

## **NETWORK 49 ENDORSEMENT GUIDELINES**

Network 49 may elect to consider and endorse candidates for elective office for any election that is called by the Cook County Board of Elections or the City of Chicago Board of Elections. Notwithstanding any other sections of these Bylaw, this Section governs the endorsement process of Network 49.

1. Endorsement sessions for elections will be held any time after the final day for submitting nominating petitions.
2. The Chair or Co-Chair shall convene all endorsement meetings or designate a person to chair, unless the Board has elected an officer charged with that responsibility.
3. All known candidates for a given office shall be invited to the endorsement session for their office. Each candidate who accepts the invitation shall separately and consecutively be interviewed at the same meeting, unless the Board specifically decides that because of difficulties in scheduling the candidates the interviews can be scheduled for non-consecutive times; however, the Steering Committee may not so decide in the following two cases:
  - a. County or State offices for which the membership has decided by the provisions of the Bylaws to hold a Membership Endorsement Session.
  - b. Local elections for which the district membership has met the requirements for a Membership Endorsement.
4. All members of the Organization must be invited to endorsement sessions affecting areas in which they are voting members.
5. All notices of endorsement sessions shall be emailed to the Membership and posted to the Organization website at least seven (7) business days before the session except in an emergency situation, in which case the Board is authorized to shorten the notice period. A person shall not vote if s/he fails to satisfy the requirements of the Bylaws.
6. The categories of endorsement action by the Organization shall be: "endorsed" or "no endorsement." The Organization shall only endorse the number of candidates that will be elected. In races in which more than one candidate will be elected, endorsement motions must be for individual candidates.
7. Every endorsement session shall be attended by a quorum (50 % plus one of members present) of the Board. That person will be specifically delegated by the Board to resolve any disputes with respect to membership eligibility. Any member in good standing may challenge the eligibility of another member, stating clearly to the delegate Director the reason for the challenge. If the challenge is upheld by the delegate, the challenged member may be required to produce identification resolving the discrepancy. The delegate's rulings may be overruled by a 2/3 vote of those present and voting.
8. Candidates for elective office, their families and staff, if they are members of the Organization, shall be counted toward the quorum at endorsement sessions.
9. Candidates may not be present for discussion and voting. Candidates who meet all other requirements for voting may vote by leaving their written, signed proxies with the individual chairing the

meeting. Each proxy shall direct the chair or any qualified voting member, to cast a vote for or against specified motions.

10. Candidate's families and staff, if they are members of the Organization, may participate in discussions and voting.

11. All voting for candidate endorsements, other than judicial endorsements, shall be by show of hands. Upon the motion of any five members, a vote shall be by secret ballot. At an interviewing session for judicial candidates, a secret ballot will be ordered upon the request of one member.

12. Evaluation materials on each candidate shall be prepared at the direction of the Board prior to the endorsement meeting.

13. Whenever Network 49 shall have endorsed any person for an elective or appointive office at any level, no member of the Organization may, as such, actively promote that candidacy of any opponent of such endorsed persons unless they/them, in good faith, makes clear at all appropriate times that they/them is not representing or speaking for or as a member of the Organization.

14. When a board vote is necessary between an interview session and a public election, and there is no intervening Board meeting, the Board shall be authorized to arrange for a Phone poll of the Board. The poll must have a minimum 3-day notice from the date of the mailing, with a summary of arguments of the session provided with the notice. The notice will announce a specific 48 hour calling period for the vote. After the first 24 hours the staff will begin to call alphabetically board members not responding until a number sufficient to take action is attained.

15. No action on candidates may be taken by the Board unless specifically authorized by the Board in the case of specific candidates.

16. In the case of the death, withdrawal or removal from the ballot of any of the candidates for an office for which the Organization has made an endorsement, a new endorsement decision can be made in the same way as originally unless the original endorsement consisted of an endorsement of two or more candidates.

17. Except in the case of death, withdrawal or removal from the ballot of one of the candidates, an endorsement decision can only be changed by the membership. A meeting to consider such a change may be called under extraordinary circumstances by either the Chair or or upon petition of at least 10% of the membership. A change in the original endorsement may then be made at such a meeting if it receives a 2/3 favorable vote and if the other usual requirements for a Membership Endorsement are met.

18. No Candidate For office other than for President or Vice President of the United States shall be endorsed unless the candidate completes the questionnaire for the current election cycle. No Candidate for office other than for President or Vice President of the United States, or for a circuit court vacancy, or for circuit court retention, shall be endorsed unless the candidate participates in an endorsement interview, either in person, by telephone, or by proxy. The requirements of this bylaw shall be included in all notices to candidates inviting them to apply for endorsement.