

Dear Legislators,

I am writing to recommend a Do Not Pass on HB 1446. Removing the endorsement process from districts is problematic on many levels:

- Validating signatures is a time-intensive process. If every candidate needs 2,000 signatures, that's a lot of overhead.
- The work required to get on the ballot will eliminate any last-minute candidates, leaving holes in many districts. (A problem compounded by term limits!)
- It removes the vetting process that is done by the districts.
- It removes the opportunity for party members to get to know candidates during the endorsement process.
- Party members who endorse candidates make the voter's job easier. If we remove the process, voters are asked to do more work getting to know candidates.
- Election junk mail will increase beyond its already abysmal rates as candidates try to gain name recognition.
- New candidates will have even less of a chance. The district endorsement process at least gives them a shot at winning against well-recognized names.

I could go on, but that's plenty for now. At the end of the day, there are no doubt problems with the endorsement process as conducted in many districts. However, removing endorsements is not the way to address the issues.

Sincerely,

Melissa Paulik