

MICHIGAN REALTORS®

2024 Local Association Candidate Interview Guide

Michigan Realtors® has developed a new approach to candidate interviews. This includes a new recognition structure, interview timeline, and endorsement process. Expanded technology allows for tracking of voting records, along with other criteria for endorsement. More information for Association Executives will also be available during the Achieve conference, along with other opportunities throughout the year.

1. Recognition Structure (For Internal Use Only):

- For incumbents running again for State House and/or State Senate, below are the new recognition/endorsement levels for a particular current elected official:
 - **Realtor® Champion**
 - >90% voting record
 - sponsor/co-sponsor of Realtor® legislation
 - Leadership position
 - Recommend endorsement without Interview
 - **Realtor® Supporter**
 - 61-89% voting record
 - Sponsor/cosponsor of Realtor® legislation
 - Recommend endorsement without Interview
 - **Incumbent**
 - <60% voting record
 - Recommend Interview
- Candidates will still be recognized publicly as “Endorsed”
- Field staff will present incumbent endorsement recommendations to local association interviewing bodies prior to April filing deadline. Local associations can then decide to endorse those officials who fit the criteria without holding an interview. That endorsement would be solidified by the RPAC Trustees, and carried on through the General Election.
- RPAC Trustees will identify monetary endorsement amounts based on current RPAC budget.

- Local Association publication of state endorsements cannot occur before Michigan Realtors® publishes state endorsement list.
- With many incumbent endorsement recommendations being solidified without an interview, local associations are encouraged to hold check presentations, endorsed candidate breakfast/lunches, meet and greets, or roundtable discussions with those endorsed officials.

2. Interview Timeline for Open Seats:

- All local association interviews and recommendations for open seats during the primary election must be completed by **June 10th**. All local association interviews and recommendations during the general election for open seats must be completed by **September 9th**. This ensures that an endorsed candidate can utilize their endorsements properly during election season (e-cards, mailers, etc.)

For open seats, if there are two or more boards who share a district, Michigan Realtors® staff will coordinate the candidate interview.

- Meeting face-to-face is encouraged, but, Zoom or other remote technology is acceptable for interviews that include multiple boards or where distance between local associations is significant. In the instances where an interview cannot be convened, review of the candidate questionnaire will be acceptable.
- If a local association does not want to interview in either the Primary or General election, the RPAC Trustees will review candidate questionnaires and make determinations.
- When there are multiple local associations involved in one candidate interview, each local will be offered equal representation – no more than 2-3 individuals per local (individuals who have completed the training program)
- AE's do not vote to recommend a candidate; however, they are encouraged to attend each interview.

3. Training programs for Association Executives

- Public Policy staff will present the new endorsement structure at Achieve
- New AE's can receive training whenever needed throughout the year
- Field Staff can host candidate interview training for local association RPAC/Government Affairs committee members