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BCRP POLICY 6.2 ENDORSEMENTS

1. PURPOSE:

BCRP endorsements are intended to help elect Republicans to both partisan and non-partisan offices at the local, state, and national levels.

2. OBJECTIVE:

The objective of BCRP endorsements is to identify to registered voters the candidates who have earned the support of the BCRP Central Committee. Endorsement signifies that a candidate is viable, electable, and worthy of the support of voters. The goal of BCRP is to have candidate endorsements recognized by the public as an essential factor in electing candidates.

For this policy, ENDORSEMENT means:

- To approve openly and express support.
- To give approval of or support to by public statement
- To give official sanction,
- To become eligible for financial backing.

3. TYPES OF ENDORSEMENTS

3.1. Partisan Elections

- 3.1.1. County -The BCRP must offer endorsement opportunities to Republican candidates for partisan office during a regular or special election cycle for offices within Benton County.
- 3.1.2. State - The BCRP shall seek to endorse Republican candidates for State office during regular and special election cycles.
- 3.1.3. Federal - The BCRP shall seek to endorse Republican candidates for Federal office during regular and special election cycles.

3.2. Non-Partisan Elections

The BCRP may endorse candidates for Local, County or State non-partisan office during regular and special election cycles as deemed appropriate by the Central Committee.

4. OPPORTUNITY FOR ENDORSEMENTS

Washington State participates in a Top-Two Primary process. When there are filings of more than two candidates for a position, a Primary Election is held in which the top two vote recipients will then be included on the General Election Ballot. **The BCRP recognizes multiple opportunities of vetting candidates for consideration of endorsement. BCRP may choose to not endorse any candidate; endorse a single candidate; or endorse multiple candidates for any elected position. However, a decision to not endorse any candidate or to endorse multiple candidates may have negative consequences.** BCRP has identified the following opportunities for endorsement:

- 4.1. Candidate who has declared a campaign for an office prior to the official filing period.
- 4.2. Candidate who has filed for an elected office and will participate in a contested Primary Election.
- 4.3. Candidate who has filed for an elected office and will appear on the General Election Ballot.
- 4.4. Candidate who did not file for office, but who is campaigning as a write-in candidate.
- 4.5. Any member of the Central Committee will be able to make recommendations to include additional nominees to the list of candidates to be vetted.

5. **POLICY:** The Benton County Republican Party believes that fair and open primary competition (for open seats or seats held by Democrats) will provide the strongest Republican candidate for the general election. **It is generally our policy not to endorse or support a Republican candidate in an election contested by multiple Republican candidates prior to the primary election.** Only under the most unusual circumstances and with the concurrence of the Executive Committee will we provide support to a primary election challenger to an incumbent Republican running for re-election. There can be special circumstances where pre-primary endorsement or support will be an overall benefit to the Party. The Chairman and the Executive Committee will make the determination and refer such cases to the BCRP Nominating Committee.

6. **PRE-PRIMARY ENDORSEMENT GUIDELINES:** Because of the lateness of the Washington State Primary and the need for all candidates to build their Republican base and campaign funds, the Party may provide certain pre-primary endorsement to all bona fide Republican candidates **for federal or statewide offices** if these criteria are followed:

- 6.1. There is only one Republican Candidate Declared.
- 6.2. There are special circumstances where pre-primary endorsement or support will be an overall benefit to the Party.
- 6.3. The candidate has declared their candidacy as a Republican running for office
- 6.4. The candidate has declared their support for the party platform. If there are portions of the platform the candidate disagrees with, they should submit in writing why they disagree with the platform.

- 6.5. The candidate provides evidence of a campaign action plan and responsible campaign committee to support their campaign.
- 6.6. The candidate has assembled a campaign staff to support their campaign.
- 6.7. The candidate has shown the ability to raise funds to support their campaign.

7. FUNDRAISING:

Candidates seeking pre-primary endorsement should be able to demonstrate the ability to be elected or the ability to raise funds from individual donors, as well as personal loans, sufficient to support their campaign in accordance with the following guidelines:

- 7.1. State executive candidates-Governor \$1million.
- 7.2. All other statewide **executive** positions \$250K.
- 7.3. U.S. Senate, \$1Million aggregate from more than 1,000 individual donors.
- 7.4. U.S. House of Representatives, \$250K.

8. ENDORSEMENT:

- 8.1. For **pre-primary and pre-filing** endorsement of Statewide Executive, U.S. Senate, U.S. House of Representatives, and County candidates shall be considered endorsed by receiving 67% approval vote of a BCRP comprehensive business quorum.
- 8.2. **Post-filing** endorsement of Statewide Executive, U.S. Senate, U.S. House of Representatives, Local, County, and Statewide Executives candidates shall be considered endorsed by receiving 60% approval vote of a BCRP comprehensive business quorum
- 8.3. For **post-primary** endorsement of Local, County, Statewide Executive, U.S. Senate, and U.S. House of Representatives candidates shall be considered endorsed by receiving 55% approval vote of a BCRP comprehensive business quorum.
- 8.4. Endorsement during a year when redistricting occurs shall only occur after the redistricting maps have been approved by the Redistricting Commission.

9. NOMINATING COMMITTEE RESPONSIBILITIES

- 9.1. Verify that the candidate's political philosophy is in general agreement with the BCRP Platform. Note where the Candidate differs with the BCRP Platform and why.
- 9.2. The BCRP Nominating Committee will vet and review the candidate and campaign plan for Statewide and Congressional District races.
- 9.3. Verify that the candidate has a realistic written campaign plan including a winning strategy, a campaign budget, and a fundraising plan.
- 9.4. Submit a report on all county candidate assistance requests to the BCRP Executive Committee.
- 9.5. The Nominating Committee will determine if there is a shortage of fundraising or there is a deficiency in any of the guidelines in the Political Campaign Plan Outline. The Nominating Committee will determine if there are sufficient funds based on section 7 of this document.
- 9.6. The Nominating Committee will provide recommendations for endorsement to the Executive Committee.
- 9.7. The Nominating Committee will only speak of fact when addressing the Central Committee on its recommendations or non-recommendations of candidates. Any information that cannot be

corroborated about candidates must not be mentioned unless the Nominating Committee has actual evidence to present to the Central Committee to the contrary.

- 9.8. The Nominating Committee will not recommend a candidate for early endorsement more than 12 months prior to the general election.

10. CANDIDATE SUPPORT COMMITTEE RESPONSIBILITIES

- 10.1. When candidates are seeking endorsement from the BCRP, the Candidate Support Committee will conduct a Candidate Interview Forum to allow the PCOs to question the candidates prior to a vote for endorsement.
- 10.2. The Candidate Interview Forum will be conducted as follows:
 - 10.2.1. The Candidate Interview Forum will be conducted in addition to or in lieu of the scheduled Central Committee meeting.
 - 10.2.2. All candidates should be present for the forum.
 - 10.2.3. Candidates will be given five minutes to address the Central Committee PCOs and tell why they are running for office.
 - 10.2.4. PCOs will be given the opportunity to ask questions to the candidate of their choice... one question and one candidate at a time.
- 10.3. In conference with the candidate, develop a plan for campaign assistance to endorsed candidates and implement that plan within BCRP budget funding constraints.
- 10.4. Submit a report on all county candidate assistance requests to the BCRP Executive Committee.

11. CANDIDATE RESPONSIBILITIES

- 11.1. The candidate must declare his or her general support in writing for the Benton County Republican Party Platform and clearly define points of disagreement in writing if any exist.
- 11.2. The candidate must have a realistic written campaign plan including a winning strategy, a campaign budget, and a fundraising plan.
- 11.3. The candidate must have demonstrated the ability to raise funds within the district from potential voters.
- 11.4. The candidates will participate in the BCRP Candidate Interview Forum conducted by the BCRP Candidate Support Committee and the Precinct Committee Officers.

12. COUNTY CHAIRMAN RESPONSIBILITIES

- 12.1. In partisan races for county offices, the Benton County Central Committee declares that the office being sought is of "key" importance to them and requests pre-primary BCRP support for that race. The Pre-Primary Guidelines of section 6 of this document shall apply.
- 12.2. Verify that the county candidate has a reasonable chance to win the general election.
- 12.3. Determine the appropriate level and type of support to be given any primary candidate requesting support.
- 12.4. Authorize primary election support only within the approved BCRP budget.
- 12.5. Decisions based on the guidance of this policy will be made by the BCRP Chairman, to determine compliance with the policy.
- 12.6. Require the Nominating Committee to vet the candidates running for state executive or federal House and Senate positions.

- 12.7.** The Chairman will require the Candidate Support Committee to conduct a Candidate Interview Forum for the benefit of the Central Committee.
- 12.8.** The Chairman will present the request for support or endorsement to the Central Committee prior to conducting to vote to endorse any candidate.

13. VOTING ON ENDORSEMENTS

- 13.1.** Regardless of the number of candidates for a single elected position considered for endorsement, the Central Committee members will vote for only one candidate for endorsement. A candidate must receive votes equal to or exceeding the percentage requirements specified in Section 8 of this policy to be endorsed. If the percentage requirements are not met, there is no endorsement at that time.

14. REVOCATION OF AN ENDORSEMENT

- 14.1.** A candidate who has received the endorsement of the Central Committee may be subject to proceedings wherein the previously-conferred endorsement may be revoked. The Executive Committee will review circumstances of a candidate who has received the endorsement of the BCRP. Upon a majority vote of the Executive Committee quorum, a special meeting of the Central Committee will be called to consider the revocation of any prior endorsement of the Party for just cause. If a special meeting is called, notification will be in accordance with Section 6.1 of the BCRP Bylaws. The endorsement will be revoked upon a vote of at least 60% of the General Business quorum.