

August 9, 2021

Coronado Democratic Club

Endorsement Policy

Preface:

The Coronado Democratic Club is committed to a full and fair discussion on every candidate, measure or resolution considered for endorsement.

1. Club endorsements shall be determined as set forth in Club bylaws. (See CDC Bylaws at www.coronadodemocrats.com)
2. Club Members eligible to vote on endorsements: Club voting members are those who are registered Democrats in San Diego County or have expressed the intention to become registered Democrats in San Diego County as soon as they are eligible to vote. Only voting members in good standing (having paid annual dues) and who have been members of the club for at least thirty (30) calendar days are allowed to vote. No proxy voting is permitted. Absentee ballots will be accepted. Those who are registered as other than Democrats are club non-voting members. "Members eligible to vote" includes candidates and staff members who are otherwise eligible to vote.
3. Voting procedures shall be determined in advance of the noticed meeting for endorsements and all candidates shall be notified at least 5 days prior to the meeting and shall be advised of the procedures.
4. The Board shall recommend the races, measures, and resolutions to be voted on by the Club. The Board will review all requests before recommending a vote of the membership.
5. Any candidate in a non-partisan race requesting an endorsement from the Club must do so in writing; said written request shall be made to the President of the Club who will notice the members of the Board. All candidates requesting an endorsement must also complete a candidate questionnaire.
6. To be eligible for endorsement, a candidate must be a registered Democrat.
7. The option of "no position" shall be included in the endorsement vote for each race, ballot measure and/or resolution.
8. All candidates for non-partisan office are strongly encouraged to attend at least one General Meeting of the Club during their candidacy and prior to any vote of endorsement. Upon advance request, each candidate will be allotted time at a club meeting to make a brief presentation and to answer questions.
9. The Club will make every effort to schedule a candidate forum to which all candidates will be invited when there are multiple candidates for open seats.
10. The Club will make every effort to schedule Ballot measure forums or Town Halls on Ballot measures.
11. Only one candidate may be endorsed per seat. An endorsement means that the Club recommends a vote for that candidate rather than any other candidate for that seat.

12. The Club may choose any of the following options for rating candidates who are not endorsed by the Club:
 - a. "Approved"- the Club finds the candidate supportable, the candidate has a good record and/ or good position statements, there is more than one good candidate and the club prefers not to endorse a single candidate.
 - b. "Not Recommended"- The Club finds the candidate has a poor record or position on one or more critical issues.
 - c. "No Position"- Circumstances justifying this rating include, but are not limited to, the following: lack of information on the candidate, the candidate appears to be between the rating of approved and not Recommended, there are multiple Democrats running for the same seat, all of whom appear to be worthy of endorsement, the Club membership is irrevocably divided on whether or not to endorse.
10. The Club may rate any Ballot proposition or resolution as "Support", "Oppose", or "No Position".
11. No candidate or staff member of the campaign shall be present for the discussion on the endorsement for office for which that candidate is contending.
12. The Club does not contribute any funds to any candidate or any campaign for public office, proposition, measure or resolution.
13. Any Club endorsement or rating may be withdrawn upon a vote of 60% of the members present at a special meeting noticed for this purpose. This provision applies to friend endorsements as well as all other. In the event of a significant change of circumstances, the Board may call for Special Meeting for this purpose.
14. The voting requirements set forth in Club bylaws shall be applicable to a Friendly Incumbent Endorsement. A Friendly Incumbent Endorsement may be made at any time after the incumbent has announced his or her intention to run for re-election to his or her seat and the candidate has submitted a written request to the Club President. The requirement of a questionnaire may be waived by the Board in requests for a Friendly Incumbent endorsement.
15. When an incumbent does not receive a FIE, the office will be considered open.
16. In general, it is the policy of the Coronado Democratic Club to limit its consideration of endorsements to candidates running for offices in elections in which Coronado residents vote.

Approved by the Coronado Club Board August 9, 2021