

## South Jersey Progressive Democrats – Endorsement process

The Elections Subcommittee of the South Jersey Progressive Democrats exists for the purpose of guiding the organization through each primary and general election cycle. In doing so, its goal is to recruit candidates to run for office that share the party's progressive values. Candidates interested in formal endorsements from the SJPD can submit applications to this subcommittee. Candidate endorsements will be in effect through one primary and general election cycle.

Please complete the following and return to [SJPDelections@gmail.com](mailto:SJPDelections@gmail.com). **Candidates are encouraged to return applications by March 1, in order to receive endorsement before the candidate filing deadline.**

### Contact Information

Name:

Office sought:

Primary Date:

Election Date:

Campaign Contact Info:

- Phone:

- Email:

If Available:

- Website:

- Facebook:

- Twitter:

Current Party Affiliation:

Past Party Affiliations:

Do you now hold or have you ever held elected office? If yes, please explain:

### Candidate Background

- Describe your ties to South Jersey.
- Describe your experience in politics/activism/community organizations.
- List all campaigns you were involved in as a candidate, staffer, and volunteer.
- Please confirm that by submitting this application, you consent to allow SJPD to run a background check and/or ask questions related to the following in a personal interview: (1) Prior arrests, charges, or convictions; (2) civil litigation history; (3) bankruptcy filings. *(Note: SJPD does not believe that any of the above necessarily preclude anyone from an endorsement, but discussing them in advance are essential for the campaign).*

### Platform Essay Questions

The South Jersey Progressive Democrats are committed to recruiting and endorsing candidates that share our progressive values. More specifically, we value accountable and transparent government based on democratic principles; economic justice by means of democratic control of the workplace and economy; racial and social equity; climate and environmental justice; and the fundamental right to an education.

Please review the SJPD platform [included at the end of this document] and:

- 1.) Identify up to three issues that are important to you as a candidate and how you plan to address them if elected. In doing so, please touch upon notions of procedural progressivism (the process of governing) as well as substantive progressivism (the positions we take as an organization).
- 2.) Briefly describe how you plan to fund your campaign.
- 3.) Briefly describe your campaign strategy and path to victory.

## Candidate Interviews

Completed applications can be emailed to [SJPDelections@gmail.com](mailto:SJPDelections@gmail.com). The Elections Chair or Co-Chair will then reach out to the candidate to schedule an interview.

## Endorsement Process

Once the interview is complete, the SJPD by-laws prescribe the following process:

“Steering committee will make recommendations to the general membership regarding endorsements. These recommendations will be informed by information gathered by the Elections subcommittee, for the purpose of gauging candidates’ alignment with the shared progressive values of the organization. This process will be shared publicly, and will be open to any candidate who wishes to seek endorsement. The Steering committee can recommend a candidate for endorsement by a majority vote. Candidates recommended by the steering committee must be approved by a simple majority vote of SJPD members.

## SJPD Platform

### **Mission**

South Jersey Progressive Democrats is a grassroots organization working to restore democracy to South Jersey. We stand for a transparent, accountable, and just government that works for all people.

### **Purpose**

We actively participate in local elections and identify local candidates to run for office. We support Democratic candidates who share our progressive values. We are a movement creating coalitions across South Jersey.

### **Our Progressive Values**

#### **Accountable and transparent government**

- An end to government corruption and pay-to-play practices
- Free and fair elections, including a fair primary ballot where no candidates are given favored placement through the use of “the line”
- Full disclosure of county and municipal expenses so residents understand how public funds are spent
- Municipal and county practices that encourage meaningful public participation including: posting of meeting times, agendas and ordinances in a timely fashion, live streaming public meetings, and soliciting input from residents to inform important decisions

#### **Economic Justice**

- A progressive tax code where the wealthiest in our society pay a fair share including a millionaire’s tax, inheritance taxes and removing caps on payroll taxes
- An end to government grants and tax breaks that favor politically-connected businesses and corporations without community benefit
- Access to affordable healthcare for every person through the expansion of Medicare and Medicaid
- Access to healthcare benefits for all workers, including public workers
- Protection for the rights of all workers to unionize and pursue collective bargaining

- Fair access to housing including enforcement of affordable housing requirements in all municipalities, protections for the rights of tenants, and proactive action to end homelessness

### **Racial and Social Equity**

- Resistance to the spread of fascism, white nationalism, and bigotry against minorities and an end to white supremacy and white supremacist structures
- LGBTQ+ rights including protection from employment discrimination, access to public accommodations, and an end to hate crimes and violence, noting especially violence targeting trans women of color
- Feminism and women's rights, including reproductive rights, an end to the gender pay gap, and protection from abuse and harassment
- Safe and welcoming policies for immigrant communities; an end to cooperation between ICE and local police and correctional facilities in compliance with NJ Attorney General's Immigrant Trust Directive

### **Criminal Justice Reform**

- Community-based alternatives to incarceration including restorative justice programs, drug courts, veterans courts, and mental health courts
- Significant decrease in the number of people incarcerated in New Jersey
- Community oversight of police to prevent violence and excessive use of force, especially against communities of color
- Legalization of cannabis, the expungement of related offenses from criminal records and amnesty for those imprisoned for nonviolent cannabis offenses

### **Climate/Environmental Justice**

- Sustainable environmental policies and practices at the local level including plastic bag bans, sustainable development, and the protection of open space
- Decisive action to transition from fossil fuels to clean and renewable energy sources including a moratorium on new fossil fuel production facilities and infrastructure
- Increased quality and usage of public transit
- Protection of air and water resources for current and future generations, including preventing the further privatization of public water
- Subsidies for environmentally friendly consumer choices for working-class families

### **Fundamental right to Education**

- Full and equitable funding through progressive taxation that allows every student to receive a quality education, regardless of the economic status of their community
- A commitment to public education, including protection of funds for public education and ensuring adequate public oversight of charter schools
- Respect for public school employees, including their right to collective bargaining.
- Proactive action towards the desegregation of schools
- A holistic approach to student safety including trauma-informed care, reduced police presence in schools, and ending the school to prison pipeline
- Local control and accountability in school district governance
- Affordable access to higher education