

## **Standing Rules for Endorsements Escondido Democratic Club**

1. Club endorsements of candidates for public office and club positions on ballot propositions may be determined at any properly noticed club meeting, provided that a quorum is present and that the notice of the meeting (normally contained in the Club newsletter) included notification of the races or ballot measures which are to be considered for endorsement or rating. (A quorum is 20 members in good standing at the time of the meeting.) To be eligible to vote for endorsement of a candidate or ballot proposition, a member must have been a member in good standing at least 25 days prior to the meeting. Proxy voting and absentee voting is not permitted; however, a club member who attends a meeting where an endorsement vote is held may exercise the option to cast an endorsement ballot prior to the vote, pursuant to the procedures indicated in Section 17 below. (Note: Candidates and their staff members, who are otherwise eligible to vote, are also eligible to vote on all endorsements.)
2. Voting on any endorsement shall be by secret ballot when requested by any member eligible to vote.
3. The Executive Board shall recommend the selection of races and propositions to be included on the slate. The selection may be modified by a majority vote of those eligible members present and voting. Endorsements normally will be made as soon as is practical after candidates are certified.
4. In partisan and non-partisan elections, only Democratic candidates may be endorsed. This rule is not subject to suspension.
5. An affirmative vote of at least 60 percent of the club members present and eligible to vote shall be required to endorse a candidate, rate a candidate, or take a position on a ballot proposition. (Note: The vote required is measured by all those eligible members “present,” not just those “present and voting”.) The option of “No Endorsement” shall be included on the endorsement ballot for each race or ballot measure.
6. Only one candidate may be endorsed per seat. An endorsement implies that the club recommends that people vote for that candidate rather than any other candidates for that seat. It does not necessarily imply that the club supports all of the candidate’s positions.
7. Candidate surveys shall be prepared and approved by the Executive Board and shall be reviewed periodically (at least every two years) to ensure that current issues are adequately reflected. Candidates for judicial office will be evaluated on a specifically tailored and limited survey and/or attendance at the appropriate meeting. The completed survey shall be assessed by the Political Action Committee chaired by the Vice President for Political Action.
8. Candidates wishing to be considered for an endorsement or acceptable rating must meet one of the following criteria:
  - a. They are running for state-wide or national office
  - b. They are declared a friendly incumbent by the Executive Board
  - c. They complete a candidate survey
9. All candidates for non-partisan office and all Democrats for partisan office will be invited to appear at the endorsement meeting to answer questions.
10. Prior to voting on a candidate race, a Club member shall either make a motion that the Club consider an endorsement in the specified race or a motion that the Club forgo an endorsement and immediately consider rating candidates in the race. A single such motion may include more than one race; however, at the request of any member, a separate vote to consider an endorsement or to consider rating candidates shall be taken on a particular race. A simple majority vote is required for either motion to pass. If neither a motion to consider an endorsement or a motion to consider rating candidates in a race receives a majority vote, then the outcome shall be listed as “No Position” in that race.
11. If no candidate receives the required 60 percent vote for endorsement, sub-sequent ballots shall be taken deleting the candidate receiving the least number of votes and those receiving no votes on the previous ballot.
12. If after the completion of balloting, no candidate has received the 60 percent of the vote required for an endorsement, the chair may entertain motions to rate one or more of the candidates. If a candidate is endorsed, the remaining candidates shall not be rated.

13. The club may choose any of the following options for rating candidates:
  - a. “Acceptable”—Circumstances justifying this rating include, but are not limited to: (i) the candidate does not qualify for an endorsement, however the club feels the person is supportable, (ii) the candidate has a good record and/or good position statements, however the club disagrees with the candidate on one or more significant issues, (iii) there are more than one good candidates, and the club prefers to rate them each as acceptable rather than endorse a single candidate.
  - b. “Unacceptable”—Circumstances justifying this rating include, but are not limited to: (i) the candidate has a poor position or record on one or more critical issues, (ii) the candidate has demonstrated a lack of responsiveness.
  - c. “No Position”—Circumstances justifying this rating include, but are not limited to the following: (i) not enough information is known about the candidate, (ii) the candidate appears to be between the ratings of “Acceptable” and “Unacceptable,” (iii) it would not be politically expedient to take a position.
14. The club may rate any ballot proposition as “Support,” “Oppose,” or “No Position.”
15. In the event that the club entertains a motion to rate a candidate or ballot proposition, and 60% of those voting cannot agree on the assignment of any of the rating options listed above, then that candidate or proposition shall be assigned the rating of “No Consensus.”
16. No candidates, including candidates who are also club members, may be present for debate on the office for which that candidate is contending.
17. A club member who attends a meeting where an endorsement vote is held may exercise the option to cast an endorsement ballot prior to the vote. The Teller shall hold such ballots until the vote is called for that particular race or ballot measure. In the event that the motion to consider an endorsement in a candidate race fails, the ballots submitted in advance shall be discarded. Ballots submitted in advance are considered only in the first round of balloting; they are not included in runoffs.
18. Club funds may only be contributed to the campaigns of those candidates endorsed by the club and those ballot propositions earning a rating of “Support.” The club by a 60% vote may designate certain races/issues as “priority campaigns” to indicate that those campaigns should be given priority in terms of funding or club-coordinated volunteer efforts.
19. These rules may be suspended by a 2/3 vote of those present and voting, provided that a quorum is present. These rules may be amended by a 2/3 vote of those present and voting at any properly called club meeting, provided that a quorum is present, and provided that notice of the proposed amendment was included with the notice of the meeting.

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### **Friendly Incumbent Endorsement Guidelines**

- A. Friendly incumbent endorsements may be considered for all incumbents who have a supportive voting record on appropriate issues, as determined by the Executive Board. The friendly incumbent endorsement is intended to reward incumbents for their support and should be completed early so the candidate has a greater opportunity to use the Club’s endorsement to discourage challengers.
- B. A friendly incumbent endorsement does not require the completion of a questionnaire or attendance at an endorsement meeting.
- C. The Executive Board may determine eligibility for a friendly incumbent endorsement for an incumbent who has no voting record by virtue of holding an administrative, executive or other non-legislative office.
- D. Friendly incumbent endorsements may be approved on a consent calendar. Any member may remove a candidate from the consent calendar for separate consideration.
- E. Where an incumbent does not receive a friendly incumbent endorsement, the office will be treated as open. All candidates that office (including the incumbent) will then be required to follow the standard endorsement procedure.