

Standing Endorsement Rules of the 46th District Democrats

Approved April 18, 2023

Amended March 21, 2024, March 18, 2025, April 15, 2025, and April 21, 2026

All meetings of the 46th District Democrats are governed by our [Bylaws](#) and [Standing Rules](#) and conducted according to Robert's Rules of Order. These standing Endorsement Rules further define processes at our Endorsement Meetings.

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1. Meeting Scheduling and Conduct

- 1.a. Endorsement Meetings shall be conducted according to these Standing Endorsement Rules, which must be posted for the membership at least 10 days prior to an Endorsement Meeting.
- 1.b. Motions to consider endorsing Ballot Measures will be in order at any general membership meeting if such is announced in the 10-day meeting notice. Such motions require a 60.00% vote to pass.

2. Eligibility to Vote

- 2.a. Only Voting Members of the 46th District Democrats shall be eligible to vote on endorsements. Membership is defined within Article 3 of the Bylaws.
 - i. All PCOs of the 46th Legislative District are members and eligible to vote.
 - ii. Memberships from the previous calendar year can be renewed up to 24 hours before the endorsement meeting.
 - iii. New members must pay applicable dues 21 calendar days prior to the endorsements meeting in order to be eligible to vote.
- 2.b. Voting by proxy is not allowed.
- 2.c. Reasonable accommodation is provided upon request, per Section 4 of the Bylaws of the 46th District.

3. Candidate Eligibility for Endorsement

- 3.a. To be eligible for endorsement, a candidate for partisan office must file as a Democrat.
- 3.b. Candidates must sign and submit the appropriate King County Democrats candidates questionnaire and any supplemental questionnaire no later than five days before the endorsement meeting at which the candidate would be considered or by 9 AM of the day after the last day of candidate filing, whichever is later. Copies of submitted questionnaires will be posted to the 46th District's website. A majority of the Executive Board may waive this requirement for incumbents in partisan offices running for re-election who have previously submitted questionnaires.

4. Voting Procedures for Candidate Races

- 4.a. A minimum of 60.00% of ballots cast is required for adoption of an endorsement position.

4.b. No Endorsement is a position available on all ballots.

4.c. All voting will be by non-identifiable written ballots (electronic ballots with a means of retention without linkage to each voter or anonymous paper ballots filled out by each voter) issued to eligible voters for all races with two or more eligible candidates.

4.d. Counting of votes shall be completed according to accepted best practices and in accordance with any adopted Tally Rules in a manner that allows observation by any member who wishes to do so. An audit report that can be electronically inspected is an acceptable substitute for physical observers. Ballots or electronic records must be retained for 90 days.

4.e. The Executive Board [or Elections Committee] may create a consolidated list of candidates in races where only one candidate is eligible for endorsement, for which the membership may dispense with balloting and endorse those on the list through unanimous consent. Any member may request that a candidate be pulled from the slate to be considered individually, by paper or electronic ballot.

5. Endorsement Consideration Procedures

5.a. Consideration of Candidates

5.a.1. To be eligible for endorsement, each candidate or ballot measure must be nominated for consideration by a member of the 46th Legislative District. Each nominated candidate and/or their representative or speakers on their behalf will be entitled to address the body for two (2) minutes total. Speeches will be made in the order in which candidates were nominated.

If only one candidate is considered for endorsement, the Chair will allow a member to speak in favor of making no endorsement. The speaker in favor of No Endorsement will be entitled to address the body for two (2) minutes.

5.a.2. The Chair may recognize a candidate or member for up to an additional 30 seconds to rebut a specific negative statement or ad hominem attack directed against a named candidate.

5.a.3. Speaking Before the Endorsements Meeting

- a. Each candidate may have two (2) minutes in which they and/or their representative may speak about their campaign at only one (1) meeting before the endorsements meeting during the period starting with the January meeting.
- b. Speaking at any candidates forum organized by the 46th District Democrats is not counted towards the one (1) meeting speaking limit.

5. b. Consideration of Ballot Measures

5.b.1. For each motion to consider a position on a Ballot Measure, a presentation of a speech or speeches totaling not more than 2 minutes will be allowed for each of the three possible positions: Affirmative (*yes*), Negative (*no*), or No Endorsement. One non-member representative of a ballot measure campaign(s) and 46th District voting members may speak on behalf of a position on a ballot measure. Members will hear all speeches regarding the ballot measure before the vote. Speakers for each position will be entitled to address the body for two (2) minutes.

5.b.2. Motions to endorse a position on a ballot measures shall be in order at all meetings, provided notice that such shall be considered were included in the 10-day meeting notice sent to all members in the manner specified in the Bylaws.

5.b.3. Motions to recommend signature-gathering or “decline to sign” campaigns for state, county or municipal initiatives shall be in order at any regular district meeting, provided notice that such shall be considered were included in the 10-day meeting notice sent to all members in the manner specified in the Bylaws. Recommendations for a signature-gathering campaign are considered endorsements of a Yes or No position, and require a 60.00% affirmative vote to pass.

6. Voting in Candidate Races

6.a. Candidates for endorsement will be elected by written ballot or electronic written ballot as defined in these rules. At any point in the balloting, if a candidate or No Endorsement receives 60.00% of the votes cast, then the motion passes.

6.b. **First Ballot** : Each voting member may vote for as many candidates for each office as they choose, or for No Endorsement.

- i. Any candidate receiving sixty percent (60.00%) of the ballots cast for that contest will receive an endorsement.
- ii. *Ballots marked as No Endorsement which also have marked candidates will be disqualified.*
- iii. Ballots marked as No Endorsement alone will be counted towards the total required.

6.c. **Second Ballot**: In the event no candidate receives sixty percent (60.00%) of the ballots cast, any candidate receiving at least forty percent (40.00%) of the ballots cast will be eligible for a second ballot.

- i. There will not be a second ballot if all candidates eligible in a first round of voting would qualify for a second ballot. In this case, voting is concluded, and closed for the endorsement meeting at hand. If this occurs, and no endorsement is reached for the primary, the race may be considered post-primary for the general election.
- ii. Any candidate receiving sixty percent (60.00%) of the ballots cast on a second ballot will receive an endorsement.

6.d. Only one additional (second) ballot per race will be allowed. The second ballot will include any candidates who qualify, as well as No Endorsement.

6.e. No additional time will be allocated for addressing the membership before votes.

6.f. If no candidate endorsed in the Primary continues to the General, then the race may be reopened for endorsement in August.

7. Voting on Ballot Measures

Each eligible voter will vote for one position – Affirmative (*yes*), Negative (*no*), or No Endorsement. If a position receives 60.00% of the votes cast, then the motion passes.

8. Rescinding an Endorsement

8.a. Rescinding an endorsement is in order for a candidate who is credibly accused of serious wrongdoing or malfeasance, that merits rescinding the endorsement; or in a case where a candidate has left the race; or if the endorsed candidate switches Parties or declared choice of caucus even while claiming Democratic membership.

8.b. Rescinding an endorsement for a ballot measure is in order when substantial new information that alters the interpretation or impact of the ballot measure has become available and merits reconsideration.

8.c. Process:

i. Upon the written request (including electronic petition) of one of these groups, the motion to rescind shall be voted on at the next membership meeting for which notice can be given.

- 10% of voting members or 25 voting members (whichever is higher)
- 10% of elected and appointed PCOs
- 40% of the Executive Board

ii. Rescinding an endorsement requires 10-day written notice to the body and all candidates eligible for endorsement for the affected office. The written notice must specify when the reconsideration process will occur.

iii. A 75% vote of the members present and voting is required to rescind the endorsement and reopen the endorsement decision. If the membership votes to rescind and reopen the endorsement, then the endorsement process is reopened, as if there had not been an endorsement in the race previously.

iv. It is not permissible for the rescission vote and potential new endorsement process to occur at the same general or special meeting of the membership. Any new endorsement will occur with appropriate notice at a subsequent meeting and under the requirements of these rules.

9. Suspending rules

These rules may not be suspended once adopted.