



Constitution Party of North Carolina

CANDIDATE ENDORSEMENT APPLICANT GUIDE

*Administered by the Committee in Charge of Candidate Affairs
Constitution Party of North Carolina Ballot Access Committee*

Goal of Candidate Endorsement Procedure

The goal of the Candidate Endorsement Procedure, herein established pursuant to Article XIII – Candidates of the Rules and Bylaws of the Constitution Party of North Carolina, is to set up guidelines by which the Committee in charge of Candidate Affairs may vet public officials or candidates for elected office for endorsement by the State Executive Committee of the Constitution Party of North Carolina. The purpose of these procedures is to protect the integrity, image and direction of the Constitution Party of North Carolina and the burden of proof of the requirements, herein set out, lay on the candidate or public official seeking endorsement. The Committee in charge of Candidate Affairs reserves the right to waive procedural requirements not stipulated in the Rules and Bylaws of the Constitution Party of North Carolina when deemed necessary. Henceforth the term:

- (1) “Constitution Party of North Carolina” will be referred to as the “Party.”
- (2) “Committee in charge of Candidate Affairs” will be referred to as the “Committee.”
- (3) “day” or “days” refers to weekdays, and does not include Sunday, Saturday or any nationally recognized holiday.

Endorsement Categories

Endorsements are available in three separate categories depending on the individual candidate or elected official’s situation and ballot access status of the Constitution Party of North Carolina. The three endorsement categories, which may have differing requirements for endorsement, are below:

Affiliated Candidate: Dues paying Full Member of the Party, affiliated with the Party according to the candidate’s voter registration with the North Carolina State Board of Elections, running for elective office in the State of North Carolina who is running for Party nomination; not a candidate under any other political affiliation. This endorsement type is only available after the candidates filing date set by law.

Non-Affiliated Candidate: Non-Member or dues paying Full Member of the Party running for elective office in the State of North Carolina who is running for office under any political affiliation other than the Constitution Party of North Carolina.

Affiliated Elected Official: Elected official who was elected to public office in the State of North Carolina under a political affiliation other than the Party, who has changed their political affiliation on their voter registration with the North Carolina State Board of Elections to the Party and has become a dues paying Full Member of the Party. _In time when the Party does not have ballot access, this category can apply to elected officials who become dues paying members of the Party, but do not have to change their political affiliation on their voter registration with the North Carolina State Board of Elections.

Applicant Requirements

(1) **Full Application:** Applicants must submit the Endorsement of Candidacy Form, including the Essential Core Values Pledge, and all other required documentation, statements and information the candidate believes to be pertinent to his possible endorsement by the Party, under one cover via postal mail to the State Party’s mailing address as shown on the State Party website, postmarked no later than 60 days before the date of the election that the candidates name will appear on the ballot. If documentation is being sent to the Committee in Charge of Candidates Affairs by another institution, that documentation may arrive separate from the initial Application documents, as long as the documentation expressly shows that it is for the candidate seeking endorsement.

(2) **Endorsement of Candidacy Form:** The Endorsement of Candidacy Form must be submitted with the application, and all questions asked therein must be answered and all required fields, as prescribed on the form, must be filled out to the best of the candidate's knowledge and ability. The Endorsement of Candidacy Form consists of basic information questions about the candidate, affiliation, past affiliations, endorsement category, campaign address and other pertinent information as well as a questionnaire.

(3) **Essential Core Values Pledge:** As prescribed by the Bylaws of the Party under Article XIII, candidates seeking the endorsement of the Party must agree with the Essential Core Values of the Party and sign an Essential Core Values Pledge. As part of the Essential Core Values Pledge, candidates will submit statements expressing their view and support for each of the Essential Core Values of the Party, including how they have in the past and how they plan in the future to support those Values. There are no length requirements for Essential Core Value statements.

(4) **Letter of Intent:** Each application shall include a letter of intent containing at least the following information:

- (a) Why the candidate seeks the endorsement of the Party.
- (b) The elected position sought.
- (c) Brief statement on what qualifies the applicant to hold the office sought.

(5) **Other Required Documentation:** The additional documentation required below will be used to help the Committee in Charge of Candidates Affairs and State Executive Committee to make a better informed decision and to ensure all Constitutional requirements both state and federal are met.

- (a) Copy of Certified Birth Certificate (Certification of Birth is not acceptable).
- (b) Proof of United State citizenship, if not a natural born citizen.
- (c) Proof of Residency in North Carolina (except for President and Vice-President) meeting the North Carolina and United States Constitutions required time periods.
- (d) Statement or list of political and civic involvements over the course of your life, specifically the past 10 years.
- (e) Copy of résumé including occupational and educational background.
- (f) At least two letters of recommendation, along with the rest of the application, stating why the candidate is suitable for the office sought.
- (g) If the candidate falls within the Endorsement Category of Affiliated Elected Official, a statement explaining the reason for switching Party affiliation, along with a copy of the letter to the governing body the party of your previous political affiliation stating your switch in party affiliation and resignation from any office held within that party, and a copy of the letter to your constituents announcing your political affiliation change must also accompany the application. In times when the Party is not qualified for the election ballot, candidates seeking endorsement under the Affiliated Elected Official category are not required to change their political affiliation nor required to resign from positions with that Party affiliation, though it is recommended that they do such.

(6) The Party will incur no monetary obligations or pay fees to acquire documentation required herein for endorsement of candidates. All monetary obligations shall be paid by the candidate seeking endorsement. The Committee in Charge of Candidates Affairs reserves the right to request a background check or other information at their discretion.

Post Endorsement Requirements

(1) All candidates endorsed by the Party are expected to post a notice on their campaign website stating that their candidacy is endorsed by the Constitution Party of North Carolina with a link to the State Party website at www.constitutionspartync.com.