NORTH CAROLINA COALITION FOR CHARTER SCHOOLS

Guidelines for Candidate Endorsement

Endorsement framework

- **Non-partisan and issue-driven:** The Coalition will never endorse a party. Instead, we base our endorsement on whether a candidate agrees with our advocacy goals of fair funding and autonomy. We limit our consideration to these two issues **only**.
- **Based on objective criteria**: Voters are often passionate about the candidates they support. Our guidelines take decision-making out of the subjective, emotive realm, instead outlining endorsement criteria that are objective and fact-based.

Offices eligible for endorsements (with decision-making capacity to impact charters)

- **Congress (U.S. House and Senate):** Controls federal charter funding
- **Governor:** Appoints majority (11 seats) of the State Board of Education
- **Lt. Governor:** Serves as ex-officio member of the State Board of Education
- **State Treasurer:** Serves as ex-officio member of the State Board of Education
- **State Superintendent:** Impacts and implements policy affecting charter schools
- **General Assembly (N.C. House and Senate):** Funds and sets policy for charter schools
- **County Commissioners:** Could fund charter schools through local education dollars and facility funds

Specific endorsement criteria

- Candidate should be seeking election to one of the offices listed above.
- Candidate should be running for office in a general election, with this exception: An incumbent candidate who supported specific pro-charter legislation and is running in a district that is politically safe for one party. In this case, an endorsement is most impactful during the primary election.
- Candidate should be a "Charter Champion" or a known supporter of charter schools, as evidenced by positions on the issues of fair funding and autonomy.
- Candidate should have completed the Coalition's candidate questionnaire.
- Candidate should be engaged in a race deemed competitive. (This is evaluated by whether or not a district leans heavily toward one party. We make an exception for candidates who are known charter supporters and hold leadership positions. A Coalition endorsement in this instance is important, given leadership on legislative committees.)
- Candidate and competitor(s) should hold divergent views on fair funding and autonomy.
- Candidate should be running in a district where local charter impact is likely. (The district should include sufficient charter parents to make an impact. We retain the flexibility to apply this principle creatively in districts with limited charters, however, as getting votes in the legislature is of paramount importance.)

Process for Coalition Board decisions

The Legislative Committee's chairperson:

- Works with the executive director and lobbyists to determine which races to endorse.
- Shares the candidate endorsement list with the Legislative Committee for approval.
- Presents the candidate endorsement list to the Coalition Board for final approval.