

A New Endorsement Policy



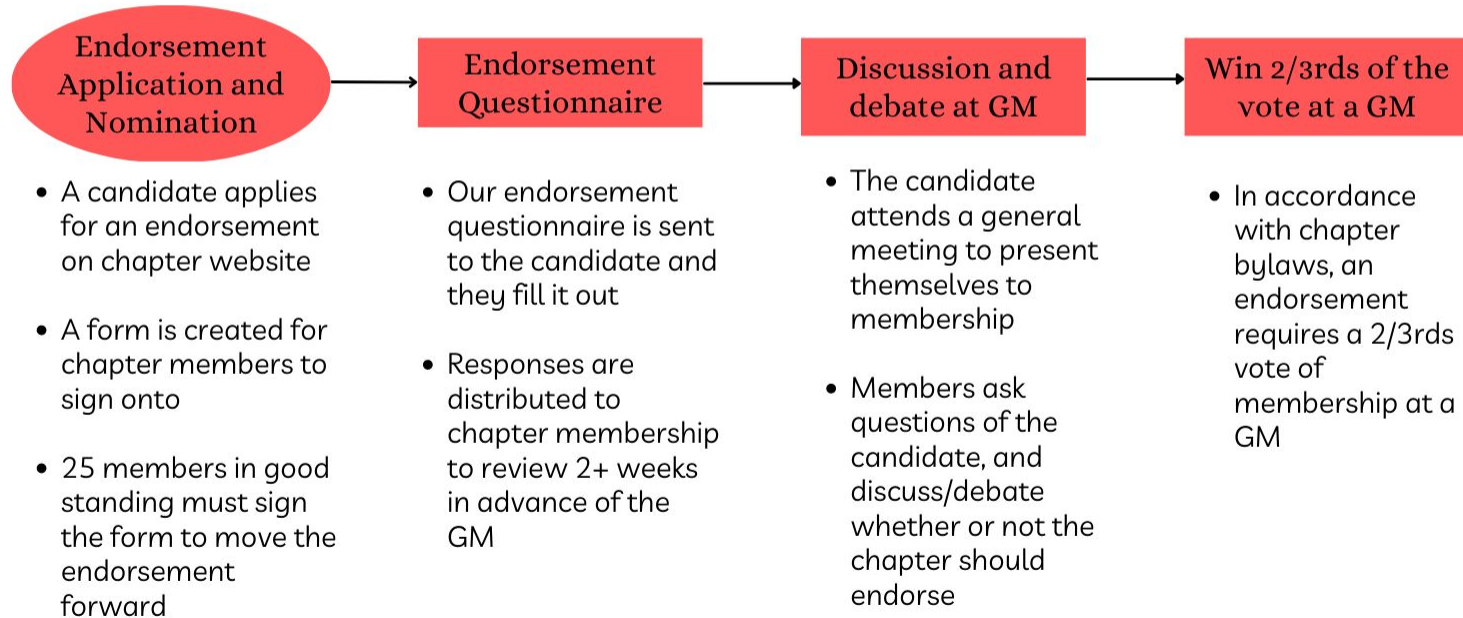
**Democratic
Socialists
of America**
Portland, Oregon



Why a new endorsement policy?

- City council elections in 2024!
- Putting socialist politics forward and building DSA!
- Maximizing our rank-and-file labor strength and coalition work!
- Supporting candidates and holding them accountable to our politics!

The path to endorsement



Two types of endorsement

CADRE ENDORSEMENT

DSA member & organizer who is committed to the DSA platform

Meets with chapter twice monthly

Required to identify as democratic socialist

Campaign is a chapter run project

Required to endorse all other DSA cadre candidates

Will form a socialist caucus when elected

EXTERNAL ENDORSEMENT

Aligns with chapter values but may not be a DSA member

Asked to support DSA platform -- members decide if commitment is sufficient

DSA is independently branded as a coalition partner of campaign

DSA has our own message within a coalition

Why have two endorsement tracks?

- **The most democratic setup**
- **Trusts members to make strategic decisions**
- **Allows for flexibility in races without DSA members**
- **Holds DSA leaders to clear standards**
- **Allows united front coalition work**

The Socialists In Office Committee

What is the SIOC?

✦ The body that coordinates between elected officials, campaigns, and the chapter

Seven voting members:

- 2 External organizing co-chairs
- 2 Electoral working group co-chairs
- 3 at large members elected at April GMs

✦ Meets twice monthly, open to all chapter members

What does the SIOC do?

✦ Meets with endorsed candidates and elected officials

✦ Coordinates slates of candidates and socialist caucus in legislatures

✦ Coordinates candidate/elected officials' support for DSA and chapter priorities

✦ Holds candidates accountable to DSA platform, membership democracy, and chapter policies

Why the SIOC?

A dedicated team can both support officials and hold them accountable

It lets the chapter directly elect electoral leaders

It makes electoral work a priority

The steering committee already has a lot of responsibilities

Other chapters like NYC use this model

To summarize:

- A candidate applies for a cadre or external endorsement
- If they get 25 signatures, they are sent the questionnaire
- They present to membership at a GM, the endorsement is discussed, and a 2/3rds vote is required to endorse
- SIOC coordinates between the chapter and the campaign/candidate to provide support and accountability
- GMs make decide on endorsements and how the chapter relates to candidates
- An electoral strategy to meet the moment and complement our organizing!