

## **DWC Endorsement Procedure 2016**

The DWC may Endorse or Support any viable Pro-Choice, Progressive female Democratic candidate in Monroe County for the following offices on the ballot in the County: all city, town, township, and county offices, and state assembly (House and Senate) races. We do not support or endorse women in Federal, local School Board, or State offices not noted 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), a strong campaign plan, have the ability to organize campaign workers and fundraise, 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 community involvement.

The Calendar:

January Steering Committee meeting: The Steering Committee will choose its representatives on the Endorsement Committee. For example, 6 members are chosen to serve on the Endorsement Committee who are Steering Committee members.

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. Using the Example above, 5 Endorsement Committee members who are not members of the Steering Committee will be chosen. If more members are interested in serving than is needed, a quick ballot will be cast among the members who are present.

Endorsement Committee members must be current on membership dues and cannot be directly involved in a leadership role on a political campaign nor have expressed their personal endorsement for any candidate in any race in which the DWC endorsements may be determined. [Those serving on a campaign committee or team may be allowed to recuse themselves from consideration of that office in the endorsement interview process.]

In February, the Endorsement Committee will meet to establish the criteria and application form for candidates, and will contact all eligible candidates to invite them to apply and inform them of the application due date and interview date.

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

March DWC Breakfast Meeting: DWC members will receive a ballot, which indicates candidates recommended for endorsement, but lists ALL candidates who applied for endorsement.

Candidates for office must receive 2/3 of the votes cast (not 2/3 of total membership).

Candidates who do not receive the requisite votes but who are recommended for endorsement by the committee will be considered SUPPORTED.

Candidates who receive the requisite votes will be ENDORSED.

Candidates who are not supported or endorsed may be reconsidered for endorsement for the General Election (November) following a Primary Election victory.

## **DWC CANDIDATE POLICY**

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

From the time candidates announce their intention to run for office and/or the time of filing, through 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.

**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.

**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.

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

From the time the DWC has completed the Endorsement process and the completion of the Primary Election through the General Election....

**ANNOUNCING THEIR CANDIDACY:** Every Democratic (male or female) candidate for office will have their candidacy announced at a DWC breakfast, meeting, or other event by a member of the Steering Committee. Only a candidate who is supported or 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 supported or endorsed candidates may be published on the DWC

website, announced in the Monday Morning News and/or included in the monthly breakfast meeting Announcements (printed sheet). Non-Local female Democrats 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.

**ANNOUNCING AN EVENT, FUNDRAISING EFFORT, OR SEEKING VOLUNTEERS:** Candidates who are endorsed or supported 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 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 the 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) may leave their campaign literature, buttons, etc. at one centrally-located table. However, only candidates who are endorsed or supported by the DWC and non-local female Democrats may distribute literature to individuals in person 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. Similarly, supported candidates may note “Supported by the Democratic Women’s Caucus”.

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