

ENDORSEMENT POLICY QUESTIONS/OPTIONS

(Transcript of discussion of Citizenship Participation Department Organizational Conference - August 19-21, 1976 - North Unit, LaPas)

Cesar: Crosby, what do you mean by endorsing policy and procedures?

Crosby: I don't know what the policy is going to be; one of the policies is that you either endorse people or you don't endorse them. There's at least a minimum amount of policy that has to be set before anyone can sit down and write it because procedure is a way of carrying out policy.

If the policy is that you don't endorse anybody, then the procedure is very simple.

Dianna: The reason we brought it up is that we are getting all these responses from people like the Peace and Freedom candidates who are from the third party or sometimes even the fourth party in some cases. And then these people will come and are we going to endorse the people who are there or say some Democrat who doesn't come and stands for certain things? Or are we going to make a wise political decision and figure out a way to avoid that?

Crosby: You could have, for example, one option would be a policy that we're not going to endorse anybody who doesn't endorse Prop 14; or you could say we're not going to endorse anybody who doesn't ask for an endorsement; you can say we're not going to endorse anybody who doesn't show up; or we're only going to accept requests for endorsement from the two major political parties; or we're going to accept and consider for endorsement anybody who wants to ask for one. So, there are some policies that you set down and within those policies it isn't too hard to sit down and write procedures.

Cesar: Could you just write down some of those policies right now so we could bring them to the Board?

Mack: Do we endorse Peace and Freedom candidates?

Michael: Or, more generally, the people who stand with you but don't stand a hell of a chance of getting elected?

Mack: Do we endorse Republicans?

Dianna: What we want to do is draw the tightrope.

Mack: Do we endorse people who are not at the convention? Do we endorse people who don't endorse Prop 14?

Alex: Only the viable candidates. . .

Diana: Do you endorse candidates COPE has not endorsed--if COPE has endorsed your opponent?

Cesar: Can we have double endorsements? open endorsements?

Mack: Do we have a majority? or 2/3 or 3/4? Those with a loud cheer? Is it the majority voting - quorum?

Cesar: Who makes the recommendations to the convention?

Crosby: Who makes recommendations to the convention?

Cesar: The workers, the endorsing committee

Mack: The endorsement committee? Right.

Dolores: Does that help with the tightrope?

Mack: Ok, we have to have some policies in the committee, too. Within committees, how do you - how does the committee at large deal with endorsements?

Crosby: This is the committee policies; district caucus. . .re the convention endorsement committee - what do you call it?

Cesar: It's the whole convention, right? There'll be a committee headed by Mack of a few people and this endorsement committee makes recommendations to the floor. Subcommittees or caucuses of districts are ones who meet with candidates.

Crosby: You're talking about the sub-committees, then.

Mack: We're talking about the district; the way it's broken down, the delegates from those districts will be meeting with the candidates from those districts.

Dolores: What if we have a candidate and no place?

Crosby: This is policy coming out of the convention structure involving the endorsement committee, the endorsement subcommittee by district and what else?

Something that has to do with who presents what to whom?

Mack: Endorsement subcommittees by district--we just need to know how that process is going to work in terms of the endorsement committee.

Crosby: Okay, if I got this and split off from that, who makes up the endorsement committee?

Mack: Members from each endorsement subcommittee by district. I don't know how many, but somebody from each one of those.



- Mack: Everybody who is committed has to know what the policies are. The tightrope effect is represented on page 3 - the direction given by arrows from the convention to the endorsing committee to the district subcommittees and the reporting back and forth.
- Crosby: As soon as you begin to draw something like this, you are setting policy.
- Cesar: We'll recommend it to the convention. These are the rules for endorsement.
- Crosby: The subcommittee from districts interview the candidates from that district, but what happens when they lap more than one district. Statewide candidates would be committee of the whole. Who is going to introduce state or national candidates?
- Dianna: The endorsement committee could do it. There are some people coming for Peace and Freedom endorsement who worked on the boycott several years ago.
- Mack: Ok, let me just get it straight. The candidates meet with the district committee and those district committees--what do they do in relation to the endorsing committee, sub committee in their group--how do they get their thing together?
- Crosby: I would assume the endorsing convention in effect gives some instructions to the committee, don't they? Yes. Then that's your rules. When the rules are approved, that gives instructions to the endorsing committee and to the district sub committee and then this comes back as recommendations (as shown on circle charts) and then the compiled recommendations go back to the convention.
- Mack: Is there any voting on those recommendations coming out of the district committees? What I'm asking, is we have a meeting right here and the meeting breaks up and we have heard two candidates.
- Crosby: The endorsing committee in the case of state and national candidates would vote and make a recommending decision.
- Mack: Let's deal with these little committees first and then we can deal with the others.
- Michael: It would seem to me if we pass the rules we already talked about, we would endorse those who support 14; who are with us and who have a chance of helping us (who are viable); that's the rule that goes to the caucus. The caucus listens to these candidates; and in line with this rule and the background information they have, they vote on whoever they would want to endorse from the people they heard.
- Mack: So they vote for recommendations to the subcommittees.
- Michael: No, back to the whole endorsing committee.