

MCBA JUDICIAL ENDORSEMENT POLICY

OVERVIEW:

1. Endorsements for local, state and federal judiciary, boards, commissions, issues relevant to MCBA and other matters as determined by MCBA.
2. Endorsement of any candidate within the non-partisan court plan after a panel has been announced
3. If the MCBA Executive Board endorses more than one judicial candidate, the MCBA letter to the Governor may request that the Governor select one of the candidates endorsed by the MCBA.
4. All information gathered, any vote, comments and discussion of a candidate by MCBA regarding a request for endorsement shall be confidential.
5. Only individuals actively seeking MCBA endorsement shall be considered.
6. MCBA membership is not required for an endorsement.
7. More than one letter of endorsement is permitted for a Judicial Commission vacancy or other positions as determined by MCBA.
8. Untimely requests shall not be considered.
9. The MCBA President shall notify a candidate in writing when a request for endorsement is denied.
10. MCBA shall post on its web site and issue a press release on all decisions by MCBA to endorse.
11. All letters of endorsement shall be signed by the MCBA President
12. All applications seeking the endorsement of the MCBA shall be available for members to view on the MCBA members only page.
13. A candidate who has sought the MCBA's endorsement in the last 12 months is not required to submit another application, but shall be required to submit a letter requesting the MCBA's endorsement.

DECISION-MAKING PROCESS:

1. All applications must be submitted using the MCBA online application.
2. Judicial Panel Candidates:
 - a. Application and all required documents must be submitted to the MCBA President no later than 10 days from the date the panel is announced.
 - b. MCBA will post the names of candidates seeking endorsement on the MCBA web site within 3 days after the application period has closed.
 - c. MCBA will create a link on its web site for members to comment. This link will close after 7 days or 3 days prior to the panel member's interview with the Governor, whichever comes first.
 - d. All comments shall be maintained until the MCBA Executive Board's vote on whether to endorse or not endorse a candidate.

- e. If requested by a candidate or MCBA, the MCBA Community Affairs Committee and/or the MCBA Executive Committee may conduct an interview of candidates requesting MCBA endorsement.
- f. In making a determination on whether or not to endorse, the following factors shall be considered by the MCBA Community Affairs Committee:
 - i. MCBA membership
 - ii. Whether the candidate adopts the mission of MCBA
 - iii. Qualifications of the candidate based on various considerations
 - iv. Feedback from the MCBA membership
 - v. Any other factor(s) not specified which may weigh on the decision to endorse
- g. Upon considering a candidate's request for endorsement, the MCBA Community Affairs Committee shall submit a recommendation to the MCBA Executive Board indicating whether MCBA should endorse or not endorse the candidate
- h. After receipt of a recommendation from the MCBA Community Affairs Committee, if any, the MCBA Executive Board shall decide whether to endorse or not endorse the candidate based upon the factors outlined above.
- i. The MCBA Executive Board is not bound by the recommendation of the MCBA Community Affairs Committee.
- j. MCBA shall post its decision on the MCBA web site and issue a press release announcing the endorsement.

3. Judicial Commission Candidates:

- a. Applications and all required documents must be submitted no later than 30 days prior to the election or selection date.
- b. MCBA will post the names of candidates seeking endorsement on the MCBA web site no later than 20 days prior to the election.
- c. MCBA will create a link on its web site for members to comment. This link will close no later than 14 days prior to the election.
- d. All comments shall be maintained until the MCBA Executive Board's final vote.
- e. In making a recommendation on whether or not to endorse, the following factors shall be considered by the MCBA Community Affairs Committee:
 - i. MCBA membership
 - ii. Whether the candidate adopts the mission of MCBA
 - iii. Qualifications of the candidate based on various considerations
 - iv. Feedback from the MCBA membership
 - v. Any other factor(s) not specified which may weigh on the decision to endorse
- f. Upon considering a candidate's request for endorsement, the MCBA Community Affairs Committee shall submit a recommendation to the MCBA Executive Board indicating whether the MCBA should endorse or not endorse the candidate.

- g. After receipt of a recommendation from the MCBA Community Affairs Committee, if any, the MCBA Executive Board shall decide whether to endorse or not endorse the candidate based upon the factors outlined above.
 - h. The MCBA Executive Board is not bound by the recommendation of the MCBA Community Affairs Committee.
 - i. MCBA shall post its decision on the MCBA web site and issue a press release announcing the endorsement.
4. Other Boards & Commissions:
- a. MCBA shall use the same process outlined herein for other Boards and Commissions, as well as issues and other matters as determined by the MCBA.

OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 1. Online application with instructions and endorsement policy
- 2. Add a tab on the MCBA home page with a link to the application
- 3. Edit No. 6 on the MCBA request for endorsement application to state “A LETTER OF REFERENCE FROM A FINANCIAL MEMBER OF MCBA MUST ACCOMPANY THIS APPLICATION.”
- 4. Delete application requirement of certification from the Missouri Bar for Judicial Panel Candidates, as well as issues and other matters as determined by the MCBA.

Effective Date: This Policy shall take effect 30 days from its passage on August 30, 2017.