



CHARLOTTE AREA GREEN PARTY BY-LAWS

I. Name

The name of this organization shall be the Charlotte Area Green Party.

II. Mission Statement and Affiliations

The goal of the Charlotte Area Green Party is to meet the expectations of the community left disenfranchised by corporate influence of the current two-party grip on power, to develop throughout the year statements covering all local and national issues in order to reflect a Green perspective, to influence locally those issues which concern us as a group to benefit the community, and to build an organization which has political credibility and an appeal to all voters, but especially those segments of society previously disillusioned by politics as practiced by the Republicans and Democrats.

III. The ten key values of Charlotte Area Green Party, in common with other Greens.

1. Ecological Wisdom
2. Grassroots Democracy
3. Social Justice
4. Nonviolence
5. Decentralization
6. Community-based Economics
7. Feminism (gender equality)
8. Respect for Diversity
9. Personal and Global Responsibility
10. Future Focus/ Sustainability

IV. Ratification of and Amendments to By-laws

A. Ratification

These by-laws shall be considered ratified if approved by a consensus of the founding participants of the Charlotte Area Green Party.

B. Amendments

These by-laws may be amended by a two-thirds majority vote if notice of the impending vote is given two weeks prior to the meeting wherein such amendment would be brought to a vote. All proposed amendments must be reviewed by the coordinating council, unless unanimous consent by a

quorum of active members is obtained at the meeting during which the amendment is proposed.

V. Quorum

For the purposes of this organization a quorum is defined as 50% of current members.

VI. Meetings

A. Quarterly Meetings

Meetings for all members will be held every three months, the first meeting of each year being in January. Notice of each meeting, including its location and exact time, shall be given by the co-coordinators at least two weeks prior to each meeting.

B. Annual meeting

There shall be one quarterly meeting designated for electing the Coordinating Council and setting dues.

VII. Coordinating council

A. Composition

There shall be two coordinators, two clerks, and one treasurer.

B. Election

Coordinating council members shall be elected annually by a simple majority vote of a quorum at a regularly scheduled meeting. Proxy votes from active members unable to attend the meeting shall be accepted. There shall be no limit on terms served.

C. Duties

1. Coordinators

Coordinators shall jointly set flexible agendas for, arrange meeting places and times of, and preside over monthly meetings for the general membership of the Charlotte Area Green Party.. They shall also act as contact persons for the public.

2. Clerks

Clerks shall take minutes of the monthly meetings, publish and report these minutes, keep lists of active members, and record attendance at meetings.

3. Treasurer

The treasurer shall collect dues and pay out expenditures as approved by the members, and when necessary, file reports with government agencies. The treasurer must give an oral report of Charlotte Area Green Party finances at monthly meetings of the general membership and must distribute printed reports for the previous year at the annual meeting.

D. Removal of coordinating council members

Coordinating council members may be removed by a majority vote of the coordinating council for violation of the values and political practices of the Charlotte Area Green Party or for repeated failure to participate at meetings of which they have been notified. Intent to remove a council member must be advertised in the notice of that council meeting during which a vote for removal will be held. Upon removal of a council member, a new election for that vacated post shall be held at the next regular meeting for which a two-week notice of the impending election can be given.

E. Meetings of coordinating council

The coordinating council shall meet as a group at least once a year, with one meeting being convened within a month of election of its members. Other meetings shall be held as deemed necessary by a majority of the coordinating council.

VIII. Decision-making

A. General decision-making

Decisions should ideally be made by a consensus of active members. A minimum of ten minutes of discussion shall be allowed to attempt to reach consensus. After that time a motion and two seconds of that motion shall be required to end the discussion and call for a vote. Where consensus is not possible, approval by two-thirds of active members attending the meeting shall suffice for most decisions except as otherwise specified in these by-laws.

B. Special decisions requiring a quorum

A quorum of 50% of current active members shall be required to vote on motions concerning expenditures of funds above the discretionary budget allowed for the treasurer by a decision of the general membership, election of officers, and amendment of by-laws.

C. Decision-making by a simple majority

If, during a membership meeting, a two-thirds majority cannot be obtained for a decision, and two-thirds of members present agree that a decision is mandatory, there shall be another vote taken and a simple majority shall decide.

D. Decision-making between meetings

The CAGP Coordinating Committee can make decisions on behalf of the CAGP in between quarterly meetings, except when the decision requires a quorum as set forth in Section VIII B. One of the clerks will announce to the general membership any such decision while it is under consideration and will inform members of what final decision is made. Decisions made by the CAGP CC between regular meetings can be overturned at a subsequent quarterly meeting.

IX. Membership

A. Commitment to the Ten Key Values

Members should be in basic agreement with the Ten Key Values as listed in section III of the Charlotte Area Greens by-laws and shall also be in basic agreement with the political practices of the Green Party USA.

B. Dues

Members shall pay dues annually. The amount of and due date for dues shall be set at the annual meeting. A special lifetime membership dues-paying option will be allowed for the year April 2002-April 2003, wherein a member, by paying an amount of 250 dollars or more during the year April 2002-April 2003 will be considered to have met the dues-paying requirements for his/her lifetime.

C. Contact information

Members shall provide, at the least, a current mailing address to the CAGP clerks, and shall notify the clerks of any changes to that information.

D. Expulsion by vote of members

Members may be expelled from the Charlotte Area Greens for failure to act in accordance with the Ten Key Values and political practices of the GPUS . Any CAGP member may recommend this expulsion at a quarterly meeting. A majority vote at that meeting supporting the recommendation for expulsion shall trigger a final vote for expulsion to be arranged by the clerks. The clerks shall solicit votes by mail or email from all members for this final vote. A 75% majority of all members shall be required to expel a member. The member under consideration for expulsion must be notified two months in advance of the vote and shall be given an opportunity at least one regularly scheduled meeting to address the charge of failing to meet standards of behavior.

X. Dissolution of Charlotte Area Green Party

If the membership of The Charlotte Area Green Party falls below five members, The Charlotte Area Green Party shall be dissolved, and any treasury funds remaining after paying outstanding debts shall be paid to the Green Party of the US.