

# Candidate and Initiative Endorsement Process Indivisible Sequim Primary and General Election, 2018

Our Vote Is Our Voice

Based on: *Indivisible* Endorsements (Indivisible Endorsement Guide), 2017.  
<https://indivisible435.org/endorsement#four> Updated 8/11/2018.

As members of Indivisible Sequim, we base our endorsements on our shared values and goals, as stated in our mission and vision statement of 2017:

## ***Mission***

Defend the constitution and democracy through community engagement in national and local political processes.

## ***Shared Values***

- Social justice
- Inclusiveness
- Indivisibility
- Fellowship
- Ethics in government
- Transparency
- Democracy
- Accountability
- Active citizenship

## ***We Support***

- Single-payer health care for all
- Resources for our most vulnerable citizens
- Good public education for all children
- Preserving our parks, wilderness areas and other public lands for the enjoyment of all
- Protections for our natural environment
- Holding our elected officials accountable
- An equitable immigration policy

## ***Goals and Objectives***

- Repeal Citizen's United
- Legislate big money out of elections
- Understand the economy and help fight trickle-down economics
- Advocate for a living wage for all workers
- Break the elected official to lobbyist cycle
- Reframe political language (e.g., gun control becomes gun safety)
- Net Neutrality - maintain access to all sources of content and applications without

- regard to source
- End for-profit and corporate-run development and operation of:
  - Infrastructure
  - Prisons
  - Immigration detention facilities
  - National Parks
  - Schools

## ***The Indivisible Sequim Endorsement Process***

### **Endorsement Committee**

The Endorsement Committee consists of members of the Election Action Team plus any additional member of Indivisible Sequim (as defined by the mailing list of members) who attends Endorsement Committee meetings, or who clearly expresses to any Election Action Team member a wish of serving on the committee.

At least one month prior to a primary or general election, the Endorsement Committee will hold several meetings:

1. **First meeting:** Review and if necessary update the endorsement process, determine which races we will consider, and ask for volunteers to conduct research on the candidates we decide to consider for endorsement. Candidates will be selected from those who have filed to run for office in Clallam County; in District 24 of the Washington state legislature; in the 6<sup>th</sup> Congressional District of the U.S. House of Representatives; and for U.S. Senate. The list of candidates who have filed for these offices, along with links for candidates' websites or Facebook pages or newspaper articles concerning their candidacy (when available), can be found in the Files section of the Indivisible Sequim Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1295429230515506/>, and on the Candidates and Initiatives page of the Indivisible Sequim website: <https://indivisiblesequim.org/home/election-action-team/elections-take-action-on-the-radar/>

Note that while our endorsements will mostly be limited to races in which voters in Clallam County (and especially the cities of Sequim and Port Angeles) are eligible to vote, we may also wish to publicly support selected candidates in important races outside our voting area (such as Washington's 8<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> Districts and key races in other states). We will also decide which (if any) statewide initiatives and local ballot measures we will support.

Each volunteer will be given one or more paper or electronic forms on which they can record the results of their candidate research (or a free-form document may be prepared if it includes the following information). Information about a candidate should include, as available, qualifications for office (such as political and professional experience and community service), positions on issues of importance to Indivisible Sequim members (as stated above), stated goals and purposes in running for office, and as available and possibly meaningful, sources of funding and campaign support. Research resources are suggested on the following page.

Research about initiatives and other ballot measures should include the stated purpose of the initiative, pros and cons, and some indication of who is backing and opposing the

initiative.

2. **Second/third meeting (as needed):** Committee members review and discuss information gathered about the candidates and initiatives, and update as appropriate. Discussions should include thoughts on how and why a candidate/initiative does/does not reflect Indivisible Sequim goals and values.

Following the meeting, each volunteer who conducted research prepares an informative but succinct paragraph or two about the candidate or initiative s/he investigated. These write-ups should reflect the meeting's discussions. A committee volunteer then compiles the prepared information for the candidates and initiatives into a document that will be emailed to all members of Indivisible Sequim at least three days prior to the endorsement poll. This should be enough time for members to read the Endorsement Committee's descriptions of the candidates and initiatives, and to conduct any further research before voting in the endorsement poll.

3. **Endorsement poll:** A member of the Endorsement Committee or Indivisible Sequim Steering Committee then prepares a simple online poll, using a tool such as Survey Monkey, and emails it to each person on the Indivisible Sequim mailing list. The poll should be open for at least three days, and each member should be allowed to vote only once (this limitation can be set in the survey tool). A reminder will be emailed to Indivisible Sequim members one day before the poll closes.
4. **Candidate approval:** Each candidate included in the poll should be informed that the poll is being conducted and asked if an Indivisible Sequim endorsement should be announced publicly or not. No endorsement that has not been approved by the endorsed candidate or his/her representative should be made public in any way.
5. **Endorsement announcements:** After the poll closes, the results (as authorized by the candidates) are communicated to Indivisible Sequim members via an email blast, the Facebook page, the newsletter, and the website. Indivisible Sequim also publicizes the endorsements via media such as the region's newspapers, related Facebook pages, radio interviews/reports, etc. Candidates may publicize Indivisible Sequim endorsements as they see fit.

Following the endorsement poll, the committee should meet to discuss the process and results, and make suggestions about needed improvements.

### ***Voting on Endorsements***

**Who votes on endorsements?** The Indivisible Endorsement Guide recommends that “voting members be limited to people actively engaged with the group....You will have maximum buy-in from group members if you bring in the widest pool of people possible. That said, we err strongly on the side of not making voting open to publicly accessible venues like a public Facebook page, as these venues are susceptible to interference by candidates, their proxies, and trolls.”

In order to secure the participation of as many members as possible in a fair but somewhat controlled manner (insuring that each member votes only once and actually is a member), Indivisible Sequim conducts an online poll emailed to every member included on its mailing list. Join Indivisible Sequim by signing up at any of its meetings,

or by completing the “Contact Us” form on our website <https://indivisiblesequim.org/contact-us/> .Provide your name and email address, and preferably also a phone number.

**Level of consensus required for an endorsement:** A candidate or initiative must receive at least **60%** of the votes submitted in a member endorsement poll.

Indivisible Sequim members should feel that the process is transparent and fair. Individuals in Indivisible Sequim, of course, have the opportunity of personally supporting any candidate s/he chooses, regardless of who the group as a whole endorses.

### ***Conducting Research on the Candidates and Initiatives***

Resources for conducting research may include:

- Candidate and initiative websites, Facebook, candidate blogs, and other social media sites. See the [Candidates and Initiatives page of the Indivisible Sequim website](#).
- [Google News Search](#). In the Search box, enter the name of the candidate (or initiative), a term like “Clallam” or “Washington” if the candidate's name is a common one, and any word/s or phrase/s relating to issues of concern to Indivisible Sequim.
- Local, regional, and state newspapers: [Newspapers in Washington state](#), [Forks Forum](#), [Peninsula Daily News](#), [Port Townsend and Jefferson County Leader](#), [Seattle Post-Intelligencer](#), [Seattle Times](#), [Sequim Gazette](#), [The Stranger](#) (Seattle).
- Local radio websites with area news: [KONP](#) (Port Angeles),
- Endorsements by political action and other groups that share our values.
- Voter Guides:
  - [Clallam County Voters Guide](#). Lists offices, candidates, and background information about the candidates (their experience, positions, etc.)..
  - [Clallam County League of Women Voters \(Vote411\)](#). Candidates are asked questions submitted by League members and others. Their replies (although not all candidates do reply) are published on the Vote411 website.
- [Public Disclosure Commission \(PDC\) of Washington state](#). Discover where candidates for state office are getting their funding.
  - <https://www.pdc.wa.gov/browse/campaign-explorer>. A useful browsing interface to PDC data.
- [FEC](#). Campaign finance data for U.S. House, Senate, and Presidential candidates.
- [FollowTheMoney.org](#) For an overview of spending/donations in Washington races and initiatives, see <https://www.followthemoney.org/tools/election->

[overview?s=WA&y=2018](#)

- [Vote Smart Project](#). Extremely useful because of its detail and breadth of scope.
- [Open Secrets.org](#). Tracks money in U.S. Politics and its effects on elections and policy.
- [Cook Political Report](#). Non-partisan newsletter that analyzes elections and campaigns for national-level offices.
- [GovTrack.us](#). Tracks voting records of U.S. House and Senate members, as well as research on bills and votes.
- [Ballotpedia](#). Extremely comprehensive, containing detailed information about federal, state, and local elected officials, candidates, ballot measures, courts, and elections. Even provides data on school boards and elections. Not always up to date.
- [Voting for Judges](#). A nonpartisan, impartial source of information about judicial elections in the state of Washington. Not always up to date.

**Meet the candidates:** Indivisible Sequim invites candidates running for office to speak at membership meetings during the months prior to a primary or general election. Members may ask questions of the candidates or their representatives. Voter forums held by the Clallam County League of Women Voters, local business organizations, and political groups such as local action groups and parties are crucial sources of information about candidates.

**Candidate questionnaire:** The Endorsement Committee could prepare a questionnaire containing questions relating to Indivisible Sequim's shared values and goals, and send it to local candidates, along with a date by which the questionnaire should be returned. This is more likely to be successful in city or county, rather than state or national races.