

# **BYLAWS OF THE GREEN PARTY OF COLORADO**

Revised April 24, 2004

## **I. NAME**

1.1 The name of this Political Organization is The Green Party of Colorado.

## **II. Purpose and Values**

2.1 The purpose of this organization is to work towards a "Green" society as represented by the 10 Key Values of The Green Party of the United States. The aforementioned values are as follows:

Ecological Wisdom  
Social Justice  
Grassroots Democracy  
Nonviolence  
Decentralization  
Community Based Economics  
Feminism  
Respect for Diversity  
Personal and Global Responsibility  
Future Focus

2.2 This political organization may use any and all nonviolent methods to affect social change including but not restricted to: ballot initiatives, electoral campaign, community organizing, and educational forums.

2.3 The Green Party of Colorado (GPCO) is the affiliate of the Green Party of the United States for the State of Colorado.

## **III. Membership**

3.1 A Green local of the Green Party of Colorado must agree to abide by the 10 Key Values and to follow the bylaws of the Green Party of Colorado and must be approved by 60% of the voting Greens at a state party meeting.

3.1.1 A Green local shall be placed in Inactive Status if it fails to send any representatives to a state meeting or if it fails to have representatives vote for three or more consecutive votes on the council, or if it no longer has any active members on the council. Council members will be considered inactive if they do not vote on three consecutive votes. They will be notified of their status by the Council Facilitator immediately upon missing the third vote. They can be reactivated by notifying the Council Facilitator that they wish to be reactivated and by voting on the next Council vote. Council representatives cannot be reactivated in an Inactive or defunct local. For absence at a state meeting, the local will be notified by the Secretary within one week of the meeting. Once placed in

Inactive Status, a local will not be counted in the quorum for votes and its representatives will not be allowed to vote. For missing votes on the Council, the local will be notified by the Council Facilitator immediately upon failing to vote for the third time, or when it no longer has any representatives on the Council.

3.1.1.1 A Green local can be removed from the Green Party of Colorado for any cause by a vote of at least 75% of the voting Greens at a state Party meeting, or by consensus of the Council, not counting the local being removed.

3.1.1.2 A Green local can be reinstated to Active Status by submitting a written request (email is acceptable) for reinstatement to the Council or to a state meeting, listing its new active members for the Council and being approved by at least a 60% vote of the voting Greens at a state meeting, or by at least a 60% vote of the Council.

3.1.1.3 If a Green local has been in Inactive Status for more than six months, it will be considered to be defunct and will be removed entirely as a Green local. To be reinstated, the local will have to go through the same procedures as a new local.

3.2 Membership in The Green Party of Colorado is open to anyone regardless of sexual orientation, race, national origin, religion, etc. A member shall subscribe to the Ten Key Values and be registered with the state of Colorado as affiliated with the Green Party of Colorado and maintain that registration. Members of a Green local may vote on state issues at general state meetings and may serve on the Council.

3.2.1 If there is no local in a county, an individual may maintain an independent membership with the Green Party of Colorado by registering in the county of residence as affiliated with the Green Party of Colorado, by subscribing to the 10 Key Values and these bylaws and upon approval of 60% of the voting Greens (at least three fourths of all locals represented) at a state party meeting. Such approval shall be a precondition for voting at a state nominating convention/assembly.

3.3 The right of participation of an individual in The Green Party of Colorado can be revoked by a Green Local using its own criteria or by a 75% vote of the members at a Green Party of Colorado state meeting. Revocation of the rights of participation must be based on failure of the individual to adhere to the purpose and methods of the Green Party of Colorado. Any individual must be informed of the potential revocation of their rights of participation at least 3 weeks prior to the vote and have a chance to speak in his or her defense at the meeting when the vote is held.

3.4. Endorsements and Sign-ons on public issues:

3.4.1 Any proposal for endorsement or sign-on from a Chapter, a Chapter representative, or a Committee co-chair will be considered by the Council.

3.4.2. Any endorsement or sign-on requiring the commitment of GPCO resources (money, people, time, etc.) must clearly state the requirements and where the resource will come from.

## **IV. Structure**

4.1 State meetings will be held yearly or more frequently at a location agreed upon by the members at the previous meeting, or by a special call of the Council at its discretion. Nominating Conventions and

meetings to elect state officers must be announced by the Secretary in a newspaper of statewide circulation 15 days before the meeting.

4.1.1. In order for official decisions to be made at a state meeting, a quorum of at least 60% of local chapters must be represented, with a minimum number of voting participants (registered in the Green Party of Colorado) equal to twice the number of local chapters represented.

4.2 The Green Party of Colorado Council (referred to as "Council" elsewhere in these bylaws).

4.2.1. The Council is composed of up to four representatives from each local in Colorado, elected by the members of their respective locals in any manner they chose at a regular meeting of that local for terms as long as the local approves, as well as the two state co-chairs and the two state Green Party of the United States representatives. Locals will also define their own recall or removal process. Council representatives must have email access and agree to read and respond to Council emails at least once within any ten-day period. The Council may also be referred to as the Steering Committee or Central Committee of the Green Party of Colorado for compliance with state law. All state officers and GPUS-CC alternates shall be voting members of Council.

4.2.2. The Council will meet at its discretion between state meetings and immediately after each state meeting and may take votes through email.

4.2.3. The Council sets the agenda for the state meetings, decides on issues needing expedient attention between state meetings, handles administrative tasks, and acts as representative to the press on state issues, as well as representing The Green Party of Colorado to groups interested in establishing locals where none exist. The Council can make appropriations from the GPCO bank account of \$200 per item or less by a 60% vote of the Council, in consultation with the Treasurer to insure availability of funds. Expenditures above \$200 per item require consensus of the Council or a 60% vote at a state meeting.

4.2.4. All decisions of the Council are subject to review at the next state meeting and may be overturned by a 60% vote.

4.2.4.1 The Council can modify these bylaws between state meetings when required to meet new state legal requirements in a timely fashion. These modifications will be reviewed and approved at the next state meeting after any such changes.

4.3 All decisions concerning policy, finance, and objectives shall require consensus or a vote of at least 60% of the membership present at a state meeting. For ballot issues we are endorsing or opposing or stances we are taking on public issues a 75% vote is required. Officers shall be elected by a three fourths majority of members present at the meeting held between January 1 and May 1 of odd numbered years. If any officer is found to be in contempt of the goals of The Green Party of Colorado, recall proceedings shall be invoked. A three-fourths majority of voting members present is required to achieve the recall of an officer.

4.4 The Green Party of Colorado, as a minor political party, will nominate candidates at a nominating convention/assembly, held at least 65 days before the primary on the second Tuesday in August in even numbered years in a location accessible to the public. Delegates to a nominating convention are chosen as follows:

4.4.1. For a state nominating convention/assembly, each affiliated local chapter will be entitled to two delegates; four delegates if they have at least 400 Green Party registrants and six delegates if they have at least 600 registrants, and an equal number of alternates. Registrant counting will be cut off 30 days before the Convention. There will be no proxy voting. Delegates from GPCO local chapters must attend the nominating convention to vote.

4.4.2. Independent GPCO members, as defined in Section 3.2.1, may vote at nominating conventions/assembly or in elections for party officers if they are in attendance at the meeting. There is a maximum of three non-local delegate votes at a convention/assembly. If more independent members are in attendance, they will split the votes proportionally.

4.4.3. The membership of GPCO local chapters will be responsible for selecting candidates for local political office and will be responsible for forwarding those nominations for ratification to the state nominating convention/assembly. Any person seeking nomination by the Green Party of Colorado as a candidate for a state office must be endorsed by the local chapter in their county of residence. If there is no local chapter in their county of residence and they are an independent member of the Green Party of Colorado, then they must be endorsed by at least one local chapter in the district they would represent in the legislature or in the state as a whole for a state office. If no such authorization is given, then no Green Party of Colorado candidate will run in that jurisdiction. Candidates chosen by Green locals must be ratified at a state party convention to ensure they meet legal requirements.

#### 4.5 Candidates must meet the following criteria:

4.5.1. Candidates shall embrace the 10 Key Values and shall use these values as a basis for their political decision making.

4.5.2. The candidate must maintain active membership in a local chapter of the Green Party of Colorado or if no local chapter exists in the county, they must be an independent member of the Green Party of Colorado, as defined in section 3.2.1. They must maintain contact with The Green Party of Colorado.

4.5.3. Potential candidates not a member of a GPCO local chapter, or who are candidates for state-wide or national office, must have formal approval either by consensus or by 30% of the delegates present at a state meeting nominating convention of The Green Party of Colorado in even numbered years. If two or more candidates obtain 30% or more of the votes cast, the candidates shall submit to a primary, as provided for by state law.

4.5.4. (Removed)

4.5.5. Candidates for partisan political office must be registered with the Green Party for at least six months before the general election or for two months prior to the Green Party of Colorado nominating convention/assembly, whichever is earlier, in order to be eligible for nomination

4.5.6. In considering candidacies for Governor and Lt. Governor of Colorado, candidates will run as a pair to avoid having only one candidate nominated when two are required.

4.5.7. After a nominating convention, a Green Party of Colorado State Co-Chair will be responsible for notifying the proper election officer of the nominations as required by state law. The candidates then must send acceptance of the nominations to the proper election official within the time frame

specified by state law. 4.5.8. A Green Party of Colorado candidate shall not be a registered member of any other political party or political organization.

#### 4.6 Committees

4.6.1 A GPCO committee may be created or dissolved by a 60% vote of the Council or state meeting.

4.6.2. GPCO Committees shall have two co-chairs who shall be registered Greens, and at least two of whose members are active members of local GPCO chapters. Co-chairs call meetings and set rules for participation at their discretion. Committees report to and are responsible to the Council and GPCO state meetings.

### **V. Officers**

5.1 In order to serve the growth of the GPCO and to communicate our message, platform and values to the public, the GPCO will elect two state co-chairs to two-year terms. Every effort shall be made to reach gender and geographic diversity.

#### 5.2 Duties

5.2.1. If one Co-chair is unable to perform her/his duties or is absent at a meeting, the other Co-Chair will assume all duties. If both Co-chairs are present they will alternate assuming the duties of the Chair.

5.2.2. To facilitate state meetings and the state Council, or choose a representative to do so.

5.2.3. To be spokespersons for the state party to the press and other organizations. Such spokespersons can also be chosen by a majority vote at state meetings or by the state council.

5.2.4. To assist the growth of the state party by overseeing outreach efforts to parts of the state where we are not organized, and by assisting the nearest affiliated local chapter in doing so.

5.2.5. The state council may choose to delegate its authority to the co-chairs when it believes that time will not be adequate to make decisions. This authority of delegation only includes those actions the Council is authorized to take. It does not include those decision reserved for state party meetings.

#### 5.3 Representatives to the Green Party of the United States

5.3.1 The GPCO will choose representatives to the national Green Party for indefinite terms, not to exceed two years. Every effort shall be made to include diversity at all levels, including but not limited to, gender, ethnic, racial and geographic. At the first meeting after two years as representative, there must be a vote for that position. Representatives may seek further terms. If a vacancy occurs, the Council may choose replacements - temporary (for the purpose of attending meetings) or permanent (to complete the remaining term) - as necessary. Permanent representatives chosen by the Council will be ratified at the following state meeting.

5.3.2 These representatives, whose number is determined by the bylaws and rules of the national Green Party, will represent the GPCO in all votes. Votes by these representatives can be determined by a decision of the state council, or by the representatives themselves. If the representatives deem that the vote is clearly within the scope of the Ten Key Values and the platform of the GPCO, and would likely result in a consensus of the Council, they may vote without consulting the Council, but are required to announce this vote to the Council by email within three days, and must include the text of the proposal and any such supporting material as was provided with the original proposal. Such votes should occur, where feasible, more than 3 days prior to the end of the voting period in case the Council decides that it wishes to reverse the decision of the representatives. Such a decision of reversal can be communicated to the Secretary of the national Green Party either directly by the Council, or through the representatives. Representatives should also announce all votes to the statewide listserv at least quarterly, and Council members should summarize such votes at meetings of affiliated locals.

5.3.3 In the case of national meetings, representatives shall send the agenda and related materials to the State Council as soon as it is available, and from there to all local chapters. Via the Council, the representatives will be informed of any direction regarding scheduled votes. But the default condition will be that representatives will be free to apply the values and platform of the GPCO at the meeting as they see fit, based on the discussion of proposals and any amendments that may occur.

5.3.4 Representatives to national meetings shall make a good-faith effort to travel to national meetings of the Green Party. Should their schedule or financial status conflict with this, they must communicate this to the State Council to see if the problem can be remedied, either with financial support, or by choosing a temporary representative who can travel to the meeting. The GPCO shall make every effort to ensure that representation of the GPCO is not determined by financial resources, or lack thereof.

#### 5.4 Secretary

The Secretary shall fulfill the role of Secretary under state law and shall be responsible for handling candidate nominations as required by state law; keeping accurate minutes of state meetings and nominating conventions; updating the bylaws and procedures and guidelines and filing bylaw changes with the Secretary of State, as required by state law; and announcing in a newspaper of general statewide circulation, as required by state law, nominating conventions and state meetings to elect officers.

#### 5.5 Treasurer

The Treasurer will handle the bank account for the party and will be responsible for filings and financial reportings as required by state law, disburse funds as directed by the Council, and present a balance report at each state meeting.

5.6 The membership of The Green Party of Colorado may create any office as needed. A vote of three-fourths majority of members present at a state meeting must approve any new officership. Any member may assume this office after achieving at least three-fourths majority of votes among members present at a state meeting.

5.7 Officers shall be chosen at a state meeting in odd numbered years to serve a two year term in office.

5.8 If a Green Party of Colorado officer's position is vacated in between official state meetings, the Council or both co-chairs in agreement may make a temporary appointment in the manner as specified in the Procedures and Guidelines until the next state meeting under consultation with each local.

## **VI. Amendments**

6.1 These bylaws may be amended on a three-fifths vote by members present at a state meeting. A written copy of adopted bylaws (with any current amendments) will be maintained by the Secretary.

Approved April 24, 2004 Fort Collins, Colorado