

**ENDORSEMENT PROCEDURE
FOR THE
25th LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT DEMOCRATS.**

I. Purpose

The 25th LDD endorsement procedure seeks to establish an orderly process that both treats candidates fairly and provides our membership adequate information before taking action.

II. In General

- A.** The purpose of the 25th LDD is to support the election of Democratic candidates and to further the policies and principles of the Democratic Party. The 25th LDD shall not endorse or support a partisan candidate other than the Democratic nominee. No candidate may claim the endorsement or the preference of the 25th LDD without a formal endorsement pursuant to this policy and recorded at an official meeting of the 25th LDD.
- B.** The District Chairperson shall appoint (a) the 25th LDD Endorsement Committee and (b) the Chair and members of the 25th LDD Resolutions Committee. These chairs and members may hold other offices within the 25th LDD.
- C.** In even-numbered years in which the State of Washington does not conduct a Democratic Primary Election for State Senate or State Representative, the 25th LDD Chair shall call and the 25th LDD shall conduct a nominating convention of the 25th LDD's PCOs to select its single nominees for the State Senate and the two State Representative positions. As required by the Washington State Central Committee, the PCOs will cast weighted votes for each race until one nominee has gained a majority of the weighted votes cast on the ballot. Nomination at this LDD Convention shall also constitute endorsement by the 25th LDD.
- D.** If either the 25th LDD's State Committee Man or State Committee Woman reports that the Washington State Democratic Central Committee has endorsed a candidate for state-wide office, then the 25th LDD may entertain a motion to endorse that candidate prior to any candidates' forum.
- E.** The 25th LDD may not endorse any other candidate earlier than the relevant candidate forum.

III. Candidate Questionnaires.

- A.** For each office at each election, the Endorsement Committee shall draft a candidate questionnaire for review by the 25th LDD Executive Board, publication in the 25th LDD newsletter, and adoption by the 25th LDD before the deadline for candidates to file for each office.

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- B.** The questionnaire for each office shall strive to explore topics relevant to the duties of the office as well as the candidate's more general qualifications.
- C.** In addition to topics specifically relevant to the office sought and the candidate's general qualifications, the questionnaires for nonpartisan contests shall explore the candidate's understanding of the Democratic Party's policies and platform, the extent of the candidate's previous participation, if any, in Democratic party activities, and the candidate's prior performance in office, if any, as measured by the Democratic Party's principles.

IV. Candidate Forums.

- A.** No later than three days after the deadline for filing for each office, the District Chairperson shall schedule a candidate forum before its election. If a race has both a primary and a general election, the District Chairperson shall schedule the forum for the general election as soon after the primary as possible. In scheduling candidate forums, the District Chairperson shall consider both the number of candidates likely to appear and the similarities or other relationships of the offices up for election.
- B.** No later than one week after the deadline for candidates to file for an office, the 25th LDD Endorsement Chair shall send to each Democratic candidate in a partisan race and to each candidate in non-partisan races (a) the relevant candidate questionnaire, (b) instructions for its completion and submission, and (c) an invitation—conditioned upon timely submission of a completed candidate questionnaire—to speak at the candidate forum scheduled by the District Chairperson for that race.
- C.** Upon receipt of candidate questionnaires, the 25th LDD shall make the completed questionnaires available to the membership.

V. Motions to Endorse

- A. Before a Primary Election.** For each primary race in which at least one candidate has accepted the 25th LDD's invitation to speak, a motion for an endorsement in that primary shall be in order as soon as all the candidates that (a) submitted completed candidate questionnaires and (b) accepted the 25th LDD's invitation to appear at the candidates' forum have completed their presentations.
 - 1.** Because primary election endorsements in contested Democratic primaries have not been a tradition for the 25th District, a motion for an endorsement in a primary race containing more than one Democrat must have two-thirds of the votes cast, including abstentions.

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2. A motion for an endorsement in a primary race in which only one candidate is a Democrat must have a majority of the votes cast, including abstentions.

B. After a Primary Election or in the Absence of a Primary Election. For each race in which at least one candidate has both completed the relevant candidate questionnaire and accepted the 25th LDD's invitation to speak, a motion for an endorsement in that race shall be in order as soon as all the candidates that (a) submitted completed candidate questionnaires and (b) accepted the 25th LDD's invitation to appear at the candidates' forum have completed their presentations. A motion for an endorsement after a primary or in the absence of a primary election must have a majority of the votes cast, including abstentions.

C. Ranked Choice or Instant Run-Off Elections. For each Ranked Choice or Instant Run-Off race in which at least one candidate has (a) submitted a completed candidate questionnaire and (b) accepted the 25th LDD's invitation to speak, a motion for an endorsement in that race shall be in order as soon as all the candidates that accepted the 25th LDD's invitation have completed their presentations.

1. The 25th LDD may endorse more than one Democrat in a Ranked Choice or Instant Run-Off Election.
2. A motion for an endorsement in Ranked Choice or Instant Run-Off Election must have a majority of the votes cast, including abstentions.

D. Eligibility to Vote for Endorsements.

1. **PCOs.** The By-Laws of the 25th LDD provide that PCOs may be eligible to vote within the LDD immediately upon taking office.
2. **General Members.** The By-Laws of the 25th LDD provide that General Members may be eligible to vote within the LDD thirty days after joining the LDD.
3. For endorsement motions, the eligibility to vote shall be determined as of the last day of the month prior to the endorsement motion.

VI. Resolutions and Endorsements of Organizations.

A. Any member or PCO may submit a proposed resolution to the Resolutions Committee.

1. The proposed resolution must comply with the following format:

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- a. The title must be clear, concise, and appear at the top of the resolution.
 - b. The resolution must contain at least one “WHEREAS” stating the situation to be addressed by the resolution.
 - c. The resolution must contain at least one “THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT” stating the action or actions to be taken if the resolution is adopted.
 - d. The resolution must contain the name(s) of the member(s) proposing the resolution and the date of the proposed resolution’s submission to the Resolutions Committee.
 2. If the subject of the proposed resolution is outside the political process or if the action proposed appears unconstitutional, then the Resolutions Committee shall return the submission with its findings.
 3. If the Resolution Committee accepts the proposed resolution, then the Committee may
 - a. Revise the proposed resolution for style,
 - b. Draft an alternative resolution,
 - c. Or both.
 4. No later than the third regular meeting after submission of a proposed resolution, the Resolutions Committee shall either (a) forward the proposed resolution to the membership via the 25th LDD newsletter or (b) return it to the person(s) that submitted it with the reason(s) for its return.
 5. If the Resolutions Committee forwards an alternative proposed resolution and does not return the original resolution for a reason required by ¶2 immediately above, then the proposer(s) may require the Resolutions Committee also to forward the original, proposed resolution as modified for style.
 6. A motion to approve a proposed resolution shall require a majority of those voting including abstentions.
- B.** While the 25th LDD approves specific resolutions, it does not grant blanket endorsement to organizations. Members that seek to add the 25th LDD’s support to the goals of other organizations may propose specific resolutions under the process immediately above.

Revised Procedure Adopted June 4, 2009 and further revised May 7, 2012.