

Stonewall Democrats of Central Maryland - PAC
Candidate Endorsement Procedures
(Final)

Stonewall Democrats of Central Maryland (SDCM) will address its primary mission of seeking election of pro-equality Democratic candidates in part by making public endorsements, which may include financial support for candidates. The following procedures will be used to make candidate endorsements.

1. The SDCM Board will look at key issues facing the LGBT community throughout Maryland and at the local level in Central Maryland by reviewing information from multiple resources such as LGBT organizations and groups, advocates for equality, community leaders, government officials, the news media, etc. After reviewing the key issues, the SDCM Board will determine its priorities and will use these priorities to evaluate the positions of Democratic candidates in both the primary and general election cycles.
2. Following SDCM Board review and discussion of the issues, the SDCM Board may decide that an SDCM candidate questionnaire should be drafted, if sufficient resources -- such as time, people and finances -- are available. If such a questionnaire is to be drafted, the SDCM Board will determine the appropriate implementation strategies.
3. The SDCM Board will make recommendations concerning endorsement(s) of candidates by using the scores from the SDCM candidate questionnaire (if one was used) and/or other information which the SDCM Board may request concerning a candidate's position(s) on SDCM priority issues and/or other information, such as information and/or data from Equality Maryland, community organizations, the news media, related surveys, candidate written or oral statements and websites, etc. This will be done by comparing any such candidate data and information with the priorities determined by the SDCM Board.
4. The SDCM Board will consider endorsements among Democratic candidates who make themselves known to any SDCM Board Member and/or who are recommended in writing to any SDCM Board Member by any SDCM member. The SDCM Board may also consider endorsements in races with strategic significance to the priorities determined by the SDCM Board.
5. Decisions on endorsements need not be made in all races.
6. Decisions can be made on a rolling basis.
7. Although the SDCM Bylaws permit endorsements in any Maryland jurisdiction where there is no other active chapter of Stonewall Democrats, the SDCM Board may decide to endorse only in Central Maryland races.
8. The SDCM Board will present its candidate endorsement recommendations to the general membership for membership vote according to SDCM Bylaws.
9. Endorsements may include recommendations of monetary support for candidates within SDCM's available resources. The final amount of any monetary support to candidates endorsed by the membership will be determined by the SDCM Board. Monetary support will be issued to each such candidate with a check drawn on SDCM's bank account in accordance with SDCM bylaws.
10. The SDCM Board will take action to notify candidates whose endorsements are approved by the membership. It will also seek publication of endorsements in appropriate communications channels including the news media, social networks, and the SDCM website.