

CALA Election Endorsement Policy

08/30/2021

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- Candidates should reach out to the CALA Executive Committee (EC) by the end of January in the year they seek election if they are running for President within the American Library Association (ALA) and within the International Federation of Library Associations (IFLA).
- Each person seeking an endorsement for ALA president should send the CALA EC a short biography, political/platform statement, resume/CV and be open to do a virtual interview with all CALA members via an online program like Zoom or Google Meet. All other candidates seeking endorsement for other offices/committees can send a resume/CV and a short biographical statement to the CALA EC.
- CALA EC will make the decision/vote for endorsement. To gain an endorsement, a candidate must get the majority vote from CALA EC.
- Endorsements are given out on a voluntary/non-monetary basis and it is not mandatory that an endorsement is given every year. Endorsements are awarded at the discretion of CALA EC. If CALA EC does not find any candidates worthy of a political endorsement, they can decide not to endorse any political candidates in a given year.
- Generally, CALA EC has only endorsed candidates for ALA President and IFLA President and Governing Board Members. CALA EC is open to endorsing candidates running for other types of library/information science/archives-related offices, excluding CALA election, union elections and cases where people in academic positions seek individual tenure.
- If anyone seeking an endorsement is (1) part of the CALA EC, or (2) have conflict of interest with any of the candidates (relative, romantic or business partner, supervisor/employee, etc.), that person must recuse themselves from the endorsement discussion and vote.
- Any other non-library/information science/archive related political offices (such as state and municipal government races, Board of Education, academic tenure, etc.) or political offices related to our fellow national associations of librarians of color (the Black Caucus of the American Librarians Association/BCALA; REFORMA: The National Association to Promote Library & Information Services to Latinos and the Spanish Speaking; the Asian/Pacific American Librarians Association; the American Indian Library Association/AILA) and/or the Joint Council of Librarians of Color (JCLC), will not be under consideration for CALA endorsement.
- It is not mandatory for political candidates to be CALA members to seek the organizations' endorsement, however membership and service to the organization would be seen favorably.
- Once the CALA EC gets the names of political candidates who are running for office and seeking CALA endorsement, the CALA President will verify the list of names with the CALA Membership Committee to confirm membership status of the candidates.
- Endorsement will be a public statement of support from CALA via a press release that will be posted on the CALA website and social media channels. There are no monetary campaign contributions or volunteer campaign work associated with an endorsement. CALA EC will write and publish the press release.

- Individual CALA members who wish to contribute their own volunteer time and funds to a political campaign may do so as long as they do not imply they are acting as an official representative/or on behalf of CALA.
- Ideally, CALA EC will make their political endorsement announcement by the end of February or early March for the ALA presidential race. Announcements of endorsement for other political offices will be determined by CALA EC depending on the election timeline of the other political races.

Minimum candidate standard requirements:

- Be running for office within the American Library Association or related affiliates. Other library/information science/archive-related political elections would be considered on a case-by-case basis.
- Agree with CALA's mission and vision and candidates must state how they are supporting/doing the work in their candidate statement and interview.
- Demonstrate commitment/support for the Chinese and Chinese American communities and Asian American and Pacific Islander communities at large. Candidates do not necessarily have to be of Chinese heritage.
- Demonstrate commitment/support for diversity at large within the library/ information science/archives profession.
- For candidates seeking ALA presidential office, they must demonstrate a strong background of leadership and management experience.
- Demonstrate integrity, character and good communication skills.
- Active volunteering/involvement in other library/information science/archives-related groups or civic and community organizations, or diverse/multicultural institutions or organizations will be looked at favorably.