

GPCA BYLAWS

Article 3. Membership

Section 3-1. Registration

a) Members of the GPCA are those who are legally registered to vote in California as members of the Green Party.

b) County organizations may extend membership to county residents not otherwise eligible to register to vote in California who meet specific criteria, including affirmation of the 10 Key Values.

Section 3-2. Eligibility

a) Only members may serve as General Assembly delegates, or hold outstanding concerns or vote in party decision-making.

b) Only registered Green Party members as defined in 3-1(a) may be candidates for the Coordinating Committee r, Treasurer or Liaison to the Secretary of State.

Article 4. Structure

Section 4-1. State Organization

4-1.1 General Assembly

The General Assembly, consisting of delegates from each active county organization recognized by the GPCA, is the primary decision-making body of the GPCA.

4-1.2 Officers of the General Assembly

The Officers of the GPCA shall be the Coordinating Committee, the Liaison to the Secretary of State and the Treasurer; and their duties and manner of election shall be as specified in these bylaws.

4-1.3 Committees and Working Groups of the General

Assembly

The GPCA shall have Committees and Working Groups, with duties and their manner of election as specified in these bylaws.

4-1.4 Fiscal Year of the General Assembly

The fiscal year of the GPCA shall run from May 1st through April 30th.

Section 4-2. County Organization

4-2.1 Definition and Delegation of Authority

Green Party county organizations recognized by the General Assembly are the official organizations of the GPCA at the county level.

4-2.2 County Organization and Recognition

To be recognized by the General Assembly and to seat General Assembly delegates, a county organization must adopt organizational bylaws consistent with the Ten Key Values, the GPCA bylaws, and California law, and must file a current copy of these bylaws with the GPCA Bylaws Committee. These bylaws must:

- a) Describe the organizational structure including the relationship between any local Green organizations and the County Council;
- b) Define the membership of the organization;
- c) Describe the decision-making process;
- d) Describe the process for filling county council vacancies;
- e) Describe the process for selecting General Assembly delegates;
- f) Establish the office of county treasurer.

4-2.3 New County Organizations [MOVED FROM 4-1-22](#)

In counties where the Green Party is newly organized, or in counties which have been organized, but in which no County Council candidates qualified for the primary ballot, election of County Council members may be certified in the following manner:

- a) The county organization must hold a General Meeting open to all registered Greens in the county. The time and location of this meeting must be publicized as widely as possible at least 14 days before the meeting, and at least three people registered as Green party voters from the county must attend the meeting for the decisions of the meeting to be valid.
- b) The county must have, or must adopt at this General Meeting, bylaws which establish rules as specified in section 3-2.2 of these bylaws, including rules for filling County Council vacancies;
- c) The General Meeting must elect at least one member to the County Council;
- d) The State Coordinating Committee shall make every effort to ascertain whether the new County Council has been elected according to these bylaws and shall certify the election of the new County Council unless it makes findings that the election was held otherwise.
- e) Any certification decision by the State Coordinating Committee may be appealed to the next meeting of the General Assembly .

Section 4-3. County Councils

4-3.1 Members

- a) County Council members shall be those elected and appointed according to these bylaws and California law.
- b) The removal of residence by an elected or appointed member of a county council from the applicable county shall constitute automatic resignation from the county council. [DRAWN FROM GPCA ELECTION CODE](#)

c) Any change by an elected or appointed member of a county council of her or his voter registration to be no longer affiliated with the Green Party shall constitute automatic resignation from the county council. **DRAWN FROM GPCA ELECTION CODE**

d) County Council members may be removed for cause by the General Assembly by a 2/3 vote, in response to a Removal for Cause petition from the County Council in question.

A Removal for Cause petition must contain the written basis for removal, must be approved by the County Council in question by an 80% threshold, and must be received by the Coordinating Committee before it can be forwarded to the General Assembly for a vote.

Upon receipt of such Removal for Cause petition, the Coordinating Committee shall schedule a vote of the General Assembly. If an in-person General Assembly is scheduled to occur within 60 days of the receipt of the petition, the Coordinating Committee shall place the vote on the draft agenda and any agenda approved by the General Assembly must include the vote. If an in-person General Assembly is not scheduled to occur within 60 days of the receipt of the petition, the Coordinating Committee shall submit the petition for an on-line discussion period and vote at the next available starting state for on-line proposals as defined in these bylaws. The individual subject to a Removal for Cause petition shall have the right to submit a written response to the petition for inclusion with the agenda item, when the agenda item is released.

4_3.2 Time of Election

At each direct primary election, County Council elections shall be held in each county.

4-3.3 Term Lengths

Elections shall be for terms lasting until the results of the next direct primary election are legally certified. Appointments may be for these same terms, but not longer.

4-3.4 Registration figures

For the purposes of this section the registration figures used shall be those taken from the statement of voters and their political affiliations transmitted by the county clerks to the Secretary of State on the 135th day prior to the next direct primary election.

4-3.5 Number of members to be elected

If the county has less than 150 registered Green Party voters, the number of members to be elected in that county shall be three. Otherwise, the number of members of the county council to be elected shall be the greater of:

- a) The number seven, or
- b) The integer nearest the resulting quotient obtained by dividing 100 times the number of Green Party registered voters in the county by the number of Green Party registered voters in the state.

4-3.6 Method of electing members

a) Choice Voting

Members of County Councils shall be elected from one or more multi-member districts using Choice Voting, the Single Transferable Vote (STV) form of proportional representation, using the Droop threshold (one divided by one plus the number of seats) and fractional transfers as described in the International IDEA Handbook of Electoral System Design (Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance(IDEA). First published 1997. Second edition. Stockholm, Sweden. pp.83-84).

b) Multi-Member Districts

A County Organization's bylaws may specify either a single, county-wide multi-member district or multiple, multi-member districts corresponding to the boundaries of either the Congressional, State Assembly, State Senate or Supervisorial districts within that county. The number of seats to be elected for each district shall be proportional to the number of registered Green Party members in that district compared to the number of registered Green Party members county wide.

c) Optional County Council size or multi-member districts:

Counties may choose to modify the size of their county council the number of multi-member districts and/or the legislative districts upon which they are based by notifying the State Coordinating Committee who shall in turn notify the Secretary of State no later than 135 days prior to the direct primary election.

4-3.7 Computation of members allotted (county)

The Secretary of State, no later than the 125th day before the direct primary election, shall compute the number of members of county councils to be elected in each county and shall mail a certificate to that effect to the county clerk of each county, to the Green Party State Coordinating Committee and to each Green Party County Council.

4-3.8 Computation of members allotted (election district)

The county clerk, no later than the 115th day before the direct primary election, shall compute the number of members of county councils to be elected in each election district if the election is by election district.

4_3.9 Conditions for candidate's name to appear on ballot

In each county, the name of each candidate for member of county councils shall appear on the ballot only if she or he has:

- a) Filed a nomination paper pursuant to Division 6 (commencing with Section 6000) of the Elections Code, signed in the candidate's behalf by Green Party voters in the election district in which she or he is a candidate, and
- b) Registered to vote in the Green Party.

4_3.10 Residence of candidate (county)

A candidate may seek election only in the multi-member

district in which she or he resides.

4_3.11 Number of sponsors

Notwithstanding any other provision of this code, the number of sponsors which shall be required of a person to be a candidate for member of county council shall be the lesser of:

- a) 20, or
- b) Not less than 2 percent of the number of voters registered as affiliated with the Green Party in the county council election district.

4-3.12 Number of sponsors (election district) Notwithstanding any provision of the Elections Code, up to seven candidates for member of county council in a single election district may have their names listed on a single sponsor's certificate, and the signatures thereon shall be counted toward the sponsor requirement of each and every candidate whose name is listed on the certificate. In no case shall the number of candidates having their names on a sponsor's certificate exceed the number of members of the county council to be elected in the district.

4_3.13 Order of names on ballot

The appearance of the names of the candidates for member of county council on the ballot shall be determined by a public drawing held at the time, place and manner prescribed for determining the order of names of county central committee members pursuant to Chapter 2 (commencing with Section 10200) of Division 8 of the Elections Code.

4_3.14 Form of direct primary ballot

The office of member of county council shall be placed on the direct primary ballot under the heading "Party County Council" in the place and manner designated for the office of county central committee pursuant to Chapter 2 (commencing with Section 10200) of Division 8 of the Elections Code.

4_3.15 Conditions for election of candidate

No write-in candidate for member of county council shall be declared elected, however, unless that candidate has received a number of first choice votes equal to or greater than 2 percent of the number of party members voting in the county council election district at the direct primary or 20 votes, whichever is less.

4_3.16 Certificate of election

A certificate of election shall be issued to each elected member of county councils by the officers charged with that duty of issuing certificates of election to members of county central committees under Section 6615 of the Elections Code.

4_3.17 Report of votes cast

The votes cast for each candidate for member of county council shall be included in the canvass and statement of results in a manner similar to the vote for each candidate for county central committee pursuant to Division 12 (commencing with Section 17000) of the Elections Code.

4_3.18 Certification to Secretary of State

The final total of votes cast for each candidate for member of county council, including the name, address and ballot designation of each such candidate, and a specification as to which candidates were declared elected shall be certified to the Secretary of State forthwith upon completion of the official canvass. The county clerk shall simultaneously send one copy of this final certification to the Green Party State Coordinating Committee

Article 5 General Assembly

Section 5-1. Meetings

5-1.1 In Person Meetings

The General Assembly shall meet in person at least twice a year. Date and location for the next meeting shall be determined by the close of each meeting. Should the General Assembly fail to make this determination, it shall become the responsibility of the Coordinating Committee to do so. The General Assembly may also set more than one meeting date and location at a time.

5-1.2 On-Line Meetings

The General Assembly may meet online as described in this Article.

Section 5-2. Delegates

5-2.1 Election

a) Delegates to the General Assembly shall be chosen by the active county organizations of the Green Party of California. Delegates shall be familiar with the bylaws, the rules and procedures and the platform. Delegates assume the responsibility to be familiar with the items in the draft agenda and to participate in all General Assembly sessions contracted in the agenda. The process by which delegates are chosen must be defined in the bylaws of each county.
TEXT ADDED IN MIDDLE FROM 5-6.7

b) A written copy of the current process must be filed by each county organization with the Coordinating Committee and the Bylaws Committee. The Coordinating Committee shall ensure that all such filed processes are posted on the Green Party of California's web site.

c) If a county organization fails to specify a delegate selection process, then the delegates of that county shall be elected by the County Council. In these cases, if the county organization is entitled to one delegate seat, the County Council shall use Instant Run-Off Voting. If the county organization is entitled to two delegate seats, the County Council may choose to elect two gender-balanced delegates by separate Instant Run-Off Voting elections, or both delegate seats together both by Choice Voting. If the county organization is entitled to three or more delegate seats, the County Council shall use Choice Voting.

d) To select its on-line General Assembly delegates, a county organization shall choose one from among the following processes:

d1) Standing Delegate Model

The county organization elects a number of Standing Delegates equal to the number of Delegate Seats it is entitled to under 5-2.2. The Standing Delegates are elected either by a vote of the County Council or a County General Assembly, whichever of the two is specified in the county organizations bylaws. To take effect, the results of such elections must be reported to the Coordinating Committee by the County Organization.

If the county organization is entitled to one delegate seat, the election shall be by Instant Run-Off Voting. If the county organization is entitled to two delegate seats, the county organization may choose to elect two gender-balanced delegates by separate Instant Run-Off Voting elections, or both delegate seats together both by Choice Voting. If the county organization is entitled to three or more delegate seats, the election shall be by Choice Voting.

The term for Standing Delegates shall be one year, and shall correspond to the Green Party of California's Fiscal Year, except if an on-line discussion period has started before the end of the Fiscal Year, but the on-line vote has reached the voting period after the Fiscal Year has started then the term shall start after the vote has been completed. Should an unscheduled vacancy occur during the term, the Standing Delegate may be replaced by an Instant Run-Off Vote by the same body that elected the Standing Delegate. Should the number of Delegate Seats allocated to a county change during the calendar year, if the seats are less, then the lowest vote getter among those elected shall no longer be considered a Standing Delegate, until the number of Standing Delegates is equal to the number of Delegate Seats. If the number of Delegate Seats are greater, the county organization shall elect additional Standing Delegates according to the same procedure as described here in 5-2.1(d1).

d2) County Council Model

The County Council cast votes on behalf of their county organization. If a county organization has as many elected County Councilmembers as it does Delegate Seats, then each County Councilmember's vote is cast as a full vote. If a County has more or less elected County Councilmembers than it does General Assembly delegates, then each County Councilmember can cast a vote equal to the number of General Assembly Delegates divided by the number of County Councilmembers.

d3) The County General Assembly Model

The county organization conducts a County General Assembly to cast its votes.

5-2.2 Allocation

a) The General Assembly of the Green Party of California shall consist of at least 100 delegate seats. Each active county organization shall have at least one delegate seat.

b) No sooner than twelve weeks and no later than six weeks before the opening of each in-person General Assembly meeting, the Liaison to the Secretary of State, or another individual designated by the Coordinating Committee, shall obtain the most recent Report of Registration from the Secretary of State, and the Coordinating Committee shall determine, based on the relevant articles of these bylaws, which county organizations are currently active.

c) Once this determination has been made, 100 delegate seats shall be allocated to the active counties using the method of equal proportions (see appendix), and the counties shall be notified of their allocation and that of all other counties.

d) If, after the allocation of delegate seats has been made, but before the opening of the in-person General Assembly, additional counties are found by the Coordinating Committee to be active, the newly active counties shall be allocated one delegate seat each. In this case, the General Assembly will have more than 100 delegate

seats.

e) In addition to the delegate allocations made in advance of the in-person General Assembly meetings, there shall be an annual delegate allocation based upon the first released Report of Registration from the Secretary of State each year. This allocation shall be used for the purposes of establishing the delegate allocation for the on-line General Assembly, until modified by an allocation made for an in-person General Assembly. As a result of timing, the on-line and in-person General Assembly delegate allocation may be the same.

f) By January 1st of each year, the Coordinating Committee shall determine, based on the relevant articles of these bylaws, which county organizations are currently active.

g) Once this determination has been made, and within 14 days after the release of the first Report of Registration each year, 100 delegate seats shall be allocated to the active counties using the method of equal proportions (see appendix), and the counties shall be notified of their allocation and that of all other counties.

Section 5-3. Agenda

5-3.1 Agenda Items

a) Establishing the draft agenda for in person General Assembly meetings shall be the responsibility of the Coordinating Committee.

b) Establishing which proposals shall be submitted to the on-line General Assembly shall be the responsibility of the Coordinating Committee, except for those proposals that mandated by these bylaws to be submitted, in which case the Coordinating Committee shall automatically submit them.

5-3.2 Draft Agenda - In Person Meetings The Coordinating Committee shall collect proposals and other agenda items, create a draft agenda and circulate it at least three weeks in advance of the General Assembly meeting.

5-3.3 Consent Calendar - In Person Meetings **MOVED FROM 5-8.11**

- a) The Coordinating Committee may place on the agenda a consent calendar, of proposals judged to be non-controversial. These proposals may be approved without presentations, clarifying questions, or debate.
- b) Any proposals so presented must have been made available in written form to the county organizations and the delegates prior to the meeting (but in no case later than the agenda packet); and any proposal that receives any objection at the time it is presented shall be removed from the consent calendar before approval.
- c) The Coordinating Committee shall assign each proposal on the consent calendar to a committee on a contingency basis. Any proposal removed from the consent calendar by objection shall be assigned to its contingent committee for consideration.
- d) After consideration by the committee to which it was assigned, the proposal may then be presented to the General Assembly for approval.

5_3.4 Agenda ratification and amendment – In-person meetings

Ratification of the agenda and times shall occur at the beginning of the General Assembly meeting and the draft submitted by the Coordinating Committee may be amended as part of this process. The agenda may be amended at the beginning of each morning or afternoon session of the General Assembly after that.

5-3.5 Agenda Items – On-line meetings

- a) The Coordinating Committee may submit up to four proposals at a time for on-line decision-making. After the discussion period begins, no new discussion period may begin for at least eight weeks. No proposal may be submitted that can not be decided upon at least four weeks before a Direct Primary or General Election. If there are more than three statewide ballot measures in a particular statewide election, they will be considered to all together count as three proposals, towards the limit of four proposals at one time
- b) The following items shall automatically be placed in the voting

queue

- General Assembly Minutes
- County polling on statewide ballot measures, endorsement in statewide recall elections and endorsement for the California Superintendent of Public Instruction election
- Removal for Cause petition
- Election of the Coordinating Committee, GPUS Delegation, Treasurer and Liaison to the Secretary of State

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c) In addition to these items, the Coordinating Committee may also submit additional proposals submitted by a Standing Committee, Working Group and/or county organization.

5-3.6 Discussion and Voting Period – On-Line Meetings

a) The discussion period for Proposals shall be five weeks and begin on a Monday at 12:01 am and end on a Sunday at 11:59pm. The discussion period for Elections shall be two weeks and begin on a Monday at 12:01 am and end on a Sunday at 11:59pm

b) Proposals may be amended at any time by the proposal's sponsoring Standing Committee, Working Group and/or county organization, except that the final amended version must be placed before the General Assembly no later than 12:01am on the Thursday before the voting period begins.

c) The voting period for Proposals and Elections shall commence immediately at the close of the discussion period, shall be for one week and shall begin on a Monday at 12:01 am and end on a Sunday at 11:59pm.

Section 5-4. Quorum

5_4.1 Quorum for Opening In Person Meetings

A quorum exists for the purpose of opening an in-person General Assembly when a number of delegates are present equal to a majority of the delegate seats allocated under 5-2.2.

5-4.2 Quorum for Decision Making at In Person Meetings

A quorum for decision-making exists when 80% of registered delegates are present. However, a minimum number of delegates are required to remain registered in order to establish a valid quorum. That minimum shall be 90% of the maximum number of delegates registered for that day.

- a) Delegates shall register at the beginning of each day of a General Assembly, identifying their county. Delegates shall notify the facilitators (or other appropriate officials), and be removed from the delegate registration, if they permanently leave the General Assembly before it is adjourned.
- b) Facilitators shall conduct a roll call to establish a quorum at the beginning of each plenary session.

5_4.2 Quorum for Decision Making for On-Line Meetings

- a) A quorum has been reached for the purpose of decision-making by the on-line General Assembly when the number of votes cast for a proposal is equal to a majority of delegate seats allocated under 5-2.2 together with a majority of all active counties have cast at least one vote. In such cases, abstentions and stand-asides count as votes towards quorum; or
- b) A quorum has been reached for the purpose of decision-making by the on-line General Assembly when the number of votes cast in an election or other decision decided by IRV or Choice Voting as defined in these bylaws is equal to a majority of delegate seats allocated under 5-2.2 together with a majority of all active counties have cast at least one vote.

5-4.3 Criteria for active county status

For the purposes of this section, an active county shall be

For the purposes of this section, an active county shall be

- a) The county has a County Council;

b) The county has sent delegates to at least two of the last three meetings;

c) The county has held a General Meeting within the last six months in which at least eight registered Greens were present, and delegates to the General Assembly were chosen. The county must notify the Coordinating Committee that the General Meeting has taken place.

Section 5-5. Participation in General Assembly Decision-Making - In Person Meetings

5_5.1 Open meetings

In person General Assembly meetings are public and open to observers, space permitting. The GPCA reserves the right to remove observers that it determines are disrupting the proceedings.

5_5.2 Registration and identification

a) Delegates shall sign in before the first plenary session, listing their county. **MOVED FROM 5-6.7**

b) Guests and Green Party Observers shall register with the host committee/door keepers.

c) For purposes of identification by the facilitation team, delegates, Green Party observers, and guests shall wear different colored name badges.

5_5.3 Priority to authorized delegates **MOVED FROM 5-7**

Delegates shall be given priority in decision-making discussions. At the discretion of the facilitation team, and time permitting, observing Green Party members and guests may participate in these discussions.

5_5.4 Orientation

All first-time delegates shall first attend the delegate

orientation session at the General Assembly.

Section 5–6. Roles, Duties, & Responsibilities – In Person Meetings

5_6.1 Facilitation Team

- a) The Coordinating Committee shall present a facilitation team to the General Assembly for approval at the beginning of each plenary session
- b) The facilitation team's role is to provide non-directive leadership and process clarity, honor the agenda contract, and promote good will. A facilitator may only offer a personal opinion when clearly stepping out of her/his role as a facilitator.
- c) Facilitators must be a GPCA member (as defined in 3.1), have a working knowledge of the consensus process as defined in these bylaws, be in agreement with the TenKey Values, have a working knowledge of GPCA bylaws and rules and procedures, and be experienced at facilitation or have attended a workshop on same.
- d) The use of gender-stacking; that is that the order of the "stack" would alternate; one woman-one man, shall be considered as first choice for use by the facilitators.

5_6.2 Note Taker(s)

- a) The Coordinating Committee shall ensure that there is at least one note taker for each General Assembly session. and shall ensure that note-takers are provided with the text – in electronic form – of the table of contents and all proposals in the draft agenda, prior to the commencement of minutes-taking.
- b) Note takers shall compile an accurate record of the session highlighting decisions made and tasks taken on by delegates or others, in order to satisfy the reporting requirements defined in 5–6.3.

5_6.3 Minutes

- a) The Coordinating Committee has the responsibility to see that

draft minutes are prepared and submitted to a vote of the on-line General Assembly meeting.

b) For every General Assembly session, the draft minutes shall include a record of the note-takers, facilitators, times keepers, vibes watchers and scribes; a record of the opening quorum count at the beginning of each General Assembly session and all subsequent quorum counts, and a summary of announcements made during the formal time allotted for announcements.

c) For every General Assembly proposal, the draft minutes shall include a record of decisions taken, which shall include the presenters for each proposal and the decision taken, including when either consensus was reached or where votes occur, how many votes for, against and stand asides, and the percentage of yes votes divided by the number of total votes, minus stand-asides; and the language of all amendments as accepted as friendly and the final language of all approved proposals

d) For every General Assembly proposal, understanding that these may involve summarizing points, the draft minutes shall also include a characterization the clarifying questions, points of information, points of process and outstanding concerns

5_6.4 Meeting Scribe

a) The facilitation team shall find a person to act as a public scribe for the purpose of writing on a board, or large piece of paper, those concerns or items of discussion that come out in the plenary sessions.

5_6.5 Timekeeper

a) A timekeeper shall work with the facilitation team to guide the group through the agenda contract.

5-6.6 Vibes Watcher(s)

a) Vibes watcher(s) are presented to the General Assembly by the facilitation team before the session begins.

b) Vibes watchers are keepers of the group's cool – they pay

attention to the overall mood or tone of the meeting. Only vibes watchers may interrupt the proceedings at any time to call for a time-out, break or to remind us all of our shared values and goals.

5_6.7 Doorkeeper(s)

- a) The Coordinating Committee, facilitation team, or hosting committee shall arrange for someone to be a doorkeeper at each General Assembly session.
- b) Doorkeeper(s) shall see that all persons sign-in and receive delegate or guest information packets.
- c) Doorkeeper shall keep a running record of delegates in the meeting room and be prepared to provide this to the facilitation team at all times.

Section 5-7 Proposals

5-7.1 Authority

All proposals to be considered by the General Assembly must first be approved and presented by a standing group established within these bylaws (see committees, article 7, and working groups, article 8), or where provided for in these bylaws, a county organization... These groups shall act in the role of advocate for the proposals they present to the General Assembly. The presenter shall disclose to the General Assembly whether the group brings the proposal forward with consensus or by a vote. If by a vote, the details of the vote shall be disclosed.

5-7.2 Format [TAKEN FROM CC INTERNAL PAGE](#)

All proposals shall contain the following information

- a) Sponsor (committee, working group and/or county)
- b) Presenter, name and contact information
- c) Subject/Title
- d) Background and purpose
- e) Proposal Text
- f) Timeline

g) Resources Involved (personel, number and frequency of meetings, projected work hours, finances)

5-7.3 Presentation at General Assembly – In Person Meetings

a) Time Allotment

The Coordinating Committee, in consultation with the agenda planners and the General Assembly committee coordinators, shall assign each proposal a finite amount of time before the General Assembly in plenary session. Times shall be listed for presentation of the proposals and for discussion/approval. These times shall be reviewed and ratified as part of the agenda ratification process.

b) Presenter/Floor Manager

For each proposal, the one or both –co–coordinator of the sponsoring committee working group or county organization, or their designee, shall act as a presenter of the proposal and floor manager for this block of time.

c) Explanation of Proposal

The presenter(s) shall provide a brief statement on the background of the proposal and why it was brought before the General Assembly for a decision; and shall present the proposal and include what action is required by the GPCA?, what timetable is anticipated for completion?, who will be accountable to report progress to the General Assembly?, and what are the budgetary implications of the proposals adoption?

5-7.4 Consensus–Seeking – In person Meetings

The General Assembly shall use a consensus–seeking process where consensus is sought after adequate discussion, including calling for an attempting to address any unresolved concerns, within the time and content limits of the agenda, as described below:.

a) The facilitation team shall determine if a quorum exists.

- b) The facilitation team shall call for clarifying questions and the presenter(s) shall be given an opportunity to respond.
- c) The Facilitation team calls for affirmations and concerns. Concerns are listed by the scribe where all can see them. and the facilitation team gets a feel for everyone's assessment of the proposal.
- d) The presenter(s) shall respond to the concerns and may amend the proposal in order to address them. The note takers shall read back any amendments to the proposal to ensure they are properly recorded.
- e) The facilitation team asks if there remain any unresolved concerns. If there are no remaining concerns, the proposal is considered adopted by consensus.
- f). If unresolved concerns remain, ,the facilitation team asks those holding unresolved concerns if they are willing to stand aside to allow the the proposal to be adopted without their approval, but to have their unresolved concerns listed in the minutes. If they agree, their unresolved concerns shall be recorded by the note takers and included in the minutes with the adopted proposal.
- g). If any person(s) holding an unresolved concern does not chose to stand aside, the facilitation team moves to the closing options.

5-7.5 Closing Options - In Person Meetings

Closing options are the prerogative of the presenter(s) and the proposal's sponsoring committee, working group or county..

Closing options include:

- a) Return the proposal to the sponsoring committee, working group or county for further amendment and an attempt to address unresolved concerns.
- b) Empower an ad hoc group of the proposal's sponsor(s) and those with unresolved concerns to seek a resolution, and time permitting, return to the General Assembly

c). Request additional General Assembly time to address unresolved remaining concerns. Requests for additional agenda time for an item shall include a specific number of minutes and whether the time will be added to the length of the meeting or if it will come from some other item. An 80% vote of the delegates is necessary to approve the request for more time.

d). Request that the General Assembly use the voting option.

5-7.6 Points of order

a) Any delegate may signal the facilitation team (by raising two hands) on a POINT OF CLARIFICATION if they do not understand the procedure or they believe a violation of these procedures has taken place. In doing so, they must identify at the outset which item in these procedures is at issue.

1. The facilitation team shall rule on the point of clarification.

b) Any delegate may signal the facilitation team on a POINT OF PROCEDURE if they have a procedural suggestion that they feel will aid or improve the facilitation of the discussion. Signal with two hands.

c) A POINT OF INFORMATION may be asked for at any time:

1. By the facilitation team when there is an item of information that is important to the discussion;

or

2. By a note taker when there is some item of information that is important to record.

MOVED TO 5-3.3

5-8 Voting

5-8.1 **Voting on Proposals**

a) Approval Threshold

Voting shall be on the basis of a two-third majority . Abstentions count towards quorum, but are not counted in calculating the percentage vote.

[This policy shall be in place for two years after its passage, after which there shall be a General Assembly vote by IRV between whether to retain it or whether to return to the previous policy of 80% for bylaws and policy and 2/3 for business items.]

b) Minimum Number of Affirmative Votes

The minimum number of affirmative votes required to pass a proposal shall be the voting threshold times the decision making quorum.

[This policy shall be in place for two years after its passage, after which there shall be a General Assembly vote by IRV between whether to retain it or whether to return to the previous policy of 80% for bylaws and policy and 2/3 for business items.]

b) Roll Call Voting – In Person Meetings

When the closing option of voting is selected by the presenter of the proposal, the facilitation team shall proceed in the following steps:

1. The note taker shall be asked to read the proposal as it stands.
2. The scribe shall record the vote of the delegates where all can see it by "yes", "no" and "abstain".
3. The facilitation team shall call a roll and record each delegate vote with the help of the doorkeeper.

5-8.2 Voting by Choice Voting

a) Choice Voting shall be used by the General Assembly in multiple seat elections to fill seats on the Coordinating Committee and the GPUS Delegation, by the Coordinating Committee to make multi-

seat appointments to Committees of the General Assembly and for other purposes as determined by the General Assembly.

b) Ballots shall contain the names of all candidates and a "No Other Candidate" (NOC) option. Voters may rank as many candidates as they choose, along with the NOC option in order of preference.

c) Ballots shall be tabulated utilizing a Choice Voting system with fractional transfers and a Droop threshold, $1/(n+1)$ (1/3 threshold with two open seats). No candidate shall be elected who does not cross the threshold before NOC. Choice Voting as described here is the Single Transferable Vote (STV) form of proportional representation described in the International IDEA Handbook of Electoral System Design. (Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (IDEA). Last published 2005.. Stockholm, Sweden).

d) For elections by the General Assembly in multiple seat elections to fill seats on the Coordinating Committee and the GPUS Delegation Each County Council shall be entitled to cast as many votes as the County would receive delegates at a General Assembly, if the General Assembly were held at the time of the vote. Votes shall be cast by each elected County Councilmember on the GPCA's web-based voting page.

e) For the purposes of elections by the General Assembly in multiple seat elections to fill seats on the Coordinating Committee and the GPUS Delegation, County Councilmembers shall be considered to be elected if they either a) qualified for the ballot for the County Council election held during the Primary Election, and won their seat in a contested election; b) qualified for the ballot for the County Council election held during the Primary Election and won their seat in an uncontested election; or c) qualified as an official write-in candidate and received enough write-in votes to be elected. County Council election results shall be considered final upon the release of the Certificate of the Canvass of Election Returns by the County Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk or other applicable body.

5-8.3 Voting by Instant Runoff Voting

a) Instant Run-Off Voting shall be used in single-seat elections to fill unscheduled vacancies on the Coordinating Committee, the

GPUS delegation, to elect Co-Coordiators of Committees and Working Groups of the General Assembly and for other purposes as determined by the General Assembly...

b) Ballot shall contain the names of all candidates and a "No Other Candidate" (NOC) option. Voters may rank as many candidates as they choose, along with the NOC option in order of preference.

c) The ballots shall be tabulated using Instant Runoff Voting. No candidate shall be elected who does not cross the threshold before NOC.

5-8.4 Approval Voting When only one candidate seeks office, an Approval Voting election shall be held. Each delegate shall be provided a written secret ballot containing the name of the candidate seeking office. The ballot shall allow the opportunity to indicate a "yes" or "no" preference on the seating of the candidate. The candidate must receive "yes" votes on at least two-thirds (2/3) of ballots cast to be elected.

5-8.5 Voting for Coordinating Committee, GPUS Delegation, Treasurer and Liaison to the Secretary of State

a) Elections shall be by an on-line vote. Multi-seat elections for Coordinating Committee and the GPUS delegation shall be by Choice Voting. Elections for Treasurer and Liaison to Secretary of State and single seat elections to fill vacancies on the Coordinating Committee and the GPUS delegation shall be by Instant Run-Off Voting.

b) Elections shall be by a vote of the elected County Council members in each County as defined in 5-8.5. Each County Council shall be entitled to cast as many votes as the county organization would receive General Assembly delegates seats under 5-2.2.

c) If a County has as many elected County Councilmembers as it does General Assembly delegates, then each County Councilmember can cast one full vote. If a County has more or less elected County Councilmembers than it does General Assembly delegates, then each County Councilmember can cast a vote equal to the number of General Assembly Delegates divided by the number of County Councilmembers.

d) For the purposes of elections under 5.8.5, County Councilmembers shall be considered to be elected if they either i) qualified for the ballot for the County Council election held during the Primary Election, and won their seat in a contested election; ii) qualified for the ballot for the County Council election held during the Primary Election and won their seat in an uncontested election; or iii) qualified as an official write-in candidate and received enough write-in votes to be elected. County Council election results shall be considered final upon the release of the Certificate of the Canvass of Election Returns by the County Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk or other applicable body.

e) If an elected County Councilmember resigns her or his seat, be removed from that seat by the General Assembly, or no longer be registered Green in the County in which she/he was elected, then that person shall no longer be able participate in elections under 5.8.5.

f) An elected County Councilmember may not otherwise lose their ability to vote for Coordinating Committee members as a result of any County's bylaws, rules or procedures. No alternates may vote in place of elected County Councilmembers. No person appointed to a County Council may participate in elections under 5.8.5.

Article 6. Committees & Working Groups – Formation & Function

Section 6-1. Definitions, Formation, and Membership

6_1.1 Definitions

a) A **Committee** is a standing group defined and established by these bylaws, composed of one or more persons appointed by the Coordinating Committee, to consider, investigate, or take action on certain matters considered sensitive enough to warrant special supervision as defined in its charge. A Committee is generally established to formulate the policies and execute the tasks needed to maintain and facilitate the internal functions of the GPCA.

b) A **Working Group** is a standing group defined and established by these bylaws, composed of one or more non-appointed persons,

to consider, investigate, or take action on certain matters as defined in its charge. A Working Group is generally established to formulate and propose to the General Assembly, the GPCA's opinions, positions, and actions on political and social issues that are relevant to the Party's philosophy and political agenda.

c) A **Special Group** (or ad hoc group or subcommittee) is a group established by the General Assembly or a standing group to consider non-recurring business of the party or is otherwise expected to dissolve itself after completing its charge. Special groups do not have General Assembly agenda privileges (see proposal authority, 5-7.1).

d) A **Caucus** is a group established by GPCA members for the purpose of promoting a special interest, unique perspective, or certain consciousness. Caucuses do not have General Assembly agenda privileges (see proposal authority, 5-7.1).

6_1.2 Formation of Committees and Working Groups

Committees and Working Groups must be defined and established by these bylaws. Establishing a new Committee or Working Group or dissolving a current one requires an amendment to these bylaws.

6_1.3 Formation of Special Groups

Special groups may be established by the General Assembly or any standing group with a 2/3 vote. The statement of purpose or charge of the group and whether its membership is open or appointed must be stated at the time of formation. A special group may be dissolved with a 2/3 vote of the establishing body, but in any case, is automatically dissolved two years after its establishment or after completing its charge, whichever comes first. Expiring special groups may be reestablished at the discretion of the establishing body.

6_1.4 Committee Membership

a) Coordinating Committee membership is defined in Section 7-1. Other Committees shall be composed of no more than eight

members not including ex officio members (see ex officio members, paragraph 6-1.7).

b) At least once a year or whenever vacancies exist, the active counties, Group coordinators, and individual Coordinating Committee members shall be given the opportunity to submit nominations or recommendations to the Coordinating Committee for committee membership. Eligible candidates must have attended at least two prior General Assemblies within the previous 24 months and demonstrate a working knowledge of the GPCA bylaws and operating procedures.

c) Committee members shall be appointed by the Coordinating Committee and shall serve for two years or the remainder of the current term, or if appointed more than 12 months after the start of the current term, shall serve for the remainder of the current term plus two more years, unless a successor is appointed before this time.

d) Terms begin and end at the start of the second General Assembly of each year and must be staggered whenever possible. Any Committee member may be recalled with a 2/3 vote of the Coordinating Committee.

6_1.6 Working Group Membership

Working Group membership shall be open to any Green Party member willing to participate. Voting privileges are reserved for those members who have attended at least two Working Group meetings within the previous 24 months.

6-1.7 Ex Officio Members

Ex officio members are Committee or Working Group members by virtue of office as defined in these bylaws or in the group's charge. Ex officio members have all the privileges of other members, including the right to vote, but not the obligation to attend meetings regularly. Unless present, ex officio members are not counted in determining a quorum.

6_1.8 Liaison to the Coordinating Committee

Each Committee and Working Group shall be assigned a Coordinating Committee Liaison as an ex officio member. The Liaison shall be elected by the Coordinating Committee by Instant Run Off Voting. The liaison is charged with facilitating communications between the group and the CC. Liaisons appointed to Committees also serve as one of the committee coordinators (see coordinators, paragraph 6-1.9).

6-1.9 Coordinators

All Committees and Working Groups shall have two coordinators (see coordinator duties, paragraph 6-2.6). Each committee shall elect one coordinator from among its membership by Instant Run Off Voting in addition to the CC-appointed liaison-coordinator. Each Working Group shall elect two coordinators from among its membership, each by Instant Run Off Voting. Elected coordinators shall take office upon confirmation by the General Assembly and, while still eligible, shall serve for two years in staggered terms whenever possible or until a successor is elected and confirmed.

Section 6-2. General Duties, Authority, and Functions.

6_2.1 Work Plan

Each Committee and Working Group shall prepare a yearly work plan to be submitted to the Coordinating Committee along with any budget requests. The work plan must identify the objectives of the group for that fiscal year, any proposals it foresees bringing before the General Assembly, and a projected timeline for the group's activities. The stated objectives must be congruent with the group's charge as defined in these bylaws and the goals and strategies of the GPCA.

6_2.2 Meetings and Deliberations

Each Committee and Working Group shall determine how many meetings are necessary to achieve the objectives outlined in its work plan. Each group shall also prepare and

announce the proposed meeting agenda at least two weeks in advance of the meeting date.

6_2.3 Quorum

A Committee or Working Group quorum is more than 1/2 of a group's voting membership. For Working Group meetings properly announced in the agenda distributed prior to a regular meeting of the General Assembly, a quorum is more than 1/2 of the voting membership OR one group coordinator and at least four additional voting members, whichever is fewer.

6-2.4 Decision-Making

The decision-making process in Committees and Working Groups may be informal but must be consistent where feasible with the process described in Section 5-8. Proxy votes are not allowed.

6_2.5 Coordinator Duties

The responsibilities of the Committee and Working Group coordinators shall include:

- a) Preparing and announcing the proposed agenda for a group meeting;
- b) Facilitating and coordinating the activities of the group;
- c) Submitting group work plans and budgets to the Coordinating Committee;
- d) Presenting group proposals or other official communications to the General Assembly;
- e) Maintaining a physical notebook containing the group's Statement of Purpose, membership information, meeting minutes, and any other documents relevant to the work of the group;
- f) Filing meeting agendas and minutes with the Coordinating

Committee secretary in a timely fashion including a summary report after the conclusion of a General Assembly meeting with general contact information, active membership list, and status report;

g) Designating a temporary acting coordinator to perform the duties outlined above whenever an official coordinator is unable to perform those duties, and notifying the CC and Group membership accordingly.

AMENDED/MOVED TO 7-1.2

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Article 7. Committees of the General Assembly

Section 7-1. Coordinating Committee

7-1.1 Duties and Authority

The Coordinating Committee shall be generally responsible for coordinating meetings, internal communications and other administrative tasks, including to:

- a) Establish draft agendas and select facilitators for in-person General Assembly meetings.
- b) Forward proposals for a vote of the on-line General Assembly.
- c) Monitor and assist committee work and refer matters to committees and working groups.
- d) Request and receive regular reports from committees and working groups.
- e) Authorize and ratify specific expenditures
- f) Authorize and carry out the decisions of the GPCA general membership and make executive decisions (but not set policy) between General Assembly meetings.
- g) Make statements in the name of the party
- h) Retain legal council on behalf of the GPCA.
- i) Make decisions which legal counsel advises.
- j) Establish sub-committees of the Coordinating Committee of limited or ongoing duration, to accomplish these tasks and any other tasks of the Coordinating Committee as defined in these bylaws
- k) Certify county council members in counties in which no county council candidates qualified for the ballot in the preceding direct

primary election; or counties in which all members of the county council have resigned and/or become disqualified from holding office. **DRAWN FROM GPCA ELECTION CODE**

l) Establish a Strategic Plan as defined in 7-1.5

m) Appoint members to the Committees of the General Assembly

n) Appoint a Coordinating Committee Liaison to the Committees and Working Groups of the General Assembly

7-1.2 Membership

a) The Coordinating Committee shall be composed of up to twenty-four voting members, with twelve men and twelve women. Six men and six women shall be elected from a North Region and six men and six women shall be elected from a South Region. The boundaries of the North Region and the South Region for the purposes of Coordinating Committee membership shall be that the North Region shall be considered to be all counties north of San Luis Obispo, Kern and Inyo Counties, and South Region shall be considered to be all counties south of Monterey and Kings counties, or south and east of Tulare County.

b) Coordinating Committee members are not eligible for the positions of Treasurer and Liaison to the Secretary of State.

c) Any person elected to the Coordinating Committee shall cease to be a member if they are no longer registered to vote as a GPCA member as defined in 3-1.1(a).

d) Any person elected to the Coordinating Committee shall cease to be a member if they fail to satisfy 7-1.2(e)

e) If a Coordinating Committee member has missed two consecutive regular meetings, the Coordinating Committee Co-Coordination shall issue notice to the member no later than seven days before the meeting that unless they attend the next regular meeting, their membership shall be considered lapsed. To regain active membership, a member whose membership has lapsed must attend the next regular meeting and if this condition is satisfied, may regain active membership immediately after the conclusion of said regular meeting. Notwithstanding this, any member who attends fewer than two out of six regular meetings shall cease to be a member.

f) Any person elected to the Coordinating Committee may be removed from office by the General Assembly upon a 2/3 vote in response to a Removal for Cause Petition.

A Removal for Cause Petition must contain the written basis for removal, be approved by County Councils representing 35% of the total number of General Assembly delegate seats, and must be received by the Coordinating Committee before it can be forwarded to the General Assembly for a vote.

Upon receipt of such Removal for Cause petition, the Coordinating Committee shall schedule a vote of the General Assembly. If an in-person General Assembly is scheduled to occur within 60 days of the receipt of the petition, the Coordinating Committee shall place the vote on the draft agenda and any agenda approved by the General Assembly must include the vote. If an in-person General Assembly is not scheduled to occur within 60 days of the receipt of the petition, the Coordinating Committee shall submit the petition for an on-line discussion period and vote at the next available starting state for on-line proposals as defined in these bylaws. The individual subject to a Recall Petition shall have the right to submit a written response to the petition for inclusion with the agenda item, when the agenda item is released.

7-1.3. Meetings

a) Regular Meetings

Regular meetings of the Coordinating Committee shall be held at least once a month, in person or by teleconference, on the first Monday of each month, except if the first Monday falls a) either on New Years Day or Labor Day, or b) immediately preceding a Tuesday statewide Direct Primary, General or Special election. In the case of either a) or b), the regular monthly teleconference meeting shall occur on the second Monday of that month.

The Coordinating Committee may amend this schedule, as long as the date and time are set at least 20 days in advance.

Meetings of the Coordinating Committee may occur at General Assembly meetings at the discretion of the Coordinating

Committee, as long as the date and time are set at least 20 days in advance.

b) Quorum

A quorum of the Coordinating Committee shall consist of a majority of the currently elected members, minus those that have either resigned, passed away, or lost their seat by 7-1.2(e) or 7-1.2(f)..

c) Decision-Making

The Coordinating Committee shall follow the Consensus-Seeking process described in 5-7.4 together with the Closing Options described in 5-7.5.

7-1.4 Term of Office

a) The term of office for all Coordinating Committee members shall be two years, .

b) Terms shall be staggered over a two year basis, with twelve seats elected each year.

c) If a regular Coordinating Committee meeting has already been scheduled to occur within 20 days after the conclusion of a Coordinating Committee election, then the incoming Coordinating Committee members' term shall commence at midnight that evening. If no regular Coordinating Committee meeting has already been scheduled to occur within 20 days after the conclusion of a Coordinating Committee election, then the term shall commence at midnight, once week after the conclusion of the Coordinating Committee election.

7-1.5 Elections

a) Elections shall be by an on-line vote by Choice Voting. Election shall be by a vote of the elected County Council members in each County as defined in 5-8.5. Each County Council shall be entitled to cast as many votes as the county organization would receive General Assembly delegates seats under 5-2.2.

b) In even-numbered years, six men from the North Region and six women from the South Region shall be elected, with each gender elected separately by Choice Voting, In odd-numbered years, six

women from the North Region and six men from South Region shall be elected, with each gender elected separately by Choice Voting.

c) In even-numbered years, the discussion period for the election shall commence on the Monday at the end of the seventeenth week after the Direct Primary Election and conclude on the Monday at the end of the nineteenth week; and the voting period shall commence on the Monday immediately following the close of the discussion period and conclude one week later. In odd-numbered years, the discussion period for the election shall commence five Mondays before the beginning of the Fiscal year and conclude two weeks later; and the voting period shall commence on the Monday immediately following the close of the discussion period and conclude one week later.

7-1.6 Strategic Plan

a) The Coordinating Committee shall establish a two-year strategic plan annually, using input from a brainstorming plenary session and draft work plans from the standing committees and working groups. The proposed plan shall be presented and affirmed at the subsequent General Assembly. The two-year strategic plan shall be reviewed and refocused by the Coordinating Committee and presented to the General Assembly annually.

b) As part of the strategic plan, the Coordinating Committee shall develop a two-year schedule, including potential agenda items, for the General Assemblies and Gatherings, with input from each standing committee and working group work plan. The two-year schedule shall be revised annually, with General Assembly agenda and scheduling remaining flexible.

c) On an annual basis by December 15th, the Coordinating Committee shall prepare and distribute to the active county organizations a schedule of all scheduled meetings of the Coordinating Committee and timelines for elections for Coordinating Committee, GPUS Delegation, Treasurer and Liaison to the Secretary of State in the ensuing year.

7_1.11 Liaison to the Secretary of State

The Liaison to the Secretary of State is the official contact of the GPCA with the State of California and with other organizations. The term of the Liaison shall be two years, beginning in odd_numbered years: the Liaison shall be nominated by the Coordinating Committee, and subject to the confirmation of the first meeting of the General Assembly in odd_numbered years. The Coordinating Committee shall immediately fill any vacancy in the office of Liaison, subject to the confirmation of the next meeting of the General Assembly.

7_1.12 Treasurer

The Treasurer of the Green Party of California shall open and maintain bank accounts, keep financial records, and produce regular financial reports for the Green Party of California. The Treasurer shall also carry out any other duties appropriate and customary to the office of Treasurer. The term of the Treasurer shall be two years, beginning in odd_numbered years: the Treasurer shall be nominated by the Coordinating Committee, and subject to the confirmation of the first meeting of the General Assembly in odd_numbered years. The Coordinating Committee shall immediately fill any vacancy in the office of Treasurer, subject to the confirmation of the next meeting of the General Assembly.

Article 10. Amendment of Bylaws, Rules or Procedures

Section 10-1. Initiation of Amendment

('amendment' refers to changing the bylaws. rules or procedures in any way, including both deletions and additions)

10-1.1 Methods of initiation

An amendment to the bylaws, rules or procedures can be initiated in one of three ways:

- a) by the Bylaws Committee, or

- b) at the request of a 2/3 majority of the plenary at a General Assembly meeting, either as a result of group discussion or at the request of a delegate, or
- c) by a county organization sending a proposal for amendment to the Coordinating Committee for submission to the agenda process and the Bylaws Committee for review and recommendations..

10-1.2 Role of Bylaws Committee

- a) Any proposed amendment to the bylaws, or rules and procedures not sponsored by the Bylaws Committee shall be forwarded for review to the Bylaws Committee, which shall analyze the effect on the bylaws, rules and procedures as a whole and make recommendations to the sponsor(s).
- b) The sponsor of the Bylaws amendment may choose to incorporate any of the Bylaws Committee recommendations before submitting final text for inclusion in the agenda process. Once final text of an amendment is submitted, the Bylaws Committee may also its own analysis and recommendations to be included in the agenda packet for the next General Assembly.