

1 **46th District Organization:**
 2 **Methods of Voting and Determining Results**
 3

4 **I. Routine Voting**

5 **A. Voice**

- 6 1. Voting will normally take place by voice vote (Ayes and Nays).
 7 2. If the Chair is confident about the outcome, he/she announces the result.

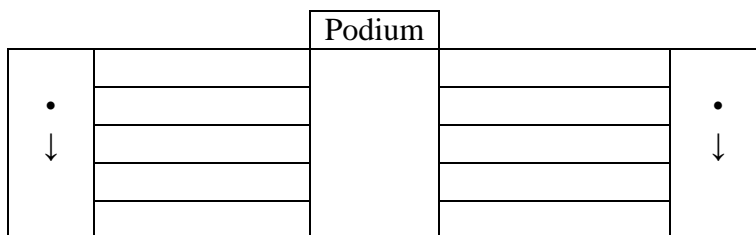
8 **B. Revote – Show of Hands or Rising (Standing)**

- 9 1. If the Chair is in doubt about a voice vote, he/she may call for a revote, either by a
 10 show of hands or rising vote, calling for the Ayes and then the Nays, and makes a
 11 visual judgment as to the prevailing side.
 12 2. If any member is in doubt about a voice vote, he/she may call out “Division” (no
 13 second required). The Chair immediately calls for a raising of hands by the Ayes,
 14 and then by the Nays, and makes a visual judgment as to the prevailing side.
 15 3. If the Chair or any member is in doubt as to the outcome of an uncounted vote, see §
 16 II below.
 17 4. When voting is restricted to Precinct Committee Officers, PCOs may be asked to
 18 raise credentials. When warranted, credentials are prepared by the Membership Chair
 19 or any other person designated by the Chair, and shall be provided to PCOs at the
 20 sign-in table.
 21

22 **II. Counted Vote**

23 **A. Counted Hand Vote**

- 24 1. If the Chair is in doubt after a show of hands or rising vote, he/she may call for a
 25 counted vote.
 26 2. If a member wants the vote counted, the member moves for a counted vote. Such
 27 motion requires a second, is not debatable, and requires a simple majority vote to
 28 pass.
 29 3. The Chair appoints tellers to count the vote and calls for the Ayes.
 30 4. Each teller, from the outer aisles, walks row-by-row, from front to back of the
 31 room.
 32 5. Voters with raised hands face the teller on their side and are counted off in order by
 33 the teller.
 34 6. Tellers meet at the podium and report their vote counts to the Chair.
 35 7. The Chair calls for the Nays.
 36 8. After the Nays are counted and reported in the same manner, the Chair declares the
 37 result.
 38



1 **B. Counted Rising Vote** – The Chair may, at his/her sole discretion, call for a rising
2 (standing) vote, to be conducted and counted in the same manner as provided in §II.A.
3 above. The Aye and Nay voters will, in turn, be asked to face the outer aisle on their side
4 and are counted off by the tellers.

5 **C. Written Ballots**

6 **1. General Procedures**

- 7 a. Where required by higher authority or determined by vote of the body, voting
8 will be conducted by written ballot.
- 9 b. Official ballots will be prepared by the Membership Chair or any other person
10 designated by the Chair, and shall be provided to eligible voters at the sign-in
11 table.
- 12 c. No replacement ballots or credentials will be issued for those lost or misplaced.
- 13 d. The Chair appoints tellers from a list of members who have received Tally
14 Committee orientation and instruction.
- 15 e. The Chair asks that all those eligible to vote pick up their ballots, if they have not
16 already done so.
- 17 f. The Chair announces which ballot is to be used for the particular issue, and asks
18 that they be uniformly submitted face down and not folded.
- 19 g. Tally Committee collects the ballots.
- 20 h. The Chair asks if any who have a ballot and want to vote have not had their ballot
21 collected.
- 22 i. Tally Committee counts the ballots on a table or other visible surface in an
23 accessible place in the building. Observers may be present, must not interfere
24 and must stand back from the ballots and Committee. Upon request by the
25 Tally Chair, the number of such observers may be limited.
- 26 j. An eligible voter may submit his/her ballot while the Tally Committee is still
27 counting ballots for that race/measure.
- 28 k. No ballot may be submitted after the Tally Committee has completed its count.
- 29 l. When signed ballots are required, a member desirous of changing her/his vote
30 after the Tally Committee has collected the ballots may retrieve her/his ballot,
31 change it and resubmit it to the Committee if the Committee has not yet
32 completed its count.
- 33 m. If the intent of the voter is clear, the Tally Committee will ignore misspellings.
- 34 n. Folded ballots are not invalid nor illegal, and will be counted.
- 35 o. Neither a motion to adjourn the meeting nor a question of the existence of a quorum
36 is in order while awaiting the Chair's declaration of the results of a vote, or while a
37 motion for a recount is being considered.
- 38

39 **2. Questionable Ballots** – Ballots that fall into either of two categories are to be
40 deemed questionable by the Tally Committee:

- 41 a. Invalid Ballot – any ballot that is either:
42 i. Unsigned (when a signature is required)
43 ii. Cast for an incorrect number of candidates, or for someone not eligible (e.g.,
44 “Robin Hood”)
45 iii. Blank or illegible
- 46 b. Illegal Ballot – any ballot that is either:
47 i. Cast on a wrong-numbered or wrong-color ballot
48 ii. Cast by an ineligible voter

1 c. Neither invalid nor illegal ballots count in determining the result of a vote, but
2 invalid ballots are to be included in calculating the total number of votes cast.
3

4 **3. Procedure with Questionable Ballots That May Affect a Result** – If it
5 appears to the Tally Committee that a vote is close and that one or more questionable
6 ballots may affect the result:

- 7 a. The Tally Chair halts the tally procedure, collects all the questionable ballots,
8 delivers them to the Chair and informs the Chair that the Committee has questions
9 about the validity or legality of one or more ballots.
10 b. At the earliest practical opportunity, the Chair – without revealing which candidate
11 or which side of the issue would be aided by counting or not counting the ballot –
12 describes the problem with each questionable ballot and presents to the body the
13 question of whether to count it.
14 c. Upon the decision of the body, the Tally Chair returns to the Tally Committee with
15 the ballots in question and the Committee completes its report.
16

17 **4. Procedure with Questionable Ballots That Will NOT Affect Results** –
18 When apparently questionable ballots, if counted, will not affect the results in a race,
19 the Tally Committee counts them as invalid or illegal in accordance with ¶C.2.c
20 above, without need for referral to the Chair or the body.
21

22 **5. Reporting the Results**

- 23 a. For each ballot vote taken, the tellers shall prepare a separate Tally Sheet.
24 b. After the tabulation is complete, each member of the Tally Committee signs the
25 Tally Sheet. All ballots, including questionable ballots of all kinds, are attached
26 together into groups according to how the votes are credited and are placed in an
27 envelope labeled: “46th LD Democrats / office or issue / ballot number (e.g., 1st,
28 2nd ballot, etc.) / date.” The envelope is sealed and the appropriate Tally Sheet
29 taped on top.
30 c. The Tally Chair delivers the Tally Sheet secured to the sealed envelope of ballots
31 to the Chair.
32 d. The Chair reads the totals reflected on the Tally Sheet to the body, and declares
33 the result.
34 e. The data from the Tally Sheet are entered into the official minutes of the meeting.
35 f. Except where State Party rules provide otherwise, ballots shall be destroyed 21
36 days after the meeting.
37

38 **6. Motion for Recount of a Ballot Vote** (requires a second; is non-debatable;
39 simple majority to pass): If a member questions the accuracy of a ballot-vote count,
40 the member should move for a recount of the votes. Only ballots in the sealed
41 envelope shall be recounted. The motion to recount must be made within a
42 reasonably brief time after the Chair has declared the result of a vote, and in no case
43 after adjournment of the meeting at which the vote took place.
44