

40th District Democrats Endorsement Policy

OVERARCHING POLICY regarding endorsements in partisan and non-partisan races, and issues: The 40th District may endorse candidates and measures that are voted on by all voters of the 40th Legislative District.

Endorsement Policy Specifics: Candidates who reside within the 40th District **shall** be members of the 40th LD Democrats - will be encouraged to join if not already members.

Only candidates who request endorsement in writing (fax, email or letter) to the Chair of the 40th LD may be endorsed. Endorsement documentation must be in hand prior to the endorsement meeting.

All candidates **who have filed** will be given an opportunity to speak at an endorsement meeting, as will proponents of each side on any ballot issue. Time allocated for each candidate/measure position will depend on the number of items to be considered, but in no case shall be less than 3 minutes. A simple majority is required for endorsement of a candidate or issue.

Multiple endorsements may be made for any race in which there is more than one candidate.

Endorsed candidates may have access to precinct and LD databases. Endorsed candidates may state orally and in print that they have the endorsement of the 40th Legislative District.

ENDORSEMENT MEETING NOTICE: To qualify as an endorsement meeting, the meeting must be advertised, **at least 14 days** in advance, in a newspaper in each of our three counties, through each of the county Democratic County organizations, through the 40th LD website, and through email **and US mail** to all members. Endorsement meetings will be held before the primary, **when appropriate**; and before the general election. At the discretion of the 40th LD Chair when only ballot measures and/or non-contested candidates are involved, an advanced

mailing to all current members of the 40th LD Democrats may be used in lieu of any or all of the above methods.

MEMBER VOTING: To qualify to vote on endorsements, those voting must be members in good standing for at least **7** days prior to the endorsement vote.

PRE-ENDORSEMENT ACCESS POLICY: Candidates may be given access to precinct and LD databases prior to endorsement if approved through one of the following methods/criteria:

- 40th LD Executive Board certification of history and/or known affiliation with the Democratic Party, democratic ideals, and/or significant public service work which is closely allied with our ideals and goals.
- Meeting with the 40th LD Candidate's Committee, and an affirmative vote by the committee.

Candidates are expected to review their respective County Democratic Platforms, and address areas of concern or direct disagreement for evaluation by the Candidates Committee.

Candidates who receive access to party data may not state that they have been approved or endorsed by the 40th Legislative District until after they have been endorsed at an endorsement meeting.

Date adopted as amended: October 10, 2009