

## The CADEM Endorsement Process

### A Statement from the Board of the Placer Women Democrats

Dear PWD Members,

In an effort to maintain transparency and facilitate unity going forward, we, the PWD Board, wanted to take a moment to further explain the pre-endorsement and endorsement process.

As with so many political processes, the California Democratic Party's (CDP) candidate endorsement process looks complicated. But, when taken apart into its component parts, it becomes easier to understand.

The goal is for the party to speak with one, unified voice to the public and for that voice to translate into positive results in the November election.

#### **Pre-Endorsement of Candidates:**

- The number of delegates to the Pre-Endorsement Conference is determined by the rules of the Placer County Democratic Central Committee (PCDCC) based on the number of members in the club. The number is coordinated and certified by the PCDCC.
- We will be amending our Bylaws to include the process of selecting these delegates. This last year 5 delegates and two alternates were appointed.
- Last November, your Candidate Services team conducted an election to determine which candidates would receive PWD votes at the **Pre-Endorsement Conference** to be held in January. Our membership roster was thoroughly updated and the election was carried out so every person's vote was private. Regina Bateson and Jackie Smith won that election by a large margin.

- After a meeting with the PCDCC held prior to the PWD election process, it was decided by a majority of the Board that all 5 PWD votes should go to whichever candidate received the majority of the votes. The results of our election dictated that PWD should cast all (5) votes in support of Regina
- Bateson for Congress and Jackie Smith for Assembly. Our (5) chosen delegates cast their votes accordingly.
- The delegates duly submitted their ballots for the CD4 race to the Region 4 Director, Amy Champ and the AD6 race to Region 3 Director, Eric Sunderland.
- This is the only part in the process where a “block vote” is viable **and is the only part of the process in which the club vote is represented.**

**There are (3) possible outcomes from the Pre-Endorsing Conference:**

- #1 - If a candidate receives 70% of the vote, she/he receives the Pre-Endorsement Recommendation and advances directly to the Consent Calendar for the Democratic Party Endorsement. The Consent Calendar is voted upon by all CDP delegates on the last day of the State convention. Jackie Smith received all the votes cast at the Pre-Endorsement Conference and was placed on the Consent Calendar for Endorsement at the convention.
- #2 - If none of the candidates for a given office receives at least 50% of the votes at the Pre-Endorsement Conference the result is designated as No Consensus. No candidate receives an endorsement from the party until the primary in June.

- #3 - If any candidate receives *more than 50%* of the votes cast at the Pre-Endorsement Conference, *but less than 70%*, **ALL** the candidates for that office are advanced to an Endorsing
- Caucus at the Convention. At the Pre-Endorsement Conference, Jessica
- received 55% of the vote, Regina received 41%, and Roza Calderon received 2%.

#### Endorsement at the Convention:

- The Endorsing Caucus is made up of local delegates and happens at the convention. Every odd numbered year the CDP holds local elections in January. The CDP divides the state into the 80 Assembly districts and registered Democrats in each district elect 7 men and 7 women as Assembly Democrat (ADEM) delegates.
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- Other delegates are Central Committee members (PCDCC) decided by the number of registered voters – PCDCC elected 11 delegates. Persons who have been elected to, or run for, office are also assigned a certain number of delegates.
- **The ADEM delegates are NOT PWD voters.** Most were not the same people who represented the club at the Pre-Endorsement vote. **PWD members voting at the Endorsing Caucus, were NOT there as delegates of PWD but as individuals and could, by the rules of the convention and PWD, vote for the candidate of their choice.** The PWD club vote prior to the pre-endorsement conference *did not bind* any ADEM delegate who also happens to be a PWD member to cast their vote according to the PWD club vote.

- Between the time of their election as a delegate and attendance at the CADEM convention, some of the delegates chose to and worked for Regina, and some for Jessica. This is their individual right.
- The candidates are encouraged to work for more votes or to get delegates to switch their votes. This is called “Whipping” votes – i.e. the Majority/Minority Whips in both state and federal legislatures. All three candidates and their supporters worked hard to convince delegates that they were the best choice for endorsement.
- In order to receive a recommendation of endorsement at the Convention Endorsing Caucus, a candidate needs to get 60% of the vote. For our district, Jessica received 66%, Regina 19%, Roza 6%, and 9% of the votes were for No Endorsement.
- Because Jessica received more than 60% of the vote, she was advanced to the Consent Calendar, along with Jackie in her race. Both these candidates subsequently received the endorsement of the party.

As a chartered Democratic club under the auspices of the (PCDCC), the PWD is bound to endorse and support any Democratic candidate receiving the CDP endorsement, per the Bylaws of the CDP:

*CDP Chartered Organizations – CDP chartered organizations are specifically intended to be independent from the CDP. However, CDP chartered organizations, with the exception of the California Young Democrats and the California Democratic Council, are prohibited from endorsing any candidate for public office running against a CDP-endorsed candidate. Endorsing candidates other than CDP-endorsed candidates constitutes grounds for denial and revocation of charter. (CDP By-Laws, Art. VIII. Sec. 1.g.; Art. X. Sec. 3.(a).(5).)*

We hope this very detailed explanation clears up any misinformation or misconceptions about the events that transpired during both the pre-endorsement and endorsement processes. The goal of Placer Women Democrats is clear - to elect Democratic women to office. Therefore, the Placer Women Democrats will be joining other Democratic clubs in Placer County and issuing our endorsement of Jessica Morse for the District 4 Congressional Seat and Jackie Smith for the State District 6 Assembly Seat.

In Solidarity,  
Your PWD Board

PWD Version 1.5