



Questions and Answers about what races can be considered at the June 2021 meeting.

Following the Endorsement Rules passed by the district membership, the only races placed on the agenda for consideration in June 2021 are those races appearing on the Primary ballot (as the voter's pamphlet deadline has passed, so there is no need to consider endorsements for races appearing in the general election until the August endorsement meeting), which have not exhausted the endorsement process under the existing Endorsement Rules.

Under our Bylaws, only those races on the agenda for the meeting can be directly considered.

These are:

- Northshore Fire District #16
- North City Water District
- Public Hospital District No. 2

And we may only be automatically considering a candidate for Northshore Fire District, as that is the only race from which we have heard interest in our endorsement from candidates.

However, at the end of the endorsement meeting in May, there was some parliamentary activity and a pair of questions that were asked of the chair which require further explanation:

At the end of the May endorsement meeting, after the list of races had been completed, good of the order had significantly commenced, a motion to suspend the rules and consider another round in the race for Mayor of Seattle was made and seconded.

The motion specifically was to reduce the number of candidates in the Seattle Mayor's race for consideration to three and to commence with an additional voting round. Discussion ensued.

A concern was raised during a point of information at the number of voters still in the meeting, and the fact that those who had left did not know that further endorsement business was being conducted. 42 of the 118 voters, or 36% of the voters credentialled had left the meeting, after 5.5 hours of deliberation and voting.

More discussion ensued, and a question was asked about whether the Seattle Mayoral race could be taken up again in June when more voters were present. The chair answered yes, but the rules would still need to be suspended in June to do so.

A question about a motion to table until June was asked, and the chair confirmed that a motion to table, or more accurately, a motion to postpone until a time specific, was a subsidiary motion that was in order at the time of the inquiry.

A motion to adjourn was made and seconded.

A motion to adjourn is a privileged motion that is not debatable and moves to an immediate vote. The motion to adjourn passed and the meeting was adjourned.

All unresolved motions on the floor at the time of adjournment died with the meeting end.

So, the big question is, what can happen at the June 2021 meeting relative to the Mayor of Seattle race?

Technically, under our endorsement rules, the pre-General election endorsement process has been exhausted for the Seattle Mayor's race, so it was ineligible for addition to the agenda for the June meeting.

It is a high bar for consideration, but there is a path that folks should be aware of, so that there are no procedural surprises on Wednesday evening if this path is proposed.

A motion could be made to suspend the endorsement rules for consideration of an additional round of winnowing in the Seattle Mayor's race, to drop the lowest finisher from the final four in May, and bring the number of candidates to consider to three.

As the 46th Bylaws prohibit consideration of a race that has not appeared on the agenda 10 days before the meeting, and the Mayor's race was ineligible for consideration a second time for the Primary, so the chair is obligated to rule the motion out of order.

A member in good standing could appeal the ruling of the chair, if there is a second. This motion is debatable in this instance and requires a simple majority to overturn the chair's ruling. Debate is unique in that the chair need not leave the podium or surrender the gavel during debate, and speaks twice – once as the first speaker, and then again as the last speaker, if the chair so chooses.

If the chair's ruling of the motion out of order is sustained, the issue is over, and the district will not consider another round of winnowing in the Mayor's race.

If the chair's ruling of the motion out of order is overturned, the motion to suspend the rules moves forward. The suspension of the rules is NOT debatable and must move to an immediate vote. A two-thirds majority is required to suspend the Endorsement rules.

If the motion to suspend the endorsement rules does not have an affirmative vote of 2/3 or more, the issue is over, and the district will not consider another round of winnowing in the Mayor's race.

If the motion to suspend the endorsement rules receives an affirmative vote of 2/3 or more, the district will consider another round of winnowing in the Mayor's race. After debate, the membership will vote on a written (electronic ballot).