



San Mateo County Democratic Central Committee Endorsement Process for March 2020 Election

San Mateo County Democratic Central Committee's mission is to promote the principles and ideals of the Democratic Party within San Mateo County and to support the issues and policies reflected in the CA State Democratic Platform. Endorsing and supporting good candidates is our most powerful tool and our most visible action.

The Central Committee seeks to endorse viable candidates who will ably fulfill the duties of their office in a way that furthers the enactment of Democratic principles and ideals. The Committee and its Endorsement Committee, which manages the endorsement process, is committed to accomplishing endorsements in a manner that increases the value of our endorsement for the candidate and the public as well as building our reputation and increasing the pool of present and future Democratic office holders.

Therefore the Central Committee follows these guidelines:

- A clear and delineated process so candidates and party activists understand the process, their role and how to participate.
- Respect and consideration for all endorsement applicants.
- A fair process that assesses all candidates by the same standards and provides all candidates an equal opportunity to be successful regardless of race, gender, ancestry, sexual orientation, class, age or disability.

Qualification for Endorsement

A candidate must be a registered Democrat by the last day of the regular filing period in order to be considered for endorsement by the San Mateo County Democratic Party. We recommend that you check your party affiliation when you pull your papers to ensure that you are a registered Democrat. Past candidates have been unpleasantly surprised.

Application Process

Candidates who wish to apply for the San Mateo County Democratic Central Committee (SMCDCC) endorsement for the March 2020 election must complete and submit an application form electronically by December 16th at 10 PM. Instructions and a link to the form will be available on the website SMCDEMS.ORG. The application includes a written questionnaire with narrative questions about why you are running, challenges the officeholder will face, your position on key issues, etc. Since the application must be completed in one sitting, you may prefer to initially download the WORD document version and compose all narrative questions. Then copy your answers into the questionnaire when you are done.

Oral Interview

Each Democratic candidate whose application is accepted will be scheduled for an interview on January 9th from 7:00pm to 8:20pm by members of the Endorsement Committee. The interview will last 20 minutes. If you have not received an email confirming the date, time and location of your interview by January 3rd, 2020, email endorsement@smcdems.org with a CC to chair@smcdems.org.

Endorsement Committee members will recuse themselves from participating in an interview if any of the following conditions exist:

- If they have donated, endorsed, volunteered for or are employed by a candidate campaign for that specific race.
- If they are employed by the public agency or entity or serve as an elected official for the public agency or entity in that specific race
- If they have a family or financial relationship with a candidate in a specific race

After all interviews for an office are completed, the full Endorsement Committee will decide which candidate(s) to recommend to the San Mateo County Democratic Central Committee (SMCDCC) for endorsement. Candidates will be notified of their recommendation.

The Democratic Party does not allow more endorsements than there are open seats. An endorsement is not required in every race.

Endorsement Decision

The endorsement decision will be made on Thursday, January 16th by the elected members of the San Mateo County Democratic Central Committee (SMCDCC) or their alternates. You are welcome to attend this meeting but you are not required to attend.

At the meeting, the SMCDCC will be presented with a consent calendar of candidates to vote to endorse. SMCDCC members may pull any race they wish. The members will then vote to endorse all race recommendations remaining on the consent calendar.

The chair will ask the members for motions to endorse one or more candidates for a race. After the motion and second, only members and alternates may speak briefly and respectfully for or against the considered candidates in the race being considered. Once the number of endorsed candidates equal the number of open seats or no more motions to endorse for the office are made, endorsements for that race are finished. This process continues until there are no more races that members wish to consider. An endorsement requires 60 percent of those elected members present and voting.

Endorsement Rescission

In the event a compelling reason to consider rescinding an endorsement is brought forward to the SMCDCC Chair, reasonable efforts will be made to contact the candidate and to give the candidate an opportunity to state their position.

If time allows (as determined by the SMCDCC Chair), the matter shall be brought before the full SMCDCC to decide, with a vote of 60 percent of the members present and voting required to rescind, the same as the 60 percent vote required to endorse a candidate.

If time does not allow (as determined by the SMCDCC Chair) a majority vote of the Executive Board plus Endorsement Committee chair shall be required to rescind. Any decision to rescind shall be promptly reported to the full SMCDCC.

Candidate Endorsement Benefits

All endorsed candidates will be announced via a press release to all media outlets covering San Mateo County, the SMCDCC website and through the DCC e-mail list, which reaches thousands of registered Democratic Party voters in San Mateo County as well as our active Facebook and Twitter feed. An endorsed candidate may also list our endorsement on their literature and on their campaign website. They may also choose to have their endorsement listed on the SMCDCC mailer by paying a variable fee (approximately \$350-500) based on how many of their constituents will receive the mailer.

In years when the SMDCC has a campaign office, endorsed candidates may use the SMCDCC Campaign Headquarters to display their campaign materials, for event hosting, and in coordination with our staff, organizing phone banking opportunities.

Questions or Complaints about the Process

If a candidate has questions about the endorsement process, they may contact Endorsement Committee at endorsement@smcdems.org. If a candidate has a complaint about how the process was executed, they should contact San Mateo County Democratic Central Committee chair Nicole Fernandez at chair@smcdems.org.