

SQM proposals

Submitted by Kevin Henehan, Chair, Green Party of Kent County

BYLAWS PROPOSALS

Changes in bold

Section 2: Requirements to form a local

To form a GPMI local, the organizers must submit to the State Central Committee and its Locals Liaison documentation showing that the requirements for locals have been met,

A) Organizing Petition: When organized, each local shall submit to the State Central Committee a petition signed by at least three GPMI members. The petition shall include the statement below:

"We, the undersigned members of the Green Party of Michigan, do unanimously accept the Ten Key Values **or Four Pillars** of the Greens and seek recognition as a Green Party of Michigan local, with the primary purpose of advancing the Green Key Values. We agree to observe and be bound by the bylaws of the Green Party of Michigan and the bylaws of this local."

Article II, Section 1

C) Voting Rights for GPMI Issues and Nominations; Status as Delegates to National Meetings:

If you are a member and have attended one prior GPMI general meeting within the past four quarters, then you have voting rights at a GPMI meeting or any other way that a GPMI issue may be voted upon. Delegates to national conventions must be members with voting rights.

Members attending their first GPMI meeting or who have not attended a GPMI meeting in over a year may request voting rights based on significant participation in other Green Party activities that would help make them familiar with (i) the Greens decision-making process and (ii) the current issues being voted upon. This could include, for example, participation in GPMI email discussion lists, attendance at local meetings, and/or participation in other Greens activities such as direct actions, etc. The person designated to certify such individuals who do not otherwise meet criteria for voting membership is the Meeting Manager. **Each Meeting Manager should decide and make public his criteria for granting voting rights upon assuming the office. The Meeting Manager may not automatically refuse all requests. Voting rights once granted by request shall be valid for one year.**

Article IV

Section 11: Members may initiate removal proceedings against Party Leaders

Any **ten [previously two]** GPMI members, **representing at least two different locals**, may allege that any GPMI officer, National Representative, or member of the State Central

Committee (SCC) is in contempt of the goals of the Green Party of Michigan and invoke the procedure in Section 12 of this article to seek removal of those person(s) from their leadership position in the GPMI.

Section 12: Procedure for Addressing Removal Complaints

A). To institute a recall proceeding against a party officer or SCC member, the **ten [previously two]** GPMI members must prepare and submit to the SCC a written complaint summarizing the allegations against the persons targeted for removal and justifying the removal.

NEW BYLAW ITEM:

ENDORSEMENTS.

SECTION 1. The Green Party of Michigan and its locals shall not endorse any candidates of any other parties for any partisan race whatsoever.

SECTION 1a. The procedure for obtaining the cooperation of GPMI or its locals with candidate campaigns in non-partisan races is as follows.

STEP ONE: candidate agrees to endorse the Ten Key Values or the Four Pillars.

STEP THREE: candidate submits a statement of issues and concerns to a GPMI SMM or a general assembly of any local, as appropriate.

STEP FOUR: SMM or general assembly then votes whether or not to cooperate with candidate, within the limits set out by election law for non-partisan elections. Such a vote requires consensus.

OTHER PROPOSALS:

THE PROPOSAL: In place of the current rules and bylaws regarding the authority of statewide membership meetings (SMM's) and the Locals Polling Process, there will now be four methods of decision-making:

- 1.) An SMM may vote itself the authority to resolve a proposal or issue there and then (subject to quorum rules).
- 2.) An SMM may vote to submit a proposal to a vote of all members.
- 3.) Any GPMI local may submit a proposal, after it has been seconded by nine other locals, for inclusion in a vote of all members.
- 4.) Any active committee of GPMI may submit a proposal, after it has been seconded by the SCC, for inclusion in a vote of all members.
- 5.) Votes of all members will occur four times per year, after each SMM.

THE SPECIFICS:

SMM's will be held according to the current rules and bylaws regarding attendance, voting rights,

officer elections, and the periodic nomination of candidates, but their job will be primarily to discuss and refer issues to membership votes, as well as provide a forum for press events, seminars, speakers, panel discussions, brainstorming, and strategic planning. An issue would need two-thirds to be referred to a membership vote.

An SMM can still make decisions on the spot, but the attendees will have to explicitly vote to do so, with 2/3 needed for approval. Bylaws and Platform changes may not be voted upon by an SMM, but must be referred to a full membership vote. A voting quorum for an SMM will be 25 voting members. Non-voting attendees will not be counted toward quorum.

Each SMM, assuming the attendees do not vote to resolve the issues themselves, will produce a packet of proposals - with “pro” and “con” arguments, drafted by committees of the meeting attendees, for each item. At the time of the meeting when each issue is sent to a membership vote, “pro” and “con” committees will be called for; each will draft an argument for their side in no more than 100 words, which must be submitted to the Membership Secretary by the end of the meeting. If there are no volunteer drafters for one side or the other, no arguments will be drafted for that issue, and the ballot will contain only the text of the proposal. The ballot will be “Accept/Reject/Modify” on Bylaws and Platform items, and any other format, agreeable to both the bringer(s) of the proposal and those operating the SMM, for other items. If an issue has been proposed and seconded by the locals or a committee for a membership vote, the proposal should be submitted to the SMM in time to be included in the final ballot. Proposals not submitted in time may be resubmitted to the next SMM.

In the first vote, every GPMI member will receive a notification by mail. This shall consist of a postal card with a URL where the member can go to review or download a ballot. Also included on the card will be an item instructing the member how to request a hard-copy ballot in case he/she is without internet access. Also, each local will be sent an email ballot which they can print out and make available to any members without electronic access. The voting period will be a week, beginning no later than five days after the SMM. All ballots postmarked within that period will be counted. The member will be responsible for getting his/her ballot to GPMI. Votes may be submitted either by mailing the ballot, accompanied by the voter’s member number printed on the mailing label, to the Party Clearinghouse, or voting on the migreens website using a password system. (Two pages: page 1: please enter your name and address. [Check against internal greens database.] OK, here is your unique password [based on hash of user info + time-of-day]. Please go to page 2. [computer generates page 2 with encoded password.] Page 2: Please enter your password. Please vote. [Voter does so.] Thank you.[Computer compares unencoded password with decoded password: if identical, the vote counts.) 2/3 of respondents will be necessary for passage. As part of the submitted ballot (if mail-in), the voter may ask to be sent a confirmation (by phone or mail) that their vote has been counted. Results of such votes shall be publicized on a special section of the state party website.

A party officer position titled the “Membership Secretary” shall be created to handle membership votes. The Membership Secretary will be elected at an SMM by the same system used for other party officers.