

## **Gardiner Democratic Committee Endorsement Guidelines—Final Version June 2020**

The Gardiner Democratic Committee (“GDC”) recognizes that endorsements allow candidates the opportunity to use the Committee’s endorsement in building momentum and support for their candidacy, which is often important in lower profile or local races. Endorsements also offer an opportunity to improve relationships with candidates for elected office and send them a signal that we appreciate their stances on issues important to the Committee. Endorsements of local candidates also give the Committee opportunity to shape the issues in local campaigns by identifying candidates who will champion them for us. They further allow committee members to begin organizing early in a campaign to help promote a desirable candidate.

- 1) If the Gardiner Democratic Committee believes that it may be warranted to endorse a candidate for elective office, prior to any endorsement it will:
  - a) Evaluate all viable candidates seeking election to that office
    - i) Evaluation will be in the form of a GDC questionnaire
  - b) Invite any candidate(s) to speak to the committee.
    - i) And undergo a GDC endorsement interview
  - c) Committee debate shall not take place in the presence of any candidate seeking an endorsement.
  - d) Endorsement shall be passed by a majority vote of the committee members present
  - e) Any motion to endorse shall be noticed at least 7 days prior to the motion being made.
    - i) This requirement may be dispensed with upon the vote of 2/3 of the committee members present.
  - f) No motion to endorse shall be made with a candidate present. However, if the candidate is a member of the committee, he or she shall be entitled to cast one vote for endorsement by proxy.
  - g) Generally, no endorsement will be made unless the candidate requests the Committee’s endorsement.
- 2) An endorsement in a race may include any or all of the following categories of support.
  - a) Use of Committee name by individual Committee members making a personal endorsement;
  - b) Carrying balloting petitions for the candidate
  - c) Dissemination of campaign literature and communication about a candidate with the general public.
  - d) Fund-raising directly or indirectly for a candidate
  - e) Donating money to a candidate(s) campaign