

California Democratic Party Rules Endorsements Subcommittee Agenda
Monday, April 28, 2025 at 6:30pm

- I. Roll Call**
- II. Meeting Called to Order**
- III. Adoption of Meeting Agenda**
- IV. CDP Staff proposal to amend BOE District Endorsements and Delegate**

Representation

Explanation: Historically BOE Endorsements have been treated as Statewide endorsements for logistical reasons. First, it would be nearly impossible to have a 4 separate BOE caucus meetings, following the traditional vote method of counting in the room. Second, it was too difficult to separate ballots to only have the races on them that people are eligible to vote for. The solution was to have all voters vote for all BOE races.

This has created confusion and complaints in the past or people asking why they are voting for a candidate that is not statewide that does not represent them. Additionally, there has been confusion about whether BOE members can appoint people outside of their districts.

The solution to this is available to us as we have been running elections on Election Buddy and can easily give voters a unique ballot to them with the Correct BOE race and District Endorsing Caucuses.

The Bylaw changes below make BOE Delegates District Appointments, Allow them to be a part of the Statewide Endorsing Caucus, and remove them as being listed as a Statewide Office.

See Exhibit A

- V. CDP Staff proposal to amend Voting at Pre-Endorsing Conference (Electronic) and procedures on Club Representatives for Pre-Endorsing Conferences**

Explanation: CADEM has gotten very good about administering elections using Electionbuddy over the last couple of years. We would like to expand this to the administration of Pre-Endorsing Conference Elections. Additionally, it creates an opportunity for us to clean up some other rules around the process that work for an in person meeting, but not a virtual one.

Explanation: The current process for removing duplicate club members for assigning representatives is a difficult process, taking anywhere from 12-24 hours each cycle to do.

The process is very technical and at times arbitrary decisions need to be made on which club will be getting an extra representative or not. Furthermore, it is very difficult to be able to recreate your work to show how you got the final result of removing duplicates.

CADEM staff would like to create a process that will take the CADEM staff would like to create a process that would continue to improve transparency and automated efficiency.

See Exhibit B

VI. Other Business

a. CDP Staff Proposal related to CADEM engagement and front-line Races

This bylaw is intended to provide a very narrow scope for when CADEM can engage in Incumbent Protection work. The focus of this bylaw is to allow the Party to begin working with and coordinating with incumbents in Frontline districts to improve their chances of protecting their seats from being flipped to the Republican Party.

See Exhibit C

VII. Adjournment

EXHIBIT A

TO: Rules Committee

From: Ben Seinfeld and Emma Harper

Date: December 5, 2024

RE: Bylaw Amendments on BOE District Endorsements And Delegate Representation

Historically BOE Endorsements have been treated as Statewide endorsements for logistical reasons. First, it would be nearly impossible to have a 4 separate BOE caucus meetings, following the traditional vote method of counting in the room. Second, it was too difficult to separate ballots to only have the races on them that people are eligible to vote for. The solution was to have all voters vote for all BOE races.

This has created confusion and complaints in the past or people asking why they are voting for a candidate that is not statewide that does not represent them. Additionally, there has been confusion about whether BOE members can appoint people outside of their districts.

The solution to this is available to us as we have been running elections on Election Buddy and can easily give voters a unique ballot to them with the Correct BOE race and District Endorsing Caucuses.

The Bylaw changes below make BOE Delegates District Appointments, Allow them to be a part of the Statewide Endorsing Caucus, and remove them as being listed as a Statewide Office.

AMEDMENTS

Amend Art. VIII, Sec 3 (c)

Endorsing caucuses of This Committee shall be comprised of all members of This Committee resident and registered to vote in the relevant district except that those members appointed by the appointing authorities for the offices described in Article II, sections 2a(11), 2a(12) and 2a(14) and not appointed pursuant to Article II, section 3c shall not be eligible to participate (or be counted in any calculation of percentages needed for endorsement under this Article) unless the appointee is registered to vote in the same electoral district as the one that the appointing authority represents. Endorsement caucuses in any given primary race shall be chaired by persons designated by the Chair of This Committee. The Chair of This Committee may also appoint a Parliamentarian who is a member of either the Rules or Credentials Committee of This Committee, and a Secretary for each Endorsing Caucus.

Amend Art. VIII, Sec 3 (c)(1)

Endorsing caucuses shall be held at places and times during the endorsing convention which are designated by the Chair of This Committee consistent with achieving an orderly, convenient and fair process. Endorsing Caucuses for the office of State Board of Equalization may be conducted during a General Session provided the eligible voters shall remain as described hereinabove.

Amend Art. VIII, Sec 3 (d)(1)

In the case of a statewide public office, This Committee's ratification of the endorsing caucus' decision shall be assumed, since the endorsing caucus is comprised of all members of This Committee. ~~The office of State Board of Equalization shall be considered as a statewide office and shall be voted upon by all members of This Committee.~~

Amend Art. VIII, Sec 3 (d)(3)(b)(1)

upon written motion by at least ten (10) members of the relevant caucus in the case of an Assembly District or at least twenty (20) members of the relevant caucus in the case of a State Senate or Congressional District, except that those members appointed by the appointing authorities for the offices described in Article II, sections 2a(11), 2a(12) and 2a(14) and not appointed pursuant to Article II, section 3c shall not be eligible to participate in such motions or petitions unless the appointee is registered to vote in the same electoral district as the one that the appointing authority represents, or

Amend Art. VIII, Sec 3 (e)(1)(a)

those members appointed by the appointing authorities for the offices described in Article II, sections 2a(11), 2a(12) and 2a(14) and not appointed pursuant to Article II, section 3c shall not be eligible to participate (or be counted in any calculation of percentages needed for endorsement under this section) unless the appointee is registered to vote in the same electoral district as the one that the appointing authority represents, and

Amend Art. VIII, Sec 3 (g)(5)(a)

All members of This Committee resident in the district, except that those members appointed by the appointing authorities for the offices described in Article II, sections 2a(11), 2a(12) and 2a(14) and not appointed pursuant to Article II, section 3c shall not be eligible to participate (or be counted in any calculation of percentages needed for endorsement under this section) unless the appointee is registered to vote in the same electoral district as the one that the appointing authority represents;

Amend Art. VIII, Sec 3 (h)(1)(b)(1)

those members appointed by the appointing authorities for the offices described in Article II, sections 2a(11), 2a(12) and 2a(14) and not appointed pursuant to Article II, section 3c shall not be eligible to participate (or be counted in any calculation of percentages needed for endorsement under this section) unless the appointee is registered to vote in the same electoral District as the one that the appointing authority represents, and

Amend Art. VIII, Sec 3 (i)

For those races subject to review by the Election Appeals Committee via the filing of a Letter of Objection, within fifteen (15) days after Secretary of State certification of the Primary Election, twenty percent (20%) of the members of This Committee resident in the district in question except that those members appointed by the appointing authorities for the offices described in Article II, sections 2a(11), 2a(12) and 2a(14) and not appointed pursuant to Article II, section 3c shall not be eligible to participate (or be counted in any calculation of percentages needed for

endorsement under this section) unless the appointee is registered to vote in the same electoral District as the one that the appointing authority represents, must sign and file with the Secretary of This Committee a Letter of Objection objecting to the endorsement of a particular candidate. Said Letter of Objection shall also be served on the candidate in question by the objecting parties by first class mail at the time the Letter of Objection is filed with the Secretary of This Committee. A certificate of service with the Letter of Objection shall be filed with the Secretary of This Committee along with the filing of the Letter of Objection. The Secretary of This Committee shall, upon receipt of said documents, serve a copy of them on the candidate and the members of the Election Appeals Committee within ten (10) days of filing of said objection. In the event a majority of the Election Appeals Committee objects to the endorsement of that particular candidate, such candidate shall not be the endorsed candidate of the Democratic Party.

Amend Art. VIII, Sec 3 (j)(1)

For districted races, the Chair of This Committee shall cause to be convened an endorsing caucus of the members of This Committee resident in the each relevant district, except that those members appointed by the appointing authorities for the offices described in Article II, sections 2a(11), 2a(12) and 2a(14) and not appointed pursuant to Article II, section 3c shall not be eligible to participate (or be counted in any calculation of percentages needed for endorsement under this section) unless the appointee is registered to vote in the same electoral District as the one that the appointing authority represents may group such districts on a regional basis as necessary and shall designate a convenor. No proxy voting shall be allowed - each member shall be sent a vote-by-mail ballot which shall be read off as though it were a roll call vote. Once received by the designated convenor of the caucus, a ballot may not be retracted, rescinded, or otherwise changed and shall be counted in the totals. Lost ballots may be replaced at the caucus prior to the close of balloting. Each caucus may place on a consent calendar of the Executive Board of This Committee:

EXHIBIT B

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.

(1) The time and place of each pre-endorsing conference shall be determined by the State Chair in consultation with the Party's Regional Directors.

(2) ~~Voting shall be conducted utilizing an electronic ballot system.~~ The participation of at least five of the eligible members of This Committee as delegates to the pre- endorsing conference shall constitute a quorum. In the absence of such quorum no recommendation for endorsement shall take place; however, the relevant convention endorsing caucus shall consider the race “de novo”.

(3) The State Chair shall be responsible for providing each voting participant with notification of the time and place of the relevant pre-endorsing conference. Regional Directors shall be responsible, upon the advice and assistance of the State Chair, for generally publicizing pre-endorsement conferences.

(4) Each pre-endorsing conference shall be convened by the relevant Regional Director or, in the event that there is no Regional Director available for this purpose or the Regional Director is a candidate for nomination to a partisan public office, or has a demonstrable conflict of interest (as determined by a majority of the Statewide Officers of This Committee), by a person designated by the State Chair. The State Chair shall designate a Chair and a Secretary for each Regional pre-endorsing conference.

(5) Voting participants at each pre-endorsing conference shall be:

(a) All members of This Committee resident in the district, except that those members appointed by the appointing authorities for the offices described in Article II, sections ~~2a(11)~~, 2a(12) and 2a(14) and not appointed pursuant to Article II, section 3c shall not be eligible to participate (or be counted in any calculation of percentages needed for endorsement under this section) unless the appointee is registered to vote in the same electoral district as the one that the appointing authority represents;

(b) All regular County Committee members resident in the district;

Deleted: Absentee ballot voting shall be allowed for each office to be voted upon at the pre-endorsing conference provided that t

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Deleted: The ballot shall consist of a written, signed statement from the eligible voter and shall be recorded as part of the roll call vote if received by the designated Regional Director or through an alternative electronic process promulgated by the Chair of This Committee or their designee prior to the beginning of the roll call vote in the designated district. In the event that any Senate District or Congressional District falls into more than one Region, the State Chair shall assign those districts to a single regional pre-endorsement conference for the purposes of making the recommendation set forth in this section, due consideration being given to conflicting conference dates so as to allow for full participation.

(c) Designated Assembly District representatives from chartered clubs and organizations.

1. Representatives from each Democratic Club or other Democratic organization chartered by This Committee or by a County Central Committee in the year prior to the pre- endorsing conferences shall be eligible to participate, as follows:

(a) The Chair of the Chartering Organization shall have certified the validity of the Charter, and that the Club was chartered and has submitted a roster of members in good standing duly registered as a member of the Democratic Party of California to the Chair of the Chartering Organization and to the appropriate Regional Director and the Secretary of This Committee no later than a date that is announced by the state chair and is between 300 and 310 days prior to the following statewide primary election of the year immediately prior to the endorsing process, and that:

i. The rules of by-laws of the Club contain a provision that only members in good standing as of a date that is announced by the State Chair and is between 315 and 325 days prior to the following statewide primary election and is 14 days prior to the date specified in Section 3(g)(5)(c)(1)(a) above shall be included on the roster;

ii. The rules or by-laws of the Club define the phrase “member in good standing”;

iii. The status of such members be certified by the Club’s President, Secretary, or Treasurer;

iv. The Club’s representatives to any particular pre- endorsing conference be from the list described above and that the overall list of representatives to all conferences adhere to the Equal Division Rule, to the extent possible. A Club member may only be the club representative for one club. The club representative may not already be a member of the Pre-Endorsing Conference by way of Sec

3 (g)(5)(a) and Sec 3 (g)(5)(b) above.

- v. Either (1) the rules or by-laws of the Club shall outline the process by which representatives to the pre-endorsing conference shall be selected, ensuring that only members in good standing participate in the process or (2) the representatives shall be selected at a duly-noticed meeting of the Club, affirmed by a vote of those members in good standing in attendance and voting.

(b) Club representatives shall be ~~calculated~~ as follows:

- i. After Clubs have submitted their club rosters, verification of the club members democratic registration shall be checked in the voter file. Any club members that are not registered democrats will be omitted from the club's member list. The total number of club members submitted after checking voter registration, shall be referred to as Total Submitted Members herein.
- ii. All club member lists shall be compared against each other to identify club members who are a member of multiple clubs. In the event that a club member is a member of multiple clubs, that club member shall be counted as a fraction equal to 1 divided by the number of clubs they are a member of. All other club members shall be counted as 1. The sum of club members including fractional representation shall be referred to as Fractional Value.
- iii. For clubs that have 20 or more Total Submitted Members in an assembly district, the Fractional Value shall be divided by 20 and rounded to the nearest whole number. That number will be the number of Club Representatives a Club will receive in that assembly district.

2. The certifying authority for the representatives referred to in this paragraph shall be the Chair of the chartered organization.
3. These A.D. representatives may vote only in the districts in which they reside.

- (6) No proxy voting shall be allowed at pre-endorsing conferences. In order to effectuate notice to all potential voters, and to determine and certify eligibility to vote, it shall be the responsibility of each Regional Director, with the

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Deleted: <#>Club members who hold dual club memberships may only be counted for representation once. Such representatives must be registered Democrats. In the event a name is listed on two or more rosters, only one name shall be counted and the Regional Director shall first count the name on the roster of the organization which does not deprive another organization of representation, if possible; provided, however, if that is not possible, the name on the roster which was first turned in will be counted unless the individual is listed as a Representative from another organization, in which case the individual shall be counted only on the roster of the organization sought to be represented.¶

assistance of the relevant County Committee Chair(s) and the Executive Board representative from each Assembly District to identify by name all persons who will be eligible voters at their regional pre-endorsing conference and to transmit the names of all such voters to the State Chair, along with the Assembly District, Senate District and Congressional District in which each resides 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. A roster of the certified eligible voters shall be maintained by that Regional Director and shall be provided to the Chair of This Committee and to each candidate who has requested consideration. In order to be a voting member of a pre-endorsing conference, an individual's membership must have been certified as indicated herein and their name must appear, or have had the right to appear, on the certified roster as described above. Nothing in this section relieves a Democratic Club of its obligation to submit its roster to the Regional Director by the date selected pursuant to Section 3(g)(5)(c)(1)(a) above.

(7) Candidates for partisan non-statewide public office and who commit to filing as "Party Preference: Democratic", are required to fill out the Endorsement Registration Form to be eligible for this Committee's Endorsement Process. Candidates must fill out the Endorsement Registration Form at least five (5) days prior to the Pre-Endorsing Conference Meetings. Should the incumbent candidate fail to file the notice of intent to run by that date, then the filing deadline shall be extended to a day, which is three (3) days prior to the Pre-Endorsing Conference Meetings. No withdrawals shall be allowed after that date. All candidates must also have paid the Candidate Filing Fee, set by the Finance Committee, to complete the registration process within 24 hours of the registration deadline.

(8) Pre-Endorsing Conference Meetings shall have a posted start time of 11 AM. Each candidate, who completed the registration process, whose jurisdiction extends into, or is included in a given Region, shall be permitted to address the relevant pre-endorsing conference or to designate a representative to address said conference, provided that such candidate is not seeking the endorsement of This Committee for another office which will be elected on the same date. At 12 PM (Noon) ballots will be sent electronically to all eligible voters. Ballots must be turned in by 12 PM (Noon) seven (7) calendar days after they are sent out. A "no preference" option shall be available at the time of each vote. Once submitted, a ballot may not be retracted, rescinded, or otherwise changed and shall be counted in the totals.

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Deleted: Any voting participant may offer for conference consideration the name of a candidate for partisan, non-statewide public office whose jurisdiction extends into, or is included within the given Region, provided the fee referred to in Section 3.c.(3) above has been paid and that such candidate is not seeking the endorsement of This Committee for another office which will be elected on the same date.

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Deleted: <#>Once the names of candidates for a given office have been thus offered, a single roll call vote, via signed written ballot, in the same form as the vote- by-mail ballot, shall be taken as to the preferences of the eligible voting participants. Once received by the designated Regional Director, a ballot may not be retracted, rescinded, or otherwise changed and shall be counted in the totals. A "no preference" option shall be available at the time of each vote.

(9) Eligibility to vote with respect to a given office shall be limited to those conference participants resident in the election district in question.

(10) ~~The results of the Pre-Endorsing Conference will be promptly posted publicly following the conclusion of voting.~~

Deleted: The Chair of the pre-endorsing conference is responsible for transmitting to the State Chair, in writing, the results of all votes taken within three days of the pre-endorsing conference.

(11) 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
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.

(12) The name of a non-incumbent or of an incumbent subject to Section 3.g.(11)(a) or Section 3.g.(11)(b) 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.

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EXHIBIT C

TO: Rules Committee

From: Ben Seinfeld

Date: May 1, 2025

RE: Bylaw Amendments on Party Support in Frontline District Races

It is more important than ever for the California Democratic Party to be in Campaign Mode both in the On and Off years of an election cycle. This bylaw is intended to provide a very narrow scope for when CADEM can engage in Incumbent Protection work. The focus of this bylaw is to allow the Party to begin working with and coordinating with incumbents in Frontline districts to improve their chances of protecting their seats from being flipped to the Republican Party.

Below is a list of the incumbents, whom the party could begin doing member protection work for and take necessary action to ensure that that member retains their seat from being flipped, if this bylaw were passed.

At Risk District	Candidate	Percent Won By
CA 09	Harder	3.60%
CA 13	Gray	0.08%
CA 21	Costa	5.20%
CA 27	Whitesides	2.60%
CA 45	Tran	0.20%
CA 47	Min	2.80%
CA 49	Levin	4.40%

AMENDMENTS

Add Art. VIII, Sec 1, k.

k. Actions in Support of Identified Frontline District Races

Notwithstanding anything in Section 1(a) of this Article or anything elsewhere in these Bylaws, the Chair of This Committee, in consultation with the Statewide Officers, may designate certain Federal and State Legislative Districts as “frontline districts.” To constitute a “frontline district,” the district must be one in which:

- (1) There is an incumbent Democrat; and
- (2) (A) The district has been publicly designated as a target by another party,
or
(B) the incumbent defeated a candidate of another party in the most recent General Election by a margin of less than ten (10) points

Promptly after the designation of a district as "frontline district," the Chair of This Committee shall notify in writing the Chair(s) of the Organizing Committee and the Regional Director(s) of the region(s) in which the frontline district is located of the designation.

After such notice, the Chair of This Committee, in consultation with the Statewide Officers, may, with respect to any designated "frontline district," take such action as the Chair deems fit to ensure that the district remains represented by a Democratic Party candidate. Such action shall not constitute an endorsement of This Committee and shall not involve any actions seeking to affect the endorsement process of This Committee. Additionally, the authority, under this Section (k), of the Chair of This Committee to act shall terminate as of 90 days before the start of the endorsing convention.

The authorization to act in this subsection (k) is limited exclusively to actions expressly authorized by the Chair of This Committee and neither This Committee nor any of its constituent parts may take any action unless so authorized. In addition, the authorization to act provided in this subsection (k) is limited to actions of This Committee and does not authorize any action by any County Central Committee.