



## Overview of the California Democratic Party Endorsement Process For Congressional, State Senate, and State Assembly Races

### Step 1: CDP Pre-Endorsement Conferences

- **Purpose:** The CDP Pre-Endorsement Conferences are held locally in each CDP Region in which the Assembly Districts, Senate Districts, and Congressional Districts are located to issue endorsement recommendations.
- **Timing/Location:** The CDP Pre-Endorsement Conferences are held in each CDP Region on January 30 or 31, 2016.
- **Voting Members:** Those who are eligible to vote in the CDP Pre-Endorsement Conferences include:
  - Democratic State Central Committee (DSCC) Members (CDP Convention Delegates) including:
    - Winners of ADEM elections held in January 2015
    - Representatives of County Democratic Parties
    - Democratic Elected Officials or the Highest Vote-Getting Democrat (HVGd)
    - Appointments by Elected Officials or HVGd's (if registered to vote in the appointer's district)
    - Appointments by Legislative/Congressional Leaders or CDP Statewide Officers
    - Ex-Officios including Members of the DNC and Representatives from CDC and CYD
  - Regular Members of the County Democratic Parties
  - Representatives of the Democratic Clubs
- **Voting Process:** Vote-By-Mail is allowed. Proxy voting is not allowed.
- **Rule on Incumbents:** Incumbent Members of Congress, State Senators, or State Assembly Members are automatically placed on Convention consent calendar unless 20% of the delegates in the legislative district file an objection 10 days prior to the CDP Pre-Endorsement Conference.

### Step 2: CDP Endorsing Caucuses

- **Purpose:** CDP Endorsing Caucuses are held after the CDP Pre-Endorsement Conferences if:
  - A candidate received between 50% and 70% of the votes cast at the CDP Pre-Endorsement Conference, or
  - A candidate received 70% or more votes cast at the CDP Pre-Endorsement Conference, but the endorsement recommendation is pulled.
- **Timing/Location:** The CDP Endorsing Caucuses are held at the CDP Convention on February 27, 2016.
- **Voting Members:** Only DSCC Members (CDP Convention Delegates) are eligible to vote.
- **Voting Process:** Proxy voting is allowed. Vote-By-Mail is not allowed.

### Step 3: CDP Convention Floor

- **Purpose:** The CDP Convention Floor considers the endorsement recommendations resulting from the CDP Pre-Endorsement Conferences and the CDP Endorsing Caucuses to issue the official CDP endorsement.
- **Timing:** The CDP Convention Floor on Sunday, February 28, 2016
- **Voting Members:** Only DSCC Members (CDP Convention Delegates) are eligible to vote.
- **Voting Process:** Proxy voting is allowed. Vote-By-Mail is not allowed.
- **Rules Generally:** All unchallenged endorsement recommendations are placed on the consent calendar.
  - Process is available for delegates to object to a vote of a CDP Endorsing Caucus.
  - Process to object varies depending on the percentage of the votes received from the CDP Endorsing Caucus.

# **Overview of Democratic Club Participation In the California Democratic Party Endorsement Process**

## **Deadline to be Chartered**

- **A Democratic Club must be chartered by July 1, 2015, in order to send representatives to the 2016 CDP Pre-Endorsement Conferences.**

## **Democratic Club Bylaws Requirements**

- **Mandatory changes:** All Democratic clubs must update their bylaws to include:
  - A definition of the term “member in good standing.”
  - A provision that only members in good standing as of the July 1 deadline will be included in the submitted roster
- **In addition, Democratic clubs must either:**
  - Update their bylaws to outline the process by which Club Representative to the CDP Pre-Endorsement Conference are selected, ensuring only members in good standing participate, OR
  - Follow the default Club Representative selection rule prescribed in the CDP Bylaws.

## **Submitting Democratic Club Roster**

- **The submitted Democratic club membership roster must:**
  - Include only registered Democrats who are “members in good standing”
  - Be submitted by July 1 of the year prior to the CDP endorsement process
  - Be submitted to both LACDP and the appropriate CDP Regional Director(s)
- **The Democratic club President/Chair, Secretary, or Treasurer must certify that only members in good standing have been included on the submitted roster.**
  - The CDP Roster Submission Form and the LACDP Roster Submission Addendum must be used to fulfill the certification requirements.

## **Determining the Number of Club Representatives to the CDP Pre-Endorsement Conferences**

- **No changes:** One Club representative for every twenty registered Democrats who are members in good standing in an Assembly District.
- **CDP Regional Directors determine the final number of Representatives for each Democratic club.** A member may only be counted for one Democratic club. CDP Regional Directors are responsible for removing duplicate members from various rosters to determine the number of Club Representatives a Democratic club may have, pursuant to a formula (or algorithm) as stated in the CDP Bylaws.
- **Each Club Representative votes in the AD, SD, and CD in which the Club Representative is registered to vote.**

## **Selecting Club Representatives to the CDP Pre-Endorsement Conferences**

- **Unless a Democratic club has a separate process for selecting Club Representatives outlined in its by-laws or rules, the club must use the default process.**
  - **Default Process:** Club Representatives must be selected at a duly-noticed meeting of the Club, affirmed by a vote of those members in good standing in attendance and voting
- **Whether the club uses its own process or the default process, the following must apply:**
  - Only members in good standing may participate in the selection process.
  - Club Representatives must be selected from the same roster submitted to LACDP and the CDP Regional Directors by July 1.
  - The overall list of representatives to all Pre-Endorsement Conferences must be equally apportioned between men and women, to the extent possible
- **The Club Representatives must be submitted by a date (to be determined) in November 2015.** The list of voting members to the Pre-Endorsement Conferences from all sources becomes final on December 3, 2015.