

Changes to the Massachusetts Green Party By-laws which were passed by the consensus of the State Committee between the June 3, 2001 and April 27, 2002 State Conventions

Green-Rainbow Proposal passed by consensus at the March 23, 2002 State Committee meeting

Bylaws Section 1 Add procedure for changing the party name

1 Name and Definition

Add Section 1.3:

- 1.3 The Massachusetts Green Party may effect a change of its official party name by taking all of the following steps.
 - 1.3.1 A resolution proposing a party name change is agreed upon by a two-thirds majority of a State Convention.
 - 1.3.2 Representatives of the party as designated by the State Committee, file a request with the Commonwealth of Massachusetts to officially recognize this new name as the official name of the party.
 - 1.3.3 This name change is approved by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and will not impact the legal and ballot status of the party, the registration status of any party members, and the ballot status of any candidates of the party for office in Massachusetts.
 - 1.3.4 If conditions 1.3.1, 1.3.2, and 1.3.3 are not met, the name change will not take effect.
 - 1.3.5 If a party name change does take full legal effect, the bylaws of the party shall be immediately modified, replacing references to the old state party name with references to the new state party name. Bylaws references to the national Green Party will not be altered. The website and official literature of the party shall also be modified to reflect this new name within a reasonable amount of time.

Green-Rainbow Proposal passed by consensus at the March 23, 2002 State Committee meeting

Bylaws Section 5

Refer to Addendum A instead of to an unspecified consensus document

5 Meetings and Decision Making

Original section 5.2:

- 5.2 Decisions shall be made through a consensus seeking process to be defined in another document and made available to members and Green locals.

New section 5.2:

- 5.2 Decisions shall be made through the consensus seeking process defined in the document **Addendum A (Consensus Seeking Process)**, attached to these bylaws.

Proposal by Jeff O'Neill passed by consensus at the January 12, 2002 State Committee meeting

Bylaws Section 6 Delegates to the State Convention

Purpose

The current by-laws require that the delegates to the State Convention be apportioned to each city/town and that each city/town caucus to decide whom to send to the state convention.

I feel that at the current time, we do not have the organizational structure to support this and we should simplify this as described below.

Details

Original section 6.2:

- 6.2 So long as the number of members in the area covered by the convention is 50 or fewer, every member is entitled to participate in the convention, and quorum is set to 1/5 the number of members. If the number of members in the area covered by the convention is greater than 50, then the number of delegates elected to the convention shall be 1/5 of the number of members in the covered area or 2000, whichever is smaller.

Delegates shall be apportioned proportionally to each city and town or fraction thereof in the covered area, provided that every city or town or fraction thereof with at least one member shall be entitled to send at least one delegate. In every city or town wherein the number of such voters exceeds the number of delegates to be selected, then they shall caucus under the authority of their Green local to select their delegates. In cities or towns without a Green local, the co-chairs may authorize one or more members from that city or town to conduct such a caucus.

New section 6.2:

- 6.2 All members in the area covered by the convention are entitled to participate.

Green-Rainbow Proposal passed by consensus at the March 23, 2002 State Committee meeting

Bylaws Section 8

Comply with state law while maintaining proportional representation and add diversity to the State Committee membership

8 State Committee

Summary

The original sections 8.1 through 8.3 are unchanged. The original sections 8.5 through 8.9 and section 8.12 have been modified and reorganized into a new section 8.5.

The original sections 8.4, 8.10, 8.11, 8.13, and 8.14 were renumbered and had the word “county” replaced by “state senatorial district or region”, where this was appropriate.

Purpose

The purpose of this proposed bylaws change is complex.

One important component is to include requirements of state law, concerning the election of some state committee members in 2004, into the current bylaws. The proposal seeks to maintain the current state committee structure and create continuity in the transition that will occur in 2004. By placing changes into the bylaws now that will not take effect until 2004, we seek to educate party members as to the direction that we are headed, prepare the party to handle the transition smoothly, and leave time for reflection and further modification before we actually have to implement these changes.

Another important consideration is to maintain the proportionality of state committee representatives to the general membership of the party and maintain multi-member districts to increase the diversity of opinion of state committee members. State senatorial districts will not contain equal numbers of party members, so we need to add seats to give regions with more party members, additional representation. We recognize that we have not implemented true proportional representation, in the parliamentary democracy sense, in these bylaws, and that we might want to do so in the future.

An improved 8.5.2 section written by the MGP structures and procedures committee has replaced the original 8.5.2 section that the Green-Rainbow Future Committee produced.

The other major consideration is to add to the bylaws a method for creating and maintaining greater diversity in the composition of the state committee membership. The regional proportional seats can be viewed as regional diversity seats. The county/regional conventions which elect the regional proportional seats parallel the issue/identity caucuses which can nominate the diversity seats.

The proposed changes balance the three principles above, along with practical considerations. Like any compromise, they are not “perfect” but we believe they are an improvement over the current bylaws and that they help fulfill the requirements of Rainbow Coalition Party members to join our party.

Details

Original sections 8.5 through 8.9 and section 8.12:

- 8.5 The number of members of the state committee shall be no smaller than 40. The annual convention may vote to raise or lower the number of state committee members. This new number shall not be in effect until the next election of state committee member
- 8.6 State Committee members shall be elected to represent their county or in the case of Worcester and Middlesex counties, their sub-county.
- Worcester county shall be divided into two sub-counties with the cities and towns of West and North Brookfield, Spencer, Leicester, Worcester, Shrewsbury and West and South Borough and those below them considered to be in the South Worcester sub-county and those cities and towns above them considered to be in the North Worcester sub-county
- Middlesex county shall be divided into two sub-counties with the cities and towns along I95 (Newton, Waltham, Lexington, Burlington, Woburn, Stoneham and Wakefield) and those to the south east of them considered to be in the East Middlesex sub-county and those cities and towns to the north and west of them considered to be in the West Middlesex sub-county.
- 8.7 Each county or sub-county shall have at least two state committee members, except for Dukes and Nantucket counties which shall each have at least one. The number of state members assigned to that county shall be determined by the percentage of party members on February 1st in that county multiplied by the total number of state committee members and rounded down. Should the sum of all state committee members in each county be less than the expected number of state committee members, one member will be added to each county starting with the county with the highest fractional state committee member before rounding and proceeding to the next highest until the number of state committee members allocated equals the expected number.
- State committee members shall be equally gender balanced where the number of state committee members in a county or sub-county are greater than two. Counties and sub-counties that fail to elect a sufficient number of female state committee members shall forfeit their female positions until the positions are filled by women or the state committee grants a waiver.
- 8.8 State committee members shall be elected once a year at county or sub-county conventions. The locals in a county will meet to organize their county convention and must hold their county conventions during the months of March or April. County conventions cannot conflict with the state convention.
- 8.9 Any member may be nominated. Candidates must be nominated by at least two other members.
- 8.12 In the event that a state committee member is removed or resigns, the locals in the county of the member removed must hold a county convention at the earliest opportunity to elect a replacement state committee member.

Complete proposed section 8:

8 State Committee

- 8.1 The state committee will serve as the legislature of the Massachusetts Green Party. It shall have general responsibility for the affairs of the Massachusetts Green Party between state conventions. This responsibility shall include:
- Maintaining regular communication with and provide training, information and other services to Green locals;
 - Formulating and disseminating statements of Party policy and platform;
 - Coordinating and conducting the Party's state campaigns;
 - Raising and disbursing monies needed for the successful operation of the Massachusetts Green Party and its locals;
 - Overseeing the work and decisions of the administrative committee;
 - Filling vacancies in the nominations for statewide and congressional offices;
 - Amending the by-laws.
- 8.2 The state committee shall meet three times a year and at most once a season. The date, time and, if possible, location should be set at the previous meeting.
- 8.3 State committee members must be notified at least ten days before meetings, either in writing or by telephone. Such meetings shall also be announced in the appropriate Massachusetts Green Party publications.
- 8.4 It is the responsibility of the members of the state committee to:
- Actively participate in the business of the state committee, including attendance at meetings;
 - Maintain regular communication and consultation with Green locals in their area, and keep those locals informed of state party affairs;
 - Expand the number and membership of Green locals in her state senatorial district or region;
 - Refrain from publicly criticizing party nominees.
- 8.5 The state committee will consist of three groups of members elected or appointed in the following ways. In all cases, state committee members must be members of the Massachusetts Green Party and their term of office will end on or before the thirtieth day following the presidential primary. Although these bylaws describe several methods of electing state committee members, all members other than the 80 elected at the presidential primaries are appointed seats in terms of Massachusetts State Law.

- 8.5.1 Forty women and forty men shall be elected to four year terms at the presidential primaries as described in Massachusetts General Laws. Their terms shall begin on the thirtieth day following their election and end four years later on the thirtieth day following the presidential primary to be held that year.
- 8.5.2 A number of state committee seats, to be known as proportional representation seats (PR seats), shall be created and apportioned to twelve regions. The number of PR seats shall be 40 in 2002 and increase to 60 in 2003. Starting in 2004, the number of PR seats shall be the larger of the number of state committee members elected in the previous presidential primary and the number required for the total size of the state committee to be 60.

These state committee members shall be elected at twelve regional conventions to be organized by locals in the region. After the presidential primaries, regional conventions shall take place within the time period allowed by state law for the organization of the state committee and again two years later. The terms of members so elected will begin the day following their election and end two years later.

Eleven regions will be the counties of Berkshire, Bristol, Essex, Franklin, Hampden, Hampshire, Middlesex, Norfolk, Plymouth, Suffolk, and Worcester. The twelfth region will consist of Barnstable, Dukes, and Nantucket counties. Each region shall be assigned at least two PR seats. The number of PR seats assigned to each region shall be determined as follows:

1. For each region, compute the “desired number” of PR seats as the fraction of registered Green Party voters in that region on February of that year multiplied by the total number of PR seats. This number will be left as a fraction to break ties.
2. Allocate the minimum number of PR seats to each region.
3. Allocate one PR seat to the region with the largest negative difference between allocated and desired seats.
4. Repeat step 3 until all PR seats are allocated.

Each region must reserve half (rounded down) of their PR seats for each gender. In the event that there are not enough candidates of a gender, then those seats will remain empty.

Candidates must be nominated by at least two other members of the party. State committee members elected in this way may be removed through a 2/3 vote of a regional convention.

In the event of a vacancy of a PR seat and a candidate presents herself, the locals in the region must hold a regional convention at the earliest opportunity to elect a replacement state committee member provided that it is not within six months of another regional convention.

- 8.5.3 The state committee will create additional state committee seats, when necessary, to ensure the diversity of the state committee.

By the end of March in every even year, the State Committee shall receive a report of the racial distribution of the general population of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, including estimated percentages of uncounted individuals and undercounted segments.

The duty for determining the source of this report shall be assigned to a sub-committee of the state committee.

The state committee shall take the figure, contained in this report, for the percentage of the population that are people of color and add 5% to this amount. The result of this addition shall be known as the diversity goal for the purposes of these bylaws. The value of the diversity goal for the year 2002 shall be 25%.

Whenever the percentage of the state committee members who are persons of color fails to achieve or exceed the diversity goal for that year, additional diversity seats shall automatically be created to meet the diversity goal.

In addition, the state committee may, by a 2/3 vote, create or remove any additional diversity seats that it desires, to represent other under-represented groups, such as but not limited to, on the basis of gender, geography, class, and sexual orientation.

Candidates must be nominated by at least two other members of the party. Nominees for unfilled diversity seats shall be appointed by a 2/3 vote of state committee members prior to the consideration of regular business at any state committee meeting. Nominations which are backed by endorsement of issue or identity caucuses directly related to the diversity issue being addressed or by a petition of 25 signatures from such a caucus shall be considered by the state committee first. After this, any unfilled diversity seats may be filled by other candidates.

8.5.4 The state committee can establish a subcommittee to work on balancing the requirements of state law and the goals of proportional representation and diversity in the ongoing composition of the state committee membership.

8.6 State committee members may be removed with a 2/3 vote of the state committee. The individual being removed from the state committee shall not be allowed to vote.

8.7 An individual may resign from the state committee by submitting a letter of resignation to the co-chairs of the Massachusetts Green Party and notifying all Green locals in their state senatorial district or region.

8.8 The state committee may amend the by-laws by a vote of 75%. A state convention may override this change by a majority vote.

A 2/3 vote of the recognized Green locals will also override any by-laws change or decision of the state committee, but this method cannot be used to override a by-laws change or decision of a state convention.

8.9 An emergency or special state committee meeting may be called:

- by a written or proxy vote or a petition of 1/3 of the state committee members;
- by a petition or vote of 1/3 of the recognized state Green locals;
- by a simple majority of state committee members at an assembled state committee meeting.

Emergency or special state committee meetings would not count towards the limit on the number of state committee meetings.

Green-Rainbow Proposal passed by consensus at the March 23, 2002 State Committee meeting

Bylaws Section 9

Expand the purpose (but not the number) of the existing regional representatives on the Administrative Committee with general diversity representatives where regional diversity is one of the criteria

9 Administrative Committee

Summary

Sections 9.2, 9.4, 9.16, and 9.17 are changed.

Except for section 9.16 (which is completely deleted), the modified, subtracted, or added words are shown in **bold** typeface.

Purpose

The purpose of this proposed change is to expand the mandate of the regional representatives, who currently insure geographical diversity on the Administrative Committee, into general diversity representatives, where diversity includes geographic, gender, racial, and other types of diversity considerations.

It also adds the concept that the skills that people possess and the diversity of the committee should both be considerations when electing the administrative committee. For example, it may seem obvious to people that a person's mathematical abilities and organizational skills be considered when picking a treasurer. It also may seem obvious to people that a diversity of background and experience of the committee will lead it to decisions that are more likely to reflect a consensus of varied opinions. However, it cannot hurt to remind people of this when they are in the process of deciding from a list of candidates. People will still be totally free to pick whomever they prefer for each position. However, this reminder may get them to think less about "who do I like personally" and more about "who has the skills needed to do the job" and "how the skills and background of one member will complement those of another".

Details

Original section 9.2:

- 9.2 The administrative committee shall consist of a female co-chair, male co-chair, treasurer, secretary, membership director, fundraising director, communications director and five **regional** representatives. These positions (except for the **regional** representatives) shall be elected once a year at a state convention and will serve until the next yearly convention.

Proposed section 9.2:

- 9.2 The administrative committee shall consist of a female co-chair, male co-chair, treasurer, secretary, membership director, fundraising director, communications director and five **diversity** representatives. These positions (except for the **diversity** representatives) shall be elected once a year at a state convention and will serve until the next yearly convention.

Original section 9.4:

- 9.4 There shall be distinct sections of the same ballot for each co-chair position, treasurer, secretary, membership director, fundraising director and communications director. A member may only be elected to one position but may run for up to three positions. In the event a candidate wins more than one position, she shall choose the position she desires and the votes for the other positions will be recounted to determine the candidate selected.

Proposed section 9.4:

- 9.4 There shall be distinct sections of the same ballot for each co-chair position, treasurer, secretary, membership director, fundraising director and communications director. A member may only be elected to one position but may run for up to three positions. In the event a candidate wins more than one position, she shall choose the position she desires and the votes for the other positions will be recounted to determine the candidate selected. **The job skills of each candidate and the diversity of the overall committee should be considerations when voting to elect the members of the committee.**

Original section 9.16:

9.16 **Each of the five regional representatives shall reside in and represent one region of the state as defined below.**

- Western Massachusetts is defined as Berkshire, Franklin, Hampshire and Hampden counties;
- Central Massachusetts is defined as Worcester county and West Middlesex sub-county;
- North Shore Massachusetts is defined as Essex county and East Middlesex sub-county;
- Metro Boston Massachusetts is defined as Suffolk and Norfolk counties;
- South Shore/Cape Massachusetts is defined as Plymouth, Barnstable, Bristol, Dukes, and Nantucket counties.

Regional representatives shall be elected from among the state committee members from that region. They shall be elected by a caucus of the state committee members from that region at the first state committee meeting following the election of state committee members. They shall serve until the state committee meeting following the next election of state committee members.

Proposed section 9.16:

9.16 **For the purposes of geographic diversity considerations on the administrative committee, the following five regions are defined:**

- Western Massachusetts is defined as Berkshire, Franklin, Hampshire and Hampden counties;
- Central Massachusetts is defined as Worcester county and West Middlesex sub-county;
- North Shore Massachusetts is defined as Essex county and East Middlesex sub-county;
- Metro Boston Massachusetts is defined as Suffolk and Norfolk counties;
- South Shore/Cape Massachusetts is defined as Plymouth, Barnstable, Bristol, Dukes, and Nantucket counties.

Original section 9.17:

9.17 Duties of the **regional** representatives shall be to:

- **Build the party membership and regional organization in the region that they represent;**
- **Participate in the communications working committee;**

- In a timely manner, notify the organizers of all Massachusetts Green Party publications of the successes and events of the Green locals in the region **that they represent**;
- Work on the state newsletter, email communications and web site;
- Ensure that locals in their region are kept up to date of administrative committee decisions and progress;
- Keep the state committee members in their region are kept up to date on the decisions and progress of the administrative committee;
- Keep the administrative committee up to date on all issues raised by the locals in the region **that they cover**, and on all issues raised by the state committee for consideration by the administrative committee.

Proposed section 9.17:

9.17 **The five diversity representatives shall be elected by a 2/3 vote of the state committee at the first state committee meeting following the state convention. Any member of the party may be nominated by at least five other members of the party.**

The state committee should consider the job skills of each candidate and the diversity of the overall committee when voting to elect the members of the administrative committee. The diversity considerations should include gender, geographic, racial, and other types of diversity of representation, background, and experience.

The duties of the **diversity** representatives (not in any particular order) shall be to:

- **Work to increase the diversity of the general party membership and to promote, encourage, and recruit diversity in the leadership of the party;**
- **Build the party membership, locals development, and regional organization in the region in which they reside;**
- **Participate in the membership and diversity working committee and in the communication, media, and technical working committee;**
- In a timely manner, notify the organizers of all Massachusetts Green Party publications of the successes and events of the Green locals in the region **in which they reside**;
- Work on the state newsletter, email communications and web site;
- Ensure that locals in their region are kept up to date of administrative committee decisions and progress;
- Keep the state committee members in their region are kept up to date on the decisions and progress of the administrative committee;

- Keep the administrative committee up to date on all issues raised by the locals in the region **in which they reside**, and on all issues raised by the state committee for consideration by the administrative committee.