

46th District Democrats

Proposed 2011 Endorsement Rules – Draft 2

I. Endorsement Meeting Schedule

- A. The general membership meeting held on _____ will consider endorsements for:
 - 1. All candidate races on the _____ Election Ballot (used for a special election only)
- B. The general membership meeting held on June 16, 2011 will consider endorsements for:
 - 1. All candidate races on the August 16, 2011 Primary Election Ballot
 - 2. All ballot measures on the August 16, 2011 Primary Election Ballot
- C. The general membership meeting held on Sept. 15, 2011 will consider endorsements for:
 - 1. All candidate races that were not considered at the June Endorsement Meeting
 - 2. All candidate races where all endorsed candidates failed to advance to the November General Election Ballot
 - 3. All ballot measures on the November General Election Ballot

II. Eligibility to Vote

- A. Those eligible to vote at the Endorsement Meeting are:
 - 1. 46th District Precinct Committee Officers (PCOs), and
 - 2. All other resident 46th District voters who have paid dues at least 21 days in advance of the meeting (received or postmarked on or before May 26, 2011 for the June 16 meeting, or on or before August 25, 2011 for the Sept. 15, 2011 meeting); provided, however, that those who were paid members in good standing of the 46th District Democrats in 2010 and renew their membership at any time up to the Endorsement Meeting are exempt from the 21-day advance-payment provision and are likewise eligible to vote at the meeting.
- B. Voting by proxy is not allowed.

III. Eligibility for Endorsement

To be eligible for endorsement, per Sections 6-7 of Article XVI of our Bylaws, 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. For non-partisan races other than judicial races, a candidate must have either (a) declared affiliation only with the Democratic Party, or (b) publicly indicated non-affiliation with any political party for a period of at least one year prior to the endorsement meeting. **In addition**, the candidate must (a) declare his/her party affiliation for the past five years (except candidates for judicial office), (b) have responded fully to the King County Democrats' current candidate questionnaire (available at kcdems.org), and (c) have caused a copy of said response to be received by the Chair of the 46th District Democrats by Monday, June 13, 2011.

IV. Endorsement Requirements

Endorsement requires a vote of 60% of the eligible voters present and voting, excluding abstentions. Voting will be by written ballots issued to eligible voters; provided, however, that a vote by show of hands may be called for in the case of a Third Ballot as described in Rule V.B.3 below.

V. Endorsement Procedures – Candidates

- A. Nominations
 - 1. For each race with candidates, the floor will be open to motions/seconds for endorsement of eligible candidates and for “No Endorsement.” Only eligible voters may make or second such motions. A motion to close nominations shall be out of order.
 - 2. As used herein, the word “nominate,” in whatever form, does not refer to the conduct or consequences of LD Nominating Conventions held under the auspices of the State Democratic Party.
 - 3. For each motion to endorse, a nomination speech of no more than two minutes and a seconding speech of not more than one minute will be allowed. Speakers shall identify themselves prior to making such speeches, and any eligible voter MAY cede his/her speaking time to someone ineligible to vote at the meeting.. Members will hear all nomination/seconding speeches on behalf of all candidates or “No Endorsement” for that race before commencing the vote.
 - 4. All eligible candidates who are nominated, and “No Endorsement,” will be options on the First Ballot.

B. Voting

1. First Ballot: Each eligible voter will vote for one nominated candidate or “No Endorsement.” If any nominated candidate or “No Endorsement” receives 60%, that decision controls. If neither a candidate nor “No Endorsement” receives 60%, we move automatically to a second ballot. (Note: In the case of a race with only one candidate, the First Ballot is eliminated and we begin with the “Second Ballot” procedure described below.)
2. Second Ballot: The top two choices receiving votes from the First Ballot shall be on the Second Ballot.
 - a. If each of the top two vote-getters on the second ballot is a candidate, and one receives 60%, that candidate is endorsed. If not, we move to a Third Ballot (below).
 - b. If the top two vote-getters on the second ballot are a candidate and “No Endorsement,” and one receives 60%, that decision controls.
3. Third Ballot: If no choice in the Second Ballot receives 60%, a motion for dual endorsement will be entertained. A show of hands may be called for, subject to the discretion of the Chair. A dual endorsement requires a 60% vote; if it falls short, no endorsement in the race is made.

VI. Endorsement Procedures – Ballot Measures

A. General

1. Ballot Measures include all initiatives, referenda, levies, and other races without candidates. Any such measure considered shall be presented in the form it would appear on the ballot. A motion to endorse a position in support of or in opposition to such a measure is unnecessary and out of order, as that position – “Support,” “Reject,” or “Take no position” – will be determined by the voting.
2. For each Ballot Measure considered, a speech of not more than two minutes and a seconding speech of not more than one minute will be allowed for each of the 3 positions: “Support,” “Reject,” and “Take no position.” Speakers shall identify themselves prior to speaking on behalf of their position, and any eligible voter MAY cede his/her speaking time to someone ineligible to vote at the meeting. Members will hear all speeches on that Ballot Measure before the vote.

B. Voting

1. First Ballot: Each eligible voter will vote for “Support,” “Reject,” or “Take no position.” If any option receives 60%, that decision controls. If no option receives 60%, we move to a Second Ballot.
2. Second Ballot: The top two choices between “Support,” “Reject” or “Take no position” will appear on the Second Ballot. If either option receives 60%, that decision controls. If no option receives 60%, the position of the 46th District Democrats will be “Take no position”.

VII. 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, and requires a 60% vote for such suspension; provided, however, that Rule IV’s requirement of a 60% vote for an endorsement cannot be suspended.