

MADISON COUNTY DEMOCRATIC COMMITTEE

2024 CANDIDATE ENDORSEMENT POLICY

POLICY

To encourage representative and democratic governance, the Madison County Democratic Committee should recruit and endorse electable candidates for congressional, state and county offices who reflect the values of the Democratic party and the diversity of the Madison County residents.

CANDIDATE DECLARATION

Any interested person, including elected officials, wishing to be considered as a candidate to represent Madison County in any congressional, state, or county elected office and who seeks the designation of the MCDC shall be required to submit the following to the County Chairperson (Chair):

1. A letter of intent
2. An up-to-date and accurate resume
3. A campaign finance plan

Candidates may send these materials to the Chair via email or U.S. Mail:

Liz Moran, Chair

Preferred: lmoran@ecologicllc.com

If needed: 126 Nelson St., Apt. 201, Cazenovia NY 13035

Recognizing that state and federal offices that may be located wholly or in part in Madison County, the Chair will provide copies of the Madison County Democratic Committee Endorsement Requirements to the Democratic Chairs of the surrounding counties that are also partially included in the district involved.

CANDIDATE ELIGIBILITY

The Chair, with the assistance of the Executive Committee, will review and evaluate the eligibility of each prospective candidate on a rolling basis as submissions are received. Candidates must meet all federal, state and county requirements to be a candidate for the office for which they are seeking. Candidates duly enrolled in the Democratic Party will receive preferential consideration.

After being deemed eligible, per federal, state and county requirements, MCDC will provide each candidate:

1. A list of town, village, and city Chairs and Democratic Committee Members within the electoral region of their race, including contact information
2. A list of all candidates seeking endorsement
3. A copy of the political calendar
4. A timeline of the endorsement process
5. Contact information for the Board of Elections.

CANDIDATE ENDORSEMENT PROCESS

Candidate Interviews

All candidates from the Chair's consolidated list who seek federal, state and county offices shall be interviewed by the MCDC at a scheduled meeting. MCDC members will also be able to participate virtually. The MCDC Chair, or Chair-designated person, shall serve as Interview Lead. The Interview Lead shall provide notice to the candidates regarding date, time, and place of interview, as well as to serve as the point of contact for any follow-up inquiries from the candidates.

The MCDC meeting date/time shall be added to the countywide calendar and posted on the MCDC website (<https://www.madisoncountynydem.org/>) with regular updates.

Interview Process Summary

1. Official notice of the MCDC meeting where interviews will be conducted, along with the adopted voting procedures and all candidate materials, will be provided to all MCDC members and eligible candidates at least five (5) days ahead of the meeting, in accordance with MCDC rules.
2. Candidate endorsement voting shall take place via confidential software deemed appropriate for the purpose.
3. Only duly qualified members of the MCDC are eligible to cast votes.
4. There will be no proxy voting.
5. There will be no in-person first round voting.
6. Electronic ballots must be RECEIVED by the MCDC, no later than 5:00 PM on **(The Friday, two weeks prior to petitioning)**
7. The votes will be reviewed by at least two members of the Executive Committee, appointed by the Chair to act as auditors.

On **(Designated Date and Time)**, a MCDC meeting will be held to take up official committee business, conduct any required run-off elections, and announce endorsement results.

1. This meeting may be a hybrid meeting, with some attending over internet.

2. All motions for the endorsement meeting will be written and pre-filed on a form provided by MCDC.
3. Endorsed Candidates will be notified after the process is completed.

VOTING PROCEDURES RELATING TO ENDORSEMENT OF CANDIDATES

- Endorsement votes shall be in the format approved by the Chair and all ballots cast will be confidential.
- All endorsement vote tabulations shall be performed before scheduling a MCDC meeting to announce the results.
- Candidates must receive 50% plus one vote to become the endorsed candidate.
- After a review of the ballot results, if under the preceding paragraph there is no “winner” of the endorsement, an open Countywide Endorsement Meeting will be held at which run off voting will be held. If runoff voting is necessary, the affected candidates and committee members will be notified (at least 48 hours before the convention) of the need for a runoff election.
- Runoff voting will be held at the TBD endorsement meeting.

Runoff Elections - Second Round Voting:

If no candidate receives 50% plus one vote in the first round of voting, the top two candidates shall move forward to a second round of voting at the TBD endorsement meeting.

The Chair shall deliver all results to the Countywide Endorsement Meeting.

2024 MCDC Candidate Endorsement Timeline (To be confirmed)

January 5th | Declaration of candidacy due to MCDC at close of business (5PM)

January 7th | Candidate Interviews may begin

February 15th | MCDC Countywide Endorsement Meeting (and runoff elections if necessary)

February 28th | Start date for petitioning.

Committee members are expected to carry petitions for all endorsed candidates

March 23rd | Completed petitions to be delivered to a central location for review and compiled for submittal