

43rd District Democrats Endorsement Procedures -- 2007

1. Eligibility.

- 1.1. *Candidates*: To be eligible for endorsement, a candidate must submit a completed Candidate Questionnaire to the Chair. The Executive Board shall establish a deadline for candidates to submit Candidate Questionnaires to the Chair. The completed Candidate Questionnaire may be submitted to the Chair by U.S. Mail, as an email document or PDF, or in person. In addition, a candidate in a partisan race must file as a Democrat; a candidate in a non-partisan non-judicial race must identify himself or herself as a Democrat
- 1.2. *Ballot Measures*: Any initiative, referendum, proposed constitutional amendment, or any other ballot measure submitted by the state or any subdivision of the state for consideration by the voters of any part of the 43rd Legislative District may be considered.

2. Definitions.

For purposes of these procedures and unless otherwise indicated:

- 2.1. "*Candidate*" means a candidate that is eligible for endorsement under Section 1.1 of these procedures.
- 2.2. "*Ballot Measure*" means a ballot measure that is eligible for endorsement under Section 1.2 of these procedures.
- 2.3. "*Candidate Questionnaire*" means the questionnaire prepared by the King County Democratic Central Committee, along with an additional questionnaire from the Executive Board of the 43rd District Democratic Organization if they choose to prepare one.
- 2.4. "*Chair*" means the chair of the 43rd District Democratic Organization.
- 2.5. "*Contested Race*" means a race with two or more Candidates.
- 2.6. "*Endorsement Meeting*" means the meeting described in Sections 15.5 through 15.7 of the By-Laws.
- 2.7. "*Executive Board*" means the board described in Section 9.1 of the By-Laws.
- 2.8. "*Member*" means any person described in Section 3.1 of the By-Laws.
- 2.9. "*Uncontested Race*" means a race with only one Candidate.

3. Displays.

Candidates and Ballot Measure campaigns may display a maximum of four (4) standard-size yard signs on the walls within the meeting facility. No other display materials will be permitted within the meeting facility. Campaign literature is not display material and may be distributed to Members. Candidates and ballot issue campaigns are responsible for the display and removal of their signs before and after the meeting in a non-disruptive and non-destructive manner. Violation of these procedures could result in revocation of an endorsement pursuant to Section 15.1 of the By-Laws.

4. Method of voting.

- 4.1. Each Member is entitled to cast one paper ballot. This paper ballot will contain all of the Contested Races, Uncontested races not acted upon through the slate process, and

Ballot Measures being considered for endorsement. One paper ballot may consist of multiple pages.

- 4.2. The Chair shall appoint a tally committee to count the paper ballots.
- 4.3. Members may cast their ballots in person at any time during the Endorsement Meeting by giving their ballots to a member of the tally committee. Ballots cast after the close of voting on any particular race will not be counted for that race. Members may attend any part of the Endorsement Meeting, cast their ballot, and leave, if they so choose.
- 4.4. Proxy voting is not permitted per Section 6.5 of the By-Laws.

5. Uncontested Slate

- 5.1. Except as provided in Section 5.3 of these procedures, all Candidates in Uncontested Races shall be considered for endorsement as part of a combined slate of uncontested Candidates.
- 5.2. Ballot measure positions (i.e., Yes or No) may be included on the uncontested slate if recommended by the Executive Board.
- 5.3. A Candidate or Ballot Measure position may be removed from the uncontested slate by any Member and a Member-second. Any Candidate or Ballot Measure so removed will be automatically nominated for consideration under the procedures described in Sections 6 and 7.
- 5.4. Members shall vote on the endorsement of the combined slate by voice vote. To be endorsed, the combined slate must receive the votes of at least sixty percent (60%) of the Members present and voting.
- 5.5. If endorsement of the combined slate fails, all Candidates and Ballot Measures from the combined slate will be automatically nominated for consideration under the procedures described in Sections 6 and 7.

6. Contested Endorsements

- 6.1. For Contested Races and Uncontested Races not acted upon through the slate process described in Section 5, each Candidate is automatically nominated for endorsement.
- 6.2. Each Candidate shall be allowed three minutes of candidate controlled time to present their candidacy. Candidates may use their time to speak, have representatives speak on their behalf, have Members provide testimonials, or answer questions from Members. Each Candidate is free to use their time as the Candidate chooses. If a Candidate chooses to use part of his or her time to answer questions from Members, the Chair will call on Members to ask questions.
- 6.3. The Executive Board may, as it deems appropriate, summarize and present information from the Candidate Questionnaires, note discrepancies or items of interest from the Candidate Questionnaires, and make recommendations for endorsement at the endorsement meeting.
- 6.4. A member may vote to endorse one or more Candidates in each race.
- 6.5. *Races with only one Candidate.*
The only question on the ballot shall be whether to endorse the Candidate. The candidate is endorsed if he or she receives supporting votes on at least sixty percent (60%) of the ballots cast.
- 6.6. *Races with more than one Candidate*
 - 6.6.1. On the first ballot, a Candidate is endorsed if he or she receives votes on at least sixty percent (60%) of the ballots cast, excluding ballots that contain no vote for a Candidate in a race. Thus, the numerator of each Candidate's fraction will be the number of votes he or she receives. The denominator of each Candidate's

fraction will be the number of ballots containing one or more votes in the Candidate's race.

- 6.6.2. If no candidate is endorsed on the first ballot, a second written ballot shall be taken if at least one candidate received votes on forty percent (40%) or more of the ballots cast, excluding ballots that contain no vote for a Candidate in a race. The only question on the second ballot shall be whether to endorse all of the candidates who received votes on forty percent (40%) or more of the ballots in the first vote. (This may be one candidate if only one received forty percent (40%), or it may be more than one candidate if more than one received forty percent (40%).) Endorsement, whether single or joint, on this second ballot shall require an affirmative vote of at least sixty percent (60%) of all ballots cast on the second round.

7. Ballot Measures

- 7.1. Ballot Measures not acted upon through the Uncontested Slate will automatically be considered for endorsement.
- 7.2. Proponents and opponents of each Ballot Measure shall be allowed five minutes to present their position on the Ballot Measure. Official campaign committees registered with the Public Disclosure Commission or Seattle Ethics and Elections Commission in support or opposition to a Ballot Measure, if any such committees exist, will control the five minute time period allowed for proponents or opponents. Proponents or opponents may use their five minutes to have campaign representatives speak, have Members provide testimonials, or answer questions from Members. If the proponents or opponents choose to use part of their time to answer questions from Members, the Chair will call on Members to ask questions.
- 7.3. Each Member shall cast one vote on each Ballot Measure. The choices for each Ballot Measure shall be (a) Yes, or (b) No. Ballots returned with votes for both choices shall be considered to be spoiled ballots.
- 7.4. A Ballot Measure position (i.e., Yes or No) is endorsed if it receives at least sixty percent (60%) of the votes cast, ignoring abstentions and spoiled ballots. If no Ballot Measure position receives at sixty percent (60%) of the votes cast, no Ballot Measure position is endorsed. There shall be no reconsideration of the endorsement vote for any Ballot Measure.

8. Consequences of Endorsement

- 8.1. The 43rd District Democratic Organization's mailing lists shall be available to endorsed candidates and ballot issue campaigns under such conditions as the Executive Board shall provide. Mailing lists shall remain the property of the 43rd District Democratic Organization.
- 8.2. Endorsed Candidates and ballot issue campaigns may publicize the endorsement of the 43rd District Democratic Organization.
- 8.3. The 43rd District Democratic Organization literature distribution system shall be made available only to endorsed Candidates and ballot issue campaigns. However, each individual participating in the system has the right to refuse to distribute specific material and to distribute additional materials at his or her option.