

# Local 21 Political Endorsement Process

(adopted at the June 7, 2008, Delegate Assembly)

Local 21 IFPTE, its Chapters and Councils, will follow these general guidelines, in conjunction with the Local 21 Principles for Legislative and Political Action, when identifying candidates and issues to support or oppose. The purpose of these guidelines is to ensure that our union makes informed, member-driven decisions when making official endorsements so that they serve the best interests of our members and the governmental jurisdictions where they are employed.

## **CANDIDATE BRIEFING**

To assure that candidates seeking Local 21's endorsement have an in-depth understanding of issues facing our members, a candidate briefing is recommended whenever possible prior to Local 21 consideration. The briefing may be conducted in person, by conference call, or by sending written materials to the candidate. This briefing is to familiarize the candidate with the political and policy priorities of the union's membership. When personal candidate briefings occur, they should be conducted by a committee appointed by and including members of the specific Chapter/Council making the endorsement recommendation.

## **COUNCIL/CHAPTER CANDIDATE EVALUATION**

Candidates may be evaluated through written questionnaires, interviews, candidate forums or other mechanisms as established by the Council/Chapter. Members should be informed in advance of the review process and any candidate events, and candidate questionnaires and other materials should be made available to all members. All members will be encouraged to participate in this process.

## **COUNCIL/CHAPTER ENDORSEMENT RECOMMENDATION**

Council/Chapter endorsement meetings shall be scheduled at a time and place that encourages maximum membership attendance and participation. Endorsement meetings may be conducted during general membership meetings to encourage participation.

Candidates shall be evaluated using appropriate criteria including the Local 21 Principles for Legislative and Political Action and the following considerations:

1. The candidate's record on labor relations issues, employment policies and working conditions
2. The candidate's experience, personal characteristics and leadership qualities
3. The candidate's chances of winning, depth of support and campaign funding
4. The candidate's relationship with the Labor Community in general

Council/Chapter endorsement recommendations shall be transmitted to the Executive Committee in writing with a brief explanation of the reasons for the endorsement, and as much in advance as possible of the Executive Committee meeting at which action on the recommendation is expected.

## **LOCAL 21 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ENDORSEMENTS**

In keeping with the Bylaws of the International Federation of Professional & Technical Engineers, Local 21, the Executive Committee shall make all final decisions regarding the endorsement of candidates and supporting or opposing ballot measures, after receiving the recommendation of the Chapter/Council. Individual Chapters and Councils are not authorized to make endorsements or vote to support or oppose ballot measures in the name of Local 21, only to make recommendations to the Executive Committee.

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The Executive Committee shall strongly consider Chapter/Council recommendations as well as weigh the good and welfare of the entire Local, when making final decisions on candidate endorsements or voting to support or oppose ballot measures.

The Executive Committee may invite the Chapter/Council to represent their recommendations on candidates and ballot measures and to inform the Executive Committee on the process and reasoning behind the Chapter/Council's endorsement recommendations and to discuss any resource allocation requests.

### **JURISDICTIONAL OVERLAP AND 'DIRECT EMPLOYMENT INTEREST'**

There may be occasions when two or more Chapters or Councils have a jurisdictional interest in an election and may make two different recommendations for a particular election. If the Chapters are members of the same Council, they shall be resolved through deliberations in the Council in order to arrive at a single, qualified, or dual endorsement to send to the Executive Committee for consideration. If the Chapters are not members of the same Council or there are two Councils involved in the endorsement, a "dual" recommendation shall be made to the Executive Committee who shall make the final decision. The criteria for resolving "dual" endorsements shall be the normal criteria for endorsements with additional consideration given to any Chapter or Council having a "direct employment interest" in the outcome of the election.

#### Jurisdictional Overlap

Jurisdictional overlap is defined as two different Chapters or Councils operating in the same immediate geographic area and having a shared interest in the outcome of elections involving local elected officials or ballot measures pertaining to their jurisdiction.

#### Direct Employment Interest

Direct employment interest shall mean that (a) the candidate is running for an office with an agency or jurisdiction that employs Local 21 members in that Chapter or Council, or (b) the ballot measure will have a direct policy or financial impact on Local 21 members in that Chapter or Council.

### **CAMPAIGN SUPPORT**

Endorsement by Local 21 may include a commitment of union activities and/or resources such as the following:

- Direct mail;
- Door-to-door voter education;
- Phone banking;
- Financial contribution(s);
- Letter(s) of endorsement;
- Other campaign activities.

The Executive Committee will base their final decision on the level of campaign support on such factors as the direct strategic importance of the election to the interests of Local 21 members, the recommendation of the Chapter/Council, the strength of the endorsement, the chances of winning and the availability of resources.



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