



Constitution Party of North Carolina

CANDIDATE ENDORSEMENT PROCEDURE

*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) “Rules and Bylaws of the Constitution Party of North Carolina” will be referred to as the “Bylaws of the Party.”
- (4) “State Executive Committee” will be referred to as the “SEC.”
- (5) “Candidate Endorsement Procedure” will be referred to as the “Endorsement Procedure.”
- (6) “North Carolina State Board of Elections” will be referred to as the “NCSBOE.”
- (7) “political affiliation” refers to any affiliation recognized by the NCSBOE including Unaffiliated.
- (8) “day” or “days” refers to weekdays, and does not include Sunday, Saturday or any nationally recognized holiday.

Endorsement Categories

The Party offers to endorse those individuals who comply with the requirements of the Bylaws of the Party and the requirements of the Endorsement Procedure herein established, and in that, offers endorsements based on the individuals specific situation. 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 NCSBOE, 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 NCSBOE 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 NCSBOE.

Preliminary Procedure Information

- (1) The Committee in charge of Candidate Affairs, pursuant to Article XIII(3)(g) of the Bylaws of the Party, shall be appointed by the State Chairman and approved by the SEC. The Committee shall formulate procedures by which the Party will endorse candidates, upon approval of the SEC.
- (2) The Committee will seek out and accept applications for endorsement of candidates and evaluate those applications for endorsement according to the procedures herein established and will deliver recommendations to the SEC for candidate endorsement by the Party.
- (3) The Committee will be responsible for prescribing the forms required for endorsements by the Bylaws of the Party and others that it may establish herein.
- (4) The Chairman of the Committee shall:
 - (a) ensure that copies of the Endorsement Procedure, Endorsement of Candidacy Form and Essential Core Values Pledge are available on the Party website.
 - (b) to the best of the Chair's ability, ensure that all procedures established by the Committee and approved by the SEC are kept current and compliant with North Carolina law.
 - (c) ensure that all applications for endorsement, remarks and decisions made by the Committee, and the SEC if applicable, for each individual application are kept on file with the State Secretary of the Party indefinitely.
 - (d) ensure that recommendations for endorsement are presented to the SEC within 5 days of the decision of the Committee.

Endorsement Procedure

- (1) Upon receipt of an Endorsement of Candidacy Form the Chairman of the Committee will distribute the Forms and all other required documentation and forms to the members of the Committee in the time prescribed herein.
- (2) Each member of the Committee will, with all diligence, review the application and required documentation and forms, applying the most weight to the applicants written statements on the Essential Core Values of the Party as required herein and then the application questionnaire and additional comments. Evaluation of the application will be based on the Essential Core Values of the Party, questionnaire responses based upon the North Carolina and National Platforms of the Party and the number of candidates who are seeking the endorsement of the Party.
 - (i) Applicants will be separated into groups based on the Endorsement Category explained above.
- (3) The Committee will have no more than 30 days from disbursement of the individual candidate's application materials to reach a decision on candidate endorsement and then present the Committee's decision on endorsement or non-endorsement to the SEC. The Committee may by a majority vote

postpone the vote and must inform the SEC of the reason for postponement and the amount of time requested. In case of a tie vote, the State Chairman will hold the tie breaking vote.

(a) The Committee may vote by a majority of those present, consisting of a quorum, to either present the candidate to the SEC with the recommendation to endorse or not to endorse.

(4) Upon a vote by the Committee to present their recommendation to the SEC of the Party, the candidate's Application documents will be forwarded to the SEC via e-mail within 5 days of the vote of the Committee. The SEC then will be responsible for timely voting on the endorsement of said candidate and transmitting their decision to the Chairman of the Committee.

(5) Once the SEC has made their decision on whether or not to endorse the candidate in question and has transmitted their decision to the Chairman of the Committee with any comments they deem necessary, and a reason for not endorsing candidates that the SEC rejects, the Chairman of the Committee will distribute the SEC's decision to the Committee and send a written letter via postal mail to the candidate informing of them of the SEC's decision within 5 days from receiving the decision from the SEC.

(6) The Chairman of the Committee will cause to be published on the State Party website the name, office sought, e-mail (where applicable) and website (where applicable) of endorsed candidates within 5 days of receiving the decision from the SEC.

(7) Misrepresentation of information or patently false information provided by a candidate in the application is immediate grounds for suspension of any previously granted endorsement and grounds for immediate termination of a current application for endorsement.

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 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 and SEC 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 of 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.

(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 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.constitutionpartync.com.