



DEM RIVERSIDE UPDATES

Sheila Kay Riley

WDC Campaign & Election Committee Chair

THE ENDORSEMENT PROCESS

Because so many members have had questions about the endorsement process, the following information is being provided. Much of the material comes from documents from the **Riverside Central Committee**. While most of this language is somewhat technical, it is hoped that members will be able to understand this complicated process. It was asked that if we have a Democratic candidate be a speaker at one of our club meetings, does that mean that he (or she) is therefore endorsed by the organization. When one reads the information below, one will see that the endorsement process is very specific. Inviting a Democratic candidate to be a speaker at one of our meetings could, in no way, be construed as an endorsement of that candidate. Many of our endorsements will be for candidates in non-partisan races.

Partisan Endorsements for Candidates and Statewide Ballot Proposition/Initiatives are the absolute right of the State Central Committee/California Democratic Party. The **County Central Committee** or any organization Chartered by the **County Central Committee** shall not endorse a candidate or take a position on statewide propositions/initiatives that is in any way contrary to that of the State Central Committee/California Democratic Party. That means if

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President's message

By Corinne Parker, WDC President

Celebrate Health Reform

I'm starting to really get it...we can *change* the world after all! I'm astonished and delighted that we have experienced another history-making event. Is it now becoming common-place for us to find our dreams turn into reality?

Well, maybe not quite. Some of the obstacles we fought hard against only *seem* to disappear like smoke. After the parade is over, many times there is a new battle awaiting us. Yes, we know the health care reform bill is not perfect. But, it's a progression; the reform is the beginning of improving our national health care.

The National Organization for Women states the bill became a tragic setback for American Women. In a last minute compromise to pass the bill, NOW stated the anti-choice measures added "sends the outrageous message that it is acceptable to negotiate health care reform on the backs of women." NOW lists other problems that include age-rating and gender-rating provisions that are permitted with insurance group plans of 100 or more. These discriminatory provisions were added to bring big profit to the insurance companies that applied full-on pressure. Yes, this is a step back; however, it will be the next obstacle to overcome and we can and we will pursue even better health care for our country. So, with that in mind, I say, we must continue to work and find ways to remove requirements that allow discrimination.

One of the reasons Americans voted Democratic in 2008, was because of our broken health care system. Books were written and documentaries were made on the subject. It was a shock to discover that many people in our country could lose homes due to illnesses; and many more to die because they had no access to medical insurance. That's when we began to see that the public supports a health reform. As the economy suffered, more and more Americans lost jobs and access to affordable medical insurance. And it wasn't only affordable and comprehensive healthcare that Americans wanted; we also wanted our insurance companies to be accountable.

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the Party is neutral or does not endorse, then the **Central Committee** and **chartered organizations** will not endorse.

The **Riverside County Democratic Central Committee (RCDCC)**, by whom we are chartered, may, but is not required to, endorse a member of the Democratic Party who is not a candidate for an office that is a State wide office; and may endorse local (as opposed to state wide) Ballot Propositions and/or Initiatives. Any such endorsement shall require the vote of a sixty percent (60%) of those voting members who are present and voting at a duly constituted General or Special meeting of the **RCDCC**.

*The **RCDCC** shall not endorse more Candidates than there are seats open for any specific office.*

Endorsing a Candidate means that the **RCDCC** recommends that voters vote for such Candidate but it does not mean that the **RCDCC** supports any particular position(s) espoused by such Candidate. A *recommendation for endorsement* implies that the **RCDCC** recommends that the DSCC members vote for that candidate rather than any other candidates for that seat. It does not necessarily imply that the organization supports all of the candidate's positions.

General Information

1. The **Central Committee** may endorse non-statewide candidates for nonpartisan offices.
2. The candidate must be a registered Democrat.
3. Endorsements shall not be given to more candidates than there are seats for the office.
4. All Candidates shall be notified by the **Assembly District Vice-Chair** for the geographical area in which such Candidate is running of the date, time and place of a meeting(s) at which endorsements will be considered. Such notice shall be by mail, fax, or email not less than 10 days in advance – if at all possible. Equal notice must be given to all eligible Democratic candidates.
5. No endorsements shall be given to any Candidate until after the close of the filing for that specific race.
6. A Ballot Endorsement may be prepared by a Member of the **RCDCC**. However, the **RCDCC** shall not take a position on statewide initiatives and propositions that is contrary to that of the State Central Committee/California Democratic Party.
7. **Chartered clubs** shall recommend for endorsement only registered Democrats.
8. **Chartered organizations** shall notify their membership that endorsement consideration will be made in a particular race or races at least seven (7) days prior to the endorsement vote if at all possible. No

endorsements can be made until after the close of the filing date for that specific race.

9. Recommended endorsements by chartered organizations shall not be construed as an official endorsement of either the California Democratic Party or of the **RCDCC**; words to that effect (a disclaimer) shall be clearly visible wherever a Chartered Organization's recommended endorsement is referred to.
10. As long as a Democratic club follows its own guidelines and applicable rules set forth above, any Democratic club chartered by the **RCDCC** ("Chartered Club") may, but is not required to endorse Candidate and/or Ballot Issues.
11. When a **Chartered Club** recommends for endorsement such a candidate or Ballot/Initiative measure, the *Chartered Club shall, within five (5) business days forward such recommendation to the AD Vice Chair that represents their geographic area or the Correspondence Secretary, or Chair of the RCDCC*. If at all possible, club recommendations for endorsements are to be forwarded to the **Central Committee** via the **AD Vice Chair**.
12. Upon receipt of such recommended endorsement by a Chartered Club, the **RCDCC** can do *any of three things*:
 - *Take No Action* – If the **County Central Committee** takes "no action," the *club's endorsement recommendation stands* as long as the **County Central Committee** does not act.
 - *Also, endorse said candidate or ballot measure*. If the **County Central Committee** makes the same endorsement, then the club's endorsement recommendation stands and becomes stronger with the **County Central Committee** endorsement.
 - *Endorse a Candidate or Ballot Measure different from that candidate or Ballot measure recommended for endorsement by the Chartered Club*. If the **RCDCC** does a different endorsement, the club then reviews their endorsement recommendation to see if it is in **DIRECT** conflict with the **County Central Committee**.
 - a) *If it is NOT in direct conflict, then the club's endorsement recommendation stands*. (An example: Two seats are to be voted upon. The club has recommended for endorsement one candidate and the Central Committee has endorsed another sole candidate. The club's recommendation for endorsement would not be in direct conflict with the Central Committee.
 - b) *If the endorsement of the Central Committee IS in direct conflict then the club must within thirty (30) days either withdraw its earlier endorsement recommendation or change it so it is not in direct conflict.*☺

Sheila Kay Riley

As the fight for the healthcare bill mounted, the intensity of concern increased. Insurance companies, the GOP and anti-choice advocates applied pressure. And A LOT of money was spent to defeat the healthcare reform bill (something like \$800,000 a day?). Eventually, it got ugly (especially just after the bill was passed).

The groups that supported our health care change included many known nonprofits that existed to help find cures for diseases like cancer or heart disease, unions that considered the health of working families worth fighting for, grass-roots organizations such as Health Care For America Now, NAACP, women's groups, progressives, doctors and nursing groups along with organizations from the medical industry, various churches, Planned Parenthood, the ACLU, and the list goes on.

Here are some of the changes the healthcare reform has produced: Health insurers are **prohibitive from** denying coverage to children with pre-existing conditions; imposing lifetime limits on a person's benefits; rescinding coverage when a person becomes sick or disabled, except in cases of fraud; and charging older people more than three times what they charge younger people. Insurers will be **required to** cover dependent children on a family policy until through the age of 26; spend at least 80 percent of their revenue on medical claims; and now Americans who have pre-existing conditions turned down for regular coverage will have access to health insurance. To sum up, we've gained a more affordable and comprehensive healthcare that includes new coverage for 32 million people. I'm reminded what Paul Wellstone had said, "...the future belongs to those who are passionate and work hard."

To reinforce our efforts and to strengthen the healthcare reform, keep up the hard work: contact our legislatures, support our advocacy groups, put Democrats in office and support those leaders who fought for healthcare reform.

Yes, we have reason to celebrate again – however, let's not forget: our struggle for the best healthcare continues.✂

Get Ready to 'Rock the Count'

By Marisa Yeager

Our ancient Egyptians, Romans and early British ancestors did it. And Americans joined in more than 200 years ago after becoming an independent nation. American has been conducting a census every ten years since 1790.

The 2010 "Rock the Count" campaign reminds everyone to fill out their census forms and return them to help determine how Congress apportions and distributes more than \$400 billion in federal funds annually to state, local and tribal areas.

The importance of everyone participating in the upcoming U.S. Census can't be overstated, noting that the demographic information collected during the census is critical for our city and region to plan, fund and complete critical infrastructure projects which will help address our projected population and economic growth. We may even have add another House of Representative in our region.

Today, the latest technology is being brought into play with plans calling for the upcoming 2010 census to be conducted for the first time with a sophisticated GPS technology. The census will still be conducted on paper forms, but the form will now only have ten questions. Census forms are mailed out rather than having to be filled out in person by temporary census takers trolling communities door-to-door. You should have already received a reminder letter from the US Census Bureau. By law, the Census Bureau must count everyone and submit state population totals to the White House by December 31, 2010. Individual states would then receive the results the spring of 2011.

It is interesting to note that Federal law establishes stiff penalties for the disclosure of the information gathered to entities or agencies including the IRS and the FBI. Another layer of protection is provided with all census employees required to sign a sworn affidavit of non-disclosure prior to their being approved for employment. In addition, only after 72 years does the information collected become available to other agencies or the general public.✂

The 2010 Census Is Here! Make a Difference and Be Counted

Riverside WDC PAC calls on you to ensure that every woman is counted in the 2010 Census. Research indicates the census has long disproportionately missed minorities. In 2000, the Census Bureau did not count close to **4.5 million people, mostly African-American and Hispanic-American.**

What can you do?

Encourage your neighbors, family, friends, church members, co-workers, and more to complete their census forms and mail them back immediately.

Post information on Facebook, Twitter, MySpace and other social networking sites.

For those in **Riverside** who lost or never received their Census 2010 forms, the following places will provide forms **until April 19**:

***RIVERSIDE MAIN LIBRARY** at 3581 Mission Inn
English/Spanish forms available

***CASA BLANCA LIBRARY** at 2985 Madison
English/Spanish forms available

Assistance with filling out the forms: call 826-2120 for times

***BEST CLEANERS**

3259 Arlington - English forms only available

For more information, visit
www.2010census.gov or call **866-872-6868**

CONTRIBUTE TO THE WDC NEWSLETTER!

[CONTACT US](#) WITH NEWS, TIPS, AND IDEAS...OR SUBMIT A GUEST COLUMN OF YOUR OWN.

SEND YOUR SUBMITTALS TO:

CORINNE.PARKER@YAHOO.COM

Remember: this is **YOUR** newsletter, too!



WDC Executive Board

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Marisa Yeager, Membership Chair
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The WDC is on facebook!

“Women’s Democratic PAC of Riverside”

Visit our website!

www.RiversideWomenDems.com

NEXT MEETING: WED APRIL 7

RIVERSIDE WOMENS DEMOCRATIC CLUB
P.O. BOX 20602
RIVERSIDE CA 92516

BULK RATE
US POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT NO.
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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

Mailing Address
Street Number and Name
City, State 98765-4321