

BYLAWS OF THE GREEN PARTY OF SONOMA COUNTY

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Amendments adopted 1/9/94, 2/19/04, 5/20/04, 6/15/06, 4/08/08, 8/15/16*

ARTICLE I

The name of this organization is the Green Party of Sonoma County. The administrative body of the Green Party of Sonoma County is the Green Party of Sonoma County Council.

ARTICLE II PURPOSE

Section 1. Bylaws

1.01 These bylaws govern the organization, operation and functions of the Green Party of Sonoma County (GPSC) and the Green Party of Sonoma County Council.

Section 2. Mission

2.01 The mission of this organization is to promote the 10 Key Values of the Green Party of California (GPCA) and facilitate the emergence of Green politics in Sonoma County.

ARTICLE III MEMBERSHIP

The members of the GPSC are: all persons residing in Sonoma County with a valid voter registration in the Green Party.

GPSC may extend membership to Sonoma County residents who are not otherwise eligible to register to vote in California, but who affirm in writing the Ten Key Values and the GPCA's purpose, and meet any other criteria required by the GPCA bylaws. GPSC must forward to the Coordinating Committee of GPCA the minutes of the meeting at which such membership was extended for the membership to be valid.

Members are eligible to participate in the functions of the GPSC as provided by the GPCA bylaws, California State Law and these bylaws.

ARTICLE IV LOCALS

Section 1. Definition

1.01 Locals are defined as active affiliations of individuals in Sonoma County organized to promote Green values.

1.02 A member of a local shall be defined by Article III of the GPSC Bylaws.

Section 2. Duties and Authority

2.01 Only locals officially recognized by the GPSC may claim Green Party affiliation.

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- 2.02 Officially recognized locals shall designate representation to the GPSC General Meetings.

Section 3. Recognition

- 3.01 An active local should have at least three members and have, at a minimum, regular quarterly meetings.
- 3.02 Locals shall be required to send a representative to a GPSC General Meeting at least quarterly to maintain officially recognized status.
- 3.03 A local which meets minimum requirements may request official recognition at a GPSC General Meeting.
- 3.04 The GPSC General Meeting shall have the option, upon consensus of members present, to officially recognize, or rescind official recognition, of a local.
- 3.05 In the event the GPSC General Meeting is to determine official recognition (to approve or rescind) of a local, the local in question shall be given a minimum of 21 days prior notice of such consideration.

ARTICLE V THE COUNCIL

Section 1. Mission and Purpose

- 1.01 The Council will serve as the elected representative body of the GPSC. The Council's mission is to empower members and locals in Green political activity in Sonoma County. The Council will serve to promote the 10 key Values of the Green Party of California in all its actions and statements.
- 1.02 The Council will fill the role served by County Central Committees pursuant to Division 7 of the Election Code.
- 1.03 The Council will administer the GPSC according to these bylaws. In the event of an omission or ambiguity in these bylaws, the GPSC will look, to the bylaws of the Green Party of California for guidance.
- 1.04 The Council is accountable to the membership of the GPSC and must enact all GPSC decisions reached in accordance with these bylaws.

Section 2. Membership

- 2.01 The Council will be comprised of seven voting members elected in a county-wide, at-large district during the direct primary election held by the State of California in even years.
- 2.02 The GPSC may choose to modify the method of selection or size of the County Council by modifying these bylaws. The Council will notify the Green Party of California Coordinating Committee of such changes no later than 135 days before the direct primary election.
- 2.03 A council member may appoint an alternate in her/his absence. Alternates have the right to hold an "unresolved concern" (or cast a vote, should one become necessary) only with the written authorization of the member who made the appointment. An alternate shall be subject to the rules of the Council and may vote only while the elected member is absent.

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- 2.04 Council members will serve until the succeeding direct primary and the new Council convenes its first meeting.
- 2.05 In the event of the election of an ineligible person, or whenever any member dies, resigns or automatically resigns, becomes incapacitated to act, or is recalled, or a County Council seat was not filled in an election, a vacancy exists that will be filled as follows:
- a) Vacancies can be filled at a regularly scheduled Council meeting. If the vacancy occurs after notification of the agenda for the meeting has been distributed, the vacancy will not be filled until a succeeding meeting.
 - b) At the Council meeting, nominations for the vacancy will be accepted from any member. Each nominee will be given the opportunity to speak to the membership; after which time an election shall be held by secret ballot.
 - c) Every member is entitled to one vote for each vacancy.
 - d) The individual(s) who gains the most votes will be seated for the unexpired term of the vacancy.
 - e) The Council shall notify the County Clerk and the Green Party of California of the new Council person(s) in a timely fashion.
- 2.06 A Council member automatically resigns in the event that:
- a) The member moves out of the county;
 - b) The member registers with another political party (whether qualified or not);
 - c) The member fails to maintain an updated, accurate voter registration;
 - d) The member misses three consecutive meetings, without appointing an alternate.

Section 3. Duties and Authority

- 3.01 The Council is not a policy-making body but is responsible for coordinating meetings, internal communications and other administrative tasks, including the following:
- a) Act as necessary to carry out the decisions of the GPSC and make administrative decisions between meetings of the GPSC.
 - b) Make statements in the name of the GPSC consistent with local and state policy.
 - c) Retain legal council on behalf of the GPSC and make decisions which legal counsel advises. This includes undertaking any legal action deemed necessary.
 - d) Conduct campaigns for the GPSC and its candidates for public office, including None of the Above.
 - e) Empower committees approved by the GPSC.
 - f) Employ staff.
 - g) Conduct such other business as the GPSC may require.
- 3.02 The Council will act as conduit of information between the Green Party of California and members and locals. The Council will forward concerns and

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mandates from locals and members to the Green Party of California. Information passed between the Council and members or locals may include but is not limited to:

- a) Legal requirements regarding political processes as established by either the State of California or the Green Party of California.
 - b) Training, seminars and support for Green partisan candidacies.
 - c) Notice of upcoming meetings of the Council, the Green Party of California or by any committee of either organization.
 - d) Minutes, reports, or issues under discussion by the Council, the Green Party of California or by any committee of either organization.
 - e) Other information as may need to be exchanged between members, locals, the Council, and/or the Green Party of California.
- 3.03 Information provided to non-members must reflect the decisions of the GPSC.

Section 4. Meetings

- 4.01 Regular meetings of the Council will be held at least once per quarter.
- 4.02 Special meetings of the Council may be called upon 14 days advance notice to members and locals.
- 4.03 Notice of any Council meetings must include the date, time, and place of the meeting, and the preliminary agenda. Notice must be provided to all locals and to the membership using the most effective and feasible means.

Section 5. Decision-Making

When making administrative decisions as authorized by these bylaws the Council will use the “consensus-seeking process” as specified in the bylaws of the Green Party of California.

ARTICLE VI: GPSC MEETINGS

Section 1. Regular Meetings

The GPSC will meet at least four times a year, concurrently with the regular meeting of the Council. The date and location for next GPSC meeting will be announced by the close of the meeting.

Section 2. Special Meetings

The GPSC may be called into special meeting by the Council at the request of 3 members or in response to circumstances requiring decisions by the membership. Notice of such meetings will follow the procedure specified in Article V, Section 4.

Section 3. Quorum

A quorum for a meeting of the GPSC will consist of a minimum of six members (of which at least three shall be members of the Council).

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Section 4. Agenda

- 4.01 Establishing an agenda for all GPSC meetings is the responsibility of the Council.
- 4.02 The Council has the task of collecting items and proposing and circulating a draft agenda to all locals at least two days in advance of a meeting.
- 4.03 The agenda package will include a draft of all proposals.

Section 5. Meeting Roles, Duties, and Responsibilities

- 5.01 The GPSC will use the Meeting Roles, Duties and Responsibilities outlined in the bylaws of the Green Party of California.
- 5.02 Officers
 - a) Treasurer:
 - 1. At the first meeting of the newly seated Council after their election the Council shall elect a Treasurer using the election procedures for uncontested or single seat elections.
 - 2. Duties: The Treasurer shall be primarily responsible for the collection, management and disbursement of GPSC funds, for filing tax returns as necessary and for reporting to the Fair Political Practices Commission (FPPC). The Treasurer will also be the coordinator of the Finance Committee if one is created.
 - b) Additional officers may be elected by the Council in a manner consistent with the officers authorized by the bylaws upon the creation of the office by the Council.
- 5.03 Vacancy in an office shall be filled in the same manner as an original election for the office.

Section 6. Decision-Making

The GPSC will follow the “consensus-seeking process” for reaching decisions as outlined in the bylaws of the Green Party of California. Decisions regarding partisan electoral politics will be made by the membership. All decisions made by the members at GPSC meetings are binding on the Council unless rescinded or amended by consensus of the members at a subsequent GPSC meeting.

ARTICLE VII: ONLINE DECISION-MAKING

Section 1. Purpose

- 1.01 GPSC may make online decisions about proposals via the process described in this section. The same standards for quorum and approval threshold apply as with other GPSC decision-making, except as provided for in VII-1.02-c.
- 1.02 Use of online decision-making is restricted to:
 - a) When a proposal has been discussed first at a regular GPSC meeting and a decision is taken by majority vote by those present, regardless of quorum, to put the item to an online vote. In these cases the discussion period shall begin upon conclusion of the

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- meeting and run for an agreed upon period, after which there shall be a week for voting.
- b) When there is a need to meet legal and/or internal party deadlines, or to otherwise effectuate GPSC's ability to meet and perform its duties and responsibilities in a timely manner not possible by waiting until the next face-to-face meeting. In these cases, there shall be a three (3) day discussion period, beginning at the time the proposal is posted followed by a three (3) day voting period commencing immediately thereafter.
 - c) When there is a need to make an expedited decision in a compressed time period not possible under VII-1.02-a or VII-1.02-b. GPSC may act under VII-2.02.

Section 2 Posting

- 2.01 An email list shall be created and maintained for the purpose of online decision-making. All GPSC members are welcome to join this list after they have attended one in person meeting.
- 2.02 When a decision must be made within a compressed time period to respond to pressing legal, financial or political deadlines, GPSC may make a decision within 48 hours if it achieves an approval threshold of 80%. In such cases, the proposal shall be posted as "48 HOUR ONLINE VOTE: [TITLE]" in the subject header of the email.
- 2.03 All proposals shall be posted to the GPSC Online Votes email list (gpsc-votes@googlegroups.com) email list with "ONLINE VOTE: [TITLE]" in the subject header of the email.

Section 3 Discussion

- 3.01 Although on-line discussion may not afford the same responsive nature as that envisioned for live meetings of the GPSC, the purpose of the discussion period shall be for:
 - a) Hearing and responding to clarifying questions;
 - b) Hearing concerns and affirmations and hearing responding to concerns;
 - c) Considering and accepting amendments.
- 3.02 If a proposal is amended during the discussion period, it shall be reposted as amended before the voting period commences. The sponsors of a proposal may also chose to withdraw the proposal before the discussion period concludes, but may not do so once the voting period commences.

ARTICLE VIII: DELEGATE SELECTION TO THE GPCA PLENARY

- 1.01 Delegates to the General Assembly of the Green Party of California and delegates the Standing General Assembly of the Green Party of California will be selected by the GPSC.
- 1.02 It is recommended that a delegate:
 - a) Be an active member of the GPSC.

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- b) Be familiar with the structure and principles of the Green Party of California.
 - c) Have a working knowledge of the Green Party of California bylaws.
- 1.03 Nominations for delegate will be accepted from any member. Each nominee will be given the opportunity to speak to the membership; after such time an election shall be held by secret ballot.
- a) Every member is entitled to one vote for each delegate seat assigned Sonoma County by the Green Party of California.
 - b) The individuals who gain the most votes will be selected as delegates.
 - c) The Council shall notify the Green Party of California of the delegates selected in a timely fashion.
- 1.04 Other individuals nominated, but not elected, who gain the most votes after the selected delegates will serve as Alternate Delegates.

ARTICLE IX: POLITICAL REFORM ACT

- 1.01 The Council will establish a 'General Purpose Committee' when necessary under the rules of the Political Reform Act. The Committee will be composed of the Council members.
- 1.02 The Council will establish a bank account, recording keeping system, and methods of receiving and disbursing funds which comply with all terms of the Political Reform Act.

ARTICLE X: AMENDMENTS TO THE BYLAWS

The bylaws may be changed by consensus of the members at a GPSC Meeting.