

BYLAWS OF THE GREEN PARTY OF ORANGE COUNTY
Approved May 27, 2001

ARTICLE I: Name, Purpose, and Mission

Section 1: Name

1.1 The name of this organization is the Green Party of Orange County. The representative and administrative body of the Green Party of Orange County is the Green Party of Orange County Council. In these bylaws, "GPOC" shall be an abbreviation for "Green Party of Orange County", and "The County Council" and "The Council" shall be abbreviations for "The Green Party of Orange County Council". "GPCA" shall be an abbreviation for "Green Party of California"

Section 2. Purpose

- 2.1 These bylaws shall govern the organization, operation and functions of that political organization known as the Green Party of Orange County and the Green Party of Orange County Council.
- 2.2 The County Council shall administer the Green Party of Orange County according to these bylaws. In the event of an omission or ambiguity in these bylaws, the GPOC shall look to the bylaws of the Green Party of California for guidance.
- 2.3 The County Council is accountable to the membership of the GPOC and must execute all of the GPOC's decisions reached in accordance with these bylaws.

Section 3. Mission (Revised 2/1/2009)

3.1 The mission of the Green Party of Orange County shall be to promote the 10 Key Values and the Platform of the Green Party of California, and to empower people to run for elected or appointed offices.

Article II: Decision Structure

- 1.1 Decisions by the GPOC fall into the following classes:
- a. Bylaws: Require consensus or 4/5 vote of a County Assembly to adopt or amend.
 - b. Election of Council members: elected either in a primary election or in a County Assembly, as described in these bylaws.

- c. Business decisions: Require consensus or 4/5 vote of either the County Council or a County Assembly to adopt, suspend, or amend. These include:
 - i. procedural rules not covered in the bylaws
 - ii. statements of GPOC positions on issues
 - iii. approval of working groups or locals, and approval of actions of working groups
 - iv. approval of expenditures
 - v. appointment of delegates
- d. Election of officers: The Council Chair, the Treasurer, and the Secretary are each chosen as the County Council decides.
- e. Endorsement of candidates: Requires a 2/3 vote in a County Assembly as described in Article XI, Section 2.

ARTICLE III: Membership

Section 1.

- 1.1 All persons shall be considered members of the GPOC who are currently registered to vote with the Green Party in Orange County, California.
- 1.2 'Active membership' for purposes of decision-making in a County Assembly, or qualification to be a delegate to a GPCA General Assembly, shall consist of one of these two conditions being fulfilled:
 - a. The person is a member according to item 1.1 above, and is on record as having attended a General Meeting or County Assembly of the GPOC within the last year.
 - b. The person is not qualified to vote under the laws of California, but is known to the County Council to be active in the functions of the GPOC, and has registered with the County Council as an "active member".

ARTICLE IV: The County Council

Section 1. Mission and Purpose

- 1.1 The County Council shall serve as the elected representative body of the Green Party of Orange County. The Council shall fill the role served by County Central Committees pursuant to Division 7 of the Elections Code.

Section 2. Membership

- 2.1 The County Council shall be elected in accordance with the bylaws of the Green Party of California. In the event that the method specified by the GPCA bylaws is not implemented by the Secretary of State of California, seven members shall be elected at large countywide.
- 2.2 A Council member may appoint an alternate in her/his absence. Such alternates shall have the right to hold an "unresolved concern", or cast a vote, should one become necessary, only with the authorization of the member who suggested the appointment. An alternate member shall be subject to the rules of the Council and may vote only while the elected member is absent. Authorization of an alternate may be given in writing, by email to all other Council members who have email capability, or by telephone, or orally in person to two or more other Council members.
- 2.3 Council members shall serve until new Council convenes its first meeting after the direct primary election.
- 2.4 A Council member may serve a maximum of three consecutive terms.
- 2.5 A seat on the County Council may be vacant for any of the following reasons:
- a. Fewer candidates were on the ballot than the number of seats.
 - b. An ineligible person was elected to a seat.
 - c. Death or incapacitation of a Council member.
 - d. Resignation or automatic resignation (See section 2.7d)
- 2.6 Empty seats on the County Council may be filled by election in a County Assembly.
- 2.7 Resignation: Any County Council member automatically resigns if any one of the following events occurs:
- a. The member moves out of the County.
 - b. The member registers with another political party (whether qualified or not)
 - c. The member fails to maintain an updated, accurate voter registration, or
 - d. The member misses three consecutive meetings of the County Council, without appointing an alternate.
- 2.8 Recall: The following steps are necessary to enact the recall

of a sitting Council member:

- a. Three members of the Green Party of Orange County must sign a written statement and present it to the County Council specifying exactly how the member failed to act in accordance with the 10-Key Values or with these bylaws.
- b. The County Council shall appoint a Mediation committee of at least three active members of the GPOC. Both parties shall meet with the Mediation Committee within seven (7) days. Within five(5) days after the meeting, the Mediation committee shall inform both parties of its recommendation. If one party fails to appear at the meeting with the Mediation Committee, the Mediation Committee shall make a recommendation based on whatever information is available. If both parties fail to appear, the recall effort shall be considered at an end.
- c. If either party is dissatisfied with the Mediation Committee's recommendation, the Council shall allow equal times for both the Council member targeted for recall and the party attempting the recall to present their positions at the next County Assembly. If the County Assembly reaches consensus for recall (4/5 majority fallback vote), the Council shall remove the member.

Section 3. Officers

- 3.1 As its first order of business after the primary, the Council shall elect a Chair from among its members. The Chair shall have no decision-making authority alone.
 - a. The Chair, along with the Treasurer, signs all checks drawn on the Green Party of Orange County account.
 - b. The Chair shall serve as interim Secretary until the Council elects one.
 - c. Within five days of its first meeting, the Council shall notify the County Clerk of the name, address and daytime telephone number of the elected chair.
 - d. The Chair or Secretary shall send a published agenda (including motions received from Council members) to County Council members at least two days prior to scheduled meetings
- 3.2 As its second order of business, the Council shall elect a Treasurer from among the members of the Green Party of Orange County.
 - a. The Treasurer shall make regular reports to the Council of transactions made during the month.
 - b. The Treasurer shall file all required reports with the Treasurer of the Green Party of California.

- c. The Treasurer shall be responsible for fulfilling all the requirements of the Political Reform Act, the Fair Political Practices Commission, and the Federal Elections Commission.
- d. The Treasurer shall serve a term of two years.
- e. The Treasurer is responsible for keeping accurate records of all funds at the Council's disposal, including the origin of the funds, the balance on hand, money spent, upcoming spending plans, and future funding needs. The Council must grant, in a timely fashion, requests by Party members for examination of the records.
- f. The duties of the Treasurer shall be to maintain financial records of the GPOC, issue payments on bills and expenses approved by the County Council, report on financial matters to the County Assembly and the County Council, and other duties as approved by the County Council.

3.3 As its third order of business, the Council shall elect a Secretary from among the active members of the GPOC.

- a. The Secretary shall see that written minutes are taken of all Council meetings, General Meetings, and County Assemblies.
- b. The Secretary shall be a primary contact for all proposals from the membership to the Council.
- c. The Secretary shall serve a term of two years.
- d. The Secretary shall maintain membership records, and make membership lists available to the County Council.
- e. The Secretary shall maintain files of all documents recording GPOC business, except financial records.

Section 4. Meetings

4.1 A newly elected Council shall hold its first meeting within 30 days after the primary election in which it is elected.

4.2 County Council Quorum Requirements
(Added May 28, 2003)

County Council can be officially convened only when the minimum quorum requirements are met:

Seated
Council (shown in digits) Minimum Quorum (spelled out)

7	Five
6	Four
5	Three

4 Three

3 Two

Seated Council are the number of persons voted to council seats either at a primary election or in a County Assembly.

Section 5. Duties and Authority

5.1 The Council shall be generally responsible for coordinating meetings, internal communications and other administrative tasks, including the following:

- a. Acting as necessary (while adhering to the process and principles of the Green Party of California) to carry out the decisions of the County Assembly and making executive decisions between County Assemblies. Council actions between County Assemblies shall reflect decisions made at County Assemblies.
- b. Making statements and authorizing actions in the name of the Green Party of Orange County consistent with local and state policy.
- c. Retaining legal counsel on behalf of the Green Party of Orange County and the Council, and making decisions under the advice of legal counsel. This includes undertaking any legal action deemed necessary.
- d. Employing staff as necessary.
- e. Conducting such other business as the Green Party of Orange County may require.

5.2 The Council shall make reasonable efforts to make information available to all members of the GPOC. The Council shall make available uncensored information that includes, but is not limited to:

- a. Upcoming events, including the next County Assembly meeting, and deadlines required by law.
- b. Upcoming issues requiring study, thought, and/or action by the GPOC.

Section 6. Proposals

6.1 The Council may formulate proposals for the County Assembly. The Council, or a designated representative, shall present its proposals to an Assembly.

6.2 The Council shall receive proposals for action from both members and non-members. When necessary, the Council shall refer a proposal to a committee or working group for further refinement. If there

is no appropriate committee it may establish an Ad Hoc Committee.

6.3 Proposals shall include cost estimates if costs are to be incurred.

ARTICLE V Meetings and Assemblies

Section 1. General Meetings

- 1.1 The County Council shall call a General Meeting of the GPOC at least six (6) times a year, but this shall be considered the legal minimum. Monthly meetings shall be considered the norm.
- 1.2 General Meetings shall be for the purpose of maintaining communication among the County Council, the membership of the GPOC, and the public.
- 1.3 All General Meetings shall be wheel chair accessible.
- 1.4 If requested at least (7) days before any General Meeting, the Council shall arrange to provide child care for the duration of the meeting.
- 1.5 Date and location for the next General Meeting shall be determined by the close of each meeting.

Section 2. County Assemblies

- 2.1 If deemed necessary by the County Council, or if required by a petition of active members (see Article VI), a General Meeting may become a County Assembly, which is able to conduct official business.
- 2.1 Establishing the agenda for a County Assembly is the responsibility of the Council.
- 2.2 The Council has the task of collecting items and making a draft agenda available to all active members who can be easily reached at least one week in advance.
- 2.3 The agenda package shall include a draft of all proposals. A proposal which has not been made available in advance to all active members may only come to the floor after agreement of the County Assembly (2/3 fallback vote).
- 2.4 Ratification of the proposed agenda and times shall occur at the beginning of the meeting.

Section 3. Quorum

- 3.1 A quorum shall exist for the purpose of both opening a meeting and making decisions when 20% of the active members of the Green Party

of Orange County are present.

3.2 Each active member shall sign in with the doorkeeper when he/she arrives. The "active" status of the member shall be determined by the Doorkeeper, and a token of some kind shall be issued to plainly distinguish active members from observers in the Assembly.

3.3 The Doorkeeper and Facilitators shall thereafter be responsible for determining whether a quorum exists at any time during the Assembly.

Section 4. Guests and Observers

4.3 The General Assembly may choose to go into closed session with a 4/5 majority vote. Only active members may attend closed sessions. A motion for going into closed session may be proposed as a point of procedure and, at the discretion of the Facilitation Team, voted upon immediately.

4.4 With consensus (4/5 majority fallback vote), the County Assembly may exercise its right to exclude an individual who fails to honor the process and principles of the Green Party. This also may be proposed as a point of procedure as in 4.3 above.

Section 5. Meeting Roles, Duties and Responsibilities

5.2 A County Assembly shall follow the "consensus-seeking process" for making decisions and the meeting roles, duties, and responsibilities as outlined in the bylaws of the Green Party of California.

5.5 Except in a closed session, anyone may take part in the consensus-seeking process. Only active members, however may vote or hold an "unresolved concern." If time is running short, Facilitators shall give preference to active members in recognizing speakers.

Section 6. Election of County Council members in a County Assembly (Revised March 4, 2007)

6.1 When empty seats on the County Council are to be filled in a County Assembly, the following procedure shall be used:

- a. Nominations shall be requested from the floor. Only active members may make or second nominations. Members may nominate or second themselves.
- b. In any election where the number of candidates is less than or equal to the number of seats to be filled, the Threshold Voting System shall be used, as described in Section 6.2.
- c. In an election where there is only one seat to be filled, and

more than one candidate, the Preference Voting System shall be used as described in Section 6.3.

- d. In an election where more than one seat is to be filled, and there are more candidates than open seats, the Single Transferable Vote System shall be used, as described in Section 6.4.
- e. Before any election may proceed, the facilitator must determine the total number of authorized voters present. This is necessary to calculate "abstained" votes. The number of "abstained" votes is equal to the total number of authorized voters minus the sum of the "yes" and "no" votes submitted for a candidate.

6.2 Threshold Voting System

- a. Each authorized voter submits a ballot with all the candidates listed and the vote: "yes", "no", or "abstain" to be recorded for each. Election requires approval of 2/3 of those voting, not including abstentions, and 1/2 of those authorized voters present, including abstentions.

6.3 Preference Voting System

- a. Each authorized voter submits a ballot with all the candidates listed and the preference vote to be recorded for each, with a preference number from "1" to the total number of candidates, where a preference of "1" represents the member's first preference. "No Candidate" may also be ranked on the ballot if a voter prefers that a seat remain empty rather than be filled by candidates subsequent in the ranking. The election is then conducted as follows:
 - i. The preference votes are then used to eliminate the low preference candidates. The ballots are sorted by the first-preference votes. The candidate with the least number of first preference votes is eliminated, and those ballots are transferred to the candidate listed as the next preference. This process is repeated until one candidate has more than half the votes cast. If "No Candidate" wins, the seat shall remain empty.
 - ii. If while transferring ballots, the candidate listed as the next preference has already been eliminated, then the ballot shall be transferred to the most-preferred choice among those not yet eliminated.
 - iii. If while transferring ballots, all candidates listed on a ballot have been eliminated, the ballot is set aside.
 - iv. In the event of a tie, either for a winning position, or in determining the "last" position for ballot transferral, the candidate with the most first-preference votes shall prevail.

If still a tie, then the second-preference votes are used, then the third-preference votes, and so on. If a tie cannot be broken in this way, It shall be done by drawing lots.

6.4 Single Transferable Vote System

- a. **BALLOTS:** Each voter shall submit a ballot with a number next to the name of each candidate for whom the voter wishes to express a preference: "1" for first preference, "2" for second preference, etc. A ballot paper must include a first preference for the ballot to be counted as valid. If there are gaps in the sequence of numbers (e.g., a "1" and "3" but no "2"), the numbers shall be taken in sequence to represent the voter's preference nonetheless.

If a voter puts a mark next to only one candidate's name, or the ballots are written by hand and only one candidate's name appears on the ballot, that shall be accepted as the expression of a single preference for that candidate and the ballot shall be counted as a valid ballot.

"No Candidate" may also be included on the ballot and ranked, if a voter prefers that the seat remain empty rather than be filled by any candidates subsequent in the ranking. Votes shall not be transferred to any candidate ranked after "No Candidate" on the ballot.

- b. **QUOTA DETERMINED:** The number of valid ballots shall be counted, and the "Droop quota" shall be calculated to three decimal places as follows:

$$\frac{\text{total number of valid ballots cast}}{\text{1 + number of seats to be filled}}$$

If the result requires it, .001 may be added to the quota to assure that:

$(\text{number of candidates to be elected} + 1) \times \text{quota} > \text{number of valid ballots}$

- c. **FIRST-ROUND COUNTING:** All first-preference votes are counted.

If a candidate(s) on the first count has a number of first preference votes exactly equal to or greater than the quota, then that candidate(s) is declared elected. If all open seats are filled at this stage, the counting stops.

- d. **TRANSFER OF VOTES FROM WINNERS:** If a candidate is elected on the first count, and there are seats yet to be filled, the number of votes for that candidate in excess of the number of votes needed to be elected (the surplus) is

recorded. All of the elected candidate's ballots are then re-examined and assigned to candidates not yet elected according to the second preferences marked on the ballots of those who gave a first preference vote to the elected candidate. These votes are allocated according to a "transfer value." The formula for the transfer value is:

surplus votes cast for
the elected candidate

total number of votes received
by the elected candidate

e. If two or more candidates on the first count gain more than the minimum number of votes needed to be elected, all of those candidates are declared elected. The ballots of the candidate with the largest number of first preference votes shall be re-examined first and assigned (at the transfer value below) to candidates not yet elected according to the second preferences marked on that candidate's ballots, or the next available preference, if the second preference candidate has already been elected. The ballots of the other elected candidate(s) will then be re-examined and their surpluses distributed in order according to the number of first preference votes each candidate received.

f. If a candidate reaches more than the minimum number of votes needed to be elected as the consequence of a transfer of votes from an elected candidate, the number of votes in excess of the number of votes needed to be elected (the surplus) will be transferred to other candidates. This transfer will be to the next available preference shown on all of this candidate's ballots. These ballots now include 1) the candidate's first preference ballots, and 2) the parcel(s) of ballots transferred to the candidate from one or more elected candidates. The transfer value for the candidate's first preference shall be calculated to three decimal places as follows:

surplus votes cast for
the elected candidate

total number of votes received
by the elected candidate

The transfer value for each parcel of ballots transferred to the candidate from one or more elected candidates is:

surplus votes cast for the transfer value
the elected candidate of the parcel of
----- X ballots received

total number of votes received by the candidate
by the elected candidate

- g. If no candidate has a number of votes equal to or greater than the minimum number of votes needed to be elected, the candidate with the smallest number of votes is excluded. All of that candidate's ballots--both first preference ballots and any parcel or parcels of ballots transferred from other candidates--are transferred to candidates who have not been elected or excluded according to the next available preference shown on the excluded candidate's ballots. The excluded candidate's first preference ballots are transferred to the second (or next available) preferences at full value. Ballots received from previously-elected (or excluded) candidates are transferred at the transfer value at which the ballots were received.
- h. Counting continues in the described sequence: the surplus of elected candidates is assigned until no more candidates are elected, then the ballots of excluded candidates are assigned until another candidate is elected. If only one candidate remains that has not yet been elected or excluded, and one or more seats remains to be filled, and the remaining candidate has not achieved the quota, any unfilled seats shall remain empty.
- i. If, during the transfer of preferences, a ballot paper does not indicate an available preference, the ballot is put aside as "exhausted." This can occur because:
- * the voter only indicated one, or a small number of preferences;
 - * all the preferred candidates have already been elected or excluded; or
 - * there is a repetition on the ballot in the sequence of numbering preferences.

PROVISIONS FOR TIED VOTES

- j. Where two or more candidates have the same number of first preference votes at the end of a counting stage, and this number is more than the minimum number of votes necessary for election, then the candidate whose surplus is distributed first shall be decided by lot.
- k. Where no candidate has a number of first preference votes equal to or greater than the number of votes necessary for election at the end of the a counting stage, and two or more candidates have the same number of first preference votes, this number being the smallest number of first preference votes gained by any candidate, then the second-choice votes for all candidates shall be counted, and the the candidate who is excluded first shall be the one who received to least

second-choice votes. If this fails to break the tie, the third-choice votes shall be counted, and the candidate with the least third-choice votes shall be excluded, and so on. If the tie cannot be broken with the votes cast, the first candidate to exclude shall be decided by lot.

- I. If, at any stage of the count other than during the first count, two candidates have the same number of votes, the candidate who is declared elected first, or who is not excluded shall be:
 - i. the candidate with the larger number of votes in the immediately preceding count where there is a difference in the votes between the two candidates; or
 - ii. the candidate with the larger number of votes in an earlier count, moving backward in time; or
 - iii. the candidate whose name is drawn by lot, where there is no difference in the number of votes between the candidates at any preceding count.

Section 7. Local Meetings

7.1 A "local" is a geographic grouping of Green Party of Orange County members.

- a. It may be defined by city boundaries, postal zip codes, supervisorial districts, State or Federal legislative districts, or by naming streets or other landmarks to define the local.
- b. If any of the boundaries used to define a local change, the local must submit a notification to the County Council within 30 days to maintain its recognized status.

7.2 To be recognized as a local, a group of registered Greens must present a petition signed by one half of one percent of all registered Green voters in Orange County, and describing the geographic area to be included in the local. All signers of the petition must reside within the geographic area proposed to be covered by the local. The petition must also describe a method by which it proposes to elect a liaison to the County Council.

7.3 The local must have its own name. Recognition of a local is not to be construed as authorizing it to use the name "Green Party of Orange County" without express permission from either the County Council or a County Assembly for each instance.

7.4 If a local engages in activities under its own name other than a local County Assembly, it takes full responsibility for them as a separate organization from the Green Party of Orange County.

7.5 The local must, by the procedure described in its originating petition, elect a liaison to the County Council. The local's liaison shall have the following responsibilities:

- a. Ensure that the local's agenda in a local County Assembly covers all items on the county-wide agenda.
- b. Inform the County Council of all decisions reached by the local, and the results of any votes
- c. Forward copies of all attendance sheets from meetings of the local to the Secretary of the County Council. This will allow meeting attendance at a local meeting to count toward fulfilling Article III, Section 1.2 a. for participation in a County Assembly.

7.6 A local may choose to hold its own County Assembly at a time and place of its choosing so long as it has convened within thirty (30) days after the county-wide County Assembly.

7.7 In order to take part in the County Assembly decision-making process, a local must agree to address all proposals contained in the draft agenda of the county-wide County Assembly.

7.8 If not all locals reach consensus on a given proposal, each vote of each active member present at a local meeting shall be counted as if he/she had been present at the county-wide County Assembly. If a local reaches consensus, all active members present shall be assumed to have voted in favor of the proposal.

7.9 No decision of the County Assembly is complete until all recognized locals have had the opportunity to address the proposal. If a local fails to address a proposal circulated in the draft agenda, the members of that local shall be considered to have taken no part: they are not counted as "yes", "no", or "stand-aside" in the decision making process for that proposal.

7.10 While an active member may attend any and all local meetings of a County Assembly, he or she may only hold an "unresolved concern" or vote (should one become necessary) once per proposal.

7.11 If a local County Assembly wishes to vote on election of County Council members, it must only vote on the candidates already nominated and seconded at the county-wide County Assembly. It may not make nominations.

Section 8: State General Assembly (also known as State Plenary)
(Added September 3, 2006)

8.1 Selection of Delegates: It is the responsibility of the GPCA to assign the number of delegates representing each county at the State General Assembly.

- a. Orange County Green Party members will be notified of upcoming State General Assembly meetings prior to, during and after the GPOC General Meeting taking place the month prior to the State General Assembly. The date of the General Assembly will be announced and a request will be made for

volunteers to serve as GPOC delegates or alternate delegates.

1. Delegate qualification: Delegates must be active Greens according to the relevant provisions of the GPOC bylaws.
2. Every attempt should be made to appoint a minimum of two delegates who have previously served as a delegate to the State General Assembly if the delegation consists of four or more delegates. Should the delegation consist of less than four delegates, every attempt should be made to appoint one delegate who has previously served as a delegate to the State General Assembly.
3. Delegation selection:
 - i. The delegation will consist of the qualifying delegates who volunteer to serve at the GPOC General Meeting the month prior to the State General Assembly if the number of volunteers is equal to the number of allotted delegates and the delegation meets the conditions of 8.1 a.2.
 - ii. If the number of people volunteering to serve as delegates at the GPOC General Meeting is less than the number of allotted delegates, the County Council may recruit and appoint qualifying volunteers to serve as delegates to complete the delegation. County Council may recruit and appoint volunteers to serve as alternate delegates who can share the delegate responsibility where there is an insufficient number of delegates who are able to attend the entire meeting.
 - iii. If the number of volunteer delegates is greater than the number of allotted delegates, the County Council shall select the delegates based on:
 - a. qualification
 - b. balance of gender equity, sexual preference, age and cultural diversity
 - c. State General Assembly experience with priority going to a Green who has not previously served as a delegate to the State General Assembly as long as the minimum number of delegates who have previously served as State General Assembly delegates is met.
- b. Active Orange County Greens shall have the opportunity to discuss and to establish a consensus on the General Assembly packet agenda items (proposals, elections, consent calendar items, platform proposals and other items requiring decisions by delegates) prior to the Plenary.
 1. The County Council shall make reasonable attempts to foster discussion by Active Greens on line, and in person

at an Orange County General Meeting or at a special meeting.

- i. If the packet is published to allow sufficient time, the County Council may call a Special Plenary Meeting for selected delegates and Active Orange County Greens to discuss the packet agenda items.
2. Barring major changes to the proposals, delegates shall act in accordance with the consensus positions at the County Assembly.
3. If no consensus is reached, a straw poll shall be taken at the General Meeting or at the Special Plenary Meeting. The results of the poll shall determine the actions of the delegates to the Plenary.
4. In case of a split decision, the actions of the delegates shall reflect as precisely as possible, the proportion of the votes on each side of the issue.
5. If extraordinary circumstances make consensus seeking meetings unreasonable (last minute publication of agenda packets, last minute changes to agenda packets), the delegates shall act on the instructions of the County Council, and if no County Council instructions are made available, the delegates shall be free to rely upon their own resources to make their decisions regarding the items on the General Assembly agenda.

ARTICLE VI: PETITION FOR COUNTY ASSEMBLY

Section 1

- 1.1 Upon being presented with a petition signed by a number of active members of the GPOC equal to one half of one percent of the total number of registered Green voters in Orange County, the County Council must call a County Assembly within 60 days of the presentation.
- 1.2 Such a petition must include all of the following in its text:
 - a. one or more agenda items which the petitioners feel a need to treat in a County Assembly.
 - b. suggested time allotments for each item.
 - c. the names of one or more presenters willing to present any proposals mentioned in item "a" above. If the only agenda item mentioned in "a" above is the election of County Council members, no Presenters are necessary.

ARTICLE VII: AMENDMENT OF BY-LAWS

These by-laws may be amended by a 4/5 majority vote of a County Assembly.

ARTICLE VIII: GENERAL POLICIES

Section 1. Non-discrimination

1.1 The Green Party of Orange County shall not discriminate on the basis of age, race, sex, sexual orientation, physical ability, religion or income.

1.2 It is the responsibility of the Council to ensure that this policy is carried out.

Section 2. Endorsement of Candidates

2.1 For the GPOC to endorse a candidate, whether a registered Green or a candidate of any other party, the following procedure must be observed.

- a. The Candidate must attend a General Meeting to announce the request for endorsement, upon which the Secretary shall present the candidate with the platform of the GPCA as a required reading.
- b. Upon reading the platform, the candidate shall submit a written statement to the County Council, stating on which platform planks he/she agrees, and on which he/she disagrees, and reasoning behind such agreement or disagreement.
- c. After b. above, the Secretary shall set up a meeting between the candidate and the County Council where the Council shall evaluate the candidate's qualifications and prepare a statement of evaluation to be presented to the next County Assembly.
- d. The County Assembly shall hear both the Council's evaluation and the candidate's own evaluation and a vote shall be taken on whether to endorse the candidate.
- e. The candidate shall be considered endorsed if he/she gains the vote of 2/3 of the active members attending the meeting.