

# **Candidate and Ballot Measure Endorsement Process Whatcom County Democrats Central Committee**

**Originally adopted 5/11/2005  
Amended: Summer 2005; January 11, 2006**

1. Endorsement procedures for Whatcom Democrats must be adopted no later than 60 days prior to an endorsement meeting of the Central Committee and may not be changed until that year's General Election. (This assures predictability of the rules throughout the campaign and was a rule adopted by the Whatcom Democrats Central Committee on 1/11/06.)
2. Any candidate registered and paid up as a Whatcom Democrat can receive a membership list and use of the Whatcom Democrats bulk mail permit prior to endorsement. (Candidates will pay the cost of their mailing themselves). NOTE: It is possible that judges/judicial candidates will not be paid members.
3. The process for endorsements is:
  - Person seeking an endorsement contacts Whatcom Democrats Chair
  - Chair explains the endorsement procedure and provides the candidate with a list of information desired by the Executive Committee and Central Committee (see below)
  - The Chair schedules an agenda item for considering an endorsement. This usually is the next regularly-scheduled Central Committee, but a special meeting for the purpose of an endorsement can be scheduled at the Chair's discretion
  - The candidate submits the requested information in sufficient time for the Executive Committee to review it at their regular meeting (generally the week before the Central Committee meeting)
  - The Executive Committee must confirm the candidate's current, paid membership in the Whatcom Democrats
  - The Executive Committee forwards submitted information to the Central Committee for consideration at its meeting. The Executive Committee also may provide comments about the candidate's qualifications or the appropriateness of a Whatcom Democrats endorsement
  - The candidate is provided an opportunity to present his/her qualifications and positions to the Central Committee, not to exceed 10 minutes. This is followed by a brief question and answer session.
  - The Central Committee votes on the question of endorsement. A two-thirds majority of those present, eligible to vote by being paid-up members, and casting votes on the endorsement for the office or ballot measure in question is required for an endorsement to be declared official by the Whatcom Democrats.

4. A candidate seeking Whatcom Democrats' endorsement may designate a representative to speak on his/her behalf should a conflict of time or difference necessitate this.
5. Candidates for non-partisan office may seek endorsement of the Whatcom Democrats after filing has closed. They follow the same process. If unopposed in a primary, they may request endorsement before the primary election.
6. A Democrat unopposed in a partisan primary election may seek Whatcom Democrats' endorsement through the process above once filing is closed.
7. In preparation for endorsement consideration by the Whatcom Democratic Central Committee, the candidate will be asked by the County Chair to provide the following information to the Executive Committee:
  - Contact information (address, telephone, email (if has an account)).
  - Confirmation that the candidate is a paid member of the Whatcom Democrats
  - Specific office sought and term of office.
  - List of qualifications the candidate offers
  - Highlighted chronology of public service, offices held (if any).
  - Reason for seeking this particular office and what the candidate hopes to accomplish when elected.
  - Elements of the most recent Whatcom County Democrats Platform which are of greatest interest/importance to the candidate
  - Support in which candidate is most interested at time of seeking endorsement (e.g. volunteers, canvassers, walking lists, mailings).
8. Initiatives and similar ballot measures may seek endorsement by the Central Committee by submitting a written request to the County Chair. The Chair will schedule a presentation by the requesting organization at the nearest feasible Central Committee meeting. The Executive Committee may review the measure and make a recommendation to the Central Committee. A two-thirds majority of those present, eligible to vote by being paid-up members of Whatcom Democrats, and casting votes on the endorsement question is required for an endorsement to be declared official by the Whatcom Democrats.
9. All candidates and ballot measures endorsed by the Whatcom County Democratic Central Committee are eligible for campaign support and tools to the extent feasible at the discretion of the Executive Committee. This will depend on funds available, time commitments, tools available, and priorities of the Central Committee.