

BYLAWS OF THE NEVADA COUNTY GREEN PARTY

(Adopted at general meeting, 6/1/92)

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ARTICLE I: PURPOSE OF THE ORGANIZATION

The purpose of the Nevada County Green Party (NCGP) is to further the following ten key values through political and social action:

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|-------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1. ecological wisdom | 6. community-based economics |
| 2. grassroots democracy | 7. post-patriarchal values |
| 3. social justice | 8. respect for diversity |
| 4. nonviolence | 9. personal & global responsibility |
| 5. decentralization | 10. sustainable future focus |

ARTICLE II: MEMBERSHIP

Membership in the NCGP shall include all Nevada County residents who are registered Green voters and those who would independently choose to register Green if they were legally able to do so.

ARTICLE III: COUNTY COUNCIL

Section 1: Purpose

1.01

The NCGP County Council (Council) shall:

- a. assist the NCGP in realizing its purpose;
- b. inform the NCGP in a timely manner of state, regional and local Green Party developments and endeavors;
- c. act as liaison between the NCGP and the community, including the media;
- d. call and attend general meetings of the NCGP;
- e. establish agendas for general meetings of the NCGP;
- f. hold open Council meetings, as announced at general meetings;
- g. report the content and decisions of Council meetings at general meetings;
- h. facilitate education, communication, action, and Green Party voter registration;
- i. call for and establish working groups as needed;
- j. manage the general business and office of the NCGP, subject to approval by the membership.

1.02

The Council shall fill the role served by the County Central Committees pursuant to Division 7 of the California Election Code.

Section 2: Membership

2.01 Method of Selection--In General.

Membership in the Council shall be by election through state primary balloting held in even-numbered years, and by appointment and consensus of the general membership as necessary.

2.02 Gender Balance

A gender-balanced Council shall be encouraged. In the event of imbalance, the Council shall call for a decision of the NCGP to resolve it. The Council shall be composed of seven members, pursuant to state law.

2.03 Terms

Members will serve until the first Council meeting following the next primary election. Members may serve a maximum of two consecutive two-year terms.

2.04 Alternates

A Council member may appoint an alternate in her/his absence. Alternates shall have full consensus and voting rights only with the written authorization of their appointing Council member. An alternate member shall be subject to the rules of the Council.

2.05 Resignation

A Council member automatically resigns if s/he:

- a. moves out of Nevada County;
- b. is no longer a registered Green; or
- c. misses three consecutive regularly scheduled meetings, without appointing an alternate.

2.06 Recall

The following steps are necessary to recall a Council member:

- a. Three NCGP members must present a written statement to the Council member specifying exactly how s/he failed to act in accordance with the 10 key values or these bylaws. The statement must be presented at a Council meeting.
- b. At the next NCGP general meeting, the Council shall call for and establish a mediation panel, composed of NCGP members who are not involved in the particular controversy.
- c. Within seven days, both parties to the dispute will meet with the mediation panel. If no resolution is reached at that meeting, the panel will recommend a resolution within five days.
- d. If either party is dissatisfied with the recommendation, the Council shall allot equal times for the two positions at the next general meeting. If that meeting results in a consensus (or 80% fall-back vote) in favor of recall, the Council member is removed from office.

2.07 Vacancies

If a vacancy occurs on the Council, the following procedures shall be followed:

- a. The vacancy shall be announced at the next general meeting.

- b. At the following general meeting, the membership shall attempt to reach consensus on the position.
- c. If consensus cannot be reached, a vote by written ballot shall be taken. The person receiving a plurality of votes will be elected to the position.

Section 3: Officers

3.01 Liaison Team

(a) The Council shall select two of its members as a gender-balanced Liaison team. The Council will promptly notify the County Clerk of the names, addresses and phone numbers of the team. A Liaison may not serve more than one two-year term consecutively.

(b) The team, along with the Treasurer, will act as sole liaisons between the NCGP and the Secretary of State, the County Clerks, and the Green Party of California (GPOC) Coordinating Committee. The team will promptly forward all decisions and communications made under these bylaws.

(c) Either Liaison, or the Treasurer, will sign all checks drawn of the NCGP account.

3.02 Treasurer

(a) The Council shall select a treasurer from among the NCGP membership. The Treasurer may serve up to two consecutive two-year terms.

(b) Each month, the Treasurer shall:

- (1) provide the Council with written reports of all transactions during the preceding month; and
- (2) file all required reports with the Treasurer of the GPOC.

(c) The Treasurer shall be responsible for fulfilling all the requirements of the Political Reform Act and the FPPC.

(d) The Treasurer is responsible for keeping accurate records of all funds at the Council's disposal. These records will be made available in a timely fashion to NCGP members for examination, upon request.

3.03 Secretary

(a) The Council shall select from its members a Secretary. The Secretary may serve up to two consecutive two-year terms.

(b) The Secretary shall take written minutes of all Council meetings. Minutes of all regularly scheduled Council meetings shall be made available to Council members by the following general NCGP meeting. Minutes of all specially scheduled Council meetings shall be made available to Council members by the following Council meeting.

(c) The Secretary will act as conduit for all reports to the Council.

ARTICLE IV: MEETINGS

Section 1: Council

1.01 In General

The Council shall hold regular monthly meetings, as announced at general membership meetings, and additional meetings whenever necessary.

1.02 Participation

Council meetings shall be open to observation and participation of all NCGP members, except that only Council members shall have full consensus and voting powers.

Section 2: General Membership

2.01 In General

The NCGP shall hold regular monthly general meetings. The Council may call additional meetings whenever necessary, as long as reasonable notice is given to all current NCGP members who have attended at least one general meeting. (Reasonable notice may include messages left via phone tree at least three days before the meeting.)

2.02 Participation

Meetings shall be open to the public, and public participation shall be encouraged, except that only NCGP members shall have full consensus and voting powers. The Council shall maintain a sign-up list for meeting attendance.

2.03 Roles

At the beginning of each meeting, the Council shall appoint a Facilitator, Note-Taker, Timekeeper, Vibes-Watcher, and, if necessary, a Scribe. The Council is encouraged to rotate these roles among the general membership.

2.04 Child Care

If requested at least seven days before the meeting, the Council shall attempt to provide for childcare during the meeting.

Section 3: Decision-making

3.01 Decision makers

All NCGP members shall have power to make decisions at general meetings.

3.02 Process

- (a) Decision-making shall be by consensus, as reached within an established time frame. Time frames may be amended as necessary.
- (b) The following procedures shall be used to achieve consensus:
 - (1) Presenter(s) explains the proposal.
 - (2) Facilitator calls for clarifying questions; presenter(s) respond.
 - (3) Facilitator calls for concerns (listed by the Scribe) and friendly amendments; presenter(s) may accept or reject amendments.
 - (4) Facilitator calls for unresolved concerns. If none, consensus is achieved.
 - (5) If unresolved concern(s), facilitator asks if they'll stand aside. If so, the Note-Taker records the concern, and consensus is achieved.
- (c) If consensus cannot be reached within the established/amended time frame, decisions may be made by vote:
 - (1) An 80% vote decides policy issues.
 - (2) A 2/3 vote decides general business.
 - (3) If it is unclear as to whether an issue is one of policy or business, the 80% rule shall apply.

ARTICLE V: DELEGATE SELECTION TO GREEN PARTY OF CALIFORNIA GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Section 1: Team Delegation

The NCGP shall send a team of members to statewide meetings of the GPOC. Before each meeting, the Council shall provide the GPOC Coordinating Committee and the state Hosting Committee with the names of team members representing NCGP delegate votes. If a vote needs to be taken at the statewide meeting, the team will caucus to decide how to use the allotted votes and will vote accordingly.

Section 2: Orientation

The Council shall see to it that all delegate team members receive an orientation regarding GPOC meetings, structure, process and bylaws. Attendance at an orientation is a prerequisite to membership on the delegate team.

ARTICLE VI: AMENDMENT OF BYLAWS

These bylaws may be amended at any time, through the following process:

- (1) Proposals for amendment must be addressed at a general membership meeting.
- (2) Using the NCGP decision-making process, the members will determine whether amendment is necessary, and, if possible, the general approach to be taken.
- (3) If amendment is necessary, a Bylaws Working Group shall draft a proposed amendment, following the general approach determined at the membership meeting.
- (4) The amendment may be adopted at the following general meeting, either by consensus or, if necessary, an 80% majority vote.