

Section 8.3. Endorsements and Elections Committee

Section 8.3.1. Purpose

The Endorsements and Election ~~Support~~ Committee is responsible for supporting the Democratic Party mission to elect Democrats. The committee will act as the support arm for elections for member organizations in King County. ~~shall make recommendations to the PCOs regarding proposed endorsements of candidates and campaigns, and shall lead the KCDCC's efforts to support endorsed candidates and campaigns. The committee shall also lead KCDCC's efforts to provide election observers and protect the integrity of elections.~~

Section 8.3.2. Membership

The County Chair, the KCDCC Vice-Chairs, the District Chairs, and the King County Young Democrats Chair shall each appoint one member of the committee. The ~~member appointed by the~~ County Chair shall appoint the chair or co-chairs the committee.

Section 8.3.3. Duties—Endorsements

There are three core functions of the Endorsement Committee:

- Work with LPO's to identify and prepare candidates to run for election;
- Work with LPO's to define core requirements for the Candidate Questionnaire which will serve as the Questionnaire for organizations in King County;
- Conduct endorsement assessments and put forward endorsement recommendations for each election cycle in which Democrats are running for office in King County.

8.3.3.1 Performance of Duties

The committee will convene an annual endorsement planning session with representatives of each LPO in King County. The purpose of the meeting is to create a list of offices pending election in the next election cycle, to review identified candidates (if any) for each office, and to set a calendar for the operation of endorsements for the cycle.

The endorsement committee will work with the training committee to register candidates for training if they opt for it.

Endorsement Meetings

-The endorsement committee will conduct a preliminary endorsement assessment with candidates and LPO representatives to provide resources if needed to assist in preparing the candidate for their campaign.

-The committee shall propose endorsements for the following candidates and campaigns only: as identified at the Endorsement Annual Planning Session with LPO's.

No votes shall be taken for endorsements or committee business without a quorum in attendance. Votes in absentia will not be permitted, but participation via electronic means is permissible.

The committee shall maintain minutes to include attendees for all meetings in which committee business is conducted. A roster of all members with contact information will be submitted to the County Chair at the conclusion of the Annual Endorsement Planning meeting.

The documents and records of all committee work are the property of KCDCC and shall not be destroyed, removed, or otherwise shielded from the Executive Board in the event of resignation(s) by Chair, Co-Chair, or any member of the committee.

- ~~Candidates for King County offices, including judicial offices.~~
- ~~Candidates for municipal offices, including judicial offices, in cities in King County that span more than one Legislative District.~~
- ~~Ballot measures for King County or cities in King County that span more than one Legislative District.~~
- ~~Candidates for the U.S. House of Representatives whose districts include all or part of King County.~~

~~As described below, the committee shall defer to the Democratic National Committee, the Washington State Democratic Party, and the Legislative District Organizations with regard to recommended endorsements of other candidates and campaigns.~~

No endorsement will be made before a primary where multiple Democratic candidates are competing.

Section 8.3.4.Duties—Elections

The committee shall work with the Legislative District Organizations to coordinate cross-district efforts to support the KCDCC's endorsed candidates and campaigns. The committee shall also be responsible for recruiting, training, and coordinating the activities of Democratic Party election observers and election board workers, and for recommending policies that increase voter turnout and safeguard the integrity of the election process.

Section 8.3.5.Questionnaire

The committee shall, by no later than March 1 of each year, propose to the Executive Board one or more questionnaires for vetting potential candidates and ballot measures. The Executive Board may approve the questionnaires by majority vote, and may amend the questionnaires or refer them back to the committee. To the extent possible, the committee shall work with the Legislative District Organizations and the King County

Young Democrats to minimize the number of questionnaires that candidates must complete.

To be eligible for endorsement, a candidate or campaign must return the questionnaire to the committee chair at least seven days prior to the committee meeting at which endorsements are to be recommended, or by the Monday following the end of the candidate filing period, whichever is later. Completed questionnaires must also be made available to PCOs at least seven days prior to the meeting at which endorsements are to be made.

Section 8.3.6.Slate of Recommended Endorsements

The committee may propose some or all of its recommended endorsements to the PCOs as a slate. If the committee proposes a slate, any PCO may call for division to remove a recommendation from the slate. The removed recommendation(s) shall then be voted on individually.

Section 8.3.7.Endorsements

The PCOs shall meet to consider the committee's recommendations for endorsements prior to the primary election each year and again prior to the general election each year. The PCOs may, by majority vote, endorse any candidate or position that is recommended by the committee. By two-thirds vote, the PCOs may endorse a candidate or position that was considered but not recommended by the committee. ~~The Executive Board shall defer to the PCOs with regard to endorsements, and shall not make its own endorsements.~~

~~The KCDCC shall defer to the Democratic National Committee, the Washington State Democratic Party, and the Legislative District Organizations with regard to endorsements of other candidates and campaigns. Candidates and measures that appear on all ballots statewide shall be deemed to have received the KCDCC's endorsement if they are nominated by a convention of the National or State Party, or if they receive the endorsements of two-thirds of the Legislative District Organizations. Candidates and measures that appear on ballots in a single legislative district shall be deemed to have received the KCDCC's endorsement if they are endorsed by the Legislative District Organization for that legislative district.~~