

**ADOPTED Bylaws  
Green Party of California**

03/28/97 mjm

Green Party of California  
Bylaws Committee

This document contains bylaws which have been **approved** (consented to) by the General Assembly at state plenaries. These are the rules and guidelines which currently govern the Green Party of California.

## PREFACE

This document was created by the Bylaws working group. It's current format is as follows:

- 1) ARTICLES (signified by capitals and roman numerals)
- 2) SECTIONS (signified by capitals and Arabic (regular) numerals)
- 3) Paragraphs (marked with numeric labels of the form x-y.z, where x is the ARTICLE, y is the SECTION, and z is the paragraph. Paragraphs also have short explanatory titles and are numbered sequentially within SECTIONS).
- 4) Items (signified by small letters and a closing parenthesis) Items can also have sub-items or lists that are numbered within them.

NOTE: Insertions - Paragraphs can be inserted into this document by simply adding another level to the paragraph number. An example might be that if you wanted to insert a paragraph between paragraphs 6-5.1 and 6-5.2 you would place the verbiage into the document and number it 6-5.1.1. Example:

6-5.1 Open meetings

6-5.1.1 Facilities to accommodate open meetings

6-5.2 Observer registration and identification

This allows a great amount of flexibility while at the same time it is always clear exactly where you are within the document.

The above format is a combination of Tom Shaver, Carol Long and Shelly Martin's ideas. I downloaded the old 'Update' document from gpoc.bylaws to a disk and loaded it into WordPerfect 5.1. The tabs were set at every half inch except the 1st one was at 1".

VERSION: This edition of the Green Party of California bylaws is current to 3/28/97 (as amended by the March 1997 GPCA General Assembly at San Jose). It is currently formatted in MS Word 5.1a for Macintosh.

Comments & suggestions may be directed to Michael Monnot, 119 6th Ave., San Francisco CA, 94118.  
Email: [moncia@igc.apc.org](mailto:moncia@igc.apc.org).

## **ARTICLE I. NAME**

The name of this organization is the Green Party of California.

## **ARTICLE II. PURPOSE**

(unadopted)

## **ARTICLE III. OFFICERS**

(unadopted)

## **ARTICLE IV. STRUCTURE**

### **SECTION 1. LOCAL BODIES**

(unadopted)

### **SECTION 2. COUNTY BODIES**

4-2.1 Each county shall have a council  
(unadopted)

4-2.2 County legal requirements For county delegates to be seated, the county must adopt bylaws including the following points:

- a) Specify a delegate selection process;
- b) Define membership;
- c) Specify a decision-making process for county council and county organizations;
- d) Have a process for filling county council vacancies;
- e) Define the relationship between local organizations and the county council;
- f) Get an FPPC number, if the county organization will engage in electoral activities.

## **ARTICLE V: MEMBERSHIP**

### **SECTION 1. COUNTY COUNCILS**

5-3.1 Members

a) When county councils elected:

At each direct primary election, members of county councils shall be elected in each county. Counties are encouraged to hold caucuses to choose a slate of gender-balanced candidates.

b) Grounds for removal:

Any member of the county council may be removed if they:

- 1) Register as a member of another political party, or
- 2) Violate the bylaws of the state plenary or county.

5-3.2 Registration figures

For the purposes of this section the registration figures used shall be those taken from the statement of voters and their political affiliations transmitted by the county clerks to the Secretary of State on the 135th day prior to the next direct primary election.

5-3.3 Number of members to be elected If the county has less than 150 registered Green Party voters, the number of members to be elected in that county will be three. Otherwise, the number of members of the county council to be elected shall be the greater of:

- a) The number seven, or
- b) The integer nearest the resulting quotient obtained by dividing 100 times the number of Green Party registered voters in the county by the number of Green Party registered voters in the state.

5-3.4 Method of electing members:

In each county where the number of members of county councils to be elected is 7 or less, the members shall be elected in a countywide, at large district. In each county where the number to be elected is 8 or greater, and there exist supervisorial districts, the members shall be elected by supervisorial district.

- 5-3.5 Optional county council selection process:  
Counties may choose to modify the method of selecting their county council or the size of their county council by notifying the State Coordinating Committee who shall in turn notify the Secretary of State no later than 135 days prior to the direct primary election.
- 5-3.6 Number to be elected from supervisorial or assembly districts The county will have the total elected members to which it is entitled. The number to be elected for each district will be the number for the proportion of registered Green Party voters in that district.
- 5-3.7 Computation of members allotted (county)  
The Secretary of State, no later than the 125th day before the direct primary election, shall compute the number of members of county councils to be elected in each county and shall mail a certificate to that effect to the county clerk of each county, to the Green Party State Coordinating Committee and to each Green Party County Council.
- 5-3.8 Computation of members allotted (election district) The county clerk, no later than the 115th day before the direct primary election, shall compute the number of members of county councils to be elected in each supervisorial or Assembly district if the election of said members is to be by supervisorial or Assembly district pursuant to this section.
- 5-3.9 Conditions for candidate's name to appear on ballot In each county, the name of each candidate for member of county councils shall appear on the ballot only if she or he has:  
a) Filed a nomination paper pursuant to Division 6 (commencing with Section 6000) of the Elections Code, signed in the candidate's behalf by Green Party voters in the election district in which she or he is a candidate, and  
b) Registered to vote in the Green Party.
- 5-3.10 Residence of candidate (county)  
A candidate may seek election only in the district or county in which she or he resides.
- 5-3.11 Residence of candidate (election district)  
A person qualifying as a candidate for member of a county council shall have her or his name listed on the ballot only in the election district of her or his residence.
- 5-3.12 Number of sponsors (county)  
Notwithstanding any other provision of this code, the number of sponsors which shall be required of a person to be a candidate for member of county council shall be the lesser of:  
a) 20, or  
b) Not less than 2 percent of the number of voters registered as affiliated with the Green Party in the county council election district.
- 5-3.13 Number of sponsors (election district)  
Notwithstanding any provision of the Elections Code, up to seven candidates for member of county council in a single election district may have their names listed on a single sponsor's certificate, and the signatures thereon shall be counted toward the sponsor requirement of each and every candidate whose name is listed on the certificate. In no case shall the number of candidates having their names on a sponsor's certificate exceed the number of members of the county council to be elected in the district.
- 5-3.14 Order of names on ballot  
The appearance of the names of the candidates for member of county council on the ballot shall be determined by a public drawing held at the time, place and manner prescribed for determining the order of names of county central committee members pursuant to Chapter 2 (commencing with Section 10200) of Division 8 of the Elections Code.
- 5-3.15 Form of direct primary ballot  
The office of member of county council shall be placed on the direct primary ballot under the heading "Party County Council" in the place and manner designated for the office of county central committee pursuant to Chapter 2 (commencing with Section 10200) of Division 8 of the Elections Code.

5-3.16 Conditions for election of candidate

In each county the candidates who receive the highest number of votes shall be declared elected. No write-in candidate for member of county council shall be declared elected, however, unless that candidate has received a number of votes equal to or greater than 2 percent of the number of party members voting in the county council election district at the direct primary or 20 votes, whichever is less.

5-3.17 Certificate of election

A certificate of election shall be issued to each elected member of county councils by the officers charged with that duty of issuing certificates of election to members of county central committees under Section 6615 of the Elections Code.

5-3.18 Report of votes cast

The votes cast for each candidate for member of county council shall be included in the canvass and statement of results in a manner similar to the vote for each candidate for county central committee pursuant to Division 12 (commencing with Section 17000) of the Elections Code.

5-3.19 Certification to Secretary of State

The final total of votes cast for each candidate for member of county council, including the name, address and ballot designation of each such candidate, and a specification as to which candidates were declared elected shall be certified to the Secretary of State forthwith upon completion of the official canvass. The county clerk shall simultaneously send one copy of this final certification to the Green Party State Coordinating Committee.

5-3.20 Certified list of elected members

As soon as practicable after the direct primary election, the Secretary of State shall prepare a certified list by county of all elected Green Party members of county councils, including their addresses and primary election ballot designations. The Secretary of State shall send copies of the list to the registrar of voters in each county on or before the 20th day of July following the direct primary election. This list shall be maintained for public inspection by said registrars of voters until a subsequent such list is received.

5-3.21 Notice sent to elected county council members

The Secretary of State, no later than July 20th following the direct primary election, shall send a notice by mail to each of the elected members of county councils which shall inform that person of the following:

- a) That he or she has been elected as a member of the county council.
- b) The date, time, and location of the next state plenary meeting. The Secretary of State shall send with this notice a copy of the certified list of all elected members of all county councils.

5-3.22 New County Organizations

In counties where the Green Party is newly organized, or in counties which have been organized, but in which no County Council candidates qualified for the primary ballot, County Council members may be approved in the following manner:

- a) The county organization must hold a General Meeting open to all registered Greens in the county. The time and location of this meeting must be publicized as widely as possible at least 14 days before the meeting, and at least three people registered as Green party voters from the county must attend the meeting for the decisions of the meeting to be valid.
- b) The county must have, or must adopt at this General Meeting, bylaws which establish rules as specified in section 4-2.2 of these bylaws, including rules for filling County Council vacancies;
- c) The General Meeting must elect at least one member to the County Council;
- d) The State Coordinating Committee regional representatives from the region in which the county is located shall make every effort to ascertain that the new County Council has been legally elected and truly represents the County organization of the Green Party in that county;
- e) The State Coordinating Committee shall, at the recommendation of the Coordinating Committee regional representatives from the region in which the county is located, certify the new County Council;
- f) The State Coordinating Committee must certify the new County Council unless there is clear evidence that the Council was illegally elected;
- g) Any certification decision by the State Coordinating Committee may be appealed to the next meeting of the General Assembly of the California Green Party which may reverse the decision of the State Coordinating Committee.

## SECTION 4. DELEGATE SELECTION TO GENERAL ASSEMBLY

- 5-4.1 General policies for delegate selection  
(unadopted)
- 5-4.2 Delegate selection formula  
For the purpose of choosing delegates to the Green Party of California General Assembly:
- a) The state shall be divided into 10 regions consisting of one or more counties; and no individual county will be divided between regions.
  - b) Delegates will be chosen by the regions except as stated in e), below.
  - c) The General Assembly body of delegates shall consist of 100 members.
  - d) Each local will be entitled to a minimum of one delegate chosen by that local.
  - e) The remaining number of delegates from each region shall be based upon the proportion of the total number of Green registrants within the region compared to the state.
  - f) Existing locals will be deemed as the accepted locals within a region.
  - g) Each region will have the authority to recognize new locals within the regions. Appeals may be made to the state party.
  - h) Locals are defined as and only as county-wide bodies for the purpose of this section.
  - i) All delegations must strive for gender and ethnic balance.

## ARTICLE VI: MEETINGS

### SECTION 1. REGULAR MEETINGS

- 6-1.1 Meeting frequency  
General Assembly shall meet at least twice a year. Date and location for next meeting will be determined by the close of each meeting.

### SECTION 2. SPECIAL MEETINGS

- 6-2.1 The General Assembly may hold special meetings in the following ways;
- a) upon call of the Coordinating Committee.
  - b) upon agreement of delegates at a General Assembly meeting (fallback 2/3 vote).

### SECTION 3. AGENDA

- 6-3.1 Proposed agenda  
Establishing agenda for all regular General Assembly meetings and special meetings is the responsibility of the Coordinating Committee.
- 6-3.2 Draft agenda  
The CC has the task of collecting items, proposing an agenda and circulating a draft at least 3 weeks in advance of a meeting.
- 6-3.3 Agenda package  
The agenda package will include General Assembly committee draft proposals submitted by a General Assembly committee coordinator for pre-meeting consideration by the locals.
- 6-3.4 Agenda ratification  
Ratification of the proposed agenda and times will occur at the beginning of the Saturday session.

### SECTION 4. QUORUM

- 6-4.1 Quorum  
A quorum will exist for the purpose of opening a meeting when 2/3 (rounding to the nearest whole number) of the regions containing active counties are represented.

6-4.15 Criterion for active county status

For the purposes of this section, an active county shall be defined as fulfilling at least one of the following conditions:

- 1) The county has a County Council;
- 2) The county has sent delegates to at least two of the last three meetings;
- 3) The county has held a General Meeting within the last six months in which at least eight registered Greens were present, and delegates to the General Assembly were chosen. The county must notify the State Coordinating Committee that the General Meeting has taken place.

6-4.2 Quorum for decision-making

A quorum for decision making will exist when 80% of registered delegates are present.

- a) Delegates will sign in at the beginning of each session, identifying region and county.
- b) Facilitators will conduct a role call to establish a quorum at the beginning of each plenary session.

## SECTION 5. GUESTS AND OBSERVERS

6-5.1 Open meetings

General Assembly meetings are public and open to observers.

6-5.2 Observer registration and identification

- a) Guests and Green Party Observers will register with the host committee/door keepers.
- b) For purposes of identification by the facilitation team, delegates, Green Party observers, and guests will wear different colored name badges.

## SECTION 6. MEETING ROLES, DUTIES, RESPONSIBILITIES

6-6.1 Facilitation Team

- a) Coordinating Committee will present a team to the General Assembly for approval at the beginning of each plenary session
- b) Team provides non-directive leadership, process clarity, honors agenda contract, promotes good will; a facilitator does not give personal opinions unless clearly stepping out of her/his role as a facilitator.
- c) Responsibilities: must be registered Green Party voter (if eligible to vote in CA), must have a working knowledge of "formal consensus" as defined in the GREEN PARTY OF CALIFORNIA, must be in agreement with the "key values" of the GCoC, must have a working knowledge of the GREEN PARTY OF CALIFORNIA bylaws and guidelines, must be experienced at facilitation or have attended a workshop on same.

6-6.2 Minutes/Note Taker(s)

- a) Coordinating Committee, facilitation team, and/or hosting committee will provide at least one note taker for each plenary session.
- b) Note takers will compile an accurate record of the session highlighting decisions made and tasks taken on by delegates or others.
- c) Note takers will receive from committee leaders, copies of the committee proposals to be presented to the plenary. These will be included in the record as received and as amended during the session with notation as to disposition of the proposal.
- d) Minutes of every state-wide meeting will include a status report from each functioning General Assembly committee.
- e) The Coordinating Committee has the responsibility to see that minutes are properly recorded and gathered together at the close of a General Assembly meeting.
- f) In a timely manner, a copy of the draft minutes will be sent to each region and uploaded to EcoNet in the green.party conference.

6-6.3 Meeting Scribe

- a) The facilitation team will find a person to act as a public scribe for the purpose of writing on a board, or large piece of paper, those concerns or items of discussion that come out in the plenary sessions.

6-6.4 Timekeeper

- a) A timekeeper will work with the facilitation team to guide the group through the agenda contract.

- 6-6.5 Vibes Watcher(s)
- a) Vibes watcher(s) are presented to the General Assembly by the facilitation team before the session begins.
  - b) Vibes watchers are keepers of the group's cool - they pay attention to the overall mood or tone of the meeting. Only vibes watchers may interrupt the proceedings at any time to call for a time-out, break or to remind us all of our shared values and goals.
- 6-6.6 Doorkeeper(s)
- a) Coordinating Committee, facilitation team, or hosting committee will arrange for someone to be a doorkeeper at each General Assembly session.
  - b) Doorkeeper(s) will see that all persons sign-in and receive delegate or guest information packets.
  - c) Doorkeeper will keep a running record of delegates in the meeting room and be prepared to provide this to the facilitation team at all times.
- 6-6.7 General Assembly Delegates
- a) Delegates will sign-in before the first plenary session listing their county.
  - b) Delegates will be familiar with the bylaws and guidelines.
  - c) Delegates assume the responsibility to participate in all General Assembly sessions contracted in the agenda.
  - d) If a delegate must leave the meeting before the agenda has been completed, she/he will notify the facilitation team so that they will have an option to move to critical agenda items before the departure.

## SECTION 7. PARTICIPATION IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY DECISION-MAKING

- 6-7.1 Priority to authorized delegates
- Authorized delegates representing locals will be given priority in decision-making discussions. At the discretion of the facilitation team, and time permitting, observing Green Party members and guests will participate in these discussions.
- 6-7.2 Orientation
- All persons intending to participate in General Assembly meetings will first attend the meeting orientation session.
- 6-7.3 Voting
- In the event that a vote is necessary to make a General Assembly decision, only authorized delegates will participate.

## SECTION 8. THE FUNCTION OF GENERAL ASSEMBLY COMMITTEES IN MEETINGS

- 6-8.1 Proposals
- General Assembly committees receive, screen, develop, and present action proposals.
- 6-8.2 Role of presenter
- General Assembly committees will act in the role of advocate for the proposals they present to the General Assembly.
- a) The presenter will disclose to the General Assembly whether the committee brings the proposal forward with consensus or by a vote. If by a vote, the details of the vote will be presented.
- 6-8.3 Execution of proposal
- When adopted by the full General Assembly, the committee proposals are executed by the committee and the California Green Party.
- 6-8.4 Committee reports
- Every General Assembly committee will file a report with the Coordinating Committee at the close of each state-wide meeting for inclusion in the recorded minutes of the meeting. The report will include:
- a) The name, phone number and address of the committee coordinator(s).
  - b) The EcoNet address for the committee.
  - c) A list of the active members of the committee.
  - d) Status report on the committee's activities.



## SECTION 9. DECISION-MAKING AT GPCA MEETINGS

### 6-9.1 Consensus

Decisions of the Green Party of California shall be made at General Assemblies of the Green Party of California using a consensus-seeking process as follows:

- a) Consensus is sought after adequate discussion, including the repeated asking for and discussion of any unresolved concerns, within the time and content limits of the agenda.
- b) Any stand-asides will be recorded.
- c) In calling for a consensus, any unresolved concerns will be recorded, and those unresolved concerns will signal a move to a vote.
- d) Voting will be on the basis of a two-third majority for business and procedural questions, and an 80% majority to amend, repeal, or replace bylaws and to make policy decisions.
- e) If there is a question as to which voting count to use, the higher percentage will be needed for a vote.

### 6-9.2 Items presented in proposal form

Items being presented before the General Assembly for a decision will be in the form of proposals advocated by one of the General Assembly committees.

### 6-9.3 Assignment of uncertain items

The Coordinating Committee will receive, for consideration, those items falling into areas where committee assignment is uncertain.

### 6-9.4 Allotment of discussion time

The Coordinating Committee, in consultation with the agenda planners and the General Assembly committee coordinators, will assign each committee a finite amount of time before the General Assembly in plenary session. Times will be listed for presentation of the proposals and for discussion/approval. These times will be reviewed and ratified as an agenda contract at the beginning of each day's meeting.

### 6-9.5 Role of committee coordinator

The committee coordinator, or her/his assignee, will act as a "floor manager" for this block of time. The floor manager will assign proposals to the appropriate presenter for submission to the General Assembly.

### 6-9.6 Guidelines for prioritization

The committees will use the time allotted for proposals, reports, brainstorming, workshops, etc. within the following guidelines for prioritization:

- a) Proposals to advocate before the General Assembly.
  1. Committee generated material.
  2. Non-GPCA generated material.
- b) Other material, workshops, etc.

### 6-9.7 Presentation of a proposal before a meeting

- a) If possible, the committees will circulate proposals in the pre-meeting agenda package (and by EcoNet) to the locals.

### 6-9.8 Presentation of a proposal at a General Assembly meeting

- a) General Assembly committee coordinator (presenter) gives a written copy of the proposal to the minutes takers. At the same time, copies are given to delegates or a copy is posted by the scribe.
- b) The presenter provides a brief statement on the background of the proposal and how the committee has decided to bring it before the General Assembly for decision.
- c) The presenter reads the proposal which includes:
  1. What action is required by the Green Party of California?
  2. What timetable is anticipated for completion?
  3. Who will be accountable to report progress to the General Assembly?
  4. What are the budgetary implications of adoption?
- d) Time is given in the agenda for delegates to review the proposals from the committees.

## 6-9.9 Details of process flow

- 6-9.9.1 The facilitation team determines if a quorum exists.
- 6-9.9.2 General Assembly committee presenter for a given proposal answers "clarifying questions" from delegates.
- 6-9.9.3 Facilitation team checks for affirmations and concerns.
  - 1. Concerns are listed by the scribe where all can see them.
  - 2. Facilitation team gets a feel for everyone's assessment of the proposal.
- 6-9.9.4 The group seeks to resolve those concerns deemed legitimate by incorporating them into the proposal -presenter must agree to modifications before they can be made. Note takers read back any modifications to be sure they are properly recorded.
- 6-9.9.5 The facilitation team asks if there remain any unresolved concerns.
  - 1. If there are no remaining concerns, the proposal is adopted with the plan for implementation.
  - 2. If concerns remain, go to the next level for resolution.
- 6-9.9.6 The facilitation team asks those holding concerns if they are willing to allow the group to adopt the proposal without their approval, having their unresolved concerns listed with the plan for implementation.
  - 1. If those holding such concerns are agreeable, these "stand aside" concerns are recorded with the note takers and included in the minutes with the adopted proposal.
  - 2. If the person holding a concern is unwilling to stand aside, the facilitation team moves to the next level to seek a resolution.
- 6-9.9.7 The facilitation team addresses the remaining concerns one at a time as follows:
  - 1. The concern is restated.
  - 2. Questions clarify the concern.
  - 3. Discussion focuses on the single concern.
- 6-9.9.8 The facilitation team asks if all concerns are resolved.
  - 1. If yes, the proposal is adopted; stand asides are recorded with the implementation plan.
  - 2. If no, facilitation team asks for stand asides.
  - 3. If concern remains and is unwilling to stand aside, go to the closing options.
- 6-9.9.9 Closing options are the prerogative of the presenter and the advocating committee. They include:
  - 1. Return the proposal to committee for further refinement and an attempt to resolve the legitimate concerns raised.
  - 2. Suggest the empowerment of an ad hoc group made up of representatives of the remaining concerns and advocates of the proposal to reach some fair resolution and:
    - a. to act on behalf of the Green Party if time is critical in the matter or
    - b. to return to a subsequent plenary with a recommendation for adoption.
  - 3. Request additional time in the plenary to reach a resolution of any remaining concerns.
  - 4. Request that the General Assembly use the voting option.
- 6-9.9.10 Requests for additional agenda time for an item will include a specific number of minutes and whether the time will be added to the length of the meeting or if it will come from some other item. An 80% vote of the delegates is necessary to approve the request for more time.
- 6-9.9.11 Voting.

When the closing option of voting is selected by the presenter of the proposal, the facilitation team will proceed in the following steps:

  - 1. The note taker will be asked to read the proposal as it stands.
  - 2. The scribe will record the vote of the delegates where all can see it by "yes", "no" and "abstain".
  - 3. The facilitation team will call a role and record each delegate vote with the help of the doorkeeper.
  - 4. 2/3 vote is necessary to approve a "business" item.
  - 5. 80% vote is necessary to approve a "policy" item.
  - 6. If uncertain, the 80% figure is necessary.
  - 7. Abstentions are not counted in calculating the percentage vote, however if 20% or more of those voting abstain, the proposal fails.
  - 8. The roll call recorded vote will be included in the meeting minutes.
- 6-9.9.12 When time runs out...

The time keeper will notify the facilitation team when three minutes remain in the time allotted for a proposal. At this point, the presenter will decide on a closing option.

- 6-9.10 Points of order
- a) Any delegate may signal the facilitation team (by raising two hands) on a POINT OF CLARIFICATION if they do not understand the procedure or they believe a violation of these procedures has taken place. In doing so, they must identify at the outset which item in these procedures is at issue.
    1. The facilitation team will rule on the point of clarification.
  - b) Any delegate may signal the facilitation team on a POINT OF PROCEDURE if they have a procedural suggestion that they feel will aid or improve the facilitation of the discussion. Signal with two hands.
  - c) A POINT OF INFORMATION may be asked for at any time:
    1. By the facilitation team when there is an item of information that is important to the discussion;  
or
    2. By a note taker when there is some item of information that is important to record.

## **ARTICLE VII: COMMITTEES - FORMATION & FUNCTION**

### **SECTION 1. ESTABLISHMENT OF COMMITTEES**

- 7-1.1 Standing Committees  
A standing committee may be established or dissolved by a two-thirds majority vote of the General Assembly of the Green Party of California.
- 7-1.2 Ad Hoc Committees  
An ad-hoc committee may be established by a two-thirds majority vote of a General Assembly, or, in the absence of a meeting of the general body, by a two-thirds majority vote of the Coordinating Committee. Ad-hoc committees shall serve until the completion of the work for which they were established. An ad hoc committee will be dissolved by the body which established it.
- 7-1.3 Sub-Committees
- a) A sub-committee may be established by a two-thirds majority vote of any established committee.
  - b) A sub-committee may be dissolved by a two-thirds majority vote of the committee that established it.

### **SECTION 2. ACCOUNTABILITY**

- 7-2.1 General committee accountability  
Any committee is an arm of the body which establishes it, and it is directly responsible to that body, except that an ad-hoc committee established by the Coordinating Committee in the absence of a General Assembly, is also responsible to the General Assembly.

### **SECTION 3. STATEMENT OF PURPOSES**

- 7-3.1 General responsibilities  
Every standing committee must have a statement of purpose, scope, and powers. This statement must be approved as follows: for each standing committee, by a General Assembly; for each ad hoc committee, by a General Assembly or by the Coordinating Committee; for each sub-committee, by the General Assembly or the committee of which it is a subcommittee.

### **SECTION 4. MEMBERSHIP OF COMMITTEES**

- 7-4.1 Voluntary membership  
Membership of committees will be on a voluntary basis. Committees, however, may control their own membership with respect to the number of members, the skills of members, and the performance of members, as may be required to meet the needs of the committee.
- 7-4.2 Active and Inactive Members  
"Active members" shall be those members who have worked with a committee from one General Assembly to the next, and who have adequately completed all of their assignments and fulfilled all of their responsibilities. All active committee members must attend meetings and undertake and complete assignments as a part of their committee work. Members who fail to meet these requirements shall be considered inactive members of the committee. Members who remain inactive members for more than two consecutive state General Assemblies may be removed from the committee by a two thirds majority vote of the active members of the committee. Failure to attend meetings or complete work may be excused by 2/3 vote of the committee membership.

## SECTION 5. QUALIFICATIONS FOR VOTING

### 7-5.1 Voting within committees

Committees may have both active and inactive members. Only active members of committees may vote in committee decisions. The co-coordinators will prepare a list of the active and inactive members at the start of each General Assembly. This list will determine the status of members of the committee until the next General Assembly.

## SECTION 6. OPEN MEETINGS

### 7-6.1 Participation in committees

Committee meetings shall be open to all members of the California Green Party. Members, other than active committee members, wishing to address the committee, or participate in the discussions of the committee may do so at the discretion of the active members. Any active member may request closure on any issue under discussion. A two-thirds majority is required to carry the motion for closure.

## SECTION 7. COMMITTEE COORDINATORS

### 7-7.1 Establishment of two co-coordinators

Each committee will select from among its active members a pair of co-coordinators whose term of office will be 18 months. The terms of the co-coordinators shall be staggered and set nine months apart. The responsibilities of the committee coordinators will include:

- a) Establishing the committee agenda for the next General Assembly.
- b) Facilitating the assignment of committee tasks and responsibilities.
- c) Coordinating the activities of the committee between General Assemblies.
- d) Presenting committee proposals, resolutions, recommendations, etc. to the General Assembly.
- e) Filing reports to Coordinating Committee at close of General Assembly, per Article VI, Section 6, 6.2e.

## ARTICLE VIII. STANDING COMMITTEES OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

The standing committees of the General Assembly shall be as follows:

### SECTION 1. COORDINATING COMMITTEE

#### 8-1.1 Membership

The State Coordinating Committee will be comprised of 20 voting members. Fourteen members will be selected to provide regional balance. 8 members will come from the largest regions (2 each), with regional size being calculated annually by number of registered green party voters on the 1st registration count after January 1st of each year. 6 members will come from the remaining regions (1 each). Members will also be balanced by gender, age, culture as much as possible and the committee will have 6 additional at large members who will be chosen with this balancing in mind. In addition, the Liaison to the Secretary of State and the Treasurer shall be non-voting members of the State Coordinating Committee, and may not concurrently hold a voting seat on the Committee.

#### 8-1.1.1 Active and Inactive Regions

When a region becomes inactive, as defined in Article VI, section 4 of these bylaws, the Coordinating Committee seats which it is entitled to elect shall become at-large seats. If the region later becomes active, it shall be entitled to elect members to the next available seat(s).

#### 8-1.2 Duties and Authority

The coordinating committee will be generally responsible for coordinating meetings, internal communications and other administrative tasks, including the following:

- a) Establish agenda and select facilitators for general meetings.
- b) Monitor and assist committee work and refer matters to committees.
- c) Request and receive regular reports from committees.
- d) Authorize and ratify specific expenditures
- e) Authorize and carry out the decisions of the GPCA general membership and make executive decisions (but not set policy) between General Assembly meetings.
- f) May make statements in the name of the party
- g) Is authorized to retain legal council on behalf of the GPCA.
- h) Is authorized to make decisions which legal counsel advises.

- 8-1.3 Selection of members
- a) Selection of the regional members will be made by each region according to its own process. A copy of each region's process will be provided in writing to the coordinating committee.
  - b) Selection of the 6 at-large members will be made by the General Assembly. A list of nominees will be developed by the General Assembly and will be placed in order of number of votes received. Members will be selected to fill positions by list position, highest number of votes first. Voting will take place without nominees present.
- 8-1.4 Terms of Office
- a) Members will serve for 1.5 years. The first committee only will be chosen in order to stagger terms of office as follows:
  - b) One fourth of the membership will serve for a period of 9 months. One fourth... 12 mo, One fourth ... 15 mo, One fourth ... 18 mo
- Generally those members receiving the highest number of votes will serve longest.
- 8-1.5 Liaison to the Secretary of State
- The Liaison to the Secretary of State is the official contact of the GPCA with the State of California and with other organizations. The term of the Liaison shall be two years, beginning in odd-numbered years: the Liaison shall be nominated by the Coordinating Committee, and subject to the confirmation of the first meeting of the General Assembly in odd-numbered years. The Coordinating Committee shall immediately fill any vacancy in the office of Liaison, subject to the confirmation of the next meeting of the General Assembly.
- 8-1.6 Treasurer
- The Treasurer of the Green Party of California shall open and maintain bank accounts, keep financial records, and produce regular financial reports for the Green Party of California. The Treasurer shall also carry out any other duties appropriate and customary to the office of Treasurer. The term of the Treasurer shall be two years, beginning in odd-numbered years: the Treasurer shall be nominated by the Coordinating Committee, and subject to the confirmation of the first meeting of the General Assembly in odd-numbered years. The Coordinating Committee shall immediately fill any vacancy in the office of Treasurer, subject to the confirmation of the next meeting of the General Assembly.

SECTION 2. PLATFORM COMMITTEE

SECTION 3. BY-LAWS AND RULES COMMITTEE

SECTION 4. RESEARCH AND REPORTS COMMITTEE

SECTION 5. CANDIDATES AND CAMPAIGNS COMMITTEE

SECTION 6. EDUCATION AND MEDIA COMMITTEE

SECTION 7. CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE

SECTION 8. ALLIANCE BUILDING COMMITTEE

SECTION 9. GOALS & STRATEGY COMMITTEE

SECTION 10. INTERNAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

SECTION 11. FINANCE AND FUNDING COMMITTEE

SECTION 12. INITIATIVES COMMITTEE

[Sections 2 through 12 reserved for Committee Statements of Purpose]

SECTION 13. MEDIATION COMMITTEE

8-13.1 Membership

For purposes of resolving disputes within the Green Party, the General Assembly shall elect a standing Mediation panel chosen from candidates who are members of the Green Party, nominated for their ability to mediate conflicts. Panel members shall not be members of the Coordinating Committee.

8-13.2 Procedure for action

Upon application from any constituent bodies or at least five members of the Green Party, the Coordinating Committee shall assign a mediator from the panel. The parties to dispute shall bear the cost of mediation as determined by the mediation process. Participation in mediation or arbitration shall be voluntary. Locals are encouraged to develop their own mediation process.

## **ARTICLE IX: ENDORSEMENTS AND RESOLUTIONS**

### **SECTION 1. STATEWIDE ENDORSEMENT PROCEDURE**

#### **9-1.1 Endorsement process for statewide initiatives**

Each local (definition: active county) has input on whether to endorse an initiative. Information will flow through a liaison in each region, to the regional representative, to the Endorsement Coordinator to determine if the GP is giving an official endorsement. 50% of the regions must report in to establish a quorum.

### **SECTION 2. RESOLUTION ON RATIFICATION OF PLATFORM**

#### **9-2.1 Platform approval**

The platform shall be approved at the statewide meeting by the plenary.

#### **9-2.2 Platform amendments procedure**

The state platform can be amended with the approval of the state body.

## **ARTICLE X: CANDIDATES FOR PARTISAN OFFICE**

### **SECTION 1. STATEWIDE OFFICES**

[The provisions of this section have been suppressed by the courts]

#### **10-1.1 Survey of offices**

At the plenary held immediately prior to 111 days before each direct primary election, the plenary will survey the various statewide partisan offices available at that time to be contested during that election year, and will decide which, if any, of them the Party will contest for that election year.

#### **10-1.2 Notice of closed races**

The Coordinating Committee shall inform the Secretary of State's office within two business days after each of these meetings of the plenary's decision. The decision will specifically request that no candidate be allowed to submit Green Party nomination papers, nor have their name listed on the ballot as a Green Party candidate for that election year's primary election, for any Statewide partisan office which the plenary has decided not to contest for that election year.

#### **10-1.3 Which races are included**

Statewide partisan offices as used in this section shall include US President, US Vice President, and US Senator in addition to the State of California offices of Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Secretary of State, Controller, Treasurer, Attorney General and Insurance Commissioner.

#### **10-1.4 NOTA**

[The None of the Above option on the Green Party of California Primary Election ballot has been suppressed by the Courts.]

### **SECTION 2. DISTRICT OFFICES**

#### **10-2.1 Survey of offices**

Prior to each direct primary election, each County will survey the various district partisan offices available at that time to be contested during that election year, and will decide which if any of them the Party will contest for that election year.

#### **10-2.2 Districts which include more than one county**

If any district includes more than one county, or any part thereof, the involved counties should mutually participate in the decision about whether to contest that office. Each county shall inform the Coordinating Committee of their decision(s) no later than 115 days before the direct primary election.

#### **10-2.3 Notice of closed races**

The Coordinating Committee shall inform the Secretary of State no later than 111 days prior to each direct primary election of the decisions of each county, specifically requesting that no candidate be allowed to submit Green Party nomination papers nor have their name listed on the ballot as a Green Party candidate for that election year's primary election for any district partisan offices which the counties have decided not to contest for that election year.

10-2.4 County failure to report

If any county fails to report to the Coordinating Committee on or before 115 days before the direct primary election, it shall be assumed that that county does not wish to contest any of the district partisan offices in that county.

10-2.5 Mediation of decisions

For any district including more than one county, if there are conflicting county decisions, and those counties are unable to mutually agree on a decision by twelve o'clock noon on the 115th day prior to the direct primary election, then the Coordinating Committee may make that decision for them.

10-2.6 Which races are included

District partisan offices as used in this section shall include CA State Assembly, CA State Senate, State Board of Equalization, and US House of Representatives.

10-2.7 Comparison of blank ballots to candidates selected

For any district partisan office to win the Green Party's direct primary election, the winning candidate must not only receive more votes than any other candidate, but she or he must also receive more votes than the total of all Green Party ballots left blank for that office.

[NOTE: The provisions of this article have been suppressed by the courts.]

**ARTICLE XI. RELATIONS WITH OTHER GREEN PARTIES AND ALLIED GROUPS**

(unadopted)

**XII. GENERAL POLICIES**

(unadopted)

**ARTICLE XIII. AMENDMENT OF BYLAWS**

**SECTION 1. INITIATION OF AMENDMENT**

('amendment' refers to changing the bylaws in any way, including both deletions and additions)

13-1.1 Methods of initiation

An amendment to the bylaws can be initiated in one of three ways:

- a) by the Bylaws Committee, or
- b) at the request of a 2/3 majority of the plenary at a General Assembly meeting, either as a result of group discussion or at the request of a delegate, or
- c) by a local group sending a proposal for amendment to the Bylaws Committee or to the Coordinating Committee.

13-1.2 Role of Bylaws Committee

- a) Any proposed amendment to the Bylaws except a) above must then go to the Bylaws Committee, which will discuss, confer with the author(s), refine if necessary, and analyze the effect on the Bylaws as a whole. The Bylaws Committee may recommend to the author(s) that a proposed amendment should be withdrawn, but the decision to withdraw or not is entirely the author's.
- b) The Bylaws Committee will circulate a draft of that proposed amendment to the counties at least three weeks prior to the next General Assembly. It is the responsibility of the Bylaws Committee to present the proposed amendment to the General Assembly for discussion and possible ratification.

**SECTION 2. RATIFICATION OF AMENDMENT**

13-2.1 Eighty percent required

Any amendment to the bylaws must be ratified by at least an 80% roll call vote of the General Assembly.

## **APPENDIX A. OUTLINE OF A TYPICAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY AGENDA**

### **FRIDAY**

- Coordinating Committee meets.
- Other committees may also meet.
- Social gathering for people and locals.
- Arrivals check-in and make housing arrangements.

### **SATURDAY**

- Registration of delegates and observers.
- Greeting and opening ceremony.
- Updates from the locals.
- Filling of the meeting roles and quorum established.
- Presentation and ratification of the agenda.
- Presentation and approval of minutes from last General Assembly meeting.
- Orientation and Facilitation workshops.
- Committees meet.
- Presentation of proposals by committees.
- Time allowed for delegates to review proposals.
- Plenary session of the General Assembly.
- Evening events and ad hoc meetings.

### **SUNDAY**

- Late registration of delegates and observers.
- Opening and review of Saturday's events.
- Committees meet.
- Presentation of proposals by committees.
- Delegates review proposals.
- General Assembly plenary session.
- Set the next General Assembly meeting.
- Review decisions made and tasks taken.
- Pass the hat/announcements.
- Evaluation session.
- Closing ceremony.