

# By-Laws of the Green Party of Michigan

Adopted June 6, 2015; Amended 3/19/2016; 3/25/2017

## Article I – Name and Purpose

**Section 1:** The name of this organization is the Green Party of Michigan (GP-MI).

**Section 2:** The purpose of this organization is to advance Green Party principles.

## Article II – Membership

**Section 1 – *Becoming a member:*** All you need to do to become a member of GP-MI is to sign and submit a statement that you live in Michigan, have read the principles of the party, and support them. Your membership continues until you resign, move out of state, or die or your membership is revoked.

**Section 2 – *Voting Rights:*** You have voting rights at any GP-MI State Membership Meeting (SMM) if you are a member at the time of the meeting and you have been a member for 60 days prior to the meeting. The body may decide, on request, to grant voting rights to those who have not been members for 60 days, but it is not obligated to do so.

**Section 3 – *Member Responsibilities:*** Members shall become familiar with the consensus model used by GP-MI and shall participate within that model, showing respect for all views and members. Members shall keep their contact information current with the Membership Manager.

**Section 4 – *State Meetings:*** The leadership shall schedule at least three SMMs each calendar year, and publish a yearly schedule of those meetings. All members are encouraged to attend if possible.

**Section 5 – *Revocation or Suspension of Membership:*** The procedure for revocation or suspension of membership shall be as specified in the GP-MI Handbook, and may only be amended at an SMM. Any amendment shall take effect only for revocation or suspension processes that start after the amendment is approved, and no amendment to the procedure shall enable a decision to revoke or suspend a membership by less than consensus or a 2/3 supermajority.

## Article III – Locals

### **Section 1 – *Locals Defined:***

- A)** A local may be created by three or more GP-MI members living in a single county or up to three contiguous counties.
- B)** For a local to become official, its membership must submit to the state leadership, in a format provided, the name of the local, the names and current contact information of its members, its officer structure (if it has one), and its official contact person(s) for the flow of information to and from the state leadership.
- C)** Once the requisite documentation is submitted, the local is automatically an official affiliate of GP-MI and may conduct appropriate business and activism as such. The affiliation may only be ended by a decision on an announced agenda item at an SMM.
- D)** Each local of up to ten members may appoint one rep to the SCC. Each local of 11 or more members may appoint two reps to the SCC.

### **Section 2 – *Responsibilities of Locals:***

- A)** A local may volunteer to host state meetings and training in its area.
- B)** Locals may meet and organize as seems best to them, but are responsible for providing a quarterly update to the appropriate Locals Liaison as to their numbers, structure, and efforts.
- C)** Locals are responsible for having their reps be active on the SCC. If a rep is not active, the local may be invited to replace that rep.

## **Article IV – Officers**

### **Section 1 – Officer Elections:**

- A)** All officers shall be elected annually at the first state membership meeting of the calendar year. All officers may designate people to assist them in their duties, provided those so designated are reported to the SCC and all responsibility remains with the officer. The SMM may decide to “share” any office.
- B) Interim vacancies in party leadership:** If a GP-MI officer or National Representative position is vacated for any reason before a completed term, the SCC shall decide whether to have a current SCC member assume the duties of the vacated position, appoint someone not on the SCC to the position temporarily, or neither. Regardless, the position shall be on the agenda at the next SMM.
- C) Concentration of positions:** A list of who holds each party leadership position (officer or national representative) listed in this Article, each SCC rep seat, and each Committee Chair shall be made available at each SMM. If a single person holds two or more of the positions listed (excluding shared Committee Chairs and National Representative posts), all posts she/he holds, except one of his/her choice, must be opened to election under the applicable rules; the current officeholder may stand for re-election. If no nominations are made and accepted for a post, the member may retain that post without need for an election.
- D)** Officers may be removed from their positions by the procedures stated in the Handbook.

**Section 2 – Chairperson:** The party Chair is responsible for responding to requests for interviews, appearances, and requests for statements from the media. The party Chair is also Chair of the SCC, and is responsible for administration of group communications.

**Section 3 – Committee Manager:** The Committee Manager manages committees other than the State Central Committee and fills in for the Chair as needed, including administration of the SCC.

**Section 4 – Treasurer:** The Treasurer shall be responsible for: managing and handling all funds of the state party and its associated committees; preparing and filing all required financial documents and keeping GP-MI in compliance with laws and regulations; sending out at least annual requests for donations, in coordination with the Membership Manager; and keeping the party informed about its financial condition at SMMs and through the SCC.

**Section 5 – Archivist:** The Archivist shall be responsible for records such as GP-MI meeting minutes, press releases, the Handbook, the by-laws, and the platform. The Archivist may assist the Treasurer in archiving all financial documents.

**Section 6 – Membership Manager:** The Membership Manager is responsible for keeping records of membership and sending out annual requests for donations; coordinates with the Treasurer when donations come in; coordinating with the Treasurer in sending out annual requests for donations; supplying membership forms for meetings and other events; and supplying current member contact information to all appropriate officers.

**Section 7 – Meeting Manager:** The Meeting Manager arranges state membership meetings and nominating conventions, and provides a yearly schedule of these by date and region. The Meeting Manager keeps track of and delivers supplies for SMMs and conventions, including AV equipment, and is responsible for notifying all members of these meetings at least 30 days in advance.

**Section 8 – Elections Coordinator:** The Elections Coordinator shall be responsible for helping GP-MI be aware of and follow laws and regulations in its election-related activities, including appointment of election challengers and poll-watchers; recruiting candidates for GP-MI nomination or endorsement; assembling and providing current information about the party's nomination/endorsement processes, including advance/draft convention rules; helping nominated candidates file required paperwork; and supporting campaigns. The Elections Coordinator shall also manage any election-related online group activities.

**Section 9 – Locals Liaison:** The Locals Liaison is the primary advocate for locals, welcoming new members; assigning mentors for the new members; and receiving the registration forms from new locals and the quarterly reports from locals to enter them into the state party records.

**Section 10 – Communications Manager:** The Communications Manager is responsible for coordinating and updating GP-MI publications, traditional and digital, and also maintains the GP-MI Handbook.

**Section 11 – Merchandise & Office Manager:** The Merchandise & Office Manager has a supply of GP-MI literature and merchandise and has a budget for replenishing this supply and shipping these to locals and tabling events, and is responsible for providing them to state meetings. This position is also responsible for collecting mail sent to the GP-MI address and answering the GP-MI phone.

**Section 12 – Representatives to Committees of the Green Party of the United States (GP-US):** The number of GP-MI representatives on the GP-US National Committee and other GP-US committees is determined by GP-US. These representatives are also elected at the first state membership meeting of the calendar year, with vacancies filled as for other officers.

## **Article V – Committees**

**Section 1:** The State Central Committee (SCC) is composed of the officers defined above, and representatives of locals, which includes two representatives for any members living in counties not served by a local. The SCC is the decisionmaking body of GP-MI between State Membership Meetings (SMMs). The SMM is the supreme decisionmaking body of GP-MI.

**Section 2:** Other committees are formed and dissolved at the discretion of the state membership meeting or the SCC. Membership on committees is subject to the approval of these bodies. The minimum requirement for committee membership is for the person to be a member of GP-MI, and be willing to serve on the committee. Committees created at the discretion of the SMM/SCC are required to have a clearly defined purpose and responsibilities. Rules for membership on specific committees are contained in the Handbook.

## **Article VI – Nominations**

### **Section 1 – State convention:**

- A)** GP-MI shall hold a state convention (which may coincide with a state meeting/SMM) every major election year in accordance with party rules and state law, to nominate candidates for statewide and multi-county partisan offices, including electors in Presidential election years, and endorse candidates for statewide and multi-county nonpartisan offices. The convention may also nominate or endorse candidates for any office serving constituents entirely within one county or district if there is no caucus scheduled for that county or district. GP-MI may select delegates to a national convention to nominate a Green Presidential ticket at a state convention or an SMM.
- B)** The Meeting Manager shall send written notice of the date(s), times, and place of the convention by US mail and/or e-mail to all GP-MI members, all GP-MI locals, and all known candidates for the Green nomination for President or Vice President (or their campaigns), at least 50 days before the start of the convention. The Meeting Manager shall also present all scheduling information known about the convention at each of the two preceding SMMs.
- C)** Each county is allocated as many state convention delegates as there are GP-MI members residing in that county as of 60 days before the convention. The state convention may fill any county's delegate vacancies with GP-MI members residing in that county as of 60 days before the convention who attend the convention, in accordance with party rules, state law, and relevant court cases. The Meeting Manager shall notify all eligible members 50 days before the convention and they must inform the Meeting Manager at least 30 days before the convention if they plan to attend.

### **Section 2 – County and district caucuses:**

- A)** At the request of at least three GP-MI members in a county or district, GP-MI shall call a county or district caucus in accordance with party rules and state law to nominate candidates for partisan offices and endorse candidates for nonpartisan offices serving constituents entirely within that county or district. The caucus request shall be made

either at a SMM at least 50 days before the state convention for that year or to the SCC at least 50 days before the state convention, and shall include the planned date(s), times, and place. A caucus may be held at the state convention if the requesters so desire.

- B)** GP-MI shall send notice to all GP-MI members who live in the county or district for which a caucus is called of the date(s), times, and place of the caucus, by US mail or e-mail, at least 14 days before the start of the caucus. Notice shall also be sent to others if the requesters so desire.
- C)** After a caucus, the chair and secretary of the caucus shall arrange for the filing of required nomination paperwork, and report to the Elections Coordinator on all nominations and endorsements made by the caucus.
- D)** A county caucus held before the convention may elect up to the allocated number of delegates. The chair and secretary of the caucus held before a state convention shall inform the Membership Manager of any delegates elected. The Membership Manager shall verify the GP-MI memberships of those people, contact the caucus chair and secretary with any questions, report on elected delegates to the convention, and organize an *ad hoc* credentials committee with members from different parts of the state if any question or dispute arises about a person's qualification to be a state convention delegate.

**Section 3 – Special-election caucuses:** The SCC may, in consultation with GP-MI members in the area involved, hold a special-election caucus in accordance with party rules and state law to nominate a candidate for any partisan special election called. If a special-election caucus is held, GP-MI shall provide the best possible notice of the caucus to all GP-MI members in the area involved in the special election.

#### **Article VII – Decisionmaking**

**Section 1 – Proposals defined:** Any member, local, or committee may propose an idea for consideration to the SCC or to the Meeting Manager to be put on the next SMM's agenda. Every idea submitted needs two additional supporters to be considered a formal proposal. Formal proposals shall be considered within seven days by the SCC or at the next SMM. An expedited decision process may be requested.

**Section 2:** Decisions of GP-MI shall be made by individual members attending a SMM, or by the SCC between SMMs. On any formal proposal, participants shall first try to reach consensus. If a blocking concern arises and is not resolved or withdrawn, consensus is not reached, and a vote of at least 2/3 of those voting yes or no is required to adopt the proposal.

**Section 3 – Required votes:** When the SCC votes on a proposal, a quorum of at least 2/3 of the members of SCC must vote (yes, no, or abstaining) for the proposal to be adopted.

#### **Article VIII – Amendment of By-Laws**

The by-laws may be amended, altered or repealed by the membership at a regular SMM.

#### **Certification of By-Laws**

Sherry A. Wells, Meeting Manager, and John Anthony La Pietra, Notetaker, certify that these are a true and correct copy of the by-laws that were adopted at the June 6, 2015 SMM meeting.

Dated: June \_\_\_\_, 2015

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Sherry A. Wells

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John Anthony La Pietra