

Endorsement Procedures for LD48 Dems

Submitted 2023

Endorsements are a public declaration of support by the LD48 Dems (or the organization) on behalf of a candidate for public office or for a person seeking appointment to a public position of responsibility. Endorsements also signify support or opposition to ballot measures. Endorsements represent a determination by the organization that the success of a particular campaign will further our Democratic values and ideals.

Rule I – Timeframe and criteria for endorsements

Section 1. Any process mandated by Washington State Democratic Party for nominating candidates supersedes these endorsement procedures if they conflict with that process.

Section 2. Every candidate endorsement shall be for a specific candidate, office and election cycle. A candidate may not be endorsed for more than one office simultaneously.

Section 3. Endorsements may be considered only for a candidate or ballot measure for which at least one registered voter in Legislative District 48 is entitled to vote. See Bylaws Section II.4.a

Section 4. The 48th LD Democrats, through their Endorsement Committee shall publish, and as far as practical reach out to candidates to notify them of our rules and expectations for Endorsement.

Section 5. Endorsements will be considered after the end of any filing period, whether the regular filing week at the end of May, or a special filing period, unless the endorsement is for a nomination, a position within the Democratic Party, or an appointment.

Section 6. Candidates shall be directed to apply to the Endorsement Committee for interview after filling out the King County Democrats Endorsement application.

Section 7. An endorsement lasts until the election. If the election is a primary, the candidate must continue on to the General Election to retain the organization's endorsement.

Rule II – Endorsements Committee

Section 1. The Endorsements Committee is responsible for vetting candidates, evaluating ballot measures, and making endorsement recommendations to the membership. For any given race or ballot measure, the Committee may only recommend one candidate or position at a time, which is then voted on before the next candidate who may be for the same position.

Section 2. Membership of the LD48 Endorsement Committee shall be as diverse as possible and include among other criteria diversity of gender, age, race, ethnicity, religion, income, LGBTQ, first language, and veteran status.

Section 3. The Committee may, at its discretion, produce its own questionnaires, hold its own candidate interviews separately or in conjunction with other Legislative Districts or schedule discussions between rival candidates seeking endorsement.

Section 4. The Committee shall invite eligible candidates in partisan and nonpartisan races to apply for endorsement upon learning of their candidacies. Eligibility is defined in the bylaws, see Section 2.3. Invitations must include a link to or an electronic copy of the King County Democrats candidate questionnaire and an explanation of the endorsements process.

Section 5. As in all matters, recusal when a conflict of interest or appearance of conflict is present is an essential part of good ethics. Therefore Endorsement Committee members will recuse themselves from consideration of a seat if a conflict of interest is present. This includes spouse, family member, significant other, candidate election staff or consultant, close personal or professional colleagues, among other relationships that can cause conflict of interest.

Section 6. The committee can make the following types of recommendations and will report a short statement on the decision:

- a) Yes - endorse this candidate
- b) No - do not endorse this candidate
- c) No recommendation on this candidate

- d) Wait - the committee may not have been able to meet with all candidates who requested consideration yet.

Section 7. The committee members may still exercise their rights as individual members of the body by speaking or voting as individuals on any motions.

Rule III – Significance of endorsements

Section 1. Endorsements represent a directive by the membership to its executive board and other committees to make every reasonable effort to support worthy campaigns.

Section 2. Endorsed candidates are entitled all services the organization provides to candidates; for example, access to district elected PCO lists, a listing in the Endorsements Guide, ability to promote events through the organization's social channels, and the right to list the LD48 Dems as an endorser in campaign materials. Votebuilder access is granted by the Washington State Democratic Party not the 48th LD Democrats.

Section 3. Only campaigns the organization have endorsed are eligible for financial support.

Section 4. The organization shall only promote petitions for ballot measures it has endorsed.

Section 5. A candidate may not claim to have the support of the organization or imply the same – unless he or she has actually been endorsed.

Rule IV – Eligibility for endorsement

Section 1. To be eligible for endorsement a candidate must file as a Democrat with the Public Disclosure Commission, unless the candidate is seeking a nonpartisan office.

Section 2. A candidate must request the organization's support to be considered for endorsement. Submission to the committee of a candidate questionnaire published by this organization or the King County Democrats constitutes an automatic request. The Endorsements Committee shall make blank candidate questionnaires available for download to candidates seeking legislative, judicial, and executive office on the website.

Section 3. If the nonpartisan office sought is judicial, no attempt shall be made to ascertain party affiliation. If the nonpartisan office sought is executive or legislative, a candidate must satisfactorily answer the question, "Are you a Democrat?", either in the affirmative or the negative. A candidate who answers in the negative is not eligible for endorsement unless the following additional criteria are met:

- The filing period has closed;
- The candidate's completed questionnaire states that he or she is an independent;
- The Endorsements Committee has interviewed the candidate and a majority of the Committee recommends that he or she be endorsed.

Section 4. No request from an outside organization is necessary for the organization to take a position on a ballot measure. Positions may be taken on any ballot measure for which the language is finalized and a number assigned See Bylaws Section. 2.4.e

Rule V – Consideration of endorsement requests

Section 1. Endorsement requests shall first be directed to the Endorsements Committee for review.

Section 2. Whenever possible, the Endorsements Committee shall interview all the known Democratic candidates requesting endorsement in a race prior to bringing forth a recommendation.

Section 3. Endorsement requests shall be considered at the declared Endorsement meeting of the full body after the close of filing. At other times of the year, the membership must be notified in advance that an endorsement request will be considered. See Bylaws Section 2.4.e

Rule VI - Endorsement Motions

Section 1. The Endorsements Committee shall present its recommendations for all races before any endorsement motions from the floor can be considered by the membership. Endorsements from the floor of candidates not yet reviewed by

the Endorsement Committee, upon receiving a second shall be postponed until the next general meeting of the full body, and forwarded to the Endorsement committee which shall then request an application and, as far as possible conduct interviews. See Bylaws Section II.4.b

Section 2. Endorsement motions are only in order during the portion of the Endorsement meeting designated on the agenda, as adopted, for consideration of endorsements. Before proceeding to the next item on the agenda, the Chair shall thrice ask the body: "Are there any further endorsement motions tonight?" If there are none, the endorsements business for that meeting shall be concluded.

Section 3. A motion to endorse may name only one candidate or ballot measure at a time. The body still has the option to endorse multiple candidates for the same race when voting on each individual candidate for the position.

Section 4. Debate on an endorsement shall be limited to two statements for and against lasting no longer than two minutes each. The limit on the number of statements (but not the time limit) may be extended by a vote of the body. The Chair shall appoint a timekeeper to enforce the rules. While such a debate limitation is in place, the motion to terminate debate shall be out of order.

Section 5. Votes on endorsement motions must be taken either by raised credentials or signed ballots. Following each vote, the secretary or acting secretary shall record the number of ayes, the number of nays and the number of abstentions on the motion after each tally has been stated.

Section 6. Endorsements for nominations remain valid until a nominee is selected. In the event a candidate who is endorsed by the organization for a nomination does not become the nominee, the endorsement that he or she received shall immediately lapse.

Section 7. In the event that a nominated candidate does not survive the Top Two election, and a new nominee is not chosen by October 1st, the remaining Democrats in the race – if any – shall become eligible for an endorsement, so long as they have satisfied the requirements set forth in Article IV.

Rule VII – Rescission of endorsements

Section 1. An endorsement may be rescinded, or revoked, by a two-thirds vote of members present and voting at a general meeting. A motion to rescind must state a cause in writing and published in the meeting call. Cause for rescission shall be limited to moral turpitude, false or misleading statements in endorsement documents or criminal conduct. See Bylaw Section II.4.g.

Section 2. In the event that an endorsed candidate dies or withdraws, the endorsement he or she received shall immediately and automatically lapse.

Rule VIII – Endorsements for positions in the Democratic Party

Section 1. An individual seeking a leadership position in another Democratic Party organization that geographically overlaps with the district may request an endorsement in advance of the meeting when the position will be filled. Endorsement requests for party offices decided at biennial reorganization meetings cannot be considered until the date of the general election in November has passed.

Section 2. The organization shall not endorse candidates for leadership positions on its own executive board.

Rule IX – Amendment of these Endorsement Procedures

Section 1. Once adopted, these procedures may be amended by majority vote of the membership of the organization at a general meeting, provided that the proposed changes have been reviewed by the Rules Committee and Executive Board prior to the date of the meeting and distributed with the call for the meeting.