



## Endorsement Process

- The purpose of The Alaska Center's endorsement process is to identify candidates who promote clean air and water, healthy salmon, and a strong democracy. As part of the endorsement process, The Alaska Center will seek to identify the candidate who most aligns with the organization's mission and values in each race.
- In some circumstances, The Alaska Center may decide to make no endorsement, or may endorse multiple candidates in a race. The Alaska Center may also choose to make ranking recommendations in ranked-choice elections.
- The Alaska Center prioritizes equity and inclusion in its endorsement process. Candidates who have been convicted of or reprimanded for mental, physical or sexual harassment or abuse of any kind may not receive an endorsement from The Alaska Center.
- The Alaska Center's endorsements and rankings are based on the candidate's voting record, public positions on the organization's issue areas, and views expressed in candidate questionnaire and/or interview. The Alaska Center may also take candidate likeliness to win into account.
- All candidates in a given race will be mailed and/or emailed a candidate questionnaire. Candidates *must* submit a questionnaire to be considered for an endorsement, but are not required to submit a questionnaire to be considered for a second or third ranking recommendation. If additional follow-up needs to be completed, candidate interviews will be conducted by The Alaska Center staff, led by the Political Director.
- Early endorsement is an endorsement prior to the candidate filing deadline. At the discretion of the Board, the Executive Director, and the Political Director, our early endorsement process may differ from our regular endorsement process, including an optional abridged process for previously endorsed incumbents who align with our values and have no violations against our code of conduct.
- Staff will make endorsement and ranking recommendations to be considered by The Alaska Center's Political Committee. All endorsements and rankings are then finalized and made by The Alaska Center's full Board of Directors.
- The Alaska Center's endorsement process is conducted confidentially.



- The Alaska Center endorsement or ranking recommendation is not a guarantee of financial contributions or additional resources being allocated to a candidate or campaign. The Alaska Center does not regularly make direct financial contributions to campaigns. Separate from the endorsement process, The Alaska Center IE makes independent expenditures, not coordinated with any candidate or campaign, in many election cycles. The Alaska Center IE's decision as to whether to make independent expenditures in support of a candidate in a particular race is governed by a separate process that is not directly connected to The Alaska Center's endorsement process. Endorsement by The Alaska Center should not be understood as implying that The Alaska Center IE will make expenditures or take action in support of a candidate.
- Once The Alaska Center chooses to make an endorsement or ranking recommendation, the organization may utilize the candidate's name and public positions to inform its membership and the general public about the endorsement or ranking decision. This includes posting Endorsements and rankings on The Alaska Center's website, social media platforms including Facebook, Instagram, Twitter and other media outlets.
- Once a candidate receives The Alaska Center's endorsement or ranking recommendation they will be notified by email and/or phone, at which point the candidate is free to publicly promote The Alaska Center's endorsement on their own campaign materials.
- The Alaska Center's endorsement or ranking is valid for only the current election cycle and shall not be used by the candidate to imply organizational support during future elections.