

California Democratic Party Rules Subcommittee on Endorsements Agenda
Thursday, February 15, 2024 at 6:30pm

- I. Roll Call**
- II. Meeting Called to Order**
- III. Adoption of Meeting Agenda**
- IV. Scoville Proposal to amend Article VIII regarding eliminating automatic placement of incumbents on consent calendar to Subcommittee on Endorsements**
This Rules change proposal would restore the Pre-primary endorsement process for incumbent candidates, ending the automatic endorsement of the California Democratic Party.

See Exhibit A
- V. New Business**
- VI. Adjournment**

**ARTICLE VIII: ENDORSEMENT OF CANDIDATES FOR PARTISAN AND NONPARTISAN OFFICE, AND
ENDORSEMENT AND OPPOSITION TO STATE BALLOT PROPOSITIONS, INITIATIVES, REFERENDUM, AND
RECALL**

Pre-primary Endorsement of Elected Officials - Restore

This Rules change is will restore the pre-primary endorsement process for elected officials. A crucial role of delegates to the California Democratic Party is to determine which candidates are deserving of the Party's endorsement. That opportunity no longer exists for incumbent candidates.

Every two to four years candidates for office meet with local Party delegates in district caucuses. This provides and opportunity for delegates to meet and assess their choice of candidates. In the past these caucuses have become cheering sessions for incumbent candidates who easily won endorsement. This process was removed a few years ago leaving no opportunity to meet and greet qualifying candidates.

Skipping this process is undemocratic and leaves delegates with little to do but rubber stamp a piece of paper at the Convention. There is no rallying behind your candidate, no opportunity to ask questions of candidates, and no accountability of elected officials to district delegates.

Automatic endorsement of incumbents is an authoritarian manner of candidate selection which is extremely unpopular among delegates. It creates a power grab for electeds in the Party. Elected officials work for the voters, they do not run the Party.

Its time to restore this critical process and restore democracy in the Democratic Party.

Carrie Scoville

AD65

Blue Revolution

Submitted to CADEM Rules Committee November 3, 2023



ARTICLE VIII: ENDORSEMENT OF CANDIDATES FOR PARTISAN AND NONPARTISAN OFFICE, AND ENDORSEMENT AND OPPOSITION TO STATE BALLOT PROPOSITIONS, INITIATIVES, REFERENDUM, AND RECALL

Section 3. PARTISAN PUBLIC OFFICES OTHER THAN PRESIDENT

d. Consent Calendar, Ratification, Objection to Ratification, Process for Consideration of Objection: Decisions of endorsing caucuses and the recommendations of pre-endorsing conferences ~~which appear on the consent calendar as provided under Article VIII, Section 3.g.(12),~~ shall be subject to ratification by the full membership of This Committee at a time certain noticed in the printed convention agenda, except with respect to candidates for statewide public office.

(7) ~~An incumbent who has been automatically placed on the consent calendar of This Committee's endorsing convention by operation of Section 3g(12) of this Article~~ candidate shall be removed from the consent calendar for separate vote by the convention if by 8 PM on the day prior to the date of the vote on the consent calendar by the endorsing convention there is filed a petition with the Secretary of This Committee that provides that it is in the best interest of the California Democratic Party that such removal from the consent calendar occur, and that the petition be signed by two-thirds of the following: the Statewide Officers of This Committee plus the Regional Director(s) whose region(s) include(s) all or part of the district represented by the incumbent. Vacancies shall not be counted in the percentages but proxies may vote in place of their principal according to rules otherwise provided in these bylaws.

g. "Pre-endorsing Conferences" Time, Place, Absentee Voting, Notice, Convenor, Participants, Certification of Roster, No Proxy Voting, Address by Candidate, Offering of Name, Single Roll Call Vote, Prohibition on Vote Retraction, Participant's Residency, Transmission of Results,

~~Incumbent Consent Calendar Placement and Removal Process,~~ Process for Endorsement in General Election: "Pre-endorsing Conferences" are a public meeting of the Democratic Party and shall be held at the regional level prior to the State endorsing convention, and shall be open to all registered Democrats.

~~(12) An incumbent seeking election to the same office currently held shall be automatically placed on the consent calendar of This Committee's endorsing convention unless:~~

~~(a) There is more than one incumbent seeking the same office, or~~

~~(b) By a date that is between: 1. the date that the pre-endorsing conference roster of eligible participants has been determined by the Chair of This Committee, and 54 2. ten (10) days prior to the pre-endorsing conference, twenty percent (20%) of the eligible participants or two-thirds of a body composed of the Statewide Officers of This Committee plus the Regional Director(s) whose region(s) include(s) all or part of the district represented by the incumbent file a petition to include the incumbent in the endorsement process otherwise indicated in this Section.~~

Section. (13) The name of a ~~non-incumbent or of an incumbent subject to Section 3.g.(12)(a) or Section 3.g.(12)(b)~~ candidate may be placed on the consent calendar of This Committee's endorsing convention upon receiving at least seventy percent (70%) vote, of those valid votes cast, at a pre-endorsing conference. The consent calendar shall be approved by a simple majority vote of This Committee. Upon approval of the consent calendar the candidate shall become the endorsed candidate of the Democratic Party. A name may be removed from the consent calendar by at least twenty percent (20%) of the members of This Committee resident and qualified by a date selected by the Chair of This Committee and publicized on the Party's website that is between forty-five (45) and ninety (90) days prior to the State Endorsing Convention in the District in question or by at least twenty percent (20%) of the members of This Committee by filing a letter of objection with the State Chair no later than ten (10) days prior to the State Endorsing Convention. If a name is removed from the consent calendar, the By-Laws of This Committee regarding endorsements shall apply.