

Los Angeles County Democratic Party

Constitution & By-Laws Excerpt

Article XI. Endorsement

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1 **ARTICLE XI. 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 its Endorsement Recommendation
7 Committees:
8

9 **1. Definition and Jurisdiction of Endorsement Recommendation Committee**

10
11 **a. Jurisdiction**

12
13 The following Committees may be referred to as Endorsement
14 Recommendation Committees and shall have the following jurisdiction:
15

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

51 **2. Percentage Required for Endorsement or Recommendation for**
52 **Endorsement**

1
2 This Committee may endorse, and Endorsement Recommendation Committees
3 may recommend, by affirmative vote of sixty percent (60%) of those members
4 voting any Democrat who has filed as a candidate for non-partisan office or for
5 partisan office in a special election; blank ballots, void ballots, and abstentions
6 shall not count towards the total. The same sixty percent (60%) requirement
7 shall apply to endorsements in support of, or opposition to, ballot measures.
8

9 **3. Validity of Written Ballot**

10
11 To be valid, a written ballot must include the printed name of the member or
12 alternate casting the ballot and their signature.
13

14 **4. Calculation of Percentages**

15
16 The sixty percent (60%) threshold is calculated by multiplying the number of
17 ballots cast--excluding blank ballots, void ballots, and abstentions--by .6 and if a
18 whole number is not obtained, rounding up to the next whole number.
19

20 *[For example: If one hundred (100) votes are cast, sixty percent (60%) is sixty*
21 *(60) votes; however, if one hundred two (102) votes are cast, multiplication by .6*
22 *results in 61.2, which is rounded up to the next whole number. Accordingly,*
23 *sixty-two (62) votes would be needed to make an endorsement or*
24 *recommendation of endorsement.]*
25

26 **5. Prohibition on Multiple Endorsements**

27
28 This Committee shall not endorse more candidates for an office than the number
29 to be elected for that office.
30

31 **6. Only One Form of Endorsement**

32
33 This Committee shall make no form of endorsement other than an official
34 endorsement as expressly described in these Constitution and By-Laws.
35

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

37
38 This Committee shall not in any way support or endorse a candidate who is not a
39 registered Democrat.
40

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

43
44 a. Whenever an endorsement procedure is initiated, except as to ballot
45 measures, the Chair of the relevant Endorsement Recommendation
46 Committee, or his/her designee, shall be responsible for sending to all
47 candidates notification in writing of:

48
49 (i) The date, time and place of all relevant meetings;

50
51 (ii) Their right to consideration;
52

- (iii) The requirement that, in order to be considered for endorsement by This Committee, they must be registered Democrats as of the close of filing or the first consideration by an Endorsement Recommendation Committee of their race, whichever is earlier;
- (iv) The content of the Standard Candidate Questionnaire adopted by the Policy Committee of This Committee by providing them with a copy of the questionnaire;
- (v) The instructions for return of the completed Standard Candidate Questionnaire; and,
- (vi) 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 (7) 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. Special Notice Provisions for Ballot Measures

Whenever an endorsement procedure is initiated as to a ballot measure, the Chair of the Ballot Measure Committee or his/her designee, shall be responsible for causing to be posted on This Committee’s public website not less than seven days prior to the first such meeting the date, time and place of all relevant meetings in the endorsement process for that measure and, in the event additional meetings are added, reasonably in advance of any such meetings. The Chair of This Committee or his/her designee shall endeavor to provide members of This Committee with reasonable advance notice by electronic mail of the date, time and place of all such relevant meetings. The failure of the Chair of This Committee to provide such notice by electronic mail shall not be sufficient grounds for challenging an endorsement recommendation or endorsement decision.

10. Application of the Open Meetings Rule to Endorsement Recommendation Process; Notification of Committee Actions and Recommendations

- a. The Rule of this Party that all public meetings of This Committee are open to all registered Democrats applies with full force and effect to meetings of Endorsement Recommendation Committees.

The meetings of Endorsement Recommendation Committees are public meetings subject to this rule with the following exceptions:

- (i) Endorsement interviews and review and discussion of completed

1 candidate questionnaires may reflect deliberations about
2 campaign strategy and, as a result, are not public parts of any
3 Endorsement Recommendation Committee meetings. As a result,
4 only members of the Endorsement Recommendation Committee,
5 officers of This Committee and the Chair's designees, unless
6 otherwise excluded herein, may attend these parts of any
7 Endorsement Recommendation Committee meetings.
8

9 (ii) A candidate for the office under consideration at the relevant
10 portion of the Endorsement Recommendation Committee meeting
11 and any other persons serving in paid employment at the pleasure
12 of such candidate may only attend the non-public portion of the
13 meeting dealing with her/his race in which that candidate is being
14 interviewed and shall otherwise be excluded therefrom.
15

16 b. Voting on recommendations to This Committee, including debate on any
17 such motion, is a public part of any Endorsement Recommendation
18 Committee meeting and recommendations of an Endorsement
19 Recommendation Committee are public information and are not to be
20 kept secret.
21

22 To that end, and to insure the free and fair flow of information regarding
23 such recommendations, the chair of an Endorsement Recommendation
24 Committee:
25

26 (i) Shall, within seventy-two (72) hours of a decision of an
27 Endorsement Recommendation Committee, diligently attempt to
28 notify the Chair of This Committee, along with all candidates
29 whose races have been considered, of the content of the
30 recommendations of the Endorsement Recommendations
31 Committee; and,
32

33 (ii) May provide such notice either orally, in writing, telephonically, or
34 electronically, or by any other form of actual notice.
35

36 **11. Conflict of Interest Provisions**
37

38 a. A member of This Committee may not vote on nor make a motion
39 concerning a recommendation for endorsement of a candidate during
40 proceedings of an Endorsement Recommendation Committee if:
41

42 (i) The member is a candidate for the public office under
43 consideration; or,
44

45 (ii) The member is a paid employee or independent contractor of the
46 controlled committee of a candidate for the office under
47 consideration; or,
48

49 (iii) The member is an employee who serves or works in paid
50 employment at the pleasure of a person standing for election to
51 the office under consideration; provided, however, that nothing in
52 this rule shall preclude any person serving on a non-salaried basis

1 as an appointee to a public panel, board or commission from
2 voting on such a recommendation for endorsement.

- 3
4 b. Disqualified members may, however, participate in discussion and
5 debate.
6

7 **12. Quorum**

8
9 **a. Minimum Participation**

10
11 **(i) Endorsement Recommendation Committees Consisting of an**
12 **Assembly District(s)**

13
14 Assembly District Delegations meeting as Endorsement
15 Recommendation Committees, either alone or in conjunction with
16 other Assembly District Delegations, have the following quorum
17 requirements:
18

- 19 a) In the case of a single Assembly District Delegation, a
20 majority of the filled positions of all Regular Members, with
21 a maximum quorum requirement of six (6);
22
23 b) In the case of a two (2) Assembly District Delegations
24 meeting jointly, a majority of the filled positions of all
25 Regular Members, with a maximum quorum requirement of
26 nine (9);
27
28 c) In the case of a three (3) Assembly District Delegations
29 meeting jointly, a majority of the filled positions of all
30 Regular Members, with a maximum quorum requirement of
31 twelve (12); and
32
33 d) In the case of a four (4) Assembly District Delegations
34 meeting jointly, a majority of the filled positions of all
35 Regular Members, with a maximum quorum requirement of
36 fifteen (15).
37

38 *[Note: Regular Members are defined as Elected, Appointed, and*
39 *Ex-Officio Members. A majority is calculated by first determining*
40 *the number of filled positions and then subtracting any disqualified*
41 *members as described in XI.A.10 above.]*
42

43 **(ii) Endorsement Recommendation Committees Consisting of a**
44 **Standing or Ad Hoc Committee**

45
46 A quorum of any meeting of an Endorsement Recommendation
47 Committee, which is a Standing Committee, an Ad Hoc
48 Committee or any subcommittee thereof, is a majority of the filled
49 positions.
50

51 *[Note: A majority is calculated by first determining the number of*
52 *filled positions and then subtracting any disqualified members as*

described in XI.A.10 above.]

b. Effect of Disqualification on Quorum

(i) Endorsement Recommendation Committees Consisting of an Assembly District(s)

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

(ii) Endorsement Recommendation Committees Consisting of a Standing or Ad Hoc Committee

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

13. Participation of Alternate Members

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

- (i) The Appointing Member is not present at the time of the vote, or
- (ii) Their Appointing Member is disqualified, whether or not the Appointing Member is present at the time of the vote.

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

14. Exclusive Procedure

Except as provided in this Article XI.E.,G.,H. and J., the only valid motions to endorse must originate from an Endorsement Recommendation Committee. No other motions to endorse shall be in order. If a motion to endorse originating from an Endorsement Recommendation Committee is not adopted, balloting shall proceed as provided in Article XI.D.5.

15. Binding Nature of Rules

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

1 **Section B. PREREQUISITES TO CANDIDATE ENDORSEMENT PROCESS**

2
3 1. **Initiation of Endorsement Process**

- 4
5 a. Endorsement procedures for a candidate shall only take place when
6 requested in writing by a candidate who has taken out papers for a non-
7 partisan office, or by a member of This Committee.
8
9 b. In any race in which the Chair of This Committee reasonably believes that
10 the Endorsement Recommendation Committee responsible for initiating
11 an Endorsement Recommendation process will fail to do so, or has failed
12 to do so, upon proper request, the responsibility for making such
13 recommendation may be reassigned by the Chair of This Committee to
14 the Candidate Interview Committee or Policy Committee.
15

16 2. **Restriction on Timing of Endorsement**

17
18 No endorsement or recommendation for endorsement shall take place until the
19 deadline for filing has passed unless the race has been placed in the Candidate
20 Recruitment Track. Nothing in this section shall prevent:

- 21
22 a. The scheduling of meetings;
23
24 b. The Notice of Endorsement Proceedings; and/or
25
26 c. The Service of a Standard Candidate Questionnaire prior to the close of
27 filing.
28

29 3. **Administrative Fees for Endorsement & Waiver**

30
31 a. **Fees**

32
33 Each candidate seeking the endorsement of This Committee shall submit
34 to the relevant Endorsement Recommendations Committee Chair, a non-
35 refundable administrative filing fee of One Hundred Dollars (\$100) in the
36 case of races involving more than four (4) Assembly Districts and Fifty
37 Dollars (\$50) in all other cases. This fee shall be submitted by the time of
38 the Endorsement Recommendations Committee Meeting in which his/her
39 name is considered.
40

41 b. **Waiver**

42
43 In the event of economic hardship, candidates may offset the filing fee by
44 submitting proof of registration of new Democrat voters who have been
45 registered within the three (3) months immediately preceding the
46 Endorsement Recommendation Committee meeting. Each registration
47 shall reduce the filing fee by One Dollar (\$1) for each proof of such
48 registration submitted. Except as otherwise expressly provided herein,
49 the fee and/or proof of registration must be delivered by the time of the
50 Endorsement Recommendation Committee meeting. A waiver of all or
51 part of the filing fee may also be granted for economic hardship by the

1 Chair of This Committee.
2

3 **4. Submission of Completed Standard Candidate Questionnaire**
4

5 The Candidate or the Candidate's designee is to submit at least ten (10) copies
6 of the completed Standard Candidate Questionnaire to the Chair of the
7 Endorsement Recommendation Committee prior to consideration of that
8 particular race. Completed Standard Candidate Questionnaires are an adjunct to
9 deliberations about electoral strategy. The Chair of the Endorsement
10 Recommendation Committee and any other person with custody of an original or
11 copy thereof shall take such steps as are necessary to safeguard the
12 confidentiality of such completed Standard Candidate Questionnaires pursuant to
13 the written guidance promulgated by the Policy Committee of This Committee.
14

15 **5. Eligibility of Candidates for Endorsement**
16

17 Only a candidate who has timely paid or had waived the applicable administrative
18 filing fee and timely submitted a completed Standard Candidate Questionnaire
19 shall be eligible for endorsement.
20

21 **6. Candidate Recruitment Track and Early Endorsement Procedure**
22

23 a. Overview and Purpose – In rare circumstances, This Committee may
24 select certain races and candidates to qualify to be included in a
25 Candidate Recruitment Track, which allows them to receive training,
26 endorsements and support before the close of filing.
27

28 b. Selection of Races – Any member of This Committee may suggest non-
29 partisan races to be considered for the Candidate Recruitment Track to
30 the Co-Chairs of the Campaign Services Committee. The Chair of This
31 Committee, in consultation with the Co-Chairs of the Campaign Services
32 Committee, may select non-partisan races to be included in the
33 Candidate Recruitment Track. To be selected, races must exhibit at least
34 one (1) of the following characteristics:
35

- 36 (i) Currently or historically held by a non-Democrat;
- 37
- 38 (ii) Historically difficult for a Democrat to be victorious;
- 39
- 40 (iii) Democratic disadvantage in voter registration; and/or,
- 41
- 42 (iv) Democratic disadvantage in voter performance.
43

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

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process.

- d. Recommendation of Candidates for Early Endorsement – After a race is selected, the Chair of This Committee shall appoint a “Screening and Early Endorsement Recommendation Committee” (SEER Committee), for that race which shall consist of:
 - (i) The Co-Chair(s) of the Campaign Services Committee;
 - (ii) The Chair(s) of the affected Assembly District Delegation(s), or their designee(s), who must be members of This Committee;
 - (iii) The Regional Vice-Chair(s) and Regional Endorsement Coordinator(s) of the affected Region(s);
 - (iv) Associate Members appointed by a chartered organization who reside in the affected Assembly District(s) (who shall be non-voting members); and
 - (v) The Chair of This Committee’s designee, who may be an employee of This Committee.
- e. SEER Committee Duties – The SEER Committee shall have the responsibility to conduct a screening process to determine whether suggested candidates are appropriate to receive an early endorsement. The SEER Committee, by a vote of sixty percent (60%) of those present and voting, may vote to recommend a candidate or candidates for early endorsement in a race that has been selected. As with all endorsements, blank ballots, void ballots and abstentions do not count toward the total. The SEER Committee need not recommend candidates for all open seats in a selected race.
- f. Consideration of Candidates for Early Endorsement – The SEER Committee’s candidate recommendations shall be considered at a regular meeting of This Committee at which time, subject to the ordinary rules concerning severance, the sole motion before the body will be whether to accept or reject the SEER Committee’s recommendation.
- g. Percentage Required for Early Endorsement – This Committee may make an Early Endorsement of a candidate who has been recommended for Early Endorsement by the SEER Committee. Early endorsement requires an affirmative vote of sixty percent (60%) of those members voting any Democrat; blank ballots, void ballots, and abstentions shall not count towards the total.
- h. Effect of the Early Endorsement Process on This Committee’s General

1 Endorsement Process

2
3 (i) Early endorsements shall carry through to the date of the election
4 or subsequent run-off election unless revoked by means outlined
5 in these Constitution and By-Laws.

6
7 (ii) Should early endorsement(s) be granted to fewer candidates than
8 the number of open seats in a given race, other candidates shall
9 be eligible to be considered for endorsement to the remaining
10 seats through the general endorsement process.

11
12 (iii) Otherwise eligible candidates who do not receive an early
13 endorsement shall be eligible to participate and be considered in
14 the general endorsement process.

15
16 **Section C. ENDORSEMENT RECOMMENDATION COMMITTEES AND PROCESS**

17
18 1. **Regional Endorsement Coordinators**

19
20 a. **Appointment and Jurisdiction**

21
22 The Chair of This Committee shall appoint one Regional Endorsement
23 Coordinator for each Region who shall be responsible for coordinating
24 local endorsements in their Region. If a local race includes portions of
25 more than one (1) Region, the Chair of This Committee shall determine
26 which of the Regional Endorsement Coordinators shall be responsible for
27 coordinating that endorsement.

28
29 2. **Calendar**

30
31 a. For all endorsement procedures, a calendar shall be established which
32 includes the dates of all elections, the date/time/location for Endorsement
33 Recommendation Committee meetings, and dates by which notice shall
34 be required to be served for those meetings.

35
36 b. For Endorsement Recommendation Committees that are Standing
37 Committees, the chairs of those committees shall be responsible for
38 creating this calendar.

39
40 c. For Endorsement Recommendation Committees that are Assembly
41 District Delegations, the Regional Endorsing Coordinator, in consultation
42 with the Assembly District Delegation Chair(s), shall be responsible for
43 creating this calendar for races in or assigned to their respective regions.

44
45 3. **Endorsement Recommendation Committee Meetings, Options and Actions**

46
47 a. **Endorsement Recommendation Options and Required Percentage**

48
49 An Endorsement Recommendation Committee may, upon affirmative vote
50 of sixty percent (60%) of those present and voting, with blank ballots, void

1 ballots, and abstentions not being counted toward the total, make any of
2 the following recommendations:

- 3
- 4 (i) Recommend This Committee endorse a particular candidate or
5 position.
- 6
- 7 (ii) Recommend This Committee take a position of “No
8 Endorsement”.
- 9

10 b. **“No Consensus”**

11
12 In the event an Endorsement Recommendation Committee considers a
13 race and fails to make one of the recommendations set forth in Article XI.
14 C.3.a. above, the report of the Endorsement Recommendation
15 Committee shall be “No Consensus”.

16
17 c. **Recommendation of Finding of Unacceptability**

18
19 In rare circumstances, an Endorsement Recommendation Committee
20 may also recommend This Committee make a finding that a specific
21 candidate is “Unacceptable”.

22
23 **Section D. ENDORSEMENT PROCESS**

24
25 1. **Presentation of Endorsement Recommendation Committee Report**

26
27 a. **Consent Calendar**

28
29 A consent calendar may be used at the discretion of the Chair of This
30 Committee, provided:

- 31
- 32 (i) It is only used for a report of the Candidate Interview Committee,
33 Judicial Interview Committee, and/or Ballot Measure Committee;
- 34
- 35 (ii) It is not used by (an) Assembly District Delegation(s); and,
- 36
- 37 (iii) It is in writing and distributed at or before the meeting at which the
38 consent calendar is considered.
- 39

40 b. **Endorsement Recommendation Committee Reports Not on a
41 Consent Calendar**

- 42
- 43 (i) The chair or designated spokesperson of an Endorsement
44 Recommendation Committee shall present a report on its
45 recommendation(s) including a brief description of its process and
46 setting forth in full the reason for its recommendation(s).
- 47
- 48 (ii) Each jurisdiction will be presented and voted on individually.
- 49
- 50 (iii) For purposes of this Article XI, a jurisdiction is the County, a city, a
51 school or community college district or any other district (i.e.: a
52 water or library district).

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(iv) 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 that are each elected in separate districts, plus an elected Mayor and Treasurer, all endorsement recommendations will be presented as a single motion.

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

(v) Any office, including an at-large office, for which the Endorsement Recommendation Committee's report reflects "No Consensus" shall be considered separately under a separate procedure for addressing a "No Consensus" result.

2. Severance

Candidates, at-large offices and/or ballot measure positions may be severed from a consent calendar or a motion from an Endorsement Recommendation Committee upon request of a credentialed member of This Committee seconded by twenty (20) members who show their voting credentials. No written petitions are required for this process.

A severance request, however denominated, in connection with an at-large race shall result in all recommendations (candidates or other positions) in that race being severed and considered separately and individually.

A report that the Endorsement Recommendation Committee reached a "No Consensus" result with respect to an office does not need to be severed as it shall be dealt with separately under a separate procedure.

3. Order of Consideration

The order of endorsement recommendation consideration shall be as follows:

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

In at-large races where severance has been requested and has been seconded by twenty (20) members, balloting for each seat shall occur

1 separately and individually considering each recommended candidate or
2 position, one (1) at a time in alphabetical order by last name. Each of the
3 Endorsement Recommendation Committee's recommendations shall be
4 considered before any other balloting is to occur;

- 5
- 6 c. One (1) or more written ballot(s) including all eligible candidates not
- 7 already endorsed, with the option of No Endorsement being included in all
- 8 such balloting;
- 9
- 10 d. Consideration of races or seats under the separate procedure for
- 11 addressing a "No Consensus" result;
- 12
- 13 a. Ballot measure positions other than "No Consensus"; and
- 14
- 15 b. Consideration of ballot measures under the separate procedure for
- 16 addressing a "No Consensus" result.
- 17

18 **4. Debate**

- 19
- 20 a. Except when presented as a consent calendar or when subject to the
- 21 separate procedure for addressing a "No Consensus" result, after the
- 22 presentation of an Endorsement Recommendation Committee report, the
- 23 members of This Committee shall be given the opportunity to debate the
- 24 recommendation. Speakers shall be limited to no more than three (3)
- 25 speakers in favor and three (3) speakers opposed, with a time limit of no
- 26 more than one (1) minute per speaker. The number of speakers or time
- 27 allotted may be extended by a majority vote of those present and voting.
- 28
- 29 b. In the event a race is severed from an Endorsement Recommendation
- 30 Committee's report, debate and the first vote will be held on the
- 31 Endorsement Recommendations Committee's recommendation for the
- 32 severed race.
- 33

34 **5. Failure to Adopt Endorsement Committee Recommendation**

- 35
- 36 a. In the event the Endorsement Recommendation Committee's
- 37 recommendation is not adopted, This Committee shall consider
- 38 endorsement by written ballot.
- 39
- 40 b. After the defeat of an endorsement recommendation presented by an
- 41 Assembly District Delegation(s), there shall be only one (1) ballot. The
- 42 ballot shall include the option of "No Endorsement" and all eligible
- 43 candidates who have not yet been endorsed.
- 44

45 In at-large races, each member may cast her/his ballot for up to the
46 number of seats on which no position concerning endorsement has yet
47 been adopted. The candidates with the highest number of votes up to the
48 number of seats available for endorsement shall be endorsed; provided
49 that each endorsed candidate must receive the sixty percent (60%)
50 minimum threshold of valid ballots cast as set forth in Article XI.A.2. If
51 there is a tie among such candidates, the tie shall be broken by lot.
52

1 In the event no candidate is endorsed for an office or a seat in an at-large
2 race, it shall be deemed that This Committee has taken a position of “No
3 Consensus.”
4

5 c. After the defeat of an endorsement recommendation presented by the
6 Candidate Interview Committee or the Judicial Interview Committee, there
7 shall be up to three (3) ballots. “No Endorsement” shall be an option in
8 all balloting. The first ballot shall include all eligible candidates.
9

10 (i) In the event no candidate receives the sixty percent (60%)
11 majority required for endorsement on the first ballot, any candidate
12 not receiving twenty percent (20%) shall be dropped, and a
13 second ballot shall be conducted. In the event no candidate
14 receives a sixty percent (60%) majority on the first ballot, but all
15 candidates receive at least twenty percent (20%) of the vote,
16 balloting shall cease.
17

18 (ii) In the event no candidate receives the sixty percent (60%)
19 majority required for endorsement on the second ballot, any
20 candidate not receiving twenty percent (20%) shall be dropped
21 and a third ballot shall be conducted. In the event no candidate
22 receives a sixty percent (60%) majority on the second ballot, but
23 all candidates receive at least twenty percent (20%) of the vote,
24 balloting shall cease.
25

26 (iii) In the event no candidate is endorsed it shall be deemed that This
27 Committee has taken a position of “No Consensus”.
28

29 d. If an endorsement recommendation presented by the Ballot Measure
30 Committee is defeated, there shall be only one (1) ballot, which shall
31 include the option of “Yes” (support), “No” (oppose), and “No
32 Endorsement”.
33

34 **6. Separate Procedure for Consideration by This Committee of an**
35 **Endorsement Recommendation Committee Report Reflecting a “No**
36 **Consensus” Result**
37

38 a. Races involving Candidates for Public Office
39

40
41 (i) After all consideration of the Endorsement Recommendation
42 Committee’s report recommending the endorsement of one or
43 more candidates and any findings that (a) candidate(s) for the
44 office in question is/are unacceptable has been completed, This
45 Committee shall consider by written ballot whether to endorse,
46 notwithstanding the Endorsement Recommendation Committee’s
47 failure to reach a consensus.
48

49 (ii). In considering this question, there shall be only one (1) ballot.
50 The ballot shall include all eligible candidates who have not yet
51 been endorsed and the option of “No Endorsement.”
52

1 (iii). Unless authorized by an affirmative vote, there shall be no
2 presentations by the candidates or their designees or other
3 debate; provided that if any candidate/candidate's designee is
4 afforded the opportunity to address This Committee, all other
5 qualified candidates must be afforded the same opportunity.
6

7 b. **Ballot Measures**

8
9 When the Ballot Measure Committee has considered a ballot measure
10 and failed to reach a consensus, it shall so report. This Committee shall
11 proceed to vote on an endorsement. There shall be only one (1) ballot.
12 The ballot shall include the options of support, oppose and "No
13 Endorsement."
14

15
16 7. **Waiver of Written Ballot**

17
18 The requirement of written ballot may be waived by a majority vote of those
19 present and voting at any stage in the proceedings.
20

21 8. **Failure to Endorse**

22
23 In the event of a failure of This Committee to endorse or take a position, This
24 Committee's position shall be "No Consensus"
25

26 9. **Determination of Publication**

27
28 In the event a position of "No Consensus" shall be sustained, or otherwise
29 become the position of This Committee, the Chair of This Committee shall
30 determine whether such race shall be listed in any publication of This Committee.
31

32 **Section E. CHALLENGES**

33
34 1. **Challenges to Recommendation and Endorsement Process**

35
36 a. **Standing to Challenge**

37
38 Any alleged violation of this Article XI, or any other error or omission in
39 the recommendation process of This Committee's endorsement
40 procedure must be challenged by any of the following:
41

42 (i) A member of This Committee;

43 (ii) A candidate whose race is being considered; or,

44 (iii) 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
49 b. **Timing of Challenge**

50 (i) **To Recommendation Process**
51
52

1
2 In order to allow for a timely remedy, any challenge to the
3 recommendation process should be made to the officer presiding
4 at the time of the challenge and at the earliest possible point in
5 time. Except as otherwise provided in Article XI.E.2.b. below, all
6 challenges to the recommendation process must be made before
7 a vote to endorse is taken by This Committee.
8

9 (ii) **To Endorsement Process**

10
11 Except as otherwise provided in Article XI.E.2.b. below, a
12 challenge to any error or omission in the endorsement or
13 recommendation process must be made before the vote to
14 endorse is taken by This Committee. In the event of such a
15 challenge, the challenge must be made to the Chair of This
16 Committee prior to a vote to endorse taking place, and should be
17 in writing.
18

19 c. **Challenge to Member's Right to Vote**

20
21 If a timely challenge relates to the eligibility of a member of the
22 recommending body to vote and the challenged member does not agree
23 that the challenge should be sustained, the challenged member shall be
24 allowed to vote a provisional ballot.
25

26 2. **Appeals and Determinations of Challenges**

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

29
30 The validity of any challenge concerning the recommendation or
31 endorsement process shall be determined by an Appeals Committee
32 consisting of the Chair of This Committee, its Parliamentarian and one
33 (1) Rules and Legal Committee Co-Chair selected by the Chair of This
34 Committee.
35

36 b. **Authority of Appeals Committee**

37
38 The Appeals Committee shall have authority to resolve the challenge and
39 to order such remedy as may be just and equitable. Remedies may
40 include, but are not limited to, disqualifying a challenged ballot, directing
41 that a challenged ballot be counted, or directing that endorsement in the
42 race be considered by This Committee by written ballot containing the
43 names of all of the candidates determined to be eligible by the Appeals
44 Committee. The decision of the Appeals Committee shall be final. In the
45 event a challenge is filed after the vote to endorse occurs, the Appeals
46 Committee may determine that compelling unusual circumstances exist
47 and vote to hear the challenge. In the event such a post-endorsement
48 appeal is sustained by unanimous vote of the Appeals Committee, the
49 Appeals Committee may suspend the endorsement.
50

51 c. **Erroneous Endorsement of Non-Democrats**

1 In the event the Chair of This Committee determines that an endorsed
2 candidate was not a registered Democrat as of the close of filing or the
3 time the Endorsement Recommendation Committee first meets,
4 whichever is earlier, or any time thereafter, the endorsement shall be
5 void.
6

7 **Section F. COMMUNICATION OF REGISTRATION STATUS**
8

9 Nothing in this Article XI shall preclude This Committee from communicating to voters
10 that any candidate for public office is not registered to vote as a Democrat.
11

12 **Section G. SPECIAL PROCEDURES FOR RUNOFF/GENERAL ELECTIONS IN WHICH THIS**
13 **COMMITTEE HAS NO ENDORSED CANDIDATE AND A CANDIDATE ELIGIBLE FOR**
14 **ENDORSEMENT IN THE INITIAL/PRIMARY ELECTION REMAINS ELIGIBLE FOR**
15 **ELECTION**
16

17 1. **Continued Endorsement of Candidates Still Eligible for Election Who Were**
18 **Endorsed in the First Round of Voting**
19

20 Unless properly revoked, the endorsement of a candidate for election in a first
21 round of voting continues in the second round of voting, however denominated
22 (e.g. runoff or general election) if that candidate remains eligible for election in
23 the second round of voting.
24

25 2. **Endorsement in the Second Round of Voting for Races in Which No**
26 **Endorsed Candidate is Still Eligible for Election**
27

28 In a race in which there is a second round of voting, and no endorsed candidate
29 of This Committee remains eligible for election, but one (1) or more candidates
30 eligible for This Committee's endorsement in the first round of voting remain(s)
31 eligible for election in the second round of voting, This Committee may endorse a
32 candidate in the second round of voting. Such an endorsement shall be made
33 solely in accordance with the procedures set forth in this Article XI.G.
34

35 a. Request
36

37 The endorsement process for the second round of voting shall be
38 commenced only upon request of either:
39

- 40 (i) A candidate eligible for endorsement in the first round of voting
41 who remains eligible for election in the second round of voting; or,
42
- 43 (ii) A member of This Committee.
44

45 b. Notice
46

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

1 such an endorsement is to be considered.

2
3 c. **Balloting and Debate**

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

13
14 Unless authorized by an affirmative vote, there shall be no presentations
15 by the candidates or their designees or other debate; provided that if any
16 candidate/candidate’s designee is afforded the opportunity to address
17 This Committee, all other qualified candidates must be afforded the same
18 opportunity.

19
20 d. **“No Consensus” Endorsement Where No Candidate Receives a Sixty
21 Percent (60%) Affirmative Vote**

22
23 If no candidate receives a sixty percent (60%) affirmative vote, This
24 Committee’s endorsement shall be “No Consensus.”

25
26 **Section H. PROVISIONS FOR POLICY COMMITTEE ENDORSEMENT IN SPECIAL ELECTIONS**

27
28 If a special election in Los Angeles County is to take place within thirty (30) days after
29 the close of filing, the Policy Committee may endorse any Democrat who has filed for
30 that office. Any such endorsement shall require a sixty percent (60%) affirmative vote of
31 those persons present and voting, blank ballots, void ballots, and abstentions not
32 counting towards the total. If there is a scheduled meeting of This Committee prior to
33 the election the Policy Committee may delegate its endorsement power to This
34 Committee.

35
36 **Section I. RECALL**

37
38 **1. Motion to Support or Oppose Recall**

39
40 The motion to support or oppose the recall of an elected public official in a non-
41 partisan race may be made and seconded without the necessity of prior notice.
42 This motion requires the affirmative vote of sixty percent (60%) of the members
43 voting, blank ballots, void ballots, and abstentions not counting towards the total.

44
45 **2. Motion to Endorse Successor Candidate**

46
47 A motion to endorse a successor candidate in a recall election is subject to all of
48 the same provisions of this Article XI that would apply to a motion to endorse a
49 candidate in a regularly scheduled election.

50
51 **Section J. PROCEDURE FOR RECONSIDERATION, RESCISSION OR REVOCATION OF
52 ENDORSEMENT**

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1. Intent

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

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 XI.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:

- (i) Any member of This Committee;
- (ii) A sixty percent (60%) majority vote at a Policy Committee meeting, a quorum being present.

b. Notice of Intent to Make a Motion

- (i) 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.
- (ii) Notwithstanding anything in Article XI.J.3.b.(i), 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

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

- 3
4 (i) The name of the maker of the motion or that it is coming from the
5 Policy Committee;
6
7 (ii) The specifics about the subject of the motion;
8
9 a) If a candidate, the name and jurisdiction of the specific
10 candidate(s);
11
12 b) If a ballot measure, the title of the measure, the letter or
13 number used to designate the measure on the ballot and
14 the jurisdiction;
15
16 c) If the position that is the subject of the motion is “No
17 Endorsement” or “No Consensus,” the position adopted by
18 This Committee along with the specific office and
19 jurisdiction;
20
21 d) If the matter is a finding of unacceptability of a candidate,
22 the name and jurisdiction of the specific candidate(s) and
23 the fact that the subject of the motion is the finding of
24 unacceptability shall be identified.
- 25 (iii) The reason for the motion, which must include a specific
26 statement setting forth either:
27
28 a) New and material information not available to This
29 Committee at the time the original endorsement vote was
30 taken; and/or,
31
32 b) Extraordinary circumstances, which make revisiting an
33 endorsement necessary.
- 34
35 (iv) If applicable, the reason(s) the information was not presented at
36 the same meeting at which the vote concerning the endorsement
37 was conducted.

38
39 d. Seconding Requirements

40
41 The requirements of seconding a motion to Reconsider, Rescind, or
42 Revoke an Endorsement Position are:

- 43
44 (i) That a second is not needed if the motion comes from the Policy
45 Committee; or
46
47 (ii) Affirmative declaration of fifty (50) members of This Committee
48 who show their voting credentials if the motion is made by a single
49 member of This Committee.

50
51 e. Notice of Motion
52

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- (i) 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.
- (ii) In all other cases, at least seven (7) days advance written notice of a motion for Reconsideration, Rescission or Revocation shall be given to the members of This Committee and, if the subject of the motion is an endorsement for a public office, the candidates who were eligible to have received the endorsement of This Committee at the time it was last considered. Notice to such candidates shall include the content of the Notice of Intent to Make a Motion, where applicable.

f. Debate

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

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

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

g. Seventy Percent (70%) Affirmative Vote Required.

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

h. Effect of Adoption

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

- (i) The endorsement shall be considered invalidated and of no force or effect.
- (ii) This Committee shall immediately proceed to the consideration of endorsement by way of a single ballot.
- (iii) The ballot shall include all candidates eligible to be considered for endorsement at the time This Committee made its original endorsement, including the option of "No Endorsement".

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- (iv) In at-large races, ballots shall not include any candidate who has a current and valid endorsement.
- (v) Failure of any candidate, position, or the option of “No Endorsement” to receive an affirmative vote of sixty percent (60%) of those members present and voting shall result in a position of “No Consensus”.

i. Suspension of Endorsement

Whenever the Chair of This Committee finds that new and material information not available to This Committee at the time of the original endorsement vote was taken and /or extraordinary circumstances may exist and that there may be a need for immediate action, the Chair of This Committee shall promptly convene the Appeals Committee to consider appropriate immediate action, including a temporary suspension of This Committee’s endorsement until the next Policy Committee meeting. In the event of any such finding by the Chair of This Committee, the Policy Committee, when it next meets, shall hear and decide whether to make a motion for Reconsideration, Rescission or Revocation and whether to extend any temporary suspension until that motion can be acted upon by This Committee.