

In my capacity as chair, I have ruled that the resolution to endorse Initiative 83 requires a two thirds majority to be endorsed by the chapter. This ruling has been appealed, in order, at our chapter's General Body Meeting on January 28, 2024.

My reasoning is straightforward. Section 4 of our bylaws states in paragraph 4 that "An endorsement resolution will require a two-thirds vote in favor to pass." While Section 4 of our bylaws repeatedly and often makes reference to candidates when describing our endorsement process, this sentence stands on its own and makes no reference to candidates. Since there is no functional difference between a candidate endorsement and a ballot initiative endorsement in terms of the work required by the chapter (canvassing, messaging, recruiting volunteers, etc), I believe that a simple language reading of the bylaws means they also apply to ballot initiatives. Simply put: we have a high bar to commit ourselves to electoral campaigns. The fact that one doesn't have a candidate shouldn't change things, and I believe the bylaws clearly support this.

Additionally, the endorsement process was explained to the members bringing the resolution to endorse Initiative 83, and all steps - except filling out a questionnaire, which we currently do not have for ballot initiatives - have been the same as those we have taken for candidate endorsements, and the Political Engagement Committee has also issued a recommendation on this front. This is not a short process, and requires submitting paperwork to the chapter, garnering internal support, and presenting to the chapter more than once. Initiative 83 has gone through this monthslong process, starting before our local convention, and I believe we should respect the chapter's process here.