

Updated proposed amendment to San Mateo County Democratic Central Committee Bylaws

The Bylaws Committee met on March 6 and 27 to review the proposed Bylaws changes submitted by the Vice Chairs.

Based upon our review of the transcript from the February General Meeting of the Central Committee and our subsequent discussions, the following amendments are now submitted for consideration by the Members.

ARTICLE VI. REMOVAL FROM THE COMMITTEE OR EXECUTIVE BOARD

Section 1. Grounds for Removal

A. Any Elected Member ~~or Alternate, other than an Ex-officio member,~~ who during his/her term registers as a member of another party, publicly advocates that voters do not vote for the endorsed nominee of the Democratic Party for any partisan office, or gives support to or endorses the nominee of another party in a partisan race or a non-endorsed democratic candidate in a non-partisan race, when the Committee has made an endorsement, may be removed.

B. Any Member or Alternate who endorses a candidate in a non-partisan race not previously endorsed by this Committee identifying himself as a "San Mateo County Democratic Central Committee Member" may be removed.

C. Any Member or Alternate other than an Ex-officio member, who misses three regularly scheduled meetings without excuse during the course of a two-year term shall be removed from the Committee according to Section 2 of this Article.

D. Any Member or Alternate Member who fails to pay their dues in accordance with Article III, Section 5 shall be removed in accordance with Section 2 of this Article.

E. Any Member or Alternate who engages in conduct deemed to be unbecoming during the execution of Central Committee business shall be subject to removal from the Committee. Misconduct shall include but not be limited to sexual or other forms of harassment.

ARTICLE XIII. ENDORSEMENTS

Section 1.

A. The official Democratic Party endorsement of candidates for San Mateo County local and county non-partisan offices, and positions regarding local and county ballot measures, shall be the exclusive responsibility of the San Mateo County Democratic Central Committee, as provided for in the Bylaws of the California Democratic Party.

B. No Member may use his/her title as a Committee officer or Member in advocacy of any candidate for non-partisan office or any position relative to any non-partisan political issue or proposition until receiving the consent of the Committee by a 60% (sixty percent) vote of Members present and voting.

C. Committee endorsements shall be extended only to candidates registered as Democrats by the filing deadline for the office they seek, and endorsements shall not be given to more candidates than there are seats open for the particular office in question. No endorsement shall take place prior to the filing deadline.

D. ~~No~~Any Member may give support to or endorse a candidate from another party or the non-endorsed democratic candidate in a local non-partisan race, ~~act even~~ in an individual capacity, when the Committee has made an endorsement, because such advocacy would violate the Committee's mission to "support Democratic candidates and elected officials at all levels of government, and ballot measures promoting Democratic values in San Mateo County and the State of California." ~~in advocacy of any candidate for local non partisan office or any position relative to any non-partisan political issue or proposition provided that the Member makes a diligent effort to ensure that their affiliation with the Committee is not disclosed in the context of such advocacy.~~

Section 2.

A. In the event the Committee is called upon to, or desires to make endorsements or recommendations for appointed or elective positions, or any proposition or local issue, only one endorsement or recommendation can be made for any vacancy, proposition or issue.

B. The Endorsements Committee shall notify candidates who are Democrats in writing, informing them of the time place and procedure for endorsements, and thereafter interview said candidates.

C. The Endorsements Committee will study materials concerning propositions and other issues of import, at the direction of the Committee.

D. The Endorsements Committee will present their recommendations in writing to the full Committee. An endorsement must be approved by a 60% (sixty percent) vote of Members present and voting.

Section 3.

~~Neither the Committee, nor any Elected Member in their individual capacity,~~ shall ~~not~~ endorse a non-Democrat in any partisan election or a non-endorsed democratic candidate in a non-partisan election where the Committee has made an endorsement.

Section 4.

The Committee shall make no endorsement in a partisan election race when the California Democratic Party has made no endorsement.

Section 5.

In the event a compelling reason to consider rescinding an endorsement of a candidate is brought forward to the Chair, reasonable efforts will be made to contact the candidate in question and to give such candidate an opportunity to state their position with regard to such possible rescission to the deciding body as set forth in this section of these Bylaws. If time allows (as determined by the Chair), the possible rescission shall be brought before the full Committee to decide, with a vote of 60% (sixty percent) of Members present and voting required to rescind. If time does not allow (as determined by the Chair), the possible rescission shall be brought before a group comprised of the voting members of the Executive Board plus the chair of the Endorsements Committee to decide, with a vote of a majority of such group required to rescind.