

# KCDCC Endorsements Committee Conflict of Interest Policy (PROPOSED)

*Below recommendations are submitted from the King County Democrats Bylaws and Rules Committee (BRC) to the King County Democrats Endorsements Committee (KCD-EC) by unanimous vote on March 22, 2021. These include options for consideration and potential implementation by the KCD-EC. Some recommendations ask the King County Democratic Central Committee (KCDCC) Executive Board to consider imposing Voice Disclosure on themselves in some cases of perceived major conflicts of interest, and internal disclosure when participating in other committee activities that may influence elections.*

Persons with real or potential conflict of interest must report such conflict to the Endorsements Committee, and in some cases of close personal or significant financial connection to a candidate's campaign, must recuse themselves from Endorsements Committee activity related to races in that candidate's jurisdiction.

A conflict of interest exists even when a person is convinced that their decision will be in the best interest of the King County Democrats Central Committee and will not be affected by their outside relationship.

Any such conflict must be reported at the first meeting of the Endorsements Committee, or by the next PDC reporting deadline if the connection is reported by a campaign. Any disclosure or recusal by a member of the Endorsements Committee must be included in the Endorsements Committee's reports to the KCDCC Executive Board.

Any allegations of failure to appropriately Disclose or Recuse are to be reported to and investigated by the Code of Conduct Committee.

After the KCDCC Executive Board receives and votes on the initial Endorsements Committee report, all Endorsements Committee members are free to volunteer, endorse, and donate to candidates or measures, provided this is disclosed in public reports to the Executive Board.

We recommend that following appointment, the Chair and Vice Chair for the Endorsements Committee voluntarily refrain from current candidate-specific and current ballot measure-specific political activity involving endorsements of, employment with, donations to, and volunteering for any active campaigns or measures that may potentially be considered by the KCD-EC, including local, state, and federal, until the conclusion of all KCDCC Endorsements Votes each Primary cycle during their terms of service. This is not intended to limit the Chair and Vice Chair supporting local Democratic party organizations or other non-candidate-specific non-profit organizations.

The KCD-EC Chair and Vice Chair shall be permitted to fully utilize Democracy Vouchers if granted them. Allocation of Democracy Voucher funds is public record and the Chair and Vice Chair's use of such should promptly be disclosed in Committee reports for full transparency.

The following chart shows the appropriate action for a given level of connection to a candidate:

Person Category (row) / Action Category (column)	Participate in Endorsements Committee Interview Question Development and/or Interviews	Vote in Endorsements Committee Processes	Access to Secret Endorsements Materials	Participate in KCD E-Board Endorsements Process*	Vote in KCD E-Board Process	Other KCD Committee Engagement which can influence elections*
Current Candidate	Recuse for race + jurisdiction	Recuse for race + jurisdiction	Restrict access for race + jurisdiction	Declare upon activity*	Yes	Declare to both Endorsements and Other Committee prior to initiation of influential activity*
Family Member of Current Candidate	Recuse for race + jurisdiction	Recuse for race + jurisdiction	Restrict access for race + jurisdiction	Declare upon activity*	Yes	Declare to both Endorsements and Other Committee prior to initiation of influential activity*
Financial Beneficiary of Current Campaign	Recuse for race + jurisdiction	Recuse for race + jurisdiction	Restrict access for race + jurisdiction	Declare upon activity*	Yes	Declare to both Endorsements and Other Committee prior to initiation of influential activity*
Non-political Financial Ties to Current Candidate	Recuse for race + jurisdiction	Recuse for race + jurisdiction	Restrict access for race + jurisdiction	Declare upon activity*	Yes	Declare to both Endorsements and Other Committee prior to initiation of influential activity*
Pre-Primary Endorser/Major Volunteer/Major Donor for Current Candidate or Measure	Recuse for race + jurisdiction	Recuse for race + jurisdiction	Restrict access for race + jurisdiction	Declare upon activity*	Yes	Declare to both Endorsements and Other Committee prior to initiation of influential activity*
Post-Consideration Endorser/Volunte	Declare to Committee for their	Declare to Committee for their	Declare to Committee for their	Yes	Yes	Declare to both Endorsements and Other Committee prior

er/Donor for Current Candidate or Measure	decision	decision	decision			to initiation of influential activity*
Other Potential Conflicts of Interest	Declare to Committee for their decision	Declare to Committee for their decision	Declare to Committee for their decision	Declare upon activity*	Yes	Declare to both Endorsements and Other Committee prior to initiation of influential activity*

\* Pending Vote of KCDCC Executive Board

Definitions in these rules:

### Race + Jurisdiction

Jurisdiction means any candidate election in the current election cycle in the same city or town, legislative district, county, school district, or conservation district race. Different types of positions are different jurisdictions (e.g.: Seattle City Council, Seattle Mayor, Seattle School Board, Port of Seattle, Seattle Municipal Court.) State-wide offices will each be considered a separate jurisdiction. Judicial levels (e.g. municipal, district, superior court, court of appeals, supreme court) will each be considered different jurisdictions. State legislative districts shall be considered different jurisdictions for this purpose (ex: 11th LD is a different jurisdiction from 33rd LD.)

### Family Member

A family member means a spouse, domestic partner, sibling, child, parent, romantic partner, or anyone who shares a person’s household.

### Financial Beneficiary of Current Campaign

Anyone paid by the campaign as a campaign manager, staff member, consultant, employee of a consulting firm, contractor, sub-contractor or in any way receiving monetary consideration from the candidate or campaign committee for work related to the campaign.

Owners, executives, and managers of general campaign service providers such as vendors, printers, events venues, etcetera receiving more than 25% of their income in any month during the current election cycle from a single campaign must declare such campaign business relationships, and the Endorsements Committee shall evaluate if they deem such business to be a Conflict.

This must be reported even if such campaign work in the current election cycle has ceased before the Endorsements Committee begins meeting.

### Non-political Financial Ties to Current Candidate

Anyone having an ongoing financial relationship, not related to the campaign, with the candidate, such as, but not limited to, employee/employer, business partner, investor, lessor/lessee.

## **Pre-Primary Endorser/Major Volunteer/Donor for Current Candidate or Measure**

A pre-primary endorser is any person who has publicly and verifiably indicated endorsement of a current candidate or measure, either as an individual or under a leadership title, prior to the consideration of the Endorsements Committee recommendations by the KCDCC Executive Board. This does not include simply being a member or officer of another organization that has voted to endorse.

A major volunteer is a person who has worked for at least 40 hours aggregate in any volunteer capacity for a current campaign or measure.

A major donor is a person who has donated the lesser of the maximum allowed donation or \$600 aggregate, not including Democracy Vouchers, to a single campaign or measure in the current election cycle.

## **Post-Consideration Endorser/Volunteer/Donor for Current Candidate or Measure**

A post-consideration endorser is any person who has publicly and verifiably indicated endorsement of a current candidate or measure, either as an individual or under a leadership title, after the initial consideration of the Endorsements Committee recommendations by the KCDCC Executive Board.

A volunteer is a person who has worked for at least 4 hours aggregate in any volunteer capacity for a current campaign or measure.

A donor is a person who has donated at least \$60 aggregate, not including Democracy Vouchers, to a single campaign or measure in a given election cycle.

## **Other Potential Conflicts of Interest**

Endorsements Committee Members are required to disclose any other real or potential conflicts of interest to the Endorsements Committee in good faith, even if not specifically enumerated.

## **Participate in KCD E-Board Endorsements Process**

Participation in any KCDCC Executive Board business related to KCDCC Endorsements. Participation includes but is not limited to use of voice, debate, making of motions including nomination, division, points of information, and distribution to the Executive Board of physical or digital materials related to current candidates or measures.

Voice Disclosure shall be required before undertaking an activity inclusive of the race+jurisdiction of the conflict, for example when removing candidates from a slate, nominating, motioning to table, or calling the question. Voice Disclosure, when required, need only occur upon first Endorsements-related participation each meeting. Voice Disclosure shall be counted as part of allotted speaking time.

Full KCD-BRC Report on Deliberation and Details of Application:

[https://docs.google.com/document/d/1to9s\\_Cff\\_trlbG4XgSXsal6VE2G77An6F9qYysAJqsw/](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1to9s_Cff_trlbG4XgSXsal6VE2G77An6F9qYysAJqsw/)