of Voters.**

Conference times and locations, VBM addresses, legislative and congressional district assignments, and Regional Director/Convener information can be found online at www.cadem.org/endorsements.

If you cannot attend the conference in person, the VBM ballots are to be mailed directly to the Regional Convener responsible for that district. Be careful, you may need to send your ballots to different Regional Conveners.

CAUTION

Each VBM ballot must be mailed or delivered ONLY to the appropriate Regional Convener responsible for that district before the conference voting. VBM ballots which are late or are sent to the wrong Regional Convener are not valid.

Once received by the designated Regional Convener, a ballot, absentee or otherwise, may not be retracted, rescinded, or otherwise changed and shall be counted in the totals.

SEE WWW.CADEM.ORG/ENDORSEMENTS

Be aware that March 7th is the close of candidate filing. March 12th is the extension for eligible state races and the deadline for political party endorsements. Check the Endorsements Webpage at www.cadem.org/endorsements or with your regional director/convener for the most up-to-date information on the potential candidates.

To the Candidates:

Legislative and Congressional Candidates wishing to seek the California Democratic Party (CDP) endorsement must submit a Candidate Registration form along with a biography, photo and appropriate filing fee. (\$250 for State Assembly, \$350 for Congressional and \$500 for State Senate). See www.cadem.org/endorsements or contact Kasey Carlson by e-mail at kasey@cadem.org for more information.

This form should be received by the CDP before Jan. 31, 2014 at 5:00pm, with a check for the appropriate filing fee made payable and mailed to:

California Democratic Party
Attn: Kasey Carlson
1401 21st Street, Suite 200
Sacramento, CA 95811-5221

Once their filing fee is received, candidates will be mailed the appropriate list of eligible voters. Candidates may phone and send mail to the voters requesting their support. **Candidates who choose to submit their filing fee the day of the pre-endorsement conference will not be sent a list of eligible voters.**

The website (www.cadem.org/endorsements) lists all of the districts to be voted on. Candidates should indicate their intention to run to ensure they are listed as a potential candidate.

As voting-by-mail is allowed at the Pre-Endorsement Conference level, candidates are advised to make their candidacy known to the eligible voters as soon as possible.

At the Pre-Endorsement Conference

THE MEETING

Key points:

- Candidates need 70% of the votes cast to secure a place on the State Convention Consent Calendar.
- This is a public vote.
- A single roll call vote, via signed written ballot, in the same form as the VBM ballot, shall be taken.
- If you cannot attend the conference in person, the VBM ballots must be mailed or delivered **ONLY** to the Regional Director/Convener responsible for that district (see www.cadem.org/endorsements).
- VBM ballots which are late or are delivered to the wrong Regional Director/Convener are **not** valid.
- Once received by the designated Regional Director/Convener, a ballot, absentee or otherwise, may not be retracted, rescinded, or otherwise changed and shall be counted in the totals.
- Proxy voting is not allowed.

THE VOTING

The names of the voters for each district will be read aloud and the conference secretary will read the vote cast in accordance with the signed vote-by-mail ballot that was received by the Regional Director/Convener.

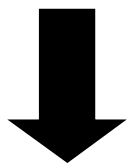
At the end of the roll call, the votes for each candidate and for “no endorsement” will be tallied.

Should a candidate receive the required 70% or more of the vote, s/he will be a **recommended** candidate for endorsement. Recommendations will go on the Consent Calendar to be ratified at the State Convention on Sunday, March 9 in Los Angeles.

If no candidate receives more than the required 50% of the vote, the conference shall have taken the position of “no consensus” for endorsement.

If one candidate receives more than 50% but less than 70% of the vote for a district, the race will go to the caucuses held during the March Convention.

After the result is announced, the conference will proceed in similar fashion through each of the districts.



THE CANDIDATE PRESENTATIONS

As his/her district comes up for vote, each candidate will be invited to make a **two minute** (or less) presentation on why s/he should be endorsed by the Democratic Party. If the candidate is unable to make a presentation, a surrogate may speak on his/her behalf.

Challenges

CHALLENGE TO A CANDIDATE ON THE CONSENT CALENDAR

The name of a candidate recommended for endorsement may be removed from the consent calendar by at least **twenty percent (20%) of the members of This Committee resident and qualified as of December 12, 2013** in the District in question, **or by twenty percent (20%) members of This Committee statewide** filing a letter of objection with the State Chair no later than ten (10) days prior to the State Endorsing Convention. As the State Convention begins on March 7, the deadline is 5:00pm on Tuesday, February 25.

Please send all challenges to:

California Democratic Party
Attn: Kasey Carlson – CHALLENGE
1401 21st Street, Suite 200
Sacramento, CA 95811-5221

At the State Convention

ENDORISING CAUCUSES

On Saturday, March 8 at the State Convention in Los Angeles, endorsing caucuses will be held for the following races:

- Races in which no candidate received 70% of the pre-endorsement conference vote, but one candidate received more than 50%.
- Races in which no quorum was present.
- Races in which a proper challenge was filed.

Because VBMs are **not** allowed, caucuses will be held in groups of like districts – for example: all ADs, then all CDs, then all SDs.

Caucus meetings will start at the direction of the Chair. A tentative agenda for these caucuses will be posted. The DSCC members will receive instructions indicating the location of their endorsing caucuses.

The procedures at these caucuses will be identical to those followed at the Pre-Endorsement Conferences with the following exceptions:

- 1) **Only** credentialed DSCC members or their qualified proxies are eligible to vote;
- 2) Non-incumbent candidates need 60% and incumbents need a majority of credentialed and voting delegates to secure the caucus recommendation for endorsement. If two or more incumbents are running in the same caucus, all candidates need 60% to secure the caucus recommendation;
- 3) Proxy voting, as outlined by the By-laws, is allowed – voting-by-mail is not.

As in the Pre-Endorsement Conferences, **only one vote per district will be taken**. A candidate must reach the required threshold to receive the recommendation for CDP endorsement.

At the State Convention (continued)

CHALLENGES

Formal objection to the ratification of an Endorsing Caucus decision may be filed after the recommendation of the Endorsing Caucus has been made.

If a candidate receives less than two-thirds of the vote of the caucus, the recommendation can be pulled by **at least 300 credentialed members of the DSCC** on a form prescribed by the Secretary. In the event that an objection is filed in this manner, each candidate is entitled to designate one observer who may be present during the signature verification process.

If a candidate receives at least two-thirds of the vote of the caucus, a formal motion to pull an endorsement recommendation can be submitted 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 and 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.

CONVENTION RATIFICATION

Those candidates who have been recommended for endorsement at the Pre-Endorsing Conferences before the convention and those candidates recommended for endorsement at the convention caucuses will go on the consent calendar to be ratified by the convention body on Sunday, March 9th.

BY-LAWS

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

VBM Ballots and the Candidate Registration Form

Voters:

The Vote-by-Mail Ballots and Vote-by-Mail Instructions are available online at www.cadem.org/endorsements. If you have trouble accessing the online materials, please call the CDP Sacramento Office at 916-442-5707 and it can be mailed/faxed to you.

If you are an eligible voter and plan to vote-by-mail, please take note of the information required and be sure to verify which Regional Convener(s) should be responsible for each of your votes. Mailing addresses for Vote-By-Mail Ballots are available online at www.cadem.org/endorsements.

Faxes and photocopies of the vote-by-mail ballots are considered valid. Once received by the Regional Director/Convener, you may not retract, rescind or otherwise change your vote.

If you know of potential candidates, please ask them to request a copy of this booklet from the CDP or pass along a copy of this booklet to them. Our goal is to notify all Democrats running for office about the opportunity to secure the recommendation for endorsement at the February 2014 Pre-Endorsement Conferences, and inform them of the ratification process at the March 2014 State Convention in Los Angeles. As the timeline for the endorsement process is earlier than in previous years, informing the CDP of potential candidates is paramount to the success of the 2014 endorsement process.

Candidates:

The Candidate Registration Form and additional materials are available online at www.cadem.org/endorsements. If you have trouble accessing the online materials please contact the CDP Sacramento office and it can be mailed/faxed to you. This form should be received by the CDP Sacramento Office on or before January 31, 2014, with a check for the appropriate filing fee made payable and mailed to:

**California Democratic Party
Attn: Kasey Carlson
1401 21st Street, Suite 200
Sacramento, CA 95811-5221
916-442-5707**

If you miss the January 31 deadline but still want to be considered for endorsement, you may file your form with the Regional Director/Convener at the Pre-Endorsement Conference prior to the voting for your office.