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OBAMA RELEASES FIRST WAVE OF ENDORSEMENTS; NONE FROM MASS.

Former President Barack Obama on Wednesday made his first endorsements for the 2018 midterm elections, releasing a list of 81 candidates for federal and state offices across the country.

"I'm proud to endorse such a wide and impressive array of Democratic candidates – leaders as diverse, patriotic, and big-hearted as the America they're running to represent," Obama said in a statement. Described as the "first wave" of endorsements, they are all for candidates in states that have already held their primaries. It has not been confirmed whether his next wave of endorsements will come before or after the Commonwealth's Sept. 4 intraparty contests.

Earlier in the year, Obama endorsed establishment favorite Dianne Feinstein to continue representing California in the Senate before her primary against her more progressive opponent, state Sen. Kevin de Leon.

Obama's only endorsements in New England were for Louis Luchini, Laura Fortman and Linda Sanborn; all of whom are running for Maine's state Senate.

The former president has kept a low profile so far on the campaign trail, only appearing at closed political events. Along with the announcement of this first round of endorsements, Obama said he plans to campaign in several states, but did not specify which ones. - Chris Triunfo/SHNS

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