

46th District Democrats ~ Operating Rules and Policies

This document includes operating rules and policies of the 46th District Democrats that are necessary for the regular management and operation of the district organization. Many of the items are referred to in the Bylaws of the 46th District Democrats. While our Bylaws are the governing document for our organization, these rules and policies outline specific guidelines for certain district operations and procedures. In any case where there is a real or perceived conflict between these rules and our bylaws, the bylaws shall prevail.

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161. Membership Dues – Updated August 3, 2006

- A. Per Article III, Section 3, of the Bylaws of the 46th District Democrats, the following annual membership dues were adopted by the full membership on August 3, 2006.

| <u>Membership Type</u> | <u>Rate</u> |
|------------------------|-------------|
| Limited Income | \$5 |
| Individual | \$25 |
| Family | \$35 |
| Friend of the 46th | \$46 |
| 4600 Club | \$100 |
| Benefactor | \$500 |

- B. Non-residents of the 46th legislative district who make a donation to the organization shall be given the designation of “Sponsor” for purposes of tracking and categorizing in the district database, because non-residents do not have voting privileges on district business.
- C. Donations made as payment for auction items at the annual holiday party shall be counted towards the payment of dues for the following year.
- D. For purposes of determining a Membership Type (level), all documented donations and membership dues paid by an individual shall be tracked throughout a given year (excluding “pass the hat” and other anonymous donations). All cumulative donations and membership dues for a given year shall be considered for purposes of determining membership levels, i.e. 4600 Club.

422. Demogram Advertising Price Schedule – Updated July 2005

| <u>Size</u> | <u>Cost</u> |
|------------------------|-------------|
| Business card size ad: | \$ 40 |
| Quarter-page ad: | \$ 75 |
| Half-page ad: | \$110 |
| Full-page ad: | \$175 |

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Ads shall not be accepted by any candidate or campaign not eligible for endorsement.

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53. Financial Reimbursement Policies – Updated 2006

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A. Members may submit an original receipt for reimbursement of a pre-approved expenditure towards an operational expense of the district.

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B. If a receipt is not available, members may submit a signed affidavit attesting to the actual amount for reimbursement owed for a pre-approved expenditure towards an operational expense of the district.

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144. Endorsement Meeting Schedule and Procedures – Updated 2006

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Schedule: The exact dates of the 46th District Democrats' endorsement schedule will vary from year to year, but the general month-to-month endorsement cycle is as follows:

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- **46th District Democrats Candidate Forum –May general membership meeting.** Candidates are invited to attend meeting that will include questions about their positions on the issues.

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- **46th District Democrats Primary Endorsement Mtg – June general membership meeting.** Members of the 46th vote on endorsements for the Primary election.

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- **Primary Election – 3rd Tuesday in August.** Don't forget to vote!

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- **46th District Democrats General Election Endorsement Mtg – September general membership meeting.** Members of the 46th vote on endorsements for the General election. If a candidate we endorsed in the Primary moves forward to the General, then that endorsement still stands.

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- **General Election – 1st Tuesday (after 1st Monday) in Nov.** Don't forget to vote!

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Procedures: Per Article XVI, Section 3, of the Bylaws of the 46th District Democrats, the following *voting procedures* were adopted by the general membership for the purpose of endorsing candidates and issues in the year noted above. These rules are edited and presented to the general membership for approval before each endorsement season. Additional requirements related endorsements are included in Article XVI, Section 3, of the Bylaws.

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**2006 Endorsement Procedures – to be updated for 2007*

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I. Endorsement Meeting Schedule

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A. The general membership meeting held on August 3, 2006 will consider endorsements for:

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1. All races and ballot measures on the September 2006 Primary Election Ballot, and

2. All races and ballot measures on the November 2006 General Election Ballot.

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B. The general membership meeting held on September 21, 2006 may consider endorsements for races and ballot measures on the November 2006 General Election Ballot for which an endorsement has not yet been made or is not in effect.

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II. Eligibility to Vote

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To be eligible to vote, or to speak at the endorsement meeting, you must be either a Precinct Committee Officer (PCO), or a resident 46th District voter who has paid dues at least 21 days in advance of the endorsement meeting (received or postmarked on or before July 13th for Aug 3rd mtg and on or before Aug 31st for Sept 21st mtg). Persons who were paid members in good standing of the 46th District

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Democrats in 2005 may renew their membership up to the time of the endorsement meeting and are exempt from the 21 day advance deadline. For purposes of these endorsement procedures, PCOs and resident 46th District voters who have paid dues at least 21 days in advance, or members from the previous year who renew prior to the meeting, shall be called “eligible voters”. Voting by proxy is not allowed.

III. Eligibility for Endorsement

To be eligible for endorsement, per Article XVI, Section 7 of the 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 (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, for a candidate to be eligible for consideration (with the exception of Presidential candidates) he/she must sign and submit the King County Democrats’ candidate questionnaire. This questionnaire must be received by the Chair of the 46th District Democrats by July 31st. (Check King County Democrats web page www.kcdems.org for questionnaire.)

IV. Endorsement Requirements

Endorsements require a vote of 2/3 of the eligible voters present and voting. Abstentions are not considered votes, and will not be counted in determining the number of votes cast. Voting will be by written ballots issued to eligible voters before the vote. (A vote by show of hands may be called in the case of a Third Ballot as described in V.B.3.)

V. Endorsement Procedures – Candidates

A. Nominations

1. For each race with candidates, the floor will be open to nominations/seconds for all eligible candidates and “No Endorsement”. Only eligible voters may make motions to endorse/nominate or speak on behalf of an endorsement/nomination. A motion to close nominations shall be out of order.

2. 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 nomination speeches on behalf of any candidate or ballot measure. Eligible voters may NOT cede their time to anyone 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 the vote.

3. All eligible candidates who are nominated and “No Endorsement” will be an option 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 2/3, then that vote passes. If neither a candidate nor “No Endorsement” receives 2/3, then we will move 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.)

2. **Second Ballot:** The top two choices receiving votes from the First Ballot shall be on the Second Ballot.

a. Top two options are *both* candidates: If either of the two candidates receives 2/3, then that vote passes. If not, then move to Third Ballot. Only candidates eligible on the second ballot may move forward for consideration on the third ballot.

b. Top two options are a candidate *and* “No Endorsement”: If either of the two options receives 2/3, then that vote passes. If not, then no endorsement in the race is made.

3. **Third Ballot:** If no choice in the Second Ballot received 2/3, then a motion for dual endorsement will be entertained. This motion must pass by 2/3. If not, then no endorsement in the race is made. A show of hands may be called in the case of a Third Ballot.

VI. Endorsement Procedures – Ballot Measures

A. Nominations

1. Ballot Measures include all initiatives, referenda, levies, and other races without candidates. The question to endorse a Ballot Measure shall be considered in the form it would appear on the ballot.

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Nominations for a specific endorsement to support or oppose a Ballot Measure are not in order, as the endorsement—"Support", "Reject" or "Take no position"—will be determined by the voting.

2. For each motion to consider a Ballot Measure, 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". Only eligible voters may make motions to endorse/nominate or speak on behalf of an endorsement/nomination. Members will hear all speeches for that Ballot Issue before the vote.

B. Voting

1. First Ballot: Each eligible voter will vote for "Support", "Reject" or "Take no position". If any option receives 2/3, then that vote passes. If no option receives 2/3 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 2/3, then that vote passes. If no option receives 2/3, then the position of the 46th District Democrats will be "Take no position".

165. Campaign Donation Policy – Updated 2006

For purposes of making donations to candidates and campaigns, and in accordance with the Bylaws of the 46th District Democrats, the following procedure is to be used:

- A. The Executive Board reviews the current budget (actual expenses and revenues, anticipated expenses and revenues, estimated end-of-year surplus, necessary carry-over, etc);
- B. The Executive Board considers and adopts set of criteria on which campaign donation recommendations are based;
- C. The Executive Board votes on a recommendation to present to the membership;
- D. The General Membership considers and must approve any donation to a campaign or candidate.

286. Membership Lists – Updated July 2005

- A. A pre-printed set of mailing labels of the current membership for one-time use is available to Democratic candidates and non-partisan candidates for a fee of \$100. These labels shall include: member name and mailing address.
- B. A printed hard-copy of the current membership list is available to Democratic candidates and non-partisan candidates for a fee of \$100. This list shall include: member name, street address and phone number.
- C. Any candidate with a major contribution of \$500 or more *in the year of their candidacy*, may receive a set of labels and membership list (member name, street address and phone number) upon request.
- D. Membership lists and mailing label lists are not made available to candidates or campaigns in electronic format.
- E. Email addresses of members or PCOs are not available for purchase or distribution.
- F. The Executive Board reviews and adopts policies addressing the availability and cost of delegate and alternate lists and/or attendee lists from the precinct caucuses or LD caucus at the board meeting one month prior to the 2008 presidential precinct caucuses.