

Resolution: UDOV 1 April 9, 2026

Resolution of Support to “Open Letter to the Democratic Candidate for Governor by Democratic Party Chair Rusty Hicks”.

Whereas it is the responsibility of the United Democrats of the Ojai Valley (UDOV) to take a position in the June 2, 2026 primary race for the office of Governor of California 2026. The February 20-22, 2026 CA Democratic Endorsing Convention did not come to a consensus for endorsing a candidate with the required 60% approval of voting delegates.

Whereas UDOV recognizes the June 2 Primary Election will result in the top two candidates moving on to the November 3, 2026 election regardless of party affiliation. There are eight Democrats and two Republican candidates on the ballot for June 2, setting up a contest with a possible scenario for Democrats to be locked out of the November 3 election for Governor.

Whereas UDOV supports the Democratic Party Chair Rusty Hicks’s open letter to all candidates **without a “viable path”** to victory to drop out prior to the March 6 deadline to filing paperwork. **All eight candidates filed paperwork and all eight candidates will appear on the June 2 ballot.**

Whereas UDOV recognizes a crowded field of eight candidates will likely split the Democratic votes with the possible result of the primary being two Republican candidates on the November 3 ballot.

Whereas UDOV supports Rusty Hicks’s call for candidates to drop out by April 15, at the very latest, if the candidates could not make **“meaningful progress”**. The various polls show three Democratic candidates splitting votes in a close tie at the top with the remaining five candidates polling in single digits at the bottom of the polls. The polls also show two Republicans gathering a larger percentage of voters over the Democrats with a large percentage of voters still undecided. The polls validate a large number of Democrat candidates will dilute the strength of the Democratic vote statewide.

Whereas UDOV recognizes the potential damage of a Trump-led Republican party in charge of California for years to come. The UDOV acknowledges the personal sacrifices every candidate has made in running for this election and we thank the candidates for their dedication and hard work. We now respectfully ask, with so much at stake, to follow the call of Rusty Hicks’s open letter for unelectable candidates to responsibly suspend their campaigns and endorse a leading candidate.

Whereas UDOV resolves complete support of Rusty Hicks' call **“for every Democratic candidate to honestly assess the viability of their candidacy and campaign”**.

“If you decide to file, be prepared to suspend your campaign and endorse another candidate on or before April 15 if your campaign cannot show meaningful progress towards winning the Primary Election”.