



Overview of the California Democratic Party Endorsement Process

For Congressional, State Senate, and State Assembly Races in 2020

Updated 3/1/19

Step 1: CDP Pre-Endorsing Conferences (CDP Bylaws Art. VIII, Sec. 3 g)

- **Purpose:** The CDP Pre-Endorsing Conferences are held locally in each CDP Region in which the Assembly, Odd-Numbered Senate, and Congressional Districts are located to issue endorsement recommendations.
- **Date/Time:** 2020 CDP Pre-Endorsing Conferences will be held on October 5 or 6, 2019. Times will vary for each CDP Region; please check CDP Endorsement webpage for more details.
- **Voting Body:** Those eligible to vote in the CDP Pre-Endorsing Conferences include:
 - Democratic State Central Committee (DSCC) Members with full voting rights as of August 7, 2019
 - Regular Democratic County Central Committee Members as of August 7, 2019
 - Representatives of participating Democratic Chartered Clubs/Organizations (CCOs)
 - At least five eligible DSCC members, either in person or by vote-by-mail ballot, constitute quorum.
- **Voting Process:** Vote-by-mail voting is allowed; proxy voting is not.
- **Rule on Incumbents:** Incumbent Members of Congress, State Senate, or State Assembly are automatically placed on the endorsement consent calendar of the CDP State Convention for consideration, unless 20% of the eligible voters in a given district file an objection 10 days prior (September 25/26, 2019) to the CDP Pre-Endorsing Conference.

Step 2: CDP Endorsing Caucuses (CDP Bylaws Art. VIII, Sec. 3 c)

- **Purpose:** CDP Endorsing Caucuses are held during the CDP State Convention if:
 - A candidate received over 50% but less than 70% of valid votes cast during the Pre-Endorsing Conferences, or
 - A candidate received 70% or more of valid votes cast at the Pre-Endorsing Conference, but the endorsement recommendation was pulled due to a challenge. (CDP By-Laws Art. VIII, Sec. 3 g(13))
 - No Quorum was met during the Pre-Endorsement Conference.
- **Date/Time:** The CDP Endorsing Caucuses are held at the CDP State Endorsing Convention November 15-17, 2019 (Specific times will be made available on the State Convention Agenda.).
- **Voting Body:** Only current DSCC Members with full voting rights are eligible to vote during Endorsing Caucuses. Fifty percent plus one of the credentialed DSCC members of an Endorsing Caucus constitute a quorum.
- **Voting Process:** Proxy voting is allowed, vote-by-mail voting is not.

Step 3: CDP Convention Floor (CDP Bylaws Art. VIII, Sec. 3 d; Art. VIII, Sec. 3 g (13))

- **Purpose:** Ratification of the entire endorsement consent calendar (containing the recommendations from both the Pre-Endorsing Conferences *and* Endorsing Caucuses) will take place by a floor vote.
- **Date/Time:** The CDP Convention General Session Floor on Sunday, November 17, 2019.
- **Voting Body:** All DSCC members or their qualified proxies can vote to ratify the endorsement consent calendar.
- **Voting Process:** Proxy voting is allowed, vote-by-mail is not.
- **General Rules:** All unchallenged endorsement recommendations are placed on the endorsement consent calendar.
 - Challenged endorsing caucus decisions are adjudicated prior to the consent calendar ratification.
 - Process to object to a particular district's endorsement decision is available to all candidates.
 - Process to object varies depending on the percentage of votes received from the CDP Endorsing Caucus. Please refer to the CDP Bylaws for exact process.



CDP Endorsement Key Dates

2019

- May 1 (Wed)** **Deadline by which members of a Chartered Club/Organization (CCO) must be “in good standing” in order for them to be included on the roster submitted to the Chartering Authority and appropriate Regional Director**
- May 15 (Wed)** **Deadline for Chartered Clubs/Organizations to submit roster of “members in good standing” to Chartering Authority and appropriate Regional Director**
- July 9 (Tue)** **Deadline for CCO potential representatives to be submitted to the both the Chartering Authority and the appropriate Regional Director**
- August 7 (Wed)** **DSCC Delegate Deadline: Close of all additions or changes to delegate /endorsement voter lists. The roster of eligible voters will be available approximately two weeks later**
- August 23-25 (Fri-Sun)** **CDP Summer Executive Board Meeting – San Jose, CA**
- September 25/26 (Wed/Thur)** **5:00pm deadline (10 days prior to Pre-Endorsing Conferences) to file a challenge with CDP to object to the automatic placement of an incumbent officeholder seeking re-election on the consent calendar of the State Convention**
- October 4 (Fri)** **5:00pm deadline for receipt by mail of candidate filing fees & signed 2018 Registration Form to CDP. Checks and registration forms may be hand delivered to the Pre-Endorsing Conference.**
- October 5/6 (Sat-Sun)** **Pre-Endorsing Conferences: Participating candidates’ filing fee & 2020 registration forms due to the Regional Convener at the conference before voting begins for that particular office**
- November 5 (Tue)** **Deadline (10 days prior to State Convention) to file a challenge with CDP to remove an endorsement recommendation from consent calendar**
- November 15-17 (Fri-Sun)** **State Convention: Endorsing Caucuses as necessary, ratification of endorsements**
- December 11 (Wed)** **Political Party Endorsements: Deadline to include party endorsements in the official sample ballot**

2020

- March 3 (Tues)** **California Primary**

Note: The CDP Bylaws supersede any distributed information regarding the CDP Endorsement Process. A current copy can be found at cadem.org/our-party/by-laws.