

## Green Party Of El Dorado County - Bylaws

### ARTICLE 1. Name.

1.0 The name of this organization is Green Party of El Dorado County. Pursuant to CA state law, GPEDC is a geographical division of the Green Party of CA.

### ARTICLE 2. Purpose.

2.0 The purpose of the Green Party of El Dorado County (GPEDC) is to further the Ten Key Values and Platform of the Green Party of CA (GPCA) through political and social action within our villages, cities, county, state, country, and global communities.

2.1 The Ten Key Values are:

- a. Ecological Wisdom
- b. Grassroots Democracy
- c. Social Justice
- d. Nonviolence
- e. Decentralization
- f. Community-based Economics
- g. Post-Patriarchal Values
- h. Respect for Diversity
- i. Personal & Global Responsibility
- j. Future Focus

2.2 In order to further several of the above values, GPEDC uses the consensus process in its meetings.

2.3 For the same reason, no proxy opinions or votes are ever accepted. An absent member may participate via email, telephone, or written statement.

### ARTICLE 3. Membership.

3.0 Membership in the GPEDC, as defined by county and state laws,

requires current Green Party of CA registration and residence in El Dorado County.

3.1 Residents of El Dorado County who are ineligible to vote may become associate members of the GPEDC by signing a membership application affirming their commitment to the purpose as stated in Article 2.

3.2 Unless otherwise specified, the term " GPEDC" in these Bylaws means the general membership of the GPEDC. The will of the GPEDC shall be expressed by the general County Local meeting unless otherwise specified by these bylaws or delegated by GPEDC (i.e., decisions made via email or delegated to a specified local group, committee or the County Council.)

#### ARTICLE 4. Bylaws.

4.0 These Bylaws shall govern the organization, operation, and functions of the GPEDC. The GPCA Bylaws may be referred to for guidance when desirable.

4.1 Amendment of these Bylaws shall be by the following process:

- A. Proposals for amendment must be addressed at a general County membership meeting.
- B. Using the GPEDC decision-making process, the members will determine whether amendment is necessary, and the general approach to be taken.
- C. A Bylaws Working Group shall draft a proposed amendment or accept the proposal as stated or amended at the meeting, following the general approach determined at the membership meeting.
- D. The amendment may be adopted at the following general meeting, either by consensus or, if necessary, an 80% majority vote.

#### ARTICLE 5. County Council.

5.0 Duties. The GPEDC County Council shall:

- A. Assist the GPEDC in realizing its purpose;

- B. Inform the GPEDC in a timely manner of state, regional and local GP work;
- C. Act as liaison between the GPEDC and the community, including the media;
- D. Call and attend general meetings of the GPEDC;
- E. Create draft agendas for general meetings of the GPEDC;
- F. Hold open Council meetings, as announced at general meetings;
- G. Report the content and draft decisions of Council meetings at general meetings;
- H. Facilitate education, communication, action, and GP voter registration;
- I. Call for and establish working groups as needed;
- J. Encourage the formation of new local GP groups within EDC;
- K. Manage the general business and office of the GPEDC, subject to approval by the membership.
- L. Hold regular orientation sessions for delegates, alternates, attendees and other interested members planning to attend GPCA General Assemblies and other meetings.
- M. Be responsible for communication, interaction and all reporting requirements to and of the GPCA and the Region.

5.1 The County Council shall fill the role served by other political parties' Central Committees, pursuant to current CA Election Code law and the Bylaws of the Green Party of CA (GPCA).

5.2 Membership of the County Council.

- A. The elected County Council members are limited to seven (7).
- B. Election shall be through CA state primary balloting held in even-numbered years.
- C. Additional County Council members may be nominated by the general membership or the County Council; these shall be termed Alternate Members of the County Council and shall have full decision making power and full terms.
- D. Temporary Council Members may be appointed when necessary, as determined by the GPEDC or the County Council.
- E. A quorum shall consist of a simple majority of currently serving members.

F. A gender-balanced Council shall be encouraged. In the event of imbalance, the Council shall call for a decision of the GPEDC to resolve it.

G. Balance of the Council to represent a diversity of issues and groups is also encouraged; these must be in agreement with the Ten Key Values and the Platform of the GPCA and the GPEDC.

### 5.3 Terms.

A. Members' terms commence at the beginning of the first meeting of the County Council following the direct primary election at which the member was elected, and will serve until the beginning of the first Council meeting following the next primary election.

B. Members may serve any number of consecutive two-year terms.

### 5.4 Absences of Councilmembers.

A. A Councilmember may appoint a substitute in her/his absence.

B. Substitutes shall have full consensus and voting rights only with the written authorization of their appointing Councilmember. A substitute who is also an Alternate may not vote twice.

C. Substitute members shall be subject to the rules of the Council.

### 5.5 Resignations. A councilmember automatically resigns if he/she:

A. Moves out of the County,

B. Is no longer a registered Green Party voter, or

C. Misses three (3) consecutive regularly scheduled meetings, without appointing a substitute.

### 5.6 Recall.

The following steps are necessary to recall a County Councilmember:

A. Three GPEDC members must present a written statement to the Councilmember specifying exactly how they failed to act in accordance with the Ten Key Values or these Bylaws. The statement must be presented to the Council meeting (in addition, if Councilmember concerned is not present.)

B. At the next GPEDC general meeting, unless there is no disagreement of the statement or the issue by the Councilmember concerned, the Council shall call for and establish a mediation panel, composed

of GPEDC members who are not involved in the particular controversy.

C. Within seven (7) days, both parties to the dispute will meet with the panel. If no resolution is reached at that meeting, the panel will recommend a resolution within five (5) days.

D. If either party is dissatisfied with the recommendation, the Council shall allot equal times for the several positions at the next general meeting. If that meeting results in a consensus, or 2/3 (66.6%) fallback vote, in favor of recall, the Councilmember is removed from office.

#### 5.7 Vacancies.

A vacancy shall exist on the County Council when any of the following occurs:

A. Fewer than seven (7) candidates are elected to the County Council,

B. An ineligible person is appointed or elected, or becomes ineligible;

C. A member dies, resigns, or becomes incapacitated to act; or

D. A member is removed or recalled in accordance with Article 5.6 above.

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

A. The vacancy shall be announced at the next general meeting.

B. At the following general meeting, the membership shall attempt to reach consensus on filling the position.

C. If consensus cannot be reached, a vote by written IRV ballot shall be taken. The person receiving a majority of votes will be elected to the position.

#### 5.8 Officers.

A. Co-Coordiators.

1. The Council shall select two of its members as a gender-balanced Co-Coordinator Team.

2. The Team will promptly notify the County Clerk of the names, addresses and phone/email information of the Team and the Treasurer.

3. The Team, along with the Treasurer, will act as sole liaisons between the GPEDC and the Secretary of State, the County Clerks, and the GPCA Coordinating Committee. The Team will promptly forward all decisions and communications made under these Bylaws.

B. Treasurer.

1. The Council shall select a Treasurer and an assistant Treasurer from among the GPEDC membership.

2. Each month, the Treasurer shall:

a. Provide the Council with written reports of all transactions during the preceding month, and

b. File all required reports with the Treasurer of the GPCA.

c. The Treasurer shall be responsible for keeping accurate records of all funds at the Council's disposal. These records will be made available in a timely fashion to GPEDC members for examination upon request.

d. The Treasurer and/or the appointed assistant Treasurer will sign all checks drawn on the GPEDC account.

C. Secretary/Scribe

1. All minutes of all Council meetings must be recorded and made available to all Councilmembers shortly after the meeting is held.

2. The Council may choose a permanent secretary or rotate the duties.

ARTICLE 6: Structure of locals to County.

6.0 The GPEDC may consist of as many local groups as may develop.

A. Local groups must be certified by the County Council; the elected responsible body. The certification process is:

1. Each local group must have at least three registered GPCA members.

2. Each local group must hold pre-announced regular meetings, not less often than quarterly.

3. Each local must apply to the County Council for official affiliation with the GPEDC and the GPCA. Use of the Green Party name and logo is legally limited to officially affiliated local groups. Only affiliated local groups have the right to a decision-making member on the County Council.

4. Each local must send to the County Council their membership/attendee roster.

5. The local members must agree to uphold and further the Ten Key Values and to abide by the GPEDC Bylaws and the Bylaws of the GPCA.

6. The County Council must notify the GPCA of new groups.

B. Each local group is eligible to send a decision-making representative to all County Council meetings. The CC will appoint them as alternates.

C. Decertification of a local shall be addressed immediately as an emergency situation by the County Council upon presentation or knowledge of circumstances that violate any of the affiliation requirements.

## ARTICLE 7: Meetings.

### 7.0 County Council meetings.

A. The County Council shall hold regular monthly meetings, as announced at General Meetings, and additional meetings whenever necessary.

B. County Council meetings shall be open to observation and participation of all GPEDC members and guests, but only elected Councilmembers and

appointed additional Councilmembers shall have full consensus and decision-making powers at the meeting.

C. Decisions made at County Council meetings are regarded as interim, to be confirmed, amended or rejected by the general membership; except that the Council is responsible for time-sensitive decision-making between general meetings.

### 7.1 General Meetings.

A. Regular general meetings shall be held not less than quarterly.

B. General meetings are open to the public, who may participate in discussion.

C. Decision-making is limited to members of the GPEDC; all decisions are made by consensus.

D. If the general membership cannot consense, the fallback is

that the Council will make the decision, except for Bylaws changes.  
(See 4.1.D.)

## ARTICLE 8: Delegate Selection to GPCA General Assembly.

### 8.0 Team Delegation

A. The GPEDC shall send a team of members to statewide meetings of the GPCA.

1. Gender/ethnic balance is encouraged.
2. Delegates and alternates shall be chosen for an annual

term at the general meetings.

B. Team qualifications and responsibilities.

1. Each delegate and alternate must have a working knowledge of GPCA Bylaws, structure and procedures. Attendance at an orientation session is a prerequisite to membership on the delegate team.

2. Each delegate and alternate must be prepared and willing to attend GPCA meetings during their one-year term.

C. County Council responsibilities.

1. The County Council shall serve as nominating committee if necessary.

2. The Council shall see to it that all delegate team members receive an orientation regarding GPCA structure, process and bylaws, including all materials needed.

3. The Council shall provide the GPCA Coordinating Committee (CC) and the GPCA Accreditation Committee with the names of the GPEDC delegate team for each GPCA meeting, in a timely manner, as specified by the information received from the GPCA; (i.e., in the packet).

D. Decision-making.

1. At the state GPCA meeting, if there is a question or difference of opinion within the delegation, there shall be discussion before standing aside or stating an unresolved concern; this is not for the purpose of convincing a delegate to change her/his mind, but rather to ascertain that the proposal or issue is fully understood by all.



2. If a vote should need to be taken at the statewide meeting, the team will caucus to decide how to use the allotted votes and will vote accordingly.

a. No proxy votes are allowed; delegates or alternates must attend.

b. The County' s general membership may, at their discretion, require the delegates to vote in a certain manner on a given proposal or issue, providing that the proposal or issue is not greatly amended at the meeting and can be voted on in essence as the County' s membership had seen and discussed it.