

**Title: Resolution 1104: Amending Endorsement Procedures**

WHEREAS Standing Rules, as understood by Robert’s Rules of Order Newly Revised, may be amended as an ordinary act of a society by a majority vote, and

WHEREAS The 44<sup>th</sup> LD Democrats have a duty to provide clear standing rules for the consideration of candidates and ballot measures for endorsement, therefore

BE IT RESOLVED that the Standing Rules of the 44<sup>th</sup> LD Democrats be amended to replace Rules VIII, IX, X, and XI, to insert Rule XII and Rule XIII, and to update the table of contents, so that the indicated table and rules read as follows:

Rule VIII. Democratic Party Officer Candidate Endorsements ..... 2

    Section 1. Applicability ..... 2

    Section 2. Definition ..... 2

    Section 3. How to Request an Endorsement ..... 2

    Section 4. Requests to the Executive Board ..... 2

    Section 5. Candidates Recommended for Endorsement ..... 3

    Section 6. How the Members May Endorse Candidates ..... 3

    Section 7. Duties of the Chair ..... 3

Rule IX. Candidate Endorsements ..... 3

    Section 1. Applicability ..... 3

    Section 2. Definition ..... 4

    Section 3. Criteria for Application for Endorsement ..... 4

    Section 4. Procedures for Applying for Endorsement ..... 4

    Section 5. Endorsement Committee ..... 5

    Section 6. Endorsement Committee Action ..... 6

    Section 7. Consideration of Endorsement by the Members ..... 6

    Section 8. Duties of the Chair ..... 7

    Section 9. Reconsidering or Rescinding an Endorsement ..... 7

Rule X. Judicial Office Candidate Endorsements ..... 8

    Section 1. Applicability ..... 8

    Section 2. Definition ..... 8

    Section 3. Criteria for Application for Endorsement ..... 8

    Section 4. Procedures for Applying for Endorsement ..... 8

    Section 5. Endorsement Committee ..... 9

    Section 6. Endorsement Committee Action ..... 9

    Section 7. Consideration of Endorsement by the Members ..... 9

    Section 8. Duties of the Chair ..... 9

    Section 9. Reconsidering or Rescinding an Endorsement ..... 9

Rule XI. Ballot Measure Endorsements ..... 9

    Section 1. Applicability ..... 9

    Section 2. Definition ..... 10

    Section 3. Criteria for Application for Endorsement ..... 10

    Section 4. Procedures for Applying for Endorsement ..... 10

    Section 5. Endorsement Committee ..... 11

Section 6. Endorsement Committee Action .....	11
Section 7. Consideration of Endorsement by the Members .....	11
Section 8. Duties of the Chair .....	12
Section 9. Reconsidering or Rescinding a Ballot Measure Endorsement .....	12
Rule XII. Precinct Committee Officers.....	12
Rule XIII. Adoption of Standing Rules.....	13

---

## **Rule VIII. Democratic Party Officer Candidate Endorsements**

### **Section 1. Applicability**

This rule pertains to the endorsement process for officer candidates in the Snohomish County Democratic Party and Washington State Democratic Party. However, this rule does not pertain to candidates for precinct committee officer.

### **Section 2. Definition**

The term 'endorsement' by the 44th Legislative District Democrats of a candidate for a Democratic Party office means that the candidate is given explicit approval by the members of the 44th LD Democrats to use the name of this organization in any public or private list or publication of organizations who have chosen to endorse that candidate.

The use of any term other than the word 'endorsement' signifies that the candidate has not met the criteria for 'endorsement' outlined in this standing rule.

### **Section 3. How to Request an Endorsement**

Candidates for elected offices in the Democratic Party at the county and state levels may request the endorsement of the membership of the 44th Legislative District Democrats. The request for endorsement shall be made by the candidate in one or more of the following ways:

- In writing to the Executive Board or to the members of the 44<sup>th</sup>,
- In person to the Executive Board or to the members of the 44<sup>th</sup>, or
- Via a surrogate, designated by the candidate, who appears on the candidate's behalf at the Executive Board or at a general meeting.

### **Section 4. Requests to the Executive Board**

If the request for endorsement is made to the Executive Board of the 44th, it shall be the responsibility of the chair to inform the members at the next general meeting of the request for endorsement.

## **Section 5. Candidates Recommended for Endorsement**

After the receipt of a request or requests for endorsement, the Executive Board may, if it chooses, through a majority vote, suggest or recommend an endorsement for one or more candidates for any Democratic Party county or state elected office. The Executive Board is prohibited from endorsing any candidate for any Democratic Party office at the county or state level. Such endorsement power is reserved to the general membership.

## **Section 6. How the Members May Endorse Candidates**

The members of the 44th LD Democrats shall choose to endorse candidates for Democratic Party elected offices at the county and state levels in the following way:

- All members in good standing shall be eligible to vote.
- The members shall determine by a 2/3 majority vote at a general meeting whether or not the 44th should commit to an endorsement for a particular office.
- If the members choose to vote to endorse for a particular office, a written ballot shall be used, upon which the members may vote to endorse zero, one, or more candidates.
- An endorsement shall be given to any candidate who receives a simple majority of the votes cast.

## **Section 7. Duties of the Chair**

The chair of the 44th shall be responsible to inform any candidate who receives an endorsement from the membership of the 44th of that endorsement, in writing, within seven (7) days of the vote of endorsement. He or she shall also be responsible to inform any candidate who has sought the endorsement of the 44th, and who has failed to receive that endorsement, of that fact, in writing, within seven (7) days of the vote of the membership.

---

# **Rule IX. Candidate Endorsements**

## **Section 1. Applicability**

This rule pertains to the endorsement process for candidates in partisan and nonpartisan races, for local, county, Washington State and/or U.S. national legislative and executive branch offices. However, this rule does not pertain to candidates for precinct committee officer, or for any judicial offices.

The 44th LD Democrats have a duty to consider candidates in all partisan and nonpartisan races for all jurisdictions that lie wholly or in part within the 44th Legislative

District. However, the 44th LD Democrats may also endorse candidates in jurisdictions outside the 44th Legislative District.

## **Section 2. Definition**

The term 'endorsement' by the 44th Legislative District Democrats of a candidate means that the candidate is given explicit approval by the members of the 44th LD Democrats to use the name of that organization in any public or private list or publication of organizations who have chosen to endorse that candidate.

The use of any term other than the word 'endorsement' signifies that the candidate has not met the criteria for 'endorsement' outlined in this standing rule.

Endorsements are not exclusive. More than one candidate may be endorsed simultaneously in the same race.

Endorsements for candidates for partisan office are limited to only those candidates who publicly and officially declare that they prefer the Democratic Party. However, endorsements are not limited to only the officially nominated Democratic Party candidate.

Any officially nominated Democratic Party candidate seeking partisan office for a jurisdiction that lies wholly or in part within the 44th Legislative District shall be automatically entitled to an endorsement from the 44th Legislative District Democrats for the office sought, unless rescinded.

## **Section 3. Criteria for Application for Endorsement**

The candidate for office who is seeking endorsement must:

- Publicly support the principles and goals of the Democratic Party,
- Be a member of the Democratic Party at the legislative district, county and state levels, and be able to offer proof of membership,
- Be legally qualified to run for the office sought, and
- Have declared their candidacy to the Public Disclosure Commission, or have filed as a candidate for that office with the appropriate election authority.

## **Section 4. Procedures for Applying for Endorsement**

Candidates who have met the criteria listed in Section 3. (above) may request an endorsement in one or more of the following ways:

- In writing to the Executive Board and/or to the members of the 44<sup>th</sup>,
- In person to the Executive Board and/or to the members of the 44<sup>th</sup>, or
- Via a surrogate, designated by the candidate, who appears on the candidate's behalf at the Executive Board and/or at a general meeting.

Candidates requesting an endorsement are strongly encouraged to include a signed letter with attached information about their campaign.

The signed letter from the candidate should:

- 1) Request an endorsement,
- 2) State support of the principles and goals of the Democratic party,
- 3) Pledge to maintain membership in the Democratic party at their LD, county, and state levels,
- 4) Promise to support the Democratic Party's nominee for the office sought, in case a different candidate is nominated, and
- 5) Discuss their level of support of the Democratic Party platforms at the LD, County, and State levels, including specific objections, if any.

The attached campaign information should include:

- 1) Proof of membership in the LD, county, and state Democratic parties appropriate to the office sought,
- 2) A list of the candidate's campaign staff,
- 3) A list of all endorsements received and/or sought,
- 4) An explanation of the candidate's plan for how he/she will support other Democratic Party candidates running for office,
- 5) An explanation of how the candidate will help Democrats recruit new members, particularly at the local level,
- 6) A promise that if the office for which he/she is running has the opportunity to make appointments, the candidate will require his/her appointees to maintain membership in their legislative district, county and state Democratic Party organizations,
- 7) A copy of the candidate's voting record, if he/she has previously held public office, and
- 8) An electronic image of the candidate suitable for posting on the 44<sup>th</sup> LD's website and newsletter.

## **Section 5. Endorsement Committee**

**Subsection 1. Constitution of the Committee** The endorsement committee, which is a special committee and not a standing committee, shall be composed of no fewer than 3 and no more than 7 members of the Executive Board. An odd number of committee members is recommended, but not mandatory. Members of the Executive Board may volunteer or be appointed by the chair for the endorsement committee. The membership of the committee shall be approved by a majority vote of the Executive Board.

**Subsection 2. Multiple Endorsement Committees** The Executive Board may, by a majority vote, constitute more than one endorsement committee at the same time. However, no candidate and/or issue may be considered by more than one endorsement committee. In the event of multiple committees, the Executive Board shall, by majority

vote decide which candidates and/or issues shall be considered by each committee. The members of each endorsement committee shall elect their committee chair by a majority vote.

**Subsection 3. Committee Charter** The endorsement committee shall be given a clearly defined, written charter as specified in Article V, Section 2 of the By-laws. This charter shall include a list of candidates and/or issues to be considered by the committee, the beginning and ending dates of the life of the committee, deadlines for completion of committee deliberations, and the budget, if any, of the committee. The creation of the charter is the responsibility of the chair; however, the chair may delegate the responsibility for the creation of the charter to another Executive Board member. All such charters must be approved by a majority vote of the Executive Board.

## **Section 6. Endorsement Committee Action**

The endorsement committee shall make a reasonable effort to invite declared candidates to seek an endorsement from the 44th LD Democrats.

The endorsement committee shall determine, to the best of its ability, whether the candidate meets the criteria for the application for endorsement and has fulfilled the steps listed in the procedures for applying for endorsement. Once the information that the committee has received in writing has been verified and considered, the committee shall interview the candidate, preferably in person. The committee shall then deliberate, and may take one of the following steps:

- Recommend that the members endorse the candidate,
- Recommend that the members not endorse the candidate,
- Pass consideration on to the members without recommendation, or
- Choose to take no action on a candidate.

The endorsement committee may reconsider its action without approving a vote to reconsider, upon the receipt of additional information about a candidate.

## **Section 7. Consideration of Endorsement by the Members**

Action by the endorsement committee shall be reported to the Executive Board members at the next Executive Board meeting, and to members at the next general meeting, providing that due notice of the committee's action is posted on the website at least seven (7) days prior to the date of the general meeting, and that action on the endorsement is included as an item on the general meeting's agenda.

**Subsection 1. If the Endorsement Committee Recommends Endorsement:** This is reported to the members, and as the result of a motion to endorse, a vote shall be taken. An endorsement shall be awarded if a majority of the members present vote to endorse.

**Subsection 2. If the Endorsement Committee Recommends Against Endorsement:**

This is reported to the members, along with a summary of the reasons against endorsement. A member must make a motion not to endorse or to endorse for further discussion to take place.

**Subsection 3. If the Endorsement Committee Passes Consideration on to the Members with no Recommendation:**

This is reported to the members without comment. A member must make a motion to endorse or not to endorse for further discussion to take place.

**Section 8. Duties of the Chair**

The chair of the 44th Legislative District Democrats shall be responsible to inform any candidate who receives an endorsement from the membership of the 44th LD Democrats of that endorsement, in writing, within seven (7) days of the vote of endorsement. He or she shall also be responsible to inform any candidate who has sought the endorsement, and who has failed to receive that endorsement, of that fact, in writing, within seven (7) days of the vote of the membership.

The chair shall direct the communications committee to take appropriate action to inform voters of the various endorsements awarded by the 44th Legislative District Democrats.

**Section 9. Reconsidering or Rescinding an Endorsement**

If the Endorsement Committee changes its recommendation regarding an endorsement after the members have taken action, the members may reconsider the matter at the next general meeting without approving a vote to reconsider the previous action.

At a general meeting following an endorsement, any member who has previously voted with the majority may move to reconsider the issue of the endorsement. The motion to reconsider the motion to endorse may be debated, and then must pass by a majority vote of the members present in order to consider a new motion on the issue of the endorsement.

Any endorsement shall be automatically rescinded if the candidate fails to file for the office sought, or if the candidate is otherwise removed from the ballot.

Any motion to rescind a candidate endorsement requires a 2/3 vote of the members present at a general meeting, and seven (7) days prior written notice to the candidate.

---

## **Rule X. Judicial Office Candidate Endorsements**

### **Section 1. Applicability**

This rule pertains to the endorsement process for candidates who are running for judicial offices.

The 44th LD Democrats have a duty to consider all declared candidates in judicial races in jurisdictions that lie wholly or in part within the 44th Legislative District. However, the 44th LD Democrats may also endorse candidates in jurisdictions outside the 44th Legislative District.

### **Section 2. Definition**

The term 'endorsement' by the 44th Legislative District Democrats of a candidate for a judicial office means that the candidate is given explicit approval by the members of the 44th LD Democrats to use the name of that organization in any public or private list or publication of organizations who have chosen to endorse that candidate.

The use of any term other than the word 'endorsement' signifies that the candidate has not met the criteria for 'endorsement' outlined in this standing rule.

### **Section 3. Criteria for Application for Endorsement**

Candidates for judicial office must:

- Consent to receive an endorsement,
- Be legally qualified to run for the office sought, and
- Have declared their candidacy to the Public Disclosure Commission, or have filed as a candidate for that office with the appropriate election authority.

### **Section 4. Procedures for Applying for Endorsement**

Judicial candidates are ethically barred from directly requesting an endorsement from any political party, or professing public support for the principles, goals, or platform of a political party.

Member(s) in good standing of the 44th LD Democrats may request the endorsement of a judicial candidate, but only with the prior permission of that judicial candidate. The member(s) shall act on the candidate's behalf in endorsement matters.

The member may request an endorsement on behalf of the candidate in one or more of the following ways:

- In writing to the Executive Board and/or to the members of the 44<sup>th</sup>, or

44<sup>th</sup> LD Democrats Resolution 1104: Amending Endorsement Procedures  
Executive Board Presentation Draft, April 8, 2011



- In person to the Executive Board and/or to the members of the 44th.

Judicial candidates who grant permission to be considered for endorsement are strongly encouraged to include a signed letter with attached information about their campaign.

The signed letter from the candidate should state their consent to receive an endorsement, and give reasons why he or she is the best candidate.

The attached campaign information should include:

- 1) A list of the candidate's campaign staff,
- 2) A list of all endorsements received and/or sought, and
- 3) An electronic image of the candidate suitable for posting on the 44<sup>th</sup> LD's website and newsletter.

## **Section 5. Endorsement Committee**

See Rule IX, Section 5.

## **Section 6. Endorsement Committee Action**

See Rule IX, Section 6.

## **Section 7. Consideration of Endorsement by the Members**

See Rule IX, Section 7.

## **Section 8. Duties of the Chair**

See Rule IX, Section 8.

## **Section 9. Reconsidering or Rescinding an Endorsement**

See Rule IX, Section 9.

---

# **Rule XI. Ballot Measure Endorsements**

## **Section 1. Applicability**

This rule pertains to the endorsement process regarding ballot measures other than candidate elections. This broadly includes all initiatives, referenda, constitutional amendments, levies, and other ballot measures pertaining to any local, city, county, state, national, school, fire, EMS, water, sewer, taxation or other district that appear on any special, primary, or general election ballot. This rule also pertains to initiative petitions seeking to place a ballot measure on a ballot.

The 44th LD Democrats have a duty to promptly consider all ballot measures in all jurisdictions that lie wholly or in part within the 44th Legislative District. However, the 44th LD Democrats may also endorse ballot measures in jurisdictions outside the 44th Legislative District.

## **Section 2. Definition**

The term “ballot measure” means any applicable act specified by Section 1 of this rule.

The term “sense” means a preferred voting response appropriate to that ballot measure. For example, “YES”, “NO”, “APPROVE”, “LEVY YES”, “SIGN”, or “DECLINE TO SIGN”.

The term “committed” means that the final text of the ballot measure is officially known, and is not subject to change, except by court order. For example, the measure may have been officially filed with the appropriate election authority, a governing entity may have voted to place the ballot measure on a ballot, or a petition may have been filed with the Secretary of State’s office so that signature gathering may begin.

The term 'endorsement' by the 44th LD Democrats of a ballot measure means that a sponsoring organization that agrees with the sense of the endorsed position is given explicit approval by the members of the 44th LD Democrats to use the name of this organization in any public or private list or publication of organizations who have chosen to endorse the same position on that ballot measure.

The use of any term other than the word 'endorsement' signifies that the ballot measure has not met the criteria for 'endorsement' outlined in this standing rule.

## **Section 3. Criteria for Application for Endorsement**

All ballot measure endorsements shall explicitly indicate the sense of the endorsement.

To be considered, the final text or form of the ballot measure must have been committed.

## **Section 4. Procedures for Applying for Endorsement**

Ballot measure endorsements shall be in resolution form, according to Rule II. The resolution shall explicitly indicate the sense of the endorsement for each ballot measure. Multiple ballot measure endorsements may be included in the same resolution.

Ballot measure endorsements may originate from within the endorsement committee. It is the duty of the endorsement committee to actively work to discover new initiatives and other ballot measures.

Any member(s) in good standing of the 44th LD Democrats may request the endorsement of any ballot measure in writing or in person to the executive board, the endorsement committee, and/or to the members of the 44th.

A sponsoring organization need not exist for a ballot measure endorsement to be considered, regardless of the sense of the endorsement. Sponsoring organizations are encouraged to please contact the chair of the 44th LD Democrats for endorsement requests, or to work through any member in good standing of the 44th LD Democrats.

## **Section 5. Endorsement Committee**

See Rule IX, Section 5.

## **Section 6. Endorsement Committee Action**

The endorsement committee has a duty to lead prompt and appropriate ballot measure endorsement actions, and to be especially alert regarding statewide initiative petitions and local school district levies.

The endorsement committee shall consider each ballot measure with respect to the principles and goals of the Democratic party, and the 44th LD, Snohomish County, and Washington State Democratic Party platforms.

For each ballot measure, the endorsement committee may take one of the following steps:

- Recommend that the members endorse the ballot measure in a definite sense,
- Recommend that the members not endorse the ballot measure in any definite sense,
- Pass consideration of the ballot measure on to the members without recommendation, or
- Choose to take no action on a ballot measure.

The endorsement committee shall present their findings in the form of resolutions, according to Rule II. The endorsement resolutions should include a summary of the reasons for endorsing that particular sense of the ballot measure.

The endorsement committee may reconsider its action without approving a vote to reconsider, upon the receipt of additional information about a ballot measure.

## **Section 7. Consideration of Endorsement by the Members**

Action by the endorsement committee shall be reported to the Executive Board members at the next Executive Board meeting, and to members at the next general meeting, according to Rule II.

An endorsement shall be awarded if a majority of the members present vote to approve the endorsement resolution.

### **Section 8. Duties of the Chair**

The chair of the 44th Legislative District Democrats shall be responsible to inform relevant sponsoring organizations that agree with the sense of an awarded ballot measure endorsement, in writing, within seven (7) days of the vote of endorsement.

In the case of sponsoring organizations that come into existence after the vote of endorsement, the chair shall be responsible to inform that sponsoring organization, in writing, as soon as practicable.

The chair shall also be responsible to inform any sponsoring organization or member who has sought the endorsement, and who has failed to receive that endorsement, of that fact, in writing, within seven (7) days of the vote of the membership.

The chair shall direct the communications committee to take appropriate action to inform voters of the various endorsements awarded by the 44th Legislative District Democrats.

### **Section 9. Reconsidering or Rescinding a Ballot Measure Endorsement**

If the Endorsement Committee changes its recommendation regarding a ballot measure endorsement after the members have taken action, the members may reconsider the matter at the next general meeting without approving a vote to reconsider the previous action.

After the members have taken action to endorse a ballot measure in a definite sense, any motion to rescind, or to reverse the sense of, that ballot measure endorsement requires a new endorsement resolution, which must pass by a 2/3 majority vote of the members present at a general meeting.

However, a new endorsement resolution is not required if the chair determines that the proposed change would be trivial, such as a synonymous change to the sense of the ballot measure endorsement, an amendment due to a court order, or a newly filed ballot measure that is substantially the same as the endorsed ballot measure.

---

## **Rule XII. Precinct Committee Officers**

The 44<sup>th</sup> LD Democrats may not endorse candidates for precinct committee officer.

However, the 44<sup>th</sup> LD Democrats have a duty to actively work to recruit precinct committee officers to serve the various precincts within the 44<sup>th</sup> legislative district, and the webmaster may post a list of anticipated precinct committee officer candidates on the website. However, such actions do not constitute an endorsement.

---

**Rule XIII. Adoption of Standing Rules**

These Standing Rules, adopted on the 9th Day of December 2010, are amended this 14<sup>th</sup> Day of April, 2011.

X \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of 44th Legislative District Democrats Chair      Date

---- END ----

### **Summary of Substantive Changes in Resolution 1104**

The 44<sup>th</sup> LD Democrats have a duty to promptly endorse candidates and ballot measures, and to clearly and concisely communicate those endorsements to the voters.

Resolution 1104 makes our endorsements simpler, clearer, quicker, and less restrictive, helping our candidates deploy a more effective campaign strategy, focused squarely on our opponents.

Endorsements can come much earlier in the season, so we can promptly support our friends and attack our enemies. We need not wait until filing week, or for petition signature certification.

Endorsements are no longer exclusive by fiat; exclusivity is left up to the body.

Rescinding or reversing an endorsement is hard, but not impossible, so they are reliable.

**Rule VIII:** Democratic Party officer candidates now just need a simple majority to endorse, instead of fighting over an exclusive endorsement.

**Rule IX:** Candidate endorsements now include both partisan and nonpartisan offices.

Democratic partisan candidates may be endorsed even if they are not nominated. If we consider our endorsement as meaning that the candidate is a well-qualified Democrat, these rules protect our court case at the same time as it heals our internal divisions. Nominees are awarded an automatic endorsement, unless rescinded.

The request letter and attached information requests are clearer so that candidates can more easily follow our rules. Candidates are even asked to say what specific platform planks they object to, to allow room for a little healthy individual dissent.

**Rule X:** Judicial candidates have ethical restrictions, so their procedures are much simpler. A 44<sup>th</sup> LD member may request a judicial endorsement with the candidate's consent. However, the request can't come directly from the candidate.

**Rule XI:** Ballot measure endorsements are treated just like resolutions. They must explicitly indicate the preferred voting response, or "sense". Initiative petitions may be endorsed before signatures are gathered. Sponsoring organizations are no longer required to exist prior to an endorsement.

**Rule XII:** The 44<sup>th</sup> LD Dems can't endorse PCO candidates, even though we work hard to recruit them.

**Rule XIII** is just a signature.