

26th LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT DEMOCRATS

STANDING RULES ON ENDORSEMENTS

These Standing Rules are adopted by the 26th Legislative District Democrats (hereinafter referred to as “26th LD”) pursuant to Article 13 of the Bylaws (Endorsements and Approvals) and in accordance with the powers and duties of the Executive Board as outlined in the 26th LD Bylaws, including Article 11 of the Bylaws of this organization.

1. Executive Board. The body authorized to make a recommendation for endorsement or approval of a candidate to the general membership shall be the Executive Board (hereinafter referred to as “E-Board”) as it is empowered under Article 11 of the Bylaws.

2. Chair. The Chair of the E-Board may participate in candidate investigation, interviews, and discussion, and may advocate, but shall not vote on endorsement recommendations (except that the Chair may vote to break a tie). The Chair shall set any Agenda and may submit proposed endorsement recommendations for a vote of the E-Board without a motion or second.

3. Early Endorsement. The E-Board may recommend that the 26th LD Democrats endorse a candidate at any time before or after the legal filing period and without formal investigation when in the case of a partisan or non-partisan office, (a) the candidate is a known Democrat; and (b) the candidate is an incumbent for the office sought; and (c) the candidate submits a current written endorsement questionnaire. At the discretion of the Chair, previously endorsed incumbent candidates may not be required to submit written questionnaires and/or appear in person for interviews.

-OR- in the case of a partisan or non-partisan office, (a) the candidate is a known Democrat or has demonstrated Democratic values while serving in office or serving in the community; and (b) an early endorsement would benefit the candidate and the Democratic Party; and (c) the candidate submits a current written endorsement questionnaire. For candidates who meet these criteria, the E-Board's recommendation for early endorsement is discretionary and requires a simple majority vote of a quorum of the E-Board. Candidates who are not recommended for early endorsement may still be recommended for endorsement or approval in accordance with the 26th LD Bylaws and these Standing Rules.

4. Extent of Investigation. For each candidate or office, the E-Board shall determine the appropriate level of investigation, which may include, but not be limited to, the following: requesting and reviewing questionnaires, personal interviews, formal or informal investigation of a candidate's associations, conferring with other stakeholders (including the SDCC, the HDCC, Labor Councils, diversity allies, advocate groups, and other Democratic partners), consideration of prior campaigns and community and party involvement, reputation among Democrats, prior offices held, prior policy positions and other endorsements. When the Chair or the E-Board determines that it is appropriate, the Chair may assign the above or other investigative tasks to members of the E-Board or to third parties.

5. Multiple Candidates. For any given position or office, endorsements are limited to one candidate in each primary or general election. Pursuant to Article 13 of the Bylaws, endorsements require a two-thirds majority of those present and voting. However, for any given position or office, approval may be granted to more than one candidate in a primary or general election. Pursuant to Article 13 of the Bylaws, approvals require a majority of those present and voting.

6. Recommendations to Membership. The E-Board's recommendations to the 26th LD membership may be reported in any fashion deemed appropriate by the Chair. The Executive Board shall further determine how to take action on the recommendations, but the E-Board shall not make all or any part of its recommendations a "slate", requiring a single up or down vote by the general membership for all candidates. The E-Board's recommendations to the 26th LD membership should be announced in the General Meeting email notice and should be sent at least seventy-two (72) hours before the Meeting in which the membership casts their votes on any recommendations made by the E-Board.

7. Responsibilities of E-Board Members. The members of the E-Board, as Democrats active in politics and in the community, are expected and encouraged to be involved in the races for which they are evaluating candidates. E-Board members are not disqualified or required to recuse themselves merely because the member may already support a particular candidate, including by donating to or volunteering for her or his campaign. However, serving in an official campaign role or position (such as a campaign manager, treasurer, volunteer coordinator or similar position) may, depending upon the circumstances, be a basis for recusal. If an E-Board member declines to recuse when circumstances warrant it, the E-Board may require recusal, but only by a seconded motion supported by a two-thirds vote of the E-Board members present.

APPROVED this ____ day of _____ 2021.

BY THE 26th LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT, STATE OF WASHINGTON

KARA ALEY, PRESIDING CHAIR