

THURSTON COUNTY DEMOCRATS
CAMPAIGN SERVICES & ENDORSEMENT POLICY & PROCEDURES FOR
CANDIDATES AND BALLOT MEASURES

adopted 6/7/21

Both partisan and nonpartisan offices and ballot measure campaigns are eligible to apply for endorsement and campaign services from the Thurston County Democrats (TCD).

A. Eligibility Criteria

1. A candidate must legally qualify for the office being sought. A candidate must demonstrate that they currently have, , or have the ability, to organize a viable campaign with volunteers and appropriate resources, access to appropriate expertise and resources, or that they understand the essential importance of this campaign element.
2. A candidate must file for their specific position as a Democrat or, in the case of nonpartisan position other than judicial positions, must be able to express support for the most recent TCD platform
3. Candidates and ballot measure campaigns must agree and adhere to TCD Code of Fair Campaign Practices.
4. Candidates must agree to take no corporate PAC or lobbyist money, or any contributions from the following types of companies: fossil fuel, drug, insurance, weapons manufacturers, big tech, big banks, private equity firms, hedge funds, and development and real estate corporations, and a contribution limit of \$200 dollars from any officer or executive who works for these companies.
5. Ballot measure representatives should be able to identify how their measures are in accord with those principles in the most recent TCD platform.
6. Candidates or ballot measure initiative supporters may address the TCD at its monthly meetings by contacting the Chair to be added to the agenda. If candidates seek additional support they may apply for Campaign Services. The TCD may endorse when appropriate and provide campaign services to multiple candidates for an elective office.

B. Definitions

For purposes of this policy, the following definitions apply:

Ballot Measure - Any initiative, referendum, proposed constitutional amendment, or any other ballot measure submitted by the state or any subdivision of the state for consideration by the voters of any part of Thurston County.

Campaign Services – The services we offer include:

- A. Recommendation to the General body for support.
- B. Campaign website or Facebook page link on the TCD website.
- C. Announcement of campaign events in TCD Blast emails and on the TCD website.
- D. Contact with TCD PCOs to request their assistance in campaigning in their precinct, such as literature drops upon their individual agreement.
- E. Equal early access to TCD Burger Booth full shift reservations (such as Lakefair festivities, as available)
- F. Ability to post campaign signs, share and wear campaign clothing, and provide campaign literature at the TCD Burger Booth (as available)
- G. Equal access to any sponsorship or similar exposure opportunities for TCD events (including Champagne Brunch, Kennedy Dinner, etc.)
- H. Equal access to TCD office space for your campaign (when available, usually only offered on even numbered years)
- I. Participation in TCD Campaign Services sponsored training sessions, including topics such as Campaign Treasurer and PDC compliance training, Campaign Management training, VoteBuilder training, and campaign media training
- J. Consideration for endorsement by the TCD
- K. Consideration for financial contributions by the TCD (dependent on endorsement)
- L. Recommendation to the State Democratic Party for discounted access to our party voter database (known as NGP/VAN Votebuilder), which includes information for mailers, walking lists, precinct maps, phone banking, voter contact tracking, and similar GOTV tools across the district of your race.

Campaign Services Committee (CSC) - The CSC shall be composed of five teams: Interview, Issues, Media, Recruitment, and Training. The committee is co-chaired by the TCD 2nd Vice Chair. All members, a second co-chair, team chairs, and interview team alternates are chosen and nominated by the 2nd vice chair, and approved by the TCD Executive Committee after a thorough application and selection process. Committee members shall represent the diversity of Democrats in Thurston County and include members who meet the following

criteria:

- Extensive Campaign management, technical, or consulting experience, or
- Current or past elected official, and
- Willingness and ability to provide assistance and support to approved campaigns, and
- TCD Member or PCO, and
- Agrees to abide by Code of Fair Campaign Practices.

The 7-member interview team is composed of the TCD 2nd Vice Chair, co-chair and five CSC team chairs or selected at large members from a CSC team. Alternates will be invited by a co-chair to be part of the interview team if a member is missing from a current meeting.

The CSC should meet as early as possible in the year to establish campaign services priorities; between February and June there will be a heavy load of interviewing candidates and campaign services recommendations to be brought forward to TCD membership. After June, the CSC should meet as needed throughout the campaign season to provide training, mentoring and access to services to approved campaigns.

Campaign Services Application - Candidates wishing to receive TCD campaign services must complete and submit this application to the CSC.

Campaign Surrogate - A person who is authorized to speak on behalf of a candidate or campaign.

Candidate - A Democrat who has filed to run for elective office.

Chair - The Chair of the TCD.

Code of Fair Campaign Practices - Guidelines for fair and ethical campaigns as adopted by TCD.

Policy - A course or principle of action adopted or proposed by a candidate; a set of ideas or plans that are used as a basis for making decisions; a philosophical platform.

Record - Any evidence of the past achievements, conduct or actions of a candidate, kept in writing or some other permanent form, e.g., audio or visual recording, that could reasonably affect their performance in office. This may include campaign contributions or endorsements

representatives of ballot measures, as well as researching candidates backgrounds, voting made to or by a candidate.

Interview Team - The Interview team is responsible for the questionnaire and application process, and well as scheduling and coordinating interviews with candidates and ballot measures committee representatives.

Issues Team - The Issues team is responsible for researching issues relevant to local races and ballot measures, voting records, endorsements, and contributions.

Media Team - The Media team is responsible for providing advice and training to candidates who have been approved to receive campaign services on media topics such as free media press releases, articles, event notices, and paid media, such as advertising.

Recruitment Team - The Recruitment team is responsible for recruiting candidates for local offices who closely align with Party principles and platform.

Training Team - The Training team is responsible for providing training to candidates who have been approved to receive campaign services. The training topics could include PDC compliance, campaign treasurer, NGP/VAN Votebuilder training, campaign management training

TCDEC – Thurston County Democrats Executive Committee

Voting Member – Members of TCD as defined in TCD Bylaws.

C. Campaign Services Procedures

1. A representative of the campaign goes to the Thurston Democrats website or contacts a CSC CO-Chair to obtain an application.
2. The campaign representative completes, signs, and submits the application electronically or via mail. Applications for campaign services will be accepted until three weeks following the final day of the candidate-filing period.
3. The CSC Co-Chairs will schedule an interview with the candidate or campaign representative.
4. The CSC interviews the candidate or ballot measure representative. Candidates shall demonstrate a well-organized campaign, including most or all of these elements: an

appropriate budget, voter-contact plan, fund-raising plan, messaging and endorsements. Candidates based on the interview should demonstrate Washington State democratic values, for example encourage maximum participation in the political process, protection of individual rights, civil liberties, our environment and social and economic justice for all including in global relations. Additionally, they should agree that all power to govern resides with the people and pledge to promote a truly representative Party open to all that supports its principles. Candidate's record and positions should be consistent with the most recent TCD Platform and subsequent TCD policy positions on other issues.

5. Following the interview, the CSC interview team votes on whether to recommend the candidate or ballot measure to the TCD membership for Campaign Services. A candidate or ballot measure must receive at least a 60% vote of the present CSC Interview team.
6. The CSC Co-Chairs or Interview team members present the CSC's recommendation for Campaign Services approval to the TCD membership at the monthly TCD meetings. The Chair conducts a vote on whether to accept the CSC's recommendations. A simple majority vote of the TCD members present at the meeting is required for approval.
7. If they apply for and do not receive a recommendation for campaign services from the CSC, candidates or ballot measure representatives may seek approval for campaign services from the full TCD membership. In these cases, a motion to approve campaign services must originate from a voting member, and a 2/3 vote of the TCD membership present at the meeting will pass the motion. A recorded tally in support of the candidate or measure will be required.

D. Endorsement Procedures

1. Endorsement requests may be considered at every regular meeting of the Central Committee between the close of filing and the general election. At other times of the year, notice must be provided tens days in advance that endorsement business will be on the agenda.
2. At each meeting where endorsements are being considered by TCDCC the CS Chair shall propose, as part of the meeting agenda, a schedule to determine the order of consideration for the CS committee's recommendations and motions from the floor.

3. The proposed and adopted schedules must ensure that competing motions from the floor to endorse candidates for the same office are considered together.
4. The CS Committee must present its recommendations, if it is making any, before any endorsement motions from the floor can be considered. Motions to endorse that are offered prior to this presentation shall be out of order. Each presentation of the CS committee shall constitute a separate motion and not require a second to be placed on the floor.
5. Endorsement motions are not amendable, nor may they be tabled. However, they may be postponed to a future scheduled meeting, if that meeting will take place before the next election.
6. Endorsement motions recommended by the CS Committee must be approved by a 60% vote of the body for to pass. Endorsements of other candidates must be approved by a 2/3 vote of the body.
7. Slates of candidates and ballot measure positions may be considered in a single motion, but a slate may list only one candidate per office.
8. Candidates shall only be considered for endorsement once per year.
9. The TCDCC Chair shall provide the body with opportunities to ask questions to the TCDCCS chair about a recommendation prior to taking speakers for and against the motion to adopt the recommendation.
10. Form and duration of debate shall be identified by the Chair at all endorsement discussions. CSC recommends a maximum of 4 for and 4 against, one minute each.
11. When a vote on an endorsement motion is held, the secretary shall record the results as reported by the tally committee.
12. The TCDEC may produce an endorsement publication and/or publish endorsements on the TCD website.
13. If a candidate or ballot measure approved for campaign services is not endorsed, and another candidate in the same race has been endorsed, then all campaign services will be terminated for the unendorsed candidate, except their Votebuilder access.

14. TCD endorsement may be revoked by 2/3 vote of the members present at a regularly scheduled TCD monthly meeting.
15. Notwithstanding other provisions in this policy, Burger Booth operations shall be independent of all endorsement decisions. All candidates who meet campaign services approval criteria will remain eligible for burger booth volunteer shifts, including posting and distributing campaign materials at or on the Burger Booth.”

E. Financial Assistance

1. Campaigns must make final requests for financial assistance to TCDEC by September 10th prior to the General Election.
2. Once a candidate has been endorsed, CSC may make financial assistance recommendations to the TCD membership at a regularly scheduled meeting. These recommendations shall be based on TCD budget and campaign need, and shall include a statement of the percent of the annual CSC candidate contribution budget. A candidate may receive multiple financial contributions.
3. TCD membership may vote on each individual candidate’s financial assistance separately.

F. General Provisions

1. Any member of the CSC who is employed by or is an active officer in the campaign of a candidate or ballot measure must disclose his or her role in that campaign. Any CSC member who is married to or involved with a candidate must recuse themselves from voting and recommendations to do with that campaign. At the request of other CSC members or candidates, the CSC member may not make a recommendation on candidates for that office or ballot measure and shall recuse him or herself from the candidate interview or from investigations of campaign services violations. Interview team members should avoid making campaign endorsements or contributions until the conclusion of the interview process.
2. Confidential campaign information provided by candidates during the campaign services application and interview process shall not be disclosed by CSC members.
3. Any campaign which violates these policies and procedures as outlined in this document or the TCD Code of Fair Campaign Practices will be subject to punitive

actions as decided by the TCD, which may include partial or full revocation of Campaign Services. If violations occur at an end of a campaign, violations may affect future recommendations for Campaign Services in subsequent elections and should be recorded.

4. Approval of Campaign Services may be revoked or partially revoked on an interim basis by a majority vote of the TCDEC until the next regularly scheduled TCD monthly meeting. Approval of campaign services may be revoked or partially revoked by the majority vote of the members present at a regularly scheduled monthly TCD CC meeting.

G. Enforcement of TCD Code of Fair Campaign Practices

1. Failure to abide by these rules or the TCD Code of Fair Campaign Practices may result in the revocation or denial of TCD Campaign Services.
2. Formal complaints for violations of the TCD Campaign Services Policy or TCD Code of Fair Campaign Practices may be brought forward by the opposing candidate or campaign or by a member of the CSC. Complaints will be accepted in writing either via email or via letter to the CSC Co-Chairs and the TCD Chair.
3. Once brought forward the CSC Co-Chairs and TCD Chair will conduct an initial examination of the merits of the complaint. This initial examination may last no longer than three days. No further action will be taken on complaints deemed frivolous by a majority of this group. If the complaint is found to have merit or require further investigation, the complaint will be referred to the CSC for further investigation and appropriate action.
4. Complaints will be classified into two tiers:
 - a. Tier 1 complaints are those communications or statements by a candidate/campaign that may represent an unintentional violation of the Fair Campaign Practices code, or statements made by campaign surrogates without a candidate or campaign manager's prior knowledge.
 - b. Tier 2 violations are those communications or statements that clearly cross the line of personal attacks or intentional misrepresentations of the opponent's positions or background.
Upon determination of the Tier violation the TCDEC must act within 30 days.

5. If determined to be well-founded following investigation by the CSC, Tier 1 violations would result in a formal, written warning to the candidate/campaign and a request that the candidate or campaign manager participate in an in-person meeting with one or both chairs of the CSC.

6. If determined to be well-founded following investigation by the CSC, Tier 2 violations or a second Tier 1 violation, would automatically be referred to the next meeting of the CSC, the TCDEC or to the TCD membership, whichever occurs first, for a vote on revocation or partial revocation of campaign services.

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