



## Ward 7 Democrats Straw Poll Rules

*Saturday, March 23, 2024*

*10:00 am - 2:00 pm*

*Ryland Epworth United Methodist Church*

*3200 S St., SE, Washington, DC 20020*

**Authorization:** Pursuant to *Section 4, Article IX of the Bylaws of the Ward 7 Democrats* ("Ward7Dems") and following the approval at the Ward 7 Democrats Public Meeting on January 27, 2024, the Executive Committee hereby establishes the following Rules to govern the Ward 7 Candidate Straw Poll set to occur on March 23, 2024, for the Ward 7 Council race in the June 4, 2024, Democratic Primary. The Straw Poll will be conducted by the DC Democratic Party and its volunteers.

**Eligibility to Vote:** The Straw Poll is open to registered Democrats residing in Ward 7. Voter registration will be confirmed.

**Polling Location and Hours:** The Straw Poll will be held at **Ryland Epworth United Methodist Church, 3200 S. St., SE, Washington, DC 20020**. Doors will open at 10:00 am and close promptly at 2:00 pm. All voters in line by 2:00 pm will be allowed to cast their ballot.

**Voting Process:**

- Upon arrival, voters will check in with poll workers, verify their registration and residency, and receive a ballot.
- Voters will mark their ballots in a private area and then deposit them in the ballot box.
- Each voter may cast only one ballot, and ballot sharing or duplication is strictly prohibited.



### **Ballot Position**

- The order of candidates on the ballot will be determined using an online randomization tool.
- Candidates and their representatives will have the opportunity to observe this randomization process.
- The assigned ballot positions will be determined on **Monday, March 15, 2024.**

### **Candidate Eligibility**

- Candidates must have submitted a completed pre-candidate questionnaire to the Ward 7 Democrats.
- Participation in the official candidate forum is required for a candidate to have their name printed on the ballot.
- Submission of the necessary petitions as per DC Board of Elections regulations is mandatory.
- Candidates must have received preliminary approval from the DC Board of Elections to be listed on the Straw Poll ballot.

### **Candidate Representation:**

- All candidates on the Straw Poll ballot are invited to have one (1) representative present at the polling location.
- No campaigning or electioneering is allowed within 50 feet of the polling entrance.

### **Ballot Security:**

- Poll workers will ensure the security and confidentiality of all ballots.
- The ballot box will be monitored at all times and will be sealed before the counting process begins.



### **Counting Votes:**

- The DC Democrats will oversee the vote counting process.
- The counting of votes will commence immediately after the polling concludes at 2:00 pm.
- Each candidate will be allowed to have one (1) representative present during the vote counting process.

### **Announcement of Results:**

- Results will be tallied and announced on the same day, following the completion of the count.
- The results will be posted at the polling site and on the Ward 7 Democrats' official website, newsletter and social media channels.

### **Endorsement Process:**

- Voters will have the authority to decide whether the outcome of the Straw Poll should be utilized for endorsing a candidate, by casting their votes on the following ballot question: *"Should the Ward 7 Democrats endorse the candidate who receives the highest number of votes in the Straw Poll?"*
- An endorsement meeting will be scheduled post-Straw Poll, to review the results of the ballot question regarding the use of the Straw Poll results, and if applicable, decide on an official endorsement.
- If applicable, the Candidate receiving the endorsement will benefit from additional support and resources from the Ward 7 Democrats in their ensuing campaign activities. Specifically, the Ward 7 Democrats may send out a mailer on behalf of the endorsed candidate, communications via the Ward 7 newsletter and social media channels.
- If applicable, the official endorsements will be communicated to the public and the media through a formal announcement.

### **Dispute Resolution:**

- Any disputes or concerns regarding the Straw Poll process should be addressed to the DC Democrats, Straw Poll Committee immediately.
- The Committee will review and resolve disputes in a timely and fair manner.



**Accessibility:**

- The polling location will be accessible to voters with disabilities. Assistance will be available for those requiring help with the voting process.

By participating in the Ward 7 Democrats Straw Poll, voters and candidates agree to abide by these rules to ensure a fair, transparent, and democratic process.