

Subject: Lakewood Democratic Club Endorsements & Sample Ballot

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Dear Candidates:

As you know, this year the Lakewood Democratic Club will endorse in the Mayoral, City Council, and Board of Elections races. The Club is independent from the Cuyahoga County Democratic Party and has a separate process and rules for endorsement. Below please find details about the process and let me know if you have any questions.

Questionnaire

Responding to the questionnaire is **not** a prerequisite for the Club to consider a candidate for endorsement, but we strongly encourage participation. Note the following stipulations:

- The questionnaire responses are due to erikfmeinhardt@gmail.com by **Sunday, August 25 at 11:59pm**. Any responses received later than this will not be shared with the Club.
- Limit your responses to no more than 1,250 characters including spaces. Only the first 1,250 characters of your response will be shared with the Club.
- The questionnaire responses will be made public electronically and shared on hard copies at the August and September meetings.

Please provide answers to the following 4 questions:

1. Why are you a Democrat and how have you demonstrated that?
2. What is your agenda for the office you seek?
3. What qualifications/attributes/skills do you possess that make you the best candidate?
4. What are the biggest challenges and opportunities facing our community?

Thursday, August 29 - General Meeting

Our August meeting begins at 7:00pm and will include 3 minute speeches by the Lakewood Board of Education and City Council candidates. There will be no Q&A, but we encourage you to mingle with the members between 6:30-7pm at the Women's Pavilion or after the meeting at Sauted Taproom. If you cannot make the meeting, please let me know if you would like a surrogate to speak on your behalf. The speaking order is as follows:

1. Linda Beebe - Board of Education
2. Mike Callahan - Board of Education
3. Tom Einhouse - Board of Education
4. Andy Meyer - Board of Education
5. Emma Petrie-Barcelona - Board of Education
6. Lindsey Grdina - City Council Ward 1
7. Tess Neff - City Council Ward 1
8. Laura Rodriguez-Carbone - City Council Ward 1

9. Brad Presutto - City Council Ward 2
10. Jason Shachner - City Council Ward 2
11. John Litten - City Council Ward 3
12. Jeff Wise - City Council Ward 3
13. Dan O'Malley - City Council Ward 4

Thursday, September 26 - General meeting

Our September meeting begins at 7:00pm and will include 5 minute speeches by the Lakewood Mayoral candidates followed by a 10 minute Q&A. There will be 5 questions which both candidates will be expected to answer in no more than 90 seconds each. Questions will be selected by the LDC Executive Board from suggestions by the members made at the August meeting and through an online form. The selected questions will be distributed to both candidates 24 hours in advance of the September meeting. The order for speeches will be as follows, then will alternate for who answers questions first:

1. Meghan George
2. Sam O'Leary

The Vote

Following the speeches and Q&A, voting will take place. During the vote, we will hear a short presentation regarding the United States Census. The votes will be tallied and announced at the meeting.

Per the bylaws, for single seat races (mayoral and ward council), 60% of the eligible voters present and voting shall be endorsed. Submitted abstaining votes are counted as an active vote in determining the number of votes required to reach the 60% threshold.

For multiple seat races (board of education), 60% of the eligible voters present and voting shall be endorsed. Submitted abstaining votes are counted as an active vote in determining the number of votes required to reach the 60% threshold. Endorsements shall be given to the top vote getters who obtain the vote of at least 60% of the eligible voters present. There is no requirement to have a candidate endorsed for each available position, nor may there be more candidates endorsed than seats are available.

Who Votes?

Per LDC bylaws, voting membership status requires:

1. Payment of annual dues. These can be paid at the September meeting to qualify
2. Attendance at 3 general meetings in the 12 months prior to a vote. This means a members must have signed in at 3 of the following meetings: August 2018, September 2018, October 2018, November 2018, January 2019, February 2019, March 2019, April 2019, May 2019, June 2019, and August 2019.
3. Residence in Lakewood.
4. Being a registered Democrat with the Cuyahoga County Board of Elections (having taken a Democratic ballot in the most recent primary election in which one voted in the last 6 years).

The Club will distribute a list of voting members following the August meeting and within 21 days of the September 26 endorsement vote, per the bylaws. At this time, voting membership can be challenged (per the bylaws challenges can only be made based on the 4 criteria above) and those left off the list can explain to the Executive Board why they are actually a voting member. Additionally, the Executive Board will make available to candidates the redacted contact information of voting members.

Sample Ballot

The Executive Board has agreed to the following regarding a sample ballot in advance of the November 2019 General Election:

- We will only spend funds if the Club endorses at least one candidate who is opposed.

- We will only mail in the wards where any Club-endorsed candidate(s) are running.
- We will spend \$1,500 from the Club's funds for printing/mailing.
- We will spend \$100 of the Club's funds for Facebook targeted ads.
- We will ask any Club-endorsed candidates contribute additional funds to the sample ballot the following: \$200 for mayoral candidates, \$150 for Board of Education candidates, \$100 for ward councilperson candidates.
- We will aim to have the mailer out before October 12 and will target likely Democratic voters.

Thank you for your participation in our endorsement process. Feel free to reach out to me if you have any questions!

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Erik F. Meinhardt

President, Lakewood Democratic Club

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