

**46th District Democrats**  
**2013 Candidate & Ballot Measure Support Standing Rules**  
(adopted February \_\_\_\_, 2013)

**I. Meeting Scheduling and Conduct**

- A. Meetings to allow the 46th District Democrats to express support for or against candidates or ballot measures under Article XVI of the Bylaws shall be called according to the terms of the Bylaws.
- B. These “Support Meetings” called under Article XVI of the Bylaws shall be run according to these Standing Rules.
- C. The District Chair may designate a person to run the candidate and ballot measure support portion of the meeting. Where these rules refer to “District Chair” or “Chair”, this also refers to the District Chair’s designee, if any.

**II. Eligibility to Vote**

- A. Those individuals defined as members in Article III of the Bylaws and who will be 18 years of age on or before election day are eligible voters.
- B. Voting by proxy is not allowed.
- C. Voters in a Caucus called under Section V below are only those defined as eligible in II.A above and located within a precinct covered by the area specified for that Caucus.

**III. Appearance and consideration at candidate and ballot measure support meetings**

- A. Only candidates and ballot measures eligible for support as described in Article XVI of the Bylaws are eligible to appear and be considered at the support meetings.
- B. The District Chair or his/her appointed representative will make absolute best efforts to contact all eligible candidates for office and those advocating for a ballot measure to participate in the meeting and any candidates and issues forums

**IV. Voting**

- A. 60% of the eligible voters present and voting, excluding abstentions and excluding ballots ruled illegal, are required to Endorse or Recommend.
- B. Voting will be by written ballots issued to eligible voters; EXCEPT
  - 1. A vote by show of hands may be called for in the case of a Third Ballot as described below.
  - 2. A voice vote in the case of Caucus Slate ratification as described below.
- C. Counting of votes shall be completed according to the 46<sup>th</sup> District Democrats Standing Rule(s) covering methods of voting and determining results in effect at the time of the support meeting.

**V. Local Caucus Procedure**

- A. The Executive Board may, at least 21 days in advance of any meeting declared for the purpose of voting on an Endorsement or Recommendation, designate geographically-based Caucuses whereby only residents of precincts located within the Caucus are eligible to vote on candidates or issues brought before the Caucus. The Executive Board is limited in this power to creating Caucuses for :
  - 1. Kenmore, Seattle, and Lake Forest Park city government positions or ballot measures
  - 2. Northshore, Shoreline, or Seattle school district Board positions or ballot measures
  - 3. Any local utility, fire, or similar district positions or ballot measures.
  - 4. Municipal or District Court positions or ballot measures.
- B. No rule in this document may be amended or stricken by any Caucus. No Bylaw may be amended or stricken by any Caucus. The Caucus may only consider races designated by the Executive Board.
- C. The Caucus may be held simultaneous with the full District support meeting or it may be held on a separate day and/or in a separate location.
- D. The purpose of the Caucus is to bring forward to the full membership a Caucus Slate of candidates and/or ballot measures Endorsed/Recommended by the Caucus members.
- E. A quorum for the Caucus shall be declared by the Chair to exist when 40 voting members or 10% of the membership eligible to vote in the Caucus, whichever is less, is present when the first vote is taken.
- F. No Endorsement or Recommendation decision made by a Caucus is valid until it is ratified by the full membership. “Full membership” is defined as all members attending a meeting where Caucus ratification is on the agenda who are allowed to vote under Section II.A above.

- G. No candidate or ballot measure may claim support from a 46<sup>th</sup> LD Caucus unless the decision of the Caucus is ratified by the full membership as described below.
- H. Caucus ratification procedures.
1. The District Chair may appoint a Caucus Chair. The Caucus Chair is not required to be a member of the Caucus.
  2. The Caucus Chair will run the Caucus' Endorsement/Recommendation meeting following all applicable Bylaws and the Candidate & Ballot Measure Support Standing Rules in effect at the time of the meeting.
  3. Endorsement/support votes held during the Caucus shall together become the Caucus Slate.
  4. The Caucus Chair, or his/her designee, shall present the Caucus Slate at a meeting of the full district where Endorsements/Recommendations are on the agenda for purposes of ratification.
    - a. Speakers, alternating Pro/Con, may speak on the question of whether to ratify the Caucus Slate. If there is no Con speaker, the Chair has the option to recognize only one Pro speaker.
    - b. The designated time for these speeches shall be the longer of one minute or the time announced by the District Chair at the beginning of the ratification process.
    - c. The number of speakers shall be the larger of four or the number announced by the District Chair at the beginning of the ratification process.
  5. All members eligible to vote under Section II.A above shall vote whether to ratify the entire Caucus Slate as presented. A simple majority is necessary for ratification. A voice vote is allowed for ratification.
  6. If the ratification of the Caucus Slate fails to win a simple majority, the following procedures apply:
    - a. On each race in the caucus slate, a motion will be entertained to separate that race from the Caucus Slate. Proponents and opponents, in numbers specified by the District Chair, may speak on each motion for a period the greater of 30 seconds or time allowed by the District Chair. After the speakers finish, a vote of the full membership in attendance will be taken. A simple majority is necessary to separate the race. The vote may be taken by voice.
    - b. If no motion is made on a specific race, that race remains part of the Caucus Slate.
    - c. After the process in (a) and (b) above is concluded, a Modified Caucus Slate excluding those (if any) separated by majority vote in (a) above will be presented to all members eligible to vote under Section II.A of these rules for ratification. Ratification requires a simple majority vote. A voice vote is allowed. If the ratification of the Modified Caucus Slate does not pass, each race on the Caucus Slate must be taken up separately by all members eligible to vote under Section II.A above according to the Bylaws and the rules in this document.
    - d. Any races where a motion to separate under (a) above passes will be considered by all members eligible to vote under Section II.A above according to the Bylaws and the rules in this document.
    - e. The District Chair has discretion to table consideration of races separated from the Caucus Slate and/or all races in a failed Modified Caucus Slate to a subsequent meeting.

## **VI. Endorsement or Recommendation Procedures – Candidates**

### **A. Nominations**

1. For each race with candidates, the floor will be open to motions/seconds for endorsement of eligible candidates and for “No Endorsement.” Only eligible voters may make or second such motions. A motion to close nominations shall be out of order. After three audible requests for nomination with no response, the Chair shall close nominations for the position.
2. As used herein, the word “nominate,” in whatever form, does not refer to the conduct or consequences of LD Nominating Conventions held under the auspices of the State Democratic Party.

### **B. Speeches**

1. The designated time for speeches shall be the longer of one minute or the time announced by the District Chair at the beginning of the nomination process.

2. For each candidate nominated, the candidate or a member of the 46<sup>th</sup> District designated by the candidate may speak for the designated time. For No Endorsement/Recommendation, a member of the 46<sup>th</sup> District may speak for the designated time.
3. Members will hear all speeches on behalf of all candidates or “No Endorsement” for that race before commencing the vote.
4. Speeches will commence at such time after nominations are closed as the District Chair deems appropriate. The order of speeches shall be as follows:
  - a. If, under Article XVI, Section 3, of the Bylaws, the 46<sup>th</sup> District Democrats Executive Board has made an endorsement recommendation, a designee of the Executive Board may speak. This speech does not count against the time for any candidate or “No Endorsement”.
  - b. Speeches for nominated candidates in the order in which they were nominated
  - c. If a motion for “No Endorsement” was made, a speech for “No Endorsement”

C. Voting

1. First Ballot: All eligible candidates who are nominated, and “No Endorsement,” will be options on the First Ballot. “No Endorsement” shall appear on the First Ballot even if no specific motion for “No Endorsement” was made. Each eligible voter will vote for one nominated candidate or “No Endorsement.”
  - a. In the case of a race with only one candidate, the First Ballot is eliminated and we begin with the “Second Ballot” procedure described below.
  - b. If any nominated candidate or “No Endorsement” receives 60%, that decision controls.
  - c. If neither a candidate nor “No Endorsement” receives 60%:
    - i. If there are two to four ballot choices, we move automatically to a Second Ballot.
    - ii. If there are more than four ballot choices, all items on the First Ballot are arranged from highest to lowest in order of percentage of votes received, rounded to one decimal point. The percentage of votes received for each ballot item is totaled starting from the top. (see example below) Once this total reaches or exceeds 50%:
      1. If two or fewer ballot items are required to reach 50% or greater, we move to a Second Ballot.
      2. If more than two ballot items are required, a Runoff Ballot is held with only those ballot items required to total 50% or greater. If any choice in this Runoff Ballot receives 60%, that decision controls. If no choice receives 60%, we move automatically to a Second Ballot.

Choice	Votes	%
Candidate A	20	19.6%
No Endorsement	19	18.6%
Candidate B	18	17.6%
Candidate D	16	15.7%
Candidate E	15	14.7%
Candidate C	14	13.7%

Choice	Votes	%
Candidate A	20	19.6%
No Endorsement	19	18.6%
Candidate B	18	17.6%
<b>Total</b>		55.9%

2. Second Ballot: The top two choices receiving votes from the prior ballot, if any, shall be on the Second Ballot. (This may include “No Endorsement”). If there is only one candidate and the First Ballot is eliminated, the Second Ballot shall be the candidate and “No Endorsement”
  - a. If any choice on the Second Ballot receives 60% of the vote, that decision controls
  - b. If the choices on the Second Ballot are a candidate and “No Endorsement”, and no choice receives 60%, the official outcome is “No Position” and the balloting is over.
  - c. If the choices on the Second Ballot are two candidates, and no candidate receives 60%, then we move to a Third Ballot.
3. Third Ballot: Prior to the Third Ballot, a motion for dual endorsement will be entertained

under the following procedure:

- a. Each of the two candidates on the Third Ballot, or his/her designated representative, shall be given up to 30 seconds to address voters.
- b. The Chair shall entertain a motion for a Dual Endorsement.
- c. If no motion is made and seconded, the official outcome is “No Position” and the balloting is over.
- d. If a motion is made and seconded, a vote will be taken. A dual endorsement requires a 60% vote. A show of hands may be called for, subject to the discretion of the Chair. If the 60% threshold is reached, the official outcome is a Dual Endorsement and the balloting is over. If the 60% threshold is not reached, the official outcome is “No Position” and the balloting is over.

## **VII. Endorsement Procedures – Ballot Measures**

### **A. General**

1. Ballot Measures include all initiatives, referenda, levies, and other races without candidates. Any such measure considered shall be presented in the form it would appear on the ballot. Any motion to endorse a position in support of or in opposition to such a measure is unnecessary and out of order, as that position – “Support,” “Reject,” or “Take No Position” – will be determined by the voting.
2. For each Ballot Measure considered, each of the three positions (“Support,” “Reject,” and “Take No Position”) are allotted time to speak. The designated time for speeches shall be the longer of one minute or the time announced by the District Chair at the beginning of the nomination process. Speakers are those invited by the District Chair for the meeting or, absent that, any eligible voter. Members will hear all speeches on that Ballot Measure before the vote.
3. Speeches will commence after the District Chair or his/her designee opens consideration on the Ballot Measure. The order of speeches shall be as follows:
  - a. If, under Article XVI, Section 3, of the Bylaws, the 46<sup>th</sup> District Democrats Executive Board has made a recommendation on the Ballot Measure, a designee of the Executive Board may speak. This speech does not count as a speech for Support, Reject, or Take No Position.
  - b. A speech for Support, a speech for Reject, and a speech for “Take No Position”, in that order.

### **B. Voting**

1. First Ballot: Each eligible voter will vote for “Support,” “Reject,” or “Take No Position.” If any option receives 60%, that decision controls. If no option receives 60%, we move to a Second Ballot.
2. Second Ballot: The top two choices between “Support,” “Reject” or “Take No Position” will appear on the Second Ballot. If either option receives 60%, that decision controls. If no option receives 60%, the position of the 46th District Democrats will be “Take No Position”.

## **VIII. Reconsideration of an Endorsement**

### **A. Endorsements shall only be reconsidered in the following circumstances:**

1. Death or long-term incapacitation of the endorsed candidate
  2. Withdrawal of candidacy of the endorsed candidate
  3. Conscious and deliberate failure to file for office on the applicable ballot of the endorsed candidate.
  4. Disqualification from the ballot of the endorsed candidate
  5. The endorsed candidate switches parties, or by declared choice of caucus, would cause the Democratic Party to lose committee chairperson positions.
- B.** Reconsideration of an endorsement in these circumstances requires 10 day written notice to the body and all candidates eligible for endorsement for the affected office. The written notice must specify when the reconsideration and possible new endorsement process will occur.
- C.** It is permissible for the reconsideration vote and potential new endorsement process to occur at the same

general or special meeting.

- D. A 60% vote of the members is required to reopen the endorsement. If the membership votes in the affirmative to reopen the endorsement, then the endorsement process is carried through from the beginning, following the rules described herein, as if there had not been an endorsement in the race previously.

**IX. Tie votes**

- A. If any vote for an Endorsement or Recommendation under VI.C.1 or VII.B.1 (or their subsections) results in a tie, and the tie affects which ballot choice moves on to the next step or receives the Endorsement/Recommendation, a Tiebreaker Vote will be held. Eligible voters will revote only on the two tied items with the subsequent winner advancing to the next step.
- B. If the Tiebreaker Vote results in a tie, the District Chair will conduct a coin flip to determine the outcome.

**X. Exceptions to these Rules**

If the District holds a LD Nominating Conventions under the auspices of the State Democratic Party to fill a vacancy in the State Legislature, the candidate winning the Nomination shall be the sole Endorsed candidate of the 46<sup>th</sup> LD Democrats for the subsequent election.

**XI. Suspension of Endorsement Rules**

Any request to suspend these rules for a particular race or ballot issue must be made prior to consideration of that race or ballot issue, and requires a two-thirds vote for such suspension; provided, however, that Rule IV's requirement of a 60% vote for an endorsement cannot be suspended and any motion to close nominations is prohibited. Section XVI of the Bylaws also governs whether proposed amendments substantially changing the process require advance, written notice to the membership.