



2021 ENDORSEMENT RULES

ADOPTED APRIL 20TH, 2021

ARTICLE 1: RULES

1. DEFINITIONS

- a. The terms “Chair”, “Elections Committee”, “Executive Board”, “Members”, “Membership”, and “Regular Meeting” are used as defined by the Bylaws of the 43rd Legislative District.
- b. The term “Bylaws” refers to the [Bylaws of the 43rd Legislative District](#)¹.
- c. The term “KCDCC Questionnaire” refers to the candidate endorsement questionnaire adopted by the [King County Democrats’ Endorsements Committee](#)² in accordance with their rules and bylaws.
- d. The term “Rules” refers to the provisions contained within this document.

2. APPLICABILITY

- a. These Rules define the procedures for endorsing candidates and ballot measures in accordance with Article 10 of the Bylaws, and shall apply to the selection of any candidate for public office who seeks the endorsement of the 43rd District Democrats and to the endorsement of a position on a ballot measure.
- b. In the event of any conflict or inconsistency between these Rules and the Bylaws, the Bylaws shall prevail.

3. DECISION OF CHAIR IS FINAL

- a. The decision of the Chair with respect to any question of interpretation of these rules is final.

4. ENDORSEMENT MEETINGS

- a. All considerations of candidate endorsements shall take place at **one (1)** meeting per election period (e.g., one during a Primary Election and one during a General Election).

¹ <https://www.43rddemocrats.org/bylaws-and-rules>

² <https://www.kcdems.org/endorsements>

5. VOTING ELIGIBILITY

- a. Only Members of the 43rd District Democrats shall be eligible to vote on endorsements. Membership is defined within Article 2 of the Bylaws.
 - i. All PCOs of the 43rd Legislative District are members and eligible to vote.
 - ii. Memberships from the previous calendar year can be renewed at the endorsement meeting.
 - iii. New members must pay applicable dues **ten (10) calendar days** prior to the endorsements meeting in order to be eligible to vote.

ARTICLE 2: CANDIDATES

1. ELIGIBILITY

- a. Candidates will be eligible for endorsement per Article 10 of the Bylaws. As stated in Section 10.3 of the Bylaws, to be eligible for endorsement, a candidate in a partisan race must declare as a Democrat.
- b. Presidential candidates are not eligible for endorsement through the processes described within these Rules.

2. CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRES

- a. Candidates must complete the appropriate KCDCC Questionnaire for their race. Completed questionnaires must be submitted to the Elections Committee at least **fourteen (14) calendar days** prior to the endorsements meeting date or **two (2) calendar days** after the last day of filing, whichever is later. The Elections Committee shall publish submitted questionnaires at least **ten (10) calendar days** prior to the endorsements meeting date, or **three (3) calendar days** after the last day of filing, whichever is later. A majority of the Executive Board may waive this requirement for incumbents in partisan offices running for re-election who have previously submitted questionnaires.
- b. The optional Supplemental Questionnaire shall consist of up to **ten (10)** yes-or-no questions for candidates. A list of questions shall be developed by the Elections Committee in consultation with the Membership, and presented to the Membership for adoption on a per-question basis at a Regular Meeting no less than thirty (30) calendar days prior to the endorsements meeting.
- c. The optional Supplementary Questionnaire may be different for different races, but shall be the same for all candidates within a race.
- d. Once a Supplemental Questionnaire is adopted, it may not be amended. The adoption of a Supplemental Questionnaire shall expire upon the end of the election cycle in which it was adopted.

3. PRIMARY AND GENERAL ELECTION ENDORSEMENT ELIGIBILITY

- a. A candidate who does not receive the 43rd District Democrats' endorsement for a Primary Election may be eligible to be endorsed in the General Election only if either:
 - i. no candidate in that contest was endorsed leading up to the Primary Election; or
 - ii. no candidate(s) endorsed before the Primary Election made it to the General Election.

ARTICLE 3: BALLOTING

1. CREATION OF A SLATE

- a. The Executive Board may create a slate of candidates and/or ballot measures for consideration by the membership, for which the membership may dispense with balloting and endorse through unanimous consent. Any member may request that a candidate or ballot measure be pulled from the slate and that contest will be considered individually, by paper or electronic ballot.

2. BALLOT REQUIRED

- a. All votes for endorsements, except through the creation of a slate, shall be conducted by paper or electronic ballot. Each voting member may vote for as many candidates for each office as they choose, or for the 43rd Legislative District to make no endorsement in that race. Results shall be tallied and reported to the Chair.
- b. Upon signing in at an endorsement meeting, each voting member will receive a ballot packet.
- c. Completed ballots may be turned in at any time once they are issued, including before speeches and votes on races. Only the tally chair or an official tally committee member may accept voted ballots.
- d. In lieu of paper ballot packets, voters participating remotely shall be permitted to submit ballots electronically, in accordance with the Standing Rules for Remote Participation. The Tally Committee shall begin accepting electronic ballot submissions shortly after the start of the endorsements meeting. The Tally Committee shall continue to accept ballots for any endorsement until no earlier than two (2) minutes and no later than twenty (20) minutes following the end of candidate speeches and debate for that endorsement.
- e. Reconsideration ballots may not be turned in prior to the announcement of a reconsideration vote for a race (see Section 4 of this article, below).

3. ENDORSEMENT THRESHOLD

- a. Any candidate receiving **sixty percent (60.00%)** of the ballots cast for that contest will receive an endorsement. Ballots marked as "No Endorsement" will be counted towards the total required. A "yes" or "no" position on a ballot measure requires **sixty percent (60.00%)** of the ballots cast to be the endorsed position. Ballots marked "The 43rd takes no position" will be counted toward the total.

4. RECONSIDERATION OF AN ENDORSEMENT

- a. In the event no candidate receives **sixty percent (60.00%)** of the ballots cast, any candidate receiving at least **forty percent (40.00%)** of the ballots cast will be eligible for reconsideration. Ballot measures are not eligible for reconsideration. There will not be reconsideration if all candidates eligible in a first round of voting would qualify for reconsideration.

5. PROCESS FOR RECONSIDERATION

- a. A paper or electronic ballot is required for all reconsideration votes, and the results shall be tallied and reported to the Chair. Any candidate receiving **sixty percent (60.00%)** of the ballots cast will receive an endorsement. Only one reconsideration vote per race will be allowed. The reconsideration ballot will include any candidates who qualify, as well as "No Endorsement." No additional time will be allocated for addressing the membership before reconsideration votes.

ARTICLE 4: SPEECHES

1. CANDIDATE PRESENTATION

- a. To be eligible for endorsement, each candidate or ballot measure must be nominated for consideration by a member of the 43rd Legislative District. Each nominated candidate or their representative will be entitled to address the body for **two (2) minutes**. Speeches will be made in the order in which candidates were nominated.

2. "NO ENDORSEMENT" SPEECH

- a. If only one candidate is considered for endorsement, the Chair will allow a member to speak in favor of making no endorsement. The speaker in favor of "no endorsement" will be entitled to address the body for **two (2) minutes**.

3. BALLOT MEASURES

- a. **One (1)** speaker for, and **one (1)** speaker against a ballot measure will each be entitled to address the body for **two (2) minutes**.

4. DEBATES

- a. The voting members may elect on a per-race basis to request a debate on behalf of the candidates. This motion is not debatable. Each candidate or their representative may select **two (2)** additional Members to speak on their behalf for no more than **one (1) minute**. The order of speakers alternates, with initial order determined by a fair coin toss.
- b. Additional speaking time granted to a candidate in accordance with this section is not contingent on the other candidate's usage of their speaking time.

5. SPEAKING BEFORE THE ENDORSEMENTS MEETING

- a. Each candidate may have **two (2) minutes** to speak about their campaign at **one (1)** meeting before the endorsements meeting during the period starting with the January meeting.