

DRAFT FOR ADOPTION

ARTICLE VI: ENDORSEMENT OF CANDIDATES

SECTION 1 - Policy

The San Bernardino County Democratic Central Committee (SBCDCC) recognizes that the Bylaws and Rules of the California Democratic Party preclude it from taking independent action on partisan legislative and statewide races, except to consider ratification of the positions of the California Democratic Party.

It shall be the policy of the SBCDCC to endorse candidates in non-partisan races to inform the county voters of those candidates who uphold the principles and practices of the DEMOCRATIC PARTY. Only registered DEMOCRATS shall be considered for endorsements.

SECTION 2 – Basic Principles

Endorsement of candidates for local or county, non-partisan offices on any ballot in this county shall be governed by these principles:

- a) The SBCDCC may endorse only as many candidates as there are seats to be filled for a particular office in any one election.
- b) The SBCDCC shall only endorse candidates who are registered as a Democratic voter at the time of candidacy filing.
- c) The SBCDCC shall notify all eligible candidates of the endorsement process and timelines. Each candidate shall complete a committee-provided questionnaire supporting their candidacy and participate in an interview process. The questionnaire and interview notes will become part of the Interview Committee's recommendation to the SBCDCC. The SBCDCC shall endorse only candidates who have completed the full evaluation process and have met the threshold for recommendation by the Interview Committees.
- d) The SBCDCC shall not endorse any candidates before the close of the filing period for the office.
- e) Chartered clubs may endorse candidates prior to the close of the filing period, and the SBCDCC encourages candidates to seek club endorsements
- f) Chartered clubs are encouraged to identify and develop potential candidates.

SECTION 3 – Central Committee Procedures

The vote to endorse candidates at the regular meeting shall be based on the recommendations of the Interview Committee(s), listed on the Agenda by area. Voting shall be by the show of member voting cards. A sixty percent (60%) vote of the SBCDCC members present and voting at the regular meeting shall be required to ratify the recommendations of the Interview Committee.

Any voting member of the SBCDCC may request that an individual recommendation made by an Interview Committee be pulled from the Agenda item and be discussed and

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47 voted upon separately.

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Section 4 -- Interview Committee Procedures

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51 a) Up to four Interview Committees shall be convened and coordinated by the Vice
52 Chair for Candidate Development. The Interview Committee(s) shall review the
53 questionnaires, interview candidates, and make recommendations based on
54 those interviews for endorsement of candidates to the SBCDCC.

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56 b) An Interview Committee shall consist of at least three but not more than eleven
57 members or alternates of the SBCDCC. Every effort shall be made to ensure
58 that a majority of the Interview Committee members reside within the geographic
59 area being considered. The SBCDCC Chair or designee shall be an ex-officio
60 member of each Interview Committee. Any SBCDCC member or alternate or
61 chartered club member may observe the interviews.

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63 c) The Interview Committee(s) shall collaborate with the Candidate Development
64 Committee to ensure that all eligible candidates receive timely notice of the
65 interview and recommendation procedures. It is the responsibility of the
66 candidate to respond and request an interview appointment.

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68 d) The Interview Committee coordinator(s) and the Candidate Development
69 Committee are responsible for developing a uniform set of interview questions to
70 be asked of each candidate. Questions unique to a specific office may be
71 included if asked of all candidates for that office.

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73 e) Every effort should be made to insure that the members of the Interview
74 Committee remain the same for all interviews in order to ensure fairness and
75 uniformity.

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77 f) No member of the SBCDCC shall serve as a voting member of an Interview
78 Committee for any office for which he/she is a candidate or is serving as a paid
79 or volunteer campaign staff.

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81 g) The members of the Interview Committee, by a sixty percent (60%) majority vote,
82 shall recommend a list of candidates to the Committee for endorsement.
83 Recommendations may include: Endorse, no endorsement, no consensus.

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SECTION 5 -- Financial Support

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87 The SBCDCC may financially support only the candidates who have been endorsed by
88 the SBCDCC. Endorsement does not guarantee financial support.

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SECTION 6 -- Individual Rights

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92 Individual members of the SBCDCC may endorse Democratic candidates for office only

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93 as individual citizens. The SBCDCC or Party office of those members making such
94 endorsements may be indicated for identification purposes only, and does not imply
95 endorsement by the Democratic Party.

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SECTION 7 -- Ballot Measures

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99 The SBCDCC may, by 60 percent (60%) vote, support or oppose county, city and
100 special district ballot measures. If a 60 percent (60%) majority is not achieved, the
101 SBCDCC shall have no position on the measure.

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SECTION 8 -- Revocation of Endorsement

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105 Should an action to reconsider, revoke or rescind an endorsement for the following
106 reasons need to be considered, the following principles shall be followed.

107 a) The reasons are limited to: failure to uphold the platform of the DEMOCRATIC
108 PARTY, support by the candidate in question of non-Democrats in other races,
109 misrepresentation of the individual's own endorsement status or the
110 endorsement status of other candidates.

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112 b) Immediate action can be taken by the Executive Board to revoke or rescind an
113 endorsement in a timely manner for any candidate who, after investigation and
114 discussion with the candidate, is found to have violated (a.) above. Such action
115 is to be ratified by the full SBCDCC at the next regular meeting.

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117 c) The SBCDCC will publicize such actions, if passed, to all media in the county,
118 and by mail to all Democratic organizations in the County.

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