

Endorsement Policy of the 40th LD Democrats

Article I: Purpose

1.1 The purpose of these rules shall be to guide and direct the endorsement process of the 40th Legislative District Democrats in all instances in which a candidate or candidates in a partisan or nonpartisan race, and issue measures will appear on a ballot. Issues not appearing on a ballot within the 40th LD are not subject to these rules, nor will these rules apply to resolutions dealing with the same.

Article II: Balloting

2.1 Creation of a Slate

2.1.1 The Executive Board may create a slate of candidates, who are not running against another candidate eligible for endorsement in their respective race, and/or create a slate of positions on ballot measures for consideration by the membership, for which the membership may dispense with balloting and endorse through unanimous consent. Any member may request that a candidate or ballot measure be pulled from the slate and that contest will be considered individually, by paper ballot, or electronic form in the case of an online meeting.

2.2 Ballot Required

2.2.1 All votes for endorsements, except through the creation of a slate, shall be conducted by paper ballot or, in the case of an online meeting, electronic form. Each voting member may vote for as many candidates for each office as they choose, or for the 40th Legislative District to make no endorsement in that race. Results shall be tallied and reported to the Chair.

2.2.2 Upon signing in at an in-person endorsement meeting, each voting member will receive a ballot packet.

2.2.3 Completed ballots may be turned in at any time once they are issued, including before speeches and votes on races. Only the tally chair or an official tally committee member may accept voted ballots.

2.2.4 Reconsideration ballots may not be turned in prior to the announcement of a reconsideration vote for a race (see Section 4 of this article, below).

2.3 Endorsement Threshold

2.3.1 Any candidate receiving sixty percent (60.00%) of the ballots cast for that contest will receive an endorsement. Ballots marked as “No Endorsement” will be counted towards the total votes cast.

2.3.2 A “yes” or “no” position on a ballot measure requires sixty percent (60.00%) of the

ballots cast to be the endorsed position. Ballots marked “The 40th takes no position” will be counted toward the total votes cast.

2.4 Reconsideration of an Endorsement

2.4.1 In the event no candidate receives sixty percent (60.00%) of the ballots cast, any candidate receiving at least forty percent (40.00%) of the ballots cast will be eligible for reconsideration. If all candidates in the first round of voting receive at least forty percent (40.00%) of the ballots cast, none will be eligible for reconsideration.

2.4.2 Ballot measures are not eligible for reconsideration. **2.5 Process for Reconsideration**

2.5.1 A paper ballot or, in the case of a virtual meeting, electronic form is required for all reconsideration votes, and the results shall be tallied and reported to the Chair. Any candidate receiving sixty percent (60.00%) of the ballots cast will receive an endorsement. Only one reconsideration vote per race will be allowed. The reconsideration ballot will include any candidates who qualify, as well as “No Endorsement.” No additional time will be allocated for addressing the membership before reconsideration votes.

Article III: Speeches 3.1 Candidate Presentation

3.1.1 To be eligible for endorsement, each candidate or ballot measure must be nominated for consideration by a member of the 40th Legislative District. Each nominated candidate or their representative will be entitled to address the body for two (2) minutes. Speeches will be made in the order in which candidates were nominated.

3.2 "No Endorsement" Speech

3.2.1 If only one candidate is considered for endorsement, the Chair will allow a member to speak in favor of making no endorsement. The speaker in favor of "no endorsement" will be entitled to address the body for two (2) minutes.

3.3 Ballot measures 3.3.1 One (1) speaker for, and one (1) speaker against a ballot measure will

each be entitled to address the body for two (2) minutes.

3.4 Debates

3.4.1 The voting members may elect on a per-race basis to request a debate on behalf of the candidates. This motion is not debatable. Each candidate or their representative may select two (2) additional Members to speak on their behalf for no more than one (1) minute. The order of speakers alternates, with initial order determined by a fair coin toss.

3.4.2 Additional speaking time granted to a candidate in accordance with this section is not contingent on the other candidate’s usage of their speaking time.

3.5 Speaking Before the Endorsements Meeting

3.5.1 Each candidate may have two (2) minutes to speak about their campaign at one (1) meeting before the endorsements meeting but after the beginning of the calendar year in which they are planning to file. This does

not apply to incumbents speaking to the body regarding business that is unrelated to their campaign, such as constituent matters.

Article IV: Qualifications

4.1 Candidates who seek the endorsement of the 40th District Democrats shall notify the Chair, or their designee, and Secretary in writing and submit all requested materials in a timely manner as determined and announced per the endorsement timeline provided by the Executive Board.

4.2 Specific races and issues on the ballot that have been approved by a simple majority of the Executive Board shall receive consideration for endorsement by the members of the 40th LD Democrats. Additional races and issues on the ballot shall receive consideration for endorsement upon a simple majority vote of the members present and voting at an endorsement meeting.

4.3 The 40th District Democrats will only consider an endorsement for candidates when the area to be represented (i.e. County, City, District, Ward, etc.) wholly or partially lies within the boundaries of the 40th Legislative District. This provision may be overruled by a 2/3 majority vote of the Executive Board or of the members present and voting at an endorsement meeting.

4.4 Eligibility for endorsement: **4.4.1** Candidates in a partisan race must declare as a Democrat or hold

known affiliation with the Democratic Party and democratic ideals.

4.4.2 Non-judicial candidates who reside within the 40th District shall be members in good standing of the 40th LD Democrats at the time their endorsement is considered.

4.4.3 If in any election there is no candidate eligible for endorsement, the 40th LD Democrats may recommend, rather than endorse, the candidate our organization finds most favorable.

Article V: Endorsement Meeting

5.1 A meeting of the 40th District Democrats shall be held at least once a year prior to the primary election, which shall include endorsements as part of the official agenda.

5.2 If endorsements or nominations of candidates or ballot measures will be considered at a meeting, notice must be given at least ten (10) business days in advance via email in addition to social media, telephone, physical mail, or the 40th LD website.

5.3 Endorsed candidates may have access to VoteBuilder databases, per the policy of the

Washington State Democratic Party. All endorsed candidates may immediately state orally and in print that they have the endorsement of the 40th District Democrats.

5.4 The Executive Board may make reports and recommendations to the Membership regarding endorsements.

5.5 The 40th District Democrats may not endorse any candidate prior to the end of candidate filing or a ballot measure prior to filing approved ballot language unless (a) notice is Published at least thirty (30) days prior to the Meeting at which early endorsements will be considered; and (b) the endorsement is approved by at least three-fourths (3/4) of the Members present and voting.

Article VI: Pre-Endorsement Access Policy **6.1** Candidates may be given access to VoteBuilder databases prior to endorsement

if approved through the following methods/criteria:

6.1.1 The 40th LD Executive Board may consider history of certification, and/or known affiliation with the Democratic Party, democratic ideals, and/or significant public service work which is closely allied with our ideals and goals. Certification shall be issued upon a 2/3rds affirmative vote of the Executive Board.

6.1.2 In all cases, candidates are expected to review their respective local Democratic organizations' platforms, and address areas of concern or direct disagreement for evaluation. Candidates who receive access to party data

may not state that they have been approved or endorsed by the 40th Legislative District Democrats until after they have been endorsed.

Article VII: Amendments and Adoption

7.1 These Endorsement Rules, and any amendments therein, shall be implemented immediately following the affirmative vote of two-thirds (2/3) of the General Membership present and voting, except where it is explicitly stated otherwise.

7.2 These Rules may be amended by the membership at a General Membership meeting provided that the proposed changes are sent to the Chair at least two weeks prior to the meeting for inclusion in the agenda.

7.3 The Executive Board shall have power to make technical and grammatical changes to these rules. The Executive Board may adopt substantive amendments or revisions upon a 2/3rds majority vote of Executive Board members, which shall be implemented immediately, provided the changes be referred to the General Membership for final approval by 2/3 vote of those present and voting at the next General Membership meeting.

7.4 The Rules shall replace previous Endorsement policies and rules.

Adopted by the Executive Board on April 22, 2021, and approved by

the membership at the next General Membership meeting on June 13, 2021.