

Policies of the State Committee of the Green Party of New York

*The product of the work of members of the GPNYS Rules & Policies Committee
(Amended per online vote of the GPNYS State Committee on April 27, 2018)*

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PREAMBLE

Under New York State Law, the State Committee (SC) can change any of these items. The State Committee principles include supporting the Ten Key Values of the Green Party. The State Committee will perform electoral functions including party rules, candidate nominations, and authorizations at the statewide level. The Executive Committee will be in charge of the day-to-day maintenance of the party, party funds, and emergency rulings regarding circumstances involving the Board of Elections. The State Committee shall be the official statewide governing body of the Green Party of New York State.

A. State Committee

1) Agenda Distribution. Final agenda shall be transmitted electronically preferably at least two weeks before a State Committee meeting and no later than seven days before the meeting.

2) Designating SC Representatives.

a) In accordance with New York State election law, each affiliated county organization shall gather signatures for its representatives to the SC on a designating petition form prior to the fall primary elections in even-numbered years. The required number of signatures shall be five percent of the Board of Elections numbers of active Green enrollees in their county. The affiliated county organization shall submit a copy of the petition which they submitted to the Board of Elections to the Executive Committee of the State Committee.

b) Newly formed County Organizations may elect their State Committee Members at their first county meeting after being ratified as an affiliated County Organization by the Executive Committee. In order for these new members to be seated, the State Committee must not object and overturn the ratification by the Executive Committee at the next State Committee meeting.

c) If extraordinary circumstances compel an affiliated County Organization to petition or re-petition for its state committee representatives past the time designated by the New York State Board of Elections calendar, or in an odd-numbered election year, the county chair shall notify the Executive Committee, in writing, of the county's intention to petition, including the start and end dates of the petition drive, not to exceed six weeks. The county's officers will compile the petitions and send them to the Green Party of New York's Secretary in a timely manner, for review by the Executive Committee and for consideration at the next meeting of the State Committee.

3) Meeting Comment Period for Enrolled Green Party Members. Thirty minutes shall be allotted towards the beginning of every State Committee meeting for enrolled Greens who are not members of the State Committee to address the body. The maximum time allotted per speaker shall be three minutes per person. The order of the speakers will be chosen by the facilitator. The Comment Period shall not exceed thirty minutes. Enrolled Greens who are not SC members may not speak at any other times during an SC meeting, unless sponsored by an SC member.

4) Meeting Sites.

a) Meetings of the State Committee shall be held within 20 miles of Albany, Binghamton, or New Paltz. Other sites may be accepted if these sites cannot host a meeting. The meeting site shall be accessible by public transportation, and preferably ADA compliant.

b) On a case-by-case basis, the Executive Committee of the Green Party of New York State may call a State Committee meeting outside of the Albany, Binghamton or New Paltz areas, if the meeting is in conjunction with special Green event(s).

5) Resignations. Resignations from the State Committee or Executive Committee shall be submitted in writing via postal or electronic mail to any officer of the State Committee. The resignation shall be in effect when confirmed by the recipient and formally published to the Executive Committee.

6) Meeting Rules.

a) Parliamentary Procedures. GPNYS shall use parliamentary procedures at meetings. A member of the Rules and Policies Committee or other volunteer may serve as parliamentarian if the need arises. The Rules and Policies Committee shall create and maintain an easily accessible brief outline of the specific style of parliamentary procedure currently used by GPNYS to assist new members to become acclimated and participate fully in their first few meetings.

b) Meeting Monitor. A meeting monitor shall be elected at the beginning of the meeting from the SC membership. The meeting monitor shall deal with any breach of personal conduct that disturbs the civil and constructive flow of the meeting, such as rudeness, personal attack or general lack of civility.

c) Infraction increments. After an initial warning by the meeting monitor, the meeting monitor may decide to use time-out increments of 10 minutes for the first breach, a half hour time-out and /or ejection from the meeting for the second and/or third breaches.

7) Donations. The Green Party in NY will not accept any donation given on the condition it take any particular action, or position, or earmarked for any specific task except in the case where the donation is solicited by the party as part of a pre-existing campaign to raise money earmarked for a specific purpose.

8) Online Voting. The State Committee of the Green Party of New York State (SC) may conduct online voting on motions in the periods between face-to-face meetings of the SC. To the extent that online voting is used, sufficient time shall be allotted for consideration and resolution of the motion.

B. Supporting Members Dues Program

1) The Executive Committee shall develop and maintain a form for Supporting Membership that shall include name, address, phone, and email contact information, the sliding scale of suggested minimum dues with notice that it is up to members to set their own dues on the honor system, and the amount of dues the Supporting Member indicates he, she, they will pay. The form shall include instructions on how to pay online or by postal mail with a return address to the Party Treasurer. The form shall be available online at the Green Party of New York State website as well as in paper form. The online form shall include means by which Supporting Members can make recurring monthly or annual dues payments.

2) The suggested minimum dues rates, beginning in 2018 and until these rates may be changed by the State Committee, shall be according to the following sliding scale:

Students, Seniors, Fixed Income: \$30/year (\$2.50/month)
Incomes under \$25k: \$36/year (\$3.00/month)
Incomes between \$25k-\$40k: \$75/year (\$6.25/month)
Incomes between \$40k-\$60k: \$156/year (\$13.00/month)
Incomes of \$60k-\$85k: \$240/year (\$20.00/month)
Incomes of \$85k-\$110k: \$300/year (\$25.00/month)
Incomes over \$110k: \$360/year (\$30.00/month)

Hardship: Dues may be reduced or waived altogether by an individual who is restricted by state law from becoming an Enrolled Member of the Green Party. The individual shall notify the State Treasurer on their Supporting Membership form.

3) For the purpose of determining the number of Supporting Members in a county at the time the Party Call is prepared to apportion the number of SC members to each county, all Supporting Members who have paid annual dues of \$30 in full for the 12 months preceding April 1st shall be counted as Supporting Members in good standing. For the 2019 Party Call, we would count for the prior 15 months.

C. Executive Committee

1) Executive Committee (EC) Listserv Voting. Motions on the Executive Committee listserv require an absolute majority (6 out of 9). In case of abstention for cause, or a prolonged absence precluding participation, the majority shall be suitably adjusted.

2) Chair routine Board of Elections matters. The Chair/Co-Chairs of the Green Party are authorized by the State Committee to make routine decisions with regard to Board of Elections matters relating to empowering Greens to participate in the electoral process.

3) Check signatures. The Treasurer and the Co-Chairs shall be authorized signatures on checks of the State Committee. No check signers may sign checks to themselves.

D. Agenda

1) Part of the agenda for each SC meeting shall include a review of EC decisions. To facilitate the SC in carrying out its responsibility to approve or reject EC decisions it is required that:

- a) Each EC decision shall be put as a separate line item in the SC meeting packet
 - b) Each decision shall be dealt with toward the beginning of the meeting
 - c) Opportunity shall be given to object to decisions individually
 - d) Any decision receiving no objections shall be considered approved
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E. Committees

The State Committee may establish committees to carry out the work of the GPNYS. For purposes of this section, a “committee” shall include the Executive Committee and all other committees created by the State Committee whether they be described herein or elsewhere as subcommittees, ad hoc committees, etc.

The Secretary of the GPNYS shall maintain a list of all current committees, their charters and elected members. This list will be made publicly available upon request and on the GPNYS website.

General Expectations Regarding Committees

All committees are expected to do the following:

- 1) Establish a regular meeting schedule appropriate to fulfill their charter. Meetings should be held at a date and time and via means (teleconference, video chat, in person, etc.) that maximizes participation from committee members. Notice of upcoming meetings should be confirmed at each meeting and separately communicated to committee members in a timely manner to enable their participation.
- 2) Elect a Chair or Co-Chairs to see that meetings take place as scheduled and to otherwise ensure that the committee maintains focus toward achieving its objectives. The Chair(s) may, in her/his discretion, invite another committee member to serve as meeting facilitator.
- 3) Maintain minutes of meetings for the benefit of committee members. The meeting minutes need not be overly detailed but should adequately describe the disposition of business at committee meetings, including any significant decisions, recommendations, or actions taken, including identification of persons assigned to action items.
- 4) Provide a written report of recent committee activity for review at each State Committee meeting in accordance with established timelines described in these policies. The report can be submitted by the committee chair or her/his designee. At a minimum, the report shall include the dates of any meetings held, any recommendations that require action by the State Committee, and the names of committee members present. A copy of the report shall be provided to committee members.
- 5) Request time on the agenda at the next State Committee meeting for any items that require action by the State Committee in accordance with established timelines.
- 6) Maintain a suitable mechanism (e.g., a listserv) to facilitate communication and discussion among committee members between committee meetings.
- 7) Operate by consensus decision-making, whenever possible, taking into account all views that are raised. All committee members should be afforded the opportunity to be heard on committee business. GPNYS uses parliamentary procedure and defers to Robert’s Rules where questions arise.

The State Committee may reconstitute or disband committees that fail to meet the expectations described above, or that it deems are no longer needed.

Committees may, in their discretion, establish internal operating guidelines if deemed necessary to carry out their charter. Any such operating guidelines, or changes thereto, shall be submitted to the State Committee for informational purposes once they have been agreed to by the committee. Committee operating guidelines shall remain in effect until such time as the committee is reconstituted or disbanded by the State Committee. A reconstituted committee may in its discretion continue to use operating guidelines previously in place. The EC may provide feedback and/or

disallow guidelines if it feels they are not in keeping with Green process/values and/or recommend that R&P assist in suggesting improvements.

Membership on Committees

Committee members are elected by the State Committee at an assembled meeting or as otherwise provided in the GPNYS rules.

No person may serve as a voting member on more than two committees of the State Committee, except that service on the Executive Committee shall not count in applying this policy.

Any person enrolled in the GPNYS is eligible for election as a voting member or an officer of a committee whether or not they are a State Committee member. The enrollment of candidates for committee voting membership who are not State Committee members must be verified by their county organization, by a State Committee member, or by the GPNYS Secretary.

Any person enrolled in the GPNYS may serve as a non-voting committee volunteer. Volunteers shall be afforded the same opportunities to participate as committee members, except they are not eligible to vote or to serve as committee officers.

F. Platform by County Hearing and State Committee Vote

1) Platform Committee. During periods that it designates for revision of the existing approved platform, the SC will vote for five to seven GPNYS members who will serve as a platform committee to facilitate the platform amendment process, organize submitted platform planks, update and harmonize the platform, and tally votes as necessary.

The platform committee will work with SC members to notify all affiliated county organizations about the platform process, as well as Green Party members in unorganized counties where possible. The SC shall give the platform committee sufficient guidance and assistance needed to accomplish its tasks, including adequate time at SC meetings to consider any proposals relating to the platform as necessary.

2) Platform Amendments. During the platform revision period designated by the SC, the platform committee will:

- a) set up a reasonable timeline for amending the platform;
- b) announce the platform revision process to Green Party members throughout the state;
- c) implement a process approved by the SC for accepting amendments to the platform;
- d) incorporate proposed amendments into the existing platform, update the platform to reflect necessary changes such as amendments to state law and technical advances, and harmonize the resulting platform into a clear, cohesive, and accessible document that reflects the four pillars and ten key values of the Green Party; and
- e) implement a process approved by the SC for approving the revised platform

The revised platform will be maintained and continually accessible online for reference.

G. Party Building

1) Executive Committee members. Each member of the Executive Committee shall be listed on the website and all official correspondence shall contain her/his office or county of residence and a method of contact of her/his choosing.

2) Data Retention and Sharing. It is the hope that cordial, appropriate and prompt sharing of enrollment and donor lists flow between national, state and local entities of the Green Party. The GPNYS Secretary and Co-Chairs and/or GPNYS staff are the designated recipients of new data and the log-ons and passwords to all GPNYS related social media. The Campaign Committee shall communicate to new campaigns the expectation that data be shared after the campaign has run its course and additionally will facilitate sharing Green enrollee contact lists with campaigns. Donor data can be shared from the EC to a specific campaign on the recommendation of the Campaign Committee but subject to EC approval.

3) Keeping Ownership. Any future lawsuits filed by the NY State Green Party Executive Committee shall include in the list of plaintiffs the Co-Chairs, the Secretary, and the Treasurer of the State Committee. Any one of them may be left off only in the case that: A. They personally and in writing ask their name not be included or B. Our lawyer advises us against doing so in writing.

H. Statewide Designation Rules

1) The order of voting at such meeting for candidates for statewide office shall be Governor/Lieutenant Governor, U.S. States Senate (if such seat be open), Attorney General, and State Comptroller. The name of the person voting shall be included on the ballot when submitted, including the name of the person for whom any proxy is being voted.

2) The State Committee should, following the designation of candidates for statewide office, nominate and elect a committee to fill vacancies comprised of no less than 3 and no more than the number of seats on the Executive Committee; provided, however, if the State Committee does not elect such committee, the Executive Committee shall be the committee on vacancies.

I. County Organizations

1) The Rules & Policies Committee of the GPNYS will provide information and assistance to Green Party members around the state to help in the formation of County Organizations. This shall include maintaining the County Affiliation Workbook, reviewing draft rules of counties applying for affiliation, and keeping the State Committee up-to-date on the formation of County Organizations.

2) In cases where affiliating a single county is not practical, multiple contiguous counties can mutually agree to affiliate as one organization, subject to approval by the Executive Committee. This method of affiliation is useful where geography and sparse populations make it difficult for a single county to

meet affiliation requirements. The idea is to help counties with small Green Party enrollments and a modicum of party organizing to do party-building with the help of other - and often, larger - counties. Counties that wish to organize in this fashion can do so by convening a meeting open to all enrolled Greens in each of the counties involved and by adopting at the meeting written rules that will apply to the operation of the multi-county organization.

3) Multi-county organizations should not exist indefinitely. Once an individual county has achieved the criteria for becoming a separately affiliated county organization, it should do so. Ideally, this should happen within five years after formation of the multi-county organization. Accordingly, the rules adopted by a multi-county organization should describe a timetable and a procedure pursuant to which individual counties will dissociate themselves from the multi-county organization. For example, the rules could state that this will be accomplished within five years and by a vote taken at a meeting of the multi-county organization.

4) The GPNYS rules provide incentives for growing the party and for the formation of affiliated county organizations. The rules provide that the State Committee is composed of members elected by enrolled Greens in affiliated county organizations. The rules also provide that each affiliated county organization is entitled to an additional voting member for every 200 Enrolled Members, and an additional voting member for every 10 Supporting Members. In addition, the rules provide that the number of voting seats on the State Committee shall be adjusted annually on April 1 according to the number of Enrolled Members and Supporting Members in each county organization on that date.

5) The GPNYS rules further provide that one-half of the dues paid to the GPNYS from Supporting Members in an affiliated county organization are rebated to that county organization on a quarterly basis. Multi-county organizations may wish to further incentivize the creation of individual county organizations by using this rebate to bolster outreach in the county or counties having a lower number of Supporting or Enrolled members.

J. Patronage in GPNYS

1) A patronage job is defined as a politically appointed paid position that was not earned by a civil service exam or is not a part of a CSEA union.

2) Persons holding patronage jobs other than that of poll worker are ineligible to be seated on the State Committee. If a State Committee Member accepts a patronage job, said Member may finish her/his existing term but may not seek re-election to the State Committee until s/he is no longer employed in a patronage job, other than poll worker.

K. Members of Committees of the Green Party of the United States (GPUS)

1) Members and alternates to GPUS's Green National Committee (GNC) and the Green National Steering Committee (GNSC) must be enrolled members of the Green Party in New York State at all

times of their term(s). All New York Members to all other GPUS Committees must be an enrolled or supporting member of the Green Party of New York State.

2) Members of any GPUS committee are responsible for representing the interests of GPNYS to GPUS, and reporting the news and actions of GPUS to GPNYS. Written periodic reports to the SC are strongly recommended.

3) The SC may, but is not required to, offer financial assistance to Members of GPUS Committees attending national meetings. Requests shall be submitted 4 weeks prior to the event to the EC for approval.

4) Allocation of GNC Members

a) GPUS has an apportionment process which may occur periodically. GPNYS is allocated a set number of GNC members, all of whom shall be elected by GPNYS

b) The elections shall be held at the first meeting of the SC that takes place after the even year primary and the election of a new State Committee.

5) GNC and other GPUS Committee Members shall be subject to recall by a petition of at least 30% of the SC Members and if supported by a majority vote of the SC. The petition must be clear as to its intent and similar in form of petition used for designating candidates.

6) Members of the GNC may, in accordance with GPUS rules, appoint themselves to serve on other national committees having vacancies. The members must notify the EC of their membership upon joining such a committee, and may serve until the next State Committee meeting when their seat will be declared vacant. They may immediately stand for election back to such committee.

7) The EC in an emergency, may elect a qualified person to any GPUS Committee. The person may serve until the next State Committee meeting when their seat will be declared vacant. They may immediately stand for election back to such committee.

8) Nothing in these rules shall have bearing on the election or term of office of a GPUS Steering Committee Member.

9) All GPNYS representatives on national committees will be limited to official participation on two committees, excluding membership on the GNC and GNSC. An exception can be made for the following special cases: when GPUS sets up time-limited, specific task forces with representation from states, or if a good faith effort has been made to fill a vacancy but a new committee member can not be recruited at the time, in which case an enrolled Green Party member already serving on two national committees may be approved by the SC/EC to temporarily fill that vacancy until a permanent representative is found.

L. Effective Dates

These Rules shall take effect immediately.

M. Survival Clause

If any part of the above Rules is found to be invalid, the remaining portions shall remain in effect.

N. Ballot Lines Offered by Major Parties and/or Their Allied Parties

Green candidates shall not accept ballot lines offered by the Democratic, Republican, and/or their allied parties.

- 1)** Section 6-146 of the NYS Election law provides a mechanism for a candidate to decline the nomination of a party of which she/he is not a member.
- 2)** The GPNYS Executive Committee or an affiliated county organization may publicly disapprove of and/or potentially take punitive measures against an enrolled Green who seeks or accepts the ballot line of a major party or one of their fusion allies.
- 3)** This policy is intended to clarify the rules and policies regarding fusion for new candidates to the GPNYS. This policy will be communicated on the GPNYS website and/or added to the candidate questionnaire in the form of a signed acknowledgement that the candidate has read and agrees to abide by the GP rules and policies.