
DRAFT - Standing Rules for Endorsements by the 11th District Democrats

For consideration at May 15, 2014 General Membership Meeting

1. **Member Certification:** The treasurer and another member of the executive board will check-in the members and verify those eligible to vote. To be eligible to vote, a member must: a) reside in the 11th Legislative District; b) be a publicly declared Democrat; and c) be either a current elected or a current appointed PCO or have paid current annual dues at least four (4) weeks prior to the endorsement meeting date. Each eligible voting member will receive distinguishable voting credentials.

2. **Endorsements of Candidates**
 - a. A candidate is eligible for endorsement only upon a member's motion to endorse that candidate and another member's second of that motion.
 - b. With the exception of judicial candidates, all candidates seeking endorsements from 11th District Democrats must publicly declare himself or herself a Democrat.
 - c. If, in a given race, only one motion for a candidate is made per Section 2(a) then the membership may dispense with balloting and endorse by acclamation.

3. **Statements by Candidates and Members**
 - a. Each candidate (or representative) seeking the endorsement of the 11th District Democrats will be given one minute to make a statement in favor of the motion to endorse his or her candidacy.
 - b. **Questions for candidates are not in order.**
 - c. Voting members may make a 30-second statement in favor of or in opposition to a motion to endorse a candidate, with no more than two members speaking for or against in turn (F/A/F/A).
 - d. At the Chair's discretion, preference shall be granted to members who reside in the municipality or Congressional district for those races.

4. **Voting - Candidates**
 - a. Voting will be done by secret ballot, unless a motion for acclamation is moved, seconded, and passed.
 - b. Candidates and campaign staff who meet member voting eligibility requirements will be allowed to vote in their own and other races.
 - c. The option of "No Endorsement" shall be included on all ballots.
 - d. A ballot will be considered spoiled if: no candidate is selected; or more than one candidate is listed for that particular race; or a candidate not up for endorsement is written in; or if "No Endorsement" is not selected. Spoiled ballots will not be counted.
 - e. **First Round:** After all debate on motions to endorse has been made by all candidates and eligible members in a given race, the first ballot for that race shall be cast. Members shall vote to endorse only a single candidate or vote for "No Endorsement." The Tally Committee shall present the results to the Chair who shall

announce the results and indicate which, if any, candidate has received 2/3 of the ballots cast, and that candidate shall receive the endorsement of the 11th District Democrats. If no candidate has received the endorsement of the 11th District Democrats a second ballot shall be cast. If “No Endorsement” receives 2/3 of the ballots cast, then voting on that race will be closed and the 11th District Democrats will not endorse in that race.

- f. **Second Round:** If, in a given race, after the first ballot, a second ballot is required then, Members shall cast a second ballot. If there are four (4) or more candidates the candidate with lowest vote total (exempting “No Endorsement”) shall be eliminated. Another round of debate will occur and members participate as provided by Section 3(c), except that the Chair shall give preference to members who have not yet spoken. Members shall vote for only one of the remaining eligible candidates or for “No Endorsement”. The Tally Committee shall present the results to the Chair who shall announce the results and indicate which, if any, candidate has received 2/3 of the ballots cast, and that candidate shall receive the endorsement of the 11th District Democrats. If no candidate has received the endorsement of the 11th District Democrats a third ballot shall be cast.
- g. **Third Round:** If, in a given race, after the second ballot, a third ballot is required then, Members shall cast a third ballot. Members shall vote for only candidates receiving the top two vote totals, including ties, or “No Endorsement”, all other candidates are eliminated. There is no further debate. The Tally Committee shall present the results to the Chair who shall announce the results and indicate which, if any, candidate has received 2/3 of the ballots cast, and that candidate shall receive the endorsement of the 11th District Democrats. If no candidate has received the endorsement of the 11th District Democrats a final ballot shall be cast.
- h. **Final Round:** If, in a given race, after the third ballot, a final ballot is required then, a motion for a dual endorsement of the final two candidates shall be in order. If the motion doesn’t receive 2/3 support, the 11th District Democrats shall not endorse a candidate for that office.
- i. **Motions to suspend these rules in an effort to put forth a motion to endorse a candidate or combination of candidates not included in the Final Round of voting shall be out of order.**

5. Endorsements of Ballot Measures

- a. The Chair shall call, in sequence, for a motion in favor of the ballot measure, a motion opposing the ballot measure, and a motion for “No Endorsement” of a ballot measure. If only one motion on a ballot measure is made per Section 2(a) then the membership may dispense with balloting and endorse by acclamation. If, in the Chair’s opinion the motion receives 2/3 support then the moved position on the ballot measure receives the endorsement of the 11th District Democrats.
- b. **Statements by Representatives and Members**
 - i. Each representative of a moved position on a ballot measure seeking the endorsement of the 11th District Democrats will be given one minute to make a statement in favor of the motion to endorse their position on the ballot measure.
 - ii. **Questions for representatives are not in order.**

- iii. Voting members may make a 30-second statement in favor of the ballot measure, opposing the ballot measure, or for “No Endorsement” of the ballot measure, with no more than three members speaking in turn (F/A/N/F/A/N/F/A/N).

6. Voting – Ballot Measures

- a. All ballot measures with a brief description/title shall be listed in print if feasible to so. Eligible members who must leave may cast their ballot for the first round, but they must be present to cast ballots in subsequent rounds, if any.
- b. **First Round:** After all debate on motions to endorse has been made by all representatives and eligible members on a given ballot measure, the first ballot shall be cast. Members shall vote to endorse only a single moved position. The Tally Committee shall post and announce the results and indicate which, if any, moved position received 2/3 of the ballots cast, and that moved position shall receive the endorsement of the 11th District Democrats. If no moved position has received the endorsement of the 11th District Democrats a second ballot shall be cast.
- c. **Second Round:** If a second ballot is required then, Members shall vote for only moved positions receiving the top two vote totals, including ties, all other moved positions are eliminated. There is no further debate. The Tally Committee shall post and announce the results and indicate which, if any, moved position has received 2/3 of the ballots cast, and that moved position shall receive the endorsement of the 11th District Democrats. If no moved position receives 2/3 support, the 11th District Democrats shall not endorse any position on that ballot measure, and will list our position as “No Consensus Achieved” on any materials.
- d. **Motions to suspend these rules in an effort to put forth a motion not made pursuant to Section 2(a) shall be out of order.**