

ENDORSEMENT IN LOCAL RACES ACT

I. Consideration for Endorsement by the Santa Clara County Democratic Central Committee (SCCDCC)

I.A. Criteria for Offices

I.A.1. The County Chair and the Director of Candidate Recruitment and Endorsements shall prepare and recommend a list of targeted local races for approval by the SCCDCC, as soon as possible after the filing deadline.

I.B. Criteria for Candidates

I.B.1. The candidate must be a currently registered Democrat and file an endorsement application/questionnaire and a signed SCCDCC Fair Campaign Pledge with the Director of Candidate Recruitment and Endorsements prior to the specified deadline on the application/questionnaire.

I.B.2. At any time during this process prior to the actual vote by the SCCDCC, a candidate may revoke his/her request for endorsement.

II. Endorsement Committee

II.A. The County Chair, no later than the final filing deadline, shall appoint an Endorsement Committee consisting of the following members of the SCCDCC:

II.A.1. Seven (7) Members appointed by the County Chair and approved by the Executive Board.

II.A.2. One (1) member representative from each accredited club, nominated by the Chair of that club.

II.A.3. One (1) member from each AD.

II.A.4. The Director of Candidate Recruitment and Endorsements.

II.B. The Endorsement Committee shall:

II.B.1. Develop an application/questionnaire for all Democratic candidates in all targeted local races.

II.B.1.a. The questionnaire must ask the candidate:

II.B.1.a.1. Name, address, work and home phone numbers, email address and campaign website, as applicable;

II.B.1.a.2. Why they believe that they should receive the endorsement;

II.B.1.a.3. Their past/present community service related to the office they seek; and

II.B.1.a.4. Their activities as a Democrat.

II.B.1.b. The questionnaire may include other items as deemed appropriate by the Endorsement Committee.

II.B.2. Identify and send the application/questionnaire to all Democratic candidates in targeted local races.

II.C. The Endorsement Committee shall, as soon as practical, separately interview each candidate for whom an endorsement is considered.

II.C.1. An Endorsement Committee member who is also a paid campaign staff member shall excuse him-or-herself from interviewing candidates in that particular race.

II.C.2. An interview sub-committee for a race shall, whenever possible, be composed of members who are neither actively supporting a candidate nor are employed by an elected official who has endorsed or is actively supporting a candidate in that particular race.

II.C.3. The interview schedule shall be provided to all voting members of the SCCDCC.

II.D. For each office sought, the Endorsement Committee shall provide an endorsement recommendation to the SCCDCC.

II.D.1. The Director of Candidate Recruitment and Endorsements shall provide to the Director of Campaign Services a summary of endorsement recommendations for use in determining levels of campaign assistance.

III. SCCDCC Endorsement

III.A. The SCCDCC will meet to decide on endorsements at least one month prior to the election. The County Chair may call a special meeting, or meetings, to provide for endorsement decisions.

III.A.1. The time and place of the endorsement meeting will be announced in writing to each voting member of the SCCDCC no less than ten (10) days before the regular or special meeting at which such endorsements are to be considered.

III.A.2. Endorsement meetings will be conducted in full compliance with the Open Meeting principle and, in order to protect the integrity of the endorsement process, the County Chair may request that candidates being considered for endorsement be briefly sequestered.

III.B. The SCCDCC may endorse a candidate or candidates who, from the Democratic perspective, will best serve the community. Endorsement applies to candidates, not races. Endorsement categories are: endorsed, multiple endorsement and not endorsed. Voting shall be done first on motions to endorse, followed by motions for multiple endorsement.

III.B.1. Endorsed - By a two-thirds majority of those present and voting, the SCCDCC may endorse a candidate. At most one candidate per available seat may be designated Endorsed. Once a candidate has been declared Endorsed, no other candidates may be considered for endorsement for this seat, either at the endorsement meeting or at subsequent meetings, unless the endorsement has been revoked. A designation of Endorsed may carry the weight of the California Democratic Party (CDP) and means:

III.B.1.a. That the SCCDCC may publicize such endorsements;

III.B.1.b. That the endorsed candidate has the authority to publicize such endorsement as he/she chooses; and

III.B.1.c. Such other campaign assistance as the SCCDCC deems appropriate. Statutory or accredited Democratic organizations shall

be encouraged to lend or provide their name or campaign assistance to Endorsed candidates.

III.B.2. Multiple Endorsement - By a three-fifths (60%) majority of those present and voting, the SCCDCC may endorse two or more candidates in a given race. Such endorsement means:

III.B.2.a. That the SCCDCC may publicize such endorsements;

III.B.2.b. That the endorsed candidate has the authority to publicize such endorsement as he/she chooses, except that the candidate cannot claim to be endorsed by the CDP; and

III.B.2.c. Such other campaign assistance as the SCCDCC deems appropriate. Statutory or accredited Democratic organizations shall be encouraged to lend or provide their name or campaign assistance to Endorsed candidates.

III.B.3. Not Endorsed - All remaining candidates shall be designated not endorsed. The SCCDCC shall not lend nor provide its name or campaign assistance.

III.C. The SCCDCC may reconsider any endorsement action taken, at any time.

III.C.1. An endorsement shall be revoked in the event of a Fair Campaign Pledge violation. Any complaints about a Fair Campaign Pledge violation shall be reviewed by the SCCDCC Executive Board. If the Executive Board agrees that there may be a violation, and if time permits, the complaint shall be forwarded to the Endorsement Committee for a recommendation about the alleged ethics violation. The SCCDCC, by a two-thirds majority of those present and voting, shall make the final decision about revocation of an endorsement. If time does not permit, the decision will be made by the Executive Board, and the actions taken shall be reported to the SCCDCC at its next meeting for its approval by a two-thirds majority of those present and voting.

III.D. Fast-Track for Sole Democrats

III.D.1. In the case of a race for which the number of Democratic candidates does not exceed the number of seats, the Director of Candidate Recruitment and Endorsements may place the name(s) of one or more of these candidates before the SCCDCC for endorsement without the requirement of a questionnaire or an interview.

III.D.2. The names of all such "Sole Democrats" shall be placed on a consent calendar. Such consent calendar shall be voted on by the SCCDCC in a single motion that may be approved by a two-thirds vote of those present and voting.

III.D.3. Any candidate may be removed from the consent calendar by any voting member of the SCCDCC. For each candidate removed from the consent calendar, a separate vote shall be taken by the SCCDCC, which may, by a two-thirds vote of those present and voting, endorse such candidate.

III.D.4. Any candidate who fails to receive an endorsement through the process described in this section shall be allowed to go through the questionnaire and interview process, without prejudice.

Drafted and sponsored by Diane Braughton, Operational Services Director, 15 July 1991.
Adopted with amendments by SCCDCC, 1 August 1991.

Amended by SCCDCC, 2 April 1992.

Amended by SCCDCC, 4 August 1994.

Amended by SCCDCC, 3 August 1995.

Amended by SCCDCC, 1 February 1996.

Amended by SCCDCC, 4 June 2009

Amended by SCCDCC, 5 June 2011