

GREEN PARTY OF SAINT PAUL AND THE MINNESOTA FOURTH
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT BYLAWS

Adopted December 13, 2003. Amended May 15, 2004, April 2, 2005, April 1, 2006, and
May 6, 2006..

ARTICLE I – NAME

The name of the organization shall be The Green Party of Saint Paul and the Minnesota Fourth Congressional District.

ARTICLE II – PURPOSE

The Green Party of Saint Paul and the Minnesota Fourth Congressional District (hereinafter “Green Party of St. Paul”) is founded upon the four coequal principles of Ecological Wisdom, Grassroots Democracy, Social and Economic Justice, and Nonviolence.

ARTICLE III – VOTING STANDARDS

Section 1. At General Membership Meetings, the right to participate in the decision making process shall be extended to all members as described in Article IV.

Section 2. Unless otherwise specified by these bylaws, official decisions shall be made by achieving consensus. If consensus cannot be reached, an official decision can be approved by a 2/3 majority of members.

ARTICLE IV – MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. Membership in the Green Party of St. Paul is free. There are no membership dues. The requirements for membership are that a person:

- (a) is a resident of the Fourth U.S. Congressional District of Minnesota, and
- (b) shares the Green Party’s values, and
- (c) attends at least three meetings of the Green Party of St. Paul, one of which may be a state Green Party caucus meeting held within Minnesota’s Fourth U.S. Congressional District, and
- (d) is qualified for membership in the Green Party of Minnesota.

Section 2.

a. A member may be expelled at a General Membership Meeting.

b. All members, including the member proposed for expulsion, must be notified at least one week before the meeting where the issue of member expulsion shall be raised.

c. There must be a quorum present at a meeting to expel. A quorum is described in Article VII, Section 2(d).

d. Membership shall be so forfeited by any member who acts in a manner in opposition to explicit principles and values of the Green Party.

e. Membership shall be forfeited by any member of the Green Party of St. Paul who has been expelled by the Green Party of Minnesota.

ARTICLE V – OFFICERS

A. ELECTION

All officers will be elected at a General Membership Meeting by a pre-approved voting method. If a vacancy is created mid-term, a special election shall be held to elect a new officer to serve out the remainder of the term.

B. CO-CHAIRS

The Green Party of St. Paul shall elect two co-chairs.

Each co-chair shall serve a term of two years. No co-chair shall serve more than two consecutive terms.

The election of one of the two co-chairs shall take place in January of each even-numbered year, and the election of the other co-chair shall take place in January of each odd-numbered year.

The duties of the co-chairs shall include conducting each General Membership meeting, and arranging a substitute to lead the meeting as necessary.

C. SPOKESPERSON

An election for Spokesperson shall be held in January of each odd-numbered year. Spokespersons will serve a term of two years. The Spokesperson shall be the official contact with the news media.

D. SECRETARY

The Secretary will serve a term of two years. An election for Secretary shall be held in January of each even numbered year. The Secretary shall take minutes at all General Membership meetings or arrange for another person to take minutes.

E. TREASURER

The Treasurer will serve a term of two years. An election for Treasurer shall be held in January of each even-numbered year. The Treasurer shall maintain the Green Party of St. Paul bank account, file all required reports with the State of Minnesota, and report on the status of the treasury at each General Membership Meeting.

F. MEETING ORGANIZER

A Meeting Organizer may be appointed by the Coordinating Committee at a time of their choosing. The term for the Meeting Organizer shall end when new Coordinating Committee members are elected in January of each even-numbered year.

The Meeting Organizer may be removed for cause by a majority vote at a General Membership Meeting.

The Meeting Organizer will encourage effective and well-run meetings.

ARTICLE VI – COORDINATING COMMITTEE

COORDINATING COMMITTEE

Section 1. The Coordinating Committee shall be the governing body of the Green Party of St. Paul and shall exercise a general oversight function. The Coordinating Committee shall oversee the implementation of programs, campaigns, and projects which advance the goals of the Green Party.

Section 2. The Coordinating Committee shall have a minimum of five (5) members and a maximum of nine (9) members. The Co-chairs described in Article V(B) will belong to the Coordinating Committee, as will the Spokesperson described in Article V(C).

Section 3. In addition At-Large Members shall be elected at a General Membership Meeting. Except for the Spokesperson, election for Coordinating Committee members shall be held in January of each even-numbered year.

Section 4. The term of office for At-Large Members shall be for two years.

Section 5. Eligibility to serve on the Coordinating Committee shall be open to any member of the Green Party of St. Paul. Coordinating Committee members shall not be members of any other political party.

Section 6. The Coordinating Committee shall meet as often as necessary and at least quarterly.

Section 7. Three members of the Coordinating Committee shall constitute a quorum for a meeting of the Coordinating Committee.

Section 8. Members of the Coordinating Committee may be removed for cause at a General Membership Meeting.

ARTICLE VII – MEETINGS

Section 1. Minutes

- a. Minutes shall be taken as necessary at General Membership meetings of the Green Party of St. Paul
- b. Minutes shall be distributed to all Green Party of St. Paul members with e-mail by e-mail. The Secretary shall make paper copies of minutes available to members without e-mail.

Section 2. General Membership Meetings

- a. General Membership Meetings will be held at least quarterly.
- b. All General Membership Meetings are open to the public.
- c. Only Green Party of St. Paul members can vote or participate in decision making at the meetings. Membership is described in Article IV.

The membership list will be maintained and regulated accordingly by the Treasurer of the Green Party.

At all General Membership meetings, final arbitration of membership status will fall to the Coordinating Committee.

- d. A quorum must be present to take any action at a General Membership Meeting.

A quorum will be a number of members equal to one-half (1/2) of the average attendance at the last three General Membership Meetings.

Section 3. Coordinating Committee Meetings

- a. The Coordinating Committee shall meet as required in Article IV, Section A, Subsection 6.
- b. When Coordinating Committee members meet outside of a General Membership Meeting, they will report on their activities at the next General Membership Meeting.
- c. All Coordinating Committee meetings shall be open to all members of the Green Party of St. Paul and to invited guests.

ARTICLE VIII – FISCAL POLICY

Section 1. The Green Party of St. Paul shall accept contributions from individuals.

Section 2. The Green Party of St. Paul, and its endorsed candidates shall not accept contributions from for-profit or nonprofit corporations or from political action committees.

Section 3. The Green Party of St. Paul may accept contributions from the Green Party of Minnesota. The Green Party of St. Paul may also accept contributions from the Green Party of Minnesota candidate committees, within the limit of local, state, and federal campaign finance regulations.

ARTICLE IX – CANDIDATE ENDORSEMENT

Section 1.

a. The Green Party of St. Paul shall adopt a standard Candidate's Questionnaire to be answered by all candidates for elected office seeking endorsement by the Green Party of St. Paul.

b. No part of Article IX shall be construed to prohibit the amendment or alteration of the questionnaire, however all candidates seeking endorsement in the same year shall complete the same questionnaire.

c. No part of Article IX shall be construed to prohibit the development and use of additional questionnaires, such as one containing questions specific to the office being sought by the candidate.

d. Article IX applies only to regular election cycles, and makes no provisions regarding special elections.

Section 2. The Candidate's responses shall be made available to all members of the Green Party of St. Paul not less than 10 days prior to the endorsing convention.

Section 3.

a. The Green Party of St. Paul shall hold an endorsing convention coinciding with its General Membership Meeting in May of each year.

b. Candidates seeking endorsement later than the May endorsing convention must first be granted a late endorsing convention by majority vote of the Coordinating Committee.

c. Candidates seeking endorsement at a late endorsing convention must receive a 3/4 majority vote at the convention in order to be endorsed.

Section 4. All candidates seeking endorsement by the Green Party of St. Paul be present in person at the endorsing convention, and shall be available at that time to respond to additional questions posed by the members.

ARTICLE X – AMENDMENTS

Section 1. These Bylaws may be amended at General Membership Meetings held in April or May of each year.

Section 2. Amendments to the bylaws shall take effect upon approval by the membership unless otherwise provided.

XI – SUSPENSION OF BYLAWS

These bylaws may be suspended upon approval by a 5/6 majority vote of members present at a membership meeting

Members wishing to suspend the bylaws shall specify the purpose of the suspension of the bylaws.

If approved, the suspension of the bylaws is limited in scope and duration to the stated purpose of the suspension.