

Washington Legislative District 26 Democratic Central Committee

Endorsement Meeting Policy

Article I. Quorum and Voting Eligibility

Section 1. Quorum

A quorum for endorsement business shall be twelve (12) members including three (3) elected officers shall constitute a quorum.

If endorsement business extends beyond 9:30 PM, quorum shall be reconfirmed before further votes are taken.

Quorum is required for the validity of all actions taken under this policy.

Section 2. Voting Eligibility

Eligible voters are members in good standing for at least twenty-eight (28) days prior to the meeting.

Proxy voting is prohibited, except as allowed under Article 6 of the bylaws of the 26th Legislative Democrats.

Article II. Voting

Section 1. Suspension of the Legislative District 26 Democrats Bylaws

In order for the remainder of this endorsement procedure to be executed, a motion must be made to suspend the regular rules of endorsements, motions, and arguments set forth in the bylaws of the Legislative District 26 Democrats. The motion must then be supported by a majority of the voting members of the general membership present both in-person and remotely.

Section 2. Thresholds and Vote Calculation

1. VOTING ACTIONS. The 26th LD Democrats may take action with respect to endorsement and/or approval of candidates seeking elected office as per adopted 26th LD Democrats policy set forth Article 13 of the organization's bylaws. A motion fails if it fails to get a majority vote by the membership, or fails to meet the thresholds also in accordance with Article 13 of the organization's bylaws. Additional requirements:

(a.) Endorsement and Sole Endorsement designate full support of the body. Endorsements and Sole Endorsements require a two-thirds majority of those present and voting. Only one candidate may be Endorsed in a race. If a candidate is awarded endorsement in the meeting, a motion to withdraw the endorsement may not be made until the next meeting of

the general membership. An approval of another candidate in the same race may still be made in cases of Endorsement, but may not be made when a Sole Endorsement designation is awarded.

(b.) Approval. Approvals require a majority of those present and voting. Multiple candidates in the same race may receive approvals, including in the presence of an Endorsed candidate in the same race.

(c.) Non-endorsement with no official support from the 26th LD Democrats.

(d.) No action.

Article III. Order of Consideration and Procedure

Section 1. Candidate Presentations

1. Candidates may provide a presentation in each race under consideration, the order of which will be determined in alphabetical order by candidate surname for those wishing to present.

2. Candidate presentations shall occur for all races prior to consideration of any Executive Board recommendation.

3. The order of consideration is administrative only and does not imply endorsement, approval, or preference.

4. Each candidate shall be allotted two (2) minutes for remarks.

5. Members are expected to review candidate materials and interview recordings in advance of the meeting. Candidate presentations are intended to supplement, not replace, pre-meeting information.

Section 2. Executive Board Recommendations

1. The Executive Board may recommend a designation for each race, including:

(a.) Sole Endorsement of a candidate without approval of other candidates in the same race; or

(b.) Endorsement of a candidate with the ability of the body to approve another candidate in the same race; or

(c.) Approval of one or more candidates.

(d.) No action

(e.) Non-Endorsement

2. Each recommendation shall be taken up individually in the order determined by the Chair following candidate presentations, with the exception of races in which the recommendation of the Executive Board conflicts with the recommendations made by the Endorsement Committee. Disagreement in these recommendations suggest the potential for protracted discussion during the meeting, which could pose a danger to the loss of quorum. Races in which such a conflict in recommendations exist shall be presented to the general membership for consideration first, but in the order designated by the Chair.

3. When a recommendation is taken up:

(a.) The Chair shall announce the recommendation,

(b.) A representative of the Executive Board shall provide a brief summary of the reasoning supporting the recommendation, including notification of whether the recommendation made by the Executive Board was or was not in alignment with the recommendation initially made by the Endorsement Committee.

(c.) A representative of the Executive Board shall provide a clear explanation in plain language of how a potential aye, nay, or abstention would impact the outcome of a race, The Executive Board representative must make clear that a debate on a contested recommendation is only triggered if the motion fails, and that a failed motion would require 50% +1 of voting members to vote “no” on the motion.

Section 5. Vote on Executive Board Recommendation

1. Following presentation of the Executive Board recommendation and explanation of voting and impacts, the Chair will call for any requests for points of clarification and address those requests if any are raised.

2. Following the addressing of any points of clarification, the Chair shall immediately call for a vote.

3. No debate or amendment shall be permitted on the Executive Board recommendation prior to this vote.

4. If the recommendation is adopted, consistent with requirements set forth in Article 13 of the bylaws of the organization for the Legislative District 26 Democrats, this shall constitute the finality of discussion for the identified race.

Section 6. Questions (Time Permitting)

1. Following the vote on the Executive Board recommendation, the Chair may allow, if time permits, one question limited to 30 seconds to each candidate with two minutes allowed for answers.
2. Questions shall occur only if the recommendation fails and the race proceeds to full consideration.

Section 7. Motions and Debate

1. Following a failed Executive Board recommendation, the Chair shall entertain motions for Sole Endorsement, Endorsement, Approval, or No Action.
2. Debate shall follow each motion.
3. Candidates shall be excused prior to debate and may return for voting.
4. Members who are affiliated with a candidate's campaign are encouraged to disclose that affiliation before speaking.
5. Debate shall consist of two (2) alternating rounds:
6. Two (2) minutes in favor.
7. Two (2) minutes opposed.
8. The Chair shall recognize speakers in alternating positions where possible.
9. The maker of a motion shall be recognized first in favor of the motion and given the first right of refusal to speak on behalf of the motion. If the maker of the motion declines to speak in favor of or against the motion, the Chair may recognize another speaker who wishes to speak in favor of the motion as the first speaker to speak in the first round of debate.
10. If a motion is made to Sole Endorse a candidate over another in the same race fails, and the same motion is made in favor of the other candidate and also fails, both candidates will receive a dual approval.

Section 8. Viability of Motions in Uncontested Recommendations

1. In races where the recommendation between the Endorsement Committee and Executive Board conflict, all motions to Endorse or Sole Endorse will be permitted. For races in which there was no such disagreement, the Chair may determine whether the motion is viable based on the apparent level of support in the body.

(a.) If the Chair determines that a motion to Endorse or Sole Endorse is not viable in races where the recommendations of the Executive Board and the Endorsement Committee

agree, the motion shall not proceed, and consideration shall continue under motions for Approval.

(b.) The Chair's determination of viability may be informed by visible support, informal indication, or other reasonable means.

Article IV. Voting Procedures

Section 1. In-Person Voting

1. Qualified members present in-person shall vote by visible indication using credentials issued by the Membership Committee when the presented recommendation is for a race in which the recommendation of the Endorsement Committee and Executive Board agree. In races where the recommendation of the Endorsement Committee and Executive Board conflict, voting shall occur by secret ballot.

Section 2. Remote Voting

1. An announcement of the designated communication channel for qualified members attending remotely shall be clearly made.

2. Qualified members attending remotely shall vote by clearly stating their name as recorded on the membership list and indicating "Yay," "Nay," or "Abstain" in the designated communication channel when the presented recommendation is for a race in which the recommendation of the Endorsement Committee and Executive Board agreed. If multiple qualified members share a device, each name and vote must be listed separately.

3. Qualified members attending remotely shall vote by clearly stating their name as recorded on the membership list and indicating "Yay," "Nay," or "Abstain" in the designated communication channel when the presented recommendation is for a race in which the recommendation of the Endorsement Committee and Executive Board conflicted. If multiple qualified members share a device, notification in the designated channel should be made by the qualified voter that a second vote must be recorded. The authority charged with recording votes will first record all votes cast, and then allow the additional member(s) to cast their votes via the designated communication channel to allow for the confidentiality of members voting remotely in such races.

Section 3. Vote Verification

1. Vote totals shall be verified by the Membership Committee with assistance from the Endorsement Committee and announced by the Chair.

After the initial tallies are made and announced, a recall will occur in the following circumstances:

(a) For outcomes determined on recommendations where the vote was made via secret ballot, an automatic recount of votes shall be triggered if the difference between the passage and failure of a motion is within 3 votes.

(b) When a motion for a recount of votes cast, but the motion for a recount may only be made one per vote outcome, and only in circumstances where the difference between candidates is within 10 votes.

Article V. Procedural Consistency

The procedures established in this policy govern endorsement meetings. The Chair may adjust administrative details necessary for efficient administration but shall not alter substantive rules except by vote of the body.

Article VI. Definitions

Section 1. Sole Endorsement and Endorsement

Sole Endorsement is the official designation of full support of the body for a single candidate in a race by the in-person and virtually-voting members in accordance with the thresholds as outlined in the bylaws of the organization. Races in which a Sole Endorsement is awarded will not allow for other candidates in the same race to receive an approval.

Endorsement is the official designation of support for a candidate in a race by the in-person and virtually-voting members in accordance with the thresholds as outlined in the bylaws of the organization. Races in which an Endorsement vote is made will allow other candidates in the same race to receive an approval.

Section 2. Approval

Approval is a designation indicating majority support in accordance with the thresholds as outlined in the bylaws of the organization.

Section 3. No Action

No Action means no candidate receives Endorsement or Approval. This can be due to no request from the candidate, a desire by a candidate to remain non-partisan or no clear knowledge of the candidate.

Section 4. Non-Endorsement

Non-Endorsement indicates the body has affirmatively declined to support a candidate in the race. This indicates that unfavorable information exists on the candidate.

NOTE: Per Robert's Rules **Postponement** of action on a designation is also an option.

Article VII. Interpretation and Administrative Authority

Section 1. Order of Authority

1. This policy governs endorsement meetings.
2. Where silent, bylaws apply
3. Where both are silent, standard parliamentary practice applies.

Section 2. Role of the Chair

1. The Chair administers this policy neutrally.
2. The Chair may make reasonable procedural rulings consistent with this policy.

Section 3. Appeals

1. Rulings of the Chair may be appealed
2. A majority vote is required to overturn a ruling