



KCDP Endorsement Policy

Adopted by the County Committee on April 14, 2021

1. Endorsement Committee

- a. An Endorsement Committee of 7 members of the KCDP County Committee shall be appointed to review and evaluate applications for endorsement.
- b. The members will include the KCDP Chair and at least one additional KCDP officer. Elected officials are prohibited from serving on the Endorsement Committee. The KCDP Chair will prioritize diversity, political experience, and prior service in committee appointments and shall appoint a Committee Chair from among the other 6 committee members.
- c. Committee members must recuse themselves from a vote involving themselves, an immediate family member, or a person for whom they are paid staff.
- d. The Committee may alter the endorsement questionnaire as it sees fit, with the input of the KCDP Officers, but may not eliminate the practice of the use of a questionnaire. All changes must be consistent with Section 6.
- e. The Committee shall review and evaluate applications for endorsement pursuant to Sections 4 and 5.
- f. The Committee is appointed to a term of 2 years, serving from March 1 of an odd-numbered year to February 28 of an odd-numbered year. A member may serve no more than two consecutive terms before one term off.
- g. The Committee must report its determinations and recommendations to the membership no later than the monthly meeting two months prior to an election.

2. Internal Party Office

- a. A member of the KCDP running for election to be an executive officer to the state or national party, or the Congressional district, may seek endorsement by the KCDP membership. The Chair may choose to place on the agenda the question of the endorsement of a member of the KCDP running for such office. Endorsement requests must be made in advance and placed on the agenda of a membership meeting. Motions for endorsement must be approved by voting members by a majority.
- b. Endorsement requests do not apply to officer positions for party caucuses.

3. Partisan Office

- a. Democratic candidates for partisan office are automatically endorsed by the Kent County Democratic party upon certification of the partisan primary election. The primary winner shall receive the endorsement.
- b. Democratic candidates for office that are chosen for the ballot via the Michigan Democratic Party Endorsement or Nomination Convention process, whether for the partisan or non-partisan section of the ballot, are automatically endorsed by the Kent County Democratic Party upon certification of the convention vote. Prior to the endorsement or nomination convention, the Chair may choose to place on the agenda the question of the endorsement of a member of the KCDP running for such office. Endorsement requests must be made in advance and placed on the agenda of a membership meeting. Motions for endorsement must be approved by voting members by a 2/3 majority.

4. Nonpartisan Office

- a. Candidates for nonpartisan office may seek an endorsement from the Kent County Democratic Party prior to a primary or general election.
- b. Candidates will be required to submit a questionnaire for review not less than 90 days prior to the election for which they seek endorsement.
- c. A third party will not submit a request for endorsement on behalf of any candidate.
- d. Requests will be relayed to the Endorsement Committee for review without delay.
- e. The Endorsement Committee Chair will make a reasonable effort to determine the status of endorsements issued by Democratic elected officials.
- f. The Endorsement Committee will evaluate each application and make endorsement recommendations to the membership.
- g. Recommendations must be approved by a 2/3 majority of voting members of the County Committee.
- h. Questionnaire for Nonpartisan Endorsement
 - i. A questionnaire will be made publicly available electronically to endorsement seekers.
 - ii. The questionnaire must include:
 - 1. Name of Candidate & Candidate Committee
 - 2. Office Sought
 - 3. Contact information
 - 4. Membership status of MDP and KCDP
 - 5. Involvement in supporting Democratic candidates & priorities

- 6. Other Endorsements
 - 7. A section for discussion of the issues pertinent to the office sought
 - 8. Candidate's intention for use of the endorsement
 - iii. Additional questions should be determined by the Endorsement Committee together with the KCDP Executive Officers.
 - iv. To be considered, questionnaires must be received not less than 90 days prior to the election under consideration.
 - v. A submitted questionnaire is valid for one election cycle.
5. Ballot Initiatives and Referendums
- a. Representatives from ballot initiative or referendum committees, and individual party members in good standing may seek an endorsement from the KCDP
 - b. Requests for endorsement for or against a ballot initiative or referendum should be submitted to the Endorsement Committee not less than 90 days prior to the election. Proposals should include the ballot language, and a recommendation for or against the proposal.
 - c. The Endorsement Committee will evaluate each proposal and by majority vote may make endorsement recommendations to the membership.
 - d. Recommendations must be approved by a majority of voting members of the County Committee.
6. Endorsement Benefits
- a. Candidates and ballot initiatives earning endorsement may access county party resources, including:
 - i. Direct contributions
 - ii. In-kind contributions
 - iii. Listing on printed materials
 - iv. Social media promotion
 - v. Community outreach access
 - b. Direct and In-Kind Contributions, and Independent Expenditures
 - i. The Endorsement Committee Chair, in consultation with the KCDP Chair, will make recommendations to the Endorsement Committee for PAC account expenditures including direct and in-kind contributions to candidate committees, and independent expenditures on behalf of candidate committees.
 - ii. Direct and in-kind contributions to a candidate committee and independent expenditures on behalf of a candidate committee must be approved by a majority of the endorsement committee. After

approval, the expenditures must be presented to voting members and approved consistent with KCDP bylaws.

- iii. In the period between the final monthly meeting before an election and that election date, the KCDP Chair may allocate contributions to candidates with the approval of the Endorsement Committee. The contributions approved for this period must not total more than were received during the period. The Chair will report this activity at the next membership meeting.

7. Retraction of Endorsement

- a. The endorsement Committee may recommend the retraction of any endorsement if during a candidacy one or more of the following occur: criminal behavior, criminal sexual conduct or sexual harassment, campaign finance violations, or other egregious behavior as determined by the KCDP Chair in consultation with the Endorsement Committee. A 75% majority of the County Committee may retract an endorsement.