

You may be aware of recent issues in the 13th Representative District Committee (RD) meeting regarding candidate endorsements from the local party. **The main problem was a failure of specificity in the endorsement process within the RDs.** Therefore, issues arose about the need for prior notification of such endorsement votes, and a distinct timeline for when RDs may endorse. Furthermore, there were ethical issues that, although not contrary to any rules, nevertheless led to chaos, opaqueness, and unfair events. To be clear, this is not about a single occurrence, candidate, or RD. This is about systemic flaws in Party rules.

To that point, if anyone takes this as a reason to not get involved, then you are missing the entire point. These things will happen, and possibly happen even more frequently, if you do not get involved. If you see something that doesn't seem right, even if it is in accordance with the rules, or lack of rules, then get involved and say something! That's why we have the ability to change the rules. So that when we see something that is allowed, but isn't really the most democratic way to do things, we can modify the rules to make sure the way we do things moving forward is in the best, and most democratic way possible.

I've been saying it for the past number of years, and I will keep saying. Get involved, show up, speak up, and fight for what you believe in. We will not change the system by disengaging and becoming apathetic. The only thing that will happen if we do that is that we will have even less control over what is happening to us in our everyday lives. Democracy is not a spectator sport, we all have the power to make a difference, but that means that we must be engaged.

All that being said, this will be the final update on the grievance that was filed:

First, the endorsement for the County Council seat has been voided. It was not done in a manner in accordance with the rules. There will be a new vote sometime in April, where everyone will get a chance to come that is on an RD and in that council district, and they will get to vote on that endorsement. The rules state that the only position an RD can endorse is for the Representative for that district. There is the process above to endorse a county race- that just wasn't how it was done that night.

Second, because we did not make a motion to adopt the agenda as it was, and most RDs don't do this, there was no need to make a motion to change the agenda. So, someone could have easily made the motion to bring it to the committee under new business. That isn't exactly what happened, but it would not have changed the outcome. Nor was it an important part of my issues with what happened that night.

Finally, and most importantly, there is nothing in the State or County Party Rules that states that notice has to be given to let people know that there is an endorsement vote happening at a meeting before that endorsement vote takes place. But that is the real problem here. There is nothing in the rules to prevent anyone from loading a room and forcing an unfair vote-and I don't care who does it, it is wrong. This is not an issue of one candidate or another, it is an issue with the system that we ALL currently operate under. So, if you want to make the change to see a

rule that says that any notice has to be given for an endorsement vote before it takes place, then we all need to make that recommendation to the rules committee that is currently rewriting our State Party Rules. We CAN change the system that we are all currently operating under to make it more fair, inclusive, transparent, and democratic. But we all have to take responsibility, step into the process already in place, and send that email to the rules committee. Delaware United has now made suggestions on what you can do to reach the Rules Committee [at this link.](#)