

# Endorsement Rules 2024

## **Environment and Climate Caucus of the Washington State Democratic Party (ECC) Standing Rules**

Endorsements: Candidates and Ballot Proposals

Approved by the General Membership: April 16, 2020, *updated March 2022 to align with ECC charter.*

ECC may make endorsements of candidates or take positions on ballot proposals within the applicable rules of the WSDCC and DNC.

Endorsements are a public declaration of support by the ECC on behalf of a candidate for public office, a person seeking appointment to a public position of responsibility, or in favor of or opposition of a ballot measure. They represent a determination by the ECC membership that election/appointment of the candidate, or approval/defeat of the ballot measure, will further support environmental protections and climate change mitigation and adaptation policies within Washington State.

Endorsements by the ECC will not include monetary contributions to candidates or ballot initiatives.

### **Article I – Criteria and Timeframe for Endorsements**

Section 1. Every candidate endorsement shall be for a specific candidate, office, and term.

Section 2. Endorsements may be considered for any candidate running for any state wide, congressional, or state legislature office, or for statewide ballot measures. Only candidates who are or will be identified as Democrats or publicly associated with the Democratic Party to any extent may be considered for endorsement except candidates for judicial positions.

Section 3. Voting occurs electronically and the Voting Period takes place over one week. Two Voting Periods will be held: one starting the first Tuesday of May and one starting the second Tuesday of September.

Section 4. ECC Membership will be notified by email of the election at least one week ahead of the Voting Period.

Section 5. Endorsement results will be announced at the completion of the Voting Period.

### **Article II – Endorsement Eligibility and Executive Board Review**

Section 1. Candidates must apply to be considered for endorsement. Requests for endorsement should be received 10 days ahead of the relevant endorsement voting period as outlined in Article I, Section 3. Requests shall include a completed ECC endorsement questionnaire.

Section 2. Requests should be emailed. Contact information may be found at ECC's website ([eccwa.wordpress.com](http://eccwa.wordpress.com)) in the endorsements section. Subject line should begin "ECC Endorsement Request".

Section 3. Campaign requests are not necessary for the ECC to take a position on a ballot

measure. Positions may be taken on any ballot measure that addresses issues of interest to ECC (such as an initiative, constitutional amendment, or referendum) for which the language is finalized and a number assigned.

Section 4. The Executive Board will review and approve all candidate requests and ballot measures to determine whether they meet the eligibility requirements before adding them to the ECC ballot for full membership endorsement voting.

Section 5. The Washington State Democratic Central Committee nominates candidates pursuant to Article XI of their bylaws; any ECC endorsement that is inconsistent with WSDCC's nomination shall sunset.

### **Article III – Voting Period**

Section 5. All motions for endorsement, whether for a candidate or a ballot measure, require a two-thirds vote of ECC members to be approved. Motions to rescind an endorsement require the same standard.

Section 6. ECC Members in good standing for at least 30 days ahead of the Voting Period are qualified to vote. Voting Members in good standing will have current contact information on file and will have paid current dues or reduced dues.

Section 7. A quorum of at least 10 members is required for endorsement.

### **Article IV – Significance of endorsements**

Section 1. Endorsements represent a directive by the ECC's membership to its leadership to make every reasonable effort to support the election effort of the endorsed candidate or furtherance of the ballot proposal position.

Section 2. Endorsed candidates are entitled to list the ECC as an endorser in campaign materials.

Section 3. The ECC shall only promote the circulation of petitions for ballot measures it has endorsed.

Section 4. A candidate may not claim to have the support of the organization – or imply the same – unless he or she has actually been endorsed.