

The Palm Beach County-Green Party Bylaws Adopted January 30, 2017

ARTICLE I. NAME

The name of this organization shall be the Palm Beach County Green Party (PBGP).

ARTICLE II. PURPOSE AND VALUES

2.1 PURPOSE STATEMENT

The purpose of this organization shall be to create a society as represented by the Ten Key Values of the Greens:

GRASSROOTS DEMOCRACY Every human being deserves a say in the decisions that affect their lives and not be subject to the will of another. Therefore, we will work to increase public participation at every level of government and to ensure that our public representatives are fully accountable to the people who elect them. We will also work to create new types of political organizations which expand the process of participatory democracy by directly including citizens in the decision-making process.

SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EQUAL OPPORTUNITY All persons should have the rights and opportunity to benefit equally from the resources afforded us by society and the environment. We must consciously confront in ourselves, our organizations, and society at large, barriers such as race and class discrimination, sexism and homophobia, ageism and disability, which act to deny fair treatment and equal justice under the law.

ECOLOGICAL WISDOM Human societies must operate with the understanding that we are part of nature, not separate from nature.

We must maintain an ecological balance and live within the ecological and resource limits of our communities and our planet. We support a sustainable society which utilizes resources in such a way that future generations will benefit and not suffer from the practices of our generation. To this end we must practice agriculture which replenishes the soil; move to an energy efficient economy, and live in ways that respect the integrity of natural systems.

NON-VIOLENCE It is essential that we develop effective alternatives to society's current patterns of violence. We will work to demilitarize, and eliminate weapons of mass destruction, without being naive about the intentions of other governments.

We recognize the need for self-defense and the defense of others who are in helpless situations. We promote non-violent methods to oppose practices and policies with which we disagree, and will guide our actions toward lasting personal, community and global peace.

DECENTRALIZATION Centralization of wealth and power contributes to social and economic injustice, environmental destruction, and militarization. Therefore, we support a restructuring of social, political and economic institutions away from a system which is controlled by and mostly benefits a powerful few, to a democratic, less bureaucratic system. Decision-making should, as much as possible, remain at the individual and local level, while assuring that civil rights are

protected for all citizens.

COMMUNITY-BASED ECONOMICS AND ECONOMIC JUSTICE

We recognize it is essential to create a vibrant and sustainable economic system, one that can create jobs and provide a decent standard of living for all people while maintaining a healthy ecological balance. A successful economic system will offer meaningful work with dignity, while paying a "living wage" which reflects the real value of a person's work.

Local communities must look to economic development that assures protection of the environment and workers' rights; broad citizen participation in planning; and enhancement of our "quality of life". We support independently owned and operated companies which are socially responsible, as well as cooperatives and public enterprises that distribute resources and control to more people through democratic participation.

FEMINISM AND GENDER EQUITY We have inherited a social system based on an imbalance of political and economic power. We call for the replacement of the cultural ethics of domination and control with more cooperative ways of interacting that respect differences of opinion and gender. Human values such as equity between the sexes, interpersonal responsibility, and honesty must be developed with moral conscience. We should remember that the process that determines our decisions and actions is just as important as achieving the outcome we want.

RESPECT FOR DIVERSITY We believe it is important to value cultural, ethnic, racial, sexual, religious and spiritual diversity, and to promote the development of respectful relationships across these lines. We believe that the many diverse elements of society should be reflected in our organizations and decision-making bodies, and We support the leadership of people who have been traditionally closed out of leadership roles. We acknowledge and encourage respect for other life forms than our own and the preservation of biodiversity.

PERSONAL AND GLOBAL RESPONSIBILITY We encourage individuals to act to improve their personal well-being and, at the same time, to enhance ecological balance and social harmony. We seek to join with people and organizations around the World to foster peace, economic justice, and the health of the planet.

FUTURE FOCUS AND SUSTAINABILITY Our actions and policies should be motivated by long-term goals. We seek to protect valuable natural resources, safely disposing of or "unmaking" all waste we create, while developing a sustainable economics that does not depend on continual expansion for survival. We must counterbalance the drive for short-term profits by assuring that economic development, new technologies, and fiscal policies are responsible to future generations who will inherit the results of our actions.

QUALITY OF LIFE

Our overall goal is not merely to survive, but to share lives that are truly worth living. We believe the quality of our individual lives is enriched by the quality of all of our lives. We encourage everyone to see the dignity and intrinsic Worth in all of life, and to take the time to understand and appreciate themselves, their community and the magnificent beauty of this world.

2.2 METHODS

The Palm Beach County Green Party is committed to nonviolent methods for achieving social change including, but not limited to, direct action, community organizing and education, personal empowerment, issue-oriented campaigns, ballot initiatives and electoral campaigns.

ARTICLE III, STRUCTURE

3.1 GENERAL MEETINGS

All General Meetings shall be open to the public.

3.2 SESSIONS OF THE GENERAL MEETINGS

The Membership shall meet at least quarterly. Notice and agendas of upcoming General Meetings shall be made available to all Members in advance of each meeting.

3.3 GENERAL POWERS OF THE MEMBERSHIP

The Membership shall have final approval over all PBGP policies and financial decisions. It may elect or recall the Co-Chairs, Secretary, the Treasurer and at-large members of the Coordinating Council; it may also re-direct the efforts of Standing Committees and working groups and amend the bylaws as necessary.

3.4 VOTING

All PBGP members in good standing may vote in PBGP elections, referendums, suspensions and motions. For election of Coordinating Council, a majority (50% + 1) of members in good standing in attendance or by proxy at the first general meeting in the calendar year is required.

3.5 COORDINATING COUNCIL. PURPOSE AND DUTIES

The Coordinating Council (Council) of the Palm Beach County Green Party shall facilitate work between General Meetings, oversee press and media activities and serve as a primary liaison body with other organizations. The Council shall make endorsements and statements only in keeping with policies set forth in these bylaws. The Council shall serve as the legal board of the organization. In addition, the Council shall complete a fiscal audit on an annual basis. All Council decisions are subject to review and revision by the Membership. In all matters, the Council must bear in mind that they are merely elected to serve the PBGP Membership, and therefore must act in accordance with the Ten Key Values. No Member shall be placed in a position of unqualified authority over others. In all actions, the Council shall be answerable to the Membership as a whole.

3.6 COORDINATING COUNCIL MEETINGS AND DECISION MAKING

The Council shall meet at least quarterly. The time, place and agenda shall be set by the Council and publicized to all PBGP Members. Council meetings shall be open to all Members and those whom the Council chooses to admit. The decision making process shall be by consensus. In the event that a vote is required, a two-thirds majority of those members in attendance is sufficient to decide the issue at hand.

3.7 COMPOSITION OF THE COORDINATING COUNCIL

The Council shall be composed of the 2 Co-Chairpersons (Co-Chairs), the Secretary and the Treasurer who are elected by the Membership. Each Standing Committee must also select a representative to the Council, subject to the approval of the Membership. The elected Delegates to the State Coordinating Council shall also serve on the coordinating council. In addition, a maximum of three at-large representatives may be selected by the Membership to serve.

3.8 COORDINATING COUNCIL TERMS OF SERVICE

The 2 Co-Chairs, Secretary, Treasurer and at-large Members will serve terms of one year each. The Council shall be elected in the first general meeting of the calendar year. There will be a limit of four years for any individual to hold a given office.

3.9 MEMBERSHIP INVOLVEMENT IN ANOTHER POLITICAL PARTY

Coordinating Council Members shall not serve on another political party's decision making body. Further, if they decide to do so, they shall immediately disclose such membership and remove themselves from the Council.

3.10 CO-CHAIRPERSONS

The Co-Chairpersons shall be responsible for overseeing the implementation of any Party initiatives, calling, with proper notice, General Membership and Council meetings when required by these Bylaws or deemed necessary by the Council and generating a proposed agenda for any meeting of the General Membership or Council. The Co-Chairs or their delegates shall serve as liaison to local, regional and national public interest groups. If the Treasurer is unavailable, either Co-Chair is authorized to write and sign checks on behalf of the PBGP.

3.11 SECRETARY

The Secretary shall be responsible for notifying the Membership of upcoming meetings, taking and publishing minutes of General and Coordinating Council meetings, and keeping accurate records, including a current membership list. The Secretary shall exercise special care to make all records, announcements and other important communication easily accessible to all Members, especially those without Internet access. The Secretary's duties shall also include maintaining a PBGP post office address and telephone.

3.12 TREASURER

The Treasurer shall keep well-documented accounting records, prepare yearly budgets, monitor ongoing expenses and make quarterly reports to the Council and the Membership. The Treasurer is authorized to write and sign checks on behalf of the PBGP.

3.13 SUSPENSION OR REMOVAL

Any Member of the Council or Membership may be suspended or removed for reasonable cause by a three quarters vote of the Council. The vote shall be approved by the Membership, and is subject to appeal (see section 3.14). The term of suspension or removal shall be

determined by the Council and be subject to Membership review. A suspended Member may not participate in consensus decision-making and voting. A removed Member is restricted in the same manner as is a suspended Member, and additionally may not attend Council meetings.

3.14 APPEALS

Any Member who is suspended or removed may appeal. Appeals may be made to the Council or directly to the Membership. One appeal may be submitted per term of suspension or removal. Appeal decisions made by the Council must be approved by the Membership.

3.15 STANDING COMMITTEES AND WORKING GROUPS

The Council may establish Standing Committees and other Working groups as necessary to initiate and coordinate the activities of the PBGP. The Council may establish such bodies on an interim basis, pending review and confirmation by the Membership. Proposals for new Standing Committees and working groups must be supported by at least three Members in good standing, and must clearly define the purpose of the proposed new body. Working groups shall not have representation on the Council. Examples of Standing Committees are Membership, Bylaws and Council Elections.

ARTICLE IV. MEMBERSHIP

4.1. APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

Membership in the PBGP is open to anyone, regardless of gender, race, age, color, national origin, spiritual belief, sexual orientation, economic status or physical challenge. An applicant shall sign a statement affirming that she is in general agreement with the Ten Key Values and the bylaws of the Palm Beach County Green Party or present evidence of green registration.

4.2 POWERS AND DUTIES OF MEMBERS

[suggested edit to reflect state bylaws:] ~~Members are those who are registered, or have filled out a membership form.~~ To be a voting member one must (1) be a Registered Green, or otherwise qualified as per GPFL bylaws, and (2) have filled out an Active Membership form. Members may vote on issues, serve on the Council and Standing Committees, and join Working groups. They may also participate in all electronic communications of the PBGP. Membership in this organization is based on mutual respect. Members are encouraged to embrace the principle that Green success is based on integrity, unity and placing the harmonious well being of the PBGP ahead of personal ambition and self-interest. Members must participate in good faith in discussion and decision-making, and resolve conflicts peacefully. Members shall refrain from abusive and/or disruptive behavior. Any Member who fails to fulfill these responsibilities may be subject to suspension or removal (see section 3.13).

ARTICLE V. DECISION MAKING METHODOLOGY

The Palm Beach County Green Party shall seek consensus on all decisions, open-mindedly hearing all views and concerns in full. This provision shall be subject to reasonable time constraints. Where consensus cannot be reached, decisions by all bodies of the PBGP shall be approved by a two-thirds vote of those in attendance. The PBGP shall always honor and

respect the minority opinion and ensure its expression in an appropriate manner. Subsequent to all Membership Votes, Members shall have an opportunity to request, and have the right to receive reconsideration of the decision.

ARTICLE V. BYLAW AMENDMENTS

6.1 PROCEDURE FOR AMENDMENT

Proposed bylaw amendments must be submitted in writing to the Council for their consideration. In order to be submitted, an amendment must have the support of at least three Members in good standing.

6.2 NOTIFICATION

At least two weeks in advance of the General Meeting at which an amendment or amendments to these bylaws are to be considered, the Secretary shall notify all Members of a) the date and time of the meeting, b) the complete text of the proposed amendment(s), and c) the complete text of the provision being considered for amendment.

6.3 RATIFICATION

At General Meetings, the Membership may adopt bylaw amendments through consensus, or in the absence of consensus, by three-quarters majority vote Members may vote by proxy and a proxy vote is counted as a member in attendance