Asian American Democrats of Texas Caucus Endorsement Policy

I. Purpose
   A. To support qualified Democratic candidates who proactively advocate for Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander (AANHPI) communities and their issues, and who seek to engage AANHPI voters across Texas.

II. Eligibility
   A. Membership
      1. Eligible members will serve on an ad-hoc committee for each election.
      2. Any member is eligible to apply for the endorsement committee.
      3. Committee members must be registered Democrats and have paid dues at least 7 days before any endorsement proceeding.
      4. No member may serve on the committee if they are staff, representatives, or surrogates for any actively running candidate.
   B. Expectations
      1. All committee members represent AADT.
      2. Committee members are expected to provide insightful comments and ask relevant questions during interviews, ensuring productive sessions that reflect positively on AADT and the AAPI community at large.
      3. Profanity or insults directed at candidates shall not be tolerated.
      4. Direct statements of support or opposition towards a candidate or their opponents while a candidate is present are also prohibited.
      5. Violations may result in a warning from the chair or another committee member. Multiple violations may lead to removal from the meeting, and repeated violations may result in removal from the committee.
      6. The committee chair reserves the right to expel any committee member.
   C. Conflicts of Interest
      1. In the event of a conflict of interest involving a committee member during endorsement screenings, the following procedures shall be followed:
         a) Disclosure: The member must promptly disclose any potential conflict to the committee before participating in any screenings.
         b) Recusal: Paid campaign staff, representatives, or surrogates must abstain from any discussions, decisions, or votes with conflicts.
         c) Non-Participation: The member must refrain from participating in any activities or actions that could potentially influence the endorsement outcome or be perceived as such.

D. Candidates
    1. Candidates are eligible for endorsement if they voted in the recent Democratic primary or signed an Oath of Affiliation with the Party.
    2. AAPI descent alone does not guarantee an endorsement. Each candidate shall be thoroughly evaluated based on qualifications and alignment with our values.
    3. Membership dues are encouraged but not required for consideration.
    4. Candidates will receive a questionnaire with a committee-set deadline.
    5. Once the questionnaire is completed and submitted, the committee will review the applications and schedule candidate screenings at their discretion.

III. Procedure

A. Timing
    1. The endorsement process may occur at any time after the candidate filing deadline and before the first day of early voting for that election.
    2. The committee will set the endorsement application deadline.
    3. Candidate screenings must take place at least 7 days before the vote.

B. Structure
    1. Committee members shall elect a presiding chair.
    2. Endorsement interviews shall not exceed 30 minutes.
    3. All screenings will be recorded.
    4. Introduction: The chair announces the candidate and the office sought. The candidate in the waiting room joins the meeting.
    5. Opening Statement: The candidate provides a timed opening statement, not exceeding 2 minutes.
    6. Candidate Interview: The chair asks standardized questions, allowing time for the candidate to respond. The floor will be open to questions from committee members. This portion shall not exceed 27 minutes.
    7. Closing Statement: The candidate provides a timed closing statement, not exceeding 1 minute, and then exits the meeting.

C. Voting
    1. Voting will take place during a closed committee session, which may be held in person, virtually, or as a hybrid meeting.
    2. Committee members' votes and identities shall remain confidential.
    3. The meeting will be scheduled at least 7 days after all candidate screenings and committee deliberations have concluded.

4. Each member will receive 1 point to allocate to candidates of their choice, which can be given as a whole to 1 candidate or split between 2, resulting in each candidate receiving half (½) a point.
5. The candidate with the most points will receive the endorsement.
6. In the event of a tie, the committee will conduct a revote until a simple majority is achieved, ensuring a clear endorsement decision.

D. Recommendations
1. At the committee's discretion, the recommendations by the committee can be presented and put up for approval and adoption by the membership body at a general membership meeting.
2. In this case, a simple majority is required to adopt the committee's recommendations for endorsement.
3. If a recommendation fails to receive a simple majority from the body, nominations will be taken from the floor by due-paying eligible members of good standing for the body to consider.

IV. Announcement
A. Results will be announced at a general membership meeting and shared via press release, social media, newsletter, and website.
B. AADT will feature endorsed candidates' names and likenesses on all promotional material.
C. Endorsed candidates are welcome to announce their endorsement from AADT using campaign-aligned graphics.
D. At the committee's discretion, select endorsed candidates may receive monetary or in-kind campaign contributions.

V. Appeals
A. In exceptional cases, a committee member can motion to the chair to rescind an endorsement vote. Rescission requires a supermajority vote, defined as two-thirds (⅔) in favor.
B. The committee reviews, deliberates, and votes during a closed meeting.
C. Following the decision, a notification is issued. A successful rescission means that the organization no longer endorses the candidate in question.