

June 9, 2004 DRAFT

## **Proposed revision of the By-Laws of the Green Party of Santa Barbara County**

The name of this organization is the Green Party of Santa Barbara County. The governing body of the Green Party of Santa Barbara County shall be the Green Party County Council.

### **Ten Key Values**

*Ecological wisdom*

*Grassroots Democracy*

*Personal and Social Responsibility*

*Nonviolence*

*Decentralization*

*Community-Based Economics*

*Post-Patriarchal Values*

*Respect for Diversity*

*Global Responsibility*

*Future Focus*

### **Article I Purpose**

#### **Section 1 By-laws**

1.01 These By-laws shall govern the organization, operation, and function of the political organization known as the Green Party of Santa Barbara County and the Green Party of Santa Barbara County Council (the Council).

1.02 The Council shall govern the Green Party of Santa Barbara County according to the By-laws. In the event of an omission or ambiguity in the By-laws, the Green Party of Santa Barbara County will look to the By-laws of the Green Party of California for guidance.

#### **Section 2 Ten Key Values**

2.01 The purpose of the Green Party of Santa Barbara County shall be:

- a) To promote the Ten Key Values of the Green Party of California in the County of Santa Barbara;
- b) To run and support candidates who adhere to the Ten Key Values; and
- c) To continuously build Green Party unity

### **Article II Membership**

#### **Section 1 Eligibility**

1.01 All persons registered to vote as members of the Green Party pursuant to the laws of the State of California are eligible to participate in the functions of the Green Party of Santa Barbara County and these By-laws. Persons not eligible to be

registered to vote in the State of California may participate in the functions of the Green Party of Santa Barbara County so long as they meet all requirements of active membership.

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### **Section 2 Active Membership**

2.01 Active members of the Green Party of Santa Barbara County shall be considered those who meet all of the following requirements:

- a) Be a registered Green if eligible under California law.
- b) Adhere to the Ten Key Values of the Green Party of California
- c) Participate in the work of the Green Party of Santa Barbara County
- d) Attend as many bimonthly meetings of the Green Party of Santa Barbara County as possible.
- e) Pay yearly dues as stipulated.
- f) Have read orientation information, including these By-Laws and supplementary Guidelines

### **Article III The Council**

The duly elected or appointed officers constitute the Council, who shall serve as the only officers of the Green Party of Santa Barbara County.

#### **Section 1 Mission and Purpose**

1.01 The Green Party of Santa Barbara County Council shall serve to all as the elected representative body of the Green Party of Santa Barbara County. The Council's mission is to contribute to the ongoing empowerment of the members of the Green Party of Santa Barbara County so that they may continue their work. In keeping with the principles of grassroots democracy, the Council will serve to promote the Ten Key Values of the Green Party of California in all its actions and statements.

1.02 The Council shall fill the role specified by the County as the "Central Committee" pursuant to Division 7 of the Election Code.

#### **Section 2 Membership**

2.01 The Council will be comprised of up to seven voting members elected in a county-wide, at-large district during the direct primary election held by the State of California in even years.

2.02 The Green Party of Santa Barbara County may choose to modify the method of selection or size of their County Council by modifying these By-laws. A duly appointed representative shall notify the Green Party of California Coordinating Committee no later than 135 days before the direct primary election.

2.03 A Council member may appoint an alternate in his/her absence. Such alternates shall have the right to hold an "unresolved concern" (or cast a vote, should one become necessary) only with the written authorization of the member who suggested the appointment. An alternate member shall be subject to the rules of the Council and may vote only when the elected member is absent. No alternate can represent more than one Council member.

2.04 Council members will serve until the succeeding direct primary and the new Council convenes its first meeting.

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2.05 In the event of the appointment or election of an ineligible person, or whenever any member dies, resigns, or automatically resigns, becomes incapacitated to act, or is recalled, a vacancy exists that shall be filled by appointment by the Council. In making the appointment, the Council shall:

- a) Convene a meeting not more than 45 days after any Council seat becomes vacant.
- b) At this meeting, nominations which further gender balance will be accepted for the voting members of the Council. Nominees must reside in Santa Barbara County and be registered members of the Green Party. Each active member present may vote for as many nominees as there are council seats vacant.
- c) The elected Council members will appoint the nominee receiving a plurality of votes. The Council will notify the County Clerk and the Green Party of California Coordinating Committee of name, address, and daytime phone number of its appointment(s) within five days.

2.06 Resignation. County Council members will operate in accordance with the Ten Key Values. Any Council member automatically resigns in the event that:

- a) the member moves out of the County;
- b) the member registers with another political party;
- c) the member fails to maintain an updated, accurate voter registration.

2.07 Recall. The following steps are necessary to enact the recall of a sitting council member:

- a) Three members of the Green Party of Santa Barbara County must present a written statement to the council member specifying exactly how the member failed to act in accordance with the Ten Key Values or with these by-laws. The statement must be presented at a council meeting, at least 15 days prior to the beginning of the next regularly scheduled and announced bimonthly meeting.
- b) Both parties will meet with a professional Mediator within seven days. Within five days, the Mediator will inform the parties of its recommendation.
- c) If either party is dissatisfied with the Mediator's recommendation, the Council shall allot equal time for both the council member targeted for recall

and the party attempting the recall to present their positions at the next bimonthly meeting. If its members reach consensus (4/5 majority vote), the Council shall remove the member.

### **Section 3 Officers**

3.01 Facilitator. Each member of the Council will serve as facilitator for one month in alphabetical order according to the first letter of the last name. There may be a co-facilitator, who acts when the facilitator wants to make a proposal or participate in the discussion. The facilitator's duties are:

- a) Make an agenda for the meeting
- b) Preside at the meeting
- c) Be responsible for getting and returning the key to the meeting room.

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3.02 Treasurer. The Council shall elect a treasurer from among the registered members of the Green Party of Santa Barbara County.

- a) The Treasurer shall provide the Council with written or oral reports of all transactions since the last meeting.
- b) The Treasurer shall file all required reports with the Treasurer of the Green Party of California.
- c) The Treasurer will serve at the discretion of the Council.
- d) The Treasurer is responsible for keeping accurate records of all funds at the Council's disposal, including origin of the funds, the balance on hand, money spent, upcoming spending plans, and future funding needs (budget). These records will be available to any member of the Green Party of Santa Barbara County at the Council meeting. The Council must also grant requests, in a timely fashion, by party members for examination of the records outside of the meeting.

3.03 Secretary. Each member of the Council will serve as secretary for one month in alphabetical order according to the first letter of the last name.

- a) The Secretary shall take written minutes of Council meetings. Minutes shall be distributed to Council members before the start of the next Council meeting.
- b) The minutes of each meeting shall be given to the Treasurer, who will maintain them as a permanent record.

### **Section 4 Meetings**

4.01 The Council will meet on the second and fourth Wednesdays of the month.

4.02 All active members of the Green Party of Santa Barbara County (see Article 2, Section 2) may participate in the consensus-seeking process, as outlined in the by-laws of the Green Party of California.

- 4.03 Any registered Green who attends five Council meetings in three months is allowed to participate in the decision-making process.
- 4.04 A quorum for conducting business consists of 50% plus 1 of the number of voting members.
- 4.05 A vote of 4 is necessary to pass a proposal when no consensus is reached and therefore a vote is necessary. If there is a different number of Council members, 50% plus 1 is required.

## **Section 5 Duties and Authority**

5.01 The Council will be generally responsible for coordination of meetings, internal communications, and other administrative tasks, including the following:

- a) May make statements in the name of the Green Party of Santa Barbara County consistent with local and state policy.

- b) Retain legal counsel on behalf of the Green Party of Santa Barbara County and the Council and make decisions which legal counsel advises. This includes undertaking any legal action deemed necessary.

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- c) Conduct campaigns for the Green Party of Santa Barbara County and approve its candidates for public office, including None of the Above.

- d) Employ staff as necessary or desirable.

- e) Conduct such other business as the Green Party of Santa Barbara County may require.

5.02 The Council shall ensure timely distribution of relevant information to all members of the Green Party of Santa Barbara County. The Council will make available uncensored information that includes, but is not limited to:

- a) Upcoming events, including the next General Assembly meeting, and deadlines required by law.

- b) Upcoming issues requiring study, thought, and/or action.

- c) Updates of Council projects in progress.

- d) Records of minutes of last meetings or significant decisions involving Council members.

5.03 Information provided to non-members must reflect the decisions of the Green Party of Santa Barbara County.

## **Article IV Meetings of General Assemblies**

## **Section 1 Regular Meetings**

1.01 The Green Party of Santa Barbara County shall meet at least two times a year. These meetings shall be called General Assemblies of the Green Party of Santa Barbara County (General Assemblies).

1.02 The Council shall convene all regular meetings.

1.03 Purpose: To discuss the issues before the Greens on a local, state, national, and global level, and to brainstorm initiatives and projects for the California Green Party to work on.

## **Section 2 Guests and Observers**

2.01 Green Party of Santa Barbara County meetings are public and open to observers.

2.02 Guests and observers will register with the doorkeeper.

2.03 The General Assembly may choose to go to closed session with 4/5 majority vote. Only active members may attend closed sessions.

2.04 With consensus (4/5 majority fall-back vote), the General Assembly may exercise its right to exclude an individual (and not others) who fails to honor the process and principles of the Green Party.

## **Article V Delegate Selection to the California Green Party**

### **Section 1 Delegate Selection**

1.01 Council will convene a meeting of the Green Party of Santa Barbara County not less than 14 days and not more than 30 days before each meeting of the Green Party of California General Assembly.

1.02 In order to be eligible to be a delegate, one must meet all of the following:

a) Be an active member (see Article II, Section 2)

b) Have attended at least one statewide meeting within the preceding two years.

c) Be familiar with the structure and principles of the Green Party of California

d) Have a working knowledge of the Green Party of California by-laws.

1.03 The Council will appoint the nominee receiving a plurality of votes. The Council will notify the Green Party of California Coordinating Committee and the State Hosting Committee of its appointment(s) within five days.

## **Article VI Amendment of By-Laws**

These By-laws may be amended by a vote of five of the present seven-member Council.

## **Article VII General Policy**

### **Section 1 Non-discrimination**

1.01 The Green Party of Santa Barbara County shall not discriminate on the basis of age, race, sex, sexual orientation, physical ability, religion, or income.

1.02 It is the responsibility of the Council to ensure that this policy is carried out.