

Encinitas & North Coast Democratic Club (ENCDC) Endorsement Policy

Candidate Endorsements

A. Objectives

The objective of the ENCDC endorsements is to increase the electability of democratic candidates to offices specifically in the city (Encinitas, Carlsbad and Oceanside), county (San Diego), state (Assembly and Senate Districts) and federal government (Congressional Districts), and other offices at the discretion of the Executive Board (E-Board). The E-Board has outlined the following procedures to provide an expeditious and fair endorsement process based on the policy of the chartering authority (San Diego County Democratic Party). However, the Board reserves the right to modify the procedures outlined below as necessary.

Per Article VII of the ENCDC Bylaws, only candidates who are registered Democrats are eligible for Club endorsement. Candidates who are not Democrats may only be rated acceptable or unacceptable.

B. Process

1. Candidates who seek endorsement should attend at least one Club meeting where they introduce themselves to the membership (2 minutes introduction) prior to submitting the endorsement questionnaire.
2. Candidates who seek endorsement must complete the questionnaire on the ENCDC website and submit it to the President at president@encdc.org for assessment prior to the E-Board-scheduled meeting, along with information of any critical dates for the endorsement. If there is more than one democrat running for the specific office for which endorsement is sought, the E-Board will do its utmost to reach out to the other democratic candidates and request

a presentation to the membership, if they wish to be considered for the endorsement. If a candidate does not submit the endorsement questionnaire within the timeline requested and without a reasonable excuse for a grace period after a reminder has been sent, his/her endorsement will not be considered.

3. If a candidate has changed the race/office he/she was running for when previously seeking endorsement, the endorsement questionnaire will have to be resubmitted with the new office/race and the endorsement process will follow as per any new endorsement.
4. The E-Board may assess the endorsement questionnaire, and in some circumstances may hold a vote at the E-Board meeting to advance a candidate to the membership requiring a simple majority of votes. The questionnaire will be assessed for issues that may conflict with democratic values and the E-Board will approve bringing it forward to the members for their endorsement. The E-Board may also choose to not make a recommendation to the members when the E-Board deems it appropriate to do so.
5. The E-Board will invite the candidate(s) to attend the Club General meeting for a presentation to the membership, where the candidate will have an opportunity to speak (2 minutes) or be allowed a surrogate to speak on their behalf due to special circumstances.
6. Reasonable attempts will be made by the E Board to notify and invite all declared candidates who the San Diego Democratic Party has established with certainty are registered Democrats regarding the date, time, and place of the club's meetings and of the club's endorsement process at least five (5) business days prior to the meeting.
7. Voting shall be done based on the following procedure:
 - a. No candidates may be present during the debate on their specific endorsement.
 - b. Only club members may address the meeting attendees. A member in good standing can only make a public comment. Speakers who are

eligible Voting Members can speak for or against any candidate but will be limited to two (2) Speakers from 30 seconds to 2 minutes per speaker at the chair's discretion with the same amount of time given to all.

Speakers may alternate between one for and one against the motion at the Chair's discretion. Additional speakers may be allowed at the Chair's discretion

- c. A position on a candidate requires a minimum sixty percent (60%) vote.
- d. Members shall be presented with a "No Endorsement" option on all votes.
- e. If no candidate receives a minimum of sixty percent (60%) in the first round of balloting (when only two candidates are running for the same seat), the members may be offered a No Endorsement/ Both Candidates Acceptable option to vote on.
- f. If there are more than two (2) candidates running for the same seat, a second ballot shall be taken after removing the candidate receiving the least votes and any candidates receiving zero votes.
- g. If in the second round of balloting, a candidate receives at least fifty percent (50%) but less than the sixty percent (60%) threshold, subsequent balloting shall continue after removing the candidate receiving the least votes and any candidates receiving zero votes.
- h. Balloting shall continue using the same procedure described in 7e, as long as one candidate receives at least fifty percent (50%) but less than sixty percent (60%) and at least three (3) other candidates remain.
- i. If after the completion of balloting, no candidate has received the minimum required votes to reach the sixty percent (60%) threshold for endorsement, and only two candidates remain, the position of the body shall be "No Endorsement". A "No Endorsement" position does not require a 60% vote.

C. Assessment

The ENCDC Board will consider the following in recommending an endorsement in instances where the Board deems it necessary to do so:

1. the extent to which a candidate has demonstrated involvement with, support of and responsiveness to, democratic party values;
2. demonstrated commitment to women’s rights and equal justice under the law;
3. demonstrated support of community organizations, including, but not limited to those related to the advancement of democratic values.

D. Friendly Incumbent Endorsements

The E-Board can recommend a Friendly Incumbent Endorsement if the elected official had been endorsed by this Club previously, and has a supportive voting record on appropriate issues, as determined by the E-Board. The Friendly Incumbent Endorsement is intended to reward an incumbent for his or her support of Democratic and progressive positions. A Friendly Incumbent Endorsement may be made any time after the incumbent has announced his or her intention to run for re-election to his/ her seat.

Ballot Measure/Propositions Endorsements

A. Objectives

The ENCDC Club will endorse ballot measures to increase exposure for a measure amongst its membership if it meets core democratic values.

Only Club member(s) in good standing can submit a ballot measure/proposition for endorsement.

The Club may rate any ballot proposition as “Support,” “Oppose,” or “No Position.”

B. Process

1. The member seeking the endorsement of a ballot measure/proposition should submit it to the E-Board in writing prior to the E-Board scheduled meeting.
2. The E-Board will assess the measure/proposition based on the appropriateness of the issue, as it applies to its membership.
3. Upon completion of the assessment, the E-Board will invite the member(s) to attend the Club General meeting for an introduction of the measure/proposition to the membership, giving the membership due notice of 7 to 14 days.
4. Speakers for or against any motion will be limited from 30 seconds to 2 minutes per speaker at the chair's discretion with the same amount of time given to all speakers on the motion.
5. Speakers for and against any motion will be limited to 2 speakers for or against the motion as recognized by the chair. Additional speakers may be allowed at the chair's discretion.
6. Speakers will alternate between one for the motion and one against the motion.
7. Speakers must conform to the Code of Conduct when speaking.
8. When speaking on an endorsement consideration, members should start by declaring they have no conflicts of interest or if they do, declaring the conflict before beginning their speaking time.
9. Only club voting members may address the committee.
10. If the measure/proposition receives the majority (60%) of votes of the voting members present, the measure/proposition will be endorsed.

Club Funds and Endorsements

Club funds may be contributed only to the campaigns of candidates endorsed or rated "Approved" by the Club and ballot propositions earning a rating of "Support." The Board may designate certain races and issues as "priority campaigns" to indicate that those campaigns should be given priority in terms of funding or Club- coordinated volunteer efforts. An endorsement, a rating of

“Approve” or a vote of “Support” shall not entitle any candidate or group promoting a ballot proposition to a donation of Club funds or to Club-coordinated volunteer efforts.

Withdrawal of Endorsements

Any endorsement or rating given by the Club may be withdrawn at any time upon a majority (60%) of vote by voting members at a duly noticed general meeting at which a quorum is present. This provision shall apply to Friendly Incumbent Endorsements in addition to all other endorsements or ratings. In the event of significant changed or newly discovered circumstances, the E-Board shall have the power to suspend any endorsement or rating given by the Club and to submit that endorsement or rating to a re-vote at the next properly noticed Club meeting.

Narima Lopes

(President)

Approved and Adopted June 1, 2024