

Los Angeles County Democratic Party

Constitution & By-Laws Excerpt

Article X. Candidate Endorsement

1 **ARTICLE X. CANDIDATE ENDORSEMENT**

2
3 **Section A. General Provisions**

4
5 The following general provisions shall govern all endorsement recommendation and
6 endorsement proceedings of This Committee or it's Endorsement Recommendation
7 Committees:
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9 1. **Definition and Jurisdiction of Endorsement Recommendation Committee**

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12 a. **Jurisdiction**

13
14 The following Committees may be referred to as Endorsement
15 Recommendation Committees and shall have the following jurisdiction:
16

- 17 1) Assembly District Delegation(s) – The Assembly District
18 Delegation of each Assembly District in which a candidate for a
19 particular race is on the ballot, shall have jurisdiction over Local
20 Races; defined herein as races covering less than four (4)
21 Assembly Districts, excluding Los Angeles County offices,
22 municipal offices of the City of Los Angeles, Los Angeles Unified
23 School District, and Los Angeles Community College District. If
24 more than one Assembly District Delegation has jurisdiction, they
25 shall meet jointly. If more than four (4) Assembly District
26 Delegations would have jurisdictions, the race shall be considered
27 by the Candidate Interview Committee. Meetings shall be held at
28 the call of the Chair of This Committee, or his or her designee;
29
- 30 2) Candidate Interview Committee – The Candidate Interview
31 Committee shall have jurisdiction over all Non-Judicial Races that
32 involve Los Angeles County offices, municipal offices of the City of
33 Los Angeles, Los Angeles Unified School District, and Los
34 Angeles Community College District elections and/or other non-
35 partisan races covering more than four (4) Assembly Districts;
36
- 37 3) Judicial Interview Committee – The Judicial Interview Committee
38 shall have jurisdiction over all Judicial Races and retention
39 questions; and,
40
- 41 4) Ballot Measure Committee – The Ballot Measure Committee shall
42 have jurisdiction over all measure contests including state and
43 local initiatives, propositions, and referenda, other than recall
44 elections.
45
- 46 5) Screening and Early Endorsement Recommendation Committee
47 (SEER Committee) – The SEER Committee shall have jurisdiction
48 over non-partisan races that have been placed into a “Candidate
49 Recruitment Track”, which may allow certain participating
50 candidates to receive early endorsements.
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2. **Percentage Required for Endorsement or Recommendation for Endorsement**

This Committee may endorse, and Endorsement Recommendation Committees may recommend, by affirmative vote of sixty percent (60%) of those members voting any Democrat who has filed as a candidate for non-partisan office or for partisan office in a special election; blank ballots, void ballots, and abstentions shall not count towards the total. The same sixty percent (60%) requirement shall apply to endorsements in support of, or opposition to, ballot measures.

3. **Validity of Written Ballot**

To be valid, a written ballot must include the printed name of the member or alternate casting the ballot and their signature.

4. **Calculation of Percentages**

The sixty percent (60%) threshold is calculated by multiplying the number of ballots cast--excluding blank ballots, void ballots, and abstentions--by .6 and if a whole number is not obtained, rounding up to the next whole number.

[For example: If 100 votes are cast, 60% is sixty votes; however, if 102 votes are cast, multiplication by .6 results in 61.2, which is rounded up to the next whole number. Accordingly, 62 votes would be needed to make an endorsement or recommendation of endorsement.]

5. **Prohibition on Multiple Endorsements**

This Committee shall not endorse more candidates for an office than the number to be elected for that office.

6. **Only One Form of Endorsement**

This Committee shall make no form of endorsement other than an official endorsement as expressly described in these bylaws.

7. **Prohibition on Supporting or Endorsing Non-Democrats**

This Committee shall not in any way support or endorse a candidate who is not a registered Democrat.

8. **Notice of Endorsement Proceedings, Service of Standard Candidate Questionnaire & Proof of Service**

a. Whenever an endorsement procedure is initiated, the Chair of the relevant Endorsement Recommendation Committee, or his/her designee, shall be responsible for sending to all candidates who are registered Democrats notification in writing of:

- 1) The date, time and place of all relevant meetings,

- 2) Their right to consideration,
- 3) The content of the Standard Candidate Questionnaire adopted by the Policy Committee of This Committee by providing them with a copy of the questionnaire,
- 4) The instructions for return of the completed questionnaire, and,
- 5) The instructions for payment of Administrative Fees.

These requirements do not apply to the Early Endorsement Procedure for races on the Candidate Recruitment Track.

- b. The Chair of This Committee may reassign the above responsibilities to another member of This Committee.
- c. The above written notification shall be sent at least seven days prior to the meeting of the Endorsement Recommendation Committee.
- d. A proof of service of notification shall be maintained by This Committee for a period of at least thirty (30) days after the relevant election.

9. Notification of Committee Actions and Recommendations

- a. Decisions of an Endorsement Recommendation Committee are public information and are not to be kept secret. To that end, and to insure the free and fair flow of information regarding such recommendations, the chair of an Endorsement Recommendation Committee:
 - 1) Shall, within 72 hours of a decision of an Endorsement Recommendation Committee, diligently attempt to notify the Chair of This Committee, along with all candidates whose races have been considered, of the content of the recommendations of the Endorsement Recommendations Committee, and,
 - 2) May provide such notice either orally, in writing, telephonically, or electronically, or by any other form of actual notice.

10. Conflict of Interest Provisions

- a. A member of This Committee may not vote on nor make a motion concerning a recommendation for endorsement of a candidate during proceedings of an Endorsement Recommendation Committee if:
 - 1) the member is a candidate for the public office under consideration; or,
 - 2) the member is a paid employee or independent contractor of the controlled committee of a candidate for the office under consideration; or,
 - 3) the member is an employee who serves or works in paid

1 employment at the pleasure of a person standing for election to
2 the office under consideration; provided, however, that nothing in
3 this rule shall preclude any person serving on a non-salaried basis
4 as an appointee to a public panel, board or commission from
5 voting on such a recommendation for endorsement.
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- 7 b. Disqualified members may, however, participate in discussion and
8 debate.
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12 **11. Quorum**

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14 **a. Minimum Participation**

15
16 **1) Endorsement Recommendation Committees Consisting of an
17 Assembly District(s)**

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19 Assembly District Delegations meeting as Endorsement
20 Recommendation Committees, either alone or in conjunction with
21 other Assembly District Delegations, have the following quorum
22 requirements:
23

- 24 a) In the case of a single Assembly District Delegation, a
25 majority of the filled positions of all Regular Members, with
26 a maximum quorum requirement of 6;
27
28 b) In the case of a two Assembly District Delegations meeting
29 jointly, a majority of the filled positions of all Regular
30 Members, with a maximum quorum requirement of 9;
31
32 c) In the case of a three Assembly District Delegations
33 meeting jointly, a majority of the filled positions of all
34 Regular Members, with a maximum quorum requirement of
35 12; and
36
37 d) In the case of a four Assembly District Delegations meeting
38 jointly, a majority of the filled positions of all Regular
39 Members, with a maximum quorum requirement of 15.
40

41 *[Note: Regular members are defined as Elected, Appointed, and*
42 *Ex-Officio members. A majority is calculated by first determining*
43 *the number of filled positions and then subtracting any disqualified*
44 *members as described in X.A. 10.b below.]*
45

46 **2) Endorsement Recommendation Committees Consisting of a
47 Standing or Ad Hoc Committee**

48
49 A quorum of any meeting of an Endorsement Recommendation
50 Committee, which is a Standing Committee, an Ad Hoc
51 Committee or any subcommittee thereof, is a majority of the filled
52 positions.

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2 [Note: A majority is calculated by first determining the number of
3 filled positions and then subtracting any disqualified members as
4 described in XA10b below.]
5
6

7 **b. Effect of Disqualification on Quorum**

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9 **1) Endorsement Recommendation Committees Consisting of an**
10 **Assembly District(s)**

11
12 In the event a member of an Assembly District Delegation is
13 disqualified from participating in a specific race, that member's
14 alternate may participate and shall be counted for purposes of
15 determining a quorum, unless the alternate is otherwise
16 disqualified. If both the member and alternate are disqualified,
17 neither shall be counted as a member of the delegation for
18 purposes of determining a quorum, for that specific race.
19

20 **2) Endorsement Recommendation Committees Consisting of a**
21 **Standing or Ad Hoc Committee**

22
23 Whenever a member of a Standing or Ad Hoc Committee
24 considering endorsements is disqualified from voting, that
25 individual shall not be counted as a member of the Standing or Ad
26 Hoc Committee for purposes of determining a quorum, for that
27 specific race.
28

29 **12. Participation of Alternate Members**

30
31 **a. Alternates may only vote on endorsement recommendations at the**
32 **Assembly District level, if:**

- 33
34 1) The appointing member is not present at the time of the vote, or
35
36 2) their appointing member is disqualified, whether or not the
37 appointing member is present at the time of the vote.
38

39 **b. Alternate Members serving on Endorsement Recommendation**
40 **Committees that are Standing or Ad Hoc Committees have the same**
41 **rights and privileges as Regular Members on the committee.**
42

43 **13. Exclusive Procedure**

44
45 Except as provided in this Article X, Sections E., G., H. and J., the only valid
46 motions to endorse must originate from an Endorsement Recommendation
47 Committee. No other motions to endorse shall be in order. If a motion to
48 endorse originating from an Endorsement Recommendation Committee is not
49 adopted, balloting shall proceed as provided in Article X, Section D. 5.
50

51 **14. Binding Nature of Rules**
52

1 The rules in this Article X are substantive and may not be suspended, modified,
2 supplemented or waived by any Endorsement Recommendation Committee nor
3 by This Committee, except as specifically provided herein.
4

5 **Section B. PREREQUISITES TO CANDIDATE ENDORSEMENT PROCESS**
6

7 **1. Initiation of Endorsement Process**
8

- 9 a. Endorsement procedures for a candidate shall only take place when
10 requested in writing by a candidate who has taken out papers for a non-
11 partisan office, or by a member of This Committee.
12
13 b. In any race in which the Chair of This Committee reasonably believes that
14 the Endorsement Recommendation Committee responsible for initiating
15 an Endorsement Recommendation process will fail to do so, or has failed
16 to do so, upon proper request, the responsibility for making such
17 recommendation may be reassigned by the Chair of This Committee to
18 the Candidate Interview Committee or Policy Committee.
19

20 **2. Restriction on Timing of Endorsement**
21

22 No endorsement or recommendation for endorsement shall take place until the
23 deadline for filing has passed unless the race has been placed in the Candidate
24 Recruitment Track. Nothing in this section shall prevent:
25

- 26 a. the scheduling of meetings,
27
28 b. the Notice of Endorsement Proceedings, and/or
29
30 c. the Service of a Standard Candidate Questionnaire prior to the close of
31 filing.
32

33 **3. Administrative Fees for Endorsement & Waiver**
34

35 **a. Fees**
36

37 Each candidate seeking the endorsement of This Committee shall submit
38 to the relevant Endorsement Recommendations Committee Chair, a non-
39 refundable administrative filing fee of \$100 in the case of races involving
40 more than four Assembly Districts and \$50 in all other cases. This fee
41 shall be submitted by the time of the Endorsement Recommendations
42 Committee Meeting in which his/her name is considered.
43

44 **b. Waiver**
45

46 In the event of economic hardship, candidates may offset the filing fee by
47 submitting proof of registration of new Democrat voters who have been
48 registered within the three (3) months immediately preceding the
49 Endorsement Recommendation Committee meeting. Each registration
50 shall reduce the filing fee by one dollar for each proof of such registration
51 submitted. Except as otherwise expressly provided herein, the fee and/or

1 proof of registration must be delivered by the time of the Endorsement
2 Recommendation Committee meeting. A waiver of all or part of the filing
3 fee may also be granted for economic hardship by the Chair of This
4 Committee.

5
6 **4. Submission of Completed Candidate Questionnaires**

7
8 The Candidate or the Candidate's designee is to submit at least ten (10) copies
9 of the completed candidate questionnaire to the Chair of the Endorsement
10 Recommendation Committee prior to consideration of that particular race.

11
12 **5. Eligibility of Candidates for Endorsement**

13
14 Only a candidate who has timely paid or had waived the applicable administrative
15 filing fee and timely submitted a completed Standard Candidate Questionnaire
16 shall be eligible for endorsement.
17

18 **6. Candidate Recruitment Track and Early Endorsement Procedure**

19
20 a. Overview and Purpose – In rare circumstances, This Committee may
21 select certain races and candidates to qualify to be included in a
22 Candidate Recruitment Track, which allows them to receive training,
23 endorsements and support before the close of filing.
24

25 b. Selection of Races – Any member of This Committee may suggest non-
26 partisan races to be considered for the Candidate Recruitment Track to
27 the Co-Chairs of the Campaign Services Committee. The Chair of This
28 Committee, in consultation with the Co-Chairs of the Campaign Services
29 Committee, may select non-partisan races to be included in the
30 Candidate Recruitment Track. To be selected, races must exhibit at least
31 one of the following characteristics:
32

- 33 1) Currently or historically held by a non-Democrat,
- 34 2) Historically difficult for a Democrat to be victorious,
- 35 3) Democratic disadvantage in voter registration, and/or
- 36 4) Democratic disadvantage in voter performance.
37

38 c. Candidate Recruitment – After a race is selected, members of the
39 Assembly District Delegation(s) in whose jurisdiction(s) the race is
40 situated, the Campaign Services Committee, organizations chartered by
41 This Committee, the Chair of This Committee and its staff may all offer
42 people to be considered for the screening and early endorsement
43 process.
44

45 d. Recommendation of Candidates for Early Endorsement – After a race is
46 selected, the Chair of This Committee shall appoint a "Screening and
47 Early Endorsement Recommendation Committee" (SEER Committee), for

1 that race which shall consist of:

- 2
- 3 1) the Co-Chair(s) of the Campaign Services Committee;
- 4 2) the Chair(s) of the affected Assembly District Delegation(s), or
- 5 their designee(s), who must be members of This Committee;
- 6 3) the Regional Vice-Chair(s) and Regional Endorsement
- 7 Coordinator(s) of the affected Region(s);
- 8 4) Associate members appointed by a chartered organization who
- 9 reside in the affected Assembly District(s) (who shall be non-
- 10 voting members); and
- 11 5) the Chair of This Committee's designee, who may be an
- 12 employee of This Committee.
- 13

14 e. SEER Committee Duties – The SEER Committee shall have the

15 responsibility to conduct a screening process to determine whether

16 suggested candidates are appropriate to receive an early endorsement.

17 The SEER Committee, by a vote of sixty percent of those present and

18 voting, may vote to recommend a candidate or candidates for early

19 endorsement in a race that has been selected. As with all endorsements,

20 blank ballots, void ballots and abstentions do not count toward the total.

21 The SEER Committee need not recommend candidates for all open seats

22 in a selected race.

23

24 f. Consideration of Candidates for Early Endorsement – The SEER

25 Committee's candidate recommendations shall be considered at a regular

26 meeting of This Committee at which time, subject to the ordinary rules

27 concerning severance, the sole motion before the body will be whether to

28 accept or reject the SEER Committee's recommendation.

29

30 g. Percentage Required for Early Endorsement – This Committee may make

31 an Early Endorsement of a candidate who has been recommended for

32 Early Endorsement by the SEER Committee. Early endorsement

33 requires an affirmative vote of sixty percent (60%) of those members

34 voting any Democrat; blank ballots, void ballots, and abstentions shall not

35 count towards the total.

36

37 h. Effect of the Early Endorsement Process on This Committee's General

38 Endorsement Process

39

- 40 1) Early endorsements shall carry through to the date of the election
- 41 or subsequent run-off election unless revoked by means outlined
- 42 in these By-laws.
- 43
- 44 2) Should early endorsement(s) be granted to fewer candidates than
- 45 the number of open seats in a given race, other candidates shall

1 be eligible to be considered for endorsement to the remaining
2 seats through the general endorsement process.

- 3
4 3) Otherwise eligible candidates who do not receive an early
5 endorsement shall be eligible to participate and be considered in
6 the general endorsement process.

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8 **Section C. ENDORSEMENT RECOMMENDATION COMMITTEES AND PROCESS**

9
10 1. **Regional Endorsement Coordinators**

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12 a. **Appointment and Jurisdiction**

13
14 The Chair of This Committee shall appoint one Regional Endorsement
15 Coordinator for each Region who shall be responsible for coordinating
16 local endorsements in their Region. If a local race includes portions of
17 more than one Region, the Chair of This Committee shall determine
18 which of the Regional Endorsement Coordinators shall be responsible for
19 coordinating that endorsement.

20
21 2. **Calendar**

22
23 a. For all endorsement procedures, a calendar shall be established which
24 includes the dates of all elections, the date/time/location for Endorsement
25 Recommendation Committee meetings, and dates by which notice shall
26 be required to be served for those meetings.

27
28 b. For Endorsement Recommendation Committees that are Standing
29 Committees, the Chairs of those committees shall be responsible for
30 creating this calendar.

31
32 c. For Endorsement Recommendation Committees that are Assembly
33 District Delegations, the Regional Endorsing Coordinator, in consultation
34 with the Assembly District Delegation Chair(s), shall be responsible for
35 creating this calendar for races in or assigned to their respective regions.

36
37
38 3. **Endorsement Recommendation Committee Meetings, Options and Actions**

39
40 a. **Endorsement Recommendation Options and Required Percentage**

41
42 An Endorsement Recommendation Committee may, upon affirmative vote
43 of sixty (60) percent of those present and voting, with blank ballots, void
44 ballots, and abstentions not being counted toward the total, make any of
45 the following recommendations:

46
47 1) Recommend This Committee endorse a particular candidate or
48 position.

49
50 2) Recommend This Committee take a position of "No
51 Endorsement".

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3) Affirmatively recommend that This Committee take a position of “No Consensus”.

b. Failure to Make Recommendation is “No Consensus” by Default

In the event an Endorsement Recommendation Committee considers a race and fails to make one of the recommendations set forth in Article X, Section C.3.a above, the report of the Endorsement Recommendation Committee shall be “No Consensus”.

c. Recommendation of Finding of Unacceptability

In rare circumstances, an Endorsement Recommendation Committee may also recommend This Committee make a finding that a specific candidate is “Unacceptable”.

Section D. ENDORSEMENT PROCESS

1. Presentation of Endorsement Recommendation Committee Report

a. Consent Calendar

A consent calendar may be used at the discretion of the Chair of This Committee, provided:

- 1) It is only used for a report of the Candidate Interview Committee, Judicial Interview Committee, and/or Ballot Measure Committee;
- 2) It is not used by (an) Assembly District Delegation(s); and,
- 3) It is in writing and distributed at or before the meeting at which the consent calendar is considered.

b. Endorsement Recommendation Committee Reports Not on a Consent Calendar

- 1) The chair or designated spokesperson of an Endorsement Recommendation Committee shall present a report on its recommendation(s) including a brief description of its process and setting forth in full the reason for its recommendation(s).
- 2) Each jurisdiction will be presented and voted on individually.
- 3) For purposes of this Article X, a jurisdiction is the County, a city, a school or community college district or any other district (i.e.: a water or library district).
- 4) At-large offices will be presented and voted on separately from all other offices.

Example A) In a city that has multiple City Council Members

1 that are each elected in separate districts, plus an
2 elected Mayor and Treasurer, all endorsement
3 recommendations will be presented as a single
4 motion.
5

6 Example B) In a city that has multiple City Council Members
7 that are elected at-large by all voters in the city,
8 plus an elected Mayor and Treasurer, the
9 endorsement recommendations for Mayor and
10 Treasurer will be presented as a single motion, with
11 all of the recommendations for the at-large City
12 Council presented as a separate motion.
13

14 **2. Severance**

15
16 Candidates, at-large offices and/or ballot measure positions may be severed
17 from a consent calendar or a motion from an Endorsement Recommendation
18 Committee upon request of a credentialed member of This Committee seconded
19 by twenty (20) members who show their voting credentials. No written petitions
20 are required for this process. A severance request, however denominated, in
21 connection with an at-large race shall result in all recommendations (candidates
22 or other positions) in that race being severed and considered separately and
23 individually.
24

25 **3. Order of Consideration**

26
27 The order of endorsement recommendation consideration shall be as follows:
28

- 29 a. All parts of a consent calendar, or Endorsement Recommendation
30 Committee's motion which have not been severed;
31
32 b. Candidates or positions severed from a consent calendar or Endorsement
33 Recommendation Committee recommendation, with the first vote being
34 on the Endorsement Recommendation Committee's recommendation.
35

36 In at-large races where severance has been requested and has been
37 seconded by twenty (20) members, balloting for each seat shall occur
38 separately and individually considering each recommended candidate or
39 position, one at a time in alphabetical order by last name. Each of the
40 Endorsement Recommendation Committee's recommendations shall be
41 considered before any other balloting is to occur.
42

- 43 c. One or more written ballot(s) including all eligible candidates, with the
44 option of No Endorsement being included in all such balloting; and,
45
46 d. Ballot measure positions.
47

48 **4. Debate**

- 49
50 a. Except when presented as a consent calendar, after the presentation of
51 an Endorsement Recommendation Committee report, the members of
52 This Committee shall be given the opportunity to debate the

1 recommendation. Speakers shall be limited to no more than three (3)
2 speakers in favor and three (3) speakers opposed, with a time limit of no
3 more than one (1) minute per speaker. The number of speakers or time
4 allotted may be extended by a majority vote of those present and voting.
5

- 6 b. In the event a race is severed from an Endorsement Recommendation
7 Committee's report, debate and the first vote will be held on the
8 Endorsement Recommendations Committee's recommendation for the
9 severed race.
10

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13 **5. Failure to Adopt Endorsement Committee Recommendation**
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- 15 a. In the event the Endorsement Recommendation Committee's
16 recommendation is not adopted, This Committee shall consider
17 endorsement by written ballot.
18
19 b. After the defeat of an endorsement recommendation presented by an
20 Assembly District Delegation(s), there shall be only one (1) ballot. The
21 ballot shall include the option of "No Endorsement" and all eligible
22 candidates who have not yet been endorsed.
23

24 In at-large races, each member may cast her/his ballot for up to the
25 number of seats on which no position concerning endorsement has yet
26 been adopted. The candidates with the highest number of votes up to the
27 number of seats available for endorsement shall be endorsed; provided
28 that each endorsed candidate must receive the sixty percent (60%)
29 minimum threshold of valid ballots cast as set forth in Article X, Section
30 A.2. If there is a tie among such candidates, the tie shall be broken by
31 lot.
32

33 In the event no candidate is endorsed for an office or a seat in an at-large
34 race, it shall be deemed that This Committee has taken a position of "No
35 Consensus."
36

- 37 c. After the defeat of an endorsement recommendation presented by the
38 Candidate Interview Committee or the Judicial Interview Committee, there
39 shall be up to three (3) ballots. "No Endorsement" shall be an option in
40 all balloting. The first ballot shall include all eligible candidates.
41

42 1) In the event no candidate receives the sixty percent (60%)
43 majority required for endorsement on the first ballot, any candidate
44 not receiving twenty percent (20%) shall be dropped, and a
45 second ballot shall be conducted. In the event no candidate
46 receives a sixty percent (60%) majority on the first ballot, but all
47 candidates receive at least twenty percent (20%) of the vote,
48 balloting shall cease.
49

50 2) In the event no candidate receives the sixty percent (60%)
51 majority required for endorsement on the second ballot, any
52 candidate not receiving twenty percent (20%) shall be dropped

1 and a third ballot shall be conducted. In the event no candidate
2 receives a sixty percent (60%) majority on the second ballot, but
3 all candidates receive at least twenty percent (20%) of the vote,
4 balloting shall cease.

5
6 3) In the event no candidate is endorsed it shall be deemed that This
7 Committee has taken a position of "No Consensus".
8

9 d. If an endorsement recommendation presented by the Ballot Measure
10 Committee is defeated, there shall be only one (1) ballot, which shall
11 include the option of "Yes" (support), "No" (oppose), and "No
12 Endorsement".
13

14 **6. Waiver of Written Ballot**

15
16 The requirement of written ballot may be waived by a majority vote of those
17 present and voting at any stage in the proceedings.
18

19 **7. Failure to Endorse**

20
21 In the event of a failure of This Committee to endorse or take a position, This
22 Committee's position shall be "No Consensus"
23

24 **8. Determination of Publication**

25
26 In the event a position of "No Consensus" shall be sustained, or otherwise
27 become the position of This Committee, the Chair of This Committee shall
28 determine whether such race shall be listed in any publication of This Committee.
29

30 **Section E. CHALLENGES**

31
32 **1. Challenges to Recommendation and Endorsement Process**

33
34 **a. Standing to Challenge**

35
36 Any alleged violation of this Article X, or any other error or omission in the
37 recommendation process of This Committee's endorsement procedure
38 must be challenged by any of the following:
39

40 1) A member of This Committee,

41
42 2) A candidate whose race is being considered, or,

43
44 3) In the case of a ballot measure a representative of a qualified
45 committee primarily formed to support or oppose that ballot
46 measure.
47

48 **b. Timing of Challenge**

49
50 **1) To Recommendation Process**

51
52 In order to allow for a timely remedy, any challenge to the

1 recommendation process should be made to the officer presiding
2 at the time of the challenge and at the earliest possible point in
3 time. Except as otherwise provided in Article X, Section E, 2.b
4 below, all challenges to the recommendation process must be
5 made before a vote to endorse is taken by This Committee.
6

7 **2) To Endorsement Process**
8

9 Except as otherwise provided in Article X, Section E. 2.b below, a
10 challenge to any error or omission in the endorsement or
11 recommendation process must be made before the vote to
12 endorse is taken by This Committee. In the event of such a
13 challenge, the challenge must be made to the Chair of This
14 Committee prior to a vote to endorse taking place, and should be
15 in writing.
16

17 **c. Challenge to Member's Right to Vote**
18

19 If a timely challenge relates to the eligibility of a member of the
20 recommending body to vote and the challenged member does not agree
21 that the challenge should be sustained, the challenged member shall be
22 allowed to vote a provisional ballot.
23

24 **2. Appeals and Determinations of Challenges**
25

26 **a. Composition of Appeals Committee**
27

28 The validity of any challenge concerning the recommendation or
29 endorsement process shall be determined by an Appeals Committee
30 consisting of the Chair of This Committee, its Parliamentarian and one
31 Rules and Legal Committee Co-Chair selected by the Chair of This
32 Committee.
33

34 **b. Authority of Appeals Committee**
35

36 The Appeals Committee shall have authority to resolve the challenge and
37 to order such remedy as may be just and equitable. Remedies may
38 include, but are not limited to, disqualifying a challenged ballot, directing
39 that a challenged ballot be counted, or directing that endorsement in the
40 race be considered by This Committee by written ballot containing the
41 names of all of the candidates determined to be eligible by the Appeals
42 Committee. The decision of the Appeals Committee shall be final. In the
43 event a challenge is filed after the vote to endorse occurs, the Appeals
44 Committee may determine that compelling unusual circumstances exist
45 and vote to hear the challenge. In the event such a post-endorsement
46 appeal is sustained by unanimous vote of the Appeals Committee, the
47 Appeals Committee may suspend the endorsement.
48

49 **c. Erroneous Endorsement of Non-Democrats**
50

51 In the event the Chair of This Committee determines that an endorsed
52 candidate was not a registered Democrat as of the time the Endorsement

1 Recommendation Committee first meets, or any time thereafter, the
2 endorsement shall be void.

3 **Section F. COMMUNICATION OF REGISTRATION STATUS**
4

5 Nothing in this Article X shall preclude This Committee from communicating to members
6 of the Democratic Party registered to vote as Democrats that any candidate for non-
7 partisan office is not registered to vote as a Democrat.
8

9 **Section G. SPECIAL PROCEDURES FOR RUNOFF/GENERAL ELECTIONS IN WHICH THIS**
10 **COMMITTEE HAS NO ENDORSED CANDIDATE AND A CANDIDATE ELIGIBLE FOR**
11 **ENDORSEMENT IN THE INITIAL/PRIMARY ELECTION REMAINS ELIGIBLE FOR**
12 **ELECTION**
13

14 1. **Continued Endorsement of Candidates Still Eligible for Election Who Were**
15 **Endorsed in the First Round of Voting**
16

17 Unless properly revoked, the endorsement of a candidate for election in a first
18 round of voting continues in the second round of voting, however denominated
19 (e.g. runoff or general election) if that candidate remains eligible for election in
20 the second round of voting.
21

22 2. **Endorsement in the Second Round of Voting for Races in Which No**
23 **Endorsed Candidate is Still Eligible for Election**
24

25 In a race in which there is a second round of voting, and no endorsed candidate
26 of This Committee remains eligible for election, but one or more candidates
27 eligible for This Committee's endorsement in the first round of voting remain(s)
28 eligible for election in the second round of voting, This Committee may endorse a
29 candidate in the second round of voting. Such an endorsement shall be made
30 solely in accordance with the procedures set forth in this Article X, Section G.
31

32 a. Request
33

34 The endorsement process for the second round of voting shall be
35 commenced only upon request of either:
36

- 37 1) a candidate eligible for endorsement in the first round of voting
38 who remains eligible for election in the second round of voting or
39
40 2) a member of This Committee.
41

42 b. Notice
43

44 The Chair of This Committee shall cause written notice of This
45 Committee's intention to consider endorsement in the second round of
46 voting to be sent to all candidates who were eligible for This Committee's
47 endorsement in the first round of voting and who remain eligible for
48 election in the second round of voting. Such notice shall be provided not
49 less than seven (7) days before the meeting of This Committee at which
50 such an endorsement is to be considered.
51

52 c. Balloting

1
2 At the meeting of This Committee at which endorsement in the second
3 round of voting is to be considered, there shall be only one (1) ballot. The
4 ballot shall include the option of "No Endorsement" along with the names
5 of all candidates who were eligible for This Committee's endorsement in
6 the first round of voting and who remain eligible for election in the second
7 round of voting. If any candidate receives a sixty percent (60%)
8 affirmative vote, that candidate shall receive This Committee's
9 endorsement in the second round of voting in that race.

10
11 d. "No Consensus" Endorsement Where No Candidate Receives a Sixty
12 Percent Affirmative Vote

13
14 If no candidate receives a sixty percent (60%) affirmative vote, This
15 Committee's endorsement shall be "No Consensus."
16

17 **Section H. PROVISIONS FOR POLICY COMMITTEE ENDORSEMENT IN SPECIAL ELECTIONS**

18
19 If a special election in Los Angeles County is to take place within thirty (30) days after
20 the close of filing, the Policy Committee may endorse any Democrat who has filed for
21 that office. Any such endorsement shall require a sixty percent (60%) affirmative vote of
22 those persons present and voting, blank ballots, void ballots, and abstentions not
23 counting towards the total. If there is a scheduled meeting of This Committee prior to
24 the election the Policy Committee may delegate its endorsement power to This
25 Committee.
26

27 **Section I. RECALL**

28
29 **1. Motion to Support or Oppose Recall**

30
31 The motion to support or oppose the recall of an elected public official in a non-
32 partisan race may be made and seconded without the necessity of prior notice.
33 This motion requires the affirmative vote of sixty percent (60%) of the members
34 voting, blank ballots, void ballots, and abstentions not counting towards the total.
35

36 **2. Motion to Endorse Successor Candidate**

37
38 A motion to endorse a successor candidate in a recall election is subject to all of
39 the same provisions of this Article X that would apply to a motion to endorse a
40 candidate in a regularly scheduled election.
41

42 **Section J. PROCEDURE FOR RECONSIDERATION, RESCISSION OR REVOCATION OF**
43 **ENDORSEMENT**

44
45 **1. Intent**

46
47 The following procedures shall be the exclusive procedures governing motions,
48 however denominated, to Reconsider, Rescind, or Revoke any position resulting
49 from the Endorsement process set forth in this Article. These procedures take
50 the place of, and supplant, the procedures specified in the edition of Robert's
51 Rules of Order which governs the proceedings of This Committee.
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2. Sole Method

Once the consideration of an endorsement has been terminated, the resulting position may only be revisited, whether by a motion to Reconsider, Rescind, or Revoke the resulting position, by the process specified herein or by an appeal or challenge under Article X, Section E. Consideration of an endorsement is terminated by endorsing a candidate or position, or taking a position of “No Endorsement” or “No Consensus.”

3. Process for Reconsideration, Rescission, or Revocation of an Endorsement Position

The following is the process and pre-requisites of a motion to Reconsider, Rescind, or Revoke an Endorsement Position:

a. Maker of the Motion

A motion to Reconsider, Rescind, or Revoke an Endorsement Position may be made by:

- 1) any member of This Committee,
- 2) a sixty percent (60%) majority vote at a Policy Committee meeting, a quorum being present.

b. Notice of Intent to Make a Motion

- 1) Except when initiated by a sixty percent (60%) majority of the Policy Committee, notice of intention to make a motion for Reconsideration, Rescission or Revocation of an endorsement shall be made in writing and submitted to the Chair of This Committee at This Committee’s address of record at least ten (10) days before the next regular meeting of This Committee.
- 2) Notwithstanding anything in Article X, Section G.3.b.1, no prior notice of intention to make a motion for Reconsideration, Rescission or Revocation of an endorsement is necessary when the motion is made at the same meeting at which the vote concerning the endorsement at issue is being conducted.

c. Content of Notice of Intent to Make a Motion

The notice of intent to make a motion for Reconsideration, Rescission or Revocation of an endorsement must state:

- 1) The name of the maker of the motion or that it is coming from the Policy Committee,
- 2) The specifics about the subject of the motion:

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- a) If a candidate, the name and jurisdiction of the specific candidate(s);
- b) If a ballot measure, the title of the measure, the letter or number used to designate the measure on the ballot and the jurisdiction;
- c) If the position that is the subject of the motion is "No Endorsement" or "No Consensus," the position adopted by This Committee along with the specific office and jurisdiction;
- d) If the matter is a finding of unacceptability of a candidate, the name and jurisdiction of the specific candidate(s) and the fact that the subject of the motion is the finding of unacceptability shall be identified.

- 3) The reason for the motion, which must include a specific statement setting forth either:
 - a) new and material information not available to This Committee at the time the original endorsement vote was taken, and/or,
 - b) extraordinary circumstances, which make revisiting an endorsement necessary.
- 4) If applicable, the reason(s) the information was not presented at the same meeting at which the vote concerning the endorsement was conducted.

d. Seconding Requirements

The requirements of seconding a motion to Reconsider, Rescind, or Revoke an Endorsement Position are:

- 1) That a second is not needed if the motion comes from the Policy Committee; or
- 2) affirmative declaration of fifty (50) members of This Committee who show their voting credentials if the motion is made by a single member of This Committee.

e. Notice of Motion

- 1) No notice of a motion for Reconsideration, Rescission or Revocation is needed when made at the same meeting at which the vote concerning the endorsement at issue is being conducted.
- 2) In all other cases, at least seven (7) days advance written notice of a motion for Reconsideration, Rescission or Revocation shall

1 be given to the members of This Committee and, if the subject of
2 the motion is an endorsement for a public office, the candidates
3 who were eligible to have received the endorsement of This
4 Committee at the time it was last considered. Notice to such
5 candidates shall include the content of the Notice of Intent to
6 Make a Motion, where applicable.
7

8 f. Debate
9

10 Once a motion for Reconsideration, Rescission or Revocation of an
11 endorsement position is duly made and seconded, the members of This
12 Committee shall be given the opportunity to debate it.
13

14 Before any speakers are recognized from the floor, the maker of the
15 motion shall be afforded up to three (3) minutes to present their position
16 and the affected candidate or ballot measure sponsor shall be afforded up
17 to three (3) minutes to respond. Either side may designate a speaker in
18 their stead.
19

20 Thereafter, speakers shall be limited to no more than three (3) speakers
21 in favor and three (3) speakers opposed, with a time limit of no more than
22 one (1) minute per speaker. The number of speakers or time allotted may
23 be extended by a majority vote of those present and voting.
24

25 g. Seventy Percent Affirmative Vote Required
26

27 An affirmative vote of seventy percent (70%) of those members present
28 and voting is necessary to adopt a motion for Reconsideration,
29 Rescission or Revocation of an endorsement position.
30

31 h. Effect of Adoption
32

33 Upon the adoption of a motion for Reconsideration, Rescission or
34 Revocation of an endorsement position:
35

- 36 1) The endorsement shall be considered invalidated and of no force or
37 effect.
- 38 2) This Committee shall immediately proceed to the consideration of
39 endorsement by way of a single ballot.
- 40 3) The ballot shall include all candidates eligible to be considered for
41 endorsement at the time This Committee made its original
42 endorsement, including the option of "No Endorsement".
- 43 4) In at-large races, ballots shall not include any candidate who has a
44 current and valid endorsement.
- 45 5) Failure of any candidate, position, or the option of "No Endorsement"
46 to receive an affirmative vote of sixty percent (60%) of those members
47 present and voting shall result in a position of "No Consensus".
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