

Memorandum

TO: Candidates for the Assembly, State Senate, or Congress
From: Ben Seinfeld and Emma Harper
Date: December 13, 2021
RE: 2022 Congressional/Legislative Pre-Primary Endorsement Information

PRE-ENDORSEMENT CONFERENCES

Pre-Endorsement Conferences for Congressional, Assembly, and even-numbered Senate districts will take place on a virtual platform on February 12, 2022. Each region will hold a pre-endorsement with assigned Assembly, Senate, and Congressional Districts. A list of the regions, conference times, assigned districts, and other information will be available in early January.

ELIGIBLE CANDIDATES

Candidates eligible to seek a Pre-Primary Endorsement are those who have submitted a signed 2022 Candidate Registration Form and paid the appropriate filing fee (Assembly \$250, Congress \$350, Senate \$500) in a timely manner and who agree to file as Party Preference Democratic are eligible to be endorsed. Only candidates who request the endorsement are eligible to be voted on at the Pre-Endorsing Conference. A candidate can obtain a list of eligible voters once they have submitted a signed form and paid the appropriate filing fee.

ELIGIBLE VOTERS

Eligible voters include DSCC Members, regular County Central Committee Members (who are not DSCC), and Designated Representatives of Chartered Clubs or Chartered Organizations (1 representative per 20 members of Democrats in each AD). Remember, the eligibility of voters is based on current/old districts, however, all voters will vote in new districts for endorsement purposes. The list of eligible voters must be submitted by January 18, 2022, and will be finalized within approximately one week after that date.

Again, the number of AD Representatives for a Club/Organization within each AD is calculated as (1 representative per 20 members of Democrats in each AD) to vote in the district, which is based on the current (pre-redistricting) AD boundaries.

All eligible voters will vote in the new (post-redistricting) district based on where they are registered as Democrats to vote.

VOTING (recommendation of candidates for the consent calendar from pre-endorsement conferences)

Votes are public per DNC Bylaws. A single vote is taken, with each voter choosing one of the eligible candidates or “no endorsement.” A candidate will be recommended for placement on the consent calendar with a vote of 70% of the valid votes at the pre-endorsing conference. If no candidate receives the required 70%, but one candidate receives at least 50%, that race will be decided by a caucus of DSCC members held during the CDP State Endorsement Convention (March 3 - 6, 2022). If no candidate receives more than 50% of the valid votes at the conference, the CDP will take a position of “no consensus” for the endorsement.

An endorsement recommendation can be pulled by filing a formal objection at least 10 days prior (5:00pm on February 22, 2022) to the CDP State Endorsement Convention signed by 20% of the DSCC delegates within the districts or 20% of the entire DSCC delegation statewide (approximately 700).

ENDORISING CAUCUS (if necessary)

Endorsing caucus voting will be held as the CDP State Endorsement Convention for those races in which: no candidate received 70% of the pre-endorsement conference vote, but a candidate received over 50%; there was no quorum for the pre-endorsement conference; a proper challenge was filed.

CANDIDATES

All Candidates that were eligible to be voted upon at the pre-endorsement conferences are eligible to be voted on at the CDP State Endorsement Convention caucus.

ELIGIBLE VOTERS AT STATE ENDORSEMENT CONVENTION

Eligible voters include DSCC delegate members as of January 18, 2022, at 5:00pm, who registered in their district as a Democrat or their qualified proxy, have timely paid or waived their dues and registration fees to This Committee. Once registered the DSCC delegate members must obtain their credential prior to the close of credentialing, agree to the Code of Conduct, and complete and return to the proper authority any ballot that may be issued. Proxy voting, as outlined in the By-laws, is allowed and voting-by-mail is not.

VOTING (recommendation of candidates for the consent calendar from State Endorsement Convention)

Votes are public per the DNC By-laws. A single vote is taken, with each voter choosing one of the eligible candidates or “no endorsement”. All candidates need 60% of credentialed and voting delegates to secure the caucus recommendation for endorsement. If no candidate receives the required threshold, the caucus shall have taken the position of “no consensus” for endorsement. If a candidate is recommended but receives less than two-thirds of the vote at the caucus, an endorsement recommendation can be formally objected to by filing a form signed by 300 DSCC delegates members with the CDP by 11:00pm the Saturday of Convention. If a candidate received at least two-thirds of the vote, a formal motion to pull an endorsement recommendation can be submitted either by two members of the Pre-Primary Endorsement Review Committee (PERC) or the required number of credentialed members of the relevant caucus (10 for Assembly, 20 for Senate/Congress) filing a written motion by 8:00pm the Saturday of Convention. In the case a motion is filed, the PERC will meet Sunday morning to vote to uphold or deny the motion. If the motion is upheld, that endorsement recommendation will be pulled.

Those candidates that have been recommended for endorsement at the pre-endorsing conferences before the convention and candidates recommended at the endorsing caucuses will go on the consent calendar to be ratified by the convention body on Sunday. Any recommendation that is pulled will be considered prior to the consent calendar.

INCUMBENTS

In the past, the CDP has treated any candidate running for the same office as an incumbent regardless of district. This precedent was codified in the By-Laws, which now defines as incumbent as any candidate seeking election to the same legislative body on which that candidate currently serves. In the situation where two incumbents for the same office are running for the same district, neither candidate is treated as an incumbent.

PLATFORM

The California Democratic State Central Committee (DSCC) adopts its Platform every two years. The Party’s current Platform was adopted at the annual California Democrats State Party Convention on November 17, 2019. The current platform is available here:

<https://cadem.org/our-platform/>

FURTHER INFORMATION

Rules, Voting Procedures, etc. will be emailed to all candidates and eligible voters in mid-December. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Ben Seinfeld or Emma Harper by emailing ben@cadem.org or emma@cadem.org.

The CDP By-Laws supersedes any information provided by staff regarding the endorsement process. A current copy can be found on our website at www.cadem.org.