



PRIMARY ELECTION ENDORSEMENT GUIDELINES

*Revised by the OCCPAC Board
December 3, 2019*

The mission of the Ohio Chamber of Commerce Political Action Committee (OCCPAC) is to aid in the election of candidates who demonstrate a commitment to a favorable business climate in Ohio. As a result of term limits, it is important for the Ohio Chamber PAC to have the flexibility to endorse legislative candidates in selected primary election races. The following guidelines will serve to direct the OCCPAC board in making such endorsements of legislative candidates.

1. Endorsements may be selectively made in certain primary races where appropriate.
2. Endorsements shall only be made after the official candidate filing deadline.
3. Endorsements shall carry no guarantee of financial assistance.
4. To be eligible for endorsement, incumbents must hold a *Free Enterprise Index* score of at least 70 percent for the current session of the General Assembly. Exceptions to this may be considered only if the incumbent was the primary sponsor of one or more bills supported by the Ohio Chamber during the current session of the General Assembly.
5. No candidate shall be endorsed unless, prior to the conclusion of the endorsement process, the candidate responds to the Ohio Chamber's candidate issues questionnaire or otherwise provides sufficient supporting evidence to establish the candidate's position on key business issues included in the Ohio Chamber's current public policy agenda.
6. Criteria to be considered in making primary endorsements shall at least include:
7. Electability
 - Results of candidate surveys or interviews
 - Support from local business community and Ohio Chamber members in district
 - Open seat vs. incumbent officeholder
 - Distinct differences between candidates on business issues
 - Character and personal integrity
8. Endorsements are subject to disapproval or revocation by the OCCPAC Board for ethics violations.
9. The Ohio Chamber's Public Affairs Executive Committee shall be involved in evaluating candidates and recommending endorsements to the OCCPAC board and/or the Ohio Chamber's Board of Directors.