

First District Democrats Endorsement Committee Rules

A. Definition of Endorsement Committee

- 1) The endorsement committee shall consist of a membership defined by the following criteria:
 - a) A valid voting member of good standing within the First District Democrats.
 - b) An attending member of the Elections committee meeting prior to the endorsement recommendation vote.
- OR-
- An attending member of the elections committee meeting with an absence excused by the committee chair for the meeting prior to the endorsement committee vote.
- c) An attending member of the current meeting in which an endorsement recommendation is being called into vote.
- d) A willing member of the endorsement committee
- e) Not currently engaged as a candidate, directly related to a candidate, a paid staff member of a candidate's campaign, paid staff for a candidate, or on the candidate's campaign committee, in the current election cycle that is being considered by the endorsement committee.

B. Definition of the endorsement process

- 1) Endorsements for the Primary shall not occur before the end of filing week. The Endorsements Committee shall make every attempt to hold the endorsements meeting prior to the due date for voter-guide candidate statements.
- 2) At least a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of the members present and voting, not counting abstentions, shall be required to endorse recommended candidates.
- 3) The Endorsements Committee shall be responsible to identify all races that affect the First Legislative District. Once identified, the Committee shall request that the Communications Committee post the endorsement process on the First Legislative District's website in a timely manner.
- 4) The Endorsements Committee shall notify non-partisan candidates under consideration for endorsement. If any candidates decline, the Committee shall not recommend those candidates for endorsement.
- 5) Candidates may submit an endorsement questionnaire for consideration by the Endorsements Committee.
- 6) At any time during this process, but prior to the actual vote by the membership, only the candidate may request removal from a recommendation for endorsement.
- 7) In event that the candidate removes themselves from the endorsement process, before the vote by the membership, the endorsement committee can review the endorsement recommendation for the remaining candidates. This vote can be done via electronic vote reaching a quorum of fifty percent (50%) of the eligible endorsement committee members of the meeting prior to the electronic vote.
- 8) The endorsement committee shall only recommend a single candidate to the body for each position.
- 9) The endorsement process follows.
 - a) The Endorsements Committee may present individual recommendations or a slate of recommendations for consideration by the Membership. Such recommendations

- 49 constitute a motion and a second for the motion, and as such, discussion from the
50 Membership will follow directly.
- 51 b) Regarding a slate of recommendations:
- 52 i) The Endorsements Committee may provide a slate of recommendations for the
53 Membership to consider.
- 54 ii) Any voting member of the First Legislative District may move to have a
55 single candidate or position removed from the slate. If the motion receives a
56 second, the Membership will consider that candidate's endorsement separately
57 from the rest of the slate.
- 58 iii) A request to treat the entire slate as separate candidates is out of order.
- 59 10) Candidates for office will be allotted time to speak and answer questions as follows, at
60 meetings where endorsements are put forth to the Membership for the offices under
61 consideration:
- 62 a) The committee chair will allow candidates for state representative and state senator
63 for the First Legislative District up to three (3) minutes to speak, and up to two (2)
64 minutes to answer questions from the Membership
- 65 b) The committee chair will allow candidates for judicial offices up to one (1) minute to
66 speak.
- 67 c) The committee chair will allow candidates for all other offices up to one (1) minute
68 to speak, and up to two (2) minutes to answer questions.
- 69 d) The committee chair may limit the time for all speakers for an office in order to
70 preserve time for deliberation. The committee chair will give the same amount of time to
71 all candidates for each office; however, there is no expectation that the committee chair
72 must treat all offices equally.
- 73 11) Discussion of endorsements
- 74 a) We will allow up to four (4) speakers for each endorsement recommendation,
75 alternating between a speaker opposing the recommendation and a speaker in favor of
76 the recommendation, in that order. The speakers opposing the recommendation and the
77 speakers in favor of the recommendation must identify themselves before either may
78 speak. The first speaker shall be a speaker opposing the endorsement. There may not
79 be more speakers in favor of the endorsement recommendation, and there may be no
80 more than one more speaker opposing the recommendation than in favor of the
81 recommendation.
- 82 b) The committee chair will allow each speaker up to one (1) minute to speak.
- 83 c) After the Membership completes its discussion, the committee chair will give the
84 candidate up to one (1) minute for rebuttal.
- 85 12) A member may request a suspension of the rules for endorsement of any candidates by a
86 two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of the present and voting members of the First District Democrats.
- 87 13) The committee chair will request that a candidate under consideration for endorsement will
88 leave the room when the Membership votes on that candidate's endorsement.
- 89 14) The Endorsements Committee may consider new recommendations for the general
90 election after the conclusion of the primary election, following the above rules

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92 These rules edited, voted on, and approved by the Elections Committee members 2/5/2017
93 These rules reviewed, edited, voted on and approved by the First District Democrats
94 membership 2/13/2017