

**32nd DISTRICT DEMOCRATS (Amended February 1, 2023) Proposed  
September 2025**

**STANDING RULE 2 - ENDORSEMENT POLICY & PROCEDURES  
STANDING RULE 3 - ENDORSEMENT COMMITTEE**

**Standing Rule 2: Endorsement Policy and Procedures**

**Section 1.**

A. Candidates may be endorsed for elective office, and positions may be taken on ballot issues, at any regular meeting in which written notice has been given as an agenda item on the District Organization's Newsletter, whether mailed, e-mailed or phoned a minimum of ten (10) days prior to the meeting.

**Section 2.**

- A) Candidates must submit an approved questionnaire to the District prior to consideration of endorsement by the membership.
- B) Only candidates who publicly identify as a Democrat, or have openly participated as a Democrat, as a matter of public record, may be endorsed by the District Organization. Judicial candidates, who are not allowed to make such identifications, are the only exception to this requirement.

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~~B. Judicial candidates, who are not allowed to make such identifications, are the only exception to this requirement.~~

**Section 3.**

A. Only candidates, or ballot issues, that will appear on a ballot in the 32nd Legislative District can be endorsed or a position taken.

**Section 4.**

A. In races in which no candidates who publicly identify as a Democrat, nor have openly participated as a Democrat, as a matter of public record, will be on the ballot, a preference for one of the candidates on the ballot may be decided using the same procedure as used for endorsements.

**Section 5.**

~~A. The Executive Board Chair shall recommend members of establish an Endorsement Committee by March of each year an odd-numbered and the Board may make recommendations to the membership regarding endorsement of candidates and incumbents and issues. Committee members shall serve a two-year term.~~

**Section 6. Voting procedures shall be as follows:**

A. Endorsements shall require a sixty-percent (60%) vote of the members present and voting.

B. More than one candidate may be endorsed for the same office.

C. Voting will be by **acclamation**, raised credential, **or by ballot**. Written ballots may be requested by fifteen percent (15%) of the eligible voters present and voting.

### **Section 7. Early Endorsement**

A. A candidate is eligible for early endorsement when the candidate is an incumbent running for the same office and position number, was previously endorsed by the District for the same position, and has submitted their candidate questionnaire.

B. No endorsement of a candidate shall occur before the close of candidate filing except when notice is provided in the District Newsletter before the General-membership meeting or by first-class mail or e-mail postmarked at least ten (10) days before the meeting when such an endorsement is proposed.

C. If the meeting is to be held before the close of filing, a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the members present and voting (excluding abstentions) shall be required for endorsement.

### **Section 8. All motions to endorse shall require a second except motions from the Executive Board.**

A. After all motions to endorse individuals for a given race have been made; the candidate (or substitute spokesperson authorized in writing) will be given two (2) minutes to present reasons for endorsement; then there will be a question-and-answer (Q&A) period for a panel composed of all potential endorsees in the race, (including substitute spokespeople authorized as such in writing), each of whom will have an opportunity to respond to each question. The maximum Q&A time will be three (3) minutes times the number of potential endorsees for that race. Each question may last up to fifteen (15) seconds, and each answer may last up to thirty (30) seconds.

B. The motions will then be debated and voted upon in the order in which they were made, starting with the Executive Board motion(s).

C. Up to four speakers, alternating pro (two) and con (two), will be allowed. Each speaker may take up to thirty (30) seconds. If no one requests recognition to speak against the motion after the first pro speaker has spoken, then debate will be closed, and the vote taken. This sequence of "debate and vote" will be followed for each of the motions, in turn.

D. If more than one individual receives a three-fifths (3/5) or 60% vote, the result is a multiple endorsement. If only one individual is endorsed, it is a sole endorsement. If no individual is endorsed, motions for multiple endorsements will then be in order, and the same procedures for "debate and vote" (Sec. 6B above) will be followed.

### **Section 9.**

A. Only the Executive Board or a member of the 32nd Legislative District Democratic Organization may move for endorsement or move for a position on a ballot issue.

B. The Executive Board may propose a slate of candidates for endorsement. Individuals on a slate must either be eligible for early endorsement or not running against another Democrat. Any member may remove a candidate from the slate.

### **Section 10. Endorsement Ballot Propositions**

- A. Campaigns that align with our platform shall be offered opportunities to present factual information about ballot measures. Members will have opportunities to ask questions about the impacts of a ballot measure.
- B. After members have opportunity to ask questions, a member may make a motion to endorse a position on a ballot measure. The endorsement committee may recommend the membership take a position on a ballot measure.
- C.
- D. A spokesperson will be given two (2) minutes to present reasons for endorsement, then members may debate a motion for positions on ballot measures, alternating pro and con. Questions and answers shall be allowed. Debate may be closed by a vote of two-thirds (2/3) or 66.67% of the members present and voting.

**Section 11.**

- A. Sections 1 through 8 of this Standing Rule also apply to motions for “revocation of endorsement” and “rejection of endorsement,” substituting “revocation of endorsement” as “rejection of endorsement” as applicable.

**Section 12.**

- A. The organization shall support and publicize its endorsements and positions in ways that it deems appropriate. The District organization’s literature-distribution system will be available only for endorsed candidates and endorsed ballot issues.

**Standing Rule 3: Endorsement Committee**

**Section 1. Establishment and Composition**

- A. The Executive Board Chair shall ~~appoint~~ recommend an Endorsement Committee from among volunteers from the general membership. Executive Board members may serve as Endorsement Committee members, but no more than one-half of the committee members can also be Executive Board members. Appointees must be ratified by majority vote at the next regularly scheduled General Membership meeting following their appointment. The Endorsement Committee shall consist of a minimum of five (5) members but a larger number is preferred.
- B. The Endorsement Committee shall select a chair and other officers as desired.
- C. Any member appointed to serve as a delegate to another Democratic Party endorsement committee shall be a non-voting member of the Endorsement Committee.

**Section 2. Invitation to Candidates**

- A. The Endorsement Committee shall ~~send a letter to~~ invite Democratic candidates and candidates for nonpartisan office who will appear on the ballot in the 32nd Legislative District for a given election to seek endorsement.
- B. ~~The letter shall ask if the candidate is interested in seeking our endorsement and shall include the provisions of Sections 4 and 5 of this Rule, and any other information the Committee wishes to furnish.~~
- C. The Committee shall keep a record of letters sent and responses received and shall begin to schedule interview meetings as soon as possible.

**Section 3. Endorsement Committee Interviews and Questionnaires**

A. ~~Except as provided in Section 7 of Standing Rule 2, e~~ Every candidate who seeks the endorsement of the 32nd Legislative District Democratic Organization, during the year in which endorsement is sought, must complete a questionnaire provided by the Endorsement Committee prior to the interview.

B. Every ~~congressional~~, legislative, and local candidate who wants the recommendation of the 32nd Legislative District Executive Board must, during the year in which endorsement is sought, appear in person or through an authorized representative at an interview meeting of the Endorsement Committee.

C. Prior to the interview meetings, the Executive Board, or the general membership, by majority vote (present and voting), may waive the interview ~~or questionnaire~~ requirement.

D. If a candidate does not interview with the Endorsement Committee, or obtain a waiver as described in this Section, neither the Endorsement Committee nor the Executive Board may recommend to the membership that the candidate be endorsed.

#### **Section 4. Interview Meetings**

A. Except as provided in Section 7 of Standing Rule 2, every candidate who seeks the endorsement of the 32nd Legislative District Democratic Organization, during the year in which endorsement is sought, must complete a questionnaire provided by the Endorsement Committee prior to the interview.

B. All deliberations and votes shall be conducted in Executive Session. A written record shall be kept of the number of votes cast for or against each candidate.

C. Every ~~congressional~~, legislative, and local candidate who wants the recommendation of the 32nd Legislative District Executive Board must, during the year in which endorsement is sought, appear in person or through an authorized representative at an interview meeting of the Endorsement Committee.

D. Prior to the interview meetings, the Executive Board, or the general membership, by majority vote (present and voting), may waive the interview ~~or questionnaire~~ requirement.

E. If a candidate does not interview with the Endorsement Committee, or obtain a waiver as described in this Section, neither the Endorsement Committee nor the Executive Board may recommend to the membership that the candidate be endorsed.

F. An interview meeting may consist of a candidate forum during a general membership meeting.

#### **Section 5. Number of Interview Meetings**

A. The Endorsement Committee shall hold at least one interview meeting with Democratic candidates seeking the endorsement of the 32nd Legislative District Democratic Organization, and as many more meetings as it deems necessary to accommodate all of the candidates requesting endorsement prior to the Endorsement Meeting of each year. All meetings of the Endorsement Committee shall be open to the membership. In addition, the Endorsement Committee will make every effort to schedule a candidate forum, open to the public, for candidates running for open seats.

## **Section 6. Endorsement Committee Files and Questionnaires**

A. The Endorsement Committee may use a questionnaire developed by the King County or Snohomish County Democrats or shall develop a list of questions appropriate to each office to be asked of candidates during interviews, and may ask candidates to submit copies of questionnaires they have filled out for other organizations. It shall keep a file on each candidate who appears during the year, their positions on issues, their responses to questions, and any other pertinent information they can gather.

## **Section 7. Review by the Executive Board**

A. The Executive Board, by a 2/3 vote of members present and voting, may overrule reject any recommendation of the Endorsement Committee.