

King County Democratic Central Committee Endorsement Rules

A. General

1. The King County Democratic Central Committee Executive Board (hereinafter “KCDCC”) may make endorsements on behalf of the King County Democratic Central Committee.
2. At least 7 days’ notice shall be given prior to any KCDCC Executive Board consideration of endorsement for elective office or ballot measure. Notice shall be (a) emailed to members of the KCDCC Executive Board *and* (b) posted to the King County Democrats’ website.
3. KCDCC Executive Board voting members as defined in the KCDCC Bylaws Article VII, Section 7.2, are eligible to vote on motions to endorse.
4. More than one candidate for the same office may be endorsed.
5. Early Endorsements may be made after a candidate has filed required forms with the Washington State Public Disclosure Commission confirming their intention to run for elective office, or once a ballot measure has either been sent to the voters by a legislative body, or had signatures certified.

B. Criteria for Endorsement

1. A candidate must complete the “King County Democrats’ Endorsement Questionnaire” or the “King County Democrats’ Judicial Questionnaire,” and any addenda, and follow the submission procedure on the KCDCC website (www.kcdems.org), to be considered for endorsement. The candidates’ responses to the questionnaire will be posted on the KCDCC website.
2. No candidate for any statewide office, State Supreme Court, appellate court, or Congressional seat shall be endorsed unless an applicable questionnaire has been received by the County Chair or his/her designee at least seven days prior to the KCDCC endorsement vote.
3. To be eligible for endorsement, a candidate must file as a Democrat, or in the case of nonpartisan races other than races for judicial positions, must self-identify as a Democrat on their questionnaire.

C. Legislative Candidate endorsement

1. Whenever possible, no KCDCC endorsement shall be made for any legislative district candidate prior to the Legislative District Organization considering endorsement for the position. Whenever possible, KCDCC Endorsements Committee will conduct endorsement interviews prior to Legislative District Organizations considering endorsement.
2. At the discretion of the Endorsements Committee, LD organizations may report and make recommendations to the committee, in lieu of formal interview, for candidates for jurisdictions

that are wholly confined in a legislative district, and the committee may agree, by majority vote, that the vetting process by the LD is sufficient to waive the interview requirement.

D. General Procedures for Endorsement by KCDCC

1. Following recommendation by the Endorsements Committee, which requires a minimum 2/3 vote of present and voting committee members, a candidate will be endorsed following a minimum 60% vote by present and voting members of the KCDCC Executive Board.
2. A recommendation from the Endorsements Committee shall constitute an automatic Motion to Endorse. Debate shall be limited to two speakers in favor, two speakers against, no more than 1 minute each, with no amendments allowed. The vote shall immediately follow the last such speaker.
3. Non-recommended candidates may be considered at the same meeting, but only after consideration of all recommended candidates, and their endorsements shall require a minimum 2/3 vote of present and voting KCDCC Executive Board members.
4. Candidates seeking endorsement without being vetted by the Endorsements Committee shall require a vote of not less than 90% of present and voting members of the KCDCC.
5. In addition to the rules in Section A, any *early* endorsement for a partisan race wherein the candidate has (a) not been interviewed or otherwise vetted by the Endorsements Committee or (b) has been interviewed and/or vetted by the Endorsements Committee, but not recommended by the Endorsements Committee for an early endorsement by the Endorsements Committee, shall require a vote of not less than 75% of present and voting members of the KCDCC.
6. Early endorsements of non-partisan and judicial races wherein the candidate has not been interviewed or otherwise vetted by the Endorsements Committee shall be out of order and not considered. The sole exception will be in cases where a candidate is running to fill the remainder of a short term, and has been interviewed within twelve months of being considered for early endorsement. Any candidates endorsed under this exception must still go through the regular interview process, and may have their endorsements rescinded if they refuse to participate in the process.
7. KCDCC Executive Board voting on candidate recommendations by the Endorsements Committee shall be “yea,” “nay,” or “refer back to committee with instruction,” including details on the instruction.
8. Endorsements shall be considered at an official Endorsements Meeting called by the Chair of the King County Democrats. Endorsement Meetings shall be limited to one in May or June, before the primary election, and one in September, before the general election. This rule does not apply to special elections that do not occur on the primary or general election date of any given year. Endorsements in those races shall be considered upon agreement between the Endorsements Committee and the KCDCC Chair.

9. Endorsements after the Endorsements Meeting shall not be considered. The sole exception will be for candidates in races where an endorsed candidate does not make it out of a primary election, in which case D.1 applies.

E. Endorsement Interviews

1. The Chair of the Endorsements Committee shall be responsible for scheduling interviews with candidates seeking the endorsement of the KCDCC.

2. Prior to the interview process, the Chair shall communicate the anticipated process to candidates.

3. Committee members from Legislative Districts wherein the candidate resides shall be given priority for questioning during endorsement interviews.

4. The process for interviews shall be determined by the chair of the Endorsements Committee or their designee(s).

5. When practical, interviews may be held jointly with legislative district organizations for candidates within their jurisdictions.

F. Membership

1. Endorsements Committee members shall be appointed by the Chair of the KCDCC, pursuant to the Bylaws, with at least one member from each Legislative District. Appointments shall be made from candidates proposed by Legislative District chairs. Each membership position shall be a two-year term.

2. Membership should reflect the diversity of the Democratic Party.

3. Interviews of candidates shall be conducted by the members of the committee. In addition to the members appointed by the KCDCC Chair, each Legislative District organization may send one "alternate" and one observer to the interviews. These representatives shall be identified to the Chair of the Endorsements Committee at a reasonable time in advance of the endorsement interviews, and the Committee Chair shall share the interview schedule with these representatives.

4. Except as otherwise determined by the Chair of the Endorsements Committee, in consultation with the regular members of the committee, the representatives identified in Section F.3 shall not be allowed to ask questions during the interview process.

5. The Chair of the King County Democrats, or a representative appointed by the Chair, shall be a *de facto* member of the Endorsements Committee, with full voting rights.

6. The Chairs of the Endorsements Committee may appoint up to three Vice Chairs to oversee specific areas of the County. These sections will be determined by the Endorsements Committee.

7. The Chair of the Washington State Democrats, or a representative appointed by the Chair, shall be a de facto member of the Endorsements Committee, with full voting rights.
8. Committee members and/or observers are urged to prepare a report on each candidate interviewed that their District organization may consider from endorsement, and submit such report to their Legislative District.
9. Legislative District Chairs shall be welcomed as observers during the endorsement interviews.

G. Questionnaire

1. The Endorsements Committee shall prepare questionnaires for each office deemed necessary, including distinct questionnaires for judicial and non-judicial office. The members of the committee must approve the questionnaire by majority vote.
2. The Questionnaire should incorporate ten *basic* questions (typically referred to as the “Yes/No/Qualified” questions) based on the KCDCC platform. Questionnaires will be considered perpetual absent substantive changes in those questions recommended by the committee and approved by the KCDCC no later than its February meeting each year.
3. Addenda inclusive of up to five additional, issue-specific questions may be submitted by the Committee for KCDCC approval in any given year. Any addenda approved shall be valid for elections occurring in that calendar year only.
4. Legislative Districts that choose to add additional questions beyond those in the questionnaire and yearly addenda may have those questions posted on the KCDCC website for easy access by candidates seeking endorsement.

H. Consequences of KCDCC Endorsement

1. Endorsed candidates may use the KCDCC name and endorsement in any and all literature. Candidates may obtain PCO or other lists from KCDCC upon written request.
2. Endorsed candidates’ names and contact information shall be posted on the KCDCC website (www.kcdems.org). Candidate events can also be posted on the KCDCC website. Other resources may be made available to the endorsed candidates at the discretion of the Chair.
3. In any race where more than one candidate is endorsed for the same office, no candidate shall be eligible to receive a monetary or other organizational contribution to their campaign, unless only one candidate makes it through a primary election.