

# 46TH DISTRICT DEMOCRATS

## PROPOSED 2020 Standing Rules for Endorsements

### 1. Meeting Scheduling and Conduct

- a. Meetings to allow the 46th District Democrats to express support for or against candidates and ballot measures shall be called according to the terms of the Bylaws.
- b. Endorsement Meetings shall be conducted according to these Standing Rules, which must be posted for the membership at least 10 days prior to an Endorsement meeting and reviewed at the meeting prior to any action taken to endorse.
- c. At least one Endorsement Meeting shall be held before each of the Primary and the General elections.
- d. Ballot measures on the November ballot will be eligible for endorsement at the August District General Meeting.

### 2. Eligibility to Vote

- a. All members in good standing who will be 18 years of age or older on or before November General Election Day (for 2020, November 3, 2020) are eligible to vote in Endorsement Meetings.
- b. Persons who were members in good standing of the 46th District Democrats in the previous year may renew their membership up to the time of the Endorsement Meeting. Other members must have become members at least 21 days prior to the Endorsement Meeting.
- c. Voting by proxy is not allowed.\*\*
- d. ADA accommodations are provided upon request, per the bylaws of the 46<sup>th</sup> District.

*\*\* For further guidance on this rule, please refer to the 46<sup>th</sup> District By-Laws*

### 3. Eligibility for Endorsement

- a. To be eligible for endorsement, a candidate for partisan office must file as a Democrat and declare affiliation only with the Democratic Party for a period of at least one year prior to the Endorsement Meeting.
- b. For non-partisan races other than judicial races, a candidate must have either declared affiliation only with the Democratic Party or else publicly indicated non-affiliation with any political party for a period of at least 1 year prior to the Endorsement Meeting, and currently publicly identify only as a Democrat.
- c. To be eligible for consideration for endorsement, with the exception of previously endorsed Federal office candidates and candidates for judicial office, candidates must declare their Party affiliation for the past 5 years. All candidates, with the exception of previously endorsed Federal candidates, must sign and submit the appropriate designated candidate questionnaire for their office and any 46th District Democrats questionnaire addendum. The Chair of the 46th District Democrats must receive the completed questionnaire sent to [chair@46dems.org](mailto:chair@46dems.org) no later than 10 calendar days prior to the Endorsement Meeting at which the candidate wishes to be considered for endorsement. **The chair may clearly designate an alternate email address for submissions which will simultaneously send the questionnaire to the chair and post it to the membership website for consideration.** All questionnaires submitted by candidates requesting endorsement will be publicly posted online for the consideration of the members of the 46th District Democrats.
- d. A motion to suspend the deadline for receipt of a candidate's questionnaire by the District Chair may be made at the Endorsement Meeting and requires a two-thirds (2/3) affirmative vote of the members present and eligible to vote. No candidate, with the exception of previously endorsed Federal candidates, may be considered without a questionnaire having been submitted.

e. The District Chair or ~~her/his~~ **their** appointed representative(s) will make best efforts to contact all **known** eligible candidates for office, as well as both proponents and opponents of ballot measures, to participate in the Endorsement Meeting(s) and any candidate and issues forums. However, it is the responsibility of any candidate or ballot committee wishing to participate in the endorsement process to contact the District in a timely fashion.

#### **4. Voting**

a. A minimum of 60% of the eligible voters present and voting, excluding abstentions and excluding ballots ruled invalid, is required for adoption of an endorsement position.

b. Action is taken as a vote of Endorsement or Rejection for candidates or positions on ballot measures. Rejection may include adoption of a position specifically opposed to a candidate or ballot issue. No Action is a default position available on all ballots.

c. All voting will be by written ballots issued to eligible voters in all races with two or more eligible candidates. Other votes may be by show of hands, unless a member requests written ballots. This rule is to protect the privacy of those individuals whose employment prevents them from a public display of specific candidate support, and may not be ignored for expediency.

d. Counting of votes shall be completed according to accepted best practices and in accordance with any adopted Tally Rules in a manner that allows observation by any member who wishes to do so.

e. After voting is completed, witnesses shall observe ballots being sealed in an envelope, the seals signed by at least two members of the Tally committee, and handed to the District Chair **or their designee** for retention for at least 90 days.

f. A motion to divide the question, meaning to flag for individual consideration those candidates in races with opposition to be voted on separately, will be in order. The motion to divide the question requires a second; it requires a simple majority to pass. If that passes, then a motion will be entertained to endorse as a group all eligible candidates who are unopposed by any other candidates eligible for endorsement in a race.

#### **5. Suspension of Endorsement Rules**

Any request to suspend these rules for a particular race or ballot issue must be made prior to consideration of that race or ballot issue; such a motion requires a two-thirds (2/3) affirmative vote by voting members present for such suspension. The requirement specified in Rule 4(a) of a 60% vote for an endorsement or recommendation cannot be suspended, and any motion to close nominations is prohibited. By-laws may not be suspended.

#### **6. Endorsement Procedures**

##### *a. Candidates*

1. Each eligible candidate, or their designees, may be given up to 2 minutes to speak at the time they are nominated. If the chair, in their sole determination, feels that in the interest of limited time this amount of time must be reduced, the chair may do so, provided that all nominees in a single race are given the same amount of time. The chair may consult with others to make this determination, however, this decision of the chair is final and is not subject to appeal.

2. The Chair or their designee, at their sole discretion, will set the agenda for the order in which races will be considered for endorsement. Only eligible voters may make motions to endorse/nominate candidates eligible for endorsement. A motion to close nominations shall be out of order.

3. Each nominated candidate is allowed a single nomination presentation, which may include the candidate themselves or their designees, who must be voting-eligible members of the 46<sup>th</sup> District Democrats. For each nominated candidate motion to endorse, a single nomination presentation by voting-eligible members of the 46<sup>th</sup> District Democrats and/or the candidate themselves of no more than 2 minutes may be allowed. The Chair may recognize a candidate or member for up to an

additional 30 seconds to rebut a specific negative statement or ad hominem attack directed against a named candidate. Speakers shall identify themselves prior to making nomination speeches on behalf of any candidate. Eligible voters may NOT cede their time to anyone ineligible to vote at the meeting.

4. All eligible candidates who are nominated and “No Action” will be an option on every ballot. Reject will only be on the ballot if nominated and seconded.

#### *b. Ballot Measures*

1. Ballot Measures include all initiatives, referenda, levies, bonds, advisory votes, and other races without candidates. The question to endorse a Ballot Measure shall be considered in the form it will appear on the ballot. Motions for a specific endorsement to support or oppose a Ballot Measure are not in order, as the District’s position—“Endorse” or approve, “Reject”, or oppose, or “No Action” or take no position will be determined by the voting. Motions to endorse a “Yes” vote or a “No” vote are in order. The default option to take “No Action” is available on all ballots.

2. For each motion to consider a Ballot Measure, a presentation of a speech or speeches totaling of not more than 2 minutes will be allowed for each of the three possible positions (Endorse, Reject, No Action). Only members who are eligible to vote may make motions to endorse/recommend. Voting members and representatives of the ballot measure campaign(s) may or speak on behalf of an endorsement/recommendation. Members will hear all speeches for that Ballot Issue Measure before the vote.

3. Motions to endorse ballot measures shall be in order at all meetings, provided notice that such shall be considered were included in the 10-day meeting notice sent to all members in the manner specified in the By-Laws.

4. Motions to recommend signature-gathering campaigns for state, county or municipal initiatives shall be in order at any regular district meeting, and are not considered endorsements *per se*, but do, once passed, allow for the solicitation of assistance for the signature gathering campaign at district meetings and events. Such recommendation does not imply endorsement of the final measure once placed on the ballot, as a formal endorsement of the ballot measure must be earned through the process detailed herein. Recommendations for a signature-gathering campaign require a 60% affirmative vote to pass.

### **7. Voting**

a. First Ballot: Each eligible voter will vote for one nominated candidate or position, or “No Action”. If a candidate or “No Action” receives 60% of the votes cast, then that motion passes. If neither a candidate nor “No Action” receives 60% of the votes cast, then we will move to a second ballot. In races with two eligible candidates, the top two choices shall move on directly to the third ballot. In races with four or more eligible candidates, all candidates receiving at least **8%** of the votes cast shall move on to the Second Ballot. Should only one or two candidate or none of these candidates have more than **8%** of the votes cast then the **top six** will move on to the second ballot.

b. Second Ballot: If a candidate or “Take No Action” receives 60% of the votes cast, then that motion passes. If no candidate or option, including “Take No Action”, receives 60% of votes cast, the top **four** choices will move to a Third Ballot.

c. Third Ballot: If a candidate or “Take No Action” receives 60% of the votes cast, then that motion passes.

d. If no candidate or “Take No Action” receives 60% of the votes cast on the third ballot, then a motion for dual endorsement is in order. This motion must pass by 60%; if not, an endorsement in the race is not made. A show of hands may be called for the dual endorsement ballot. No motion for a dual endorsement is in order until after the third ballot.

e. No more than two candidates may be endorsed for any one office.

## **8. Tie Votes**

- a. If any vote for an endorsement or recommendation results in a tie, and the tie affects which ballot choice moves on to the next step or receives the endorsement/recommendation, a Tiebreaker Vote will be held. Eligible voters will revote only on the tied items with the subsequent winner advancing to the next step.
- b. If the Tiebreaker Vote results in another tie, the Chair or their designee will conduct a coin flip or lot drawing, as done in public elections in Washington in accordance with state law, to determine the outcome.

## **9. Reconsideration of an Endorsement**

- a. Endorsements shall only be reconsidered in the following circumstances: death or long-term incapacitation of the endorsed candidate; withdrawal of candidacy of the endorsed candidate; conscious and deliberate failure by the candidate to file for office on the applicable ballot; disqualification from the ballot of the endorsed candidate; if the endorsed candidate switches Parties, or by declared choice of caucus even while claiming Democratic membership, would cause the Democratic Party to lose a majority or committee chairperson position in any legislative or governing body; or by the circumstances detailed in 9.c.
- b. Due to the fact that endorsements are not reconsiderable, outside of very specific circumstances, If only one candidate sharing a dual endorsement in the primary survives said primary, then the dual endorsement converts to a sole endorsement for the general election by rule. If no endorsed candidate(s) survive(s) a primary, then the void in endorsements for that race re-opens the field for consideration of an endorsement for the general election.
- c. Reconsideration of an endorsement of an endorsed candidate who is accused of extreme wrongdoing:
  - i. Reconsideration of an endorsement decision in these circumstances requires 10-day written notice to the body and all candidates eligible for endorsement for the affected office. The written notice must specify when the reconsideration process will occur.
  - ii. A 75% vote of the members is required to rescind the endorsement and reopen the endorsement decision. If the membership votes in the affirmative to rescind and reopen the endorsement, then the endorsement process is carried through from the beginning, following the rules described herein, as if there had not been an endorsement in the race previously.
  - iii. It is not permissible for the reconsideration vote and potential new endorsement process to occur at the same general or special meeting of the membership. Any new endorsement will occur with appropriate notice at a subsequent meeting and under the requirements of these rules.

## **10. Special Endorsement Meetings for Internal Jurisdictions within the District:**

- a. In the odd-numbered years, when the municipal and special purpose district offices are on the ballot, at times it will be more just and fair for a portion of the municipal and special-purpose jurisdictions within the district to have a special endorsement meeting called to serve those jurisdictions. Such meeting shall be held in geographic proximity to the jurisdictions for which the meeting is called, to the extent possible. The Chair must consult with other officers and members, but such meeting, if any, shall be called at the Chair's sole discretion.
- b. All 46<sup>th</sup> district members in good standing shall be eligible to vote, but the initial determination that a quorum has been met shall be measured using just the count of members of the municipal or special purpose jurisdictions being served by the meeting.

Example: Thus, if the meeting was called to consider endorsements for offices in the City of Kenmore, and Kenmore was the home of 45 members in good standing, then the 10% quorum required at the beginning of the meeting would be  $45 \times 10\% = 4.5$  (must round up), or 5 members from Kenmore must be present to start the meeting.