

## Consideration of amendments to the Proposed 2020 Standing Rules for Endorsement from the February Meeting

Under the Bylaws of the 46<sup>th</sup> District Democrats, standing rules for the endorsement of candidates must be adopted every year.

The Proposed 2020 Standing Rules for Endorsement were brought to the membership for debate and vote at the February meeting. We will continue to debate and eventually vote on them.

Under our bylaws, our district must adopt Rules for Endorsement every year. This means until we pass rules for endorsement in 2020, we effectively do not have any standing rules for endorsement, and devolve to the section regarding endorsement in the Bylaws, and to Robert's Rules of Order.

Proposed amendments to those Proposed 2020 Standing Rules were also brought by two members to the February 19<sup>th</sup> district meeting. The proposed rules were amended twice at the February meeting, and are shown labeled Amendment 1.

The following amendment was moved from the floor, seconded, partially debated, and eventually referred to the Rules Committee at the February meeting.

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PASSED: Amendments approved at the February meeting

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Amendment 1- section 3a: To be eligible for endorsement, a candidate for partisan office must file as a Democrat and declare affiliation(s) only with the Democratic Party for a period of at least one year prior to the Endorsement Meeting. The 46<sup>th</sup> District Democrats do not have an endorsement committee. Instead, all members are responsible for informing themselves of the candidates' qualifications

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How to navigate this document:

The rules chair and the maker of the motion have divided it into 3 parts-labeled Amendments Two Part 1, Two Part 2, Two, Part 3 for purposes of debate and voting.

This digital document is organized with separate pages for each amendment currently available.

Changes from 2018 proposed by the Rules Committee are in **bold**.

Proposed Amendments are underlined, and proposed deletions are ~~struck through~~.

Process: the negotiated proposal is to consider the amendments in the following order:

- 1) Ballot Retention, Amendment 2, Part 3, page 5-6
- 2) Website information, Amendment 2 Part 2, page 4
- 3) District Resources, Amendment 5, page 8
- 4) Non-Partisan Eligibility, Amendment 2, Part 1, page 2-3
- 5) Dual Endorsement, Amendment 4, page 7

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*ON THE FLOOR, Amendment 2, Part 1 - Non-Partisan Eligibility*

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*Section 3. Eligibility for Endorsement from the Proposed 2020 Standing Rules for Endorsement*

a. To be eligible for endorsement, a candidate for partisan office must file as a Democrat and declare affiliation(s) only with the Democratic Party for a period of at least one year prior to the Endorsement Meeting. The 46<sup>th</sup> District Democrats do not have an endorsement committee. Instead, all members are responsible for informing themselves of the candidates' qualifications

b. For non-partisan races other than judicial races, a candidate must publicly identify as a Democrat. ~~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 on the appropriate designated candidate questionnaire.

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 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.

Statement Supporting the Original Rules Proposition	Statement Supporting the Proposed Amendment
<p>The original language is designed to be as careful as we can to only endorse Democrats in good standing. Independents who have no other party affiliations for the last year, and will declare as a Democrat are also eligible. We want to consider Democratic candidates who are clearly committed to our party. We want to avoid endorsing those who are only looking for the prestige of our endorsement and our help, but may not share our values and goals. We also must be careful in sharing district or state party resources.</p> <p>Our current candidate questionnaire asks “Are you a Democrat?” Yes or No response. Then it asks “Describe your history of political involvement, if any, in the Democratic Party, particularly in Washington state politics. In what</p>	<p>Our Bylaws stipulate and ensure “The 46th District Democrats endorse only those candidates who choose to publicly declare that they are Democrats and to be identified as such, including for non-partisan office.” Our endorsement and our District support should only be given to candidates who share our values as determined by a thorough candidate vetting process and our carefully considered votes.</p> <p>Currently our eligibility “door” for non-partisan races in our Rules is even narrower in requiring sole Democrat affiliation for at least a one year period. These narrow requirements are an outlier for non-partisan endorsement eligibility in all Democratic LD</p>

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<p><i>offices have you served or previously sought to be elected or appointed?” That could be many more than the 5 years referenced in the Rules. These two questions are clear and sufficient to comply with the Rules.</i></p>	<p>organizations in King County (described further below).</p> <p>Opening our eligibility “door” to welcome all candidates for non-partisan races who identify as Democrats, including those with recent or current identification with another party with overlapping values, will allow review of a larger pool of candidates in our progressive District. Importantly, widening our eligibility door will allow us to consider more candidates of color and more women who identify as Democrats and seek our endorsement for non-partisan office.</p> <p>The 46th Dems will continue to ensure our endorsed candidates share our values and represent our party’s interests through our candidate vetting process and endorsement votes. To ensure complete disclosure, our candidate questionnaire needs to clearly require that each candidate provides a 5-year history of party affiliation. Currently, the questions are too vague and indirect to ensure a thorough answer.</p> <p>The revised non-partisan eligibility language in 3.b. aligns with the King County Democrat’s party affirmation requirement for eligibility in non-partisan races. It is also aligned with 10 of the 17 other LD Dems in King County (5th, 30th, 31st, 32nd, 34th, 36th, 37th, 45th, 47th, 48th). Five other LD Dems in King County (11th, 33rd, 39th, 41st, 43rd) do not specifically require any party affiliation for non-partisan eligibility, but that approach is <u>not</u> right for the 46th and conflicts with our Bylaws. (1st LD rules not found online, not reviewed.) (See all my LD Dems rules research here: <a href="https://bit.ly/DemsNonPartisanEligibility_pdf">https://bit.ly/DemsNonPartisanEligibility_pdf</a>)</p> <p>* A new amendment, which had to be proposed separately due to Robert’s rules, would add a new Section 11 to our rules to create a mechanism to prevent inappropriate sharing by any endorsed candidates of District resources and party voter info with</p>
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	other political parties, candidates, or campaigns.
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*ON THE FLOOR, Amendment 2, Part 2 - Website Information*

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*Section 3 (continued)*

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. The membership website shall prominently provide an explanation of the District’s endorsement process, provide access to all designated questionnaire forms, and display the date, time, and location of each forum and each Endorsement Meeting.

<b>Statement Supporting the Original Rules Proposition</b>	<b>Statement Supporting the Proposed Amendment</b>
<p>This section is complete as it stands, and only technical adjustments are necessary for the 2020 Endorsement Rules. This section charges elections and communications to make their best efforts to contact all candidates which may vary depending upon the circumstances, as the technical capabilities, the resources available, and - as this spring’s Coronavirus shutdown has taught us – conditions beyond our district’s control. Current practice includes having process and forms on the website.</p> <p>In addition, each candidate is contacted multiple times directly by the district chair and the elections chair, in addition to other members of the district who volunteer for the elections committee.</p> <p>Meeting Notice requirements are ruled by Article 4.5 of our Bylaws. Endorsement meeting announcements are described in our By-Laws, <i>Section 15.1 All regularly scheduled meetings between filing date and the November general election shall be open for agenda items relating to endorsements. Any other district meeting may be called an endorsement meeting, providing it is so announced in the duly mailed meeting notice. The call shall name specific election dates, offices, and/or ballot measures.</i></p>	<p>Statement in favor of Amendment in 3.e. - This amendment ensures our endorsement process, questionnaires, candidate forum date(s), and endorsement meeting date(s) are easy to find on the District’s website. Currently, info is often on the 46th website but not always organized prominently and completely. Ensuring our entire process is transparent is important for fair access for candidates and for our District members. This transparency also may help avoid process complaints from any campaign.</p>

*ON THE FLOOR: Amendment 2, Part 3 - Ballots Retention*

Section 4. Voting from the Proposed 2020 Standing Rules for Endorsement

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~~ or a member of the Executive Board designated by the Chair for retention for at least 90 days.

*TO BE MOVED: Amendment 2, Part 3, Amendment to the Amendment 1 - Ballots Retention*

Section 4. Voting from the Proposed 2020 Standing Rules for Endorsement

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~~ or a member of the Executive Board- **46<sup>th</sup> District Democrats in good standing**, as designated by the Chair for retention for at least 90 days. When voting is conducted at meetings held by electronic or other remote access means, the District shall use its best efforts to replicate this ballot retention process within the meeting format to retain a paper copy of the ballots."

Statement from Rules on this Proposition	Statement Supporting the Proposed Amendment to the Amendment
<p>This Amendment to the Amendment on ballot handling addresses the concerns of the chair and tally committee in adding an overly restrictive clause which would prevent the ability of the chair to utilize any member of the organization for this volunteer assignment of trust.</p>	<p>This amendment supports the Chair’s interest in being able to designate someone to retain ballots for the record, however it ensures that ballots are retained by a member of the District rather than any individual. It is basic responsible management that important records are retained by a member of the organization.</p> <p>The primary sponsor welcomed the secondary amendment proposed (but not moved) at the February meeting to change “member of the Executive Board” to “member of the District” to give the Chair more flexibility. This change is incorporated.</p> <p>Since this amendment was proposed in February, we now know that the 46th Dems will probably be conducting electronic meetings and votes during our 2020 endorsement process. We will not be able to use paper ballots and our Endorsement Rules need to be updated. But we can retain a paper record of electronic votes cast. And Democrats like paper records! Therefore, the primary sponsor also proposes adding the sentence at the end of 4.e. to apply to non-paper votes.</p>

## Consideration of New Amendments to the Proposed 2020 Rules for Endorsement

These are two new proposed amendments to the Proposed 2020 Standing Rules that will be offered at the April 22, 2020 meeting for the members to consider, debate and vote upon.

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*TO BE MOVED: Amendment 4 - Dual Endorsement Conversion*

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Section 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~~ an endorsement for the general election by rule. Such a converted dual endorsement shall be indicated as “endorsement made as a dual endorsement in primary” on any District materials in print or electronic formats, with a process explanation provided on the District website. 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.

<b>Statement from Rules on this Proposition</b>	<b>Statement Supporting the Proposed Amendment to the Amendment</b>
<p>The members meet, vote for an endorsement of two candidates for a position. Both of those candidates are endorsed, and both can use that endorsement on their literature and in the Voters Pamphlet. If one makes it to the general election ballot, and one does not, the candidate who was endorsed for the primary is still an endorsed candidate. This is straight forward and supportive of an endorsed candidate. There is no reason to change our materials or language.</p>	<p>These changes provide clearer information to members and voters about this endorsement situation. Our District materials and website can clarify the meaning of our endorsement by “footnoting” when our single general election endorsement is the result of a dual endorsement in the primary.</p> <p>This amendment does not impact the candidate statements about endorsements in the Voters Pamphlet which will already be finalized by the time of the endorsement conversion.</p> <p>This is the only place where the 2020 Endorsement Rules uses the phrase “sole endorsement”, yet the endorsement was never made solely to 1 candidate.</p> <p>The prime sponsor also offers this amendment to partially address concerns raised by a number of members over the years about the inability to reconsider an endorsement when only one candidate advances to the general after a dual primary endorsement. There are logistical challenges of reconsidering endorsements for the general, so it is currently reserved to the unusual circumstances stated in Section 9.</p>

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TO BE MOVED, *Proposed Amendment 5 – District Resources*

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New Section 11. Resources for Endorsed Candidates

a. Once a candidate has been endorsed, resources may be made available by the Chair or their designee to the candidate. Resources include access to party voter data, communications with District membership, and other resources typically granted by the Executive Board, relevant committees, or the membership.

b. If an endorsed candidate has indicated affiliation with any political party other than the Democratic party during the past 5 years, on the candidate questionnaire or as documented in other public materials or forums, a majority of Executive Board members must approve access to party voter data and any other District resources deemed to be sensitive to disclosure. The Executive Board may require such an endorsed candidate to enter into a formal agreement developed by the District that prohibits disclosure or sharing of resources with any other political party, candidate, campaign, political action committee, or other entities designated by the Executive Board. “Candidates found to have been dishonest about party affiliations on their questionnaire will not be permitted access to any resources and their endorsement may be reconsidered. “

ACTION: To add a completely new section to the proposed 2020 Endorsement Rules on the topic of the allocation of District Resources.

<b>Rules Committee Statement</b>	<b>Sponsor’s statement in Favor</b>
<p>The rules committee feels the existing language proposed in the 2020 rules is more than adequate.</p> <p>The resources the 46th LD Dems have to give to candidates are our endorsement, a listing on our sample ballot, the right to list us as an endorsement in their own materials and public Voters Pamphlet article, access to and ad our walk piece for a fee which the PCO’s and volunteers deliver. We do not give out our email list, although we occasionally will do a blast email for a single endorsed candidate in special circumstances.</p> <p>The LD organizations do not have ultimate power over VoteBuilder, and cannot enter into specific agreements regarding its use.</p> <p>VoteBuilder use is controlled by user agreement by the state party with the DNC. Any agreement about access and use of voter data would have to be with the national democratic party.</p>	<p>We need to appropriately keep our valuable party resources within the Democratic party, especially critical voter data, but currently our Bylaws and Endorsement Rules have no language on this. District leadership has expressed concerns about potential misuse of access to VoteBuilder in another LD organization by some endorsed candidates with ties to other parties. Our Bylaws are more stringent than that district Dems, but adding a new section to our rules defining authority and process to allocate and protect resources, especially access to VoteBuilder, is smart. Furthermore, adding language that punishes candidates that lie, protects the integrity of our organization and helps to ensure candidates are honest, or held accountable should they not be.</p> <p>Requiring majority agreement of the Executive Board in 11.b. ensures broad support among District leaders for entrusting an endorsed candidate with access to VoteBuilder and any other especially critical resources. Discretion is provided to the Executive Board to require a formal agreement with an endorsed candidate prior to providing resources such as notifying the State Democratic Party that the candidate is endorsed by the 46th and should be granted access to VoteBuilder. The State Democratic Party likely also has a use term/agreement for VoteBuilder, and the District’s access process does not need to be different if the state party’s safeguards are viewed as adequate or supersede the District’s.</p>