

Rules for the 2018 Endorsement Process

Schedule of Endorsements and Deadlines

March 7, 2018 Early Endorsements of 2018 Candidates and Ballot Measures for April 24th Election

Only names of candidates and ballot measures submitted to the 47th District Democrats Organization (WA47Dems@outlook.com) prior to February 17th will be eligible to be considered by the body at the March 7th meeting. Only incumbents elected as Democrats to their current office and non-partisan officials previously endorsed by the 47th District Democrats for their current office are eligible for early endorsement. The Endorsements Committee Chair will notify the Communications Committee by no later than February 23th to issue a call for early endorsements at the March 7th meeting. The call for the meeting shall be issued by no later than February 25th.

June 6, 2018 Endorsements of 2018 Candidates and Ballot Measures for August 7th Election

Only names of candidates and ballot measures submitted to the 47th District Democrats Organization (WA47Dems@outlook.com) prior to May 19th will be eligible to be considered by the body at the June 6th meeting. The Endorsements Committee Chair will notify the Communications Committee by no later than May 25th to issue a call for endorsements at the June 6th meeting. The call for the meeting shall be issued by no later than May 27th.

September 5, 2018 Candidates and Ballot Measures for November 6th General Election

Only names of candidates and ballot measures submitted to the 47th District Democrats Organization (WA47Dems@outlook.com) prior to August 18th will be eligible to be considered by the body at the September 5th meeting. The Endorsements Committee Chair will notify the Communications Committee by no later than August 24th to issue a call for endorsements at the September 5th meeting. The call for the meeting shall be issued by no later than August 26th.

The Endorsements Committee

The purpose of the Endorsements Committee is to provide information about candidates to the broader membership. The Endorsements Committee will be composed of members in good standing of the 47th District Democrats. District Members who are receiving compensation from a campaign, either directly or indirectly, may not be members of the Endorsements Committee and must immediately resign from the committee should they begin working with or for a campaign. Campaign volunteers are discouraged from participating on the committee and should recuse themselves from any votes directly or indirectly related to the campaign in which they are volunteering.

The committee will provide the membership with a recommendation for each candidate or ballot measure they are asked to consider. For candidates, they may offer the following options: Recommend Endorse, Recommend Do Not Endorse, or No Recommendation. For ballot measures, they may offer the following options: Recommend Yes/Approve, Recommend No/Reject, or Recommend To Take No Position. The committee should provide enough information to the membership such that they can make an educated decision about how to vote on a candidate or ballot measure, including (but not limited to) positions on issues relevant to the office sought and relevant candidate biography, and in the case of ballot measures, the key arguments for and against the measure.

As stated in the rules, only candidates whose names have been submitted for consideration to the Endorsements Committee may be considered for endorsement. Similarly, only ballot measures requested for consideration may be considered. There is no restriction on who can submit a candidate's name or a ballot measure for consideration. In the case of ballot measures, the person submitting the measure for consideration should not suggest whether the measure should be supported or opposed.

The Endorsements Committee will decide how each candidate or ballot measure will be evaluated (i.e. online search only, questionnaire, interview, etc.). All candidates under consideration for the same position should be evaluated the same way. Once the name of a candidate or ballot measure has been submitted to the committee for evaluation, the candidate is eligible for endorsement at the designated meeting regardless of whether the committee completes the evaluation process or issues a recommendation.

The Endorsements Committee Chair

The Chair of the Endorsements Committee runs the entire endorsement process from start to finish. The Chair will solicit names and measures for endorsement and run all committee meetings leading up to the endorsements meetings. District meetings designated as endorsements meetings will be run by the Endorsements Committee Chair after opening remarks from the District Chair and remarks from any guest speakers unrelated to the endorsement process. A schedule for these meetings is outlined below.

Suggested Endorsement Meeting Agenda

- Call to Order by District Chair
- Guest Speakers (if unrelated to the endorsement process)
 - Endorsement Committee Chair assumes control of the meeting
 - Reading of Rules
 - Credentials Report
 - Floor open for endorsements
 - Floor closed for endorsements
- District Chair resumes control of the meeting
- Regular meeting agenda (abbreviated)
- Meeting adjourned

Candidate Endorsement Requirements and Procedure

1. Only self-identified Democratic candidates may be considered for endorsement except candidates for judicial or non-partisan positions. The jurisdiction sought must overlap with the 47th Legislative District. To be considered for endorsement before the May filing deadline, a candidate must be either a Democratic incumbent seeking reelection to the same partisan office or a non-partisan incumbent previously endorsed by the 47th District Democrats for their current non-partisan office. Members of the 47th District Democrats seeking office are also eligible for endorsement before the May filing deadline. For non-incumbents, only candidates who have personally visited or sent top level campaign staff to visit the 47th District Democrats will be eligible for endorsement prior to the September 5th Endorsement Meeting.
2. Only members of the 47th District Democrats in good standing for at least 30 days prior to the endorsement under consideration shall have voice and vote. A credentials report will be issued by the Membership Chair (typically the District's 1st Vice Chair) before any motions or votes.
3. A two-thirds approval of the votes cast is required for endorsement. Abstentions shall not be counted as part of the vote total for determining the "two-thirds total." With 10 days prior notice for the meeting at which the vote to rescind the endorsement of a specific candidate may occur, previous endorsements may also be rescinded by a two-thirds vote.
4. Multiple endorsements for the same position may be considered.
5. Each candidate's endorsement is considered individually. Slates of candidates will be deemed as out of order.
6. Before motions of endorsement in any race may be considered, the Endorsement Committee will present their recommendations in that race.
7. Motions for endorsement may not be amended (i.e. no dual or group endorsements).
8. Candidates and/or campaign staff who are not members of the 47th District Democrats may not be present during the portion of a meeting where endorsements will be considered in their race.
9. A maximum of 3 speakers for and 3 speakers against the motion of endorsement speaking alternately, may speak for 2 minutes. If the speakers for one side exceed the other, up to 3 speakers for the dominant position will be allowed.
10. The Endorsements Committee Chair will call for the vote. If no request for division of the body is made, a show of credentials will be used. If a division of the body is requested, the vote will be by written ballot. Written ballots will be distributed, and members will have three minutes to mark their votes. The chair will appoint a committee to tally the yeas and nays and to calculate the two-thirds required for passage based on the total votes cast.
11. If a candidate is not endorsed, a motion to reconsider at the same endorsements meeting in 2018 can only be offered by a member who voted against the original motion.
12. Unless rescinded, all endorsements are valid until the candidate is eliminated from their race.

Measure Endorsement Requirements and Procedure

1. Non-candidate endorsements, including but not limited to Initiatives, Referenda, Propositions, or Levies, shall follow the same procedures and two-thirds approval process as for candidate endorsements.
2. Ballot measures may only be considered after they have qualified for the ballot.