

Sample Bylaws for a Local GPF Affiliate

(from Pinellas County 2016)

Preamble.

Local Green Party, an affiliate of the Green Party of Florida (GPFL), is committed to building an America based on Justice, Freedom and Economic Democracy, in accordance with the 10 Key Values of the Green Party of the United States, specifically:

- Ecological wisdom.
- Grassroots democracy.
- Personal and global responsibility.
- Nonviolence.
- Decentralization.
- Community-based economics.
- Gender equality.
- Respect for diversity.
- Social justice.
- A future focus / sustainability

All “power” in the Local Green Party is vested in the Active Membership, and while responsibilities may be delegated by the Active Membership to individuals and other bodies, the Active Membership remains as the ultimate authority.

A Steering Committee (SC) is vested with responsibility for carrying out the tasks of the body between meetings. The SC is to be composed of the affiliate’s elected officers, and those other Active Members chosen by the full membership per these Bylaws.

We strive to the utmost to make our decisions at every level by consensus. In cases where consensus is not achieved, matters may be put to a vote, with a 2/3 majority required for anything other than routine administrative matters. For all votes, abstentions are not counted in determining whether a vote meets the 2/3 threshold.

Specifics are delineated below:

(1) Name.

The name of this organization is the Local Green Party.

(2) Membership.

To be a voting member one must (1) be a Registered Green, and (2) have filled out an Active Membership form declaring membership in Local Green Party and affirming support of the abovereferenced 10 Key Values. If the registered Green’s name does not yet appear on the County voter rolls, a current Voter Registration card issued by Pinellas County will suffice as proof of Green status.

(3) Structure and Meetings.

All decision-making power rests in the membership, which shall strive to meet monthly, but must meet at least quarterly. A quorum of at least 6 must be present to make decisions. That quorum of 6 must at least include one of the co-chairs, two additional elected officers or coordinating council representatives, and three other active members. The Secretary will notify members in a timely manner of the time, date, place and agenda of such general membership meetings. Prior to or at the beginning of the meeting, a Facilitator will be designated, who will guide discussion. The agenda can be amended or adjusted by the quorum of active members present by consensus or 2/3 vote. The members will strive for consensus on all decisions. If consensus is not immediately reached, all views will be given an opportunity to be fully expressed and explored. If consensus is still not achieved, those in dissent can stand aside and allow the group to proceed, and the essence of the dissent will be noted. If those in dissent believe the issue at hand is so important that

they are unwilling to stand aside, the item will be tabled until the next general membership meeting. However, if 2/3 of those present believe an immediate decision is required, an immediate non-secret vote will be taken. Only those Active Members in attendance may vote and a 2/3 majority will be required to pass the item in question. The Active Members may, by unanimous consent, allow non-Greens or new attendees to vote at a given meeting or on a given issue.

(4) Officers.

At a General Membership Meeting of the Local Green Party, just prior to the Annual General Membership Meeting of the Green Party of Florida (GPFL)*, Local Green Party will elect two Co-Chairs, a Secretary and a Treasurer. (Secretary and Treasurer may be held by one person if necessary.) In addition, Pinellas Greens will be allotted at least two representatives to the GPFL Coordinating Council. All officers will be elected or re-elected at the above-mentioned meeting, regardless of their actual election date. Those officers are as follows:

Co-Chairs. At least one must be a woman. Their primary responsibilities are to act as a central point of contact for members and committees, and to achieve accountability for those doing Green Party business. This includes ascertaining and representing the will and needs of the affiliate, while at the same time providing guidance and direction. They may, in the absence of any other designated spokesperson, act as spokespersons for the body.

Secretary. His or her primary responsibilities are to keep updated lists of Active Members, act as custodians of the Active Membership forms, prepare and distribute minutes and agendas, and in general handle all communications to and from Local Green Party.

Treasurer. The treasurer will set up and/or maintain a bank account on behalf of the local affiliate, should she or he be so directed by the membership. They are primarily responsible for handling all financial matters as they arise.

Coordinating Council (CC) Representatives. Each GPFL affiliate is by custom allotted at least two representatives on the GPFL Coordinating Council (CC), with voting strength allotted as described in the "[Bylaws Revision 06/15/13](#)" to the GPFL bylaws. These Reps are our formal link to the GPFL state organization. Their primary responsibilities are to communicate to the Local Green Party members events happening at the GPFL state level, and to represent the interests of our affiliate at the CC monthly teleconferences.

In choosing its officers, the Membership must strive to achieve the racial, sexual, and other diversity reflective of our society.

(5) Steering Committee (SC).

The Steering Committee shall consist of the Co-Chairs, Secretary, and Treasurer. It may also incorporate the CC Reps and committee heads, as the affiliate may require or desire. The Steering Committee is authorized to act on behalf of the organization between general Membership meetings. The Steering Committee will work with the Co-Chairs in setting agendas. It is not authorized to place the organization in debt.

(6) Accountability.

While exercising its best judgment, the SC must not act contrary to any express decisions or policies of the general membership, or knowingly act contrary to the will of the membership. On those rare occasions where the SC is in doubt as to the will of the membership and action is required, they must make a good faith effort to actively ascertain the will of the membership. Officers may be removed by the membership for good cause. A written proposal to do so must be put forward listing such good cause at a duly constituted Membership Meeting, and be approved at a subsequent Membership Meeting occurring no less than two weeks later by consensus or by a 2/3 vote of the Active Membership present.

(7) Amendments.

These Bylaws may be amended at any general membership meeting with two weeks advance notice by consensus per paragraph (3) above, except that if consensus cannot be reached, the final vote allowing any amendment must be at least 75% of those in attendance.

These Bylaws do not preclude the Membership from adopting "working rules," committees, and ad hoc bodies

as necessary without formally incorporating them into the Bylaws, provided they are arrived at by the standard consensus/vote procedure, and do not in substance violate these Bylaws.

* The Annual General Membership Meeting of the Green Party of Florida (GPFL) is traditionally held at the end of May or early June.