



## Endorsement Rules *as approved by Membership on April 14, 2010*

1. **Primary and Scheduled Annual Endorsement Meeting** - Prior to the August Primary every year the 34<sup>th</sup> District Democratic Organization (the "Organization") will consider endorsements for:
  - 1.1. Races and ballot measures on the August Primary Election Ballot, and
  - 1.2. Ballot measures on the November General Election Ballot.
    - 1.2.1 Non-Primary races appearing on the November Ballot may also be considered.
2. **General Election Endorsement Meeting** - Prior to the November General Election every year the Organization may consider endorsements for races and ballot measures on the November General Election Ballot.
3. **Special and Other Elections** - As appropriate, the Executive Board may schedule endorsements for races and ballot measures for special or other elections (e.g. elections called by cities, councils, or school districts) that apply to all or any part the 34<sup>th</sup> Legislative District.
4. **Notification to Membership.** For all endorsement meetings, the District shall give members at least 10 days written notice (e.g., by announcement in the monthly newsletter and posting on the website).
5. **Endorsement Voting Requirements and Ballots**
  - 5.1. Endorsements require a vote of 60% or more of the eligible members present and voting.
  - 5.2. Abstentions and spoiled ballots (e.g., not signed, not clear as to voter's intent, cast for invalid candidates) are not considered votes, and will not be counted in determining the number of votes cast.
  - 5.3. Voting will be by written ballots issued to eligible voters before the vote, except that a vote by show of credentials may be called as designated in certain circumstances below.
  - 5.4. The Executive Board, pursuant to Article 7, Section 4 of the By-Laws may recommend an endorsement or rejection to the membership for either candidates or ballot measures. In this case, only a vote of more than 50% of the eligible members present and voting is required for the Executive-Board-recommended endorsement or rejection to pass.
6. **Endorsement Procedures – Candidates**
  - 6.1. **Block Nominations** - In order to expedite the endorsement process, motions will be entertained to endorse a block of candidates where the expectation is that the endorsement of such candidates is assured (e.g., candidates who have secured Democratic support in the past and are currently running unopposed).
    - 6.1.1. Block nominations shall be by voice vote or show-of-hands unless any member moves for a written ballot and that motion passes by majority vote.
  - 6.2. **Nominations** - The Chair will entertain motions to endorse for all races that apply to all or any part of the 34<sup>th</sup> Legislative District. Nominations will be considered one race at a time in an order determined by the Chair.
    - 6.2.1. A motion for sole endorsement or to close nominations shall be out of order.
    - 6.2.2. A motion for "no endorsement" shall be acceptable for the First Ballot.
    - 6.2.3. For each motion to endorse, a nomination speech of no more than two minutes duration and a seconding speech of no more than two minutes will be allowed, as will two speeches of no more than two minutes duration each against the motion.
    - 6.2.4. Speakers shall identify themselves before making nomination speeches on behalf of any candidate. Speakers eligible to vote may cede their time to candidates, but may NOT cede their time to anyone ineligible to vote at the meeting, such as nonresident, nonmember representatives of candidates.
  - 6.3. **Voting**
    - 6.3.1. **First Ballot (when three or more candidates are nominated):** Each member eligible to vote may vote for only one nominated candidate or "No Endorsement." If any nominated candidate or "No endorsement" receives 60% or more of the total vote on the First Ballot, then that vote passes. If neither a candidate nor "No Endorsement" receives 60% or more, then a Second Ballot will occur.

*In the case of a race with only two nominated candidates*, the First Ballot is eliminated and the voting process shall begin with the Second Ballot, as described below.

- 6.3.2. **Second Ballot:** The two choices that receive the most votes on the First Ballot shall advance to the Second Ballot. If the top two choices from the First Ballot are candidates, and one of the candidates receives 60% or more of the votes, then that candidate shall be endorsed. If the top two choices from the First Ballot are a candidate and “No Endorsement,” then the candidate will be endorsed or “No Endorsement” shall pass if one of those choices receives 60% or more of the vote. If neither receives 60% or more of the vote, then no candidate shall be endorsed and the “No Endorsement” choice shall not pass.
- 6.3.3. **Dual Endorsement:** If no choice on the Second Ballot receives 60% or more of the vote, only then shall a motion for a dual endorsement be accepted. To pass, such a motion must receive 60% or more of the vote. If such a motion fails to receive 60% or more, then no endorsement in the race will be made.

For a dual endorsement, a show of credentials will be called as an alternative to a written ballot.

## **7. Endorsement Procedures – Ballot Measures**

**7.1. Nominations** - The Chair will entertain motions to endorse for all ballot measures including all initiatives, referenda, levies, and other races without candidates that apply to all or any part of the 34<sup>th</sup> Legislative District.

- 7.1.1 A Ballot Measure may be nominated for endorsement only in the form it would appear on the ballot.
- 7.1.2 For each motion to endorse, a speech of no more than two minutes duration and a seconding speech of no more than two minutes will be allowed for each of three positions: “Support,” “Reject,” and “Take no position.” Speakers eligible to vote may cede their speaking time to anyone present at the meeting.

## **7.2. Voting**

- 7.2.1. **First Ballot:** Each member eligible to vote may cast their vote for “Support,” “Reject” or “Take no position.” If any of the three choices receives 60% or more of the vote, then that choice shall prevail. If no choice receives 60%, then a Second Ballot shall occur.
- 7.2.2. **Second Ballot:** The two choices that receive the most votes on the First Ballot shall advance to the Second Ballot. If either choice receives 60% or more of the vote, then that choice shall prevail. If neither receives 60%, then the “Take no position” choice shall prevail, and no endorsement or rejection is made.

**8. Reconsideration of Previously Endorsed Races** - In cases where a significant change occurs in the nature of a previously endorsed race (e.g., a candidate drops out of the race, a previously endorsed candidate fails to advance through the primary) a previously endorsed race may be reconsidered by the Membership.

- 8.1. **Any previously endorsed candidate(s) in a race will retain his/her endorsement.**
- 8.2. Voting may be by either written ballots or by a show of credentials.
- 8.3. A candidate for office on the General Election ballot who was not previously endorsed may be endorsed as a co-endorsee if that candidate receives a 60% vote of eligible members present.
- 8.4. If no candidate endorsed by the District advances to the Primary or General Election Ballot, the endorsement of a candidate shall follow the regular procedures and requirements set forth above.