

Outline of DMI's Process for Candidate Endorsement
City of Madison Common Council
2017 Spring Elections

2017 Local Election Schedule

Final Day for Nomination Papers: Jan. 4th

Primary: Feb. 21th

Election: April 4th

- Interview Common Council candidates in **contested races only** (post-primary). Conduct interviews before the February 21st primary in districts where only two people are running.
- People eligible to interview the candidates are: DMI Government Relations committee members (those who are long-term members with a minimum of 50% attendance in the previous year) and DMI Board Members only. Every effort will be made to have a minimum of 3-5 members present at all the interviews. The Government Relations committee and DMI staff will make every effort to have the same interviewers interview both candidates in a particular race. ***Attendance for the interview process will have high priority in order to give credibility to our process.***
- Following the completion of the interviews, the Government Relations Committee will discuss and complete their recommendations at their meeting on Monday, March 6th. The recommended slate will include a short summary of why each particular candidate is being endorsed by DMI.
- Dual endorsements or no endorsement are options.
- The Government Relations Committee will submit the slate of endorsements to the Executive Committee at a special meeting on Tuesday, March 7th. The Executive Committee will review the slate and, by majority vote, recommend endorsements to the DMI board. The DMI Board will consider the Executive Committee recommendations at a special meeting on Tuesday, March 14th. The slate will be moved as a whole with 2/3rds majority of board members present needed for approval. There will be an opportunity to separate out a particular candidate for discussion purposes, a 1/3rd board vote required for separation/discussion--a 2/3rds majority vote will be needed for endorsement.

Government Relations will make recommendations for endorsements based on how the candidates respond to the DMI's questions and other issues. The interview process will focus on vision, specific positions, electability and how they see themselves interfacing and working with DMI.

The Government Relations Committee will make every effort to meet with downtown Alders (that were uncontested) immediately after the election in order to keep the lines of communication open. DMI considers the following districts to be within the greater downtown area (a focus for DMI). Districts 2, 4, 5, 6, 8, 13, 14. This list of districts, however, is not meant to be limiting. The Council President and Pro-Tem (along with the other Alders) are all important to DMI and our work.

***The above process needs to be completed as early and efficiently as possible so that our endorsements will have a positive impact on the candidates. This will require the DMI Executive Committee and Board of Directors to meet at specifically scheduled times (see the above schedule). It is thought that if the process takes too long the endorsement would come so late as to not have any real benefit to the candidates.

***Endorsements made by DMI are not reflective of the views of its individual members or views of Madison's Central Business Improvement District.

Conflict of Interest

- All DMI members involved with the endorsement process shall disclose any conflicts before engaging in discussion or voting on endorsements.
- The DMI Board Chair, Vice-Chair, Government Relations Committee Chair and DMI staff are prohibited from publicly endorsing any candidate and shall refrain from working on a campaign committee or making a political campaign contribution until after official endorsements are made by DMI.