California Democratic Party Endorsement Process
Congressional District 14 Special Election

Key Dates:	**April 14, 2026**	**Vacancy**
	April 14, 2026	**Governor's Proclamation Issued on CD 14 Special Election**
	April 14, 2026	**Deadline 5 pm: DSCC Members registered in CD 14 Eligible to Vote**
	April 21, 2026	**Deadline 12 pm: Candidate Registration Deadline**
	April 21, 2026	**Election Buddy Ballots will be emailed to all eligible voters by 5:00 pm**
	April 21, 2026	**Special Election Virtual Endorsing Caucus to hear from candidates* begins at 5:00 pm**
	April 22, 2026	**Deadline 5:00 pm: Endorsing Caucus Ballot (Election Buddy) must be submitted**
	April 23, 2026	**Deadline 12:00 pm: Submit Endorsement to County Registrar(s)**
	June 16, 2026	**Special Election Primary**
	August 18, 2026	**Special General Election (if necessary)**

Democratic Party Endorsement:
The only form of endorsement for the Congressional District 14 Special Election, or any other election, is an "official endorsement" as described in Article VIII of the By-Laws & Rules of the California Democratic Party (CDP) and summarized in this document. Per **CDP By-Laws**, Article VIII, Section 1 a.

Special Election Endorsing Caucus and Voting Eligibility - Per CDP By-Laws & Rules, the State Party Chair is required to call a Special Election Endorsing Caucus of the 2025-2027 Democratic State Central Committee (DSCC) members who are residents and registered to vote in Congressional District 14 as of 5:00 pm the day of the Governor's Proclamation (April 14, 2026) of the Special Election, with one exception: DSCC members appointed by elected officials or "highest vote-getting Democrats" are not eligible to vote in the Endorsing Caucus unless the appointed member is registered to vote in the same electoral district that the appointer represents. **For the purposes of this Special Election, only current delegates registered in the pre-Proposition 50 14th Congressional District will be eligible to vote.**

Candidates - Each candidate registered as a Democrat in Congressional District 14 may file to be considered for the Democratic Party endorsement. To seek the endorsement, a non-reimbursable $500 (five hundred dollars) filing fee must be paid prior to the Endorsing Caucus.

Please visit to access the online Candidate Registration Form:
https://fs3.formsite.com/CADEM2011/j9f57v9fsf/index

At the Virtual Endorsing Caucus:
Endorsing Caucus Information: Congressional District 14 Special Election Endorsing Caucus
Tuesday, April 21, 2026
Zoom Room Opens: 4:55 pm
Caucus Called to Order: 5:00 pm
Election Buddy Ballots will be emailed to all eligible voters: 5:00 pm, Tuesday, April 21, 2026
Via Zoom: https://cadem-org.zoom.us/meeting/register/OdCPpCVaS52yel7q4TE6hw
Convener: Rocky Fernandez, Region 8, Regional Director – CD14@cadem.org
CDP Staff Contact: Nichole Trujillo Rice – CD14@cadem.org

Quorum - Fifty percent plus one of the credentialed members of an Endorsing Caucus shall constitute a quorum, whether in-person or voting electronically.

Voting - Voting at the Endorsing Caucus will be by electronic ballot, using Election Buddy. Election Buddy Ballots will be emailed to all eligible voters by 5:00 pm on April 21, 2026. Members must submit their electronic ballot on Election Buddy by 5:00 pm on Wednesday, April 22, 2026. No proxy voting is allowed. The results will be posted after balloting closes on April 22, 2026, at https://cadem.org/special-endorsing-caucus-information/.

In order to vote in this Special Endorsing Caucus, DSCC Members must have paid their 2026 DSCC Dues ($80). Eligible voters who still need to pay their dues can do so through the **Delegate Portal** before the **5:00 pm deadline on Wednesday, April 22, 2026**, when the Election Buddy balloting concludes.

In order for the vote to be counted, CDP By-Laws, Article IV, Section 7, b, states: *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 This Committee, or had them waived, (2) registered for the meeting, if registration was required, (3) obtained their credential prior to the closing of credentialing, if credentials were issued for the meeting (4) completed and returned to the proper authority any ballot that may be issued, and (5) agreed in writing to abide by the Code of Conduct.*

The Endorsing Caucus may not endorse more than one candidate. 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. 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. A vote for a candidate who did not file will not be counted. In the event that no candidate receives 60%, it is deemed that the Endorsing Caucus has failed to make an endorsement.

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. The Endorsement would only apply to a Special Election.

Objection/Appeal Process:

Any objection must be made in writing and filed with CADEM Chair Rusty Hicks in the Sacramento office and must be signed (with an original signature) by either: (1) a majority of the five statewide officers or (2) 20% of the DSCC members of the Endorsing. Objections must be submitted before 9:00 am on Thursday, April 23, 2026. Full objection packets can be emailed to CD14@cadem.org. Individual objection petitions will not be accepted.

If an objection is filed, a Special Elections Appeals Committee will make the final determination at a caucus no later than five (5) days after an objection has been filed. The Special Election Appeals Committee meeting is scheduled for Thursday, April 23, 2026, at 1:00 pm. The Elections Appeals Committee shall be comprised of the Statewide Officers; the Regional Director(s) of the relevant district (or all Regional Directors in the case of a statewide election), two (2) Executive Board members appointed by the Chair of This Committee, from each of the following committees: Rules, Credentials, and Organizing.

*****Political Party Endorsements must be submitted to the county election officials by 54 days before Election Day (April 23, 2026). This date has been subject to change in the past when holidays occur.

Note: *The CDP By-Laws supersede any information provided by staff regarding the endorsement process, including the information in this document. All candidates, DSCC members, and interested parties are urged to review the CDP By-Laws. A current copy can be found on our website at www.cadem.org.*