

CWA Executive Board Resolution CWA Councils, Locals Released to Make Presidential Endorsement in Primaries

For the first time since 1952, there is neither an incumbent nor a sitting Vice President running for the White House. Both parties have wide-open primaries. Currently there are six Republican and eight Democratic candidates seeking their party's nomination.

Given this unusual situation it is no surprise that CWA members are split in choosing among the candidates. Our recent e-poll shows that our members do not have a clear majority favorite. Instead, our members' support is spread fairly evenly among the Democratic front runners. Our members also were evenly divided on the question of whether CWA should make an early endorsement. By a slim margin, members expressed their preference for "no endorsement" at this time.

As a result, the CWA Executive Board has decided not to endorse a presidential candidate at this time and to release Councils and locals to endorse the candidate of their choosing.

The Executive Board urges Councils and locals to take into account these issues and concerns when considering the endorsement of a candidate:

1. The candidate's stand on CWA's four major issues: Jobs/Trade, Health Care Reform, Collective Bargaining and Organizing Rights, and Retirement Security. Some questions to consider: Does the candidate support fair trade, not free trade? Does the candidate support the Employee Free Choice Act? Does the candidate fully back health care for all? Does the candidate support maintaining Social Security and Medicare as government initiatives, not private-sector programs? Does the candidate support reform of pension laws that helps working families?
2. Locals are encouraged to convene council meetings and discuss endorsement. If a Council cannot agree on an endorsement, locals are free to endorse. Councils and Local Executive Boards must reach an agreement through consensus or majority vote on any early endorsement.
3. In the absence of a Council endorsement locals should reach out to other CWA locals in the same geographic area and consider making joint endorsements. That's an important way to increase our influence for a particular candidate.

Be it resolved: That CWA Councils and Locals are released to announce early endorsements.

Be it resolved: That all CWA Councils and CWA Locals will send their District/Sector/Division Vice President immediate notification of an endorsement decision as well as the name of the Council or local officer responsible for politics.