

## **Standing Rules for Endorsements Escondido Democratic Club (EDC)**

In this document, “endorsement meeting” shall refer to a meeting of the EDC membership that has been properly scheduled and at which a quorum is achieved (Bylaws, Art. VII, Secs 1, 2, & 3).

“Endorsement” means that EDC recommends voting for the endorsed candidate over all other candidates in that race. It does not necessarily imply that EDC supports all of the candidate’s positions.

1. The EDC may endorse or rate candidates for public office and may rate ballot propositions. In any election, only one member of the Democratic Party per race may be endorsed by the EDC. This rule may not be suspended.
2. The Vice President for Political Action (VPA), in coordination with the county Democratic Party, shall have overall responsibility for enforcing these Standing Rules. To ensure that EDC endorsements/ratings can be made expeditiously, the VPA may form a committee to assist in the process. The committee will prepare candidate questionnaires appropriate to the office sought that must be completed and returned to the committee by all Democrats seeking the endorsement of the EDC. After the questionnaires are reviewed by the committee, the VPA will report the committee’s findings to the EDC Executive Board. The Board retains the right to approve any questionnaire form prior to its distribution. Completed questionnaires must be submitted by the candidate to the VPA before the Executive Board Meeting held before the general meeting of the EDC during which the endorsement proceedings take place.
3. Completed candidate questionnaires shall be summarized by the Executive Board. The Board’s summary shall be communicated to the members during the endorsement meeting; no written or photographic copy of the summary shall be permitted to be taken out of the meeting room. Neither completed candidate questionnaires nor the Executive Board summaries shall be released by any EDC member to the public. For Judicial candidates, their San Diego Bar Association rating should be made available by the VPA for consideration during the endorsement meeting.
4. Candidates who wish to be endorsed by the EDC must make their endorsement request to the VPA. The VPA may ask candidates if they would like to make a request to be endorsed by the EDC.
5. The VPA and the President are responsible for scheduling endorsement meetings. Notices of endorsement meetings must include a list of races and ballot propositions that will be under consideration. Any Democratic candidate for Congress, State Assembly, or State Senate, who has requested an endorsement by the EDC, will be invited to appear at an endorsement meeting to address the membership and answer questions posed by members. Any candidates for traditionally non-partisan offices—City Council, School Boards, etc., who have requested an endorsement or rating by the EDC will be invited to appear at an endorsement meeting to address the membership and answer questions posed by members. At the recommendation of the EDC Executive Board, ballot propositions may be considered for endorsement. The EDC

Executive Board may invite proponents or opponents of considered propositions to address the membership and answer members' questions.

6. At endorsement meetings, the President or VPA will be guided by *Robert's Rules of Order* in accepting motions from the floor. The membership will receive instructions in the proper phrasing of motions and will be made aware of the percentage of affirmative votes needed to pass a motion. Only one motion may be entertained at a time by the membership. The President or VPA may call for a closed session for endorsement discussion or voting at their discretion.
7. In order to vote at endorsement meetings, a member must have had full membership status for at least 25 days before the meeting (Bylaws, Art. VI, Sec. 6). Candidates for office and their staff members who meet this criterion are eligible to vote.
8. Voting on any endorsement or rating shall be by secret ballot if requested by a full member. No candidate, including candidates who are EDC members, may be present for the discussion concerning the race in which that candidate is a contender.
9. Proxy and absentee voting is not permitted. However, a voting-eligible member may cast a ballot at an endorsement meeting prior to the actual vote. The VPA shall hold the ballot until the vote is called. Ballots submitted in advance shall only be considered in the first round of balloting.
10. A vote of 60% or more of full members present and voting shall be required to endorse or to rate a candidate or to rate a ballot proposition.
  - A. Members shall be presented with a "No Endorsement" option on all votes.
  - B. 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.
  - C. 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.
  - D. Balloting shall continue using the same procedure described in C, as long as one (1) candidate receives at least fifty percent (50%) but less than sixty percent (60%) and at least one (1) other candidate remains.
  - E. 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 club shall be "No Endorsement".
11. The membership may choose the following options for rating candidates who are not Democrats:

"Acceptable" when, for example there is no Democrat in the race but the membership is willing to support the candidate(s); or if the candidate has a good record or good position statements but has differences with EDC on important issues.

“Unacceptable” when, for example the candidate has a poor or unsatisfactory record or has taken positions considered offensive by EDC or has demonstrated a lack of responsiveness or trustworthiness.

12. Once a Democratic candidate has been endorsed, the “Acceptable” rating may not be applied to any other candidate. However the rating of “Unacceptable” may be applied to any candidate that the EDC specifically decides to censure.
13. The membership may rate any ballot proposition as “Support”, “Oppose”, “No Position”, or “No Consensus”

#### **Friendly Incumbent Endorsement (FIE) Guidelines**

14. FIE may be considered for incumbents who have a favorable or supportive record on issues important to EDC as evaluated by the Executive Board. The FIE can be given early in an election cycle so that the incumbent has the opportunity to use the endorsement to discourage challengers.
15. An incumbent receiving an FIE is not required to complete a candidate questionnaire or appear at an endorsement meeting.
16. FIE are not considered automatic. They must be reconsidered with each election cycle.