

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

About the BWHDP Candidate Screening & Endorsement Process

1. *When did this endorsement process become the rule?*

The rules surrounding this process took effect on March 1, 2019.

The Rules and Reference Committee of the BWHDP, along with the Campaign, Executive, and Central Committees, gathered data over a period of roughly 8 years – including voter feedback – to make sure that our rules meet the needs of our Party and best serve our constituents.

This process codified years of best practices and officially rejected not-so-good practices.

2. *Why does the BWHDP have such a strict process?*

Part of it has to do with the County Corruption Scandal of 2008-2012, as well as local political scandals over the past 10-15 years.

Part of it has to do with the less than high quality of candidates we have been introduced to over the past decade or so in a variety of offices.

Part of it has to do with elected officials not making contact with this Local Democratic Party once they are in office, ignoring us, and/or thinking that we are irrelevant, and what we do does not matter.

All of it has to do with the dictate of the people we serve telling us to give them the choice of the best possible elected officials and candidates.

3. *How long does the process take?*

3-6 months from start to finish in most cases.

4. *How long is the BWHDP's endorsement in effect?*

Until there is a superseding endorsement by the Cuyahoga County or Ohio Democratic Parties in a given race that is awarded to a different candidate...

- Or -

Until the end of the election if the BWHDP endorsement is the same of the highest endorsement conferred (CCDP or ODP)

5. *Who do the endorsement rules apply to?*

- a.) All Officers of the Bedford/Walton Hills Democratic Party, including members of standing committees.
- b.) All Members of the Democratic Central and Executive Committees from the City of Bedford and/or Village of Walton Hills.
- c.) All Elected Officials affiliated with the Democratic Party who serve the City of Bedford and/or the Village of Walton Hills (including county- and state-level).
- d.) All candidates for office affiliated with the Democratic Party who seek to serve the City of Bedford and/or Village of Walton Hills.

*Affiliated with means REGISTERED VOTER who has declared themselves to be a member the Democratic Party in a Primary Election.

6. *I like a candidate for office, what can I do to show my support?*

If you are any of the folks listed above, send a letter to the Executive Committee, c/o the Committee Clerk. It will be added to the file.

If you are a Member of the Party (meaning: Any registered Dem in Bedford or Walton Hills), you can send a letter to the Executive Committee, too, or reach out to your Central Committee Member. Also, do the normal campaign stuff.

7. *What rules are in effect once a candidate is endorsed?*

Our endorsement rules are published on our website, www.bwhdems.org.

8. *Are there penalties for violating the endorsement rules?*

Yes. They apply to the people listed above in question 5.

The penalties can range from a letter to censure to preclusion from receiving a future endorsement to expulsion and ban from the Bedford/Walton Hills Democratic Party.

Also, depending upon the nature of the alleged infraction, there could be a referral to other bodies.

9. Is there an “Incumbency Rule?”

No. Nor are there any waivers for any part of the process for incumbents. Every candidate and incumbent officeholder who wants the BWHDP endorsement and the support of the Democratic Leader at the Leaders’ Recommendation Meeting, as well as the support of our Executive Committee Members at the county level, MUST engage in this process.

10.If a higher-level Party Unit endorses, what happens to the BWHDP endorsement, and how will I know?

We will inform our endorsed candidate in writing as to the status of their endorsement. We will also publish this information online.