

Bylaws of the Green Party of San Benito County

Approved March 25, 2006, at the Green Party of San Benito County General Meeting.

1. Name

The name of this organization shall be Green Party of San Benito County (GPSBC).

2. Purpose and Values

2.1 The mission of the Green Party of San Benito County is to promote the Ten Key Values of the Green Party of the United States:

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

2.2 The GPSBC will promote these values through legislative, electoral, educational, advocacy and community outreach work to affect local, state, national and global issues.

2.3 The GPSBC agrees to accept and abide by the bylaws of the Green Party of California.

3. Membership

3.1 Membership in Green Party of San Benito County is open to anyone regardless of race, gender, religion, creed, national origin, sexual orientation, appearance, or physical ability.

3.2 Membership in the GPSBC is open to voters registered as Green Party members in San Benito County.

4. Decision-making process

4.1 In all decisions, the Green Party of San Benito County will strive to achieve consensus. [See Addendum entitled Rules of Procedure for the Green Assembly of San Benito County.] Failing consensus, decisions shall require a vote of at least two-thirds of the voting members present at a general or County Council meeting.

4.2 New members shall become active members, thereby acquiring the right to participate in the consensus decision-making process or vote on local chapter issues.

4.3 General meetings shall be held quarterly throughout the calendar year. County Council shall meet monthly between general meetings.

4.4 Members who do not attend at least one GPSBC general meeting in a six-month period become inactive, and must follow the process outlined in Section 4.2 to become active again.

4.5 Active membership of an individual in GPSBC can be revoked for failure to abide by the Ten Key Values, for seriously misrepresenting the positions of the GPSBC or for disrupting the work of GPSBC. An individual must be informed of the potential revocation of membership at least three weeks prior to the vote and have a chance to speak in his or her defense at the meeting when the vote is held.

4.6 Proposals shall be acted upon at a general meeting. Where practical, proposals shall be presented at a meeting preceding the meeting where action is taken on the proposal or presented to the County Chapter/Council for dissemination to the county membership prior to such action.

5. Structure

5.1 Green Party of San Benito County active members shall select a County Council of 3 people to manage the group's business between General Meetings, to draft the agenda for the General Meetings, and to handle routine administrative tasks. GPSBC shall strive for gender and ethnic balance in selecting its County Council. The County Council shall nominate members to fill specialized roles such as spokespeople, new member contact, treasurer, secretary, etc. The nominations shall be brought to the next General Meeting for approval. County Council members shall serve for two years. County Council members may be recalled for good cause by the membership.

5.1.a The initial County Council shall be elected at the first general meeting.

5.1.b Subsequent County Council elections shall coincide with even year primaries.

5.1.c In the event a County Council member resigns or is recalled, the nomination and election of a replacement shall take place at the monthly meeting immediately following the resignation.

5.1.c.1 If the following meeting is a County Council meeting, the County Council may elect a replacement who may serve until affirmed by the next General Meeting. If affirmed by the General Meeting, this council member serves the balance of the term of the person s/he replaces.

5.1.c.2 If the following meeting is a General Meeting, or if the general membership rejects the County Council's previously elected choice for a replacement at the General Meeting, the general membership may nominate and elect a replacement, who will serve the balance of the term of the person s/he replaces.

5.2 The GPSBC active members shall select representatives to the plenaries held by the Green Party of California for a one-year term. Representatives may be recalled for good cause by the membership.

5.3 The GPSBC can establish other working committees as the need arises.

5.4 Facilitators at each meeting will rotate among members.

5.5 Financial expenditures or commitments greater than \$100 must be approved by the membership.

6. Officers

6.1 Treasurer

1. Duties and Responsibilities

- a) Receive, disburse, maintain and account for the funds of the Party in accordance with the direction of the Green Assembly.
- b) Prepare and submit copies of monthly, quarterly and annual financial reports, as appropriate, at each meeting of the GP Green Assembly.
- c) Review all bank accounts and financial records as specified by the Green Assembly.
- d) Act as an ex-officio member of any working group with responsibility for Green Party finances.
- e) Participate in preparation of a draft budget for consideration by the Green Assembly.
- f) File income and expense reports as required by law.
- g) Utilize common bookkeeping practices and generally accepted accounting principles in managing and reporting finances.

6.2 Secretary

1. Duties and Responsibilities

- a) Maintain current rosters of active volunteers for each Working Group, Neighborhood Group and Caucus.
- b) Maintain current list of names of those who, according to the County Elections Department are registered with the Green Party.
- c) Record and maintain in an orderly fashion a collection of meeting minutes, resolutions, meeting agenda packets, newsletters and other material generated by the organization.

6. Candidates/Endorsements/Coalitions

6.1 The Green Party of San Benito County members will be responsible for selecting and/or endorsing candidates for local political office and will be responsible for forwarding those nominations for ratification to the state nominating convention. Candidates selected must be registered Green in the state of California, embrace the Ten Key Values as a basis for their political decision-making, and meet all state legal requirements.

6.2 The GPSBC may endorse initiatives, referenda, campaigns and coalitions in keeping with our 10 Key Values and state platform. An endorsement of an issue or coalition requiring the commitment of GPSBC resources (money, people, time, etc.) must clearly state the requirements and where the resource will come from.

7. Bylaw Amendments

7.1 A copy of the proposed bylaw amendment shall be given to active members at least one month prior to the meeting in which the amendment is to be

considered. A written copy of the adopted bylaws—with any current amendments—will be maintained by the County Council.

7.2 Any amendment will become effective on the first of the month following ratification.

8. Locals

8.1 Any five or more members of the GPSBC residing in the same area may create a Green Party Local by submitting the following to the County Council:

- a. Statement of the name and purpose of the organization;
- b. Description of the area to be included in the Local
- c. A list of names of the members
- d. The name, address, phone and other contact information of the person serving as the liaison to the County Council.
- e. Bylaws for the Local, which must be approved by the County Council

8.2 The local shall continue to be recognized by the GPSBC as long as it maintains regular communications with the County Council, adheres to Green values and meets the requirements of the GPSBC and their own bylaws. The Local shall provide the County Council with meeting agendas and meeting minutes on an ongoing basis.

8.3 If the County Council does not receive documentation outlined in Section 8.2, or does not receive contact from the Local's liaison to the County Council on a regular basis, the County Council may rule that the Local is no longer in good standing with the GPSBC.

8.4 The Local may not make public statements on behalf of the GPSBC without written permission from the County Council.