

# **Bylaws of the Dakota County Green Party**

## **Article I: Name**

The name of the organization shall be Dakota County Green Party, and it is a local affiliate of the Green Party of Minnesota.

## **Article II: Purpose**

The Dakota County Green Party (DCGP) is founded upon and committed to furthering the 10 key values of the Green Movement: Grassroots Democracy, Social and Economic Justice, Ecological Wisdom, Nonviolence, Decentralization, Community-Based Economics, Feminism and Gender Equality, Respect for Diversity, Personal and Global Responsibility, Future Focus and Sustainability.

The DCGP is hereby instituted to advance these values through electoral politics, citizen education and activism.

## **Article III: Membership**

### **Section 1: Eligibility**

All Dakota County residents who share an acceptance of and a commitment to the Green Party's 10 Key values may claim membership. To claim membership a person must declare their intention to claim membership in writing, including their name and contact information, to the DCGP chairperson.

### **Section 2: Voting Rights**

Members of the DCGP gain voting rights,

- 30 days after first claiming membership
- or
- After having attended 2 general membership meetings

whichever comes first.

### **Section 3: State Party Membership**

The DCGP shall forward names of new members to the Green Party of Minnesota within 60 days to facilitate their becoming members of the Green Party of Minnesota.

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## Article IV: Structure and Meetings

### Section 1:

All decision-making power rests in the membership except where otherwise specified within this document. The DCGP shall hold General Membership Meetings on a regular and ongoing basis. We shall strive to make all decisions by consensus of those members present. If consensus cannot be reached, then motions will be passed by a 2/3-majority vote of those members present.

### Section 2:

The general membership may select members to serve on ad hoc committees as needed.

### Section 3:

The April General Membership Meeting will be when elections shall be held, and an annual treasurer's report will be made.

## Article V: Elected Officials

The membership of the DCGP shall elect the following officers:

- Chair- whose function will be to ensure that meetings are convened on a regular basis and to act as the signatory on required legal documents.
- Treasurer- whose function will be to keep track of income and expenditures and file all required tax and/or monetary reporting documents with the proper state agencies.
- Three additional members will be elected to fill out a 5 member Contingency Committee that includes the Chair and Treasurer.

These additional duties will be fulfilled by the Contingency Committee members:

- 1) **Scribe/Historian/Secretary**- to ensure meeting notes are taken and past records are kept.
- 2) **Contact/Communications** – to act as contact person to the GPMN, the media, and the membership.
- 3) **Community Liaison** – to be a liaison between DCGP and other organizations DCGP has an interest in working with on Green issues.

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Elections shall be held in April. Each office shall be held for a period of one year, beginning at the first General Membership Meeting in May

In the event of that an officer becomes unable to serve for whatever reason; notification will be given to the general membership, that a special election to fill the vacancy will be held at the next General Membership Meeting.

## **Article VI: Contingency Committee**

A committee of 5 persons, that includes the chair and treasurer, will be elected by the general membership and be called the Contingency Committee. This committee is limited to the following rights and responsibilities:

- This committee is given the responsibility of making decisions that need to be made IF AND ONLY IF issues arise after one General Membership Meeting and the decision needs to be made prior to the next General Membership Meeting.
- This committee has the right to call a special meeting if they determine that one would be necessary to fairly and democratically decide some major question (i.e. candidate endorsement for a special election) IF AND ONLY IF it needed to be done prior to the next General Membership Meeting.
- This committee would have the authority to make expenditures up to \$100.00, IF AND ONLY IF such expenditure had to be made prior to the next General Membership meeting.

## **Article VII: Candidate Endorsements**

### **Section 1:**

To receive the endorsement of the DCGP a candidate must undergo a screening process. The screening will take place at a general membership meeting. The endorsement will be granted by a 2/3-majority vote of the DCGP members present.

### **Section 2:**

Candidates must demonstrate a commitment to the Green Party values as well as a commitment to building the Green Party.

### **Section 3:**

Candidates must be a member of the DCGP or the GPMN and must be willing, should they be elected, to maintain open communication with DCGP.

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## **Section 4:**

Other types of endorsements shall follow the decision making process spelled out in Article IV, Section 1.

## **Article VIII: Amendments**

Any proposed amendments to these bylaws must be submitted in writing prior to or at the March General Membership Meeting. The proposed amendments will be made available to DCGP members prior to the April General Membership Meeting. Proposed amendment shall be considered at the April General Membership Meeting.

An amendment shall pass by consensus or a  $\frac{3}{4}$  vote of all members present at the April General Membership Meeting.

Bylaws were adopted on April 29, 2003 - Dakota Co, Minnesota.  
Updated April 27<sup>th</sup> 2004