



Washington State Federation of Democratic Women 2018 Endorsement Policy and Procedures

STANDING RULE 9: Endorsement Policy and Procedures

1. Section 1.

- 1.1. All endorsements, except statewide races, will begin with the Washington State Federation of Democratic Women (WSFDW) local chapters.
- 1.2. Except in statewide races, The WSFDW will only endorse candidates who have already been endorsed by the WSFDW local chapters. Candidates endorsed at the local level are not guaranteed endorsement by the WSFDW.

2. **Section 2.** To participate in the endorsement process, a WSFDW local chapter shall be established and in good standing two months before the endorsement consideration.

3. Section 3

- 3.1. Only self-identified Democratic candidates may be endorsed by the WSFDW.
- 3.2. Judicial candidates, who are not allowed to make such identifications, are the only exception to this requirement.
- 3.3. In races in which no self-identified Democratic candidate will be on the ballot, a preference for one of the candidates on the ballot may be decided using the same procedures as used for endorsements.

4. Section 4.

- 4.1. No support will be offered by the WSFDW to any statewide candidate until after the primary election except in special circumstances as defined in Section 7.
- 4.2. WSFDW may endorse Initiatives and Referendums at any time. Chapters may request endorsement to be brought to the general meeting.

5. **Section 5.** Endorsed candidates may be referred to the Executive Board for determination of WSFDW support. Support provided based upon the candidate's needs and the ability of WSFDW to support those needs.

6. **Section 6.** The WSFDW Executive Board shall establish a Political Action/Endorsement Committee by March of each year and the Executive Board may make recommendations to the membership regarding endorsement, of candidates and incumbents and issues.

Adopted 6.15.2018

7. **Section 7.** The endorsement procedure for WSFDW will be as follows:
 - 7.1. Statewide races: WSFDW will send the WSFDW Candidate Questionnaire to candidates **shortly after the filing deadline.**
 - 7.2. For local, federal and state races, local chapters will forward candidate endorsement packets to the WSFDW, Political Action Committee, **no later than 6 days after the primary election.** Endorsement packets must contain the following:
 - 7.2.1. The WSFDW Candidate Questionnaire.
 - 7.2.2. Local chapter comments and endorsement recommendation.
 - 7.3. Request for endorsement for a candidate who does not have a primary race may be sent to the WSFDW, Political Action/Endorsement Committee any time after filing or local chapter endorsement.
 - 7.4. Upon receipt of the endorsement packets from statewide candidates and local chapters, the WSFDW Political Action/Endorsement Committee will send its recommendations the WSFDW Executive Board. The Executive board will review and present recommendations for endorsement to the membership.
8. **Section 8.** An endorsement shall require 60% of Members present and voting.
 - 8.1. Voting will be by raised credential. Written ballots may be requested by fifteen percent (15%) of the eligible voters present and voting.
9. **Section 9.** All motions to endorse shall require a second except motions from the Executive Board.
 - 9.1. After all motions to endorse individuals for a given race have been made there will be a question-and-answer (Q&A) period for a panel composed of all potential endorsees in the race, (including substitute spokespeople authorized as such in writing), each of whom will have an opportunity to respond to each question.
 - 9.2. The maximum Q&A time will be three (3) minutes times the number of potential endorsees for that race. Each question may last up to fifteen (15) seconds, and each answer may last up to thirty (30) seconds.
 - 9.3. The motions will then be debated and voted upon in the order in which they were made, starting with the Executive Board motion(s).
 - 9.4. Up to four (4) speakers, alternating pro (two) and con (two), will be allowed. Each speaker may take up to thirty (30) seconds. If no one requests recognition to speak against the motion after the first pro speaker has spoken, then debate will be closed, and the vote taken. This sequence of "debate and vote" will be followed for each of the motions, in turn.
10. **Section 10.** The WSFDW President will issue timely notification to candidates of endorsement results.