

Endorsement Procedures of the 5th District Democrats

(Adopted January ~~X18~~, 2021)

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Preamble

Endorsements are a public declaration of support by the 5th ~~Legislative~~-District Democrats (“5th LD”) on behalf of a candidate for public office, a person seeking appointment to a public position of responsibility, or in favor of or opposition of a ballot measure.

~~Endorsements also signify support for or opposition to ballot measures.~~ They represent a determination by the membership that election/appointment of the candidate, or approval/defeat of the ballot measure, will further our Democratic values and ideals.

~~Article I: Timeframe and criteria for endorsements~~

~~Section 1. Every candidate endorsement shall be for a specific candidate, office and term.~~

~~Section 2. Endorsements may be considered for any candidate or ballot measure for which at least one registered voter in the 5th LD is entitled to vote.~~

~~Section 3. Endorsements for all elected offices made before the end of any filing period, whether the regular filing week (two weeks before Memorial Day), or a special filing period, shall be considered early endorsements.~~

~~Section 4. Endorsements made after the end of filing (but before the primary election) or as part of the necessary business of a nominating convention shall be considered regular endorsements. Endorsements made after the primary election in August shall be considered late endorsements.~~

Article I: Purpose

Section 1: These procedures are standing rules for endorsements as per Article X of the Bylaws of the 5th District Democrats (“Bylaws”) and for the Endorsements Committee.

Article II: Endorsements Committee

~~Section 1: The Endorsements Committee is responsible for reviewing the qualifications of candidates and making a recommendation to the membership on which candidates to support (for nominations, elected office, or appointed positions) and which ballot measures to support or oppose.~~

Section 1: The Endorsements Committee (“Committee”) shall consist of a minimum of six voting members of the 5th LD.

Section 2: The District Chair shall appoint ~~an~~the Endorsements Committee Chair ~~for a two-year term~~ with the approval of the Executive Board and a majority of those members present and voting at a regular membership meeting. ~~This appointment should be made at the district’s reorganization meeting, or as soon thereafter as practical.~~

Section 3: Additional committee members shall be appointed ~~as needed by the Endorsements Committee Chair~~ with concurrence by the District Chair. Appointment of committee members shall seek to reflect the district’s diverse geographical areas, cities and towns and give preference to persons from groups historically marginalized based on gender, race, age, religion, sexual orientation, economic status and ethnic origin. One or more members may serve as Committee Vice-Chairs.

~~Committee members are responsible for researching candidates and ballot measures prior to drafting recommendations.~~

~~Section 4. The Committee may, at its discretion, produce its own questionnaires, hold its own Candidate interviews, or schedule discussions between rival candidates seeking endorsement.~~

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Section 4: The Committee Chair may remove committee members with three or more unexcused absences at their discretion with concurrence by the District Chair.

Section 5: Committee appointments are until the next reorganization meeting.

~~Section 5. The Committee is encouraged to prepare materials for presentation at meetings where it anticipates releasing recommendations. For instance, the Committee may distribute printed handouts, or make use of audiovisual equipment to explain its research and rationale.~~

Article III: Responsibilities of the Endorsements Committee

Section 1: The ~~Endorsements~~ Committee is responsible for reviewing the qualifications of candidates and making a recommendation to the membership on which candidates to ~~support~~ endorse (for nominations, elected office, or appointed positions) and which ballot measures to support or oppose.

Section ~~32~~: Committee members are expected to participate throughout the year. Committee members are responsible for researching candidates and ballot measures prior to drafting recommendations.

Section ~~43~~: The Committee may, at its discretion, produce its own questionnaires, hold its own ~~Candidate and ballot issue~~ interviews, or schedule discussions between rival candidates or ballot issue viewpoints seeking endorsement.

Section 4: The Committee should encourage endorsement requests from candidates and ballot measures for which at least one registered voter in the 5th LD is entitled to vote.

Section 5: The Committee should recommend candidates that reflect the Democratic values and ideals of the 5th LD's membership, and should strive in each race to recommend the single candidate that best reflects those values and ideals.

Section 6: Deliberations by the Committee are confidential, including interviews with candidates, any designated representatives of candidates, and those seeking endorsements for or against ballot measures.

Article ~~III~~IV: Significance of endorsements

Section 1: Endorsements represent a directive by the 5th LD's membership to its ~~e~~Executive ~~b~~Board and other committees to make every reasonable effort to support the election effort of the endorsed candidate or furtherance of the ballot proposal position.

Section 2: Endorsed candidates and ballot measures are entitled to all services the 5th LD provides to candidates; this, for example, includes access to databases and lists, ability to promote events through the 5th LD's calendar, and the right to list the 5th LD as an endorser in campaign materials.

Section 3: Candidates and ballot measure campaigns may not receive any financial support from the 5th ~~District Democrats~~LD unless they have received an endorsement.

Section 4: Furthermore, ~~t~~The 5th LD shall only promote the circulation of petitions for ballot measures it has endorsed.

Section ~~5~~4: In the absence of an endorsement, the executive board and other committees are expected to make case-by-case decisions on providing specific non-financial services in

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~~furtherance of the goals of electing Democratic candidates and advancing Democratic values and ideals. A candidate and ballot measures may not claim to have the support of the organization 5th LD – or imply the same – unless he or she has they have actually been endorsed for that specific term and position, or that specific ballot measure.~~

Article IV: Timeframe and criteria for endorsements

Section 1: Every candidate endorsement shall be for a specific candidate, office and term.

Section 2: Endorsements may be considered for any candidate or ballot measure for which at least one registered voter in the 5th LD is entitled to vote.

Section 3: ~~Early endorsements for all elected offices~~ are made before the end of any filing period for a regular election, ~~whether the regular filing week (two weeks before Memorial Day), or a special filing period, shall be considered early endorsements.~~

Section 4: ~~Regular E~~endorsements are made after the end of filing (but before the primary election,) or as part of the necessary business of a nominating convention ~~shall be considered regular endorsements.~~

Section 5: ~~Late E~~endorsements are made after the primary election, even if candidates are not required to run in the primary ~~in August shall be considered late endorsements.~~

Section 6: Endorsements for any candidate or ballot measure may not be considered within one month of the election where such race or ballot measure will appear on the ballot.

Section 7: For special elections, endorsements cannot be made earlier than six months prior to those elections. The concepts of early, regular, and late endorsements shall not pertain to special elections.

Article VI: Eligibility for endorsement

Section 1: Candidates must request ~~the support~~endorsement to be considered ~~for endorsement~~. Completion of a candidate questionnaire submitted to either the King County Democrats or the ~~5th LD Endorsement~~ Committee ~~automatically~~ constitutes a request.

Section 2: ~~4. Candidates for nonpartisan offices must show support of Democratic values and ideals. Candidates can demonstrate this support by stating that they prefer the Democratic Party when filing and running in partisan elections.~~

Section 3: ~~2. No request from a campaign is necessary for the 5th LD to take a position on a ballot measure. Positions may be taken on any~~ Endorsements for or against ballot measures (such as ~~an for~~ initiatives, constitutional amendments, ~~or~~ referendums, or local levies or bonds) can be considered without a request from the campaign or having a completed questionnaire ~~for which the language is finalized and a number assigned.~~

Section 3. A candidate for a partisan office must file as a Democrat or publicly announce his or her intention to do so.

Section 4. ~~Candidates for nonpartisan offices must show support of Democratic values and ideals.~~

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Article VII: Evaluation of endorsement requests

Section 1: Endorsement requests, whether for candidates or for positions on ballot measures, should generally be directed to the ~~Endorsements~~ Committee for review ~~and a recommendation~~ prior to consideration by the ~~general~~ membership.

~~Section 2: When time is a constraint, endorsement motions from the floor are in order with no prior committee review, unless the motion is to endorse in a contest with multiple Democratic candidates.~~

Section ~~3~~2: If the ~~Endorsements~~ Committee is evaluating a race in which there are multiple ~~Democratic~~ candidates eligible for endorsement as specified in Article VI, and ~~finds that~~ one or more ~~has have~~ not completed the ~~King County Democrats~~necessary questionnaire or been interviewed by the Committee, it may choose to defer a recommendation in that race in order to give fair consideration to ~~each all eligible~~ candidates ~~who may be eligible for an endorsement~~.

Article VIII: Endorsement motions; process for approving at membership meetings

~~Section 1: §. The Committee is encouraged to prepare materials for presentation at membership meetings where it anticipates releasing recommendations. For instance, the Committee may distribute printed handouts, or make use of audiovisual equipment to explain its research and rationale.~~

Section ~~2~~1: Endorsement requests shall be considered at every regular membership meeting between the close of filing and the general election; ~~these meetings shall be known as endorsement meetings~~. No special notice is required for regular and late endorsements at these meetings. ~~At other times of the year and ff~~ or all early endorsements, the membership must be notified at least seven days in advance of all endorsement requests that will be considered at the next ~~general~~ membership meeting.

Section ~~3~~2: The Endorsements Committee must present its recommendations ~~(if it is making any)~~ before any endorsement motions from the floor can be considered by the membership. Motions to endorse that are offered prior to this presentation shall be out of order. A recommendation by the ~~Endorsements~~ Committee in favor of endorsing a candidate or in support or opposition to a ballot measure constitutes an endorsement motion and second.

~~Section 3: Whenever possible, the Endorsements Committee shall attempt to provide the membership with information about recommendations it intends to present at an upcoming meeting.~~

Section 4: ~~All Approval of~~ motions for endorsement, whether for a candidate or a ballot measure, requires a ~~two two~~ two-thirds vote of members present and voting at a membership meeting to be approved. Motions to rescind an endorsement require the same standard, ~~but the Chair may rule such motions as out of order if he or she determines that circumstances clearly do not warrant rescission~~. Voting eligibility requirements are set forth in Article III of the Bylaws.

Section 5: ~~Upon recommendation by the executive committee and approval by the membership at a meeting prior to an endorsement vote, the two thirds threshold for endorsement for a specific office may be reduced. This is generally only warranted when~~

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~~there are three or more candidates seeking our endorsement in a race.~~

~~Section 6:~~ A motion to endorse a candidate from the floor is only in order if not an early endorsement and the candidate is eligible for endorsement as specified in article ~~VI~~ of these procedures.

Section ~~6:7~~: Combinations of candidates and positions may be considered in a single motion. For example, a motion to endorse all unopposed Democratic candidates or a motion to endorse several candidates for the same office may be considered.

Section ~~7:8~~: The Chair may choose to limit debate to no more than a fixed number of statements of a limited time for and against each motion, such as two statements for and against of no more than two minutes each, and appoint a timekeeper to enforce the rules. When such debate limitation is in place, ~~the any~~ motion to terminate debate by “calling the question” shall be out of order.

Section ~~8:9~~: When a vote on an endorsement motion is held, the ~~s~~Secretary or ~~a~~Acting ~~s~~Secretary shall record the number of ayes, the number of nays, and number of abstentions on the motion immediately after the chair or acting chair has tallied or accepted a tally for each.

Article ~~VII~~ **IX**: Endorsements for ~~nominations~~ candidates

Section 1: Any candidate ~~for an office subject to endorsement per Article 1, Section 2 who is~~ nominated by ~~the a process sanctioned by~~ Washington State Democratic Party shall be considered ~~automatically endorsed by the 5th LD, and -~~

~~Section 2: When a candidate is nominated for an office, the~~ endorsements for any other candidates for the same office shall immediately lapse.

Section ~~3~~2: Motions to endorse a candidate seeking the Democratic Party nomination for the offices of President ~~or Vice-President~~ of the United States of America shall never be in order. The candidate nominated for the offices of President ~~and Vice-President~~ of the United States by the Democratic Party at the Democratic National Convention shall ~~automatically~~ be considered endorsed by the 5th LD.

~~Section 4: Motions to endorse additional candidates for an office subsequent to nomination of a candidate for that office are permissible but strongly discouraged.~~

Article ~~VIII~~ **X**: Endorsement resolutions

Section 1: Resolutions whose whereas clauses include support or opposition to any candidate or ballot measure are endorsements and subject to all the requirements and restrictions of these endorsement rules, including any eligibility restrictions and adoption thresholds.

Section 2: Endorsement resolutions are a way of formally combining the rationale for an endorsement with the endorsement itself.

Article ~~IX~~ **XI**: Endorsements for leadership positions in the Democratic Party

Section 1: Individuals seeking a position of responsibility in another Democratic Party organization ~~which that~~ geographically overlaps with the 5th LD may request an endorsement, such as KCDCC officers. Such requests ~~must first~~ shall be evaluated by the ~~Endorsements~~

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Committee. ~~Valid requests shall be forwarded to the executive board, which shall determine whether it makes sense to place the request before the membership.~~

Section 2: Motions to endorse an individual ~~seeking for~~ a position of responsibility within the 5th LD, ~~such as District officers~~, shall never be in order. Individuals interested in seeking and holding leadership positions should make their intentions known to the Recruiting Committee, or to the ~~e~~Executive ~~b~~Board, if there is no Recruiting Committee organized.

Article XII: Amendment of these Endorsement Procedures

Section 1: ~~Once adopted, t~~These procedures ~~shall be considered are~~ special rules of order and may be suspended or amended only ~~by either the same requirements for amending the 5th LD bylaws, or by a two-thirds majority vote of the entire voting membership providing notice has been published to the membership at least 10 days prior to the meeting. ~~by a two thirds vote of the membership of the 5th LD at any regular membership meeting; however, motions to amend these rules are not in order until and unless the maker of the motion has submitted them in writing, and at least one copy of the proposed changes has been made available for every two members present or the proposal is available for projection.~~~~

Section 2: The membership may choose to refer consideration of any changes to the Endorsements Committee for review and recommendation.