

# Georgia Green Party Policy on Local Affiliation

*(as adopted December 16<sup>th</sup>, 1996 and amended July 27<sup>th</sup>, 1999,  
August 18<sup>th</sup>, 2001, March 25<sup>th</sup>, 2002 and September 6<sup>th</sup>, 2003)*

## I. Affiliation by Local Associations

Any local association in Georgia may affiliate or renew its Affiliation with the Georgia Green Party for a period of up to 18 months when they meet the following conditions:

- 1) they are in basic agreement as an organization with the Ten Key Values and the Political Practices of the Greens as a framework for organizing and political action;
- 2) they hold a publicly advertised Annual Meeting in which the call for the meeting gives notice of intention to elect local officers and delegates to the Convention of the Georgia Green Party, consider platform documents, consider fielding candidates for public office and conducting other local Party business;
- 3) they designate a local contact with name, address and phone number;
- 4) they file with the Affiliation Committee, (a) the minutes of their Annual Meeting, (b) a roster of servants elected by the local, (c) a copy of their credentials roll, (d) a description of the publicity for their Annual Meeting, including copies of publicity, and (e) a copy of their by-laws, or the certificate of the Local Affiliate's Officers that the Affiliate has adopted the model by-laws provided in Appendix A. of this Policy, or if County Party by-laws have been previously filed, (f) any amendments adopted to the local by-laws already on file with the Georgia Green Party;
- 5) they certify that they have filed with the Election Superintendent of their County the Local Affiliates' By-laws, rules and regulations, in compliance with Article 3. of the Georgia Election Code, Title 21, Chapter 2 of the Official Code of Georgia, and specifically with O.C.G.A. 21-2-111(c);
- 6) they certify that they are not nor will they seek to be affiliated with any other political Party or organization claiming to be a Political Party;
- 7) they file a completed application for affiliation with the Affiliation Committee or the Clerk of the Coordinating Council; and
- 8) they are paid up to date with their annual assessment for affiliated local chapters.

## II. Affiliation Committee

### *A. Members, Power and Decision-Making Rules*

There shall exist an Affiliation Committee of the Coordinating Council which shall consist of at least two but not more than five trusted members of the Party, at least two of whom shall be Council members or past members of the Affiliation Committee, who shall each be designated by the Council at a Council meeting. The Affiliation Committee shall have the powers to:

- 1) receive and consider petitions to convene Local Affiliates and caucuses or petitions to serve as a Local Contact;
- 2) name local conveners or County Contacts in unorganized jurisdictions;
- 3) examine affiliation applications, ruling on their compliance;
- 4) accept and act on challenges to local committees.

The Committee shall designate a convener and a clerk who shall not be the same person. The Affiliation Committee shall make decisions by unanimous consent. When the Committee can not reach agreement on a matter before the Committee, it may forward a report of the questions which divides the Committee to the Coordinating Council, or if the Council will not meet before the next Annual Convention, then to the Convention itself.

#### *B. Naming County Contacts*

The Affiliation Committee may grant a petition to serve as a County Contact in an unorganized jurisdiction when:

- 1) the petitioners are members and certify that they are in basic agreement with the Ten Key Values, Political Practices and the Platform of the Georgia Green Party; and
- 2) the Affiliation Committee or a member of Council designated by the Affiliation Committee has made a site visit with the petitioner and believes the petitioner is committed to the task and has the capacity to serve the Party's growth.
- 3) They pledge that in cooperation with Party officers, they will serve the development of the Party in their County by:
  - a) maintaining a local paper archive of, familiarizing themselves with and subscribing as necessary to the Internal Discussion Bulletin,
  - b) serving as a point of contact for the Party in their community,
  - c) granting permission for their name, mailing address, phone number and email address to be published by the Party as a Local Contact,
  - d) responsibly represent the Party,
  - e) developing a database of people who reside or work in the County who are friendly to the Party, have volunteered or otherwise contributed to the party, and
  - f) sharing that database with members of the state Council for the purposes of organizing informational meetings, fundraising events or local organizing meetings.

In granting a petition to serve as a County Contact, the Affiliation Committee shall define a jurisdiction limited to one County for the local contact which shall not overlap with the jurisdiction of any other local contact, or of a local, affiliated or organizing. In the event that a petition to serve as a County Contact is submitted for a jurisdiction where another petition (to convene, affiliate or serve as a local contact) has already been granted, the petitioners shall be encouraged to work together for the organization of the Local Affiliate.

#### *C. Naming Conveners, Granting Jurisdictions*

Any two or more residents of Georgia may petition the Affiliation Committee for authority to organize a Local Affiliate with jurisdiction over their county, municipality, district or other defined community. A local association which has submitted a petition to convene and organize a local affiliate may be referred to as an organizing local. The Affiliation Committee shall grant any petition to convene a Local Affiliate in an unorganized jurisdiction when:

- 1) the petitioners certify that they are in basic agreement with the Ten Key Values and Political Practices of the Georgia Green Party; and
- 2) they submit a viable plan for broadly and effectively publicizing an Annual Meeting for organizing the Local.

In granting a petition to convene, the Affiliation Committee shall define a jurisdiction for the organizing local which shall not overlap with the jurisdiction of any other non-campus local, affiliated or organizing. A Local may organize as a county or campus party. In the event that a petition to convene is submitted for a jurisdiction where another petition has already been

granted, the petitioners shall be encouraged to work together for the organization of the Local Affiliate.

#### *D. Examination and Ruling on an Application of Affiliation*

Upon receipt of an application for affiliation, any Council member shall immediately ensure that all members of the Affiliation Committee have a complete copy of each application and that the Clerk of the Council has been served with a copy of such an application. Within two weeks of receipt, each member shall examine the application to determine whether the application is in compliance with the requirements of this policy. If the application is in compliance, then the committee officers shall sign the application certifying that the local is entitled to affiliate and indicate the number of delegates the local is entitled to in the next Convention. If the application is not in compliance with these rules, then the committee officers shall sign the application certifying that the local is not entitled to affiliate. In either instance, the original of the application with all of its attachments shall be placed on file with the Affiliation Committee, and a copy of the application without the attachments shall be filed with the Clerk of the Coordinating Council, along with, if applicable, the reasons why the application was found to not be in compliance. The local contact shall also be notified of the decision of the Committee by first class mail within one week of a decision with a copy of the certified application and if applicable, the reasons why the application was found to not be in compliance. The Committee shall prepare and forward a report of its activities to each meeting of the Council and to each Convention for ratification.

### III. Suspending the Powers of a Local Affiliate

The provisions of O.C.G.A. 21-2-112, as it now exists or may later be amended shall govern any suspension of a local affiliate. When the Coordinating Council or the Affiliation Committee has reason to believe that the orders, rules or regulations of the Georgia Green Party are not being, or will not be fairly, impartially or properly enforced or applied by a local affiliate, the Coordinating Council or the Affiliation Committee may issue a written notice of an opportunity for a hearing, stating the substance of the order which the Council or Committee proposes to issue and setting a deadline for requesting a hearing on the matter. The Affiliation Committee shall by unanimous consent designate a panel of three Council members who shall conduct any hearing requested by an affiliate to challenge the suspension of its powers or jurisdiction. If the Affiliation Committee is in disagreement on who should serve on the hearing panel, then the Council shall hold an election under the Party's existing election rules for filling multi-member bodies, to designate a panel of three Council members to fulfill such duties. The hearing panel shall make its decision by majority vote. If the Affiliation Committee does not receive a timely request for hearing, or if a hearing is held and it is determined that all or any part of the proposed relief described in the opportunity for hearing should be granted, the Affiliation Committee may issue an order, effective for a certain period, suspending and superseding all or any part of the powers and duties of the local affiliate and designating the persons who shall exercise the suspended powers on behalf of the Georgia Green Party within the jurisdiction of the suspended local affiliate. At any hearing held to consider suspending the powers or jurisdiction of an affiliate, all witnesses shall be sworn prior to testifying and a stenographic record shall be taken and filed with the Coordinating Council.

### IV. Annual Assessments for Locals

#### *A. Authority and amendment process*

As provided by the by-laws of the Georgia Green Party, Article VII. Membership, A.3(b), The Annual Convention shall set an annual assessment for affiliated local chapters, providing for a sliding scale to accommodate locals of small or poor memberships.

*B. Assessments -- Reserved*

A Proposal for consideration by Party Convention of Local Delegates:

Each local to be considered in good standing shall have its dues paid up to date by the convening of the Annual Convention and the credentialling of their delegation. The Annual Assessment for an affiliated local shall be \$???.??, except that a local which claims a small or poor membership shall be assessed \$???.??.

End of Proposal for Convention

V. By-Laws of Local Affiliates

Each Local Association making Application for Affiliation or for a Renewal of their Affiliation as a County Affiliate of the Georgia Green Party shall adopt and file with their County Superintendent of Elections and with the Affiliation Committee of the Georgia Green Party, by-laws and like rules and regulations to govern the conduct of Party affairs by the County Party. Such documents shall be filed in compliance with Article 3. of the Georgia Election Code, Title 21, Chapter 2 of the Official Code of Georgia, and specifically with O.C.G.A. 21-2-111(c). Any County Party granted Affiliation or a Renewal of its Affiliation with the Georgia Green Party after the effective date of this Policy and which has failed to adopt by-laws shall be deemed to have adopted the model by-laws provided by Appendix A. of this Policy, and such model by-laws shall govern the conduct of local party affairs unless and until such by-laws may be subsequently amended and filed pursuant to this Article.

## APPENDIX A. Model By-Laws for County Affiliates

### BY-LAWS OF THE GREEN PARTY OF \_\_\_\_\_ COUNTY

#### I. Name

The name of this organization shall be The Green Party of \_\_\_\_\_ County , and it is organized as the \_\_\_\_\_ County affiliate of the Georgia Green Party. All references in these by-laws to a "County Affiliate", a "County Party" or to a "Local" shall be deemed to mean the Green Party of \_\_\_\_\_ County.

#### II. Purpose

The purpose of the Green Party of \_\_\_\_\_ County is to advance the principles and values of the Green Party embodied in the Ten Key Values, listed in Article IV of these By-Laws. To that end we will engage in general education, community action and the fielding of Green candidates for partisan and non-partisan public office.

#### III. Amendments

These By-laws may be amended by a 3/4 vote of those in attendance at any General Membership Meeting, if notice of intent to consider the adoption of the proposed amendment was published in the notice of the meeting, and if the proposed amendment was previously reviewed by the Steering Committee. An Annual Meeting may suspend the requirement to review and publish notice by unanimous consent.

#### IV. Membership

Membership in the County Party is open to any individual, who resides in \_\_\_\_\_ County, who regularly participates in the meetings and activities of the County Party and who is in general agreement with the following ten key values:

- Ecological Wisdom
- Grassroots Democracy
- Social Justice
- Peace and Non-Violence
- Decentralization
- Community Based Economics
- Feminism
- Respect for Diversity
- Personal and Global Responsibility
- Future Focus on Sustainability

Each member of the Green Party of \_\_\_\_\_ County is encouraged and expected to participate each year with at least one Committee, Campaign or Project of the County Party.

V. Decision Making, Structure and Meetings

A. Powers of Members, generally

All decision- making power shall rest with the membership, assembled in a General Membership Meeting. Any member is invited to participate in all discussion, but only those who have attended at least one prior meeting are entitled to vote, except that any resident of the County who – consistent with the Nominating Convention Rules of the Georgia Green Party -- credentials at an Annual Meeting may vote on any matter that comes before that Annual Meeting.

B. Decision Making Processes

The Green Party of \_\_\_\_\_ County and its Annual or General Membership Meetings, Steering Committee, sub-committees and other sub-groupings shall seek consensus on all matters put before them. The Green Party of \_\_\_\_\_ County shall use those rules adopted on December 8, 1995 at the founding meeting of the Georgia Green Party Organizing Committee unless subsequently amended; and its various parts may provide for their own democratic rules of process for reaching decisions when consensus can not be achieved. The judgment of whether an adopted process is in fact democratic shall rest with the membership at a General Membership Meeting, if the process was challenged and then sustained by a simple majority, and an adverse ruling may be appealed to the Annual Meeting of the Green Party of \_\_\_\_\_ County, or from there to an Annual Convention of the Georgia Green Party. The membership is encouraged to utilize the processes outlined in C.T. Butler's On Conflict and Consensus published by Food Not Bombs Publishing, Room 306-35; 1430 Massachusetts Avenue; Cambridge MA 02138; 617/864-8786.

C. Annual and General Membership Meetings of the County Party

The Steering Committee shall provide for four General Membership Meetings each year and for such additional General Membership Meetings as may be mandated by resolution of a previous General Membership Meeting or of the Steering Committee. The Steering Committee shall organize one such General Membership Meeting to serve as an Annual Meeting for the County Party to fulfill those functions mandated by these By-Laws and by the Affiliation Policy and Nominating Convention Rules of the Georgia Green Party. General Membership meetings of the local shall be held in a public venue or if on private property, then at a private facility which provides public accommodations."

D. Officers of the Green Party of \_\_\_\_\_ County

The Green Party of \_\_\_\_\_ County shall, at its Annual Meeting, elect two co-chairs, a treasurer and a secretary to fulfill such duties and responsibilities and to exercise such discretionary powers as may be prescribed by the Georgia Election Code, the by-laws, policies or like rules of the Georgia Green Party or by the membership of the County Party, except that vacancies in any officer position may be filled at any subsequent General Membership Meeting, where the notice of such meeting advertised the intention of the Local or Steering Committee to fill such vacancies. Each office shall be held for a term of one year, to begin July 1. Efforts shall be made for officers to represent the diversity of \_\_\_\_\_ County at large.

E. Steering Committee of the County Party

1. Steering Committee, Structure and Membership

There shall exist a Steering Committee of the Green Party of \_\_\_\_\_ County which shall consist of the Co-chairs, the Secretary and the Treasurer of the County Party, the County's Delegates to the State Convention and of such additional servants of the County Party, including Committee Chairs as may be designated from time to time by a General Membership Meeting of the Green Party of \_\_\_\_\_ County; except that a General Membership Meeting may delegate to any such Committee of the County Affiliate represented on the County Steering Committee, the power to name such other Spokespersons to serve on the Steering Committee in lieu of the Committee's Chair.

2. Steering Committee, Meetings and Quorum

(a) The Steering Committee shall convene a monthly meeting of the Steering Committee. The Steering Committee or either co-chair may convene such additional meetings of the Steering Committee as are required to serve the mandate and needs of the Green Party of \_\_\_\_\_ County. Steering Committee meetings shall be publicized, and every member is invited and encouraged to attend as a non-voting participant. The Secretary of the County Party shall publish to each member of the Steering Committee and to such other members of the County Affiliate as may subscribe – pursuant to the notice rules of the County Party -- notice of each such meeting at least one week prior to each such meeting.

(b) A quorum for the conduct of business by the Steering Committee shall consist of at least a simple majority of the active members of the Steering Committee, except that no Steering Committee member shall be considered active, where the Steering Committee has given notice of its intention to remove that member due to that member's failure to attend two or more Steering Committee meetings held previous to the Steering Committee action to give notice to remove and where a third or subsequent Steering Committee meeting properly called, convenes without that member's presence.

3. Steering Committee, Powers and Discretion

The Steering Committee shall plan and recommend the agenda for each Annual Meeting and General Membership Meeting of the Green Party of \_\_\_\_\_ County. The Steering Committee may authorize the expenditure of County Party funds, provide for rules for notice, adopt and amend the Rules and Regulations of its Annual Meeting, implement decisions and administer its own policies and those of a General Membership Meeting of the County Party and perform other tasks necessary for the functioning of the Green Party of \_\_\_\_\_ County. The Steering Committee may adopt policies and procedures to forward the purposes of the Party and not inconsistent with the Georgia Election Code, or with policies established by the Georgia Green Party or by a General Membership Meeting of the Green Party of \_\_\_\_\_ County. The Steering Committee may endorse events or actions or join or sever its relationship with coalitions, alliances or networks on behalf of the membership, and initiate or respond to communications on behalf of the membership. The Steering Committee may recognize Green Party clubs organizing within the jurisdiction of the County affiliate and who have an organizational commitment to the Ten Key Values of the Georgia Green Party. The Steering Committee may delegate its responsibilities and authority to committees of one or more members of the County Party accountable to the Steering Committee and to the membership. However, the Steering Committee may not incur debt, nor act contrary to the Georgia Election Code, the by-laws, policies and rules of the Georgia Green Party or of any express decisions or policies of the General Membership.

#### 4. Appointment of Additional County Party Servants

The Steering Committee may appoint trusted members as servants of the County Party, including:

- Liaison on State Party Affairs,
- Liaison on National Party Affairs,
- Liaison on International Party Affairs,
- County Press Secretary,
- County Database Coordinator,
- County Web Clerk,
- County Membership Development Coordinator,
- County Petition Drive Coordinator, and
- such other servants as may be prescribed by resolution of a General Membership Meeting or of the Steering Committee.

The Steering Committee may appoint Party supporters as servants of the County Party, including:

- Precinct Captains, and
- Poll Watchers.

#### *Policy on Local Affiliation*

*If you would be interested in organizing an affiliated local of the Georgia Green Party, please direct your request to the Georgia Green Party Affiliation Committee and ask for a copy of the "Petition to Serve as a Local Contact", a "Petition to Convene a Local Affiliate of the Georgia Green Party" and a "Local Affiliation Application." Send mail to P.O. Box 5332; Atlanta GA 31107 or send email to [ggp@greens.org](mailto:ggp@greens.org).*