

# Graduate Employees' Organization Electoral Involvement Procedure

## Three general kinds of electoral action:

- 1) Endorsement: GEO formally states our support for a specific candidate and commits to concrete actions to get them elected. Stewards have to vote to do this.
- 2) Cooperation: GEO recognizes other organizations' and/or our affiliates' support for a candidate or set of candidates and encourages members to join in canvassing, phone banking, or similar actions in support. Stewards have to vote to do this, or empower the subcommittee to do so in a separate vote.
- 3) Education: GEO informs members about candidates, including endorsements, past records, and other facts relevant to our members deciding who to support. This may include providing information on how to support candidates or which organizations are already supporting such candidates. The subcommittee is responsible for doing this.

## How the Electoral Action Subcommittee determines which option to recommend:

- 1) Information gathering. We start by determining which plausible/serious candidates are contesting a race, finding out what we can about these candidates and their records and preferences, and doing due diligence to determine that we aren't missing a disqualifying detail.
  - a) This will often include interviewing candidates that we might endorse. For candidates we aren't directly endorsing, but might be engaged in cooperative action on their behalf, we may wish to interview them if other information prompts questions we want answered. It's not necessary to interview a candidate if other information suggests they don't support our interests.
  - b) Candidates aren't perfect, so not all candidates will perfectly meet these principles. We will acknowledge that in our endorsement proposals and put forth a good argument.
- 2) Strategic planning. We compare the deadlines for each race, prioritize which candidates to support at which point in an election season, and then create a recommendation.
  - a) Electoral timeline tells us when our involvement will be most helpful for a given candidate.
  - b) We pick endorsements in a way that lets us work for all endorsed candidates with a minimum of timeline conflicts.
  - c) Other candidates should be supported cooperatively or put on a fact sheet for our education work, to minimize member overload and/or subcommittee burnout.
- 3) Criteria for endorsement:
  - a) Candidate has a track record of supporting our interests.
  - b) We expect to be able to build the member buy-in required to provide that support.
  - c) We don't believe that supporting this candidate will create tradeoffs that otherwise undermine our interests.