

# KCFDW 2024 ENDORSEMENT RULES

The organization is empowered to endorse Democratic candidates seeking elected positions, such as the US President, Washington State governor, and other statewide races, as well as legislative and judicial races within King County. Additionally, the organization has the authority to either support or oppose ballot measures.

KCFDW endorsement committee and board members will operate under the following endorsement rules -

## INDEPENDENCE AND AVOIDING CONFLICT OF INTEREST

1. To adhere to Public Disclosure laws and mitigate perceived or real conflicts of interest between campaigns and the KCFDW political action committee, members of the endorsement committee and board shall maintain independence from campaigns.
2. Members participating in the endorsement process are required to disclose any potential conflicts of interest. The board may determine, by a simple majority vote if recusal is necessary.
3. Members who are employed by campaigns, campaign management firms or campaign consulting firms may serve on the endorsement committee and the board if they recuse themselves where there is a conflict of interest. However, members who consult with campaigns either independently or as a business owner/manager may not participate in the endorsement process either as a member or as a board member.
4. To avert any perceived conflict of interest, members of the endorsement committee and the board are prohibited from leveraging their affiliation with KCFDW to secure, or to attempt to secure, campaign consulting or management engagements during the time period beginning with early endorsements and ending with the general election.
5. To ensure fairness to candidates, members taking part in the endorsement process must disclose any involvement they have in endorsement committees of other organizations.

## CONFIDENTIALITY

6. All members are expected to keep endorsement matters confidential until endorsements are published.

## INCLUSIVITY AND INTEGRITY

7. The endorsement committee and the board will adhere to the organization's inclusivity policy, that is, KCFDW welcomes and values all who share our mission, regardless of age, race, gender, gender identity, religion, national origin, ethnicity, sexual orientation, or physical ability.
8. The endorsement committee and the board shall not disseminate false or misleading information about any candidate.

## FRAMEWORK AND PROCESS

9. To be considered for endorsement, candidates must submit responses to the KCFDW questionnaire.
10. A pre-determined framework is utilized by the endorsement committee. Candidate interviews may be necessary to seek clarification on pertinent findings.
11. The endorsement committee compiles and submits findings and endorsement recommendations to the board.
12. The committee with board oversight, may request additional information from the campaign in written form.
13. For an endorsement to be approved, a 2/3 majority vote from the board is required, with a 90% quorum.

## FOLLOWING ENDORSEMENT

14. KCFDW may publicize endorsements and provide the endorsed candidates with the KCFDW logo for use on their website and marketing materials. All endorsements published by KCFDW must state the following sponsor disclaimer per PDC advertising rules: *"Sponsored by King County Federation of Democratic Women. Not authorized by any candidate or candidate's committee. Address: 4957 Lakemont Blvd SE PMB C4-17 Bellevue WA 98006"*
15. An endorsement remains in effect until (1) the general election takes place; (2) the endorsed candidate is defeated in a primary; (3) the candidate withdraws from the race, or (4) the endorsement has been rescinded or withdrawn by KCFDW. Endorsements may be rescinded by a 2/3 vote of the board, with a 90% quorum. Any motion to rescind an endorsement shall clearly state cause, which shall be limited to false or misleading statements in endorsement documents or demonstrated conflict of democratic values or alleged criminal conduct.