



2020 MDP Environmental Caucus

Process for Candidates Requesting General and Primary Endorsements

Applications for endorsement of candidates in the 2020 election cycle will be available on the Michigan Democratic Party (MDP) Environmental Caucus website (greenmdp.com) and Facebook page (facebook.com/GreenMDP) starting April 27, 2020. Specific applications will be available until one month before Election Day (October 3, 2020) for candidates seeking election to one of the following offices:

- U.S. Senate
- U.S. House of Representatives
- Michigan Senate
- Michigan House of Representatives
- Judges and Prosecutors
- Other city and county elections

The MDP Environmental Caucus, and its Endorsement Committee, will process applications for endorsement of candidates. The leadership of MDP Environmental Caucus are elected at a MDP convention. The elected members serve on the Executive Committee of the Environmental Caucus. The Endorsement Committee is made up of Caucus members who volunteer to assume a leadership position in the endorsement process. The process used by the Caucus for endorsement of candidates is as follows:

- The Caucus, as part of the election cycle, will contact candidates in an effort to inform them of the endorsement process.
- Candidates will be informed that applications will be accepted through July 7th for the Primary, and October 3, for the General.
- Applications are to be sent via email to info@greenmdp.com with the subject: "2020 endorsement application – [Your Last Name]".
- Applications will be reviewed in the order they are received.
- Applicants will be notified via email of the status of their application:
 - Within seven days of submission – confirmation of receipt.
 - Within 14 days of submission – public posting of questionnaire responses.
 - Within 30 days of submission – status update.
 - Within 60 days of submission – final decision on endorsement.
- Multiple endorsements for each office will be considered. If a candidate submits an application for a position in which a candidate has already been endorsed, the Caucus reserves the right to issue a second endorsement.
- All submitted applications will be made publicly available on the Caucus website within two weeks of submission. Comments from Caucus members will be open for two weeks following the initial public posting of an application.
- The Caucus Endorsement Committee will review applications and public comments within 30 days of application submission.
 - A "yes" recommendation for endorsement of an application must be supported by at least 75% of the members of the Endorsement Committee and forwarded to the Executive Committee in a timely manner.

- An application that is not supported by at least 75% of the members of the Endorsement Committee must be forwarded to the Executive Committee with a “no” recommendation in a timely manner.
- Each recommendation submitted by the Endorsement Committee to the Executive Committee must contain a short written report with five to ten supporting arguments.
- The Executive Committee must review the recommendations of the Endorsement Committee at a scheduled or special meeting of the Executive Committee.
- The Executive Committee must vote on each recommendation submitted by the Endorsement Committee or return the application to the Endorsement Committee stating the compelling reasons that the review be repeated.
- Candidates must receive at least 51% of the Executive Committee vote in order to receive an endorsement from the Caucus.
- In the case that the review of Executive Committee results in a tie vote, the initial recommendation from the Endorsement Committee will be the final decision.
- The Executive Committee will be required to disclose if they are hired staff for a campaign; however, staff will not be removed from the voting process.

A recommendation from the Endorsement Committee will be based on the candidate:

1. Responding to the endorsement questionnaire,
2. Demonstrating that the campaign has a legitimate structure,
3. Demonstrating an understanding of the office and ability to execute the demands and expectations of the office,
4. Possessing the character and integrity required by the MDP code of conduct,
5. Having a record of leading, advocating and involvement in programs to improve the environment,
6. Leading and advance environmental programs in the candidate’s community, and
7. Developing a campaign supported by individuals and not large donors.

The Endorsement Committee will insure that:

- Personal conflicts with candidates will not be discussed during the endorsement process.
- Policy will take precedence over popularity/name recognition/political career.
- Polling numbers will not be used or discussed as criteria for endorsement.

What comes with an endorsement from the MDP Environmental Caucus?

- Process is completed for the election cycle. Decisions will be made on a case-by-case basis.
- Canvassing and Phone banking – Local environmentalists will be encouraged to volunteer for endorsed candidates, and/or organize days of action in support of candidates.
- Social Media outreach and support will be provided.
- Financial Support – The Caucus will make financial distribution decisions after the endorsement.

Endorsed candidates are expected to uphold the values presented in their questionnaire responses throughout the course of their campaign, and if elected, during their tenure in office. The Caucus reserves the right to revoke an endorsement in the following circumstances:

- The candidate displays behavior in violation of the MDP code of conduct.
- The candidate votes/expresses policy stances contrary to responses in the candidate’s application.

Upon revoking a candidate’s endorsement, the candidate will be notified immediately. The MDP Environmental Caucus will issue a public statement on the revocation in a timely manner.