

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 and Carlsbad), county (San Diego), state (Assembly districts 76 and 79, and Senate District 36) and federal government (Congressional District 49), and other offices at the discretion of the Executive Board. The 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 prior to submitting the endorsement questionnaire.
2. Candidates who seek endorsement should complete the questionnaire on the ENCDC website and submit it to the President at president@encdc.org for assessment prior to the 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 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 questionnaire within the timeline requested by the Board, his/her endorsement will not be considered.
3. The Board may assess the endorsement questionnaire and hold a vote at the Board meeting and select candidate(s) (if more than one) who gets the majority (60%) of votes to present for endorsement to the members. The Board may also choose to not make a recommendation to the members when the Board deems it appropriate to do so.
 4. The 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 or be allowed a surrogate to speak on their behalf.
 5. Reasonable attempts will be made by the Executive Board to notify and invite all declared candidates who the 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.
 6. Voting shall be done based on the following procedure:
 - a. No candidates may be present during the debate on their specific endorsement
 - b. A position on a candidate requires a minimum sixty percent (60%) vote.
 - c. Members shall be presented with a "No Endorsement" option on all votes.
 - d. If no candidate receives a minimum of sixty percent (60%) in the first round of balloting, a second ballot shall be taken after removing the candidate receiving the least votes and any candidates receiving zero votes.
 - e. 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.

- f. Balloting shall continue using the same procedure described in 5d, as long as one candidate receives at least fifty percent (50%) but less than sixty percent (60%) and at least one (1) other candidate remains.
- g. If after the completion of balloting, no candidate has received the minimum required votes to reach the sixty percent (60%) threshold for endorsement, the position of the body shall be “No Endorsement”. A “No Endorsement” position does not require a 60% vote.
- h. A motion may be passed that “candidates are acceptable”

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 ENCDC Board can recommend a Friendly Incumbent Endorsement if the elected official has a supportive voting record on appropriate issues, as determined by the 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 or 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 Board in writing prior to the Board scheduled meeting.
2. The Board will assess it based on the appropriateness of the issue as it applies to its membership.
3. Upon completion of the assessment, the 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 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 3 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 1 for the motion and 1 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, however a member may yield their time to a non-member.
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 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

Adopted May 1, 2021