



Standing Rules on Endorsement Procedures

The Albany Democratic Club may endorse candidates for public office, take positions on ballot issues, and contribute to political campaigns according to the procedures set by the Albany Democratic Club Bylaws and these Albany Democratic Club Standing Rules.

A. Definitions

1. "Candidate" means a person seeking elected public office.
2. "Candidates' Forum" means an Albany Democratic Club meeting at which 1) Candidates or representatives of Candidates are heard and questioned and/or 2) reports and recommendations are made regarding the election of Candidates.
3. "Albany Democratic Club member" or "member" means a member listed in good standing for at least 45 days prior to the endorsement meeting and by June 1st.
4. "Election" is either a "general" or "special" election, in which voters make a final selection of candidates for elected public office and/or determine ballot issues, or a "primary" in which voters determine candidates for the "general" or "special" election.
5. "Endorsement Meeting" means an Albany Democratic Club meeting to which members have received notice that the Club will vote on whether to endorse Candidates. This is held after or concurrent with a Candidates' Forum.
6. "Albany Democratic Club, Club Officers" include the elected positions of the Club, including the President, Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary and Members at Large.
7. "Ballot Issue" means an initiative, referendum, or measure placed before voters for which at least 15% of the Albany Democratic Club membership are eligible to vote in the Election.
8. "Local" means limited to the city of Albany.
9. "Non-local" means outside the city of Albany, e.g. at the county, state, or federal level.

B. Candidate Endorsements

1. Notice: Members will receive notice of the date, place, and time for a Candidates' Forum/ Endorsement Meeting, on the Albany Democratic Club website or otherwise, emailed at least 10 days prior to the meeting. Additionally, at least 10 days in advance the Albany Democratic Club shall provide notice to Candidates registered as Democrats of a Candidates' Forum/ Endorsement Meeting. The notice shall invite the Candidate to provide written material for those attending the Candidates' Forum/ Endorsement Meeting. Notice shall be provided to other Candidates at the Albany Democratic Club, Club Officers' discretion.

2. Type of Forum: The Albany Democratic Club, Club Officers shall conduct a Candidate Forum for contested races with more than one registered Democratic Candidate. The Albany Democratic Club, Club Officers may also invite all candidates for certain offices to be heard and questioned at a Candidate Forum. Typically, for non-partisan races, such as Albany City Council, Albany School Board, County Board of Supervisors, etc., all Candidates, including Candidates who are not Democrats, are heard and questioned. Other offices for which a Candidates' Forum may be held include:

- a. Special districts such as BART Directors and AC Transit Directors
- b. County offices such as county clerk, district attorney, treasurer, auditor, and Democratic Central Committee member.
- c. State offices such as Assembly, Senate, Governor, Lt. Governor, Secretary of State, Treasurer, Controller, Attorney General, Superintendent of Public Instruction, Insurance Commissioner, and Board of Equalization.
- d. Federal offices such as House of Representatives, Senator, and President/Vice President.
- e. Judicial offices such as Superior Court, District Appeal Court, and State Supreme Court. The members present at an Endorsement Meeting may determine not to have an endorsement vote on an office.
- e. Judicial offices such as Superior Court, District Appeal Court, and State Supreme Court. The members present at an Endorsement Meeting may determine not to have an endorsement vote on an office.

C. Albany Democratic Club Endorsement

The Albany Democratic Club may endorse a Candidate when:

- a. five days have passed from the deadline for filing a statement of intention, if applicable, and if not applicable, filing for the office, except when the Albany Democratic Club, Club Officers determine that this requirement is impractical under the circumstances;
- b. notice has been provided to Candidates as required by Section B.1 above;
- c. the Candidate is a Democrat;
- d. at least 15% of the Albany Democratic Club membership are eligible to vote in the election for which the Candidate is to be endorsed; and
- e. the endorsed Candidate receives an affirmative vote of at least 60% of the members present and voting, but not less than 5% of the membership or 10 members, whichever is greater.

The Candidates meeting the requirements of this Section with the greatest number of votes, up to the number of seats to be filled in the election for an office, shall be endorsed. The endorsement of a Candidate in a primary election shall remain in effect for the general or special election, except when the Candidate endorsed in the primary election is not among the top two vote getters and as a result is not on the ballot other than as a write-in candidate) for the general or special election.

D. Albany Democratic Club Endorsement Voting

All members present at the Endorsement Meeting are eligible to vote on all non-local endorsements, and shall have one vote per seat to be filled in each election for an office. Only members present at the Endorsement Meeting who are Albany residents are eligible to vote on local endorsements. Voting by proxy shall not be permitted. Balloting for offices in which Candidates or representatives of Candidates are heard and questioned shall be by secret ballot. For all other offices, balloting shall be by show of hands or by secret ballot at the discretion of the Albany Democratic Club, Club Officers. Voting for each office shall contain the option of "no endorsement". A "no endorsement" vote shall be counted in the total present and voting. A ranked choice or instant runoff system shall not be used. For each office, the voting shall consider only registered Democrats. The Albany Democratic Club, Club Officers shall determine the process for

voting administration, and may select a member or members to serve as judge(s) to monitor the fairness of the voting.

E. Ballot Issue Positions

Notice and Voting: Members will receive notice of the date, place, and time for a meeting to consider ballot issue positions, or on the Albany Democratic Club website or otherwise emailed at least 10 days prior to the meeting. The affirmative vote of at least 60% of the members present and voting, but not less than 5% of the membership or 10 members, whichever is greater, is necessary to endorse or disapprove a ballot issue. All members present at the meeting are eligible to vote on all non-local ballot issues brought to a vote. Only members present at the meeting who are Albany residents are eligible to vote on local ballot issues brought to a vote. The members present at the meeting may determine not to have a vote on a ballot issue. Before the vote, members shall have a reasonable opportunity to present and hear arguments for and against the ballot issue. Voting by proxy shall not be permitted. Balloting shall be by show of hands or by secret ballot at the discretion of the Albany Democratic Club, Club Officers. Voting for each ballot issue shall contain the option of "no position". A "no position" vote shall be counted in the total present and voting. The Albany Democratic Club, Club Officers shall determine the process for voting administration, and may select a member or members to serve as judge(s) to monitor the fairness of the voting.

F. Political Contributions

The Albany Democratic Club may contribute money to a political campaign of a Candidate or Ballot Issue it has endorsed or to the Alameda County Central Committee when notice has been provided to members of the date, place, and time for a meeting to consider the political contribution, on the Albany Democratic Club website or otherwise, emailed at least 10 days prior to the meeting. The notice shall specify the amount to be considered and the expected impact of such contribution on the Albany Democratic Club budget. The affirmative vote of at least 60% of the members present and voting, but not less than 5% of the membership or 10 members, whichever is greater, is necessary to authorize a political contribution. All members present at the meeting are eligible to vote on a political contribution. Before the vote, members shall have a reasonable opportunity to present and hear arguments for and against the political contribution. Voting by proxy shall not be permitted. Balloting shall be by show of hands or by secret ballot at the discretion of the Albany Democratic Club, Club Officers. Voting for each political contribution shall contain the option of "no position". A "no position" vote shall be counted in the total present and voting. The Albany Democratic Club, Club Officers shall determine the process

for voting administration, and may select a member or members to serve as judge(s) to monitor the fairness of the voting.

G. Distribution of Endorsed Candidate and Ballot Measure Literature.

The Albany Democratic Club may distribute literature on behalf of endorsed candidates up to a double sided 5.5" by 8.5" card stock piece. Albany Democratic Club volunteers will not distribute larger pieces of literature.

H. Selection of California Democratic Party Delegates

Members shall select the allowed number of delegates, as determined by the County Central Committee, during the September meeting. The affirmative vote of at least 50% of the members present and voting, but not less than 5% of the membership or 10 members, whichever is greater, is necessary to authorize a delegate. All members present at the meeting are eligible to vote. Before the vote, candidate may speak. Voting by proxy shall not be permitted. Balloting shall be by show of hands or by secret ballot at the discretion of the Albany Democratic Club, Club Officers. The Albany Democratic Club, Club Officers shall determine the process for voting administration, and may select a member or members to serve as judge(s) to monitor the fairness of the voting. Members that are already selected as delegates 4 (i.e. CADEM, appointed or Central Committee) are not eligible candidates to represent the Albany Democratic Club. The Albany Democratic Club, Club Officers shall appoint members to serve any unfilled delegate positions.

I. Support of Proposed Legislation

Notice and Voting: Members will receive notice of the date, place, and time for a meeting to consider proposed legislation, or on the Albany Democratic Club website or otherwise emailed at least 10 days prior to the meeting. The affirmative vote of at least 60% of the members present and voting, but not less than 5% of the membership or 10 members, whichever is greater, is necessary to endorse or disapprove proposed legislation. All members present at the meeting are eligible to vote on all ballot issues brought to a vote. The members present at the meeting may determine not to have a vote on proposed legislation. Before the vote, members shall have a reasonable opportunity to present and hear arguments for and against the proposed legislation. Voting by proxy shall not be permitted. Balloting shall be by show of hands or by secret ballot at the discretion of the Albany Democratic Club, Club Officers. Voting for each ballot issue shall contain the option of "no position". A "no position" vote shall be counted in the total present and voting. The Albany Democratic Club, Club Officers shall determine the process for voting

administration, and may select a member or members to serve as judge(s) to monitor the fairness of the voting.