

# ENDORSEMENT REQUEST

## INLAND EMPIRE LABOR COUNCIL ENDORSEMENT PROCESS

Committee on Political Education (COPE)

### STEP 1: MANDATORY CANDIDATE ACADEMY

We realize that not every candidate has a strong understanding of the issues that face today's working families and organized labor. The candidate academy is designed to familiarize candidates with the political and policy priorities of working families in the Inland Empire. Participants will have the opportunity to learn about pressing issues from union leaders, rank-and-file members and community leaders--ranging from wage and contract issues to the environment, education, health care and affordable housing. Our candidate academy is mandatory.

If you are interested in receiving an endorsement or recommendation for endorsement by the Inland Empire Labor Council, you must attend at least one academy session. Please contact the IELC for future Candidate Academy sessions.

### STEP 2: COPE ENDORSEMENT INTERVIEW

After completing an Anti-Right-to-Work pledge and a COPE candidate questionnaire focused on the issues facing today's working families and organized labor, candidates will be interviewed by the COPE Interviewing Committee made up of union members appointed by active unions in the Inland Empire. After the interview process, an endorsement recommendation will be made by a two-thirds vote of the COPE Interviewing Committee.

### STEP 3: ENDORSEMENT

The endorsement recommendation made by the COPE Interviewing Committee is then reviewed and voted on by both the Inland Empire Labor Council Executive Board and the delegates of all affiliated unions. If a candidate receives at least two-thirds vote from the Executive Board and the delegate body, then that candidate is endorsed by COPE. (Note: Federal and State Candidates are recommended to the California Labor Federation Endorsement Convention. The recommendations are final once the state delegates approve. The AFL-CIO endorses presidential candidates).

### STEP 4: CAMPAIGN

Once a candidate is endorsed by the Inland Empire Labor Council Committee on Political Education, a campaign follows that includes at least one if not all of the following components: direct communication to voters in support of the candidate, door-to-door voter education, voter education via phone, and/or financial contributions.

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