



Local 21 Oakland Political Endorsement Process

(Adopted by the Oakland Council, Monday, December 12, 2005)

(Revised by Oakland Council, Monday, August 25, 2008)

(Revised by Oakland Council, August 2016)

The following general guidelines will be used by the Local 21 Oakland Council¹ to determine whether or not to recommend endorsement of local candidates for election or local ballot measures for passage. In conjunction with the **Local 21 Principles for Legislative & Political Action**, the Local 21 Oakland Council has developed this process as an organizational commitment to mobilize information and resources and help advance the economic and workplace interests of our union.

SCOPE OF ENDORSEMENTS

The Local 21 Oakland Council will ordinarily consider endorsements only in races for City of Oakland elected offices (i.e., mayor, city attorney, city auditor, and city council) or in elections for City of Oakland ballot measures (including referendums, voter initiatives, and council-sponsored ballot measures). The Oakland Council in its discretion may choose not to pursue this endorsement process for particular City of Oakland races or elections, if, for instance, a race is uncontested, a ballot measure does not present a question of significant importance to the membership, or involvement in the race is otherwise not in the best interests of the Union. Individual Local 21 chapters may not make endorsements; however individual chapters may choose to recommend endorsements to the general membership and the Local 21 Oakland Council.

In special situations the Local 21 Oakland Council may consider recommending an endorsement in a non-City race or election in situations that have special significance to Oakland members. In those cases the Council will coordinate any endorsement with other Local 21 chapters and the labor community at large.

CANDIDATE ENDORSEMENTS

Candidate Briefing

We realize that not every candidate has a strong understanding of the issues that face City of Oakland employees. Therefore, the Oakland Council in its discretion may decide to hold a candidate briefing to familiarize candidates with the political and policy priorities of the Oakland membership of Local 21. The briefing will be conducted by a committee appointed by the Oakland Council, and may include the Oakland Vice-President, the Oakland Chapter Presidents, the Political Action Committee², and other interested members.

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Candidate Forum or Interview

A joint membership meeting or meetings open to all members of the City of Oakland chapters may be held to present candidates to the membership. The specific format of the meeting will be determined by the Oakland Council, and may include individual interviews, a candidate forum or debate, or other format as appropriate. All members will be encouraged to attend and participate in any meetings. Local 21 will schedule these meetings at a time and place that promotes the

greatest membership attendance and participation. The candidates may be asked to respond to questions given to candidates in advance as well as impromptu questions raised by members from the floor.

The Political Action Committee may choose to limit the candidates meeting(s) to candidates it determines are viable candidates, considering a candidate's track record and experience in previous campaigns, history of support for labor, visibility, name recognition, organizational strength, polling numbers, fundraising success, financial resources, and endorsements. The Political Action Committee may choose to initiate the endorsement process either before or after the candidate filing deadline.

The Political Action Committee may prepare a summary of the candidate forum and disseminate this information to Local 21 members before the endorsement vote.

Candidate Endorsement Vote

The determination as to which candidate or candidates receive the Local 21 Oakland membership's recommendation for endorsement will be determined by a vote of the general membership of Local 21 Oakland. The vote will be held as part of a joint membership meeting. Under special circumstances, the Political Action Committee may elect to hold the vote by mail or online in lieu of a membership meeting. The Political Action Committee may present its recommendations for endorsements to the membership at the endorsement meeting or as part of the voting material for a mail or online vote. Candidate endorsements will be decided by a secret ballot vote of the members. A candidate must receive 55% or more of the votes cast by the members voting on that race to obtain the Oakland Council's recommendation for endorsement. Members will be allowed to vote for more than one candidate; if more than one candidate receives at least 55% of the votes cast by the members, the recommendation will be for a dual or multiple endorsement of those candidates. The membership will be given the option to vote for no Union endorsement.

BALLOT MEASURE ENDORSEMENTS

Ballot Measure Forum

A joint membership meeting or meetings open to all members of the City of Oakland chapters may be held to present and discuss ballot measures. The specific format of the meeting will be determined by the Oakland Council. All members will be encouraged to attend and participate in any meetings. Local 21 will schedule these meetings at a time and place that promotes the greatest membership attendance and participation.

Ballot Measure Endorsement Vote

The determination as to whether a ballot measure receives the Local 21 Oakland membership's recommendation for or against the measure will be determined by a vote of the general membership of Local 21 Oakland. The vote will be held as part of a joint membership meeting. Under special circumstances, the Political Action Committee may elect to hold the vote by mail or online in lieu of a membership meeting. The Political Action Committee may present its recommendations for or against a ballot measure to the membership at the endorsement meeting or as part of the voting material for a mail or online vote. Ballot measure questions will be decided by a secret ballot vote of the members. For ballot measures, the membership may recommend a Union position for or against the ballot measure by 55% or more of the votes cast by the members voting on that race. The membership will be given the option to vote for no Union position on the ballot measure.

RECOMMENDATION BY OAKLAND COUNCIL

The Oakland Council will make an endorsement recommendation, which must be consistent with the vote of the membership, and that recommendation will be immediately forwarded to the Local 21 Executive Committee³ for its formal approval.

ENDORSEMENT BY LOCAL 21 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

In keeping with the bylaws of Local 21, formal endorsement of candidates and ballot measures will be made by IFPTE Local 21's Executive Committee after receiving the recommendation of the Oakland Council.

CAMPAIGN

Endorsement by Local 21 **may** entail a commitment of union activities or resources including, but not limited to, the following:

- Direct mail to voters in support of the candidate/issue,
- Door-to-door voter education,
- Phone banking,
- Financial contributions.

The level of commitment will be based on such factors as the direct importance of the election to the interests of Local 21 members, the strength of the endorsement, and the availability of resources given other Local 21 commitments. Any financial contribution to a candidate or ballot measure campaign must be in conformance with the guidelines set forth under the Local 21 Oakland Political Contribution Process.

¹ **The Oakland Council** is made up of elected leaders from all four Oakland Chapters. For an updated list of Chapter leaders, see the most recent Oakland Bulletin or visit the Local 21 website at <http://www.ifpte21.org/chapter-list> and click on your Chapter's page.

² **Political Action Committee** is made up of elected Presidents and Political Issues Coordinators from all four Oakland Chapters.

³ **Local 21 Executive Committee** (EC) is made up of elected leaders from across our entire Local. For an updated list of our EC members, visit the Local 21 website at <http://www.ifpte21.org/content/leadership>