Candidate Endorsement Procedures for Partisan and Nonpartisan Office

1. President of the United States
2. In accordance with the CDP bylaws, no official unit of the CDP may endorse any candidate for delegate to the Democratic National Convention or endorse candidates for President of the United States until the Democratic National Convention has been held.
3. Individual members may endorse delegates or a candidate for the Democratic Presidential nomination. The political party or office held by such members who make such an endorsement may only be indicated in that endorsement solely for identification purposes.

1. Partisan Public Offices Other Than President

The procedures for endorsement for statewide partisan and non-partisan, assembly, state senate, congress are held pursuant to the By-Laws and Rules of the California Democratic Party.

1. Nonpartisan Public Offices

1. Endorsement of candidates for all local nonpartisan offices within Orange County, shall be the exclusive right and responsibility of the County Committee, and shall be extended only to registered Democrats. All endorsements shall be made in accordance with County Committee bylaws ~~duly adopted at least six (6) months prior to making such endorsements.~~ The option of “no endorsement” shall be provided in any endorsement caucus. The County Committee may endorse by affirmative vote of sixty percent (60%) of those members voting for any Democrat who has filed for nonpartisan office. The County Committee shall not endorse more candidates for an office than the number to be elected for that office. Endorsement procedures shall only take place when requested in writing by a candidate who has taken out papers for a non-partisan office who have requested endorsement and paid the fifty-dollar ($50.00) fee. When an endorsement procedure is requested by a candidate, all candidates who are registered Democrats shall be notified in writing of the date, time and place of all relevant meetings and of their right to consideration. The Committee shall maintain a proof of service of notice~~. No endorsement shall take place until the deadline for filing has passed.~~
2. Endorsement shall take place once the filing deadline has passed, unless the candidate is an incumbent or a candidate in races that have been identified as strategically critical.
3. A race may be designated as strategically critical following a preliminary recommendation by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the executive committee in consultation with the Political Director or Executive Director, and approval by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of This Committee. A candidate will still need to the fifty-dollar ($50.00) fee and fill out an endorsement questionnaire.
4. For races deemed strategically critical, upon recommendation of the executive committee and the central committee, the Committee may endorse both incumbents and non-incumbents early.
5. In special elections, a race may be designated as strategically critical only upon a two- thirds (2/3) vote of both the Executive committee and Central Committee.
6. Endorsements in races designated strategically critical shall be considered at the next Central Committee meeting following the Central Committee meeting in which the race has been determined strategically critical, providing all notice and Questionnaire requirements have been met. Early endorsements in strategically critical races must be passed by a 2/3 majority vote of the central committee.
7. All members of the County Committee, including alternates only when the member for whom they are an alternate is absent for such vote, have voting rights for nonpartisan offices, in accordance with CDP bylaws.
8. A Democratic candidate for nonpartisan office who has been endorsed by the County Committee shall also be considered to be the endorsed candidate of the CDP and shall be entitled to such privileges and benefits as may be attached thereto, e.g., an opportunity, where appropriate, to include his/her name in informational material distributed with the CDP’s mailing permit.
9. It is the intent that the County Committee shall make every reasonable effort:
	1. To see that at least one qualified, registered Democrat is a candidate for each local nonpartisan office within its endorsing jurisdiction.
	2. To raise funds sufficient to provide significant support to endorse candidates needing and wishing support.
	3. To persuade Democrats running against endorsed candidates to withdraw from their races and to extend their support to those carrying the endorsement.
	4. To protect the integrity of its endorsement power by precluding, including through the use of legal process, other entries from representing themselves as purveyors of an official Democratic Party endorsement.
10. Local Ballot Propositions

The County Committee’s position on local ballot propositions may be communicated in informational material, distributed with the CDP’s mailing permit so long as

* 1. The County Committee’s position has been duly adopted and its bylaws have been reviewed and approved by the CDP.