

Mr. Chairman:

Below please find by submission for a proposed rules change to be considered at the party's upcoming convention.

Sincerely,
Ron Nehring

PROPOSED RULES AMENDMENT CONCERNING DEEMED ENDROSEMENTS

Current language:

Section 3.02.02

Deemed Endorsements for Partisan Elective Office in a Top Two, Special, or Recall Election

- (A) All Republican Nominees as defined in Section 1.04 (B) shall be deemed to be endorsed by the Committee, absent a Committee decision to unendorsed in accordance with Section 3.02, and any endorsement for any other candidate for the same office shall be void.

Proposed language:

Section 3.02.02

Deemed Endorsements for Partisan Elective Office in a Top Two, Special, or Recall Election

- (A) All Republican Nominees as defined in Section 1.04 (B) WHO ARE CONCURRENTLY INCUMBENTS SEEKING RE-ELECTION TO THE SAME OFFICE shall be deemed to be endorsed by the Committee, absent a Committee decision to unendorsed in accordance with Section 3.02, and any endorsement for any other candidate for the same office shall be void.
- (B) NOMINEES AS DEFINED IN SECTION 1.04(B) NOT CURRENTLY HOLDING THE OFFICE SOUGHT MAY BE ENDORSED BY THE COMMITTEE UPON A MAJORITY VOTE OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS, THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, OR THE COMMITTEE.
- (C) THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS, EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, OR FULL COMMITTEE MAY BY 3/4THS VOTE OF THOSE PRESENT AND VOTING FOLLOWING A HEARING REVOKE THE NOMINEE STATUS OF ANY CANDIDATE WHO BRINGS DISCREDIT TO THE REPUBLICAN PARTY.

Summary

The California Republican Party bylaws currently confer the committee's endorsement automatically when only one Republican candidate for partisan office moves on to the second round from the top-two primary. This "deemed endorsed" rule is flawed in that it allows any individual, no matter their views or how they reflect on the Republican Party, to claim to have the support of the California Republican Party. This rule has been exploited in at least one instance by a highly objectionable candidate seeking partisan office in a hopelessly Democratic district, and receiving the endorsement of the CRP under this rule.

The proposed change would limit "deemed endorsements" to incumbents seeking re-election to the same office. Presumably incumbents will have met a higher standard of conduct, and can still have the endorsement revoked per the current language. Candidates seeking open seats, or challengers, would be deemed endorsed only following an affirmative vote by either the Board of Directors, the Executive Committee, or the full committee.

The proposed language also empowers the full Committee, the Board of Directors, or the Executive Committee to revoke a candidate's nominee status if they bring discredit to the Republican Party. Rather than defining strictly the term "discredit," the proposed language requires a hearing and has a high threshold (3/4ths vote) to take effect.

- Respectfully submitted by former CRP Chairman Ron Nehring.