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Greater Santa Cruz Federation of Teachers 2030
ENDORSEMENT POLICY for ELECTIONS OR APPOINTMENTS

1. GSCFT’s Council of Representatives and Executive Board may only take positions on SCCS Board races or midterm appointments, SC COE Board and Superintendent races and other educational initiatives, parcel taxes and bond measures: school parcel taxes and bonds, and library taxes and bonds.

2. In all other races, GSCFT will publicize the endorsements of our state union, the California Federation of Teachers, (CFT) our national union, the American Federation of Teachers (AFT) and the Monterey Bay Central Labor Council (MBCLC). Our representatives to CFT, AFT and MBCLC will be empowered to represent GSCFT in these votes after consulting with the GSCFT representatives council.

3. The COPE (Committee on Political Education) chairperson, in consultation with the COPE committee, which is an appointed body (appointed by the president) and with the GSCFT Executive Board, will initiate the endorsement process during each election cycle, or when there is a vacancy in an office leading to a midterm appointment.

The steps in the process are as follows:
A) Email an invitation to be interviewed for endorsement to every candidate who has contacted GSCFT or publicly declared their intention to file for office, or submitted their name to fill a vacancy.

B) Send a candidate questionnaire to each candidate with a deadline included for its return. Also, in elections, inform candidates they will need to seek the endorsement of the MBCLC (Monterey Bay Central Labor Council).

C) Each candidate who returns a questionnaire by the deadline will be invited to an interview with the GSCFT Council of Representatives, the Executive Board members, and the appointed COPE committee members. To conduct the interviews, at least ½ of the school sites represented by the Council of Representatives must be present, either by Site Representatives, GSCFT officers or members of the COPE committee. GSCFT Members-at-large will be invited to watch the interviews.

D) Each candidate will be interviewed individually. Questions will be written by the COPE committee with input from officers and site representatives.

E) At the end of the interviews, elected site representatives, and COPE committee members, and GSCFT members in good standing, will hold a facilitated roundtable discussion.

F) A vote will be conducted by secret ballot. Those eligible to vote are: GSCFT members in good standing,
G) The vote will be announced as a recommendation. In an election, this recommendation then is taken to the MBCLC for an endorsement. When the MBCLC will not be considering endorsements in time for important GSCFT contributions, the GSCFT may endorse and report its endorsement to the MBCLC. In the case of an appointment, the recommendation will be communicated to the sitting SCCS Board Trustees.

4) Monetary or In-Kind donations will go only to candidates, initiatives, or measures endorsed by GSCFT or CFT.

5) Decisions to publicize campaign events, forums, fundraisers etc. will be made by the President, in conjunction with the COPE committee and E Board.

6) While serving as elected or appointed officers, representatives or COPE committee members for the GSCFT, officers and representatives will not include their union affiliation with their name in any endorsement * unless that candidate or measure has been endorsed by GSCFT/CFT. *(unless the endorser lists the union affiliation as “for identification purposes only”)

7) With local bond measures, parcel taxes or other ballot measures, the COPE chairperson, in conjunction with the COPE committee and E Board, will bring materials to the GSCFT Council of Representatives regarding the ballot measure at least one month prior to voting on the measure. During the ensuing month, site reps. will bring this information to their sites for discussion. The measure will be discussed and a vote will be taken to recommend the measure for endorsement at the following month’s meeting. (revised on 10/2/2017 by Council of Reps.)