

Task Force Proposals

Adopted at UWF Convention, October 16, 2021.

1. Endorsements

The mutual expectations (described below) will become a core part of our endorsement process. This means that all first-time candidates applying for our endorsement will be asked to sign an agreement committing to our mutual expectations as they submit their questionnaire, and questions in the interview process should refer to these agreements.

Additionally, all incumbents will be asked to recommit to the mutual expectations as part of the endorsement process. How incumbents have lived into our values over the prior term will be incorporated into Elections Committee decisions about the level and pace of electoral support.

Lastly, the Elections Committee will encourage additional member participation in the endorsement process in order to support broader engagement with our mutual responsibilities to each other. Possible activities include, but are not limited to: inviting individual members to participate in endorsement interviews, providing ways for members to contact Party Committee and Elections Committee members to share their experiences with candidates and/or incumbents, and hosting briefings to explain the endorsement process.

2. Mutual Expectations

It is the responsibility of UWF members who do not hold elected office to:

- Meet quarterly with elected officials to learn more about their priorities and their local ward/districts
- Support UWF candidates and elected officials in good standing as representatives of our party
- Communicate regularly with elected officials, including providing transparent updates on campaign negotiations and priorities
- Organize canvasses and/or town hall meetings in elected officials' ward/districts in order to help build popular support for their positions
- Provide political education for members on legislative updates and parliamentary procedure
- Set clear expectations on the front-end around how elected officials are asked to support specific legislative campaigns or issue fights

- Send reminder calls and texts to ensure that members see important emails
- Convene meetings with electeds, members, and stakeholders before big votes
- Inform elected officials of plans to escalate to public pressure

This work will be led by the UWF Legislative Director and Policy Committee.

It is the responsibility of UWF members who do hold elected office to:

- Uphold party positions (on legislative, local, and political matters) a majority of the time. This includes voting in line with other UWF members, supporting and running with the UWF slate, and working with UWF members on local issues that promote the public good.
- Communicate regularly with UWF members and staff, including providing transparent updates on legislative negotiations and priorities
- Attend a majority of UWF Elected Official meetings.
- Include UWF materials in general constituent outreach and canvassing
- Use the resources of your office to promote the leadership of poor and working-class BIPOC people, particularly youth, including employment and training opportunities.
- Bring significant decisions around legislative negotiations back to membership/constituency/ward organizations

It is all of our responsibility to honor these collective agreements and commitments to each other. When these collective agreements are no longer being upheld, members may petition the Party Committee for action (see below).

3. Standard Processes

When the collective agreements have been violated (e.g. breaking with the party on significant policy positions, supporting harmful local decisions, or no longer upholding party positions legislatively, locally, and politically a majority of the time), members may petition the Party Committee for action steps that reinforce our mutual accountability to each other and to the movement from which we come.

The standard process is as follows:

1. A member organization, chapter, member committee, or formation of 25 member-signers in the elected official's geographic area petitions the Party Committee for action. Members are strongly encouraged to ask for specific steps and/or actions that reflect the

gravity of the petition.

2. The Party Committee reviews the petition and takes appropriate information-gathering steps, including commissioning an ad hoc group, conversations with members, with the elected in question, etc.
3. The Party Committee issues its decision. This could include anything from “no action” to “retraction of endorsement,” with many other possible options (e.g. temporary suspension of membership, hold on financial contributions and/or local canvasses for one year, the holding of peace and/or accountability circles, or release of report and/or accountability statements).
4. Membership receives communication on Party Committee process and decision, when that decision alters the standing of the elected in question. All other decisions may be communicated out at the discretion of the Party Committee.