**Endorsement Policy and Procedures**

**Greater Pasadena Area (GPA) National Women’s Political Caucus**

**Approved 10/8/19 Revisions Approved 8/25/2020**

**Article I. Endorsement Policy**

**1.     Purpose.**  The purpose of this statement of policy on, and procedure for, endorsement is to promote the election and appointment of progressive, pro-choice women, to encourage the involvement of the GPA caucus members in the political campaigns of Caucus endorsed candidates, and to ensure candid, thorough, and fair consideration of candidates and relevant ballot issues.

2.     **Eligibility.**  Only women candidates who demonstrate support of the bottom line issues of the Caucus, as defined by the NWPC CA bylaws and Standing Rules, and show how they would work to implement these issues through the office they seek are eligible to be considered for endorsement.

a.     The bottom line issues of the Caucus are:

(1)   The passage and ratification of an Equal Rights Amendment;

(2)   Reproductive choice and publicly funded abortion;

(3)   Publicly and privately funded child and dependent care;

(4)   Non-discrimination based on age, race, religion, sex, sexual orientation, ethnic origin, marital status, socioeconomic status, and disability;

(5)   Comparable pay for work of comparable worth; and

(6)   Elimination of sexual harassment and violence against girls and women.

**3.     Jurisdiction and Timing**

a.      Jurisdiction

(1)   Municipal and other local offices entirely within, and not exceeding, the Caucus boundaries will be considered for endorsement no earlier than the official close of filing unless otherwise decided by a majority vote of the Working Council.

(2)   Local, county, state and federal offices whose districts cover areas represented by GPA and other local Caucus chapters will be considered for endorsement after the candidate has officially announced or filed.  Endorsement will be considered jointly by GPA members designated by the Working Council and representatives of other appropriate caucuses in accordance with NWPC CA Standing Rules, including:

(i) Representatives of local chapters will come together and reach consensus on procedures.

(ii) Candidates for districts covering three or more chapters will be handled by the Los Angeles County Coordinating Council.

(iii) Interviewing will done together with each chapter entitled to two votes.

(iv) If the local Caucus chapters cannot reach consensus, NWPC CA PAC and Board will make the decision as to whom, if anyone, shall be endorsed.

(3)   State and National Offices’ endorsement decisions will be made by NWPC CA and/or NWPC national, after receiving the recommendation of the local Caucus chapter(s).

b.     Timing

Notice of the names of the candidates, the offices and election dates shall be made available to all GPA members in good standing[[1]](#footnote-1) before any interviews are conducted both for candidates for offices entirely within and not exceeding the Caucus boundaries and for offices whose district covers areas represented by GPA and other Caucus chapters.  GPA Caucus members will be invited to attend and participate in the candidate interviews.

4.     **Applicability of Endorsement.** Caucus endorsement shall pertain only to the current office.

**Article II. Endorsement Policy**

1.     **Political Action Committee:** As defined by the NWPC GPA Bylaws,

“The Political Action Committee (PAC) is comprised of a minimum of five current members including the chair with representation from Altadena, Glendale, La Canada, Pasadena, Sierra Madre, and various political parties when possible. The general membership will be informed in advance of candidates’ endorsement interviews--their names, office being sought, date, time and place--and all meetings of the PAC will be open to current Caucus members.  All Caucus members present who have been in good standing for 30 days may participate in the PAC vote on its recommendation regarding endorsement.”

A quorum of at least fifty percent (50%) of PAC current members must be present to conduct PAC business.  PAC votes require a majority of those voting to pass.

The duties of the PAC are to coordinate the candidate and issue endorsement processes and to inform Caucus members of critical legislation through Working Council meetings and other communications.

The PAC will present its recommendations on endorsement and funding level of candidates and issues at a Working Council or a membership meeting for approval by a majority of the Working Council present or general membership present.

**2.     Candidate Endorsement Process.**

a.     PAC Interview.

(1)   PAC Interviews will be scheduled following receipt of candidate questionnaires and the close of filing dates unless otherwise determined by the General Membership.

(2)   Interview questions appropriate for the office and issues of the community will be developed by the PAC.

**b. Endorsement and Funding Criteria.**

**Recommendations for funding will be based on greatest likelihood of ability to be elected**

**and potential for greatest impact if elected. Specific criteria for endorsement and funding**

**include but are not limited to the following:**

1. **Evidence of leadership skills through officer level positions held in community and professional organizations;**
2. **Evidence of awareness of significant community issues in the election district;**
3. **Evidence of successful fundraising or plan to achieve fundraising goals;**
4. **Evidence of effective campaign organization and communication plan; and**
5. **Evidence of demonstrated ethical behavior and integrity**

**c.** Voting.

(1)   In order to participate in PAC voting for a candidate, the member must have participated in all the interviews for that particular office.

(2)   Majority votes by those present at the PAC interview, the Working Council, and the General Membership meetings to consider endorsements will be sufficient.

(3)   Members may not participate as PAC interviewers or voting member for an office for which they are an official staff member of the campaign or an elected official’s office, or a family member.   Campaign volunteers and women who have already made a personal endorsement in the race must identify themselves when participating in the endorsement process.

c.      Re-Endorsements

(1)   Previously endorsed candidates running for re-election to the same position may be considered for expedited endorsement procedure, not requiring the questionnaire and an interview.

(2)   A letter to the incumbent candidate shall require a restatement of her position and support of NWPC issues.

(3)   Vetting shall include a review of her voting record.

(4)   In accordance with NWPC CA policy, no consideration will be given to the opponent of a previously endorsed elected official who, vetting has shown, has supported our bottom-line issues in her voting and public statements and seeks our re-endorsement.

**Article III. Funding Decision Policies and Procedures**

**1.     Funding,** as recommended by the PAC, will be decided at a General Membership or Working Council meeting by a majority vote of the members present.  Members ineligible to participate in the funding vote are the following: those members who have publicly endorsed another candidate for the same office, those members who are an official staff member of the campaign or an elected official’s office, or those members who are a family member of the candidate.

**2.     GPA Caucus members will be informed** at least a week in advance of the upcoming vote.

**3.     The PAC Chair will provide** meeting participants with copies of the candidates’ resumes and brief statements.

**4.     The total PAC funds** available for all candidates requesting endorsement in the election cycle will be reviewed before a vote is taken to fund a candidate.

**5.     The Chair of the NWPC GPA,** or her designee, will inform the candidate of the endorsement, funding decisions, and the right to use the caucus’s membership list.

6.     **If the office is one for which NWPC CA or NWPC is the endorsing entity** and the candidate resides in the GPA boundaries and the GPA has interviewed and voted to endorse the candidate, the PAC Chair will inform the NWPC CA PAC Vice President of the GPA’s recommendation.

1. “GPA members” refers to members in good standing who have been paid members for at least 30 days. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)