

The Georgia Green Party Nominating Convention Rules & Regulations

*as adopted by consensus, May 4, 1996, and as amended by Council,
4/23/98, 11/24/98, 12/12/98, 5/1/00, 4/16/01, 6/10/01, 8/18/01,
12/15/02, 5/17/03, 9/06/03, 3/10/0, 5/17/17, 4/19/20, 11/7/21 and 4/5/26.*

I. Scope and Jurisdiction of this policy

This policy of the Georgia Green Party shall constitute the rules and regulation required by O.C.G.A. 21-2-172(a) governing the holding of conventions for the nomination of candidates for any state, district, or county office. This policy shall also govern a special nominating convention to permit the Party to nominate or endorse a candidate in a special election. This Policy shall govern the process for the consideration of amendments to the By-Laws or Platform of the Party or the consideration by the Convention of extending the Party's nomination or endorsement to a candidate. This Policy shall provide for the rules governing the Committee on a Green Party Platform and the Committee on Campaigns and Elections. Nothing in this policy is intended to limit the Party from holding additional Nominating Conventions in a given calendar year where either a special convention is called to name candidates for a special election or where a previous nominating convention was held prior to April 15th in an election year which convention resolved to hold an additional convention for the purpose of nominating additional candidates or conducting other business requiring a convention. This policy may be referred to as the Nominating Convention Rules.

II. Executive Committee and Officers

(1) For purposes of the requirements of Georgia Election Law and Campaign Disclosure requirements, the Georgia Green Party Coordinating Council shall serve as the state executive committee of the political body; the clerk of the Party shall serve as the Secretary of the political body; the treasurer of the Party shall serve as the treasurer of the political body; and each Co-Convenor to serve as a Co-Chair of the political body. The Secretary and one of the Co-Chairs shall sign a letter to certify the accuracy of the minutes of the Convention and provide a copy of the certified minutes to each nominee to be filed with their nomination petition.

(2) The officers of the party, acting as the Quick Decision Council, may publish their determination that exigent circumstances exist which authorize the suspension of certain rules for the conduct of party business related to its Nominating or Annual Convention, or the operation of its local affiliation process upon its findings that: (a) the President of the United States has declared pursuant to their authority under the National Emergencies Act (50 USC 1601 et seq) that a national emergency exists; or (b) the Governor of Georgia has declared pursuant to their authority under O.C.G.A. 38-3-51, that a state of emergency exists.

III. Meetings of the Executive Committee

The Georgia Green Party Coordinating Council may meet as the state executive committee of the Georgia Green Party as a political body by passage of a motion at any meeting of the Coordinating Council, or upon the call of the convenor designated as chair.

IV. Powers of the Georgia Green Party

At any Coordinating Council meeting of the Green Party, the Council may:

- 1) declare an upcoming electoral race open for Green nominations by naming the district if known, office and, if known, the election date; and
- 2) instruct the executive committee or the quick decision council to set a date for a Nominating Convention and to provide for the publication of a Call to the Nominating Convention.

V. Policy on the Presidential Nominating Convention

A. Title

This Article may be cited as the Policy on the Presidential Nominating Convention and shall govern the election, duties and discretion of the Georgia Green Parties' delegates to the Presidential Nominating Convention.

B. Delegates to the Presidential Nominating Convention

Delegates to the Presidential Nominating Convention shall be elected by a system of single transferable vote, modified for gender and race balance, where each delegate shall rank each nominee to state their preference among the candidates, under rules adopted by the Coordinating Council on December 11, 1998 as amendments to the Nominating Convention Rules.

C. Presidential Preference Caucus of the Georgia Green Party

A ballot shall be cast among dues paying members of the party in attendance at the Convention of the Georgia Green Party immediately preceding the Quadrennial Presidential Nominating Convention to determine the Party's preferences for the Green Party nomination for President of the United States. The ballot shall be tabulated by preference voting. Any Presidential candidate may be nominated by a state Convention delegate for inclusion in the Georgia Presidential Preference ballot when that Presidential candidate has since January 1st, four years preceding the caucus, been nominated by the Green Party of the United States or by its successors, or where they have appeared or will appear on the ballot of any Green Party presidential preference primary in a state where the Green Party (or any affiliate of the Green Party of the United States) has ballot access.

D. Responsibility and Discretion of Party's national delegation to the Presidential Nominating Convention

1. Instructions to Party's national delegates on Candidate Nomination

(a). The Georgia delegation, including delegates and delegate-alternates present, shall organize among themselves so as to cast their ballots in the first round of balloting for the Presidential Nomination at the Presidential Nominating Convention to reflect the ratios of preferences expressed at the state Convention for the candidates under consideration at the Presidential Nominating Convention.

(b). On subsequent rounds of balloting, the Georgia delegation shall caucus among all delegates and alternate-delegates present at the Convention or reasonably accessible by phone, on how best to reflect the interests of the Georgia Green Party with how they cast the state party's votes for the candidates who remain, for each such round of balloting, under consideration at the Presidential Nominating Convention.

2. Instructions and Discretion of Party's national delegates on Platform deliberations

Should the Amended Platform Report considered by the Annual Convention of the Georgia Green Party be approved by 2/3 or more of the credentialed delegates, it shall serve to instruct the Party's delegates to the Presidential Nominating Convention. Should the adoption of the document achieve fewer than 2/3d, the delegates are instructed on any item considered which was supported by a 2/3 majority and have the discretion of the state Party on any item supported by less than 2/3 of the delegates.

VI. Notice for a Nominating Convention

In publishing a Call for a Nominating Convention except in the case of a special election, the Coordinating Council shall publish a notice in a newspaper having a general circulation which covers all districts which have been declared opened for nominations or which might be opened for nomination by the Convention. The Coordinating Council shall choose a Convention date, 150 or more days before the General Election for which the Convention will nominate candidates; except that in the case of a special election, the Convention may be on any date prior

to the close of qualifying for the special election. The Coordinating Council shall publish at least ten days in advance an announcement of the Nominating Convention stating the purpose for which the convention has been called. In the case of a special election, the Coordinating Council shall publish at least seven days in advance an announcement of the Nominating Convention to each affiliated or organizing local, and to each member within the jurisdiction contested by the special election.

VII. Caucuses

A. Powers and Responsibilities of a Caucus.

Every affiliated local, county and campus in Georgia may hold a Green Local, County or Campus Caucus meeting on the date of the Nominating Convention, or prior to the Convention. Every County and Campus Caucus may name a gender balanced delegation to the Nominating Convention. In the case of an affiliated local, its annual meeting shall serve as its caucus unless the local, by its own rules or by resolution of its annual meeting provides for another date and location for its caucus. The delegation shall consist of two members plus two additional members for every ten credentialed caucus members; except that a credentialed caucus member may not be counted toward the count authorizing delegates for more than one local, county or campus caucus. Except for the requirement that 'each county shall have at least one delegate to the convention', as required by the Georgia Election Code, O.C.G.A. 21-2-172(c)(4), no person shall be credentialed as a delegate except that they are a dues paying member of the party.

B. Caucus Convenors

A caucus may be convened by: a) any person elected as a convener at the previous caucus or by a subsequent meeting called under the legitimate authority of that previous caucus, or if no such person exists or will convene the caucus, b) by any person named as a convener in a *Petition to Convene an Affiliated Local* granted by the Party's Affiliation Committee, c) any member of the Georgia Green Party who resides within the jurisdiction of the caucus and whose petition to the member of the Coordinating Council designated to Coordinate the Convention. to serve as convener in an unorganized jurisdiction is granted, or d) by the member of the Coordinating Council designated to coordinate the Convention or a member who shall be designated by the Convention Coordinator.

C. Credentialling Caucus Members

The Caucus Convener shall designate a Credentials Committee of two or more people, at least one of whom is a dues paying or in-kind member of the Georgia Green Party or an affiliated local which is organizing in the jurisdiction of the caucus. The Credentials Committee shall issue visible voting cards to all persons who fulfill the credentialling requirements listed below:

1. they sign the roll of credentialed caucus members certifying their commitment to the ten key values and the political principles of the Greens; and
2. they show evidence that they reside in the jurisdiction of the caucus by showing a valid voter registration card, or some other identification indicating a physical address.

D. Caucus Agenda

Each caucus shall take up the following business and such other business as may be included on an agenda adopted or amended by majority vote of credentialed caucus members.

1. Call to order by convener
2. Credentials committee report
3. Caucus select and approve a facilitator and clerk 4. discuss, amend and approve caucus agenda
5. hear reading of titles of proposed platform planks
6. consider whether to call for the opening of a district
7. open nominations for all open seats (including: open publicly elected seats, Caucus delegates to Nominating Convention, Caucus Convenor for subsequent year, Coordinating Council nominees, Green nominees for the Delegation on National Green Party Affairs, and other seats declared open in the Call for the Caucus or by amendment of the Call)
8. election by secret ballot tabulated by preference voting
9. consideration of platform proposals
10. consideration of non-platform proposals
11. announcement of vote results
12. announcements
13. adjourn or recess for further work on platform or other named business

VIII. Nominating Convention

A. Powers and Responsibilities of Convention

A Nominating Convention organized under these rules shall have all power provided by O.C.G.A. 21-2-170 relative to nominating candidates for publicly elected office; and the power to open or close any race to Green candidates; and the power to adopt, amend and suspend its rules. Except for a Convention called to nominate candidates for a special election, a Nominating Convention organized under these rules shall have the power to adopt, amend, or repeal a Platform; and the power to elect Coordinating Council members and delegates to represent the views and concerns of its membership in national matters as provided for in the By- laws of the Georgia Green Party, VI. Affiliations, B. Association of State Green Parties.

B. Convention Conveners

A Nominating Convention may be convened by: a) the Party member designated by the Coordinating Council to convene and coordinate the Nominating Convention, or if no such person exists or will convene the caucus, b) by either of the Co-Chairs designated by the Coordinating Council.

C. Credentialling Convention Delegates

The Convention Convenor shall designate a Credentials Committee of two or more people, at least one of whom is a member of the Georgia Green Party. The Credentials Committee shall issue visible voting cards to all persons who fulfill the credentialling requirements listed below:

1. they sign the roll of credentialed delegates certifying their commitment to the ten key values and the political principles of the Greens; and

2. they show evidence that they reside in the jurisdiction of the Convention by showing a valid voter registration card, or some other identification indicating a physical address in Georgia or show evidence that they are delegates of a Nation removed from Georgia; and

3. they either:

(a) present a letter signed by the facilitator and clerk of their Local or Caucus certifying that they have been elected as a member of their Local or Caucus delegation; or

(b) in the case of Native Nation delegates, present a letter or resolution from their Tribal Council or Chief; or

(c) for any Convention held prior to the Party obtaining statewide ballot access, they present:

(1) a nominating petition to qualify the Georgia Green Party to nominate by convention candidates for state-wide public office to be filled at the next General Election, which petition contains a minimum of 30 signatures from their county of residence and which conforms to the requirements of O.C.G.A. 21-2-170(d); and

(2) letters signed by each person who signed the circulator's affidavit on the nominating petition, which letter certifies that they circulated the petitions presented to the credentials committee and have designated the bearer of those petitions as a Convention delegate from the county in which the bearer resides and from which the signatures were collected.

D. Apportionment of Vote among Delegates

Delegates to the Convention shall be apportioned to reflect voter support for the party among registered voters residing within the jurisdiction they represent, in conformity to the following formula:

[The number of votes apportioned to a delegate] shall be rounded to the nearest whole number and equal [the number of certified votes for a Party nominee in the Delegate's county cast in the most recent preceding general election for the Green candidate for either Governor of Georgia or President of the United States] divided by [total population for the county in accordance with the last United States decennial census] and multiplied by 100, except that no Delegate shall be apportioned fewer than one vote, nor shall any Delegate be apportioned more than ten votes.

E. Nominating Convention Agenda

The Nominating Convention shall take up the following business and such other business as may be included on an agenda adopted or amended by majority vote of credentialed Nominating Convention members.

1. Call to order by convenor
2. Credentials committee report
3. Nominating Convention selects and approves a facilitator and clerk
4. discuss, amend and approve Nominating Convention agenda
5. hear reading of proposed platform planks
6. consider petitions or motions to open or close districts for nominations
7. open nominations for all open seats (including: open publicly elected seats, Coordinating Council members, members of the Delegation on National Green Party Affairs, and other seats declared open in the Call for the Nominating Convention) except that a candidate shall not be eligible for nomination who has not complied with the requirements of Article X. of these Rules.
8. election by secret ballot tabulated by preference voting
9. (except for Conventions called to name candidates for special elections) consideration

of platform proposals

10. consideration of non-platform proposals
11. announcement of vote results
12. announcements
13. adjourn or recess for further work on platform or other named business.

F. Consideration of Amendments to the By-Laws

Consistent with Article III., related to the Ratification and Amendment of By-Laws, Section B., related to Amendment, of the Georgia Green Party By-Laws, for a proposed change to the Party's By-Laws to be in order for consideration by an Annual Convention of the Party, the Coordinating Council must affirmatively act to give its prior review to a proposed amendment to the By-Laws, supported by a two-third majority of the Coordinating Council, as is required for other substantive decisions of the Party. The question of giving the Coordinating Council's prior review to a proposed amendment to the By-Laws shall not be in order unless the proposed amendment to the Party's By-Laws was previously endorsed by an affiliated local of the Party, except that the Council may suspend the rule requiring such previous endorsement by unanimous consent.

G. Delegation of Convention Powers Upon Adjournment

Upon adjournment of a nominating convention, the power to nominate candidates for partisan office shall be delegated by the convention to the state executive committee of the party, meeting as an adjourned convention. The state executive committee may reconvene the convention as an adjourned meeting. Such an adjourned convention may be called by either co-chair or by a simple majority of the state committee; when a best effort is made to provide 24 hours notice to each member of the party and Delegate and Alternate participating in the preceding state convention. The state committee, meeting pursuant to such a call, may exercise on behalf of the Convention its delegated powers to nominate candidates for partisan public offices and seats not represented by the slate nominated by the convention; except that such an adjourned convention may fill a vacancy created by the acceptance of a written resignation of a candidate previously nominated. An adjourned convention may not open for nominations a race closed by the nominating convention. Such nominations may be made with the unanimous consent of the state committee,

or by a two-third majority in cases involving a candidate who has been nominated by a previous convention of the state party.

IX. Election Rules - - Preference Voting for the Election of Party Servants

A. Definition and Principles:

1. DEFINITION

"Preference Voting" shall be defined as a voting system which achieves proportional representation by allowing voters to rank candidates for the coordinating council or other bodies in the order of their choice, according to the method describes and by tabulating votes according to the rules provided in this Article.

2. PRINCIPLE

Preference Voting tabulates votes based on the principle that any vote cast which would not otherwise help elect a voter's most preferred candidate(s), shall be used to help elect that voter's next most preferred candidate(s). Thus, if a voter's first choice among the candidates receives more than enough votes to win, the surplus proportion of that vote will be transferred to that voter's second or succeeding (next-highest ranking) choice. Alternatively, if a voter's first choice candidate is eliminated, that vote instead will be cast for the voter's second or succeeding (next-highest ranking) choice.

B. modifications for race and gender balance

1. the intention of the Georgia Green Party

It is the intent of this rule to take affirmative action to address historical inequities which have denied many Georgians equitable access to the ballot and to the deliberative public policy making bodies essential to the democratic self-governance of Georgians.

2. For purposes of this Section, the words:

(a) 'woman' shall mean an adult human female;

(b) 'non-hispanic white' shall have the meaning ascribed to such term by the U.S. Census Bureau.

3. race balance

As used in the bylaws and election rules of the Georgia Green Party the phrase 'race balance', with respect to internal elections of the party, shall mean that a number of seats of the total authorized by the rules on any internally elected body shall be set-aside for candidates of color; such number calculated as the product of the number of such seats available on the body times

the percentage of Georgia's total population, recorded in the most recent estimate by the U.S. Census Bureau not classified as 'non-hispanic white'.

4. gender balance

As used in the bylaws and election rules of the Georgia Green Party the phrase 'modified for gender balance', with respect to internal elections of the party, shall mean that a number of seats of the total authorized by the rules on any internally elected body shall be set-aside for women; such number shall constitute either half of the available seats, or a simple majority of them, should the number of such seats constitute an odd number.

5. modification of election results to fulfill set-asides

If after an election under these rules, the resultant body fails to meet the goals established by the set-aside provisions of paragraphs 3., and 4., of this Section, the results shall be modified as provided in this paragraph to achieve the intention stated in paragraph 1. Any candidate seated in the election who does not contribute to the race and gender balance targets and who had fewer first preference ballots than any other candidate who did contribute to meeting the targets, shall be declared defeated.

6. filling vacancies created by the enforcement of the race and gender balance rules

The rules requiring race and gender balance in elections for internally elected offices of the party may be suspended with the support of a simple majority of the credentialed delegates at a convention, and passage of such a motion shall cause a second election tabulated by preference voting to be held for the purpose of filling any remaining vacancies. Any person otherwise eligible to be a candidate for such body shall be eligible including candidates defeated in the previous round of balloting. Any candidate elected to fill a vacancy in a seat set-aside for race and gender balance purposes shall serve for a term ending on June 30th following the next state Convention.

C. Eligibility, Ballot Specifications and Directions to Voters

1. *Eligibility.* To be eligible for inclusion on the ballot, as a candidate for election to the Coordinating Council or Delegation on National Green Party Affairs, with the exception of candidates for President and Vice President of the United States, as a candidate for the Party's nomination or endorsement for a publicly elected office, a person must be a member in good standing of the Georgia Green Party.

2. *Ballot Specifications.* Ballots shall be simple and easy to understand. A sample ballot illustrating voting procedures shall be available at the Convention. The Convention ballots shall provide for the secret election of the Coordinating Council, other officers of the Party whose election is provided for by rule and for a Party nominee for each public office for which the Convention chooses to nominate a candidate. On each ballot, in addition to the nominated

candidates, "None of the Above" and a blank line to allow for a write-in candidate shall also appear as an option for each office.

3. *Directions to Voters.* Directions provided to voters shall conform substantially to the following specifications:

"DIRECTIONS TO VOTERS

"For each body standing for election, vote for a number of candidates up to the number of positions to be filled in your order of choice. Indicate your first choice by marking a "1" next to that candidate's name, your second choice by marking a "2", and so on. Do not assign any two candidates the same choice. If you wish, choose only one candidate. Note that ranking additional candidates cannot affect a higher-choice candidate's chance to win."

D. Tabulation of Votes

The Convention shall name an Election Committee of two or more members, who are not standing for election. In accordance with the principles expressed above, ballots shall be counted by the Election Committee according to the following rules:

1. Determination of Victory Threshold

For any given election, the number of votes necessary for a candidate to guarantee an elected position shall be termed the "threshold." The threshold is used to determine transferable surpluses as defined below. The threshold shall be the fewest number of votes that can be obtained only by the winning number of candidates. This threshold is determined by dividing (the number of valid votes cast + 1) by (the number of seats + 1).

2. Rules regarding the transfer of votes:

The following rules regarding vote transfer shall apply to all stages of the tabulation:

(a) Votes acquired by a candidate in excess of the threshold for that election shall be

termed their "surplus". A candidate's surplus votes shall be transferred according to the following rule: transfer a portion of each vote determined by dividing the surplus of the candidate by the total number of votes for that candidate to each voter's next choices. Votes cast for candidates who are eliminated (as described below) shall be transferred at their full current value to those voter's next choice(s).

(b) Votes may not be transferred to candidates who have already met the threshold, nor may votes be transferred to candidates who have been eliminated. When a voter's next choice is not eligible for receipt of transferred votes, that vote (or portion of a vote) shall be transferred to the voter's next indicated choice until all choices on that ballot have been exhausted.

(c) If a voter omits or mistakenly designates any choice on his or her ballot, the vote shall be transferred to that voter's next clearly indicated choice.

(d) Any votes cast for eligible write-in candidates or for "none-of-the-above" shall be tabulated in the same manner as those for candidates whose names are printed on the ballots; provided that the voter assigns any such candidate a choice in relation to other candidates appearing on that ballot for that office.

3. Stages in the Tabulation:

(a) Vote counting shall start with a tabulation of first choice votes and with the transfer of a proportion of all surplus votes according to the rules specified above. Transfer of surpluses shall commence with the candidate having the largest surplus and proceed successively to the candidates with the next largest surplus.

(b) If the transfer of surplus votes to voters' next choice candidates creates a new surplus, then a proportion of these votes shall be transferred to those voter's succeeding choices, until all surpluses have been transferred or all declared choices on a ballot have been exhausted.

(c) When all surplus votes have been distributed in this manner, a tally shall be taken. All candidates with less than 0.5% of votes shall be eliminated simultaneously. Votes for these

candidates shall be transferred at their current value to the next-choice candidate named on these ballots. If a next-choice candidate already has been elected or defeated, then the ballot goes to the succeeding choice.

(d) Any surpluses created by this transfer shall once again be transferred, and a new tally taken, until all surpluses have been transferred. Then the remaining candidate with the least number of votes shall be eliminated.

(e) This process of transferring surpluses followed by eliminating candidates with the least number of votes shall continue until the number of candidates remaining matches the number of positions to be filled. Votes of the candidate last eliminated shall be transferred, and the election shall be at an end.

4. Determinations in the case of a Tie:

For ties between candidates occurring at any stage in the tabulation, determinations shall be made based on whomever was credited with the most votes at the previous stage of tabulation.

5. Vacancies

A vacancy shall exist upon the acceptance of a written resignation, the death, or the finding by the state coordinating committee of the incapacity of a party servant, or the end of a term of office at midnight, June 30th; except in the case of Delegates and Delegate-Alternates elected to serve the state party in the Quadrennial Presidential Nominating Convention of the Green Party of the United States, for whom a vacancy shall exist due to the death of the Delegate, or when a

majority of the officers of the party finds a Delegate is unlikely to fulfill their duties because they have tendered of an oral or written resignation, or due to medical incapacity.

6. *Filling a Vacancy:*

Any vacancy of an elected Council member shall be filled by interim appointment by recounting the ballots from the Convention which elected that member, by an Election Committee designated by the Coordinating Council, in the manner specified herein, except that the vacating member's name shall be deleted from all ballots. The candidate accruing the most votes in the recount that was not elected to office in the original count shall fill the vacancy. For the purpose of filling Council vacancies, all ballots shall be retained by the clerk for at least two years. The question of filling an open seat to which the Council has made an interim appointment shall be put before the next Nominating Convention. The state committee shall have the power to promptly fill any vacancy in the party's Delegation to the Quadrennial Presidential Nominating Convention.

X. Election Rules - - Instant Runoff Voting in Single Winner Races Including Races to Name Nominees for Public Office

A. Ballot Specifications

Ballots shall be simple and easy to understand. A sample ballot illustrating voting procedures shall be available at the Convention. The Convention ballots shall provide for the secret election of a Party nominee for each public office for which the Convention chooses to nominate a candidate. On each ballot, in addition to the nominated candidates, "None-of-the-Above" and a blank line to allow for a write-in candidate shall also appear as an option for each office.

B. Directions to Voters

Directions provided to voters shall conform substantially to the following specifications: "Vote for candidates in order of preference. Indicate your first choice by marking the number "1" beside a candidate's name, your second choice by marking the number "2," and so on, for as many choices as you wish. You may choose only one candidate, but ranking additional candidates will not affect your first-choice candidate. Do not mark the same number beside more than one candidate. Do not skip numbers."

C. Ballot Counting

1. Ballots shall be counted by a method known as the instant runoff. The instant runoff tabulates votes based on the principle that any vote cast for a last-place candidate shall be transferred to the next-choice candidate on the ballot until one candidate has a majority of votes. The ballot-count duplicates what would occur if all voters participated in a graduated series of runoff elections.

2. Votes counting shall start with a tabulation of first-choice votes. If a candidate receives a majority of the first-choice votes, then that candidate shall be declared elected. If no candidate

receives such a majority, then the candidate with the fewest first choices shall be declared defeated. Ballots cast for this defeated candidate shall be transferred at full value to the next-choice candidate marked on each ballot. Last-place candidates are eliminated and their supporters' ballots transferred to next-choice candidates who are still in the race in a similar manner until a candidate receives a majority of votes that have not been exhausted.

3. If a ballot has no more available choices ranked on it, that ballot shall be declared "exhausted." Ballots skipping a number shall be transferred to that voter's next clearly indicated choice. Ballots with two of the same number shall be declared exhausted when such double numbers are reached.

D. Determinations in the case of a Tie

For ties between candidates occurring at any stage in the tabulation, determinations shall be made based on whomever was credited with the most votes at the previous stage of tabulation.

E. None-of-the-Above

If at any point in the count, "none-of-the-above" has received a majority of the votes cast, the election is considered complete and no Party officer shall certify any candidate as a Party nominee for that public office which was the subject of the election won by "none-of-the-above."

XI. Qualifications for Party Nomination

A. No candidate shall be considered for nomination by a Convention of the Georgia Green Party nor shall any candidate be considered for an endorsement by the Coordinating Council or the Nominating Convention of the Georgia Green Party unless they have, forty-five or more days before such Nominating Convention, or seven days prior to Council consideration, filed with the Clerk of the Georgia Green Party a letter giving notice of their intention to seek the Nomination or Endorsement of the Georgia Green Party along with a completed Notice and Affidavit of Candidacy (on such forms as may be prescribed from time to time by the Secretary of State), their responses to the questions provided here, the supporting documents outlined below and their permission to publish Affidavit, Notice and responses on the web site of the Georgia Green Party. The Convention or the Council may, by majority vote, choose to consider a candidate whose Notice was filed with the Clerk, but not filed in a timely manner if such candidate was interviewed by the Committee on Campaigns and Elections, if the Committee is functioning, consistent with that Committee's Rules. Every such candidate seeking the nomination or endorsement of the Party shall respond in writing to the following questions:

- 1) What five issues do you think are most important and what will you do about them once elected to the post you seek?
- 2) Is there anything in the Platform of the Georgia Green Party with which you disagree? If so, what?
- 3) Most Green Parties use a modified form of consensus decision making process to promote wide participation and encourage consideration of divergent viewpoints. What experience do you

have with consensus?

4) Over the past few years, have you become more or less inclined to believe that a third party can work here in the USA?

5) How can we work together to make the Green Party more effective?

In addition each candidate filing such a Notice shall also file with their Notice, the following supporting documents: 1) a vision statement, 2) a candidate profile, 3) a strategic analysis of issues, constituencies, resources and campaign supporters and adversaries, 4) a financial plan, 5) an organizational plan, 6) a publicity plan, 7a) in the case of a candidate for County or municipal office within the jurisdiction of an affiliate, a statement of the local officers certifying that the candidate has received the endorsement of their county affiliate, 7b) in the case of a State or State-wide candidate, a statement of the local officers certifying that the candidate has received the endorsement of at least one county affiliate, and 8) a list of the names, addresses, party affiliations and financial pledges of the founding members of the candidate's campaign committee.

B. The Clerk shall provide for the publication on the Party's web site of each such notice filed consistent with Article XI., Section A. of these Rules in the Members-Only section of the Site. The Clerk shall provide for notice by e-mail to each member and to each Affiliated and Organizing Local of the Party that such notices have been filed and published not later than two three days after the deadline for the filing of such notices.

C. No motion to nominate or endorse a candidate shall be in order unless that candidate has complied with the requirements of Article XI., Section A. of these Rules and made themselves available for an interview by the Committee on Campaigns and Elections.

D. There shall exist a Committee on Campaigns and Elections to consist of seven trusted members of the Georgia Green Party designated by the Coordinating Council. The Committee shall be chaired by a member of the Coordinating Council of the Party. The Clerk shall deliver to each member of the Committee on Campaigns and Elections a copy of each Notice of Intent filed by a candidate seeking the nomination or endorsement of the Party. The Committee shall conduct face-to-face interviews to review the Notice filed by each such candidate and to explore and assess the suitability of the candidate for the Nomination or Endorsement of the Party. The Committee shall submit a written report of its findings, advising the Convention Delegates on its recommendations with respect to each such candidate. The Convention shall in no way be bound by the findings or recommendations of the Committee.

XII. Committee on the Green Party Platform

A. Committee on the Green Party Platform

There shall exist a Committee on the Green Party Platform. The Delegation on National Green Party Affairs shall appoint two co-chairs of the Committee. The co chairs shall convene all meetings of the Committee, appoint chairs for any sub committee and lead the Party's delegation in state and national level deliberations on, amendment of and final adoption of the state Party

Platform and of the national Platform each Presidential election year. The Committee shall coordinate input from Greens in Georgia on the state Platform and on the Platform 2000 of the

Green Party of the United States and on like documents being considered in future Presidential Election years. The Committee shall coordinate the Party's Platform Process, and present to the last Georgia Nominating Convention preceding each Presidential Nominating Convention, a proposed Party position to govern the participation of the Delegates to the Presidential Nominating Convention in the Convention's consideration, amendment and adoption of the Platform.

B. Platform Committee Process

1. The Platform Committee Co-Chairs shall publish a call for Greens in Georgia to participate in the Committee's work. The Call shall be published by mail to each member of the Party, on the grns-ga-forum and gpga-lcl-ldrs listserves, on the Party's website, in any organizing guide published by the Party, in Party publications and flyers, as a part of the Call to the Convention and by other means as appropriate.

2. The Co-Chairs shall compile a committee membership list of Party members who respond to the Call and request membership with the Committee. All Party members who are on the committee membership list shall be notified of the Party's Platform process and of the Platform Committee face-to-face meeting and of the state Convention.

3. The Committee may work with the clerk and web-clerk to provide for the establishment within the members-only section of the Party's web site of an on-line copy of the state Party Platform and of Platform – 2000 of the Green Party of the United States, with links to amendments proposed by Greens in Georgia and to amendments proposed by Greens in other states. The site will include a feedback form to collect the input of Greens in Georgia and to forward these proposed changes to the Platform Committee.

4. The Committee may establish a committee-specific listserv to facilitate input and discussion on the Platform. Its existence shall be published in the members-only section of the web site and in other ways to the members.

5. The Committee shall host a face-to-face meeting not later than six weeks prior to the state Convention to consider and adopt a report to the state Nominating Convention. The report shall include 1) a summary of Committee activities, 2) a Platform Consent Agenda of Platform Amendments supported by 80% or more of the Committee, 3) a Platform Debate Agenda deserving Convention consideration consisting of proposed Platform Amendments which are supported by a majority of the Committee, and 4) a minority report of Platform Amendments which failed to receive majority support of the Committee. No proposed Platform amendment may be placed on the Consent Agenda by the Committee, without the prior endorsement of an affiliated local of the Party. No proposed Platform amendment, lacking the prior endorsement of an affiliated local of the Party, may be placed on the Debate Agenda by the Committee, without

the support of 80% of the Committee on the Green Party Platform. All votes taken by the Committee shall include all Party members present at the face-to-face Committee meeting.

C. Convention Platform Process

1. The Committee shall present both a written and oral report to each Nominating Convention of the Georgia Green Party, and shall include proposed instructions of the Georgia Green Party to

its Delegation to the Presidential Nominating Convention on the continuing deliberations on the National Platform in its report to any Nominating Convention of the Georgia Green Party which immediately precedes a Presidential Nominating Convention. The Committee co-chairs, or other committee members designated by the Committee co-chairs shall present the report.

2. The Platform Consent Agenda shall be presented. The floor shall be open to motions to strike or add amendments to the consent agenda. A proposed Platform Amendment shall be removed from the consent agenda upon a motion, properly seconded to do so when 20% of the credentialled delegates support the motion. A proposed Platform Amendment shall be added to the consent agenda on the affirmative vote of 80% of the credentialled delegates on a motion, properly seconded to add the Amendment. All motions to strike and add proposed Platform Amendments to the consent agenda shall be considered without discussion.

3. After the consideration of all motions to strike or add have been decided, the amended Platform Consent Agenda shall be put to the Convention and may be adopted with the consent of the credentialled delegates. The effect of the adoption of the Platform Consent Agenda is the same as if each item on the consent agenda had been considered and adopted separately.

4. The Platform Debate Agenda shall next be presented. The floor shall be open to motions to strike or add proposed Platform amendments to the Platform Debate Agenda. A proposed Platform Amendment shall be removed from the consent agenda upon a motion, properly seconded, to do so when a simple majority of the credentialled delegates support the motion. A proposed Platform Amendment shall be added to the Platform Debate Agenda when a simple majority of the credentialled delegates support a motion., properly seconded, to add the proposed Platform Amendment. All motions to strike and add proposed Platform Amendments to the consent agenda shall be considered without discussion.

5. After the consideration of all motions to strike or add have been decided, the amended Platform Debate Agenda shall be presented for approval to the Convention. If adopted, it shall govern deliberation on the Platform and no amendment may be considered unless it is germane to the subject matter of the proposed platform amendment under discussion. Each proposed Platform Amendment shall be considered by the credentialled delegates in accordance with existing rules for the consideration of any substantive proposal before the Convention.

6. After the consideration of all proposed Platform Amendments, the question shall be on the adoption of the amended Platform. Once adopted, the Platform of the Georgia Green Party shall serve to instruct the Party's delegates to the national Presidential Nominating Convention or any

other national body convened to deliberate on the national Platform. The Convention shall seek consensus on its adoption, or failing consensus, shall take and record a vote on the Amended Platform Report.

7. Delegates to the Presidential Nominating Convention are instructed to review the proposed National Platform documents and to offer and work for the passage of amendments to that document so that the national Platform takes no position inconsistent with a position taken in the state Platform.

XIII. Conduct of Party's Convention Related Business using virtual technologies suitable for remote collaboration

When determined by the officers of the Georgia Green Party, consistent with Article II., paragraph (2) of these Convention Rules, that exigent circumstances exist which preclude the conduct of Party operations under its normal rules for the conduct of business, or on a motion supported by a two-thirds majority of the Coordinating Committee of the Georgia Green Party, the following allowances may be made for the conduct of the party's convention related business:

(1) rather than gathering in a physical venue, the convention may be hosted on a video conferencing platform.

(2) to facilitate the organization and scheduling of and capacity planning for county caucuses as required by Article VII., related to "Caucuses", as well as Article VIII., related to the "Nominating Convention", convention organizers may require advance registration of caucus participants.

(3) with respect to the credentialing process and the need to sign documents, required by Article VII., related to "Caucuses", Section C., related to "Credentialing Caucus Members", paragraph (2), as well as Article VIII., related to the "Nominating Convention", Section C., related to "Credentialing Convention Delegates", electronic signatures may be accepted.

(4) with respect to the credentialing process and the requirement to demonstrate residency in the jurisdiction of a caucus, required by Article VII., related to "Caucuses", Section C., related to "Credentialing Caucus Members", paragraph (2), as well as Article VIII., related to the "Nominating Convention", Section C., related to "Credentialing Convention Delegates", identification documents may be submitted electronically using email, multimedia messaging service or a document upload of an image of the document.

(5) with respect to the use of secret ballots for internal elections as required by Article IX., related to "Election Rules - - Preference Voting for the Election of the Coordinating Council and Delegates on National Green (Party) Affairs", Section B., related to "Eligibility, Ballot Specifications and Directions to Voters", paragraph 2., "Ballot Specifications", the convention conveners may utilize the latest stable version of the Dridi vote application developed for use by the National Committee of the Green Party of the United States, for the collection of ballots; or shall work with the clerk to provide for the distribution and return of ballots to be tabulated in

person by the election tabulation committee, with ballots collected in unmarked sealed envelopes, collected in sealed envelopes identifying the eligible voter.

(6) to facilitate the configuration of voting software and the distribution of application credentials to delegates and members eligible to participate in the Presidential Preference Caucus, convention organizers may require advance registration of Convention Delegates, and party members for a virtual convention.

(7) to facilitate the work of the Committee on Campaigns and Elections, as anticipated by Article XI., related to “Qualifications for Party Nomination”, Section D., the face-to-face interviews may be conducted using video conferencing tools, with at least two committee members interviewing each candidate.

(8) to facilitate the work on the state party platform, and accounting for the face-to-face meeting anticipated by Article XII., related to the “Committee on the Green Party Platform”, Section B., related to “Platform Committee Process”, paragraph 5., such meeting may be conducted using video conferencing, with votes conducted using the latest stable version of the Dridi vote application developed for use by the National Committee of the Green Party of the United States.

(9) the officers of the party are authorized to adopt and promulgate procedures to effectuate the above rules, and which are not inconsistent with the Nominating Convention Rules or the Bylaws of the Party.

For the purposes of credentialling a delegate at the Convention, the letter required by VIII.C.3.(c)(2) shall be in substantially the following form:

To: The Credentials Committee of the
_____ **Nominating Convention of the Georgia Green Party**

Date:

By my signature below, I certify that:

1) I circulated the attached sheets of the nominating petition (to qualify the Georgia Green Party to nominate by convention candidates for state-wide public office to be filled at the next General Election);

2) these petition sheets which bear my notarized signature were circulated in conformity with the requirements of O.C.G.A. 21-2-170(d) and other provisions of the law;

3) that I appoint as my delegate to the Georgia Green Party Nominating Convention of _____ the individual named below;

4) that I share a commitment to the ten key values and political principles of the Georgia Green Party.

With my signature below, I petition the Credentials Committee and the Nominating Convention to seat _____ a resident of _____ County, Georgia as as a delegate to the Nominating Convention.

_____ Signature of Circulator

_____ Print Name of Circulator

_____ Address