



Policy Statement: Candidate Vetting Process

Governing Documents: Bylaws of the Florida Democratic Party and the Pinellas County Democratic Party (PCDEC)

Supporting Documents: Letter clarifying FDP bylaws by Mark Herron, Legal Council for the Florida Democratic Party

Policy: The PCDEC does not endorse or support any candidate or participate in any candidate campaign prior to qualifying, nor does the PCDEC endorse or support any candidate or participate in any candidate campaign in a contested Democratic Primary election.

The PCDEC may support Democratic candidates after the primary who have successfully completed our candidate vetting process. Support could include boots on the ground canvassing, phone banking and texting, monetary contributions, soft monetary support, promotion on our website and social media platforms and promotional materials including a slate card.

All support is guided by election priorities established by the PCDEC for a given election cycle. The PCDEC does not fund campaigns and financial support is not guaranteed to any candidate.

All candidates must have a demonstrated and documented personal, professional and civic history of abiding by commonly accepted Democratic values and principles and the platforms of the PCDEC, the Florida Democratic Party and the DNC.

Evidence of a history of moral turpitude is a disqualifier for support from the PCDEC. This may include such activities as, but not limited to, malfeasance, misfeasance, documented history of racism or oppression of minority populations, neglect of duty, incompetence, permanent inability to perform official duties of office sought.

Registration as a Democrat does not in itself automatically qualify one as a candidate for support by the Democratic Party.

The actual vetting process will be guided by this policy statement.