

BYLAWS OF THE GREEN PARTY OF TULARE COUNTY

(As signed and ratified this day, 13 March, 2004)

This document contains the rules and guidelines governing the Green Party of Tulare County, California.

DEFINITION OF TERMS FOR BYLAWS, RULES AND GUIDELINES

(I) Bylaw (Rule of Structure)

Rules which define the purpose, membership or authority of individuals or groups belonging to the Green Party of Tulare County, California (GPTCC), or the GPTCC itself. It will take at least 80% vote of the Green Assembly (GA) to change or implement any rule of structure. The GA and all recognized groups joining the GPTCC are obliged to abide by any applicable bylaw.

(II) Rule (Rule of Procedure)

Rules are designed specifically for the internal workings of meetings. Rules do not apply outside of any meeting for which they are written. It will take at least a 3/4 vote to change or implement any new rule.

(III) Guideline

Guidelines are rules of procedure, which are intended as model (often based on precedent but also upon vision and projection) to help meetings run smoothly. It will take at least a 2/3 vote to change or adopt any guideline. The GA is not obliged to abide by guidelines, though anyone can point out and call to question the guidelines that the GA appears to be operating under. Questions may be answered and concerns may arise. Concerns are addressed to gain consensus that the body is operating as a whole under the same guidelines.

(IV) “Policy” Decision

A policy is a statement or a concept drafted with intention of expressing the opinion of the GPTCC. It will take at least an 80% vote of the GA to approve any policy decision. Any expenditure requiring more than \$50, as valued this day, of the Treasury of the GPTCC shall rise to the level of policy and require an 80% vote.

(V) “Business” Decision

A business matter is something that does not express any philosophy or opinion, but arises out of a practical need. It will take a consensus or if consensus is blocked at least a 2/3 vote of the GA to approve any business decision.

(VI) “Preference Voting” A system of voting that allows voting members to select their first, second, and third choices or however many seats are being considered. Pair-wise matching shall be used to select the winners of such elections, be they issue endorsements, candidate endorsements or office holders.

(VI) Abbreviations:

GPTCC = Green Party of Tulare County, California

GA = General Assembly

CC = County Council

ICC = Interim County Council

CH = Chapter

WG = Working Group

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Article 1. NAME OF THE ORGANIZATION

The name of the organization is The Green Party of Tulare County, California (GPTCC).

Article 2. COUNTY COUNCIL

Within thirty days of their election at the California Primary the County Council shall convene at a well announced location and time and together with those assembled registered greens who have attended two previous meetings shall declare themselves the Green Assembly. For in matters where the Secretary of State of California or his liaison require business with the duly elected County Council that business shall be directed by the General Assembly.

Article 3. COUNTY GREEN ASSEMBLY

Section 3-A. Membership

3-A-1. There shall be periodic meetings of the Green Party of Tulare County. All registered members of the Green Party that reside in Tulare County shall be eligible and welcome to attend these meetings.

3-A-2. These members acting together shall come to be known as the Green Assembly of Tulare County. The Green Assembly shall be the policy setting body for the Green Party in Tulare County, and has control of all action taken in the name of the Green Party of Tulare County.

3-A-3. All those registered to vote in the Green Party of California who reside in Tulare County and have attended two green meetings in the previous six months, at least one of which was the Green Assembly, shall be considered a voting member of that Assembly.

3-A-4 Membership Exceptions:

- a) Any person not registered as a member of the Green Party that resides in Tulare County shall be eligible and welcome to attend these meetings, and shall become a voting member of the Green Assembly, if all of the following applies to that person:
 - 1)) She/He has attended at least two previous meetings of the Green Assembly within the last six months.
 - 2)) He/She shows a commitment to the Ten Key Values of the Greens
 - 3)) If she/he is not registered to vote in any other political party and has no voting privileges in any other political party, and any one of the following apply:
 - / She/He is not a legal citizen of the United States.
 - / He/She is under 18 years of age but over 12.
 - / She/He is a paroled convicted felon.
- b) Any or all of the above exceptions are void when in violation of State or local law.

3-A-5. Green Assembly members share a personal responsibility to act in the spirit of the Ten Key Values of the Greens, to be non-disruptive so that Green Party goals and process may be effectively exercised, and to abide by all county and state and national bylaws of the Green Party.

3-A-6. Members of the duly elected County Council of the Green Party of Tulare County shall be considered voting members regardless of previous Green Assembly meeting attendance.

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Section 3-B. Authority

The Green Assembly has sole authority to do the following:

3-B-1. Establish, repeal and amend bylaws for the Green Party of Tulare County, make policy decisions, and approve expenditures which require \$50 of the treasury, all by an 80% vote. Bylaws to be amended in two consecutive scheduled meetings.

3-B-2. Establish, repeal and amend rules of procedure for the Green Party of Tulare County California, make business decisions, and approve expenditures which require \$50 or less of the treasury, without full consensus then all by a 2/3 vote.

3-B-3. Open and support partisan elections to participation by Green Party members within its jurisdiction as stated by the bylaws of the Green Party of California and the United States; endorsements requiring consensus and failing consensus a ¾ vote.

3-B-4. Select delegates to meetings of the State Plenary of the Green Party of California and provide for representation to all State Green Gatherings to the best of their abilities.

3-B-5. Join together with other County Locals in our "Region" as defined by the Green Party of California, to select their representative to the Coordinating Committee of the Green Party of California.

3-B-6. The Green Assembly has the authority to recognize, establish and dissolve Chapters and Working Groups within the county representing themselves as operatives of the GPTCC.

Article 4. Chapters

A. ESTABLISHMENT

Local communities, towns and cities may have established by registered members of the Green Party (or others meeting the exception requirements for GA Membership noted in 3-A-4.) that reside in the same general geographic area.

B. FORMATION CRITERIA

In order to be a recognized Chapter of the GPTCC, the members interested in forming the Chapter must meet the following criteria:

4-B-1. They must define the general geographic area they wish to represent.

4-B-2. They must present a roster to the Green Assembly of at least five (5) registered members of the Green Party (and others as defined in

3-A-4.) that reside in that area or community and plan on attending meetings of their Chapter on a regular basis. And, must adhere to the Ten Key Values.

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CHAPTERS (cont)

4-B-3. They must agree to have publicly announced meetings to which all members of the Green Party (and others as defined in 3-A-4.) that live in the defined chapter area will be welcome to attend.

4-B-4. They must hold meetings at least three times a year, with a minimum of five members, or 25% of the total active membership (whichever is greater) of that Chapter in attendance in the past two trimesters.

4-B-5. They must conduct themselves within the frame work of the Ten Key Values and operate with a consensus process while conducting meetings. When consensus is blocked, policy matters shall require a $\frac{3}{4}$ vote and business matters shall require a $\frac{2}{3}$ vote.

4-B-6. The GA may waive any of these provisions for reasons peculiar to the Chapter that facilitate the growth and workability of the Chapter.

C. ACCOUNTABILITY

4-C-1. Rosters shall be updated every eight months (two trimesters). The rosters may be verified by a working group (WG) with the authority from the GA if there are questions regarding attendance to the Chapter meetings or adherence to the Ten Key Values.

4-C-2. The Green Assembly (GA) may appoint a representative as liaison to attend Chapter meetings to dispel or confirm allegations and to assist in roster compliance and adherence to the Ten Key Values..

Article 5. WORKING GROUPS

A. ESTABLISHMENT

Working Groups may be established by registered members of the Green Party (or others meeting the requirements of **3-A-4**) that share a common area of concern or interest or for a specific goal or project.

B. FORMATION CRITERIA

In order to be a recognized Working Group of the Green Party of Tulare County, the members interested or concerned in forming the Working Group must meet the following criteria:

5-B-1. The area of interest or the goal must be defined.

5-B-2. There must be a roster before the Green Assembly of at least 7 registered members of the Green Party (or others meeting the requirements of **3-A-4**) that

share this area of interest or take up this effort and who plan on attending meetings of the Working Group on a regular basis.

WORKING GROUPS (cont)

5-B-3. Working Groups of interest may choose to expand their membership beyond the requirements above, as long as the group continues to meet all the criteria stated herein. Working Groups with prescribed tasks and goals working on a specific project must return to the GA to expand their purvue.

5-B-4. They must create a charter defining the Working Group's purpose and area of focus. A Working Group representing another existing organization must coordinate its activities with that organization. This charter must be ratified by the Green Assembly before the Working Group will be considered an official body of the Green Party of Tulare County, California (GPTCC)

5-B5. They must have meetings to which all greens that share this interest are welcome to attend. Voting members are expected to attend a required set of meetings to assure the goal of the project or the degree of affiliation is productive and keeps its purpose in sight.

5-B-6. They must hold meetings as set out in their charter. Working Groups of Interest must meet at least three times a year.

Goal driven project oriented Working Groups shall meet more often as required.

5-B-7. They will conduct themselves within the framework of the Ten Key Values of the Greens and the bylaws of the county, state and Green Party.

5-B-8. The GA may choose to waive any of the above requirements under special circumstances peculiar to the definition and objective of the Working Group.

C. ACCOUNTABILITY

5-C-1. . Rosters shall be kept for all meetings and activities and turned into the GA for review periodically.

5-C-2. Representatives from the GA may be assigned to observe that the roster is maintained and that records of transactions and interactions are kept and adherence to the Ten Key Values.

Article 6. FILLING COUNCIL VACANCIES

- A.** The Green Assembly (GA) shall have the authority to fill vacancies on the County Council (permanent seats).

- B.** The GA must make the greatest effort to approximate the primary election ballot by contacting as many registered greens that voted in the last primary as fiscally possible, giving non-attending members an opportunity to attend two consecutive meetings before the nominations and filling of the seats can be accomplished.

- C.** The filling of a vacancy shall be accomplished by preference voting. Multiple seats shall be filled by a selection process engaging proportional representation using pair-wise matching.

Article 7. OFFICERS

A. Treasurer

- 1. Duties and responsibilities
 - a) Receive, disburse, maintain and account for the funds of the GPTCC in accordance with the directions of the GA
 - b) Prepare and submit copies of monthly, quarterly and annual financial reports, as appropriate, at each business meeting of the GA &/or CC

 - c) Review all bank accounts and financial records as specified by the GA.
 - d) Act as an ex-officio member of any Working Group with responsibilities for Green Party finances.
 - e) Participate with any Finance Working Group in the preparation of a draft budget for consideration by the Green Assembly.
 - f) File income and expense reports as required by law.
 - g) Utilize common bookkeeping practices and generally accepted accounting principles in managing and reporting on finances.

- 2. Election of Treasurer shall be at the first meeting following the Primary Election or when the office needs to be filled after do publication of the election.

B. Archivist/Recorder

1. Duties and Responsibilities

- a) Maintain current rosters of active volunteers for each Working Group, Chapter and the Green Assembly.
- b) Maintain current lists all registered Green Party voters as recorded by the County Elections Department.
- c) Maintain in an orderly fashion the collection of meeting notes, proposals, agenda packets, newsletters and other such material generated by the organization.

C. Web Site Manager and e-Greens Coordinator

1. Duties and Responsibilities

- a) Keep up Group Lists of e-Greens who wish to be notified of organization activities and schedules by e-mail.
- b) Establish and maintain the GPTCC Web Site.
- c) Update the Web Site and contact e-Greens with all information useful both for interested visiting parties to learn more about the Tulare County Green Party (GPTCC).
- d) Keep volunteers current with relevant issues and tasks, internal and external to the organization to facilitate their effectiveness as volunteers.

Article 8. Interim County Council and Provisional Council Members

A. Interim County Council

In those years that there are no elected County Council members elected at the California Primary Election, the General Assembly shall appoint at least four members to an Interim County Council, which may be the three officers plus one or more at-large members. This shall be revisited every eight months after the Primary Election to re-affirm or re-establish the Interim County Council.

B. Provisional Council Members

In those years when not all seven seats are filled by the California Primary Election, the County Council at the direction of the Green Assembly meeting the first regular meeting after the Primary Election, shall fill the empty seats or add

additional seats that shall be permanent voting members of the GA. These elections shall be revisited every eight months until the next Primary Election.

*CONCLUSION OF BYLAWS SIGNED THIS DAY, 13 MARCH 2004 BY
THOSE PRESENT AT THIS FOUNDING MEETING:*