

DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF SACRAMENTO COUNTY

AMENDMENT TO THE BYLAWS

8/8/2019 – Curtis Hall, Sacramento

BYLAWS AMENDMENT 2019-05

*Adopting Bylaws Amendments Regarding the Endorsement Process,
Repealing Article XII & Replacing it with a New Article XII*

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Democratic Party of Sacramento County adopts the following amendment to the Constitution of the Democratic Party of Sacramento County by deleting Article XII and replacing it with a new Article XII:

[Note: additions are **bolded**, deletions are ~~struck through~~, and explanations of the changes are in *italics*]

ARTICLE XII. ENDORSEMENTS

SECTION 1. GENERALLY

- A. The DPSC may endorse candidates for nonpartisan public office and adopt positions on local ballot measures voted on within Sacramento County.**
- B. The DPSC may not do any of the following:**
 - 1. Endorse a non-Democrat;**
 - 2. Endorse more candidates than there are seats to be filled; or**
 - 3. Endorse for a partisan, voter-nominated, or statewide nonpartisan office contrary to an adopted position of the California Democratic Party.**
- C. The DPSC may not endorse, or otherwise support or oppose, a candidate for Central Committee, for delegate to the state or national convention, or for an officer position of a chartered club.**

SECTION 2. ENDORSEMENT PROCESS

- A. The Campaign Services Committee shall, with the Executive Board's review and Central Committee's final approval, establish by standing rule the standard endorsement process for candidate contests and ballot measures.**
- B. In a candidate contest, the standard endorsement process specified in Subsection A shall, at a minimum, include all of the following:**
 - 1. The Campaign Services Committee shall undertake a good faith effort to invite all eligible candidates to participate in the endorsement process. For purposes of this section, "eligible candidate" means a candidate who is a registered Democrat and who is not disqualified as provided in Section 3.**
 - 2. If completion of a questionnaire or participation in an interview is required for a particular race, the requirement shall be imposed on all eligible candidates equally.**

- C. In a ballot measure contest, the Campaign Services Committee shall undertake a good faith effort to contact proponents and opponents of the ballot measure. Failure to identify or find contact information for proponents or opponents after a reasonable search does not impair the Central Committee's ability to adopt an endorsement position.
- D. Notwithstanding Subsection B, in a candidate contest for a multicounty office, the Central Committee may, in a manner prescribed by standing rule, adopt an endorsement position adopted by another Democratic County Central Committee without conducting a separate endorsement process.
- E. The threshold necessary for the Central Committee to adopt a position of endorsement for a particular candidate or a position of either support or opposition on a ballot measure is a vote of at least three-fifths ($3/5^{\text{ths}}$) of the valid votes cast.

SECTION 3 – DISQUALIFICATION

- A. A candidate is not eligible to be considered for endorsement, and shall not be invited to participate in the endorsement process, if any of the following apply:
 - 1. The candidate endorsed a non-Democrat competing against the endorsed candidate of the Democratic Party during the past five (5) years and maintained that endorsement after the candidate was asked by the DPSC to withdraw their endorsement.
 - 2. The candidate has been subject to disciplinary proceedings by the DPSC during the past five (5) years and was expelled from the membership for any cause other than truancy.
 - 3. Ineligibility under subsection A shall only apply to endorsements made after the enactment of this subsection in August of 2019, and this paragraph 3 shall be repealed four (4) years after its effective date.
- B. The Executive Board shall determine whether a candidate is disqualified under Subsection A. The Central Committee may, by two-thirds ($2/3^{\text{rds}}$) vote, and with the Executive Board's approval, remove the disqualification.
- C. The Executive Board or Central Committee may rescind the endorsement of a candidate who violates Subsection A by simple majority vote.

SECTION 4. PERMITTED INTRAPARTY ENDORSEMENTS

- A. The DPSC may, by simple majority vote, endorse a candidate for:
 - 1. An officer or Standing Committee position within the California Democratic Party or its caucuses; or
 - 2. Member or officer of the Democratic National Committee or its affiliated committees.
- B. In considering intraparty endorsements, the endorsement process applicable to candidates for public office does not apply.

SECTION 5. CALIFORNIA DEMOCRATIC PARTY ENDORSEMENTS

- A. An endorsement position adopted by the California Democratic Party for a partisan, voter-nominated, or statewide nonpartisan office is the endorsed position of the DPSC.
- B. A position of support or opposition on a statewide ballot measure adopted by the California Democratic Party is the endorsed position of the DPSC.
- C. The DPSC may, in full compliance with the California Democratic Party's rules, make an endorsement for a statewide nonpartisan office or for a statewide ballot measure in which the California Democratic Party has adopted a neutral position.