

California Democratic Party

Endorsement Process

Timeline and Proposed Changes for 2012



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Voter Services Committee

What's New?



- Redrawn Assembly, Senate, Congressional district lines



- Earlier State Convention (February) to endorse before the close of filing
- In the new top-two primary, candidates may or may not self-identify by party
- State Party endorsements will be printed in the official sample ballot mailed to voters

Endorsements in State and Federal Races

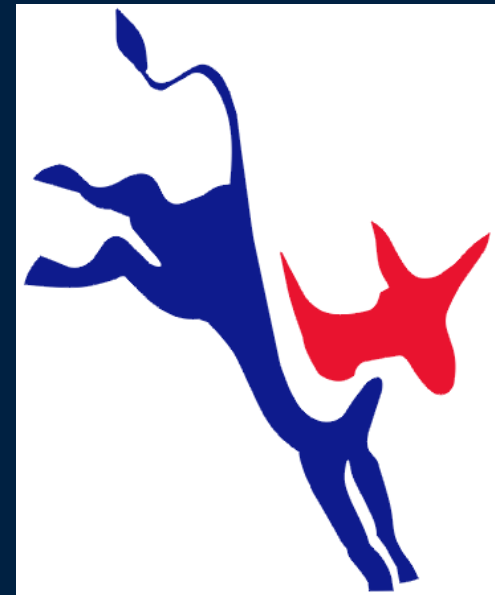


- To seek endorsement, candidates must register with the State Party and pay a fee (\$250 Assembly, \$350 Cong., \$500 Senate)
- Pre-endorsement conferences for Congress, State Senate, State Assembly are held at CDP Regional level Jan. 21-22
- Endorsements are voted on at CDP Convention Feb. 10-12 in San Diego

Pre-Primary Eligibility



- Only registered Democrats can be endorsed by the Party
- Candidates must agree to file with a Democratic “party preference”
- Endorsement will be rescinded if a candidate fails to file (or fails to list party preference)



Pre-Endorsement Conferences



- Meetings throughout state **Jan. 21-22**
- Voting members:
 - 1) DSCC Members (with 2011-2012 dues paid)
 - 2) All other regular County Committee Members (not alternates, associates, or ex officios)
 - 3) Reps. of Chartered Dem. Clubs / Orgs. (1 rep. for every 20 members in a specific Assembly District, based on 2010 lines)
- Clubs and Central Committees must submit rosters and representatives to Regional Directors by **November 17**

Pre-Endorsement Conferences



- Eligible voters can get a ballot online (or ask to have it mailed), then return it to their Regional Director or turn in at Conference
- Voting thresholds:
 - 70% puts an endorsement recommendation on the consent calendar at the Convention
 - Less than 70% but more than 50% goes to a caucus at the Convention
 - If no candidate gets more than 50%, no endorsement is recommended

Voting at the Convention



- DSCC members registered in the district (or their qualified proxies) may vote
- Caucus voting thresholds:
 - One incumbent – majority needed
 - Two or more incumbents – 60% needed (pending E-Board action in November)
 - No incumbents – 60% needed
- Candidates winning the caucus vote are added to the consent agenda in the Convention's General Session

Post-Primary Endorsements



- Support carries over for any pre-endorsed Dem. candidate who places in the top two

1+ Dem, 1 pre-endorsed	Endorsement carries over
1 Dem, SI, not endorsed	Automatic endorsement *
1 Dem, not SI	Can petition for endorsement *
2 Dems, neither SI	Local Endorsing Caucus
2 Dems, 1 SI and 1 not, neither pre-endorsed	SI automatically endorsed *
2 SI Dems, not endorsed	Local Endorsing Caucus

* Subject to **pull process**

An Updated Pull Process



- Pulling automatic post-primary endorsements of self-identified Democrats:
 - Endorsement occurs 15 days after election results are certified unless objection petition is filed by 20% of DSCC delegates in the district
 - Majority of Election Appeals Committee must agree to pull endorsement
- Endorsements of non-self-identified Dems:
 - Candidates must file for endorsement within 2 days following election certification
 - Endorsement can occur 15 days after election results but subject to the same pull process as above

CDP Endorsement Timeline



- Date Club rosters/ reps. are due: Nov. 17
- Deadline for changes to DSCC rosters: Dec. 8
- Pre-Endorsement Conferences: Jan. 21-22
- State Party Convention: Feb. 10-12
- Filing Deadline (Primary): March 9
- Extension (if incumbs. don't file): March 16
- S.D. County Party Endorsements: March 20
- Early Voting Begins: May 7
- Primary Election Day: June 5

