

Endorsement Procedure for the KADC

DEFINITIONS:

The Kutztown Area Democratic Club is a State PAC and 527, meaning that its activities, with respect to endorsements, are limited to candidates for State, County, and Local offices. To be clear, that means that we are not considering endorsements of candidates for President or U.S. Congressional seats. In order to endorse federal candidates, we would need to register as a Federal PAC.

For the purposes of this procedure, the term endorsement refers to endorsing candidates in primary elections in accordance with Pennsylvania's State PAC rules.

WHO PARTICIPATES IN THE ENDORSEMENT PROCESS?

Only voting members of the KADC are eligible to participate in the endorsement process. Voting members are those who have paid dues to the organization in the year the endorsements are taking place, whether or not they are otherwise active members. The exceptions to this are those members who paid dues from September through December of the previous calendar year. It has been the tradition of the KADC that people who join late in the year do not have to pay again in January.

To make the process as efficient as possible, given the large number of voting members, an Endorsement Committee of no more than 10 members will be established, composed of members who volunteer to serve. The president reserves the right granted in the by-laws to appoint members to the committee. The by-laws also grant the president the ability to form special committees. At the outset, this will be such a committee. If the process proves successful, the committee could become a standing committee by conducting a vote to revise the by-laws. The special committee will be responsible for managing the process, including the following:

- They will work with candidates seeking endorsements and would serve as the point of contact for those candidates.
- They will manage the process of determining the issues on which the candidates would be questioned.
- They will solicit interview questions from the voting members, design the interview questionnaire, schedule and conduct the interviews. Voting members will be able to

attend the interviews, but will not be allowed to question candidates without the permission of the endorsement committee.

- They will prepare written reports including the candidates' responses and their own evaluations of the candidates to distribute to the voting members via email or paper mail.
- They will have the option of inviting candidates to participate in the process.

In addition to submitting interview questions and having the option to attend interviews, all voting members of the KADC will be given the opportunity to vote on each of the endorsement requests.

DETERMINING WHETHER OR NOT TO ENDORSE:

Upon receipt of the final report from the Endorsement Committee, all voting members will be given the opportunity to vote whether or not to endorse the candidate(s) in question. 66% of the voting members casting ballots need to agree to endorse a candidate in order for the KADC to grant the endorsement.

The KADC will base its decisions whether or not to endorse on individual candidates, rather than on races. In other words, the club should never feel compelled to pick among the candidates running for the same office if none of them meets our criteria. Similarly, candidates running unopposed could receive an endorsement.

FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTIONS:

At present, the KADC has limited funding to tie financial contributions to endorsements. The Endorsement Committee could choose to host fundraising events and distribute those funds among the candidates endorsed by the club. At the outset, we should concentrate on the endorsements themselves and not any associated financial contributions. If the process is successful, we can consider creating an additional process for making financial contributions. In that event, we would need to clearly separate funds raised as part of the endorsement process from those allocated for other political activities, like doing mailers or having money on hand to contribute to candidates in general or special elections.

FINAL CONSIDERATIONS:

The Endorsement Committee is responsible for working out any details of the process not covered in this proposal or amended to it at the time the vote was taken on it. The committee will report its activities at the monthly Business Meetings and any matters requiring a vote will be handled as New or Old Business in the course of those meetings unless an issue arises that is deemed necessary to put to the entire voting membership. In that instance, notice of the upcoming vote will be sent out via Constant Contact and will be stated in meeting announcements in the KADC Newsletter and on the KADC site.