

# BYLAWS of the Green Party of Southwest Washington

(Approved by majority of membership via email ballot on 2017-05-21.)

Article I. NAME – The name of this organization shall be the Green Party of Southwest Washington.

## Article II. FUNCTION OF THE ORGANIZATION

2.1 Function Statement – This organization shall work toward a Green society as represented by the Ten Key Values of the Green Party – Grassroots Democracy, Social Justice and Equal Opportunity, Ecological Wisdom, Non-violence, Economic Justice and Decentralization, Community-based Economics, Feminism and Gender Equality, Respect for Diversity, Personal and Global Responsibility, and Future Focus and Sustainability.

2.2 Methods – This organization may use any and all methods of nonviolent change: direct action, community organizing and education, personal empowerment, issue campaigns, ballot initiatives, and/or electoral campaign and their related strategies and tactics.

## Article III. MEMBERSHIP

3.1 Application for Membership – Membership in the Green Party of Southwest Washington is open to any and all residents of Washington State, whether eligible to vote or not, except as noted in 3.3 below, who pay dues or request a financial hardship waiver. A membership applicant shall sign an application form which states that the applicant is in general agreement with the Ten Key Values and the Bylaws of the Green Party of Southwest Washington. Steps will be taken to protect the applicant's anonymity upon request.

3.2 Powers of Members – Any member may add an item to the agenda of any meeting by consensus or simple majority of the membership present. Any current member has a right to vote at any meeting after thirty days of membership.

3.3 Ineligibility for membership – Any person currently serving or seeking an elected position with another political party, including but not limited to precinct committee officer, shall not be eligible for membership.

## Article IV. COORDINATING COUNCIL

4.1 Composition – The Coordinating Council of the Green Party of Southwest Washington shall consist of a Facilitator, Vice Facilitator, Secretary, Treasurer and Deputy Treasurer, and at-large Coordinating Council members. These officers are elected as needed at the first general meeting of every year by simple majority of the membership present to serve two year terms. Coordinating Council members must maintain current membership in GP-SWWA throughout their tenure on Council.

4.2 Indemnification – The Coordinating Council members of the Green Party of Southwest Washington shall be indemnified by the Green Party of Washington State to the fullest extent permissible by Washington State law.

4.3 Legal Board – The Coordinating Council shall constitute the legal Board of the Party.

4.4 Budget – The budget shall be the responsibility of the Coordinating Council, with the Treasurer or Deputy Treasurer authorized to make petty cash purchases of up to \$25. and with an 80% approval of the Council required for larger expenditures. The Treasurer in coordination with the Deputy Treasurer may reject small petty cash purchases that have not been mentioned to Council prior to expenditure taking place.

4.5 Facilitator – The Facilitator shall schedule and facilitate meetings of the Coordinating Council and the general membership meetings. The Facilitator shall create the agenda of said meetings in collaboration with those Council members who are expected to report.

4.6 Vice-Facilitator – The Vice-Facilitator, in the absence of the Facilitator, shall carry out the duties of the Facilitator.

4.7 Secretary – The Secretary shall assure that all meetings are announced to the membership in a broad and timely manner. The Secretary shall take and maintain minutes of meetings by the Coordinating Council and the general membership and make those minutes available to the general membership.

4.8 Treasurer – The Treasurer shall be responsible for maintaining the financial records of the Party and for timely filing of reports with the appropriate Washington State offices as required by law. The Treasurer shall be the banking officer for all funds, monitoring income and expenses as budgeted by the Coordinating Council.

4.9 Deputy Treasurer – The Deputy Treasurer shall assist the Treasurer with any and all duties, have check writing and signing authority, and take over the duties in the absence of the Treasurer.

4.10 Vacancy – If any Council position becomes vacant due to unforeseen circumstances such as illness or death before the end of the term, the membership may elect a replacement to finish the term by simple majority directly (e.g. by email vote) or of those in attendance at the next general meeting at which quorum is met.

4.11 Resignation – If any Council member wishes to resign their position before the end of term, he/she must submit a formal letter of resignation to the Facilitator (or Vice Facilitator in the case of the Facilitator wanting to resign). If that resignation would reduce the number of Council members below five, then the Facilitator reserves the right to reject the resignation until such time that a replacement can be found to finish the term and elected by simple majority directly (e.g. by email vote) or of those in attendance at the next general meeting at which quorum is met.

4.12 Removal – Any member of the Coordinating Council may be suspended by a 60% vote of the Coordinating Council to be affirmed by 75% vote of the membership directly (e.g. by email vote) or of those in attendance at the next general meeting at which quorum is met.

## ARTICLE V. MEETINGS

5.1 Coordinating Council Meetings – The Coordinating Council shall meet as needed with a minimum of two meetings per year.

5.2 General Membership Meetings – Membership meetings shall be as called with a minimum of one meeting per year. In addition, a meeting may be called at the request of 25% of the voting membership.

5.3 Rule of Meetings – All meetings will be conducted using Robert’s Rules of Order ([RobertsRules.org](http://RobertsRules.org)) as applicable.

## ARTICLE VI. AUTHORITY

6.1 Authority – Final authority rests with the membership. The membership may delegate and revoke responsibilities to the Coordinating Council and other committees. The Coordinating Council or committee may make decisions with the authority granted by the membership. Minutes of all council and general membership meetings shall be available at the next general meeting and members may at that subsequent meeting challenge any decision made at which point the contested decision will be put to a vote of the general membership following any discussion.

6.2 Methodology – The Party shall seek consensus on all decisions, hearing all views and concerns in full, subject to time constraints. Where consensus cannot be reached, decisions shall be approved by the affirmation of two-thirds of those voting.

6.3 Quorum – A quorum is defined as over half of the governing body, e.g. 6 of 10 or 11 members.

## ARTICLE VII. BYLAW AMENDMENTS

7.1 Procedure for Amendments – Proposed amendments must be submitted to the Council no later than three weeks prior to the membership meeting at which the proposed amendment(s) shall be considered. In order to be considered, an amendment must have the support of at least three voting members.

7.2 Notification – The Secretary shall communicate to all members at least two weeks in advance of the membership meeting at which an amendment or amendments are to be considered including a) the date, time, and place of the meeting, (b) the complete text of the amendment(s) under consideration and the original text to be replaced if any, and (c) any other information useful in considering the value of the proposed amendment(s).

7.3 Ratification – Ratification shall require a majority vote of the membership directly (e.g. by email vote) or of those in attendance at the next general meeting at which quorum is met.