

Democratic Alliance for Action of Santa Clarita (approved 2/18/16)

ENDORSEMENTS, POSITIONS, RECOMMENDATIONS & RESOLUTIONS RULES AND PROCEDURES

1. Purpose of these Rules and Procedures:

- 1.1. To implement a uniform method to establish and express the Official Opinions of the DAA.
- 1.2. To provide a uniform method for Democratic candidates, their supporters, and proponents of positions on issues a method to gain the official support of the DAA.
- 1.3. To build consensus and support for Democratic candidates and issues.

2. Effective date and legal status:

- 2.1. Once each top-level section of this document is approved by a 60% or greater majority of all voting members at a General Membership meeting, that section shall be deemed complete and approved.
- 2.2. Once a top-level section of this document is complete and approved, it shall:
 - 2.2.1. Carry the same weight and significance as the DAA Bylaws.
 - 2.2.2. Be included as a companion document to the DAA Bylaws.
 - 2.2.3. Require the same procedure to change or amend as the DAA bylaws.
 - 2.2.4. Require a 60% majority vote of the membership to be changed or amended.

3. Definitions for Endorsements, Positions, Recommendations & Resolutions (EPR&R)

3.1. Basic Definitions:

- 3.1.1. "Endorsements" are the Official recommendations of candidates for elected public office.
- 3.1.2. "Recommendations" reflect the Official stance of the DAA regarding any issue that comes before the public for a vote.
- 3.1.3. "Positions" reflect the Official opinion of the DAA regarding issues in general.
- 3.1.4. "Resolutions" are written to express the Official desire of the DAA that a specific person, body or entity takes some specified action.

3.2. Candidate Definitions:

- 3.2.1. "Partisan National Candidate" refers to U.S. President.
- 3.2.2. "Partisan Statewide Candidate" refers to elected statewide offices that identify party affiliation and are elected through the primary process, such as U.S. Senate, State Governor, Lt. Governor, etc.
- 3.2.3. "Partisan Regional Candidate" refers to elected regional offices that identify party affiliation and are elected through the primary process, such as U.S. House of Representatives, State Senate, and State Assembly.
- 3.2.4. "Non-Partisan Regional Candidate" refers to elected regional offices that DO NOT identify party affiliation and DO NOT utilize the primary process, such as County Board of Supervisors, County Sheriff, etc.

3.2.5. “Non-Partisan Local Candidate” refers to elected local offices that DO NOT identify party affiliation and DO NOT utilize the primary process, such as City Council, School Board, Water board, etc.

3.3. Other Election Definitions:

3.3.1. “Statewide Ballot Measure” refers to statewide ballot measures.

3.3.2. “Regional Ballot Measure” refers to County ballot measures.

3.3.3. “Local Ballot Measure” refers to City and district ballot measures, such as School District, Water District, etc.

3.3.4. Ballot-Identified Democrat refers to a candidate who identifies as a Democrat on a top-two primary ballot. A member of the Executive Board shall verify a candidate’s ballot identity with the Registrar of Voters or the Secretary of State.

3.4. DAA Definitions:

3.4.1. “Official DAA Committees” refers to duly established, “Active Committees” of the DAA (e.g. Action Committees, Standing Committees, the Steering Committee, and the DAA Executive Board).

3.4.2. “The DAA Executive Board” consists of the President, Vice-President, Recording Secretary, Corresponding Secretary and Treasurer of the DAA.

3.4.3. “Active Committee,” for the purposes of endorsement procedures, refers to the DAA’s Executive Board, Steering Committee, Candidate Development Committee, and any Standing or Action Committee that has held at least one properly noticed meeting within 90 days preceding the candidate, or representative’s endorsement vote at a General Membership Meeting.

3.4.4. “Properly Noticed Meeting,” for the purposes of endorsement procedures, is a meeting where committee members, and the Steering Committee, were notified about the meeting and about any planned endorsement activities, by email, at least seven days prior to the meeting.

4. Endorsement Rules:

While the organization is encouraged to develop, assist, support, and endorse candidates for all public offices, it will not develop, assist, support or endorse any non-Democratic candidate for any public office, nor will any officer of this organization take such action on behalf of the club. Officers of this organization are subject to termination for publicly supporting in writing or at DAA meetings, financially in any manner, or by endorsing any non-Democrat for any appointed or elected public office.

4.1. Who may be endorsed and when they may be endorsed:

4.1.1. A Democrat who is the only Ballot-Identified Democrat to file papers to run for an elective government office.

4.1.2. Any Ballot-Identified Democrat who won first or second place in the Primary election for an elective government office, thus qualifying them to run in the subsequent General Election.

4.1.3. After, the filing period has closed, a Ballot-Identified Democrat running for elective governmental office where another Ballot-Identified Democrat is also running. That candidate must receive 70% of the endorsement vote, as specified in the procedures below.

4.1.4. After the filing period closes, any Democrat who runs for a non-partisan elective government office.

4.1.5. Any Democrat who has been endorsed by the California Democratic Party at the state convention.

4.1.6. Any Democrat who has been endorsed by the Los Angeles County Democratic Party.

4.1.7. A member of the Executive Board shall confirm a candidate's registration status as Democrat with the Registrar of Voters or the Secretary of State before endorsement can be considered.

4.2. Who shall never be endorsed:

4.2.1. A non-Democrat for any elected office.

4.3. Who may request endorsement:

4.3.1. Any Democrat who satisfies the endorsement rules above, or his/her official representative, may request endorsement for that Democrat.

4.3.2. Any DAA Member in good standing may request DAA endorsement on behalf of a Democrat who has satisfied the endorsement rules above.

4.4. Committee Recommendation rules:

4.4.1. Any Official DAA Committee (see 3.4.1 above) may take an "Official Endorsement Position" regarding the endorsement of a candidate once they have accomplished the following:

4.4.1.1. Held a "Properly Noticed Meeting" (see 3.4.4 above) within 90 days preceding the endorsement vote at a General Membership Meeting.

4.4.1.2. Held an election at the above committee meeting where the DAA members in good standing vote by a simple majority to recommend or not recommend the candidate for endorsement.

4.4.2. Although any Official DAA Committee (see 3.4.1 above) may take an "Official Endorsement Position" regarding candidate endorsements following a properly noticed meeting, only the full membership of the DAA decides whether a candidate gets officially endorsed.

4.4.3. No member of the DAA may actively disseminate a committee's "Official Endorsement Position" to any person or entity outside of the DAA. There shall be only one official endorsement by the DAA, and that is only accomplished by a vote of the full membership, in good standing, present at a General Membership Meeting.

4.5. Voting rules for candidate endorsement:

4.5.1. General Rules:

4.5.1.1. The procedure for candidate endorsement at a General Membership

Meeting remains the same, regardless of WHEN the candidate, his/her official representative, or DAA member makes the request for endorsement – only the votes required to win that endorsement differs.

4.5.1.2. A candidate, his/her official representative, or a DAA member requesting an endorsement on behalf of a candidate, must notify the DAA president by mail or email of their intent to request endorsement, at least 14 days before the start of a General Membership Meeting at which the endorsement vote is desired.

4.5.1.3. The DAA President shall notify the Steering Committee of an endorsement request within three days of receipt of request, and notify the membership of that request through the normal meeting notification process.

4.5.1.4. Voting procedures shall be administered by the Recording Secretary and any appointed assistants. In the Recording Secretary's absence, a member may be appointed by the presiding officer of the meeting to run the endorsement procedures.

4.5.1.5. All votes for endorsement shall be by secret ballot.

4.5.1.6. Members must be a "Voting Member Good Standing" (see DAA bylaws Article IX) and present to cast a vote. No proxies are allowed.

4.5.1.7. The entire ballot distribution and counting procedures are open to be observed by no more than three members.

4.5.2. Votes needed to win the DAA endorsement:

4.5.2.1. Qualified candidates who have announced their desire to be endorsed during one General Membership may request their endorsement vote be taken at the next, or a subsequent regular General Membership Meeting. The candidate will need at least 60% of the vote of the Voting Members in Good Standing,

4.5.2.2. Qualified candidates who have not met the one meeting lead time (immediately above), may still request their endorsement vote be put on the agenda if they do so at least 14 days before the beginning of a regular General Membership Meeting. Those candidates must receive at least 70% of the vote of the Voting Members in Good Standing, present at that meeting, to win the endorsement.

5. Endorsement procedures:

5.1. General Membership Meeting Candidate Endorsement Procedure

5.1.1. At the beginning of any meeting where the election is to take place, the Recording Secretary, or person(s) designated by the President or the Recording Secretary to be the Election Official and administer the election, will supply each voting DAA member with a voting card, have the member sign the voting card in front of the official. The official will then hand the member a ballot listing all the candidates asking for endorsement.

5.1.2. At the beginning of the voting process, the presiding officer of the meeting will explain the entire voting process to the membership.

- 5.1.3. Next, the candidate or his/her representative will have no more than five minutes to use in any way he/she see fit. This includes, but is not limited to any combination of the following:
- 5.1.3.1. Speak on their own behalf.
 - 5.1.3.2. Have designated people speak in support.
 - 5.1.3.3. Answer questions from members.
- 5.1.4. After the candidate or representatives have spoken, any Official DAA Committee (see 3.4.1 above) that has an taken an Official Endorsement Position (see 4.4.1 above) regarding the candidate, will be given two minutes each to state their position.
- 5.1.5. Next, the floor will be open for no more than five minutes to members who oppose the endorsement. The available time will be divided between the speakers.
- 5.1.6. If there are no speakers in opposition, the discussion will be closed and the chair will call for the vote.
- 5.1.7. If there are speakers in opposition to the candidate, the candidate and/or representatives, will have a total of two minutes to rebut those speakers.
- 5.1.8. The vote is taken by having the members circle “yes” or “no” regarding the endorsement of each candidate on the ballot provided.
- 5.1.9. The members will then turn in the ballots to the election officer and sign their voting card in front of him/her. Members must have a voting card to turn in a ballot.
- 5.1.10. Once the ballots are turned in, the election officer will count the ballots and announce the results.