

Section 6

Candidate Endorsement Policies and Procedures 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

Revised Bylaws DRAFT

Article VI Candidate Endorsement

Section 1

Goal

The principle goal of DEMCCO in making endorsements is to increase the number of qualified Democrats in elected offices that impact its members and communities in Carlsbad and Oceanside, California. **A companion goal is to influence the candidates endorsed by the Central Committee of the San Diego County Democratic Party.**

Section 2

Timing

Nothing in these Bylaws will be construed to require a specific time endorsements will be considered, however, to the extent possible, DEMCCO endorsements for specific elected offices will occur prior to consideration by the North Area Caucus and Central Committee which may be affected by the Central Committee's designation of a race being "strategically critical."

Section 3

Candidate Requirements

- DEMCCO may consider endorsing candidates for elected offices providing:
- a. candidates meet or exceed the minimum requirements for the office sought,
 - b. candidates are registered Democrats **within San Diego County or another county which is included within the district of the office sought, and**
 - c. **candidates being considered for endorsement or their surrogates appear before members at the endorsement meeting in which the vote is taken.**

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.

Section 4

Number of Endorsements

DEMCCO may endorse as many candidates as there are open positions.

Section 5

Procedures

Specific procedures for endorsing candidates are described in the "Candidate Endorsement Procedures" document included as Appendix A of these Bylaws. The "Candidate Endorsement Procedures" document will be reviewed and updated bi-annually in odd-numbered years. The E-Board will recommend any changes to the membership at a regularly scheduled meeting. Approval of the changes requires a majority vote of the members present and voting at the meeting.

Section 6

Endorsement Committee

An Endorsement Committee may be appointed by the E-Board.

The role of the Endorsement Committee is to ensure that there is accurate information about candidates available to the membership and that required timelines are followed. In the absence of an Endorsement Committee, the E-Board will perform this role.

Section 7

Requests for Endorsement

Requests for endorsements will be made by candidates or DEMCCO members.

Section 8

Letter of Intent and Questionnaire

A letter of intent and a questionnaire will be required of all

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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 seeking endorsement except for candidates being considered for an incumbent endorsement. **This information will be available to all DEMCCO members during the meeting in which the candidates' endorsements votes are taken.**

Section 9

Notifications

- a. DEMCCO members will be notified of the intent to conduct an endorsement vote at least 14 days prior to the meeting in which the vote will be taken.
- b. **A reasonable effort will be made to identify all Democrats running in races being considered for endorsement.** Any Democrats running in these races but have not requested an endorsement will be notified of DEMCCO's intent to conduct an endorsement vote at least **5 days** prior to the meeting in which the vote is taken.

Section 10

Voting

- a. Voting for candidate endorsements will occur at a **regular or special** general meeting of the DEMCCO membership in which a quorum of 10% is met. **This meeting will be chaired by the President of DEMCCO or their designee.**
- b. During the meeting, candidates will have time to speak to their qualifications for the office sought and answer questions from members.
- c. After speaking and answering questions, candidates **and their campaign staff and reporting media** will leave the meeting room to allow members to speak openly.
- d. Members will then be allowed to speak in favor of or against candidates seeking endorsement.
- e. **Voting will occur according to an agreed on procedure (see Appendix A)** and which has the option of "No Endorsement."

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.

Section 11

Results of Voting

- a. The candidate receiving at least 60% of the votes cast in their specific race will be declared endorsed. **If there is at least 60% of the vote in favor of “No Endorsement,” the race will be declared no endorsement.**
- b. **If no candidate or “No Endorsement” receives 60% of the votes cast, one or more of the candidates may be declared “qualified” by a majority vote of the members present and voting.**
- c. **If no candidates receive 60% vote for endorsement and fail to be declared “qualified” and the vote for “No Endorsement” fails to receive 60% of the vote, that race will be declared “No Position.”**

Section 12

Incumbents

An incumbent is defined as an elected official currently holding the office, either at-large or within a district, in which they are seeking election. Upon request by the incumbent or a member of DEMCCO, a vote for endorsement of “Friendly Incumbent Endorsement” will be held at a regular or special general meeting provided the members are notified of this vote at least 14 days in advance. No letter of intent or questionnaire will be required. A vote of at least 60% is required for endorsement.

Section 13

Confidentiality

DEMCCO will hold and treat in strict confidence all documents submitted by the candidate. **The candidate letters of intent and summary of questionnaire responses will be provided to DEMCCO members attending the meeting in which endorsements are considered and will be collected after the endorsement votes are taken.**

Section 14

Meaning of DEMCCO Endorsement

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.

Any publication of endorsements shall delineate between endorsed and rated **qualified**.