

Rules would like to replace the current Standing Rule #7 with the new text of the Endorsements process from the upcoming new bylaws revision.

The new SR7 is an improvement over our current process taking into account the survey results from over the summer. We collected feedback from many party members and elected officials when crafting this rule.

While this new rule is included in the upcoming bylaws revision, we would like to pass these rules as soon as possible so that the Chair can appoint new Endorsement Committee members for the 2022 election season. We want to make sure that these rules are set so that prospective committee members understand the work they need to do, and if the rules committee needs to potentially continue work on the new bylaw revision, this process does not change from under the feet of the Endorsements Committee.

Rules Committee did not attempt to reinvent the wheel with the new SR7. The feedback we received from members of the party was that the process was mostly very good, but some changes were needed to better serve candidates, as well as serve party members when making an endorsement choice in a situation where we have two or more qualified candidates vying for our endorsement.

To these ends, Rules made the following changes:

We defined two documents that the Endorsement Committee must create and maintain. The first is an Application for Endorsement, which we intend to have posted on the website and ready to collect information from Democratic candidates the moment we are ready. The second is an Endorsement Questionnaire, which already exists and is maintained by the Endorsement Committee. When the Endorsement Committee presents their recommendations to the Central Committee, they are required to now provide a written report ahead of time that includes the Questionnaire. The language here is fairly soft, so if the Endorsement Committee is running up against a deadline, they can submit just what they have ready, and provide the full report at the meeting.

We now require that Endorsements before the Voters Pamphlet Deadline be considered in a single special meeting just for Endorsements. This was requested in the survey, and we set the date to at least 6 days before the Voters Pamphlet Deadline. We hope that this allows the Endorsements Committee to reach out to all of the great Democratic candidates interested in our endorsement and make sure that we make the best decision possible.

Finally, Rules freed up the requirement that all Endorsements must be made before the Voters Pamphlet Deadline. A few times now, we've needed to suspend rules to allow the consideration of candidates beyond that deadline, and Rules feels like if that is something we do regularly, we should probably just remove any question as to whether or not the Endorsements committee can continue past that deadline. If a Candidate requests our Endorsement after the Voters Pamphlet Deadline, we will now consider that Endorsement at the next CC meeting after it's submitted.

All in all, we hope these rules bring clarity to the Endorsement process and help serve the CC and our goal to elect Democrats.