

GREEN PARTY OF STANISLAUS BYLAWS

ADOPTED OCTOBER 20, 2001

ARTICLE I. THE ORGANIZATION

Section 1. Names

The name of this organization is the Green Party of Stanislaus (Stanislaus Greens). The administrative body of the Green Party of Stanislaus is the Green Party of Stanislaus County Council (County Council).

Section 2. Declaration

Adoption of these bylaws shall void any previous county-level bylaws adopted by Green Party members organized in Stanislaus County.

ARTICLE II. PURPOSE

Section 1. Stanislaus Greens

II.1.01 The purpose of the Stanislaus Greens is to foster a local community that honors the following ten key values:

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|-------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1. Ecological Wisdom | 6. Community-based Economics |
| 2. Grassroots Democracy | 7. Postpatriarchal Values |
| 3. Social Justice | 8. Respect for Diversity |
| 4. Nonviolence | 9. Personal & Global Responsibility |
| 5. Decentralization | 10. Future Focus |

As such a community, the Stanislaus Greens will heed these values in social and political action.

II.1.02 These bylaws represent an agreement on the organization, operation, and function of the Stanislaus Greens and its County Council.

Section 2. County Council

II.2.01 The County Council will serve the Stanislaus Greens according to these bylaws. In the event of an omission or ambiguity in these bylaws, the Stanislaus Greens will look to the bylaws of the Green Party of California for guidance.

II.2.02 The County Council is accountable to the membership of the Stanislaus Greens and decisions of the County Council must be enacted in accordance with these bylaws.

ARTICLE III. MEMBERSHIP

Members are: all persons residing in Stanislaus County with a current and valid registration in the Green Party of California and those persons who would independently choose to register Green if they were legally able to do so.

ARTICLE IV. COUNTY COUNCIL

Section 1. Mission and Purpose

- IV.1.01 The County Council will serve as the elected representative body of the Stanislaus Greens. The County Council's mission is to aid members of the Stanislaus Greens in building the party's local community. The Council will observe the ten key values in all its actions and statements.
- IV.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. County Council Membership and Elections

- IV.2.01 The County Council will be comprised of seven voting members (seats) elected by voters registered as Green Party members. Green Party members in Stanislaus County will use Choice Voting in a county-wide, at-large district during the direct primary election held by the State of California in even years. Choice Voting is the single transferable vote form of proportional representation.
- IV.2.02 Under Choice Voting Green Party voters will be asked to rank County Council candidates on their ballot in order of their preference, 1 being their top choice, 2 the second preference and so forth.
- IV.2.03 Voters are not required to rank all candidates and may stop wherever they prefer.
- IV.2.04 To determine which candidates are seated, the total number of ballots cast is divided by 8 (one more than total seats on the County Council), and one is added to this result. This formula $\{[\text{total votes}/(\text{seats}+1)]+1\}$ determines the threshold candidates must achieve to be elected.
- IV.2.05 Next, each candidate's first preference votes are counted. Any candidate who meets or exceeds the threshold on first preference votes alone is automatically seated. The candidate with the least first preference votes is eliminated and the eliminated candidate's first preference ballots redistributed to candidates marked as second preference.
- IV.2.06 For winning candidates, votes in excess of the winning threshold are distributed to the candidates marked as the second preference. However, so that all second-preference votes of winning candidates are treated as equal, all second-preference votes from winning candidates' first preference ballots are counted and distributed as a fraction of a vote such that all fractional votes combined equal the surplus votes received by winning candidates.
- IV.2.07 These directions for a single-transferable vote ballot count are indebted to that offered in the International I.D.E.A. Handbook of Electoral System Design, Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance, 1997, Second Edition, p 83.

- IV.2.08 The Stanislaus Greens may choose to modify the method of selection or size of the County Council by modifying these bylaws following the procedure in Article IX below. The County Council will notify the Green Party of California Coordinating Committee of such changes no later than 150 days before the direct primary election.
- IV.2.09 If Stanislaus County election officials refuse to implement the system of choice voting described in IV.2.01-IV.2.06 the default system for electing the County Council shall be that candidates for County Council will be listed on the ballot. Voters may select up to the number of seats to be filled. Those candidates receiving the highest number of votes will be seated until all seats have been filled or, in case there are seven or fewer candidates, all candidates have been seated.
- IV.2.10 County Council members will serve nominal two-year terms until the succeeding primary election and the new County Council convenes its first meeting. Actual duration of terms will vary from a strict 24 months due to the state of California's early presidential primaries and later primaries in off years.
- IV.2.11 A County Council member may appoint an alternate in her/his absence. Alternates shall have voting rights only with the written authorization of their appointing County Council member. An alternate member shall be subject to the rules of the County Council and may vote only while the elected member is absent. Alternates must qualify for membership as defined in Article III.
- IV.2.12 A County Council member automatically will be removed if s/he:
a) moves out of Stanislaus County;
b) is no longer a registered Green; or
c) misses three consecutive County Council meetings without appointing an alternate.
- IV.2.13 A sitting County Council member can be recalled if both (a) and (b) occur:
a) Three members of the Stanislaus Greens present a written statement to the County Council member specifying why they would like the County Council member recalled. The statement must be presented at a Green Assembly Meeting. And;
b) The County Council shall allot equal times for the two positions at the next Green Assembly Meeting. If that meeting results in a consensus (minus the member being recalled) or in a 75% fall-back vote at a following Green Assembly Meeting (at least seven days apart) in favor of recall, the County Council member is removed from office.

Section 3. Filling County Council Vacancies between State-Officiated Elections

- IV.3.01 If a vacancy occurs on the County Council, the County Council will notify the general membership of this vacancy, and nominations will be

accepted at the next Green Assembly Meeting. Notification of membership shall include the dates and times of respective meetings at which nominations are accepted and balloting for the replacement candidates takes place.

- IV.3.02 Members eligible to run for the vacancy and to vote in elections for County Council vacancies are individuals registered to vote Green in Stanislaus County.
- IV.3.03 Eligible members may nominate themselves. If the nominee is not present, written notification from the candidate of willingness to serve must be presented at the meeting for the nomination to be accepted.
- IV.3.04 At the Green Assembly Meeting immediately following nominations, an election shall be held. County Council members and Stanislaus Green Party members present are entitled to cast secret instant runoff voting ballots at the meeting. "None of the Above" shall be a choice on ballots.
- IV.3.05 The candidate with a majority wins the seat. If "None of the Above" gains more votes than all other candidates, the vacancy remains and the nomination/election process continues until a candidate wins over "None of the Above."
- IV.3.06 In the event of simultaneous multiple vacancies, the method of balloting shall be by choice voting as described in IV.2.02-IV.2.07 above.
- IV.3.07 Proxy voting is not permitted. Members must be present at the meeting at which the election is held to vote.
- IV.3.08 The Liaison to the Registrar shall notify the Green Party of California Coordinating Committee and County Election officials of elections of replacement County Council members within five days.

Section 4. Duties and Powers

- IV.4.01 The duties and powers of the County Council are:
 - a) to propose the agenda and Facilitators for Green Assemblies;
 - b) to make sure that minutes of Green Assembly Meetings are kept, and that the records of the Stanislaus Greens are maintained;
 - c) to ensure that each County Council member's vote is recorded on each issue that required County Council votes (this record may be kept as part of minutes);
 - d) to make records such as minutes and County Council votes available on request of Green Party of Stanislaus members;
 - e) to set dates for Green Assembly Meeting sessions, and to inform the membership of those dates;
 - f) to make recommendations and proposals to Green Assembly Meetings;
 - g) to make every reasonable effort to carry out faithfully the decisions of Green Assembly Meetings;

- h) to make such decisions as are normally reserved to a Green Assembly Meeting but cannot be delayed until the next possible Green Assembly Meeting; (such decisions shall be subject to revision or rejection at the next Green Assembly Meeting);
- i) to set up new Working Groups (committees which may contain non-council members who are Stanislaus Green members but who shall remain responsible to the County Council), and dissolve Working Groups that are not meeting or functioning;
- j) to ask for and to receive reports and recommendations from Working Groups;
- k) to coordinate the efforts of the various Working Groups;
- l) to act as a conduit for information between Working Groups and to make recommendations to Working Groups as necessary;
- m) to carry out any necessary action which does not fall within the duties of any particular Working Group;
- n) to develop strategy and implement policy for the Stanislaus Greens;
- o) to be ultimately responsible for meeting the legal and fiscal responsibilities of the Stanislaus Greens;
- p) to raise funds and make expenditures as necessary; two Council members signatures are required for any expenditure over \$150.00;
- q) to retain and direct legal counsel as the County Council deems necessary;
- r) to speak for, or to authorize individuals to speak for, the Stanislaus Greens within the general parameters of established Stanislaus Green policy, the State Platform, or recognized Green Values;
- s) to carry out any duties required of it by the Green Party of California;
- t) to make any decisions which, within reason and without abusing either the spirit or letter of these bylaws, help to carry out the powers and duties of the Council, any Working Group, or the Green Assembly Meeting, as stated here and elsewhere in these bylaws.

- IV.4.02 The Council shall use the consensus process for decision making. The Council may, however, establish its own rules of procedure subject to these bylaws (such as creation of officers, agenda, etc.) All Green Assembly meetings shall be open to any member of the Stanislaus Greens, who may participate in discussion; but only members of the County Council shall have both consensus and voting powers unless the County Council chooses otherwise.
- IV.4.03 A quorum of the County Council shall be 2/3 of the current members of the County Council rounded down to the nearest whole number and not to be less than three if there are four or more current members.
- IV.4.04 The County Council may delegate any of its duties and powers to committees. These committees may contain non-council members who are Stanislaus Green members, but they shall remain responsible to the County Council.

ARTICLE V. MEETINGS

Section 1. Green Assembly/County Council Meetings

- V.1.01 The County Council shall hold regular monthly meetings open to the County Council and any interested Stanislaus Green members at least 10 months of the year. These meetings are referred to both as Green Assembly Meetings and as County Council Meetings.
- V.1.02 Green Assembly Meetings shall be open to participation and observation of all Stanislaus Green members; however, only County Council members shall have voting powers in the event that all Greens in attendance do not reach consensus and proponents/presenters wish to press for a vote. The County Council may impose reasonable time limits.
- V.1.03 Meetings shall be open to the public, and participation of all Green registrants shall be encouraged.
- V.1.04 At the beginning of each meeting, the County Council shall appoint a Facilitator, Note-taker (responsible for presenting minutes to the following meeting), Scribe (responsible for writing items, such as agenda, which need to be displayed to everyone at once as on a chalkboard), and Time-Keeper. The Council is encouraged to rotate these roles among volunteers in the general membership.

Section 2. Decision-Making

- V.2.01 All Stanislaus Green members shall have power to participate in discussions and consensus decisions at general meetings.
- V.2.02 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)/Proponents explain the proposal;
 - (2) Facilitator calls for clarifying questions; presenter(s) respond;
 - (3) Facilitator calls for concerns (listed by the Note-taker) and friendly amendments; presenter 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 will 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. A 2/3 vote of County Council Members and duly appointed alternates present decides general procedural issues. A supermajority of 80% of County Council Members and duly appointed alternates present at the meeting is required to change policy issues.
 - (1) The note-taker shall record the names of the County Council members and their vote for each vote taken. This voting record is to

be included in the record of the meeting and is to be made available on request of Green Party of Stanislaus members.

- d) Procedural issues as used in V.2.02c above is defined as matters affecting how the meeting is conducted provided that the procedures being considered are consistent with these bylaws. Procedures not consistent with bylaws require amending the bylaws (see Article IX) before they may be enacted. Examples of procedural issues include whether to extend allotted time for discussion of a matter or whether to adjourn the meeting early.
- e) Policy issues as used in V.2.02c above is defined as positions adopted by the Green Party of Stanislaus. Examples include resolutions or proclamations, endorsements of candidates or ballot measures, or preferences regarding pending decisions before the Green Party of California.

ARTICLE VI. OFFICERS

Section 1. Treasurer

- VI.1.01 The Green Party of Stanislaus shall have a Treasurer whose duties shall include:
 - a) maintaining records of contributions to the Green Party of Stanislaus and expenditures made by the Green Party of Stanislaus
 - b) establishing and maintaining any accounts with financial institutions on behalf of the Green Party of Stanislaus as authorized by the Green Party of Stanislaus in Green Assembly sessions
 - c) maintaining contact with the Treasurer of the Green Party of California
 - d) calculating and paying the dues of the Green Party of Stanislaus to the Green Party of California
 - e) filing appropriate financial declarations so that the Green Party of Stanislaus complies with county, state, and federal law
 - f) attend Green Assembly meetings
 - g) at end of service, orienting the succeeding treasurer
- VI.1.02 The Treasurer's term of service shall coincide with that for County Council members.
- VI.1.03 Treasurers may also be County Council members, but they do not have to be County Council members. Treasurers are appointed by the Green Assembly.

Section 2. Liaison to the Registrar of Voters and State Coordinating Committee

- VI.2.01 The Green Party of Stanislaus shall have a Liaison with the Stanislaus County Registrar of Voters (Registrar of Voters) and Green Party of California Coordinating Committee (Coordinating Committee) whose duties shall include:
 - a) informing the Registrar of Voters and Coordinating Committee of changes in the membership of the County Council

- b) receiving communications regarding the composition of the County Council from either the Registrar of Voters or the Coordinating Committee and relaying such communications either to concerned individuals or to the Green Assembly in general

VI.2.02 The Liaison's term of service shall coincide with that for County Council members.

VI.1.03 Liaisons may also be County Council members, but they do not have to be County Council members. Liaisons are appointed by the Green Assembly.

ARTICLE VII. GREEN PARTY LOCALS WITHIN STANISLAUS COUNTY

Section 1. Responsibilities Claimed by the Green Party of Stanislaus

VII.1.01 The Green Party of Stanislaus is to serve the interests of Green Party members in Stanislaus County.

VII.1.02 The Green Party of Stanislaus may not prohibit Green Party members living in Stanislaus County from running for County Council or attending Green Assembly Meetings and encourages such participation from across the county.

VII.1.03 Delegates to Green Party of California General Assemblies (Plenaries) from Stanislaus County must be approved by the Green Party of Stanislaus in Green Assembly session.

VII.1.04 Should local Green Party groups organize under the Ten Key Values within the county to serve smaller geographic portions of the county, the Green Party of Stanislaus is intended to serve, not to rule over, such groups.

Section 2. Representation of Locals to the Green Party of Stanislaus

VII.2.01 Members of locals are welcome to attend Green Party of Stanislaus Green Assemblies. They may also send representative individuals or delegations to such assemblies; however, such representatives or delegations speak for their local in an advisory role only.

VII.2.02 Representatives or delegates from locals may cast votes only for themselves as individuals in elections to fill vacancies on the County Council. They may not cast votes for absent individuals in their local.

ARTICLE VIII. DELEGATE SELECTION TO GREEN PARTY OF CALIFORNIA (GPCA) GENERAL ASSEMBLY AND TO NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF STATE GREEN PARTIES (ASGP) CONVENTIONS

Section 1. Team Delegation

The County Council shall select delegate(s) to statewide meetings of the GPCA and to National Association of State Green Parties (ASGP) Conventions. The Delegate(s) shall be approved by the Stanislaus Greens at a Green Assembly

Meeting, requiring consensus. If consensus cannot be reached, County Council members and duly appointed alternates present at the meeting shall vote. In this vote, 2/3 of County Council members and duly appointed alternates must approve the candidate(s) if they are to serve as delegates. Before each statewide meeting, the Council shall provide the GPCA Coordinating Committee and the state Hosting Committee with the names of team members sent as the Stanislaus Greens delegate(s) and any alternates. If a vote needs to be taken at the statewide meeting, delegate(s) from Stanislaus will caucus to decide how to use Stanislaus County's allotted votes and will vote according to decisions reached in such caucuses.

Section 2. Orientation

The County Council shall make sure that all delegate team members receive an orientation regarding GPCA meetings, structure, process and bylaws. Attendance at an orientation is a prerequisite to serving as a delegate of the Stanislaus Greens.

ARTICLE IX

AMENDMENT OF BYLAWS

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

- 1) Proposals for amendment must be addressed at a Green Assembly Meeting;
- 2) Using the Stanislaus Greens decision-making process (Article V.2), the members will determine whether the amendment is necessary and, if possible, the general approach to be taken;
- 3) If amendment is necessary, a Bylaws Working Group shall draft and present no sooner than the following Green Assembly Meeting a proposed written amendment that follows the general approach determined according to V 2) above;
- 4) The meeting at which the bylaws amendment is adopted must be at least two weeks after the meeting at which the amendment was proposed.
- 5) The proposed amendment or the originally worded amendment may be adopted at the following Green Assembly Meeting, either by consensus of all Greens in attendance or, if necessary, an 80% supermajority of County Council Members and duly appointed alternates in attendance. (See IV.4.03 for requirements for quorum.)