



Date: June 22, 2026
To: Federal and State Democratic Candidates and Interested Parties
From: Political Department
Subject: 2026 Post-Primary Endorsement Process General Information

Endorsement results from the 2026 February Endorsing Convention in San Francisco will be the position of the California Democratic Party in both the 2026 Primary and General Elections, as long as the Endorsed Candidate is an eligible General Election candidate. (CADEM By-Laws, Art. VIII, Sec. 3.h.)

A candidate who has already secured the endorsement and advanced to the 2026 General Election retains the endorsement and does not have to take any further action.

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One Democratic Candidate Advancing to the General Election

Overview

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

Democratic Candidate Already Endorsed in the Primary Election

All endorsed Democratic candidates advancing to the General Election will retain their endorsements, including in contests where two democrats advance to the General Election. (CADEM By-Laws, Art. VIII, Sec. 3.h.)

Democratic Candidate Sought Pre-Primary Endorsement Consideration, but Not Endorsed

If the Democratic candidate applied for the CADEM Pre-Primary endorsement and met all the application requirements but did not receive the endorsement, this candidate will become the CADEM endorsed candidate, subject to the objection process outlined below.

Democratic Candidate Did Not Seek Pre-Primary Endorsement Consideration

If the Democratic candidate did not seek the CADEM Pre-Primary endorsement, the candidate may file for CADEM endorsement within two (2) days of the Secretary of State's certification of the Primary Election results (by 5:00 PM on Sunday, July 12, 2026) (CADEM By-Laws, Art. VIII, Sec. 3.h.3). The deadline for the Secretary of State's certification of Primary Election results is no later than Friday, July 10, 2026. Upon timely petition and paying the appropriate filing fee, the candidate will become the endorsed candidate, fifteen (15) days after the Secretary of State certification of the Primary Election (Saturday, July 25, 2026), subject to the objection process outlined below.

Filing for Post-Primary Endorsement

To file for endorsement, a candidate must submit a signed CADEM Post-Primary Endorsement Candidate Registration Form available at cadem.org/endorsements and submit the appropriate non-reimbursable filing fee (U.S. House: \$500, State Senate: \$650, State Assembly: \$400) by 5:00 PM, Sunday, July 12, 2026 (CADEM By-Laws, Art. VIII, Sec. 3.h.3). Additionally, candidates seeking CADEM endorsement consideration shall affirm in writing that they have read the most current CADEM Platform (CADEM By-Laws, Art. VIII, Sec. 3.c.3). The CADEM adopts a Platform every two years. The current Platform was adopted on February 22, 2026. The platform is available online at cadem.org/platform. The CADEM Post-Primary Candidate Registration Form will be available on the CADEM Endorsements webpage after the Primary Election at cadem.org/endorsements.

Objection 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, July 25, 2026) 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, July 10, 2026. The filing shall be made to the CADEM Secretary and must be signed by 20% of the qualified DSCC Members resident in the relevant district (CADEM By-Laws, Art. VIII, Sec.3.h.(2).; Art. VIII, Sec. 3.i.). The filing should be sent to the Secretary (diana@cadem.org), cc Chair Rusty Hicks (rusty@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 filing must be received by the deadline. The letter of objection must clearly state the candidate's name and the office they were nominated for, the full name of the delegate signatory, their DSCC ID Number, and their original signature. The objection should also include a specific reason(s) for objection (e.g., balloting, process, allegations, etc.).

IMPORTANT: An original signature must be used when signing. Original signatures may include a signature by hand on paper or via a tool (ie, finger or stylus) on an electronic screen. The original or a copy of the delegate signatory must be submitted as part of the full objection. Signatures electronically generated will be rejected.

- **Letter of Objection Served on the Candidate** – The letter of objection must also be served to 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 CADEM Secretary (CADEM By-Laws, Art. VIII, Sec. 3.i).
- **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 on Monday, July 27, 2026 at 6:00PM. 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 (CADEM By-Laws, Art. VIII, Sec. 3.i.1). The Committee will be chaired by the State Chair. The filer of the letter shall have an opportunity to present its objection and the candidate will have an opportunity to respond. After the conclusion of the presentations, the Committee shall decide whether to sustain or reject the objection. If there is more than one matter to decide, the Chair shall determine the order of business.

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

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

U.S. House, State Senate, and State Assembly

Overview

If two Democratic candidates in a U.S. House, State Senate, or State Assembly election contest advance to the General Election and neither candidate received the CADEM Pre-Primary endorsement, the CADEM Chair calls a Post-Primary Endorsing Caucus in the relevant district (CADEM By-Laws, Art. VIII, Sec. 3.h.1). Post-Primary Endorsing Caucuses will be held virtually on Monday, July 20, 2026. Ballots will be emailed at 10AM via Election Buddy on July 20, 2026 and are due prior to the 5PM deadline on July 22, 2026.

Eligible Candidates

Only candidates who are registered Democrats advancing to the General Election and have requested CADEM endorsement consideration are eligible to be considered at the Post-Primary Endorsing Caucus (CADEM By-Laws, Art. VIII, Sec. 1.h).

Filing for Post-Primary Endorsement Consideration

To file for endorsement, a candidate who did not previously file must submit a signed CADEM 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 July 12, 2026 (CADEM By-Laws, Art. VIII, Sec. 3. c.3). The CADEM Post-Primary Candidate Registration Form will be available on the CADEM Endorsements webpage after the Primary Election at cadem.org/endorsements.

Eligible Voters

Eligible voters are those who were qualified DSCC Members residing in the relevant district as of December 12, 2025, for the 2026 CADEM State Endorsing Convention. DSCC Members who were eligible but have since the appointing deadline moved, are now deceased, or changed their registration to a district other than the district in which the election is occurring, or resigned, may be replaced by the appropriate appointing authority (CADEM By-Laws, Art. VIII, Sec. 3. h.1.b).

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

Voting at the Post-Primary District Endorsing Caucus

Note: 2026 Caucuses will be virtual, not in-person

- **Quorum:** Fifty percent plus one of the eligible members of an Endorsing Caucus shall constitute a quorum, whether in-person or voting by mail (CADEM By-Laws, Art. VIII, Sec. 3. c.5).
- **Voting:** Votes are public per DNC By-Laws and CADEM By-Laws (CADEM By-Laws Art. XIII, Sec. 9). Voting at all the Endorsing Caucuses shall be by electronic ballot or signed written ballot, the results of which shall be posted online or read off as though it were a roll call vote. Once submitted by the voter, a ballot, vote-by-mail, or otherwise, may not be retracted, rescinded, or otherwise changed and shall be counted in the totals. **No proxy voting is allowed** (CADEM By-Laws Art. VIII, Sec. 3. c. 6).
- **Valid Votes:** Per CADEM 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 CADEM 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 (CADEM By-Laws, Art. IV, Sec. 7.b.). 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 (CADEM By-Laws, Art. VIII, Sec. 3. c.7).
- **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 (CADEM By-Laws, Art. VIII, Sec. 1.i.).
- **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, but may be subject to a letter of objection (CADEM By-Laws, Art. VIII, Sec. 3e.4.a).

Objection Process:

- **Filing:** Any objection must be made in writing and filed within two (2) days of the Endorsing Caucus by 5:00 PM on Thursday, July 23, 2026, with CADEM 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 the Secretary (diana@cadem.org), cc Chair Rusty Hicks (rusty@cadem.org), and the 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. The letter of objection must clearly state the candidate's name and the office they were nominated for, the full name of the delegate signatory, their DSCC ID Number, and their original signature. The objection should also include a specific reason(s) for objection (e.g., balloting, process, allegations, etc.).

IMPORTANT: An original signature must be used when signing. Original signatures may include a signature by hand on paper or via a tool (ie, finger or stylus) on an electronic screen. The original or a copy of the delegate signatory must be submitted as part of the full objection. Signatures electronically generated will be rejected.

- **Elections Appeals Committee:** If a valid 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 on Thursday, July 23, 2026, at 6:00 PM. 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. The Committee will be chaired by the State Chair. The filer of the letter shall have an opportunity to present its objection and the candidate will have an opportunity to respond. After the conclusion of the presentations, the Committee shall decide whether to sustain or reject the objection. If there is more than one matter to decide, the Chair shall determine the order of business.

Statewide Offices (State Constitutional Offices)

Overview

If two Democratic candidates in a State Constitutional office contest advance to the General Election and neither candidate received the CADEM Pre-Primary endorsement, the CADEM Executive Board will consider that contest at its next meeting. The next CADEM Executive Board Meeting will be held July 31 - August 2, 2026 at the Sheraton San Diego Resort, 1380 Harbor Island Drive, San Diego, CA 92101. CADEM Executive Board Meeting information is available online at cadem.org/executive-board. Any necessary endorsement votes are tentatively scheduled for Saturday, August 1, 2026, from 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM.

Eligible Candidates

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

Filing for Post-Primary Endorsement Consideration

To seek endorsement consideration, a candidate who did not previously file must submit a signed CADEM Post-Primary Endorsement Candidate Registration Form and submit the appropriate non-reimbursable filing fee (Statewide Office: \$3,500 | Board of Equalization: \$1,000) by 5 PM on Friday, July 24, 2026. Additionally, candidates seeking CADEM endorsement consideration shall affirm in writing that they have read the most current CADEM Platform. CADEM adopts a Platform every two years. The current Platform was adopted on February 22, 2026. The platform is available online at cadem.org/platform. CADEM Post-Primary Candidate Registration Form will be available on the CADEM Endorsements webpage after the Primary Election at cadem.org/endorsements.

Eligible Voters

Eligible voters are CADEM Executive Board Members (or their eligible proxies) who are credentialed by the credentialing/registration deadline on Saturday, August 1, 2026.

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

Voting at CADEM Executive Board Meeting

- **Quorum:** One hundred (100) members of the Executive Board shall constitute a quorum.
- **Voting:** Votes are public per DNC By-Laws and CADEM By-Laws. Voting shall be by electronic ballot or a signed written ballot. Executive Board Members must vote in-person or by proxy; vote-by-mail is not allowed.
- **Valid Votes:** Per CADEM 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 CADEM, 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) agreed in writing to abide by the Code of Conduct, and (5) completed and returned to the proper authority any ballot that may be issued. Each member may vote for one of the candidates who has filed to participate in the endorsement process or vote "No Endorsement" on the ballot.
- **Threshold:** A candidate must receive at least 60% (sixty percent) of the votes of the Executive Board 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 Executive Board has failed to make an endorsement and the position is "No Consensus."
- **One Endorsed Candidate:** The Executive Board may not endorse more candidates for an office than the number to be elected for that office.
- **Endorsement:** The decision of the Executive Board shall become the official endorsement of the California Democratic Party.

No Objection Process

The objection/appeal process involving Election Appeals Committee prescribed under CADEM By-Laws, Art. VIII, Sec. 3.h.(1).(b). and Art. VIII, Sec. 3.i. does not apply to Post-Primary Endorsement processes considered by the Executive Board.

- Thus, the decision on the Post-Primary Endorsement considered by the Executive Board is final in the same manner as the decision made by the Democratic State Central Committee at the State Convention. There is no further appeal.

2026 CADEM Post-Primary Endorsement Key Dates

June 2 (Tues)	California Statewide Direct Primary Election
July 10 (Fri)	Primary Election Certification: Deadline for the Secretary of State's certification of Primary Election results
July 12 (Sun)	5:00 PM deadline for Democratic candidates who did not previously seek Pre-Primary endorsement consideration to file for CADEM Post-Primary endorsement for the General Election
July 20 (Mon)	CADEM Post-Primary Virtual Endorsing Caucuses in relevant districts, Post-Primary Endorsing Caucus Ballots emailed to eligible voters by 10 AM via Election Buddy, Post-Primary Endorsement Candidate Forum takes place via Zoom in respective districts
July 22 (Wed)	Post-Primary Election Buddy balloting closes at 5 PM promptly, results posted, objection period begins after results are posted
July 23 (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 5:00 PM deadline to object to the Post-Primary Endorsing Caucus results, 6pm EAC meeting (if necessary)
July 24 (Fri)	5:00 PM deadline for Constitutional candidates to file for CADEM Post-Primary endorsement for the General Election
July 25 (Sat)	5:00 PM deadline to file a letter of objection for district 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
July 31(Fri) - August 2 (Sun)	CADEM Executive Board Meeting (San Diego, CA). For more information: cadem.org/executive-board
August 1 (Sat)	State Constitutional Offices Endorsement Balloting (if necessary) Location: Sheraton San Diego Resort Time: 4:00 - 7:00PM
August 12 (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 CADEM Endorsements webpage at cadem.org/endorsements. If you have any questions, please email endorsements@cadem.org or contact (916) 442-5707.

The CADEM By-Laws supersede any information provided by staff regarding the endorsement process. A current copy can be found on our website at cadem.org/bylaws.

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, 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 such an objection is filed and it is not upheld by the Election Appeals Committee, the endorsement remains. For more information on this process, please review the 2026 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 on July 20, 2026 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 runoff. 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 12, 2026.

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 in this cycle, you only have to pay the difference if the filing fee for the new district is greater than the previous filing fee.

When can we expect to get an updated voting list for the Post-Primary Endorsing Caucus?

Lists will be shared with qualified campaigns after July 12, 2026.