



Date: December 12, 2023
To: Federal and State Democratic Candidates and Interested Parties
From: Political Department
Subject: 2024 Post-Primary Endorsement Process General Information

Endorsement decisions from the 2023 November Endorsing Convention in Sacramento will be the position of the California Democratic Party in the 2024 Primary and General Election as long as the Endorsed Candidate is an eligible candidate in that race.

Table of Contents

One Democratic Candidate Advancing to the General Election	1
Overview	1
Democratic Candidate Previously Endorsed in the Primary Election	1
Democratic Candidate Previously Sought Endorsement Consideration But Not Endorsed	2
Democratic Candidate Did Not Previously Seek Endorsement Consideration	2
Objection/Appeal Process	2
In the case of a race where two Democrats advance to the general and one of them is already the endorsed candidate, that endorsement shall remain in effect.	3
Two Democrats Advance to the General Election and No Pre-Primary Endorsement Was Made – Endorsing Caucus to Be Held	3
Overview	3
Eligible Candidates	3
Filing for Post-Primary Endorsement Consideration	3
Eligible Voters	3
At the Post-Primary Endorsing Caucus – Voting (Note: 2024 Caucuses Will Be Virtual, Not In-Person)	4
Objection/Appeal Process:	4
2024 CDP Post-Primary Endorsement Key Dates	5
Further Information	5
FAQ	6

One Democratic Candidate Advancing to the General Election

Overview

If only one Democratic candidate in an election contest is advancing to the General Election, one of the following would apply. No Post-Primary Endorsing Caucus will be held.

Democratic Candidate Previously Endorsed in the Primary Election

All endorsed Democratic candidates advancing to the General Election will retain their endorsements.

Democratic Candidate Previously Sought Endorsement Consideration But Not Endorsed

If the Democratic candidate applied for the CDP Pre-Primary endorsement but did not receive it, this candidate will become the CDP endorsed candidate, subject to the objection process outlined below

Democratic Candidate Did Not Previously Seek Endorsement Consideration

If the Democratic candidate did not seek CDP Pre-Primary endorsement consideration, the candidate may file for CDP endorsement within two (2) days of the Secretary of State's certification of the Primary Election results (by 5:00 PM on Sunday, April 14, 2024) The deadline for the Secretary of State's certification of Primary Election results is no later than 38 days after the Primary Election, which is Friday, April 12, 2024. The candidate will become the CDP-endorsed candidate fifteen (15) days after the Secretary of State certification of the Primary Election (Saturday, April 27, 2024), subject to the objection process outlined below.

Filing for Post-Primary Endorsement

To file for endorsement, a candidate must submit a signed CDP Post-Primary Endorsement Candidate Registration Form and submit the appropriate non-reimbursable filing fee (U.S. House: \$500, State Senate: \$650, State Assembly: \$400) by Sunday, April 14, 2024, 5:00 PM. Additionally, candidates seeking CDP endorsement consideration shall affirm in writing that they have read the most current CDP Platform. The CDP adopts a Platform every two years. The current Platform was adopted on November 19, 2023. The platform is available online at www.cadem.org/platform. The CDP Post-Primary Candidate Registration Form will be available on the CDP Endorsements webpage after the Primary Election at www.cadem.org/endorsements.

Objection/Appeal Process

- **Filing** – Any Letter of Objection must be made in writing and filed within fifteen (15) days after the Secretary of State's certification of the Primary Election results (by 5:00 PM on Saturday, April 27, 2024) to have the endorsement reviewed by the Election Appeals Committee. The deadline for the Secretary of State's certification of Primary Election results is no later than 38 days after the Primary Election, which is Friday, April 12, 2024. The filing shall be made to the CDP Secretary and must be signed by 20% of the qualified DSCC Members resident in the relevant district. The filing should be sent to Secretary (secretary@cadem.org), cc Chair Rusty Hicks (chair@cadem.org), Election Appeals Committee ElectionAppealsCommittee@cadem.org. It can also be sent via mail to 1830 9th St., Sacramento, CA 95811. Please note that the filing must be received by the deadline.
- **Letter of Objection Served on the Candidate** – The letter of objection must also be served on the candidate in question by the objecting parties by first class mail at the same time that the letter of objection is filed with the CDP Secretary.
- **Elections Appeals Committee** – If an objection is filed, an Election Appeals Committee will make the final determination at a meeting no later than five (5) days after an objection has

been filed. The Election Appeals Committee shall be composed of the statewide officers, the Regional Director(s) of the relevant district, and two (2) Executive Board members appointed by the State Chair, from each of the following committees: Rules, Credentials, and Organizing.

In the case of a race where two Democrats advance to the general and one of them is already the endorsed candidate, that endorsement shall remain in effect.

Two Democrats Advance to the General Election and No Pre-Primary Endorsement Was Made – Endorsing Caucus to Be Held

Overview

If two Democratic candidates in a U.S. House, State Senate, or State Assembly election contests advance to the General Election and neither candidate received CDP Pre-Primary endorsement, the CDP Chair calls a Post-Primary Endorsing Caucus in the relevant district. Post Primary Endorsing Caucuses will be held on May 4th, 2024.

If two Democratic Candidates for the U.S. Senate advance to the General Election and neither candidate receives CDP Pre-Primary endorsement, the U.S. Senate Post-Primary Endorsing Caucus will be held at the May 2024 Executive Board. The Date and Location are TBD. Information will be shared in a separate communication.

Eligible Candidates

Only candidates who are registered Democrats advancing to the General Election and have requested endorsement consideration are eligible to be considered at the Post-Primary Endorsing Caucus.

Filing for Post-Primary Endorsement Consideration

To file for endorsement, a candidate who did not previously file must submit a signed CDP Post-Primary Endorsement Candidate Registration Form and submit the appropriate non-reimbursable filing fee (U.S. House:\$500, State Senate: \$650, State Assembly: \$400, U.S. Senate: \$3500) by April 14, 2024. The CDP Post-Primary Candidate Registration Form will be available on the CDP Endorsements webpage after the Primary Election at www.cadem.org/endorsements.

Eligible Voters

Eligible voters are qualified DSCC Members resident in the relevant district as of September 15, 2023, for the 2023 CDP State Endorsing Convention. DSCC Members who were eligible but have since the appointing deadline died, moved, changed their registration to a district other

than the district the election is occurring, or resigned may be replaced by the appropriate appointing authority.

For a U.S. Senate Post-Primary Endorsing Caucus, only Credentialed Executive Board Members at the Executive Board Meeting will be eligible to vote in the U.S. Senate Post-Primary Endorsing Caucus.

A candidate can obtain a list of eligible voters once the candidate has submitted a completed CDP Post-Primary Endorsement Candidate Registration Form and paid the appropriate filing fee.

At the Post-Primary Endorsing Caucus – Voting (Note: 2024 Caucuses Will Be Virtual, Not In-Person)

- **Quorum** - Fifty percent plus one of the credentialed members of an Endorsing Caucus shall constitute a quorum, whether in-person or voting by mail.
- **Voting** - Votes are public per DNC By-Laws and CDP By-Laws. Voting at the Endorsing Caucus is by signed written ballot, the results of which shall be read off as though it were a roll call vote. Members must be present at the Endorsing Caucus to vote or send in their vote-by-mail ballot to the Regional Director/Convener chairing the Endorsing Caucus. No proxy voting is allowed.
- **Valid Votes** - Per CDP By-Laws, in order to vote and have one's vote counted at any meeting of This Committee, a member must have timely: (1) paid their dues to the CDP or had them waived, (2) completed and returned to the proper authority any ballot that may be issued, and (3) agreed in writing to abide by the Code of Conduct. Each member may vote for one of the candidates who has filed to participate in the endorsement process or vote for "No Endorsement" on the ballot.
- **Threshold** - A candidate must receive at least 60% (sixty percent) of the votes of the Endorsing Caucus members present and voting to be endorsed. "No Endorsement" is counted as a vote; however, pursuant to Robert's Rules of Order, an abstention will not be counted. If no candidate receives 60% and "No Endorsement" fails to achieve a majority, it is deemed that the Endorsing Caucus has failed to make an endorsement, and the position is "No Consensus."
- **One Endorsed Candidate** - The Endorsing Caucus may not endorse more candidates for an office than the number to be elected for that office.
- **Endorsement** - The decision of the Endorsing Caucus shall become the official endorsement of the California Democratic Party and is effective at the end of the Endorsing Caucus.

Objection/Appeal Process:

- **Filing** - Any objection must be made in writing and filed within two (2) days of the Endorsing Caucus by 5:00 PM with CDP Chair Rusty Hicks and must be signed by either: (1) a majority of the five statewide officers or (2) 20% of the DSCC members of the Endorsing Caucus of the relevant district. The filing should be sent to Secretary (secretary@cadem.org), cc Chair Rusty Hicks (chair@cadem.org), and Election Appeals Committee

(ElectionAppealsCommittee@cadem.org). It can also be sent via mail to: 1830 9th St., Sacramento, CA 95811. Please note that the deadline is a received-by deadline.

- **Elections Appeals Committee** - If an objection is filed, an Election Appeals Committee will make the final determination at a meeting no later than five (5) days after an objection has been filed. The Election Appeals Committee shall be composed of the statewide officers; the Regional Director(s) of the relevant district, and two (2) Executive Board members, appointed by the State Chair, from each of the following committees: Rules, Credentials, and Organizing.

2024 CDP Post-Primary Endorsement Key Dates

March 5 (Tues)	California Statewide Direct Primary Election
April 12 (Fri)	Primary Election Certification: Deadline for the Secretary of State's certification of Primary Election results
April 14 (Sun)	5:00 PM deadline for Democratic candidates who did not previously seek Pre-Primary endorsement consideration to file for CDP Post-Primary endorsement to the General Election
April 27 (Sat)	Post-Primary Endorsing Caucus Ballots emailed to eligible voters
April 27 (Sat)	5:00 PM deadline to file a Letter of Objection for election contests in which one Democratic candidate advances to the General Election but (1) was not previously endorsed during Pre-Primary endorsement process or (2) did not previously seek Pre-Primary endorsement consideration
May TBD	CDP Executive Board Meeting (Event Location TBD). For more information: www.cadem.org/our-party/executive-board U.S. Senate Endorsing Caucus (If Necessary)
May 4 (Sat)	CDP Post-Primary Virtual Endorsing Caucuses in relevant districts
May 9 (Thur)	5:00 PM deadline to file an objection must be made in writing and filed within two (2) days of the Endorsing Caucus. Must be signed by either (1) a majority of the five statewide officers or (2) 20% of the DSCC members of the Endorsing Caucus of the relevant district.
August 14 (Wed)	Political Party Endorsements: 5:00 PM deadline to include political party endorsements in the official sample ballot

Further Information

More information is available on the CDP Endorsements webpage at www.cadem.org/endorsements. If you have any questions, please feel free to email endorsements@cadem.org or contact (916) 442-5707.

The CDP By-Laws supersede any information provided by staff regarding the endorsement process. A current copy can be found on our website at www.cadem.org. *This memo may be updated based on amendments made to the By-Laws regarding the CDP endorsement process or logistics planning details

FAQ

I received the CADEM Endorsement in the Primary, and I am making the runoff. What happens next?

If you received the endorsement in the Primary and made it to the General, you are still the Endorsed Candidate for the California Democratic Party. No further action is needed.

I did not receive the CADEM Endorsement in the Primary and am the only Democrat in the runoff. What happens next?

If you are the only Democrat in the General, then you will become the Endorsed Candidate if the following conditions are met:

- A. You applied for the CADEM Endorsement and paid the filing fee.
- B. No objection is filed before the deadline. If an objection is filed and it is not passed by the Election Appeals Committee. For more information on this process, please review the 2022 Post-Primary Endorsement Process General Information Memo.

I did not receive the CADEM Endorsement in the Primary, and there are two Democrats in the Runoff. What happens next?

If there are two Democrats in the General, then an Endorsing Caucus, similar to the one that happened in the Primary, will be held in July to decide the Endorsement. Only candidates who have applied for the CADEM Endorsement and paid the filing fee will be eligible to be considered.

I did not apply for the CADEM Endorsement in the Primary and made the run-off. What happens next?

Regardless of whether you are the only Democrat in the General or there are two Democrats in the General, you will need to apply for the CADEM Endorsement and pay the filing fee to be eligible to participate in the endorsing caucus or receive the endorsement. The deadline to apply for the endorsement is July 17th.

I applied for the CADEM Endorsement in the Primary. Do I have to pay a filing fee again to be considered during the General?

No. You are only required to pay the filing fee once per cycle. If you paid the filing fee for a different district or a different seat previously this cycle, you only have to pay the difference if the filing fee for the new district is greater than the previous filing fee.

Someone received the party endorsement for the primary in my district but then didn't file to be on the ballot for that race. What happens next?

There are 7 races this cycle, where candidates applied for and received the party endorsement, but then declined to file for that seat by the December 8, 2023, deadline. The party will not retake a position in that race for the Primary election.

The Party is required to submit endorsements to County Registrars by October 13th. That is not a sufficient amount of time to give delegates and candidates to participate in the Special Endorsing Caucus.

The party will follow the procedures listed above in considering the election in the General.

When can we expect to get an updated Voting List for the Post Primary Endorsing Caucus?

Lists will be shared with qualified campaigns after April 14th, 2024.