

FRESNO COUNTY GREEN PARTY BYLAWS

November 1, 2002

ARTICLE 1 NAME

The name of this organization shall be the Fresno County Green Party ("FCGP").

ARTICLE 2 PURPOSE

2.1 *Bylaws*

These bylaws shall govern the organization, operation and functions of the FCGP.

2.2 *Purpose of the Organization*

The purpose of the FCGP is to promote the Ten Key Values of the California Green Party as set forth below. Future changes to the Ten Key Values by the California Green Party shall be adopted by reference.

Ecological Wisdom, Grassroots Democracy, Social Justice, Nonviolence, Decentralization, Community-based Economics, Feminism, Respect for Diversity, Global Responsibility and Future Focus.

ARTICLE 3 MEMBERSHIP

The following persons are eligible for membership in the FCGP:

- A. All persons registered to vote in Fresno County who have declared their intention to affiliate with the Green Party of California as provided in California Elections Code section 2151; and
- B. Any resident of Fresno County who states in writing that he/she would declare an intention to affiliate with the Green Party of California if he/she were not legally prohibited from registering to vote.

ARTICLE 4 THE COUNTY COUNCIL

4.1 *Role of the County Council*

The County Council of the FCGP ("CC") shall serve as the elected representative body of the FCGP. The CC shall fill the role served by county central committees pursuant to Division 7 of the California Elections Code.

4.2 *Members of the County Council*

The CC shall be comprised of seven voting members elected during the direct primary election held by the State of California in even years.

4.3 *Terms of Office*

Each member of the CC shall serve for a term of two years. That term shall commence at the beginning of the first meeting of the CC following the direct primary election at which the member was elected and end at the beginning of the first meeting of the CC following the succeeding direct primary election.

4.4 *Removal of County Council Members*

4.4.1 The CC may, in accordance with the decision-making process in Article 5, remove a member from the CC if the member:

- A. Moves out of the county;
- B. Registers with another political party;
- C. Fails to maintain an accurate, updated voter registration;
- D. Misses three consecutive meetings without appointing an alternate.

4.4.2 Members of the CC may be recalled by the voters in accordance with the applicable provisions of the California Elections Code.

4.5 *Governance*

The CC shall govern the FCGP according to these bylaws and the Ten Key Values.

4.6 *Alternate Members of the County Council*

4.6.1 A CC member may appoint an alternate in his/her absence. Such alternates shall be recognized only with the written authorization of the CC member making the appointment. An alternate CC member must be a member of the FCGP as defined in these bylaws. He/she may vote or hold unresolved concerns only while the elected CC member is absent.

4.6.2 Each appointment of an alternate shall be for only one specific meeting of the CC. If the alternate is required to serve at subsequent meetings, the member requiring the alternate must submit an additional written authorization for any such subsequent meeting.

4.6.3 No currently serving member of the CC or any member who has been removed in accordance with these bylaws shall serve as an alternate member.

4.7 *Vacancies on the County Council*

4.7.1 A vacancy shall exist on the CC when any of the following occurs:

- A. Fewer than seven candidates are elected to the CC;
- B. An ineligible person is appointed or elected;
- C. A member dies, resigns or becomes incapacitated to act; or
- D. A member is removed or recalled.

4.7.2 When a vacancy exists on the CC, that vacancy shall be filled by appointment by the CC according to the decision-making procedures specified in Article 5 of these bylaws.

4.8 *Duties and Authority of the County Council*

The CC shall be responsible for coordinating meetings, internal communications and other administrative tasks, including the following:

- A. Making statements in the name of the FCGP;
- B. Soliciting and receiving contributions and authorizing expenditures of funds in accordance with California law and the policies of the FCGP and the Green Party of California;
- C. Retaining legal counsel on behalf of the FCGP and undertaking any legal action deemed necessary;
- D. Electing any officers of the FCGP;
- E. Empowering working groups;
- F. Employing staff as necessary or desirable;
- G. Conducting such other business as the FCGP may require;

ARTICLE 5 **MEETINGS**

5.1 *Time and Place of Meetings*

A newly elected CC shall hold its first meeting not more than thirty days after the date of the direct primary election. The CC shall hold regular meetings at times and places designated by it. All meetings of the CC shall be open to the public.

5.2 *Notification of Meetings and Agendas*

5.2.1 The CC shall publicize the time and place of its meetings and send notice to all persons who have requested notification.

5.2.2 The CC shall collect agenda items, including drafts of any proposals. The CC shall then ratify the proposed agenda and allocate times for each item at the beginning of each meeting.

5.3 *Quorum*

A quorum shall consist of a simple majority of the currently serving CC members.

5.4 *Proposals*

The CC shall receive proposals for action from both members and nonmembers. When possible, the CC shall refer a proposal to the appropriate working group for further refinement. If there is no appropriate working group, or the proposal is time-urgent, the CC may bring the proposal to the CC meeting or it may establish an *ad hoc* working group. Proposals must include cost estimates.

5.5 *Decisionmaking*

5.5.1 The CC shall follow the "consensus-seeking process", including "choice voting" in appropriate situations, for reaching decisions as outlined in the bylaws of the Green Party of California.

5.5.2 With the consent of the CC, and time permitting, all members of the FCGP may participate in the "consensus-seeking process" but only CC members (or their designated alternates) may hold "unresolved concerns" and participate in any vote, should one become necessary. Appropriate time limits shall be observed.

ARTICLE 6 **OFFICERS**

6.1 *Treasurer*

6.1.1 The CC shall elect a Treasurer from among the registered members of the FCGP. The Treasurer shall serve a term of two years. However, the CC may replace the Treasurer at any time.

6.1.2 The Treasurer shall:

- A. Receive and disburse funds on behalf of the FCGP;
- B. Maintain complete and accurate records of all financial transactions;
- C. Fulfill all reporting requirements of the Political Reform Act of 1974 and the regulations of the Fair Political Practices Commission, including the requirement to inform the Secretary of State of his/her election in a timely manner;
- D. Provide the CC with written reports of all transactions at each CC meeting (which may be accomplished via email); and
- E. File all required reports with the Treasurer of the Green Party of California and pay all dues owed to the Green Party of California in a timely manner.

6.2 *Secretary*

6.2.1 The CC shall elect a Secretary from among the registered members of the FCGP. The Secretary shall serve a term of two years. However, the CC may replace the Secretary at any time.

6.2.2 The Secretary shall:

- A. Take written minutes of all CC meetings and maintain them in a permanent binder; and
- B. Distribute the minutes from the previous meeting to the CC and any other person who has requested notification.

6.3 *Delegates to the Green Party of California General Assembly*

6.3.1 Prior to each General Assembly of the Green Party of California, the CC shall appoint delegate(s) in the number allotted to Fresno County.

- 6.3.2** A delegate must meet all of the following criteria:
- A. Be a member of the FCGP;
 - B. Have attended at least one statewide meeting within the preceding three years;
 - C. Be familiar with the structure and principles of the Green Party of California;
and
 - D. Have a working knowledge of the bylaws of the Green Party of California.
- 6.3.3** Each delegate shall in all decisions represent the positions taken by the FCGP.

ARTICLE 7 GENERAL POLICIES

7.1 *Diversity*

The FCGP shall not discriminate on the basis of age, race, class, sex, sexual orientation, physical ability, religion, or income. In all of its functions, the FCGP shall seek to promote diversity on each of these factors.

7.2 *Other Policies*

Public statements on behalf of the FCGP must be authorized by the CC.

ARTICLE 8 AMENDMENT OF BYLAWS

These bylaws may be amended by the CC according to the consensus process. Should a vote become necessary, a proposal to amend the bylaws must pass by two thirds.