

Republican Party of Stanislaus County  
Endorsement Policy  
November 6, 2023,

1. Only Republicans may seek the endorsement of the Republican Party of Stanislaus County (RPSC), with the exception of No Party Preference candidates for judge.
2. Republicans seeking the endorsement of the RPSC must ask for endorsement from the RPSC, with the exception of statewide and Federal candidates, or when consideration for endorsement is requested by the California Republican Party.
3. Endorsement by the RPSC
  - a. The RPSC shall endorse no more than one candidate per open seat in an election.
  - b. Endorsement shall require a majority vote of the Members or their Alternates present in favor of at most one candidate per open seat.
4. Candidates must be deemed qualified for endorsement [1].
  - a. Meet certain defined criteria appropriate to the office.
    - i. Name recognition
    - ii. Campaign funding minimums
    - iii. Prior experience serving in office
  - b. The Central Committee (CC) shall establish endorsement thresholds required for endorsement by office, including Congress, State Senate and Assembly, Board of Supervisors, Water and other large area district boards, Mayor, City Council, Superintendent of education, School boards.
  - c. The list of endorsement criteria may be used as a guide. The importance of different factors can vary over the course of the election. The CC should make an effort to exclude clearly unqualified candidates.
  - d. Once qualified candidates are recognized, candidates deemed unqualified by the RPSC shall not be given support nor shall they speak at RPSC events.
  - e. Unqualified candidates able to make up deficiencies in qualification criteria may petition the RPSC for reconsideration. Reasons for reconsideration may include new fundraising and other endorsements received.
  - f. Unqualified candidates shall be referred to an RPSC Candidate Bench Program as established by the RPSC Central Committee.
  - g. A common set of impartial questions shall be asked of each candidate for a given office in any of
    - i. a closed meeting conducted by a CC subcommittee open to all Members and Alternates
    - ii. a closed meeting conducted by a caucus open to all Members and Alternates.
    - iii. a regular monthly CC public meeting with endorsements announced per bylaws. Any additional audience questions shall be moderated by the Chairman or acting Chairman.
5. When a candidate is endorsed for an office, other candidates for the same office lose access to official RPSC support. No others shall be recognized to speak in favor of a candidate challenging the RPSC endorsed candidate for office.
  - a. Anyone may be recognized to speak at RPSC events in favor of the RPSC endorsed candidate.
  - b. The RPSC shall support only the endorsed candidate in print, video, and social media.
  - c. No one shall be recognized at an RPSC meeting or event to speak in favor of another candidate challenging the officially endorsed candidate.
6. Early endorsement.
  - a. An incumbent Republican may receive an early endorsement prior to the filing deadline upon a 2/3 vote of the CC members present.

- b. A non-incumbent Republican may receive an early endorsement prior to the filing deadline upon a 3/4 vote of the CC members present.
- c. A candidate may be endorsed prior to a primary according to the same rules as early filing candidates.

7. When no candidate is endorsed prior to a primary election, the CC may determine the candidates recognized as qualified for endorsement. These candidates may:

- a. Speak at CC events
- b. Be listed on voter guides distributed by the CC.
- c. Receive support from RPSC in print and social media.
- d. State "recognized" by the RPSC rather than endorsed.

8. Endorsed candidate responsibilities.

- a. A candidate or incumbent [2] seeking endorsement may not
  - i. Register as a member of another party.
  - ii. Publicly advocate voters should not support the election of a candidate endorsed by the RPSC or California Republican Party.
  - iii. Give support to a candidate opposing a candidate endorsed by the RPSC or the California Republican Party.
- b. When an official or candidate violates 8.a, comparable to a CC Member violating the bylaws (III.D.1) [3], they shall be subject to:
  - i. Loss of early endorsement consideration
  - ii. Loss of primary endorsement consideration
  - iii. Loss of all endorsement privileges
  - iv. Loss of CC donation support
  - v. Loss of CC volunteer support
  - vi. Revocation of endorsement
- c. A candidate or incumbent must sign a document (listing 8.a-b) [4] indicating they understand their responsibilities and potential consequences for violations of the endorsement policy.