Message from the DWCF Candidate Screening Committee

Karen Welzel, Chair of the DWCF Candidate Screening Committee would like to remind all Club Presidents of the procedure for Candidate Endorsement by the DWCF. We are excited by the increased interest by women in running for elected office and remind all clubs to be aware of potential candidates in their areas.

Clubs can support ALL Democratic candidates by distributing literature, assisting with phone banking, and providing a forum for candidates to speak to their groups. If a member of a club wishes to hold a house party for a primary and/or Federal candidate, she must do so without any attachment of the DWCF, Inc. or the name of the local club. Additionally, the DWCF is not allowed to contribute funds to Federal candidates. Any funds collected at a house party must be submitted by individuals only, and without any reference to the DWCF, Inc., or the local club.

The DWCF by-laws prohibit club endorsement for any election until after the primary unless the Democratic candidate is the only candidate for that seat at the end of the qualifying period. Therefore, a Club shall not, as an organization, endorse a candidate in the Primary elections; doing so will constitute a forfeiture of membership in the DWCF, Inc.

As individuals, we are all encouraged to support the Democratic candidate of our choice in the primary election, and to vote for the Democratic candidate in the General election.

Policy for DWCF Candidate Endorsement -

“…When there is only one Democratic candidate running, endorsement will be considered after the filing deadline/qualifying period has been met. This applies to local, State and Federal candidates, per NFDW rules. If there is a primary race between two or more Democrats, endorsement will be considered after the winner of the primary election has been determined. There will be only one endorsement considered per candidate per election cycle.

In special elections, endorsements can be considered when there is no other Democrat in that race; otherwise the rules above apply for special elections as well.

All local Democratic Women’s Clubs are asked to send a reference letter to the Candidate Screening Committee for ANY candidate from their area that requests DWCF endorsement. That reference letter should include the following:
1. Knowledge or confirmation of the candidate’s membership in the DWCF or any other Democratic clubs or organizations

2. Knowledge or confirmation of the candidate’s involvement in any community or civic activities,

3. Knowledge or confirmation of any commendations OR negative actions (facts only please, not rumors) brought forward about the candidate.

Some communities in the State have elections that are just a bit different. In some cases, generally municipal elections, the results of the Primary election do not end with a Democrat and a Republican moving on to the General Election. Some cases will have two Democrats moving on to the General Election, with no Republican opponent.

Elections with these “special circumstances” make the DWCF Request for Endorsement process unable to work the way it is intended. As a result, there are procedures to address these “special circumstances.”

6. When there are elections with “special circumstances,” local clubs that are in the District in question, will be asked to vote for the candidate of their choice, the winner meeting a 70% super majority. If there are no local clubs to hold that vote, endorsement cannot be made. If a candidate is a member of the local club, she/he is allowed to vote as well.

7. Elections should be by paper ballot, or clubs may vote by electronic mail, following Roberts Rules of Order, as applicable to local club policies and procedures. The rules for electronic voting should include a deadline date and time for members to submit their electronic ballot; any ballots submitted after the deadline will not be counted.

8. If there are 2 or more DW Clubs in overlapping Congressional Districts that have these “special circumstances,” all relevant clubs in that District should hold a vote by the active members, with a membership/quorum call. All clubs with counties that have overlapping districts MUST VOTE and submit their results by midnight, July 22, 2016. All clubs in the overlapping districts participating in this vote for endorsement must give the same candidate a 70% supermajority.

9. If all the overlapping districts/clubs do not agree on one candidate; endorsement will not be given.

DWCF can endorse Federal candidates but the DWCF Political Committee is not permitted to donate to Federal candidates, according to FEC guidelines. There are different deadlines for filing for local, State, and Federal candidates. Filing deadlines will be considered in the endorsement process.
Neither DWCF nor chartered clubs will endorse any candidate other than a Democrat under any circumstance, per DWCF Bylaws (Article II, Section 1-d). Non-partisan races are considered an opportunity for the DWCF to help build a bench of future Democratic candidates by considering endorsement for registered Democratic candidates in local, non-partisan elections.

DWC Membership is encouraged but is not a requirement to request endorsement. Membership does not guarantee endorsement.

Local DWCs are to comply with the above rules of endorsement as they relate to local, State and Federal candidates. Endorsements will be considered in a timely manner, according to the rules stated above.

It is not the responsibility of the Campaign Screening Committee to solicit candidates for endorsement. It is our goal to provide encouragement, support and endorsement for Democratic women and men to become more involved in the political process and to help “build the bench.” Local clubs and members should always be on the lookout for potential candidates, especially in the local arenas, and encourage those local candidates to review the DWCF platform, and potential for endorsement…

Please refer local candidates to our website for more information, http://www.dwcf.org/endorsementprocess/