



Maryland Working Families 2018 Endorsement Process

Recruiting, training and electing progressive candidates is one of Maryland Working Families three primary directives. To that end MDWF and its affiliates have a robust endorsement process. Outlined below is the Endorsement Process for 2018.

Priority: The Board of Affiliates agreed to five criteria for doing endorsements during the 2018 Primary Elections:

- 1- MDWF may participate in districts where there is an Open Seat and MDWF can make a difference in electing a progressive candidate; and
- 2- MDWF may participate in districts where there is an Incumbent who persistently acts as a roadblock to, or regularly votes against progressive legislation; and
- 3- MDWF may participate in races where MDWF could either defeat an incumbent, or create pressure around the incumbent, to make them more responsive and to bring about more diverse representation; and
- 4- MDWF may participate in races where we can identify candidates who have a track record of supporting issues that help working families AND who could be positioned to run for higher office in the future; and
- 5- MDWF does not give “paper” endorsements, but will only endorse in races where MDWF resources could have a meaningful impact.

Process: Legislative candidates can expect to participate in a process that allow MDWF Board to get to know the candidate and understand the vision, position and commitment to working families they will bring to office, including:

- 1- MDWF 2018 Candidate Questionnaire (Local, Legislative or Federal) will be made available to all candidates running in targeted races; and
- 2- Candidate interviews with the MDWF Board of Affiliates and members will be arranged for candidates of targeted races whose policy positions, legislative history and viability match the core mission; and
- 3- MDWF Board of Affiliates will vote on endorsements adhering to bylaws. An endorsement by MDWF does not imply endorsement by any of its affiliate or general members; and
- 4- MDWF will make a public announcement of endorsement in collaboration with endorsed candidate; and
- 5- Upon endorsement, MDWF will invite Candidates for Endorsement to participate in one of three public events to demonstrate their support for working families and MDWF's ideals; and
- 6 - Endorsed candidates will be expected to participate in the 2018 New Leader Boot Camp.

Resources: MDWF does not make direct contributions. Instead, MDWF invest in campaigns through technical assistance, communications and field support, including:

- 1- MDWF will coordinate with endorsed candidate to organize a Public Announcement that may include a press event or release in addition to mailing to 80,000+ MDWF Action Network subscribers;
- 2- Endorsed candidates may be included in online fundraising appeals to members in Maryland, national promotions and/or featured at fundraising events;
- 3- MDWF may support endorsed candidates with technical assistance in strategy, field, media and fundraising up to in-kind contribution limits;
- 4- MDWF may provide 'boots on the ground for endorsed candidates up to in-kind contribution limits, and recruit volunteers through Action Network;
- 5- In races determined to be key to MDWF legislative strategy, the Board may authorize an Independent Expenditure for one or more endorsed candidates, MDWF is prohibited from coordinating with endorsed candidates.