

Candidate Endorsement Policies and Procedures

Democratic Club of Carlsbad/Oceanside (DEMCCO)

POLICIES

a. Goal

The principal goal of DEMCCO in endorsements is to increase the number of qualified Democrats in elected offices in San Diego County and in California. DEMCCO endorses candidates who are registered Democrats and have demonstrated a commitment to Democratic values and involvement with, support of and responsiveness to, Democratic policies and policy aspirations.

b. Criteria for Endorsement

1. Qualifications. In deciding whether to issue an endorsement, DEMCCO will consider, among other things, the following factors:
 - a) the extent to which a candidate has demonstrated involvement with, support of and responsiveness to Democratic values;
 - b) integrity, character and common sense; and
 - c) membership in and demonstrated support of community organizations, including but not limited to, those related to the advancement of Democratic values.
2. Statutory Criteria. DEMCCO will only endorse candidates who meet or exceed the minimum requirements for the position sought
3. Non-Democrats may only be rated as acceptable or unacceptable
4. DEMCCO will not take a position regarding a candidate if it chooses not to endorse that candidate; however, DEMCCO may oppose a candidate whom it believes should not be elected or appointed

c. Number of Endorsements per Position.

DEMCCO may endorse as many candidates as there are open positions

PROCEDURES

a. Procedure for Application.

Candidates seeking an endorsement must comply with the following procedures:

1. Inform a member of DEMCCO in writing of his/her intent to request DEMCCO's endorsement. This notification is forwarded by the contacted member to the Secretary who will notify the Executive Board or an Endorsement Committee member (if an Endorsement Committee is appointed by the Executive Board) and forward these POLICIES and PROCEDURES along with a Candidate Endorsement Questionnaire (see Exhibit A) to the candidate.
2. The candidate will forward the following information to DEMCCO
 - a) title of the position being sought,
 - b) any external deadlines(s) relevant to the candidate's application,
 - c) name, title and address of the person to whom the endorsement letter should be sent, and
 - d) statutory requirements of the office being sought by the candidate.
 - e) resumé and other materials the candidate considers relevant to her/his qualifications;
 - f) completed Candidate Endorsement Questionnaire

b. Procedure for Assessment

1. Upon receipt of the above information, the Executive Board or the Endorsement Committee will assess the candidate's qualifications based on the criteria set forth in POLICIES-b.1.
2. Upon completion of the assessment, the Executive Board or the Endorsement Committee may, at its discretion, interview the candidate.
3. Upon completion of the assessment, the Executive Board or the Endorsement Committee shall place the endorsement consideration on the agenda of a regularly scheduled meeting and invite all prospective Democratic candidates running for the given position. Candidates shall be invited at least 2 weeks prior to the meeting and be provided details of DEMCCO's endorsement process.
4. DEMCCO shall notify all voting members by email or USPS letter of an endorsement consideration at least 2 weeks prior to the meeting in which the endorsement will be considered.

c. Procedure for Voting

1. Each candidate will be allowed up to 4 minutes to discuss her/his qualifications for the position sought to the membership at the meeting in which the endorsement is being considered. Questions from members will be allowed.
2. DEMCCO may issue an endorsement by conducting a vote of the voting members in attendance. Candidates shall not be present during discussion or voting on the endorsement. Candidates receiving at least a 60% vote in favor of endorsement shall receive the endorsement. Voting shall include the option of "no endorsement."
3. DEMCCO endorsements are not to be construed as San Diego County Democratic Party (SDCDP) or California Democratic Party (CDP) endorsements; words to that effect must be included whenever the club's endorsement is referred to.
4. Any publication of endorsements shall delineate between endorsed and rated acceptable candidates.

EARLY ENDORSEMENTS

Upon recommendation from the Executive Board or the Endorsement Committee, DEMCCO membership may endorse incumbents early and without a questionnaire by at least a 60% vote in favor of endorsement.

CONFIDENTIALITY

DEMCCO will hold and treat in strict confidence all documents submitted by the candidate and will limit distribution to the Endorsement Committee and DEMCCO officers.