

DPSC Endorsement Vote Guide

Last Amended January 8, 2015

This is intended to provide the membership with an easy reference guide for the consideration of endorsements. If anything below contradicts our bylaws, the bylaw provision will prevail. If there is any discrepancy, the Parliamentarian will provide a ruling, if so requested. This guide is to accompany the endorsement consent calendar.

If you have not paid your dues, you are ineligible to vote your seat and your alternate is ineligible to vote your seat. Ballots will be distributed when roll of eligible members is called. You may receive multiple ballots of different colors at that time in the expectation that at least one race will be pulled from the consent calendar – you may not need all the ballots given to you. Before a vote is taken, you will be told which color ballot to use for that round of voting.

DO NOT FILL OUT YOUR BALLOTS EARLY AS WE WILL NOT COUNT BALLOTS OF THE WRONG COLOR!

1. Relevant Bylaw Provisions (attached).

If you wish to suspend a bylaw provision regarding our voting requirements, it requires a vote of at least two-thirds (2/3) of the membership present and voting.

2. Synopsis of How the Vote Will Proceed.

According to our bylaws recommendations generally start with a consent calendar. When we reach that item on our agenda, the Chair will ask for all requests to remove items from the consent calendar. At that time, if you wish to remove a race from the consent calendar, you must make a request to do so. After all requests to remove races from the consent calendar are made, we will proceed to a vote on the consent calendar. After the vote on the consent calendar, we will move to the races that have been removed from the consent calendar in the order originally presented on the consent calendar.

3. Removing a Race from the Consent Calendar.

After the Chair opens the floor for requests to remove items from the consent calendar, if you wish to remove a race, raise your hand. The Chair will then recognize all those with raised hands and will note which races to remove from the consent calendar. For races with multiple seats each recommendation is considered a separate race. You must be a voting member to pull a race from the consent calendar.

THREE (3) VOTING MEMBERS ARE REQUIRED TO PULL AN ITEM FROM CONSENT

4. Establishing the Consent Calendar.

After all members who have raised a hand have been recognized, the consent calendar is established. The Chair will read the consent calendar for the membership and proceed to a voice vote without debate. If the Chair determines the voice vote is not definitive, the Chair will proceed to a written ballot on the consent calendar. The Chair will choose a color for the ballot and put the consent calendar to a vote without debate. The ballots will then be collected and counted by the Chair's designees.

5. Consideration of Races Removed from Consent Calendar.

- The Chair will announce the races under consideration and will call the first race in the order it originally appeared on the Consent Calendar.
- Each eligible candidate, or candidate's representative, for that race present at the meeting will be permitted 2 minutes to address the Central Committee. In the Chair's discretion questions may be allowed of the candidates, however, each candidate shall be asked the same questions and allotted the same amount of time to answer. If practicable, the right to answer a question first will alternate between candidates with each subsequent question.
- Races Pulled From Consent: The Chair will then allow 3 members in favor of the Executive Board's recommendation and 3 members against the Executive Board's recommendation to speak, taking alternate turns, for 1 minute each. If a race has multiple candidates, the Chair will increase the number of speakers to ensure that at least one speaker in favor of each candidate is offered the opportunity to speak.
- Races Submitted With "No Recommendation": The Chair will allow members to speak for their preferred candidate or position and permit an equal number of speakers in favor of each position. Each candidate or position shall be permitted at least one speaker. Should more speakers be permitted then they shall take alternate turns speaking.
- At the completion of the speaker's list, the Chair will announce the ballot color to use for that race and the vote to be taken by written ballot. The Chair will open balloting by stating the motion to adopt the Executive Board's recommendation in that race. Each eligible member will vote "Yes" to accept the recommendation or "No" to reject the recommendation. Ballots must be signed to be valid. However, should a race be submitted with "No Recommendation" then the membership shall vote for their preferred candidate or position.
- While the ballots for the first race are being counted by the Chair's designees, the Chair will move on to the next race being considered.
- Once the ballots are counted and verified, the Chair will announce the result at an appropriate break in the process. Any member may observe the counting of the ballots.

- For an endorsement position to be adopted (whether as a recommendation or motion from the floor), it must obtain the vote of at least 60% of the valid votes cast.
- If a recommendation is rejected, a motion to endorse another candidate or take another position is in order (See #6 below).
- If the Executive Board's recommendation is rejected for any race, a motion to endorse another candidate will be voted on by signed ballot, all other motions will be taken by show of hands. Debate on any such motion shall be limited to alternating speeches of 2 members in favor and 2 members against, with time limited to 30 seconds each.
- A member may yield their entire time or a portion of their time in debate to a non-member Democrat, however, no member may yield time to another member nor may any person speak in debate more than once on the same motion.
- Substitute motions are out of order.

6. Possible Positions

Each of these are positions that the Executive Board may recommend, which, if recommended, must be rejected to consider a different position from the floor. Should the Central Committee fail to adopt any of these positions for a particular race or ballot measure then there is no position, and the body may adopt a position at a later meeting:

- Endorsement, support, or "yes"—*Candidates*: An "Endorsement" position for a particular candidate is a position of support for that candidate. *Ballot measures*: This is a "Yes" position in support of the measure.
- No Endorsement, oppose, or "no"—*Candidates*: A "No Endorsement" is a rejection of the candidate(s) in the race under consideration. *Ballot measures*: This is a "No" position in opposition to the measure.
- Neutral—*Both candidates & ballot measures*: This position does not express support or opposition for the candidate(s) or ballot measure under consideration.

SACRAMENTO COUNTY DEMOCRATIC CENTRAL COMMITTEE CONSTITUTION

Revised September 2006; Amended November 2007; Amended February, March & April 2008;
Amended May 2010; Amended November 2010; Amended February & May 2011;
Amended January 2012; Amended March 2013; Amended November 2014

ARTICLE XII - ENDORSEMENTS

Section 3. Standard Endorsement Procedure

The Central Committee shall abide by the following procedure regarding Central Committee endorsements:

[...]

H. The following shall occur at the next general membership meeting, known as the Endorsement Meeting:

1. The Executive Board shall provide its report of recommendations to the Central Committee. The recommendations shall take the form of a consent calendar item on the agenda if multiple recommendations are made;
2. Before consideration of the recommendations consent calendar the Chair shall entertain all requests to remove items from the consent calendar. An item may only be removed from the consent calendar on the request of at least three voting members. Once the remaining consent calendar is established, the body shall vote on the consent calendar as a whole. The body shall then consider each item removed from the consent calendar.
3. All Democratic candidates eligible for endorsement for each race under consideration shall be provided an opportunity to address the Central Committee at the general membership meeting.
4. Unless otherwise provided herein, the Central Committee shall vote by written ballot on the Executive Board recommendations. A vote of at least three-fifths of the valid votes cast shall be required to adopt the Executive Board recommendation. Should the Central Committee fail to adopt the Executive Board recommendation then the Central Committee may take a different position from the floor. Should a race be submitted with "No Recommendation" then the Central Committee shall vote on the race without motion. A candidate or ballot measure position must receive at least three-fifths of the valid votes cast to receive the endorsement.
5. If the Central Committee fails to adopt a specific endorsement position on a candidate or ballot measure the Central Committee shall take no position on the office or ballot measure, unless an endorsement position is subsequently adopted.

[...]