

## **Monroe County Democratic Women's Caucus - 2014**

### **1. Endorsement Procedure**

### **2. Candidate Policy**

**Adopted January 18, 2014**

<b>Endorsement Procedure</b>
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The DWC may endorse any viable Pro-Choice, Progressive female Democratic candidates in Monroe County for the offices on the ballot in all city, town, township, and county races. Additionally, State House and State Senate candidates may be endorsed if the district represents at least part of the Monroe County populace. We do not endorse women for federal, local School Board, or State offices not listed above.

Pro-Choice candidates support unrestricted reproductive rights.

Progressive candidates support social justice and social equality for all, regardless of race, gender, sexual orientation, or economic status.

Viable candidates are those who demonstrate a reasonable chance of winning (based on demographics), possess a strong campaign plan, the ability to fundraise and effectively organize their campaign, a knowledge of the issues and duties related to the office sought, and a past history as an elected official and/or in a leadership role and/or involvement in the community.

Candidates must be a member of the Democratic Women's Caucus to be considered for endorsement.

### **The Endorsement Committee**

The Endorsement Committee shall have an odd number of members, with current Steering Committee members comprising the majority, but not the whole, of the membership. For example, if there are four Steering Committee members serving on the Endorsement Committee, then there should be up to three DWC members selected to serve on the Endorsement Committee.

### **The Calendar**

January Steering Committee meeting: The Steering Committee will choose its representatives on the Endorsement Committee. This will determine the number of DWC members not on the SC who will be asked to serve on the Endorsement Committee.

February DWC Breakfast meeting: Nominations will be taken (nominations from the floor or self-nominations) to total one FEWER than the number of Steering Committee Members on the Endorsement Committee. If more members are interested in serving than is needed, a quick ballot will be cast among the members who are present at the meeting.

Endorsement Committee members must be current on membership dues. They cannot be directly involved in a leadership role on a political campaign nor have expressed their active

public endorsement for any candidate in any race in which DWC endorsements may be determined in this election cycle.

February: The Endorsement Committee meets. Through the end of the candidate filing period at the County Clerk's office, Endorsement Committee members will contact all eligible candidates to invite them to apply, and to inform them of the application due date and interview date(s).

At a second meeting in February, the Endorsement Committee will interview the applicants in person or by phone. Following the interviews, the Endorsement Committee shall determine which candidates are recommended for endorsement by a simple majority vote. More than one candidate for a seat may be recommended for endorsement.

March DWC Breakfast Meeting: DWC members will receive a ballot, listing all candidates who applied for endorsement and indicating which candidates are recommended for endorsement by the Endorsement Committee.

### **The Ballot**

Candidates for office must receive 2/3 of the votes cast (not necessarily the total membership) to attain endorsement. Each office will be listed separately on the ballot. In the case of an at-large position, if there are more candidates than seats, all the seats (and candidates) shall be listed together and each candidate must receive 2/3 of the total votes cast in order to receive an endorsement.

For example, in an at-large race with 100 members voting on four candidates who are all recommended for endorsement and are running for three seats: Each member may vote for UP TO three candidates.

- Candidate 1 receives 100 votes – she is endorsed.
- Candidate 2 receives 80 votes – she is endorsed.
- Candidate 3 receives 70 votes – she is endorsed.
- Candidate 4 receives 50 votes – she is NOT endorsed.

### **Rescinding an Endorsement for a candidate**

The endorsement of a candidate may be rescinded if in the process of the election, the candidate:

- Reveals a previously unknown policy position which runs counter to attestations of pro-choice and/or progressive principles; or
- Violates election law; or
- Exhibits behavior that does not positively reflect on the DWC; or
- Has personal or professional information disclosed which is detrimental to the candidate's campaign and was not disclosed during the interview process.

The Steering Committee will investigate the situation and will make the final decision on revocation of endorsement after consulting with the Endorsement Committee. The revocation will be communicated privately to the candidate, and then it will be announced verbally at the next DWC breakfast meeting.

## DWC Candidate Policy

The Candidate Policy is divided into two time periods. During each time period, the DWC has established guidelines for candidates which reflect our mission to help elect pro-choice, progressive Democratic women.

PERIOD 1: From the time candidates announce their intention to run for office and/or the time of filing, through the time of the DWC Endorsement decision.

ANNOUNCING THEIR CANDIDACY: **Every** Democratic (male or female) candidate for office who is present at a DWC meeting (breakfast, meeting, or other event) will be recognized (Name, office sought) by the meeting's Chair. No one will be invited to announce their own (or another's) candidacy at a DWC breakfast, meeting, or other event. Only the candidacy of female Democrats (local or not) and female school board candidate will be published on the DWC website, announced in the Monday Morning News and/or included in the monthly breakfast meeting announcements sheet (upon request).

ANNOUNCING AN EVENT, FUNDRAISING EFFORT, OR SEEKING VOLUNTEERS: No one will be invited to announce their own (or another's) campaign event/request at a DWC event or meeting. However, female Democrats (local or not) and female school board candidates who wish to announce an event, fundraising effort, or issue a call for volunteers, etc. may do so through any/all of the following means:

- announcement by a member of the DWC Steering Committee at a DWC meeting or event
- inclusion in the printed announcement sheet distributed at breakfast meetings
- announcement on the DWC website
- inclusion in the Monday Morning News.

FUNDING: No one is eligible to receive funding from the DWC-PAC during this time period. However, an effort to "bundle checks" from the membership for a non-local female Democrat may be undertaken. In this case, individual members are welcome to contribute to a campaign, but DWC-PAC funds will not be utilized for this fundraising effort.

DISTRIBUTING LITERATURE: Candidates who wish to distribute campaign literature (seeking donations, invitations to events, petition signatures, calls for volunteers, etc.) at a DWC meeting or event are asked to abide by the following guidelines: Any Democrat (male or female) may leave their campaign literature, buttons, or other materials at one centrally located table during the event. However, only **female** Democratic candidates (local or not) may have their literature distributed to individuals and/or at every seat at the event.

DWC WEBSITE LINKS: Individual campaign/candidate websites will not be linked on the DWC Website. A link to the Monroe County Democratic Party website is already established on the DWC website **and** is included in the Monday Morning News.

PERIOD 2: From the time the DWC has completed the Endorsement process through the General Election.

ANNOUNCING THEIR CANDIDACY: **Every** Democratic (male or female) candidate present will be recognized (name, office sought) at a DWC breakfast, meeting or other DWC event by a member of the Steering Committee. Only a candidate who is **endorsed** by the DWC may announce her candidacy (or someone may announce it for her if she is absent) at a DWC breakfast meeting or other event. In addition, the candidacy of **endorsed** candidates may be published on the DWC website, announced in the Monday Morning News and/or included in the monthly breakfast meeting printed announcements sheet. Non-local female Democrats and female school board candidates may also announce their candidacy, and/or have that information published on the DWC website, announced in the Monday Morning News and/or included in the monthly breakfast meeting announcements sheet (upon request).

ANNOUNCING AN EVENT, FUNDRAISING EFFORT, OR SEEKING VOLUNTEERS: Candidates who are **endorsed** by the DWC and non-local female Democrats are the only candidates who may announce their own campaign event/volunteer request at a DWC event or meeting and, they may announce an event, fundraising effort, or issue a call for volunteers via an announcement (by a member of the DWC Steering Committee) at a DWC meeting or event, the printed announcement sheet distributed at breakfast meetings, the DWC website, and/or in the Monday Morning News.

FUNDING: Only candidates **endorsed** by the DWC may be considered for funding by the Steering Committee. No other candidate is eligible to receive funding from the DWC-PAC during this time period. However, an effort to “bundle checks” from the membership for a non-local female Democrat may be undertaken. In this case, individual members are welcome to contribute to a campaign, but DWC-PAC funds will not be utilized for this fundraising effort.

DISTRIBUTING LITERATURE: Candidates who wish to distribute campaign literature (soliciting donations, invitations to events, calls for volunteers, etc.) at a DWC meeting or event are asked to abide by the following guidelines: Any Democrat (male or female) or school board candidate may leave their campaign literature, buttons, etc. at one centrally-located table. However, only candidates who are **endorsed** by the DWC and non-local female Democrats may distribute literature to individuals and/or at every seat at the event/meeting.

CAMPAIGN LITERATURE: Only **endorsed** candidates may note “Endorsed by the Democratic Women’s Caucus” on their campaign website, literature, or any other published product.

DWC WEBSITE LINKS: Only candidates who are **endorsed** by the DWC and non-local female Democrats are invited to have a link to their campaign website listed on the DWC website.