

By-Laws of the Green Party of Michigan

as amended May & June 2002; January, March, June, & August 2003; and February & December 2004

Article I – Name and Purpose [adopted July 20, 1997]

Section 1: The name of this organization shall be the Green Party of Michigan.

Section 2: The purposes of this organization are to advance the Ten Key Values of the Greens through non-political and political activities.

Article II – Membership [adopted Aug 13, 1999; amended April 30, 2000]

Section 1: The Green Party of Michigan shall be composed of individual Green members and members organized into locals.

A) To be considered a member of the Green Party of Michigan, all that is required is a signed statement that the person has read and supports either the Four Pillars of the Greens (grassroots democracy, social justice, peace/non-violence, and ecological sustainability) or the Ten Key Values. Unless the person is homeless, they must also provide their mailing address. It should be made clear that membership in the Green Party of MI does not keep you from also being a member of any other political party. The signature pledge is considered valid for 2 years, but it should be solicited every year along with membership dues notices (see below).

B) Membership dues (may be paid in installments): [amended at SMM August 23, 2003]

- Full waiver of dues if (a) person states in writing that they really cannot afford it this year or (b) person states in writing that they already contribute much more than this in dollars or time to Green Party efforts in Michigan.
- Low-income/hardship: \$ 5/year
- Student or senior: \$10/year
- Regular member: \$25/year
- Sustaining member: \$60/year
- Lifetime member: \$1,000

Note: Per the Michigan state income tax return provisions of recent years (through 1998 at least), “Allowable miscellaneous subtractions [from taxable income] include: Contributions to national or Michigan political parties or candidates. The maximum deduction is \$50 on a single return and \$100 on a joint return.”

C) Voting rights for GPMI issues and nominations; status as delegates to national meetings [amended by SCC June 12, 2002]: 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 e-mail 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 Party Manager. All members in good standing may be delegates to the state convention, regardless of previous attendance, but may vote on business items only if meeting the criteria above.

D) The Green Party of Michigan shall hold quarterly general membership meetings which may also coincide with conventions.

E) [adopted by SCC June 12, 2002] The description of a member or membership as being “in good standing” shall be taken to refer to a member who is not currently under suspension and who is either current in membership or not more than 60 days past due in renewal of that membership. Any membership which is more than 60 days past due is said to be “delinquent”.

Section 2: Removal of Members [adopted May 19, 2002]

A) Initiating membership revocation:

- i. Members may submit a Petition for Removal to the State Central Committee (SCC). A revocation petition summarizing the allegations against the member facing removal and justifying a removal action shall be signed by ten members in good standing representing at least two locals. A petition for removal should begin with the language, "We move to exercise our right of association and disassociate and expel _____ for any and all of the following reasons: We believe that _____ has engaged in behavior inimical to the aims of the GPMI, which may include but is not limited to violations of the Ten Key Values or the By-Laws, or persistent disruption of party activities. Specific reasons for this request include:"
- ii. Signatures on petitions shall be dated within six months of the submission date.
- iii. The timetable for scheduling and beginning the discussion of the petition shall begin upon receipt of a physical petition. E-mail may be used to expedite and facilitate the proceedings but is not a suitable substitute for a physical document.

B) Distribution and notification:

- i. The Secretary/Record Keeper shall ensure that a copy of the petition, including any amendments, and notification of the dates of the removal discussion and vote are sent to each party to the petition at least 15 days before the removal discussion is scheduled to begin. The copy sent to the member facing removal shall be sent via certified mail, personal service, or other method which provides confirmation of receipt.
- ii. The Secretary/Record Keeper shall send notice of the outcome of the proceedings to the member facing removal within 2 days after a decision is reached.

C) Preparation for discussion of petition:

- i. The SCC shall schedule a discussion and vote on the removal between 15 and 30 days after receiving the petition.
- ii. Prior to beginning the removal discussion, the SCC shall make any necessary inquiries of the members submitting the petition to clarify the petition. The results of these inquiries shall be forwarded to the entire SCC.
- iii. The results of these inquiries shall be kept as part of the GPMI's permanent records and a copy shall be sent to the member facing removal.
- iv. All parties to the petition, the member facing removal and the complainants, shall receive access to the SCC e-mail list for the duration of the discussion of the petition upon individual request. Requests may be made to any SCC member, who shall transmit them to the SCC.

D) Discussion of petition: During the SCC discussion of the petition,

- i. The SCC shall give the member facing removal an opportunity to make a written response via the SCC e-mail list, which may include statements from other members.
- ii. The SCC will then have 10 days from the beginning of the removal discussion to discuss and vote on the motion.
- iii. Once discussion is complete, but prior to the final vote, an SCC member may propose limiting action on the petition to a suspension of the subject's membership for six months.

E) Resolution of petition: Once the discussion is complete:

- i. If a proposal to limit action on the petition to suspension is passed, the SCC shall vote on the question "Shall the GPMI suspend _____ for a period of six months?"

- ii. If there is no proposal to limit action on the petition to suspension, or if such a proposal is offered and defeated, the SCC shall vote on the question “Shall the GPMI disassociate from _____ by revocation of his/her membership?” An affirmative vote is a vote to remove, with a 3/4 supermajority needed to pass the motion and effect the removal.
- iii. SCC members who are parties to a removal petition may vote.
- iv. Prepaid membership dues shall be refunded in full after a vote to revoke membership.
- v. Half of prepaid membership dues shall be refunded after a vote to suspend membership.

F) Effects of suspension and expulsion:

- i. An individual whose membership has been revoked is no longer a member of the GPMI. Individuals conducting GPMI or GPMI local events open to the general public may bar the former member from participating.
- ii. An individual who has had their membership suspended is still a member of the GPMI, but may not participate in any event or activity restricted to members in good standing and may not cast votes as a GPMI member. They shall not be barred from GPMI events and activities open to the general public.

G) Normalization of membership status:

- i. Former members whose membership has been revoked may apply for membership one year after revocation.
- ii. Suspended members shall have all privileges of membership reinstated after six months.

H) Appeal:

- i. An individual may appeal to an SMM to reverse suspension or the revocation of their membership, according to the following procedure.
- ii. The appeal must be made within 6 months of the SCC’s decision to revoke membership.
- iii. The appellant must notify the Meeting Manager of the intent to appeal no less than three weeks before the SMM.
- iv. The appeal must be made in person and accompanied by a petition signed by 10 members representing at least two locals requesting reversal of the membership revocation or suspension.
- v. The SMM must allocate at least 15 minutes for discussion of the appeal, and the appeal must be resolved before election of Officers and discussion of By-Laws, Platform, or other proposals.
- vi. A decision by an SMM to reverse an expulsion or suspension shall be effective immediately.

Article III – Locals [adopted Feb. 10, 2001]

Section 1: Three or more members needed to form local: Three or more members of the GPMI may obtain recognition as a GPMI local by satisfying the requirements of Section 2 of this Article.

Section 2: Requirements to form a local: To form a GPMI local, the organizers must submit to the State Central Committee 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 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 by-laws of the Green Party of Michigan and the by-laws of this local.”

B) By-laws: Each local shall submit a current copy of the local's by-laws to the State Central Committee and the Record Keeper.

C) Status of locals: [adopted at SMM Nov. 2001] While the State Central Committee (SCC) is considering the documentation submitted by organizers petitioning to form a local, the proposed local shall be considered pending or in process of formation. All such proposed locals shall be listed equally with each other in Green reference information, to the extent possible given information available.

The SCC shall consider all documentation submitted to it promptly and in accordance with these by-laws. After any SCC meeting at which documentation is considered, the SCC, the Locals Liaison, and/or their designated representative(s) shall inform the organizers (and all known providers of Green reference information) whether the proposed local:

- Has been recognized.

- Can correct or complete the documentation submitted, and so obtain recognition. (In this case, all of the required corrections or completions, and a deadline for their submission in order to be on time for consideration at the next SCC meeting, shall be included in the notice to the organizers.)

- Is not recognized – due to problems with the submission, and/or with the organizers' commitment to Green Party values, that are sufficiently apparent and egregious that a consensus of the SCC decides to reject the submission. (To the extent practical, such a rejection shall not be taken to prejudice future applications from the same area or by some of the same organizers, but each submission shall be considered on its own merits.) Such a rejection may be overturned at a duly-scheduled statewide meeting of the party (e.g., a State Quarterly Meeting) – but only by consensus.

Section 3: Local operations requirements

A) All GPMI locals must maintain contact with the Locals Liaison. Specifically, each local must submit, within 7 days, any changes to the following to the Locals Liaison and the Record Keeper:

- a) By-laws;
- b) Points of contact;
- c) Records of votes taken per Article IV, Section 1t-x.

B) SCC delegates: Each local shall elect two delegates who are state party members to serve on the state central committee of GPMI. Two delegates shall also be elected and serve as representatives of all members of GPMI who are not members of any local. These delegates will be responsible for conveying decisions of the local on state party issues, as well as being the conduits for information and coordination between the state organization and their local. The delegates must be active participants in the listserv created for SCC activity.

Section 4: Local funds

A) Locals who raise and/or spend money shall ensure that all funds are raised and spent in accordance with local, state, and federal laws and GPMI by-laws.

4(B) deleted

Section 5: Dissolution of locals: The GPMI State Central Committee may dissolve any local upon consensus of the Committee as in Article VII, or a vote of the membership at a state quarterly meeting as in Article VII. The State Central Committee may recommend dissolution of any local that:

- a) Consistently fails to comply with these or its own by-laws;
- b) Raises, spends, or accounts for funds improperly or questionably;
- c) Acts in a manner that brings discredit to the GPMI;
- d) Publicly consistently acts in opposition to positions of the GPMI;
- e) Notifies the Locals Liaison of an intent to dissolve.

Voting members of the local in question shall be offered the opportunity to speak in opposition to the dissolution before the State Central Committee, if such dissolution is being considered between state quarterly meetings, or before the membership at a state quarterly meeting if that is where the dissolution is being considered, before the final decision is made. Upon deciding to dissolve a local, the State Central Committee shall mail written notice to all GPMI members who are recorded as voting members of the local.

Article IV – Officers [adopted May 20, 2001; amended January 2003 to remove Committee Manager position, add Party Chair, Membership Secretary, and Elections Coordinator, and renumber sections; amended December 2004 to establish two Vice-Chairs and their duties, and make conforming changes]

Section 1: Elected officers: The Green Party of Michigan shall have ten (10) elected officers, plus four representatives to each national party organization with which GPMI is affiliated. These fourteen (14) persons shall make up the Steering Committee of GPMI, charged with day-to-day administrative decisions of the party. These officers and their responsibilities are as follows:

Section 2: Treasurer

- A) Submits to the State Bureau of Elections annual financial records for party operations according to Michigan Law as outlined in the “Handbook for Political Party Committees”.
- B) Ensures Greens stay in compliance with state party filing requirements, including at a minimum filing the Annual Financial Statement to the state and can include reporting requirements for candidates and ballot initiatives supported by the state party.
- C) Disburses funds from State Campaign Finance Committee account and State Central Committee accounts and maintains the account ledgers.
- D) Works with the Record Keeper and fundraising activists to ensure legally required records are collected with all funds raised (to include name, address, occupation, amount, etc.) as outlined in the “Handbook for Political Party Committees”.
- E) Produces and submits, at every state meeting, a simple treasurer’s report (report should include major income and expenses as well as other important issues).
- F) Reconciles check registers with statement from financial institution where party funds are held.

Section 3: Record Keeper/Secretary

- A) Collects and maintains records of financial contributions, in a timely manner, for annual and other financial statements according to Michigan law as outlined in the “Handbook for Political Party Committees”.
- B) Maintains archives of all documents submitted to the State.
- C) Maintains archives of monthly bank account statements.
- D) Ensures ledgers are properly reconciled.
- E) Works with Treasurer and fundraising activists to ensure legally required records are collected with all funds raised, as in Section 2D above.

Section 4: Meeting Manager

- A) Schedules, organize, and publicize state meetings at least one month before meeting date.
- B) Solicits and collects agenda items for party meetings.
- C) Drafts, publishes, and distributes party meeting agendas 10 days before state meetings.
- D) Ensures state meeting minutes are published within 30 days after meeting for approval at next state meeting.
- E) Certifies persons who have not yet met requirements for voting membership, i.e., attendance at a quarterly state meeting within the previous four quarters, as voting members based on criteria as stated above in Article II, Section 1C.

Section 5: Locals Liaison

- A) If consensus cannot be reached for endorsements of events, organizations, or causes by the State Central Committee, the Locals Liaison will contact locals about statewide events, organizations, or causes that are to be considered for endorsement, and consensus of a quorum of 2/3 of all valid locals will be sought as under Article VII, Section 1B.
- B) Deadlines for consideration of endorsements by the locals will be communicated by the Locals Liaison not to be earlier than one week nor later than two weeks from the last local being notified of a vote, and any votes not submitted to the Locals Liaison by that deadline is to be considered an abstention.
- C) Votes of the locals will be tallied.
- D) For purposes of vote taking, the Locals Liaison is required to collect and maintain a list of all valid locals and contacts for statewide vote taking within each valid local.
- E) Report in writing to the state central committee or to the membership at a state quarterly meeting all matters that have been endorsed by the locals, and the tabular outcome of votes.

Section 6: Clearinghouse Coordinator [amended January 2003 to move some duties to the new Membership Secretary position]

- A) Properly gathers, opens and sorts mail sent to state headquarters; notifying proper persons of mail they have received, including routing to proper local if of interest to that local's area.
- B) Gathers and responds to phone messages, routing to appropriate persons as necessary; updating phone machine outgoing message as needed.
- C) Responds to requests for information from all sources by routing to appropriate spokespeople.

Section 7: Membership Secretary [new January 2003]

- A) Closely tracks memberships in a database, including inactive members; redesigns database as needed to easily/accurately track membership status, as well as coordinate with the Treasurer and Record Keeper regarding tracking money received from members.
- B) Explains member rights and responsibilities to each member upon initial membership.
- C) Sends out membership renewal notices.
- D) Reports membership figures to the SCC, appropriate committees and membership.
- E) Sends out acknowledgement letters for receipt of memberships, as well as membership cards listing renewal dates; tracks membership statements and re-solicits from members if expired under Article II, Section 1A.

Section 8: Party Chair and Vice-Chairs [revised December 2004]

- A) GPMI shall elect a Chair and two (2) Vice-Chairs.
- B) The party Chair is responsible for responding to requests for interviews, appearances, and requests for statements from the media.
- C) One party Vice-Chair is responsible for all committees of the party except the SCC.
- D) One party Vice-Chair is responsible for conducting and organizing business on the SCC e-mail list.
- E) The Chair and Vice-Chairs may designate people to assist them in performing their duties and shall inform the SCC of designated assistants as necessary.

Section 9: Elections Coordinator [new January 2003]

- A) Act as resource for information about candidate committee and county committee filing.
- B) Act as resource for campaign finance questions, both state and federal.
- C) Collect contact information about all potential candidates of the party; make available as needed.
- D) Maintain migreens-elections listserv, restricting membership to GPMI members, candidates, and their staffs.
- E) Actively seek and/or route volunteers to candidate and/or county committees.
- F) Ensure paperwork and documentation is properly filed for the party on behalf of the candidates nominated by convention.
- G) Manage information regarding candidacy strategies by placing in coherent form on the migreens-elections site.
- H) Maintain a caucus manual as a resource for counties wishing to caucus; aid counties in making caucus requests.
- I) Coordinate candidate recruitment efforts and vetting process in campaign years.

Section 10: National Representatives [Adopted August 11, 2001]

- A) Each representative will be an active participant on the e-mail work lists of the appropriate national body.
- B) Each representative will strive to present the views of GPMI as a whole and/or as decided by voting, position paper, *et al.*, on topics that require GPMI's position to be established by vote within the appropriate national organization.
- C) Each representative will strive to attend the national gatherings of the appropriate national organization. If party finances allow it, GPMI will compensate reps for reasonable costs incurred in attending such gatherings, or, pending available cash flow, forward funds for use by reps to attend such gatherings.
- D) In the event that only one representative is able to attend said gatherings, each representative will attempt to work with their corresponding partner to the appropriate organization by agreeing to proxy the appropriate number of votes so that Michigan maintains its proper representation in any vote that may be called.
- E) Each representative will be responsible for providing detailed report on all activities of the national groups and disseminating them among the membership of GPMI at each State Membership Meeting (SMM) or convention. Each representative will also relate critical or time-sensitive information to the appropriate state officer for dissemination to locals or GPMI membership between SMMs as needed.
- F) National reps will be chosen by election in the manner of other officer selections.

Section 11: Officer elections: Officer elections shall be held at the spring state meeting. Any member present at the spring state party meeting may make officer nominations. Nominees shall give brief statements in support of their candidacy. If only one candidate is nominated for an officer position, they must be elected by consensus as outlined in Article VII, Section 1. If more than one candidate is nominated for an officer position, a vote shall be taken by secret ballot. In case of a tie, additional discussion will be held, another secret ballot vote, and this will repeat until a tie is broken. Officer terms begin immediately and shall be one year from election.

Section 12: SCC may fill interim vacancies in party leadership: If a GPMI officer or SCC position is vacated for any reason before a completed term, the remaining SCC members shall decide by consensus, or (failing consensus) by 2/3 vote whether to a) have a current SCC member assume the duties of the vacated position; and/or b) make a temporary appointment to the SCC until the next state meeting.

Section 13: Members may initiate removal proceedings against party leaders: [revised Nov. 2001 to change 2 members to 10 members of 2 locals] Any ten GPMI members, representing at least two different locals, may allege that any GPMI officer or National Representative 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 14: Procedure for addressing removal complaints:

- A) To institute a recall proceeding against a party officer or National Representative, the ten 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.
- B) The SCC shall ensure that copies of the complaint are forwarded (or made accessible) to all GPMI members at least 30 days before a meeting where the removal will be scheduled for discussion. If a complaint is initiated and received by the SCC not later than 15 days before a previously scheduled state quarterly meeting the SCC may elect to schedule discussion of the recall at that quarterly meeting or to call a special meeting of all GPMI members for that purpose within 45 days of the date the complaint is filed.
- C) At the meeting where the removal is to be discussed, the motion will be handled as follows:
 - i) complainants will have up to 10 minutes to explain their complaint and make the case for removal without interruption.
 - ii) the target(s) of the complaint will, collectively, have up to 20 minutes to respond to the complaint and defend their actions without interruption.
 - iii) the complainants will have up to 5 minutes to restate and summarize their complaint
 - iv) the targets will have up to 5 minutes to rebut.
- D) Once the discussion is complete the GPMI voting members in attendance shall immediately vote on the question "Shall (GPMI party officer or national rep) _____ named in this complaint be removed from office?" An affirmative vote is a vote to remove, with a 3/4 supermajority needed to pass the motion and effect the removal (and with abstentions counting as negative votes). A separate vote will be held for each person targeted in the complaint with the results of each vote entirely separate.

Section 15: Concentration of positions [adopted August 11, 2001]

- A) A list of who holds each position listed in Article IV (Officers), each SCC seat, and each Committee Chair will be presented at each SMM.
- B) In the event that a single member holds two or more of the positions listed in A) above (excluding shared Committee Chairs and National Representative posts), all posts they hold, except one of their choice, must be opened to re-election under the applicable rules; the current office holder may participate as normal. In the event that no nominations are made and/or accepted for a post, the member may retain that post without need for an election. This does not alter the regular election schedule for the affected posts.

Article V – Committees [adopted April 30, 2000]

Section 1: Committee Membership: All committee members other than the State Central Committee are self-selected.

The state steering committee, comprised of the elected officers and national representatives of GPMI, is elected as specified in Article IV, section 11.

- A) All committees other than the State Central Committee are open to any member of the party. There is no upper limit on the size of committees, but any committee may limit its voting membership for purposes of feasible working size. All standing committees aside from the SCC must maintain at least three active members in order to conduct business.

- B) All committees must make written or oral presentation at every statewide membership meeting. Those committees other than the SCC that cannot are to be considered inactive and are disbanded.
- C) Standing committees may be formed only at a statewide membership meeting by a vote of 2/3 of the membership. Ad hoc committees may be formed as needed, and do not have the rights or restrictions of standing committees.
- D) Committees other than the SCC may be disbanded at a statewide membership meeting by the membership, by a vote of 2/3.
- E) Standing committee rules and Chairs are selected in committee, and documentation of such will be forwarded to the Appropriate Vice-Chair.

Section 2: State Central Committee [Subsection G adopted May 20, 2001]

- A) The State Central Committee shall be comprised of delegates from each recognized local in GPMI and the two non-local members' delegates, as well as the elected officers and national representatives of GPMI. Method of election of said delegates is at the discretion of the particular local, although locals are strongly urged to balance their delegation by gender, ethnicity, orientation, and/or ability. The SCC will be the authority of the party between state membership meetings, responsible for statewide cooperative actions, changes in policy, issuing press releases and position papers, endorsements of other organizations and their actions, and other similar practices. Delegates must be active participants in state activity. Any delegate failing to participate in two consecutive votes and/or not posting to the listserv for four weeks will cause the Appropriate Vice-Chair to contact the origin local and request that they elect a replacement.
 - 1. Decision-making processes of the SCC:
 - a. All proposals (action, endorsement, public statement, etc.) must be submitted to the SCC per Article VII, Section 6.
 - b. Each proposal will have up to a one-week discussion period, followed by up to a one-week voting period. These times will be monitored by the appropriate Vice-Chair and/or other steering committee members as needed.
 - c. The SCC will strive for consensus, but revert to a 2/3 majority margin to pass a proposal.
 - d. Each delegate will carry one vote for his/her local. Quorum will be met by 2/3 of the delegates. Voting to abstain will count for quorum but not affect the necessary majority for a non-consensus decision.
 - e. Records of voting and proposals will be kept on the party website.
- B) The state steering committee (chair, treasurer, recordkeeper, meeting manager, clearinghouse coordinator, locals liaison, membership secretary, elections coordinator) will be responsible for day-to-day operations of the party and has the authority to make time-sensitive decisions as necessary.
- C) The officers of GPMI and National Representatives shall be elected from among the membership of GPMI annually at the spring membership meeting. Officers may hold a delegate post from a local to the SCC as well as an officer position, but may not hold more than one officer position except as directed in Article IV, Section 15.
- D) The State Campaign Finance Committee shall administer the financial support of statewide and local candidates on behalf of the state party.
- E) The State Campaign Finance Committee shall be comprised of officers as in Article IV, Section 1, but have separate ledgers, bank accounts, and reporting requirements from the state steering committee.
- F) The State Federal Campaign Committee shall administer the financial support of federal candidates on behalf of the state party.
- G) The state party newsletter shall be paid for by these committees in the following manner: in proportion to that part of the newsletter that discusses federal candidates, the State Federal Campaign Committee shall finance the newsletter; in proportion to that part of the newsletter that discusses statewide or local candidates, the State Campaign Finance Committee shall finance the newsletter in accordance with state and federal law; all other costs associated with the newsletter shall be paid for by the State Central Committee.

- H) The SCC shall ensure that, whenever the GPMI passes a motion that creates standing policy or procedure, such decisions are compiled and maintained in a document to be known as the GPMI “Rulebook”, along with any other standing or ad hoc committee policies and procedures submitted. The SCC shall also ensure that:
- i) A hardcopy of the most current Rulebook is available for use at every statewide party meeting.
 - ii) The Rulebook is readily available to all GPMI members and locals and is maintained in its entirety in at least one generally accessible electronic format (such as flat text, Rich Text Format, or HTML) in addition to any other electronic or non-electronic formats.
- I) SCC e-mail list rights for non-SCC members [adopted by SCC June 2003]:
1. All reps to any national committees, reps to affiliated organizations, members who have filed to become candidates, up to two members who are officers of a candidate’s committee and the chairs of standing state party committees of GPMI shall have full posting privileges to the GPMI SCC e-mail list in order to keep the SCC informed in a timely manner. Candidates who failed to achieve nomination of the party by caucus or convention are no longer candidates of GPMI and they and their committees no longer qualify for SCC e-mail list admission for posting purposes. Such posting privileges shall not confer any voting rights.
 2. Regular GPMI members who request posting rights and persons invited by an SCC member to address a particular topic under discussion may also be added, or refused based on a blocking concern by an SCC member, for which the SCC may use its normal voting procedures to overturn.
 3. Any member of the state party may request observer rights to the SCC list, allowing them to receive the postings and access the archives of the list.

Section 3: Platform Committee: The Platform Committee shall coordinate proposed platform position and submit them for approval as per Article VII. The Platform Committee is required to bring to the general membership all proposed platform positions and may include recommendations to the membership for disposition.

Section 4: By-Laws Committee [adopted May 20, 2001]

- A) The By-Laws Committee shall serve as a standing committee to consider proposed changes to the by-laws of the state party.
- B) The By-Laws Committee may make editorial changes to the by-laws (such as renumbering, reordering, and re-phrasing) as appropriate to improve clarity, accommodate amendments, and maintain readability and consistency throughout, so long as they do not alter the content, meaning, or effect of the by-laws. The By-Laws Committee shall submit all proposed editorial changes to the SCC. If the SCC decides that any specific change does alter the content, meaning, or effect of the by-laws, the SCC shall notify the By-Laws Committee within 30 days and the change shall not be made except through the normal amendment process.
- C) The By-Laws Committee shall ensure that a paper copy of the most current version of the by-laws is available for use at every statewide party meeting.
- D) The By-Laws Committee shall forward official copies of each revised version of the by-laws to the Record Keeper and the Media Committee, and shall ensure that the full text of the by-laws is readily available to all GPMI members and locals in at least one generally-accessible electronic format (such as flat text, Rich Text Format, or HTML), in addition to any other electronic or non-electronic formats.

Section 5: Media Committee [adopted by SCC March, 2003]

- A) The Media Committee is delegated the SCC’s authority to write and publicize press releases on the activities and policy positions of the GPMI, and may speak to the media on behalf of the GPMI.
- B) All members of the Media Committee must be members of the GPMI. All members of the committee must be approved by the SCC, and membership in the committee may be revoked by SCC action. Requests for membership shall be reviewed by the SCC on an expedited basis.

- C) The committee will elect a Chair who will be responsible for tracking progress on and managing the committee workload.
- D) All press releases produced by the committee shall conform to the stated policy positions of the GPMI. No significant extension of the positions described in the platform and past resolutions is allowed.

Section 6: The state party may remove any committee members at its discretion by decision of the SCC or at a state quarterly meeting by a 2/3 vote of the majority.

Article VI – Candidates and Officeholders [adopted February 20, 2004]

Section 1: State convention; selection of delegates and electors for candidates for President and Vice President; nomination of candidates for statewide and multi-county offices.

- A) The Green Party of Michigan may select delegates to the national convention to select Green Party candidates for President and Vice President at a state convention or state membership meeting held in accordance with state law in the same year as the national convention. The delegates shall be selected in a party-approved process.
- B) The Green Party of Michigan may select Presidential electors at a state convention held in accordance with state law.
- C) The Green Party of Michigan may nominate candidates for statewide offices (including U.S. Senate seats) and multi-county offices (including U.S. House of Representatives and state legislative seats for districts including parts of more than one county) at a state convention held in accordance with state law.
- D) The State Central Committee shall call and hold any state convention to make any or all of the above decisions. The SCC shall send written notice of the date(s) and place of the convention by U.S. mail and/or e-mail to all GPMI members in good standing, all GPMI locals and/or committees in good standing, and all known candidates for the GPUS nomination for President or Vice President (or their campaigns), at least seventy-five (75) days before the start of the convention. The SCC shall also announce/present all scheduling information known about the convention at each of the two preceding regularly-scheduled state membership meetings.

Section 2: Reserved for rights and responsibilities of persons nominated or elected to public office as candidates of the Green Party of Michigan.

- A) Reserved for description of GPMI candidate-review or “vetting” processes.
- B) Reserved for description of GPMI nominations committees.

Section 3: County and district caucuses; selection of delegates to state convention; nomination of candidates for U.S. House of Representatives, state Legislature, county, city, village, township, and other local offices at caucuses.

- A) The Green Party of Michigan may nominate candidates for U.S. House of Representatives and state legislative seats for districts entirely contained within one county – as well as candidates for county, city, village, township, and other local offices – at district and county caucuses held in accordance with state law. Any such caucus shall be open to any and all Green Party of Michigan members, as defined in these by-laws, who live in the district or county for which the caucus is called.
- B) Qualification as/selection of delegates to state convention:
 - i) Each county is allocated a number of delegates to the state convention equal to the number of GPMI members in good standing residing in their county as of the date sixty (60) days before the state convention. Members of cross-jurisdictional GPMI locals (such as Labor Greens or Campus Greens) or members not affiliated with any GPMI locals shall be counted with their counties of residence. Each duly authorized county caucus is empowered to choose up to the allocated number of delegates to the state convention.

- ii) After a county caucus selects its delegates to the state convention, the chair and secretary of the caucus shall send the Meeting Manager a full list of all people selected. The Meeting Manager will verify the GPMI memberships of those people, and contact the caucus chair and secretary about any questions. The Meeting Manager shall report on the delegates to the convention. The caucus chair and secretary shall also send the Meeting Manager a report of any and all candidates nominated by the caucus and certified to the county clerk, so that a full statewide report can be given to the state convention.
- iii) The state convention shall fill any delegate vacancies for any counties, in accordance with state law and relevant court cases, with members who qualify under Paragraph i above.
- iv) To resolve any question or dispute arising about a person's qualification to be a state convention delegate, the Meeting Manager shall organize a credentials committee on an ad-hoc basis for the convention with representatives from at least three locals, which will review the delegate lists submitted by caucuses, and which will review GPMI membership lists for delegates selected to complete delegations. The committee shall not credential any delegate that is not shown to be a member in good standing residing in the county they seek to represent.

C) One or more Green Party local(s) and/or county or district committee(s), operating under these by-laws and formally recognized by the Green Party of Michigan, may request and obtain permission from the Green Party of Michigan at any statewide membership meeting or through the State Central Committee to call and hold a county or district caucus for the purpose of nominating candidates for U.S. House and state legislative seats entirely within a county as well as county, city, village, township, and other local offices (and selecting delegates to that year's state convention, if applicable) in accordance with state law. Such request shall be made either:

- * at a statewide membership meeting no less than seventy-five (75) days before the state convention for that year (if there is one); or
- * to the State Central Committee no later than sixty (60) days before the state convention for that year (if there is one) or thirty (30) days before the primary filing date for the relevant election.

If no caucusing body currently has permission to convene a caucus for that county or district, the SMM or SCC will consider the request and reach a decision within fourteen (14) days. Once permission is granted to a caucusing body, that body will be presumed to retain the right to claim permission for (by providing the notice described above for requests) and convene caucuses for that county or district when appropriate unless:

- * the caucusing body gives up that right voluntarily;
- * the caucusing body undergoes radical change, such as near-complete or complete change of officers or members or change of status;
- * the caucusing body is disbanded in accordance with state law or these by-laws; or
- * another caucusing body requests the right for itself, or challenges the right of the currently permitted caucusing body.

If there is a competing request or challenge for a right to caucus, all bodies claiming that right will have at most a week to present their cases to the SCC, which will consider the request and reach a decision within fourteen (14) days on whether to decide to uphold the competing request or challenge.

D) The State Central Committee may convene county and district caucuses for districts and counties where no local or committee has requested permission and claimed the caucusing right under Subsection C above. In the case of nominations of candidates for November general elections in even-numbered years, the SCC will declare its claim to the right to convene such a caucus at the first regularly-scheduled statewide membership meeting of that year and the last regularly-scheduled statewide membership meeting of the previous odd-numbered year.

E) Aside from SCC caucuses for special elections, caucuses held under this Section may be held in conjunction with a state convention, if a the body properly authorized to hold the caucus gives notice to the Meeting Manager, at least sixty (60) days before that state convention, requesting a time on the convention agenda and a place at the convention site for one or more authorized county and/or district caucuses.

F) The body convening a caucus under this section shall notify, by U.S. mail or E-mail, all Green Party of Michigan members eligible to participate in the caucus of the time and place at least fourteen (14) days prior to the beginning of the caucus.

Section 4: Special-election caucuses: The State Central Committee may convene a special-election caucus to nominate a candidate for any partisan special election that is called. To decide to convene a special-election caucus, SCC must either have full consensus or a 2/3 majority which includes the approval or abstention of all SCC representatives from geographic locals covering the county or district involved in the special election.

If there is an active caucusing body (a local or a county/district committee) for the jurisdiction covered by the special election, the SCC may yield its special-election caucusing right to that body.

The body calling a special-election caucus shall notify, by U.S. mail or E-mail, all Green Party of Michigan members eligible to participate in the caucus, of the time and place at least fourteen (14) days before the start of the caucus.

Article VII – Decision-Making of the Green Party of Michigan [adopted April 30, 2000]

Section 1: Decisions of the Green Party of Michigan shall be made through either:

a) a consensus of individual Green Party members attending a quarterly state meeting or if a consensus cannot be reached, 67% (2/3) vote of members present; or

b) a vote of the State Central Committee.

Section 2: Decisions include matters of state party business, amendments to these by-laws, and additions and amendments to the platform of the Green Party of Michigan.

Section 3: Proposals may be made by any member of the party as an individual, as a representative of a local, or as a committee member.

Section 4: Proposals may be suggested at a local or in committee and forwarded to the state party at a state quarterly meeting through a representative of the local.

Section 5: Proposals may be submitted to the state party at a state quarterly meeting in writing by someone not able to attend with a “yes” or “no” vote only, with no amendments.

Section 6: Proposals to the State Central Committee must be submitted through a GPMI member’s delegate(s). Delegates are obligated to forward any proposal presented to them.