



# Endorsements

Fred Rogers

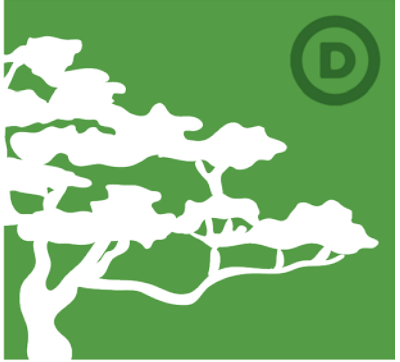
VP – Political Action

San Diego County Democrats for Environmental Action

17 March 2018

# Why do Club Endorsements?

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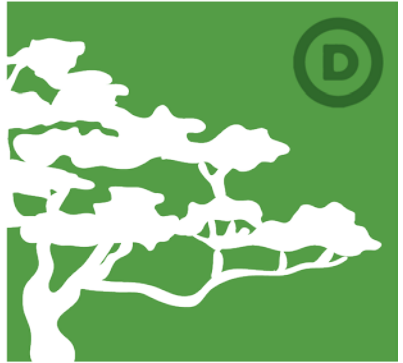
# What is a Good Endorsement Process?

Transparent

Consistent

Fair

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# Questions Your Club Should Ask First



- ✓ *Is Your Club's Endorsement Process Documented\**
- ✓ Races to consider for endorsement
  - Are any of them incumbents
  - When to schedule the endorsement
- ✓ Who is Point-of-Contact for the club
  - Who is going to serve as the presiding officer
- ✓ Is there going to be a questionnaire
- ✓ Will there be a Candidate Forum





# Selecting What Races to Endorse



- ✓ National
- ✓ Statewide
- ✓ Congressional
- ✓ Legislative
- ✓ Judicial
- ✓ Local Offices

**Remember all endorsement considerations have to be properly noticed and scheduled**

*Just because a candidate has requested your club's endorsement, doesn't necessarily mean that you need to endorse in that race!*

Official Ballot - Constitutional Amendment Election  
(Boleta Oficial) - (Elección sobre Enmiendas a la Constitución)

Cooke County, Texas  
(Condado de Cooke, Texas)

November 7, 2017  
(7 de noviembre de 2017)

## Sample Ballot

<p><b>STATE OF TEXAS PROPOSITION 1</b> "The constitutional amendment authorizing the legislature to provide for an exemption from ad valorem taxation of all or part of the market value of the residence homestead of a partially disabled veteran or the surviving spouse of a partially disabled veteran if the residence homestead was donated to the disabled veteran by a charitable organization for less than the market value of the residence homestead and harmonizing certain related provisions of the Texas Constitution."</p> <p>(PROPOSTA NÚMERO 1 DEL ESTADO DE TEXAS) ("Enmienda constitucional que autoriza a la legislatura a otorgar una exención del impuesto ad valorem de parte del valor de mercado de la residencia principal de un veterano parcialmente discapacitado o del cónyuge sobreviviente de un veterano parcialmente discapacitado si la residencia principal fue donada al veterano discapacitado por una organización benéfica por menos del valor de mercado de la residencia y que armoniza ciertas disposiciones relacionadas de la Constitución de Texas.")</p> <p><input type="radio"/> For (A Favor) <input type="radio"/> Against (En Contra)</p>	<p><b>STATE OF TEXAS PROPOSITION 3</b> "The constitutional amendment limiting the service of certain officials appointed by the governor and confirmed by the senate after the expiration of the person's term of office."</p> <p>(PROPOSTA NÚMERO 3 DEL ESTADO DE TEXAS) ("Enmienda constitucional que limita el servicio de ciertos funcionarios públicos nombrados por el gobernador y confirmados por el senado después de la caducidad del mandato de la persona".)</p> <p><input type="radio"/> For (A Favor) <input type="radio"/> Against (En Contra)</p>	<p><b>STATE OF TEXAS PROPOSITION 6</b> "The constitutional amendment authorizing the legislature to provide for an exemption from ad valorem taxation of all or part of the market value of the residence homestead of the surviving spouse of a first responder who is killed or fatally injured in the line of duty."</p> <p>(PROPOSTA NÚMERO 6 DEL ESTADO DE TEXAS) ("Enmienda constitucional que autoriza a la legislatura a otorgar una exención del impuesto ad valorem de la totalidad o parte del valor de mercado de la residencia principal del cónyuge sobreviviente de un agente de primera intervención quien es matado o herido de muerte en acto de servicio".)</p> <p><input type="radio"/> For (A Favor) <input type="radio"/> Against (En Contra)</p>
<p><b>STATE OF TEXAS PROPOSITION 2</b> "The constitutional amendment to establish a lower amount for expenses that can be charged to a borrower and removing certain financing expense limitations for a home equity loan, establishing certain authorized lenders to make a home equity loan, changing certain options for the refinancing of home equity loans, changing the threshold for an advance of a home equity line of credit, and allowing home equity loans on agricultural homesteads."</p> <p>(PROPOSTA NÚMERO 2 DEL ESTADO DE TEXAS) ("Enmienda constitucional para establecer una cantidad menor para los gastos que se pueden cobrar a un prestatario y eliminar ciertas limitaciones de gastos de financiación para un préstamo con garantía hipotecaria, establecer ciertos prestamistas autorizados para hacer un préstamo con garantía hipotecaria, cambiar ciertas opciones para la refinanciación de los préstamos de segunda hipoteca, cambiar del umbral para un anticipo de una línea de crédito con respaldo hipotecario y otorgar préstamos con garantía hipotecaria sobre las granjas agrícolas.")</p> <p><input type="radio"/> For (A Favor) <input type="radio"/> Against (En Contra)</p>	<p><b>STATE OF TEXAS PROPOSITION 4</b> "The constitutional amendment authorizing the legislature to require a court to provide notice to the attorney general of a challenge to the constitutionality of a state statute and authorizing the legislature to prescribe a waiting period before the court may enter a judgment holding the statute unconstitutional."</p> <p>(PROPOSTA NÚMERO 4 DEL ESTADO DE TEXAS) ("Enmienda constitucional que autoriza a la legislatura a requerir que un tribunal notifique al fiscal general de una impugnación de la constitucionalidad de una ley estatal y autoriza al legislador a imponer un período de espera antes de que el tribunal pueda dictaminar que la ley estatal es inconstitucional.")</p> <p><input type="radio"/> For (A Favor) <input type="radio"/> Against (En Contra)</p>	<p><b>STATE OF TEXAS PROPOSITION 7</b> "The constitutional amendment relating to legislative authority to permit credit unions and other financial institutions to award prizes by lot to promote savings."</p> <p>(PROPOSTA NÚMERO 7 DEL ESTADO DE TEXAS) ("Enmienda constitucional relativa a la autoridad legislativa para permitir que las cooperativas de crédito y otras instituciones financieras otorguen premios por sorteo para promover el ahorro.")</p> <p><input type="radio"/> For (A Favor) <input type="radio"/> Against (En Contra)</p>
	<p><b>STATE OF TEXAS PROPOSITION 5</b> "The constitutional amendment on professional sports team charitable foundations conducting charitable raffles."</p> <p>(PROPOSTA NÚMERO 5 DEL ESTADO DE TEXAS) ("Enmienda constitucional sobre fundaciones benéficas de equipos deportivos profesionales que realizan rifa caritativas.")</p> <p><input type="radio"/> For (A Favor) <input type="radio"/> Against (En Contra)</p>	

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# Sharing the Workload for Endorsements

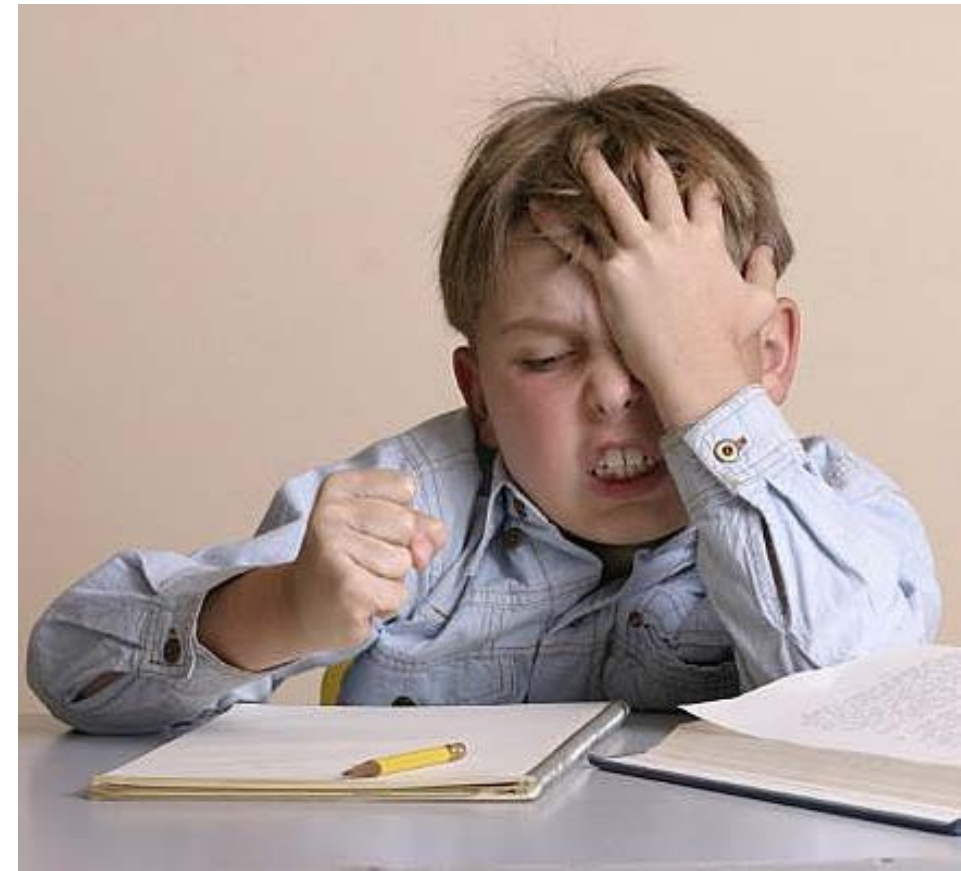
- ✓ Is there an Endorsement or Political Committee
  - Who is responsible for notifying the candidates
  - Sending and receiving questionnaire
- ✓ Endorsement meeting presiding officer
- ✓ Verify Eligible Club Members
- ✓ Moderating Candidate Forum
- ✓ Distribution and Collection of Completed Questionnaires during Meeting
- ✓ Counting Ballots (if necessary)



# Candidate Questionnaire

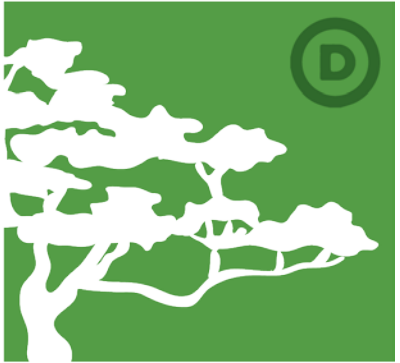


- ✓ What should type questions should be included:
  - Constituency based issues
  - CDP or DNC Platform
  - Adopted Party Resolutions
  - Specific or Local issues
- ✓ Same questionnaire for all races?
  - Are incumbents required to complete questionnaire
- ✓ Reviewing completed questionnaire
  - Club members only?
- ✓ Past Questionnaires



# Endorsement Meeting

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## *Pre-planning is a Must!*

- ✓ Are all the Candidates Fully Aware of the Rules for the Endorsement Meeting
  - *Endorsement Threshold*
  - *What happens if no one gets the endorsement?*
- ✓ Club Member Check-in
  - Expired members?
- ✓ Candidate Statements
- ✓ Q&A
  - Who is allowed to ask Questions?
  - Equal Opportunity to Answer Questions

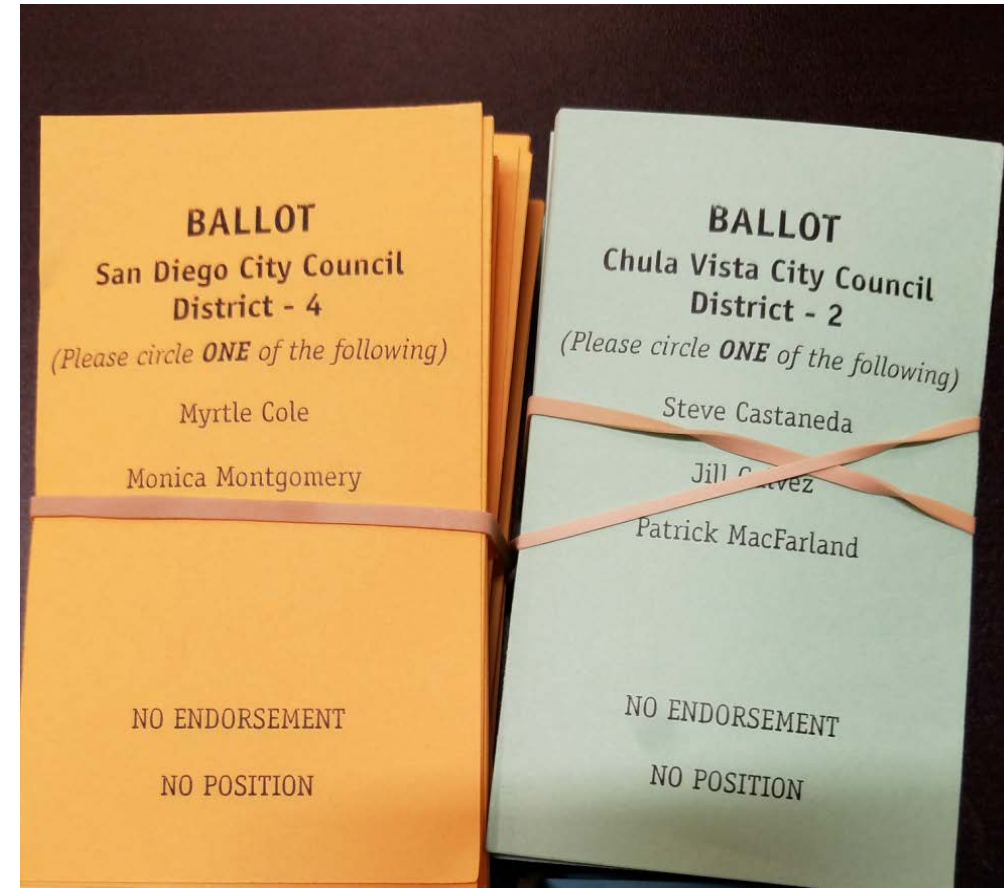




# Endorsement Meeting (cont.)



- ✓ Candidate Discussion
  - Keeping it Civil
- ✓ Motion to Endorse
- ✓ Do you use Paper Ballots
  - Allowing Proxy Voting
  - Absentee Voting
- ✓ Ballot Counting
  - Campaign Observers
  - Neutral Observer
- ✓ Run-off Votes
- ✓ No Endorsement/No Position





# Potential Pitfalls

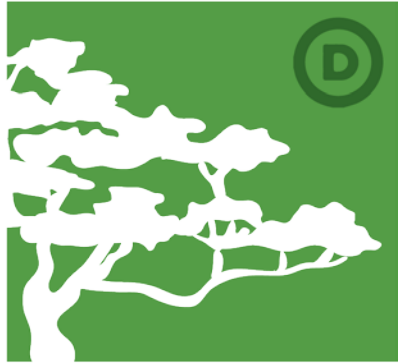
- ✓ Stacking of Club Members
- ✓ Conflict of Interest among Executive Board Member(s)
- ✓ Candidate(s) Failure to Appear
- ✓ Candidate/Campaign Staff Meeting Disruption
- ✓ Access to Club Membership List
- ✓ Time Management



# Final Thoughts

Democratic Clubs are the grassroots backbone of the Democratic Party. It is through their club endorsements that rank and file Democrats are allowed to participate in the endorsement process for both the county and the state Democratic Party.

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# Questions

"It fall to each of us to be those anxious, jealous guardians of our democracy,"

President Barak Obama  
11 January 2017

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