

ARTICLE VIII – Party Endorsements

A. Principles of Endorsement.

1. The Endorsement of candidates in contested elections is an expression of confidence that a candidate is serious and will mount a viable campaign that adheres to the interests, ideals and principles of the Democratic Party of Lane County.
2. To ensure the widest, fairest and most open participation of Democrats in public elections, the Central Committee may endorse any number of candidates in a non-partisan election under this article whom it deems representative of Democratic values and worthy of Party support. The Central Committee shall not endorse candidates in a partisan election or for any statewide elected office. Only registered Democrats are eligible to be endorsed under this Article.
3. The Central Committee also may support, oppose or decline to take a position on local ballot measures.

B. Endorsement Procedures.

1. Only the Central Committee may endorse a candidate or take a position on a local ballot measure on behalf of the Democratic Party of Lane County. A motion to endorse a candidate requires majority support of PCPs voting. A motion to support or oppose a local ballot measure requires two-thirds support of PCPs voting.
2. To be considered, a candidate first must request endorsement by notifying the Chair, who shall inform the Campaign Services Committee prior to any vote by the Central Committee on such request for endorsement. The Campaign Services Committee may comment to the Central Committee on a requested endorsement of a candidate prior to the time for voting. For local ballot measures, the Chair shall inform the Platform Committee of any request for DPLC support of or opposition to proposed measures. The Platform Committee may comment to the Central Committee on such a request prior to the time for voting.
3. The Executive Committee shall resolve any dispute over compliance with these bylaws or the rules and procedures adopted in connection with these bylaws.

C. Time for Endorsements.

The Central Committee may consider requests to endorse a candidate only after the time to be included on a ballot has commenced and a reasonable time has elapsed for candidates to organize their campaigns and seek endorsement by the party. Notice of proposed action on endorsements of candidates and measures shall be given to the Central Committee with the notice of meeting.

D. Standing Rules for Conduct of Endorsement

1. The Campaign Services Committee and the Platform Committee respectively shall recommend to the Central Committee adoption of rules of order necessary to a fair endorsement process for candidates or measures under this Article, including but not limited to balloting, speaking, and questioning.
2. The Central Committee shall consider adoption or amendment of rules not less than 45 days prior to the filing deadline for candidates for non-partisan office.

3. Once adopted, rules for endorsement shall stand until repealed or amended by the Central Committee.

APPENDIX I – Endorsement of Candidates

A. Eligibility

To be eligible for endorsement, a candidate must be a registered Democrat for at least 180 days prior to the deadline for filing for office.

B. Timing of Endorsements

1. The first meeting which DPLC endorsements will be granted will be held before the deadline for candidates to submit their statements to the Voters' Pamphlet. Endorsements may also be granted at regular Central Committee meetings subsequent to this deadline (with appropriate notice), but the intent is that the majority of endorsement votes will be held before the deadline.
2. Based on the timing of the filing deadline and the Voters' Pamphlet Deadline, the Executive Committee may choose to:
 - a. Have the first endorsement meeting as part of the regular Central Committee meeting in the month of the Voters' Pamphlet Deadline, held on its regular day;
 - b. Move the regular Central Committee meeting in the month of the Voters' Pamphlet Deadline up to an earlier day in the month, if the Deadline is before that month's regular meeting day;
 - c. Hold a special endorsements-only Central Committee meeting in the month of the Voters' Pamphlet Deadline; or
 - d. Have the first endorsement meeting as part of the regular Central Committee meeting in the month prior to the Voters' Pamphlet Deadline.
3. The date of the first endorsement meeting must be set at least 30 days in advance of the meeting.

C. Information about Candidates

1. Each candidate may submit to the DPLC a statement (500 words or less) to be distributed by the DPLC at the appropriate Central Committee meeting.
2. The Prospective endorsees may be required to complete a written application for endorsement and questionnaire in order to be considered for endorsement by the DPLC. The Campaign Services Committee will draft any endorsement materials (i.e. application, questionnaire, etc.) and determine which materials are required. Any materials will be approved by the Executive Committee and made available to prospective candidates before the first day to file. Candidates who do not submit required materials will be determined to be ineligible to receive the DPLC endorsement.
3. Candidates are allowed to distribute informational literature to Precinct Committeepersons at the Central Committee meeting.

4. Each candidate requesting endorsement will be allotted 2 minutes to speak, and 3 minutes for Q&A. The Central Committee will hear from each candidate requesting endorsement in a particular race before voting occurs.

D. Discussion

After each candidate in a particular race has spoken and taken questions, the floor will be open for discussion by PCPs. PCPs may speak in favor of endorsing one candidate or multiple candidates, or in favor of no endorsement in the race. Remarks are limited to one minute per PCP.

E. Voting

1. Candidates If more than one Democratic candidate is seeking election to an office, a motion will be in order to “endorse all Democrats or make no endorsement.” The motion will be considered by voice vote with a simple majority of Precinct Committeepersons required to pass the motion.
2. Subsequent voting will be done by secret ballot, unless a motion is made to hold voting by voice vote, with a simple majority of Precinct Committeepersons required to pass the motion.
3. If the above motion passes, Precinct Committeepersons will be given ballots with the options Endorse all Democrats and No Endorsement. If a simple majority of Precinct Committeepersons voting choose to Endorse all Democrats, then all Democrats seeking the DPLC endorsement will be endorsed. Otherwise, no endorsement is granted in that race.
4. If the above motion fails, each candidate requesting endorsement in a race will be listed on a ballot, along with an option for “No Endorsement” (e.g., Candidate A, Candidate B, No Endorsement). Precinct Committeepersons may vote for one candidate, multiple candidates, or for the option of “No Endorsement” (e.g., may vote to endorse Candidate A only, to endorse Candidate B only, to endorse both candidates, or to endorse neither candidate). Any candidate meeting the simple majority threshold (as specified in the By-Laws) will be granted endorsement. Multiple endorsements in a single race are allowed. If no candidate receives a simple majority, no endorsement is granted in that race.
5. If the candidate seeking the DPLC endorsement is the only Democrat in the race, voting will be held by voice vote unless a motion is made to hold voting by secret ballot, with a simple majority of Precinct Committeepersons required to pass the motion.

F. Terms of Endorsement

1. Candidates who receive the endorsement of the DPLC will agree to non-binding mediation regarding issues of conflict in their races when requested to do so by the Chair and approved by the Executive Committee, subject to override by the Central Committee by majority vote at the next regularly scheduled meeting.
2. Candidates who receive the endorsement of the DPLC acknowledge that the DPLC may promote its endorsed candidates by name, photograph, and other identifying information in DPLC campaign materials and/or during campaign events.

APPENDIX II – Endorsement of Ballot Measures

A. Role of Platform & Resolutions Committee

1. The Platform Committee shall receive requests for endorsement of or opposition to ballot measures, and may vote to make a recommendation to the Central Committee either for or against the measure.
2. If the Platform & Resolutions Committee recommends endorsement of or opposition to a ballot measure, the Committee may report such a motion for consideration by the Central Committee—otherwise, motions to support or oppose may be taken from the floor.

B. Information about Measures

Any representatives of a campaign for or against a ballot measure shall have two minutes to speak to the Central Committee and three minutes to answer questions from PCP's.

C. Discussion

After speeches and questions for both sides of a measure are heard, an equal number of PCP's may speak for and against said measure by forming two lines on opposite sides of the room. Each PCP will have one minute to speak.

D. Endorsement

As per the bylaws, a two-thirds majority is needed to endorse or oppose a ballot measure. If a two-thirds majority is not reached either in support of or in opposition to a ballot measure, the Party will not take a position on the measure.