

# **RURAL CAUCUS OF THE GREEN PARTY OF THE U.S.**

## **BY-LAWS**

### **Section I: Name and Purpose**

1. We are the Rural Caucus of the Green Party of the United States.
2. Mission Statement: The Rural Caucus of the Green Party of the United States advocates for rural perspectives within the Party, promotes the growth of the Green Party in rural areas, and supports the efforts of its members to build a sustainable society.
3. The Rural Caucus stands on the four pillars of the Green Party: ecological wisdom, social justice, non-violence, and grassroots democracy, and works for the Greens' Ten Key Values: grassroots democracy, social justice, ecological wisdom, non-violence, decentralization, community-based economics, feminism, respect for cultural and bio-diversity, future focus/sustainability, and personal and global responsibility.

### **Section II: Membership**

1. Full Membership - A Full Member of the Rural Caucus is a Green Party member who lives in a rural area, or who has lived enough of his/her life in rural areas to have firsthand knowledge of rural issues and concerns.
2. Supporting Membership - A Supporting Member of the Rural Caucus is a Green Party member who does not fit the above criteria, but who has a deep and active interest in addressing rural concerns. Supporting Members can fully participate in discussions and on committees but cannot vote or hold elected office.

### **Section III: Rules of Order and Process**

1. The Rural Caucus of the Green Party of the United States will strive to maximize direct participation of members and avoid representative participation whenever possible in order to facilitate a truer grassroots democratic process.
2. All meetings and gatherings of the Rural Caucus will be open to all members who wish to attend, although voting is restricted as described in Section VI-7.
3. The RC-GPUS will use consensus decision-making. If consensus is not possible, a two-thirds majority will decide.
4. RC-GPUS members are encouraged to use talking circles when feasible as an egalitarian form of discussion and sharing.

## **Section IV: Meetings**

1. Annual Meeting: The annual meeting of the RC-GPUS will be scheduled for some time during the annual GPUS convention, and all RC members are encouraged to attend.
2. Business at the annual meeting will include: (a) official counting of ballots and election of officers for the coming year; (b) announcement of the key issues chosen for the coming year as indicated by ballots; (c) selection of committee chairpersons for each key issue; (d) reports from and on bio-regional gatherings; (e) brief reports from the outgoing officers; (f) strategy session; (g) other.
3. Bio-regional Gatherings: Members of the RC-GPUS are encouraged to plan and host a bio-regional RC-GPUS gathering in their bio-region at some time throughout the year. Goals of the gathering could include: (a) deepening members' and others' knowledge of their bio-region; (b) getting to know other Greens in your area face-to-face; (c) celebrating your bio-region's unique qualities; (d) sharing and strategizing on rural issues; (e) recruitment of more RC members; (f) involvement in a timely action.
4. Committee Meetings: These will be held at the discretion of the committee members.

## **Section V: Elections**

1. Officers of the RC-GPUS will be elected for one year, with only two consecutive terms allowed.
2. Nominations for officers will open 75 days before the GPUS annual convention and remain open for 45 days.
3. Only Full Members of the RC-GPUS may vote and hold elected office.
4. Ballots will be sent by the RC Secretary to all Full Members 30 days before the annual meeting.
5. Members who will not be attending the annual meeting should send in their ballots at least two weeks before the GPUS convention.
6. Ballots will contain the slate of officers, as well as suggested key issues and any platform proposals that the Rural Caucus wishes to put before the GPUS Platform Committee.
7. All ballots will be tallied as the first order of business at the annual RC-GPUS meeting.
8. No proxy voting will be allowed.

## **Section VI: Officers**

1. The RC-GPUS shall elect the following officers:

a. Co-Chairs: Two Co-Chairs, one male and one female, shall be responsible for coordinating the affairs of the RC-GPUS, facilitating its meetings, and being national spokespersons for the RC-GPUS.

b. Secretary - The Secretary shall be responsible for keeping the minutes of meetings and posting the same in a timely fashion. S/he shall also be responsible for disseminating correspondence regarding meetings and other official correspondence as requested by the Co-Chairs, and for keeping membership lists and information up to date.

c. Treasurer: The Treasurer shall be responsible for the fiscal management of the RC-GPUS and provide quarterly reports to the Co-Chairs, as well as reports on the request of the Co-Chairs, and an annual report to the general membership at the annual meeting.

d. Delegates and Alternates: If the general membership wishes to have delegates on any national GPUS committee, a delegate and alternate shall be elected to serve that function.

e. Archivist: The Archivist shall keep a record of all official or otherwise important correspondence among RC-GPUS members, as well as correspondence and articles from other sources that pertain specifically to the RC-GPUS.

2. Recall of Officers: If an officer is not fulfilling their duties, as specified in these By-laws, they are to be contacted by one of the Co-Chairs and notified of their remission. If the problem persists, a recall motion shall be brought to a vote of the general membership.

3. Ballots will also include a box beside each issue that can be checked if the voter would like to work on that particular issues committee. More than one committee can be chosen, and it is not necessary that the member voted for that issue as one of her/his top four issues.

4. Committee Chairs for each issue will be selected at the annual RC-GPUS meeting. They shall be responsible for recruiting committee members, facilitating discussions, goal-setting, and meetings of the committee, and reporting back to the general membership on a regular basis.

5. If a committee plans to propose a platform plan on their issue, a copy must be sent to the Secretary at least 30 days before the annual meeting so it can be included on the ballot for a vote of the general membership.

## **Section VIII: Adoption of By-Laws and Amendments**

1. Amendments to these by-laws may be proposed by a petition of twenty RC-GPUS members representing five states. A voting quorum of 15% of the RC-GPUS members representing at least ten states must vote a two-thirds majority to amend a BC-GPUS By-Law.

2. Effective Date:

These by-laws shall take effect on

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as approved by the RC-GPUS By-Laws Committee.

Submitted to the Diversity Committee, GPUS on

\_\_\_\_\_,

accompanied by the RC-GPUS list of \_\_\_\_\_ members in \_\_\_\_\_ states.