

# Green-Rainbow Party Bylaws

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## 1. Name and Definition

- 1.1. The Green-Rainbow Party is an autonomous independent political party sharing kinship with other Green Parties and Green organizations in the USA, through our common adherence to the Ten Key Values (see Sections 2 and 14.2). The Green-Rainbow Party also shares common goals and values with other Green Parties and Green political organizations around the world.
- 1.2. The Green-Rainbow Party will take all available and necessary steps to insure and protect the integrity of the Green Party and Green-Rainbow Party names.
- 1.3. The Green-Rainbow Party may effect a change of its official party name by taking all of the following steps.
  - 1.3.1. A resolution proposing a party name change is agreed upon by a two-thirds majority of a State Convention.
  - 1.3.2. Representatives of the party, as designated by the state committee, file a request with the Commonwealth of Massachusetts to officially recognize this new name as the official name of the party.
  - 1.3.3. This name change is approved by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and will not impact the legal and ballot status of the party, the registration status of any party members, and the ballot status of any candidates of the party for office in Massachusetts.
  - 1.3.4. If conditions 1.3.1, 1.3.2, and 1.3.3 are not met, the name change will not take effect.
  - 1.3.5. If a party name change does take full legal effect, the Bylaws of the party shall be immediately modified, replacing references to the old state party name with references to the new state party name. Bylaws references to the national Green Party will not be altered. The website and official literature of the party shall also be modified to reflect this new name within a reasonable amount of time.

## 2. Ten Key Values

The Green-Rainbow Party subscribes to the Ten Key Values of the Green Party of the U.S., which are:

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

### **3.Purpose**

The purpose of the Green-Rainbow Party shall be to:

- Promote throughout Massachusetts the Ten Key Values of the Greens;
- Encourage the development of Green-Rainbow Party chapters;
- Serve as a networking structure so that Green-Rainbows in Massachusetts can better communicate, share ideas and experiences, and provide mutual support and fellowship;
- Nominate Green-Rainbow candidates for elected office and occasionally endorse unenrolled (known as independent) candidates, and support these candidates with contributions of money and labor;
- Promote unity, inclusion, and power-sharing in the broader movement.

### **4. Membership Rights, Responsibilities, Removal**

4.1. Membership in the Green-Rainbow Party is open to all residents of Massachusetts, regardless of age, who are not registered voters in another party or political designation and who fulfill at least one of the following criteria:

- Be a registered Green-Rainbow Party (J designation) voter in Massachusetts;
- Be a registered Rainbow Coalition (F designation) or GPUS A (G designation) voter in Massachusetts through November 30, 2003;
- Pay dues to the Green-Rainbow Party. Fee waivers must be available for individuals who are active participants in the Green-Rainbow Party and are unable to pay due to economic constraints. Any membership application may only require a member to provide a name, address, signature, date signature was signed and whether the member applied for a fee waiver.

Members of the Green-Rainbow Party must adhere to the following standards: uphold the Ten Key Values and the Bylaws and Structure of the Green-Rainbow Party, be honest and forthright in all dealings, and be scrupulous in the handling of Green-Rainbow Party and/or GRP chapter funds.

4.2. Members can participate in the decision-making process of the Green-Rainbow Party in the following manner:

- Help form and participate in Green-Rainbow Party chapters;
- Vote at or be elected as a delegate to the conventions;
- Be elected or appointed as a representative to the state committee;
- Be elected as a member of the administrative committee;
- Participate in all Green-Rainbow Party primaries within the confines of state law. Members who contribute or have a fee waiver are entitled to receive all Green-Rainbow Party publications and communications.

4.3. The state committee shall form a mediation committee to handle charges of violation of the above membership standards. Such charges may be made by any member or members. Such charges must be forwarded to the chair of the mediation committee.

The mediation committee shall appoint a three person fact-finding committee, composed of:

- one person chosen by the mediation committee;
- one person chosen by the accused;
- a third person chosen by mutual agreement of the first two fact-finding members.

The fact finding committee will investigate and report back to the mediation committee within 60 days regarding the extent of truth of the charges. After completing the report, the fact-finding committee will meet with the accused and the accuser to see if a mutually agreeable resolution can be found. If the situation cannot be resolved at this stage, then the dispute will be referred back to the mediation committee. If the dispute cannot be resolved there, then the mediation committee will bring the matter, including the written report of the fact-finding committee, to the next state committee meeting of the Green- Rainbow Party. The portion of the Green-Rainbow Party meeting considering the charges should be closed to observers. A two-thirds vote is required to withdraw the membership of the accused where the burden of proof is on those making the charges. However the process ends, the mediation committee must file a brief minute giving the names of the accused and the accuser, and stating what, if any, resolution was reached.

In the event that the state committee has not formed a mediation committee, the co-chairs shall act as the mediation committee.

## **5. Meetings and Decision Making**

- 5.1. This article defines the general decision-making process for all levels of the Green-Rainbow Party: state and regional conventions, state committee, administrative committee, and working committees. These general rules may be adjusted by the Bylaws to conform to characteristics of each level of the party.
- 5.2. Decisions shall be made through the consensus seeking process defined in the document Addendum A (Consensus Seeking Process), attached to these Bylaws.
- 5.3. Facilitators shall be used for all meetings and each meeting shall implement a technique for assuring equal opportunity for all voices to be heard.
- 5.4. Decisions of Green-Rainbow chapters will be considered at other party meetings but do not directly affect consensus or voting.
- 5.5. Minutes must be recorded at every convention, state committee, administrative committee, and working committee meeting of the Green-Rainbow Party, and shall be made available to all members no later than two weeks after the date of the meeting. Except for conventions, minutes shall be read, amended and approved as necessary at the next following Green-Rainbow Party meeting of that committee.
- 5.6. Participants in meetings of the Green-Rainbow Party are expected to treat each other with civility and consideration. Persons who violate this standard may be asked to remain silent and/or leave the meeting by a 75% vote of the other attending members of the meeting.
- 5.7. All Green-Rainbow Party meetings are open and may only be closed to non-members on 75% vote in personnel or criminal matters or if required by law.

## **6. Conventions**

- 6.1. Conventions serve to ensure that the voice of grassroots Green-Rainbows are heard. Within the area the convention covers, the purpose of a convention shall be to:

- Have members meet and share ideas;
  - Set policy;
  - Change the party platform or endorse positions;
  - Nominate candidates.
- 6.2. All members in the area covered by the convention are entitled to participate.
- 6.3. The convention committee shall choose convention facilitators and other officers as needed. The state committee shall adopt convention rules provided such rules do not contradict these Bylaws and are acceptable to the convention.
- 6.4. The Green-Rainbow Party shall hold at least one state convention every year no sooner than February 1 and no later than the last day to file certificates of nomination with the secretary of state. The state committee may set a date later than the above filing day if the decision is by consensus or, in the absence of consensus, by a 75% vote of the state committee. In a year when there are no state or federal elections being held, the state committee may set a date no later than the end of November, using the standard decision making process.
- 6.5. Astate convention shall have the following additional purposes:
- Elect directors and members of the administrative committee and national committee;
  - Change the Bylaws;
  - Decide any other matter as specified in these Bylaws.
- 6.6. Astate convention can be convened in either of the following ways:
- by a 2/3 vote of the state committee;
  - by a 2/3 vote of the recognized Green-Rainbow chapters.
- 6.7. The state committee shall elect the committees and personnel necessary for the conduct of the state convention including but not limited to the following:
- the state convention's agenda,
  - the deadlines and process for nominations and elections,
  - deadlines for the submission of proposals,
  - the promulgation of regulations regarding how proposals are to be submitted for consideration at the state convention,
  - handling the credentialing of delegates, and
  - drafting any additional rules for the state convention.
- The state committee shall have or can delegate to the administrative committee or convention committee final approval of all matters relating to the conduct of the state convention.
- 6.8. The state committee shall notify members and Green-Rainbow chapters of the date of the state convention and the number of delegates each city and town may elect three months prior to the date the state convention is to occur.
- 6.9. The co-chairs and secretary of the administrative committee shall be the co-chairs and secretary of the convention, until and unless the convention committee or the convention chooses other officers.

## 7. Green-Rainbow Party Chapters

7.1. A Green-Rainbow Party chapter is a group affiliated with and certified by the Green-Rainbow Party. As long as the Green-Rainbow Party chapter abides by the Massachusetts and Federal elections laws, and does not undermine the purpose of the Green-Rainbow Party as stated in Section 3 of the Green-Rainbow Party Bylaws, the Green-Rainbow Party cannot interfere with the chapter's internal affairs or decision making process.

### 7.1.1. Definitions

- “Green-Rainbow Party chapter” This is the umbrella term for all chapters which consist of three or more Green-Rainbow members meeting regularly and affiliated with the Green-Rainbow Party. • “Student chapters” are operated by Green-Rainbow students within specific student bodies.
- “Regional chapters” are operated by Green-Rainbow members that have some affiliation with a group of contiguous communities that share regional concerns.
- “Local chapters” are operated by Green-Rainbow members in a city, town, or neighborhood.

7.1.2. Regional and local chapters may, if they so choose, operate as a state-recognized Political Action Committee (PAC), People’s Committee, 527 organization, or Town, City, or Ward Committee as defined by Massachusetts General Laws.

7.1.3. Regional, student, and local chapters may exist in overlapping geographical regions.

7.2. Any Green-Rainbow Party members can seek certification as a GRP chapter from the Green-Rainbow Party by submitting to the Party Secretary: • Minutes of the founding meeting. • Contact information of any officers and liaisons. • Party chapter structure or Bylaws. The Party Secretary shall submit to the Administrative Committee for approval the request for certification.

7.3. Each GRP chapter must:

- Report their activities to at-least one regular state committee meeting per year.
- Notify the GRP Secretary of any changes in officers, liaisons, Bylaws or structure.
- Consult with the GRP Treasurer when dispensing funds for political work.
- Continue to have at least three members meet regularly.

7.4. Each Green-Rainbow Party chapter will have one vote when voting on matters such as Article 6.6 (calling a state convention), Article 8.8 (overriding a state committee Bylaw change or decision), or Article 8.9 (calling a state committee meeting). It is recommended a GRP chapter abstain if its vote does not reflect a consensus or two thirds vote of its members.

7.5. The administrative committee may recommend, after reasonable efforts have been made to resolve the issue, that the state committee decertify a Green-Rainbow Party chapter for failing to meet the requirements defined in Section 7.4, or failing to abide by Section 7.1.

7.6. In the event of a recommendation by the administrative committee to decertify a Green-Rainbow Party chapter, the state committee may disaffiliate a GRP chapter by first voting to post a public notice to members giving the reasons for disaffiliation, and include

a statement by the affected GRP chapter unless the chapter chooses not to, or cannot, provide such a statement. At the next state committee meeting, the state committee shall vote on whether to disaffiliate the chapter. If a vote to disaffiliate passes, the Green-Rainbow Party chapter will be disaffiliated from the Green-Rainbow Party, and will no longer be considered in the Green-Rainbow Party decision-making process, or allowed to represent themselves as part of the Green-Rainbow Party structure.

## 8. State Committee

- 8.1. The state committee will serve as the representative legislature of the Green-Rainbow Party. It shall have general responsibility for the affairs of the Green-Rainbow Party between state conventions. This responsibility shall include:
  - Maintaining regular communication with and provide training, information, and other services to Green-Rainbow chapters;
  - Formulating and disseminating statements of Party policy and platform;
  - Coordinating and conducting the Party's state campaigns;
  - Raising and disbursing monies needed for the successful operation of the Green-Rainbow Party and its chapters;
  - Overseeing the work and decisions of the administrative committee;
  - Filling vacancies in the nominations for statewide and congressional offices;
  - Amending the Bylaws. (See Section 15.)
- 8.2. The state committee shall meet at least four times a year. The date, time, and, if possible, location should be set at the previous meeting.
- 8.3. State committee representatives must be notified at least five days before meetings, via email, text or by telephone. Such meetings shall also be announced on the appropriate Green-Rainbow Party website and social media.
  - 8.3.1. If the purpose of the State Committee meeting is to change a bylaw or to change any part of our Party Agenda , the notice period shall be 10 days.
- 8.4. It is the responsibility of the representatives of the state committee to:
  - Bring expressed opinions and concerns of their regional membership to the decision making of the state committee;
  - Maintain regular two-way communication with Green-Rainbow chapters in their area, and keep those chapters informed of state party affairs;
  - Actively participate in the business of the state committee, including attendance at meetings;
  - Expand the number and membership of Green-Rainbow chapters in her state senatorial district or region;
  - Serve on either the administrative committee, the National Committee, or a working committee, unless running as a candidate or chairing a GRP chapter.
  - Refrain from publicly criticizing party nominees.
- 8.5. The state committee will consist of three groups of representatives elected or appointed in the following ways. In all cases, state committee representatives must be members of

the Green-Rainbow Party (see Section 4.1) and their term of office will end on or before the 30th day after the presidential primary. Although these Bylaws describe several methods of “electing” state committee representatives, all representatives other than the 80 elected at the presidential primaries are “appointed” seats in terms of Massachusetts State Law.

8.5.1. Forty women and forty men shall be elected to four-year terms at the presidential primaries as described in Massachusetts General Laws. Their terms shall begin on the 30th day following their election and end four years later on the 30th day following the presidential primary to be held that year.

8.5.2. A number of state committee seats, to be known as proportional representation seats (PR seats), shall be created and apportioned to specific regions (see Addendum B for definition of regions). The number of PR seats shall be the larger of 60 or the number of state committee representatives elected in that year’s presidential primary.

These state committee representatives shall be elected for four-year terms at regional conventions to be organized when possible by GRP chapters in the regions. Regions may combine to conduct fewer conventions by providing break-out sessions at their convention for separate regional elections of state committee representatives filling PR seats. Until it is deemed likely that more than 60 state committee representatives will be elected at the presidential primary, the regional conventions will be held soon enough for the terms of 60 proportional representatives to coincide with the terms of representatives elected at the presidential primary. Page 7 Regions will be periodically reviewed and are formed as much as possible on the basis of the following criteria: reflecting State Senatorial Districts, keeping cities and towns intact, and creating regional meetings that make sense geographically. For details, see Addendum B (State Committee Proportional Representative Regions), attached to these Bylaws. Each region must reserve half (rounded down) of their PR seats for each gender. In the event that there are not enough candidates of a gender, then those seats will remain empty. Candidates must be nominated by at least two other party members. Any GRP member who resides in the appropriate region may be nominated and appointed at a state committee meeting to fill a vacant PR seat during the four years between regional conventions. Priority will be given to candidates brought by other representatives of the region or by a party chapter in the region. Such proportional representatives shall have identical responsibilities and rights as proportional representatives elected at a quadrennial regional convention.

8.5.3. The state committee will create additional state committee seats, when necessary, to ensure the diversity of the state committee.

By the end of March in every even year, the state committee shall receive a report of the racial distribution of the general population of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, including estimated percentages of uncounted individuals and undercounted segments.

The duty for determining the source of this report shall be assigned to a subcommittee of the state committee.



The state committee shall take the figure, contained in this report, for the percentage of the population that are people of color and add 5% to this amount. The result of this addition shall be known as the diversity goal for the purposes of these Bylaws. The value of the diversity goal for the year 2002 shall be 25%.

Whenever the percentage of the state committee representatives who are persons of color fails to achieve or exceed the diversity goal for that year, additional diversity seats shall automatically be created to meet the diversity goal.

In addition, the state committee may decide to create or remove any additional diversity seats that it desires, to represent other under-represented groups, such as but not limited to, on the basis of gender, geography, class, and sexual orientation.

Candidates must be nominated by at least two other members of the party. Nominees for unfilled diversity seats shall be appointed by a decision of state committee representatives prior to the consideration of regular business at any state committee meeting. Nominations which are backed by endorsement of issue or identity caucuses directly related to the diversity issue being addressed or by a petition of 25 signatures from such a caucus shall be considered by the state committee first. After this, any unfilled diversity seats may be filled by other candidates.

- 8.5.4. The state committee can establish a subcommittee to work on balancing the requirements of state law and the goals of proportional representation and diversity in the ongoing composition of the state committee membership.
- 8.5.5. Conventions may elect alternate representatives to the state committee; the central office of the Green-Rainbow Party shall be notified of the results of such elections and said representatives will be recognized by the state committee as bona fide. Regular representatives have seating precedence over alternates, only regular representatives may vote via email, and the delegation's gender balance must be adhered to.

Bylaw 8.5.5 shall take effect only after a favorable ruling on its legality from the Secretary of State.
- 8.5.6. Alternate representatives physically present at a state committee meeting, shall be automatically given temporary full representative status for that state committee meeting with the following stipulations
  - The gender balance of each delegation from any region is maintained;
  - This does not apply to alternate representatives created in section 8.7.4.
- 8.5.7. The first act at any regular state committee meeting shall be to appoint any and all additional proportional representatives elected at properly accredited regional conventions or nominated between regional conventions.
- 8.5.8. In 2008 or in any year when the March date of the quadrennial presidential primary is changed, at the organizing state committee meeting as prescribed by state law MGL Chapter 52, Section 1, the only actions that may and must take place in the following order by the newly elected state committee representatives for the Green-Rainbow Party elected at that primary election, are to:

- A. choose the current Secretary of the party as the Secretary of the party
  - B. choose the current Treasurer of the party as the Treasurer of the party
  - C. call the regular spring state committee meeting at which there will be an orientation for newly elected regional representatives and whatever other business that may be taken up
  - D. adjourn the meeting
- 8.6. State committee representatives may be removed with a 2/3 vote of the state committee. The individual being removed from the state committee shall not be allowed to vote.
- 8.7. An individual may resign from the state committee by submitting a letter of resignation to the co-chairs of the Green-Rainbow Party and notifying all Green-Rainbow chapters in their state senatorial district or region in writing.
- 8.7.1. State committee representatives who are no longer legal residents of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts shall be automatically removed.
  - 8.7.2. State committee representatives who have missed three (3) consecutive state committee meetings, in the absence of a compelling personal reason which has been communicated to the state committee, shall be automatically suspended.
  - 8.7.3. The party secretary will notify each affected chapter in the district or region, as soon as possible, of such automatic suspensions.
  - 8.7.4. State committee representatives who have been automatically suspended shall be temporarily considered Alternate Delegates until the next state committee meeting, at which the state committee has the option to formally remove them, assuming the representative does not attend the meeting and thereby automatically reinstate herself/himself.
- 8.8. The state committee may amend the Bylaws by a vote of 75%. A state convention may override this change by a majority vote. A 2/3 vote of the recognized Green-Rainbow chapters will also override any Bylaws change or decision of the state committee, but this method cannot be used to override a Bylaws change or decision of a state convention.
- 8.9. An emergency or special state committee meeting may be called:
- by a written or proxy vote or a petition of 1/3 of the state committee representatives;
  - by a petition or vote of 1/3 of the recognized state Green-Rainbow chapters;
  - by a simple majority of Statecom representatives at an assembled Statecom meeting;
  - by at least 2 Officers of the Party, including Co-chair, Treasurer or Secretary;
  - by a simple majority of Adcom reps on a teleconference or at a face-to-face meeting.
- 8.9.1. All agenda items to be taken up in this meeting shall be clearly identified in the announcement.

Emergency or special state committee meetings would not count towards the limit on the number of state committee meetings that representatives must attend to remain in good standing.

## 9. Administrative Committee and Directors

- 9.1. The administrative committee is responsible for the week-to-week administrative functions of the party and must follow the policy set out by the state committee and state convention. The administrative committee shall send meeting minutes to all state committee representatives within two weeks of the meeting. The administrative committee shall report its progress and decisions.
- 9.2. The administrative committee shall consist of a female co-chair, male co-chair, treasurer, secretary, two diversity representatives, and one representative from each officially recognized GRP chapter. (See selection process in section 9.9.) In the event, however, that the election of four officers at the state convention results in only one person (the female co-chair) representing a diversity category, additional diversity representatives shall be added to ensure a majority of adcom members represent a diversity category. (See election process in section 9.10.)
- 9.3. The three directors (fundraising, membership, and communications) will be non-voting associate members of adcom, receiving all adcom communications and retaining posting privileges on the adcom listserv as well as the ability to submit agenda items for adcom consideration. The directors will be encouraged to participate on adcom -- at will or by specific invitation -- as their time allows and as it supports rather than detracts from their ability to carry out their significant tasks as directors. They could limit their participation to agenda items pertaining only to their work and the need for them to report and coordinate their activities.
- 9.4. Except where restricted by state, federal, or other organization's laws, any member may be nominated for the administrative committee or a director. Candidates are not required to be members of the state committee. For the detailed process, refer to the Convention Elections Procedure as established by the state committee in the GRP procedures manual.
- 9.5. At the state convention, there shall be distinct sections of the same ballot for each co-chair position, treasurer, secretary, membership director, fundraising director and communications director. A member may only be elected to one position but may run for up to three positions. In the event a candidate wins more than one position, she shall choose the position she desires and the votes for the other positions will be recounted to determine the candidate selected.
- 9.6. The job skills of each candidate and the overall diversity of the committee and directors should be considerations when voting. The diversity considerations should include gender, geographic, racial, and other types of diversity of representation, background, and experience.
- 9.7. For the purposes of geographic diversity considerations on the administrative committee, the following five regions are defined:
  - Western Massachusetts is defined as Berkshire, Franklin, Hampshire and Hampden counties;
  - Central Massachusetts is defined as Worcester county;
  - North Shore Massachusetts is defined as Essex and Middlesex counties;
  - Metro Boston Massachusetts is defined as Suffolk and Norfolk counties;

- South Shore/Cape Massachusetts is defined as Plymouth, Barnstable, Bristol, Dukes, and Nantucket counties.
- 9.8. The co-chair who has the highest percentage of the vote for their position shall be deemed the Party Chair for any governmental reporting requirements. The treasurer shall be deemed the Party Treasurer for any governmental reporting requirements. The secretary shall be deemed the Party Secretary for any governmental reporting requirements.
  - 9.9. The diversity representatives shall be elected by a 2/3 vote of the state committee at the first state committee meeting following the state convention. Any member of the party may be nominated by at least five other members of the party.
  - 9.10. The chapter representatives shall be selected by whatever means each chapter chooses. The members chosen by the chapters shall be confirmed at the state committee meeting immediately subsequent to the state convention. If an adcom member is a chapter member, that member can fulfill the dual purpose. If a chapter doesn't provide a representative, that position remains open until filled. Open positions do not count toward quorum.
  - 9.11. The recall of any administrative committee member or director may take place at any state committee meeting. A vote of the state committee is required. Should the individual being recalled also be a member of the state committee, she will not be allowed to vote on this recall proposal.
  - 9.12. An administrative committee member will be considered to have resigned if they fail to attend four consecutive administrative committee meetings which occur at least a week apart, or if they miss more than eight meetings more than a week apart in a given year. The administrative committee may not schedule meetings at times that always conflict with a member's employment schedule as a way of forcing their resignation.
  - 9.13. In the event of a vacancy of an administrative committee member or director between state conventions, the state committee must elect a Green-Rainbow Party member to fill the open position. The new administrative committee member or director will serve until the next state convention.
  - 9.14. As at state convention elections, the state committee should consider diversity and the job skills of each candidate when voting to fill director positions and administrative committee seats. The diversity considerations should include gender, geographic, racial, and other types of diversity of representation, background, and experience.
  - 9.15. All administrative committee members shall be able to oversee the work of all Green-Rainbow Party staff.
  - 9.16. Duties of the co-chairs shall be to:
    - Act as official spokespeople for the Green-Rainbow Party;
    - Set the agenda for administrative committee meetings;
    - Arrange for facilitation of all state conventions, state committee and administrative committee meetings;
    - Notify other administrative committee members and directors of meetings;
    - Ensure that other administrative committee members and directors are performing their duties.

9.17. Duties of the treasurer shall be to:

- Ensure that the Green-Rainbow Party prepares a yearly budget.
- Record all financial transactions involving the Green-Rainbow Party;
- Present summary financial reports at every administrative committee meeting;
- Present a full financial report at every state committee meeting;
- Present an annual financial report at state conventions;
- File financial and tax reports as required by law;

9.18. The co-chairs and treasurer may authorize financial expenditures that are not in the budget and have not been approved by the rest of the administrative committee if two of the three agree.

9.19. Duties of the secretary shall be to:

- Ensure that minutes are recorded at all Green-Rainbow Party meetings;
- Distribute minutes to members in a timely manner;
- Keep the Green-rainbow Party Bylaws up-to-date;
- Receive materials and submit them to AdCom for certifying GRP chapters (see 7.3).

9.20. Duties of the membership director shall be to:

- Co-chair the membership and diversity working committee;
- Ensure that chapters have assistance with expanding their membership and improving their organizing efforts;
- Ensure that the party's organizing manual is up-to-date;
- Ensure that the chapters have access to training classes on organizing and membership development;
- Find experienced organizers who will work with chapters to improve their organizing.

9.21. Duties of the fundraising director shall be to:

- Ensure that the Green-Rainbow Party prepares a fundraising plan with the yearly budget;
- Co-chair the finance and fundraising working committee.
- Ensure that the fundraising plan is executed;
- Ensure that the Green-Rainbow Party meets its fundraising goals;
- Ensure that chapters have assistance with expanding their fundraising efforts;
- Find experienced fundraisers who will work with the state party and chapters to improve their fundraising.

9.22. Duties of the communications director shall be to:

- Co-chair the communications and media working committee;
- Ensure that media strategies are developed for state party campaigns;
- Organize the creation of the newsletter, email newsletters and web site;
- Organize a speakers bureau;

- Ensure that relationships are developed with members of the media;
- Ensure that press releases are written and distributed to the media;
- Ensure that chapters have the assistance they need to improve their skills for developing and implementing media strategies.

9.23. The duties of the diversity representatives (not in any particular order) shall be to:

- Participate in either the membership and diversity working committee or in the communications and media working committee;

And to participate to the extent possible to:

- Work to increase the diversity of the general party membership and to promote, encourage, and recruit diversity in the leadership of the party;
- Build the party membership, chapters development, and regional organization in the region in which they reside;
- In a timely manner, notify the organizers of all Green-Rainbow Party publications of the successes and events of the GRP chapters in the region in which they reside;
- Work on the state newsletter, email communications and web site;
- Ensure that chapters in their region are kept up-to-date of administrative committee decisions and progress;
- Keep the state committee representatives in their region up-to-date on the decisions and progress of the administrative committee;
- Keep the administrative committee up-to-date on all issues raised by the chapters in the region in which they reside, and on all issues raised by the state committee for consideration by the administrative committee.

## 10. Working Committees

- 10.1. Working Committees shall serve to attain and implement the Green-Rainbow Party's goals and purposes. In conducting their work, working committees shall strive for timely fulfillment of their responsibilities to the Party, an open and welcoming atmosphere for participants, and constructive relationships with other Party entities, and shall actively embrace diversity. Working Committees shall meet as often as necessary.
- 10.2. The state committee may form new working committees or eliminate existing working committees.
- 10.3. Working Committees may have as many or as few members as are available. Any member of the Green-Rainbow Party may serve on a committee. Each state committee representative, unless running as a candidate or chairing a GRP chapter, must serve on either AdCom, the National Committee, or a Working Committee. No person shall be a regular member of more than two Working Committees.
- 10.4. The state committee or existing working committees may create named subcommittees or task forces. Subcommittees or task forces are assigned to be a part of an existing working committee. Work on a subcommittee or task force by a state committee representative counts towards the working committee requirement. Subcommittees and task forces must meet all the same requirements that working committees have.

## **11. Political Practices**

- 11.1. Accountability to Membership. The Green-Rainbow Party is accountable to its Green-Rainbow chapters.
- 11.2. Immediate Recall. Clerks, officers, delegates and other representatives of the Green-Rainbow Party shall be recallable.
- 11.3. Imperative Mandate. Representatives and delegates of the Green-Rainbow Party may express personal opinions, but must act and vote within the guidelines agreed on by the Green-Rainbow Party.
- 11.4. Minority Opinions. Significant minority opinions within the Green-Rainbow Party will be recorded and communicated to other national and regional Green organizations as appropriate.
- 11.5. Affirmative Action. The Green-Rainbow Party is committed to encouraging participation by all Massachusetts residents. Every measure shall be taken to insure that no person shall be abridged of the right to participate on the basis of gender, religion, race, creed, physical ability, economics, or sexual orientation.
- 11.6. Freedom of Information. Meetings and records of finances, membership, and minutes of the Green-Rainbow Party shall be open to inspection by any member of the Green-Rainbow Party in good standing. Green-Rainbow Party meetings may be closed to non members on 75% vote in personnel or criminal matters or if required by law.
- 11.7. Strategic Diversity. A Full range of nonviolent strategies and tactics shall be considered permissible and desirable in pursuing Green-Rainbow social change, such as rallies, demonstrations, boycotts, citizens initiatives, civil disobedience, direct action, building alternative institutions, and/or electoral politics.

## **12. Candidate Nomination and Endorsement Policy**

- 12.1. The word “nomination” is used when the candidate will appear on the ballot under the Green-Rainbow Party designation. The word “endorsement” is used in all other cases.
- 12.2. The Green-Rainbow Party may nominate or endorse candidates for local, regional, state, and national offices. Chapters may approve their own nominations/endorsements for district races that are wholly or partially within their regions. However, only state committee and/or the state convention shall make nominations/endorsements for state constitutional offices or federal offices. Public communications regarding a local GRP endorsement shall clearly identify the local body making the endorsement so that such endorsement is not confused with a state party-level endorsement. The remainder of this Section applies only to state party-level nominations/endorsements.
- 12.3. Candidates nominated for national office by the national nominating convention of the Green Party of the United States shall be considered to have received the nomination of the Green-Rainbow Party without the need for additional action under this Section.
- 12.4. An application for nomination/endorsement may be approved at the state convention or at any state committee meeting of the Green-Rainbow Party, subject to requirements specified below. The effective date of the nomination/endorsement may be made contingent upon some action or determination specified by the endorsing body.
- 12.5. To receive a nomination/endorsement, the following requirements shall be met:

- The candidate shall have sent written notice to the Party Co-Chairs and the GRP office email address of her/his intention to seek a nomination/endorsement at least three weeks prior to the meeting at which the application is to be considered. Party Co-Chairs shall promptly place the notice on the chapters listserv, the state committee business listserv, and the Candidate Development and Legal Committee (CDLC) listserv.
  - The candidate shall complete any standard application form required by the CDLC and submit this form to the designated email addresses at least two weeks prior to the meeting at which the endorsement is to be considered.
  - The candidate shall agree to comply with any mandatory requirements imposed generally upon candidates by the Party, providing such requirements are in effect on the date the application is approved.
- 12.6. At the meeting considering the application, the general discussion period shall be preceded by a) any report on the application from the CDLC and b) a statement by the candidate or their designated representative regarding the application.
- 12.7. The state committee may, by a two-thirds vote, withdraw a nomination/endorsement on grounds that the candidate has clearly violated requirements for holding such a nomination/endorsement or that continuation of the nomination/endorsement would inflict significant harm upon the Party.

### **13. Legal Requirements for Consideration as a Political Party**

- 13.1. The Green-Rainbow Party recognizes that its internal structure may not always coincide with the traditional hierarchical structures evidenced in other political parties and organizations. As required by local, state, or federal law, the Green-Rainbow Party will create committees and/or organizations that comply with any and all necessary legal requirements for ballot access, elections, fund raising, voter registration, etc. These committees and/or organizations will always remain subject to Article 5 of this document, but may be allowed limited autonomy as specified by the Green-Rainbow Party.
- 13.2. The Green-Rainbow Party will seek and maintain statewide ballot access as allowed by state law. This will include, but is not limited to, running candidates for local, regional, state, and federal offices in order to gain and retain ballot access. The Green-Rainbow Party will also reserve the right to exercise legal action (i.e. lawsuits, amici curiae, etc.) as necessary where ballot access or electoral laws are determined to be unduly restrictive or not in accordance with democratic principles.
- 13.3. Candidates representing themselves as "Green-Rainbow" candidates or "Green-Rainbow Party" candidates must be approved through the Green-Rainbow Party nomination process as described in Article 12. The Green-Rainbow Party will utilize all legal means to prevent such self-description by persons who have not been approved through this process.
- 13.4. The constituency of the Green-Rainbow Party will be defined as the body of individuals who are members and in accordance with our principles and Bylaws.

### **14. Other Green Organizations**

- 14.1. The Green-Rainbow Party is an affiliated state party of the Green Party of the United States (referred to as GPUS). The Green-Rainbow Party may, by any of its regular



decision-making processes, also decide to affiliate or disaffiliate itself with national, regional, issue-based, or identity based Green membership organizations.

- The Green-Rainbow Party shall encourage its membership to become involved with and donate to the GPUSs.
  - The Green-Rainbow Party shall encourage its membership to join any Green member organizations that the Green-Rainbow Party decides to affiliate with.
  - The Green-Rainbow Party shall seek representation to the GPUS in accordance with the GPUS Bylaws, and shall choose its delegates from among Green-Rainbow Party members to serve as GRP representatives to the GPUS coordinating committee according to the rules defined in Article 5.
  - The Green-Rainbow Party shall seek representation in any other organizations with which it affiliates in accordance with the Bylaws of that organization, and shall choose its delegates from among Green-Rainbow Party members to serve as our representatives according to the rules defined in Article 5.
- 14.2. The Green-Rainbow Party affirms its agreement with the Ten Key Values of the USGP.
- 14.3. Decisions and rules of the USGP, other Green state parties, or any other Green organizations will in no way be considered binding upon the Green-Rainbow Party.
- 14.4. The selection of Green-Rainbow Party representatives to the GPUS and other organizations shall take place at a state convention using the procedures defined in Article 5. Such representatives shall serve for a term of one year, and may not serve more than two consecutive terms as representative to that organization.

The GRP shall reserve half (rounded down) of the seats in its delegation to the GPUS and other organizations for each gender. If there is an odd number of seats in the delegation, the extra seat shall be a female seat.

If the organization to which the GRP belongs allows it, the GRP may elect alternates. In general, female alternates shall stand in for female delegates and male alternates for male delegates. Female alternates can stand in for male delegates if not doing so would result in a reduction in Massachusetts' level of representation.

An alternate may vote in the event that a delegate is not able to vote or chooses to let the alternate vote in her/his place. An alternate may not vote in order to override a delegate's abstention.

If delegate or alternate seats are vacant, whether due to resignation, recall, the failure of a convention to fill all vacant seats, or the creation of new seats by the GPUS or another organization, the state committee may elect interim delegates and/or alternates to fill these vacancies between state conventions.

- 14.5. The recall of a delegate may take place at any state committee meeting. A Majority vote of the state committee representatives is required to recall the delegate. Should the delegate also be a representative of the state committee, she will not be allowed to vote.
- 14.6. If due to resignation or recall, the position needs to be filled, this election can take place at any state committee meeting with the new delegate serving until the next state convention.
- 14.7. The duties of such delegates will be:

- Attend meetings of the organization
- Send to the entire state committee in a timely manner:
  - any proposals put forward for comment
  - how the delegate voted on proposals
  - the minutes from all meetings of the organization

## **15. Amending the Bylaws**

- 15.1. Any part of these Bylaws may be amended at a state convention of the Green-Rainbow Party through a consensus seeking process, or, failing this, a vote of 2/3 of the membership or delegates attending said Congress.
- 15.2. The state committee shall be able to amend these Bylaws by a 75% vote. A state convention may override this change by a majority vote.
- 15.3. The state committee shall be constrained from amending the Bylaws in any way, shape, or form during that period of time extending from the date that delegates elected per Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 52, Section 1, take office until such delegates appoint the proportional representatives elected at those regional conventions immediately following that year's presidential primary per Bylaws section 8.5.2.

## **16. Execution of Papers**

- 16.1. 16.1 Except as the Board of Directors (administrative committee) may generally or in particular cases authorize in some manner the execution thereof, all deeds, leases, transfers, contracts, bonds, notes, checks, drafts and other obligations made, accepted or endorsed by the corporation shall be signed by the president (co-chairs) or by the treasurer, and shall have been approved through a process of consensus or through a 2/3 vote of the state committee, with a quorum present.

## **17. Indemnification of Members, Directors, Officers, Employees and Other Agents**

- 17.1. Right to Indemnification.

The corporation shall indemnify and reimburse out of the corporate funds any person who at any time serves or shall have served as a member of the Board of Directors (administrative committee), officer, employee or other agent of the corporation, or who shall have served at its request, against any all claims and liabilities to which s/ he may be or become subject by reason of such service, and against and for any and all expenses necessarily incurred in connection with the defense or reasonable settlement of any legal or administrative proceedings to which s/he is made party by reason of such service, except with respect to any matter as to which s/he shall have been adjudicated in any proceeding not to have acted in good faith in the reasonable belief that his or her action was in the best interest of the corporation.

- 17.2. Insurance.

The corporation shall have power to purchase and maintain insurance on behalf of any person who is or was a member of the Board of Directors (administrative committee), officer, employee, or other agent of the corporation, or is or was serving at the request of the corporation, against any liability incurred by him or her in any such capacity, or

arising out of his or her status as such, whether or not the corporation would have the power to indemnify him/her against such liability.

## **18. Corporate Records**

- 18.1. The original or attested copies of the Articles of Organization, Bylaws, and records of all meetings of the incorporators and members, the names and addresses of all members shall be kept at the corporation's principal office or at any office of the secretary or of the counsel to the corporation. Said copies and records shall be open to inspection by any member of the corporation during regular business hours.

## **19. Corporate Powers**

The corporation shall have the following powers in furtherance of its corporate purposes:

- 19.1. The corporation shall have perpetual succession in its corporate name.
- 19.2. The corporation may sue and be sued.
- 19.3. The corporation may have a corporate seal that it may alter at pleasure.
- 19.4. The corporation may elect or appoint directors, officers, employees, and other agents, fix their compensation and define their duties and obligations.
- 19.5. The corporation may purchase, receive or take by grant, gift, devise, bequest or otherwise, lease, or otherwise acquire, own, hold, improve, employ, use and otherwise deal in and with, real or personal property, or any interest therein, wherever situated, in an unlimited amount.
- 19.6. The corporation may solicit and receive contributions from any and all sources and may receive and hold, in trust or otherwise, funds received by gift or bequest.
- 19.7. The corporation may sell, convey, lease, exchange, transfer or otherwise dispose of, or mortgage, pledge, encumber or create a security interest in, all or any of its property, or any interest therein, wherever situated.
- 19.8. The corporation may purchase, take, receive, subscribe for, or otherwise acquire, own, hold, vote, employ, sell, lend, lease, exchange, transfer, or otherwise dispose of, mortgage, pledge, use and otherwise deal in and with, bonds and other obligations, shares, or other securities or interests issued by others, whether engaged in similar or different business, governmental, or other activities.
- 19.9. The corporation may make contracts.
- 19.10. The corporation may lend money provided any interest charged is equal only to administrative costs of developing and carrying the loan.
- 19.11. The corporation may do business, carry on its operations, and have offices and exercise the powers granted by Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 180, in any jurisdiction within or without the United States, although the corporation shall not be operated for the primary purpose of carrying on for profit a trade or business unrelated to its tax exempt purposes.
- 19.12. The corporation may pay pensions, establish and carry out pensions, savings, thrift and other retirement and benefit plans, trusts and provisions for any or all of its directors, officers and employees.

- 19.13. The corporation may make donations in such amounts as the members or directors shall determine, irrespective of corporate benefit, for the public welfare or for the community fund, hospital, charitable, religious, educational, scientific, civic, or similar purposes.
- 19.14. The corporation may be an incorporator of other corporations of any type or kind.
- 19.15. The corporation may be a partner in any business enterprise that it would have power to conduct by itself.
- 19.16. The directors may make, amend or repeal the Bylaws in whole or in part, except with respect to any provision thereof which by law or the Bylaws requires action by the members.
- 19.17. Meetings of the members must be held in the state of Massachusetts.
- 19.18. No person shall be disqualified from holding any office by reasons of any interest. In the absence of fraud, any director, officer, or member of this corporation individually, or any individual having any interest in any concern in which any such directors, officers, members, or individuals have any interest, may be a party to, or may be pecuniary or otherwise interested in, any contract, transaction, or other act of this corporation, and
- Such contract, transaction, or act shall not be in any way invalidated or otherwise affected by the fact;
  - No such director, officer, member, or individual shall be liable to account to this corporation for any profit or benefit realized through any such contract, transaction, or act; and
  - Any such director of this corporation may be counted in determining the existence of a quorum at any meeting of the directors or of any committee thereof which shall authorize any such contract, transaction, or act, and may vote to authorize the same;
- The term 'interest' including personal interest and interest as a director, officer, shareholder, trustee, member of beneficiary of any concern; the term 'concern' meaning any corporation, association, trust, partnership, firm, person, or other entity other than this corporation.
- 19.19. No part of the assets of the corporation and no part of any net earnings of the corporation shall be divided among or inure to the benefit of any officer or director of the corporation or any private individual or be appropriated for any purposes other than the purposes of the corporation as herein set forth.
- 19.20. Upon the liquidation or dissolution of the corporation after payment of all the liabilities of the corporation or due provision thereof, all of the assets of the corporation shall be disposed of to one or more organizations exempt from federal income tax under section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

## **Addendum A: Consensus Seeking Process**

In the following process the default time periods for general discussion and individual speaking can be altered at the discretion of the meeting facilitators who can consider the complexity of the proposal, its importance, and the time available on the meeting agenda. Extensions of discussion time can be effected by vote of the state committee. A person who is allocated time may yield any portion of their time to another speaker.

**I. PROPOSAL PRESENTATION** The sponsors of the proposal select a single person to communicate sponsor decisions during the floor discussion. The sponsors present the proposal as written, along with any background information they think is pertinent. The default time for this is 5 minutes. Then any working committee that has reviewed the proposal and approved a statement on it is given 1 minute each to summarize their findings or recommendations.

### **II. DISCUSSION OF THE PROPOSAL**

This period allows for clarifying questions, statements supporting the proposal, statements of concern with the proposal, attempts to address concerns, and encouragement to those with a concern to propose an amendment. An initial discussion period of 15 minutes can be extended by a majority straw poll. Speakers are limited to 2 minutes, and must wait until the stack is empty before they get back on. Whenever possible, facilitators should balance the stack according to gender, race, and the amount of time a person has already spoken. After any speaker, the facilitators may, at their discretion, recognize the lead sponsor of the proposal to give a reply or clarification.

### **III. CALL FOR CONSENSUS**

The facilitators ask the lead sponsor to restate the original proposal and then ask, "Does anyone have concerns that stand in the way of consensus?" Those who answer "yes," are asked to state their concerns and are asked (1) whether they have amendments to propose and (2) if not, whether they will stand aside. If those with concerns stand aside, the facilitators state, "The proposal passes by consensus."

### **IV. PRESENTATION AND VOTE ON AMENDMENTS**

If the proposal has not passed by consensus, amendments sponsored by at least 2 StateCom members are considered in this period as an effort to address concerns and reach consensus. One of the amendment sponsors provides a written copy of the amendment to the facilitators, states their amendment, and has 1 minute to explain it. The proposal sponsors have 1 minute to express their opinion. After hearing all of the proposed amendments, there is a 10-minute discussion period. At the end of this period, which cannot be extended, the meeting facilitators decide upon the order in which amendments will be taken up, and proceed with an up-or-down vote on each one. An amendment must receive a 2/3 majority in order to pass. After all amendments have been considered, if any amendment has been adopted, the facilitators may, at their discretion, recognize the lead sponsor for a 1-minute statement on the amended proposal.

### **V. CALL FOR CONSENSUS**

The facilitators clarify any amendments that have been made to the text of the proposal and restate the proposal as amended. The facilitators then ask, "Does anyone have concerns that stand in the way of consensus?" Those who answer "yes," are asked whether they are willing to

stand aside. If yes, the facilitators state, "The (amended) proposal passes by consensus." If anyone with a concern does not stand aside, the proposal drops to a vote.

VI. MOVE TO VOTE (if no consensus)

The facilitators ask for a show of hands in favor of the final proposal, as amended. Then for a show of hands opposed, and then for abstentions. The vote is tallied: A 2/3 majority of the votes cast (minus abstentions) is required for the final proposal to pass.

NOTE: At any time, the sponsors of a proposal or an amendment can withdraw the proposal or amendment from consideration.

## **Addendum B: Regions to Elect State Committee Proportional Representatives**

## **Green-Rainbow Party Bylaws Modifications History**

Modified to address becoming official party ratified by state convention 6/3/2001.

Modified by the state committee on 3/23/2002, with changes ratified by convention 4/27/2002.

Modified by the state committee on 9/21/2002.

Modified by the state committee on 1/11/2003.

Modified by the Bylaw 1.3 from party name change on 2/21/2003.

Modified by the state committee on 3/30/2003.

Modified by the state committee on 11/16/2003. Section 9.3 modified.

Modified by the state committee on 1/11/2004. Section 8.5.6 and 15.3 added. Section 6.7 modified.

Modified by the state committee on 4/10/2004. Section 8.2 modified.

Modified by the state committee on 7/18/2004. Sections 9.2 and 9.17 modified. Sections 8.5.2 and 8.5.3 modified.

Modified by the state committee on 4/16/2005. Sections 8.7.1 through 8.7.4 added.

Modified by the state committee on 6/5/2005. Sections 8.1 and 8.4 changed, 8.5.6 renumbered to 8.5.7 and a new 8.5.6 added, and all references to state committee “delegates” changed to “representatives”.

Modified by the state committee on 8/6//2006. Section 10.4 added.

Modified by the state committee on 11/17/2007. Sections 10.1 through 10.3 modified.

Modified by the state committee on 1/27/2008. Section 8.5.8 added.

NOTE: This has not been updated. Nor is it part of the official Bylaws, though it is useful to have.

Modified by the State Committee on 01/26/2019.