

TAAAC Endorsement Protocols and Procedures

TAAAC ByLaws Article VIII – Committees: “...The [Government Relations] Committee shall establish guidelines to make candidate recommendations to the TAAAC Board of Directors. The Representative Assembly will then receive recommendations of the TAAAC Board of Directors and vote on the recommendations immediately following the discussion.”

The following outline is meant to serve as guiding principles and practices for endorsing candidates for locally elected offices in Anne Arundel County. This document is modeled on language from other locals in Maryland and MSEA.

Timelines will be adjusted depending on election dates.

1. The Government Relations Committee will review this procedure and develop candidate questionnaires for local offices (County Executive, County Council, Board of Education, etc.). This should be done the September/October prior to candidate filing deadlines.
2. The Government Relations Committee will monitor filings at <https://elections.maryland.gov/elections/> and deadlines for various offices.
3. On a rolling basis as candidates file, the GR committee will work with TAAAC Office staff to send the approved questionnaires to the candidates. Candidates will have two weeks to confirm receipt and express intent to complete the questionnaire.
4. Communication to the candidates will indicate that their answers may be disclosed publicly for the sake of transparency in the process (via the TAAAC website and social media – personal information will be redacted).
5. The GR committee will establish interview teams to involve more of our members in the process. Separate teams for each elected position may be created, preferably consisting of TAAAC members who live and/or work in the district represented by the candidate. Training of the sub-committee should be done in November, if practicable. Interview questions might be similar but should not be the same as the questions on the questionnaires.
6. Candidate interviews will be scheduled at the discretion of the GR committee.
7. Candidates may be recommended to the RA on a rolling basis by the GR committee for endorsement based on questions such as:
 - a. Does the candidate demonstrate support of public education/educators through past actions/ statements?
 - b. Are candidate’s responses supportive of our collective interests?
 - c. Does the candidate demonstrate a thorough understanding of the association’s interests/ concerns?
 - d. Does the candidate demonstrate the experience, temperament, vision and skill set to carry through on their goals?
 - e. Does the candidate demonstrate an understanding of the campaign process, have community support, and have a solid strategy to win?
8. The Government Relations Committee recommends endorsement of candidates to the Rep Assembly (58% of votes as per TAAAC and MSEA policy).
9. Press releases of endorsements can be made in all appropriate TAAAC publications and local outlets.

10. Reconsideration of Endorsements: A simple majority of GR committee members present may demand the reconsideration or removal of a recommendation of a candidate. The reconsideration and removal must be approved with a 2/3 vote by GR committee members present, then a 2/3 majority of Rep Assembly members present.