

# Proposed Special Rules and Standing Rules

These special rules and standing rules are intended to put into writing the procedures that we have already been following. There is no intent here that anything is changing, but the best check on that is for you to read these carefully and note any problems at the December meeting.

## Special Rules of Order

These rules are enacted as Special Rules of Order as defined by Robert's Rules. What makes them special rules is that they impact debate and voting rights. These require a two-thirds vote of the Club to be suspended, revoked, or amended.

For convenience of having all related rules in one place, some provisions of Bylaws or rules imposed by LACDP are also restated here and are labeled as such. These cannot be suspended. Robert's Rules may also be cited here for context, and these can be suspended.

### I. Endorsements

- A. Bylaws require a majority vote to endorse.
- B. Bylaws require one week notice to candidates if more than one candidate has requested an endorsement. Notice is not required if two or more requests have not been received at least a week before the vote is held.
- C. A consent calendar recommended by the Board may be used. Any member may pull any candidate or measure from the consent calendar.
- D. A motion to endorse a particular candidate or position is not in order. Instead, a motion to endorse in a particular race will lead to balloting as described below. Same goes for a motion to amend a previous endorsement to replace it with a particular candidate or position. Instead, use a motion to revoke followed by a new motion to endorse in the race with balloting as described below.
- E. Any one member may request a secret ballot.
- F. For candidate races
  1. Per LACDP rules, no non-Democrat may be considered for endorsement, including in so-called non-partisan races. Non-Democrats include those registered as No Party Preference.
  2. Bylaws do not allow endorsing more candidates in a race than will be elected.
  3. Candidates and their family and representatives are sent out of the room during debate and voting. If those sent out are voting members, their votes will be taken before they leave. If a secondary motion arises (e.g., a motion to postpone), such voting members will be given an opportunity to debate and vote on the secondary motion.

4. First ballot for a race (following consideration of any consent calendar) will include all Democrats to be considered for endorsement plus an option of No Endorsement.
  5. If it appears it could be fruitful, there may be a second ballot with the top-two candidates from the first ballot plus an option of No Endorsement.
- G. For ballot measures
1. Ballot will be between Endorse Yes, Endorse No, and No Position.
- H. Per the Bylaws, a majority vote is required for the club to take any position.
- I. Failure to reach any decision is called No Consensus. This is NOT considered to be a position taken by the club, and a further vote on endorsement is in order at any later meeting.
- J. Early endorsement before filing closes is allowed. Should the result be No Endorsement, it shall be treated as No Consensus.
- II. Revoking endorsements
- A. Revoking an endorsement (or No Endorsement) made at a previous meeting is allowed following Robert's Rules, which requires a two-thirds vote unless advance notice is given to members that a vote will take place, in which case revocation takes a simple majority. Notice may be given by a member announcing at a club meeting the intention to make this motion at the next meeting. The board will email notice if, at least two weeks prior to a club meeting, any member informs the board of an intention to make a motion to revoke.
  - B. According to Robert's Rules, the motion to revoke is debatable and debate may go into the merits of any candidate or position the club may choose.
  - C. Following successful revocation, a new endorsement vote is allowed provided that any applicable notice requirement has been met.
- III. Promoting candidates and ballot measures
- A. If the club has not made an endorsement (or voted for No Endorsement), any Democratic candidate in that race may speak at meetings, post to our Facebook page or similar location, or be promoted by the club.
  - B. If the club has made an endorsement in a race, the club and its resources such as the club's Facebook page may not be used to promote any opposing position. Statements at meetings by or for opposing candidates are out of order, except a candidate who is a member retains the right to speak as long as it is not to promote the member's candidacy.
- IV. Limit on debate
- A. According to Robert's Rules, a speaker may only speak twice on a motion and may only speak a second time if nobody wishes to speak a first time. Members should address the chair, not each other—no back and forth.
  - B. Each time speaking is limited to two minutes.

## Policy

This policy of the NVDC Board is a Standing Rule and may be suspended, revoked, or amended at any time by majority vote of the Board or of the Club.

### Policy on Facebook, e-mail, and other Internet postings by NVDC

- If we have endorsed a candidate in a race
  - We will post and allow posting of material that supports endorsed candidates
  - We will not post and will delete postings of material that supports a candidate we have not endorsed
- If we have not endorsed any candidate in a race
  - We will post and allow posting of material that supports any Democratic candidate
  - We will not post and will delete postings of material that supports a non-Democratic candidate
- Material opposing a candidate
  - Must be respectful. Where we have not endorsed, it should be balanced, perhaps by also posting other material with an opposite viewpoint.
  - Must not oppose an endorsed candidate.
  - Is frowned upon if it opposes a Democrat. Never say anything about a Democrat that we would not stand behind in a later election in which we support that Democrat. Contrasting one Democrat versus another (without opposing an endorsed candidate) is acceptable.
- Absolutely no profanity or similarly inappropriate material in any posted link. Anything we send should be safe for work. It does not matter how good a point someone made in a video, we don't post it if it is inappropriate. Whether potentially offensive material is sufficiently censored is a judgment call depending on whether the overall tone is appropriate.
- Likes on the NVDC Facebook Page
  - As a Facebook "Page" (as opposed to "Group"), we are able to "Like" other Pages but not individuals.
  - We Like Pages of candidates we have endorsed if they have Pages.
  - We Like Pages of Democratic elected officials who represent the North Valley.
  - We do not generally Like Pages of candidates opposed to those we have endorsed, but we may do so if they are a Democratic elected official who represents us.
  - This may require us to Unlike some Pages after we make an endorsement.
  - Visitors to our page will see a sample of some of our Likes. A few may be Featured Likes, while the rest will be selected randomly by Facebook. We will generally have up to three Featured Likes reserved for endorsed candidates in the hottest races and for really hot issues. Featured Likes

could also be Pages for official Democratic organizations such as LACDP, CDP, DNC, etc.

- Issues
  - We post material in support of issues (including ballot measures) we have voted to support.
  - We post material on both sides of issues we have not taken a position on.
- Goals
  - It is our goal to post at least one item on Facebook and one on Twitter every day.
  - We want to get members and endorsed candidates engaged. They should Like items we post. They should Share items we post. They should Comment on items we post. They should post items to our Page under their own names. Administrators of the NVDC Page are particularly encouraged to set an example by doing all of these things. These things get us bumped up to where we get placed more prominently on Facebook listings.
  - Every NVDC meeting should be posted on applicable sites such as Facebook, DPSFV, and Patch.