



Next Up Action Fund Endorsement Process

ENDORSEMENT BACKGROUND

1. Next Up Action Fund does not endorse Federal races.
2. Next Up will only endorse in races that will directly impact our base, including campaigns at all levels of state and local government, from School Boards to statewide offices.
3. Next Up Action Fund has a goal of empowering and supporting young Oregonians to be leaders in their community. Therefore, we are prioritizing candidates who are aligned with our values, and who are under 35 years old. We are also prioritizing candidates who identify as: BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, and People of Color), LGBTQIA+, people living with disabilities, womxn, people that are low income, and people from underserved communities regardless of age. We are also only considering endorsements in the following geographic regions: Multnomah County, Clackamas County, Washington County, Marion County, and statewide races. We may proactively decide to engage with candidates who meet these criteria. **If you are unsure whether this applies to you, or would like us to consider an endorsement outside of the regions listed above, please contact Devin Ruiz, Next Up's Community Engagement Organizer, at devin@nextuporegon.org, before filling out our questionnaire.**
4. Candidates who were endorsed by Next Up Action Fund in the primary election, are considered endorsed in the general election. If you have questions about this, please contact Devin Ruiz.
5. Next Up Action Fund will make our endorsement process public on our website and social media, and will share with partners, but we will not proactively send it out to all candidates.
6. Next Up Action Fund reserves the right to not endorse in any race, because we are using our Mission, Vision, and Values to guide us toward any endorsements. We may decline to endorse in some races entirely.
7. Next Up Action Fund wants to stand behind candidates who are there for us, whether we have checkbooks or not. We believe in the power of our endorsement. However, we cannot guarantee any political contributions at this time. We are potentially able to offer other kinds of support, but cannot guarantee it as a consequence of endorsement.
8. Next Up Action Fund strives to be equal, accessible, and open in its endorsement process to all candidates who are serious about pursuing goals in alignment with Next Up's mission, vision, and values. If any candidates or campaigns have questions or concerns, please reach out to Devin Ruiz with Next Up.

THE ENDORSEMENT PROCESS

1. Next Up Action Fund will make an online public survey available by July 14, 2020 for candidates to fill out, which will be accessible on our website and via social media. Candidates must submit completed surveys by July 24, 2020 by 5pm.
 - a. Paper copies of the survey will be available for candidates to fill out in person, if they require accommodations. Call our office to request those, otherwise, we request online submissions for efficiency.
 - b. Next Up Action Fund will announce or inform candidates of any endorsements on or before August 17, 2020 (8 days before the voters pamphlet deadline).
2. The Next Up Action Fund will form an Endorsement Committee composed of 3 to 9 people affiliated with the organization, including (but not limited to): Board Members, Staff, High School Students, and/or Volunteers.
 - a. The Endorsement Committee will make endorsement recommendations, however, the Next Up Action Fund Board of Directors will review and make final endorsement decisions by an email vote.
3. Candidates will be interviewed by the Endorsement Committee during the week of August 3rd. Interviews will be conducted in the evenings on August 4th, 5th, and 6th. Candidates who are seeking our endorsement will be expected to attend a 30-minute virtual interview during that time. **While the Endorsement Committee will conduct the interviews, they will be open to any board member, staff member, or volunteer who would like to join and observe. Unless otherwise agreed to, interviews will be recorded, and will be confidential to Next Up and only used for internal purposes.**

If you have additional questions, please contact Devin Ruiz at Devin@nextuporegon.org.