

WWP National Candidacy Protocols

Requirements to Begin a Candidacy

1. This person or persons must have 2 orientation meetings.

- An initial meet and greet meeting with at least 2 full comrades in a branch. This meeting can be oriented around getting to know the person, why they are interested in the Party, and an orientation around the history of the party and a branch.
 - The education committee should develop a general hand-out or slideshow with this information and a general “how-to” for our newer full comrades who have not done these meetings before
- Another meeting that goes over the candidacy process, daily branch functions and bodies, and an orientation on Cadre.
 - The branch should develop a general hand-out or slideshow with this information, including a candidacy checklist, and show the national “what is Cadre” slideshow to the potential candidate with a political discussion

Note: For at-large candidates these meetings may be conducted over video conference, but at least 1 in person meeting is required before or shortly after beginning a candidacy.

2. The potential candidate must attend at least 3 branch events (meetings, actions etc.) following their interest in starting a candidacy. At-large candidates, or candidates unable to attend in person should call into or view a live stream of a branch meeting at least 3 times.

3. The candidate must fill out the “interest in education” worksheet and the skill interest and leadership development form.

Candidacy Requirements

Upon completion of the above steps, **the assignment of 1-2 mentors/sponsors by the branch Candidacy Committee, or comparable body**, and with the approval of the branch candidacy committee or comparable body, an individual interested in joining the party can begin a candidacy, **which should last approximately one year.**

For at-large candidates, mentor/sponsor should be assigned by field staff or nearby branch. The candidate’s sponsor will review the requirements with the potential candidate to ensure a mutual agreement to start their candidacy.

4. The candidate must attend all candidacy classes in person or online.

- If the candidate cannot attend 1 or more classes, their mentor or other comrade(s) should include that education in the one-on-one calls or meetings, or make up classes.

Note: The branch should take attendance at these classes and stress that these classes are a requirement for candidacy.

5. The candidates and mentors should meet at least 10 times over the 12 months of candidacy. These meetings can be in-person or over the phone.

- The mentor(s) should keep a detailed document with the information on these meetings. This includes: meeting schedules, meeting materials, written reports, candidates' branch activity, etc. This is to be updated every month. (Sensitive or private information should not be included in this document.)
- Mentor(s) must give brief reports about the candidacy process in all candidacy committee meetings, meetings of a comparable body or internal branch meetings.

6. The candidate must be a *part* of organizing at least 3 branch events throughout their candidacy and play at least 5 active roles (*chair, notetaker, political discussion, or childcare*) at branch meetings throughout the duration of their candidacy. Branches should make accommodations for candidates with disabilities to participate in branch meetings, and amend these guidelines as necessary. At-large candidates can contribute electronically to events organized in other locations, but must organize at least one event in their own community if at all possible.

Note: Regular attendance at branch meetings is a crucial component of candidacy. If disability, work, family or other responsibilities make regular attendance impossible, mentors must work with candidates to find a way for candidates to engage with the political discussions and other important developments raised at branch meetings.

7. The candidate must be involved in some type of local mass work (anti-war, anti-gentrification, etc.) before or during the duration of their candidacy (at least a year).

- Branches/Mentors should set clear expectations for candidates on what the involvement of the candidate in mass work should look like. This looks different for every branch. Branches should also decide how to measure engagement.
- Branches/Mentors should discuss with candidates their capacity for party work given disability, work, family and other responsibilities, and set expectations accordingly.
- At-large candidates should seek out opportunities to participate in mass work in their communities wherever possible.

8. The candidate must understand the importance, in theory and in practice of our party's newspaper, and should regularly read the paper and distribute at least 10 papers per month. This includes being dedicated to passing out the paper at actions, meetings, or throughout the community as a main candidate role. This guideline should be amended as necessary to accommodate candidates with disabilities.

9. The candidate must attend in person or by call in/live stream at least 1 national party conference or gathering (plenum, Marxism school or annual conference). In addition, the candidate must engage or have a role in some national party formation (caucus, FIRE, paper team, etc.)

- Branches/mentors should set clear expectations for candidates on what the involvement of the candidate in National work should look like. This looks different for every branch. Branches should also decide how to measure engagement with National.
- Branches/mentors should discuss with candidates their capacity for party work given disability, work, family and other responsibilities, and set expectations accordingly.

10. The candidate must have a full understanding of the various party protocols, procedures and national/local party structures and bodies.

Protocols and Guidelines

- The Social Media Protocols
- Candidacy Protocols
- Solidarity Guidelines
- Commission on Party Relations and Culture Protocols

Party Structures and Bodies

- Executive Committee
- ICC
- Secretariat
- Commission on Party Relations and Culture
- National Education Committee
- National Field Staff
- National Editorial/Paper Staff

Party Caucuses and Fractions

- People of Color Caucus
- Women and Oppressed Genders Caucus
- LGBTQ2S+ Caucus
- Disabilities Caucus
- Labor Fraction
- Youth Fraction

Formations

- FIRE
- NoWarOnVenezuela
- International Workers Solidarity Network
- Peoples' Power Assemblies
- International Action Center

11. Following the completion of the above guidelines, the candidacy committee or comparable body should vote to propose full membership. Full members of the branch should then have an opportunity to raise concerns or general feedback about the candidate, and all full comrades of the branch should then vote to approve promotion of the candidate. The Field Staff should review and approve promotion to full membership of at-large candidates.

12. All candidates are expected to make some financial contribution to the party, at a level to be determined by the candidate and as their financial situation allows. A level of one week's wages per year is suggested.

Accountability

The Local Coordinating Committee (LCC) or comparable body must follow candidate development and ensure that mentors are fulfilling their responsibilities. This should include having access to meeting schedules and documents, monthly check-ins, and other process to ensure that the candidacy process is on track. The national party Field Staff should also play an active role in keeping track of membership growth and candidate development, in particular for at-large candidates.

Education

Mentors must follow the National Education Curriculum. If the candidate has an interest in something not on the curriculum, this can be added as a supplement to the national curriculum. Candidates should be encouraged to expand their study of Marxism-Leninism beyond the curriculum, and to continue their studies after the completion of their candidacy.

The candidacy process must also include discussions of local politics, discussions on branch/party culture and structures, and any skill-sharing the mentors/branch see as appropriate for the candidate.

Summary of Candidacy Requirements

Pre-Candidate Requirements:

- 1) 2 Orientation meetings
- 2) Three Branch events
- 3) Complete "Interest in Ed Worksheet"

Candidate Requirements

- 1) Complete National Education Curriculum & Attend all candidacy classes
- 2) Meet 10 times with mentor(s) in 12-month period
- 3) Help organize three branch events
- 4) Play an active role in five events
- 5) Read & distribute WW newspaper
- 6) Participate in one National Conference or Plenum
- 7) Be part of at least one national party formation.
- 8) Understand all party protocols, procedures, party structure, and bodies
- 9) Be approved by members of local branch at completion of candidacy.
- 10) Make a financial contribution to the party