

# **Rules of the Green Party of Suffolk**

## **Suffolk County Organization of the Green Party in New York State**

### **ARTICLE 1. NAME AND DEFINITIONS**

SECTION 1.01 The Green Party of Suffolk is the Suffolk County Organization of the Green Party in New York State.

SECTION 1.02 An "enrolled Green" is a person currently enrolled in the Green

Party with the New York State Board of Elections

SECTION 1.03 A "major party candidate" is a person running for office who is enrolled in a major party as defined by SECTION 1-104(24) of New York State Election Law.

SECTION 1.04 A "minor party candidate" is a person running for office who is enrolled in a political party that is not defined as a major party as defined by SECTION 1-104(24) of New York State Election Law.

SECTION 1.05 A Green Party of Suffolk "officer" is anyone elected to a Green Party of Suffolk Party Position by its members.

SECTION 1.06 A "political unit" is the state or any political subdivision thereof or therein.

### **ARTICLE 2. TEN KEY VALUES**

Our core values are defined by the Green's Ten Key Values.

The Ten Key Values are:

1. Ecological Wisdom,
2. Social Justice,
3. Grassroots Democracy,
4. Nonviolence,
5. Decentralization,
6. Community-Based Economics,
7. Feminism, (Gender equality),
8. Respect for Diversity,
9. Personal and Global Responsibility,
10. Future Focus/Sustainability.

### **ARTICLE 3. PURPOSE**

SECTION 3.01 Nominate Green Party candidates for office, authorize candidates per Green Party State rules, and support these candidates.

SECTION 3.02 Promote the Ten Key Values throughout Suffolk County.

SECTION 3.03 Serve as a networking structure so that local Green Parties in Suffolk County can better communicate, share ideas and experiences, and provide mutual support.

SECTION 3.04 Coordinate joint activities among Green Party members.

### **ARTICLE 4. POLITICAL PRACTICES**

SECTION 4.01 The Green Party of Suffolk is accountable to the enrolled Green Party members in the Suffolk County.

SECTION 4.02 Representatives and delegates of the Green Party of Suffolk may express personal opinions, but must act and vote within the agreed upon decisions of the Green Party of Suffolk.

SECTION 4.03 An attempt will be made to include new members as officers, delegates, and representatives of the Green Party of Suffolk.

## **ARTICLE 5. MEMBERSHIP**

SECTION 5.01 Membership in the Green Party of Suffolk is comprised of all enrolled Green Party members residing in Suffolk County. We welcome and embrace all members regardless of, race, color, gender, spiritual belief, physical challenge, sexual orientation, or national origin.

SECTION 5.02 For meeting notification purposes only, enrolled Greens will be considered members if the enrollment in the Green Party in New York State takes effect and is made available by the Board of Elections at least 45 days before the time of the meeting notice.

## **ARTICLE 6. MEETINGS AND DECISION MAKING**

SECTION 6.01 A meeting of the Green Party of Suffolk may be convened by its Chair or Secretary, by 2 State Committee members from Suffolk County, or by a petition signed by 5% of its members.

SECTION 6.02 A good-faith effort must be made to publicize meetings to all Green Party of Suffolk members. Members must be given at least one-week notice of all meetings. Notice shall include postal or emailing to all members requesting it. Standard methods of notification, i.e. newspaper notice, public posting, shall be used as necessary. Notice of any meeting must include the names of those convening it.

SECTION 6.03 A quorum shall consist of nine members, with at least 4 Coordinating Committee members in attendance.

SECTION 6.04 Decisions shall be made by consensus of those Green Party of Suffolk members present. If consensus cannot be achieved within a reasonable period of time, being a minimum of 8 minutes, a majority vote shall affirm decisions unless otherwise stated in these rules.

SECTION 6.05 Elections of officers may be held by preferential voting.

SECTION 6.06 Decisions by consensus and voting will be recorded in the minutes.

SECTION 6.07 Proxy votes are not allowed.

SECTION 6.08 The Green Party of Suffolk will meet at least once every calendar year.

SECTION 6.09 All meetings of the Green Party of Suffolk County and its subcommittees shall be open to enrolled Green Party members of Suffolk County.

SECTION 6.10 Minutes of the last Green Party of Suffolk meeting will be approved at the next meeting.

SECTION 6.11 An endorsement of an event or organization must be posted on the Green Party of Suffolk list serve for a week, and approved by Two (2) of the Officers.

## **ARTICLE 7. SCOPE OF DECISIONS**

SECTION 7.01 The Green Party of Suffolk shall be the County Organization of the Green Party in Suffolk County, NY, and shall have general authority and responsibility for the Green Party organization within the county.

SECTION 7.02 The Green Party of Suffolk may establish such committees as it sees fit, such as platform, fundraising, etc.

SECTION 7.03 The Green Party of Suffolk shall elect any officers it deems necessary to conduct Green Party business, including at a minimum, a Chair, Vice-Chair, a Secretary, and a Treasurer.

## **ARTICLE 8. TOWN AND VILLAGE ORGANIZATION**

SECTION 8.01 A Town or Village Organization may be formed within each Town or Village in Suffolk County.

SECTION 8.02 Each such organization shall be comprised of not less than: (a) four members of the Green Party of Suffolk residing within the respective political unit or (b) twenty-five percent of the Green Party of Suffolk residing within the respective political unit, which ever is greater.

SECTION 8.03 The organization shall be deemed duly applied for by submission of a written application containing the names of the qualifying members and signed by any member of the County Organization residing in the respective political unit to the Secretary of the County Organization and shall be approved upon a majority vote of the County Organization at its next meeting, or by the Coordinating Committee acting on behalf of the County Organization, at a meeting which has been duly called and at which a quorum is present.

## **ARTICLE 9. PARTY POSITIONS**

SECTION 9.01 General

(a) Elections for all party positions shall take place at the first business meeting of the Green Party of Suffolk County of each calendar year.

(b) All elected officers shall take office immediately upon election.

(c) Terms of officers shall run until the following year's election.

(d) Anyone seeking election to a Green Party of Suffolk party position must be a member of the Green Party of Suffolk.

SECTION 9.02 Removal from office

Pursuant to Sec. 2-116 of the state election law, any member or officer of the Green Party of Suffolk may be removed for disloyalty to the party or corruption in office after notice is given and a hearing upon written charges has been had. The hearing shall be held by the Green Party of Suffolk, or by a committee thereof established for that purpose, which committee shall report its finding to a meeting of the Green Party of Suffolk. A two-thirds vote at a meeting of the Green Party of Suffolk shall be needed for removal.

SECTION 9.03 Filling of vacancies

In the case of death, enrollment in another party, or removal for any other cause of an officer of the Green Party of Suffolk, except for State Committee members, the Green Party of Suffolk at the next business meeting shall fill the vacancy created thereby. Vacancy on the State Committee shall be filled according to the Rules and By-Laws of the state Green Party, and NYS Election Law.

#### SECTION 9.04 CHAIRS

(a) The Green Party of Suffolk shall establish one position of Chair and two positions of Vice-Chair, preferably one woman and one man.

(b) The Chair will have primary responsibility for the duties in this SECTION, and the Vice-Chairs will assist the Chair and operate in their place when deemed necessary by a majority vote of the Coordinating Committee.

(c) The Chair shall be the Presiding Officer and the Vice-Chairs shall be the Assistant Presiding Officer of the Green Party of Suffolk.

(d) The duties of these positions shall be as follows:

(i) Act as contacts and spokespersons for the Suffolk County Green Party. The Chair shall be responsible for filing all required notices with the State and County Board of Elections, except those which have to do with financial matters, or which by law or by party by-laws or rules are required to be filed by some other officer.

(ii) Coordinate and assist in plans for and publicity of Green Party of Suffolk business meetings each year.

(iii) Coordinate setting of the agenda for Green Party of Suffolk business meetings, and arrange for facilitation.

(iv) Certify acceptance or rejection of proposals adopted at Green Party of Suffolk business meetings by attending members, and notify the absent members of the results.

(v) With the Secretary, maintain a mailing list of all current members.

(vi) Other duties as specified by the Green Party of Suffolk of New York State Election Law.

#### SECTION 9.05 PARTY POSITION – SECRETARY

The duties of the Secretary shall be as follows:

(a) Be responsible for minutes of all general meetings of the Green Party of Suffolk.

(b) Present a copy of the previous meeting's minutes for ratification to the Green Party of Suffolk.

(c) With the Chair, maintain a current list of members.

(d) Within ten days after the adoption of any county rule, or amendment thereto, or the election of county party officers, the Secretary shall file a certified copy of the rule, amendment, or election results with the county Board of elections.

(e) Other duties as specified by the Green Party of Suffolk of New York State Election Law.

#### SECTION 9.06 PARTY POSITION – TREASURER

The duties of the Treasurer shall be as follows:

(a) Receive and disburse all funds of the Green Party of Suffolk and maintain records of all such transactions.

- (b) Present a report at each business meeting covering the current financial status of the Green Party of Suffolk and other such information as requested.
- (c) Prepare a yearly budget if requested by the Green Party of Suffolk.
- (d) File with the proper offices and Board of Elections all financial reports and statements required by law.
- (e) Other duties as specified by the Green Party of Suffolk of New York State Election Law.

#### SECTION 9.07 PRESS SECRETARY.

- (a) The duties of the Press Secretary shall be as follows:
  - (i) Responsible for seeing that all activities and events of the Green Party of Suffolk receive the maximum amount of favorable publicity that is possible.
  - (ii) Assist the members in seeing that all of their activities and events receive the maximum amount of favorable publicity that is possible.
  - (iii) Maintain a database of publications and other media for use in publicizing Green Party of Suffolk activities and events.
  - (iv) Act as spokesperson for the Green Party of Suffolk, in a similar manner as the Chairs.
  - (v) Distribute and follow up all press releases of the Green Party of Suffolk.
  - (vi) Maintain a record of all known media coverage of the Green Party of Suffolk.
- (b) The Press Secretary shall follow all written guidelines of the Green Party of Suffolk.
- (c) If a press release contains an Issue Statement, then it must be approved by the Press Secretary and Two(2) of the Officers.

#### SECTION 9.08 COORDINATING COMMITTEE

- (a) The Green Party of Suffolk shall establish the position of Coordinating Committee member.
- (b) The Coordinating Committee shall be comprised of two Green Party members, preferably one male and one female from each of the ten towns of Suffolk County, the Green Party State Committee members from Suffolk County, and the Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary, and Treasurer of the Green Party of Suffolk County.
- (c) The Chair, Vice-Chairs, Secretary, and Treasurer, of the Green Party of Suffolk and the Green Party State Committee members from Suffolk County may also serve as the elected representatives from the ten towns. They shall be considered to have one seat on the Coordinating Committee, and will cast one vote.
- (d) If a town committee lacks a town organization, the Green Party of Suffolk members shall elect Coordinating Committee representatives from the towns at a Suffolk County Organization meeting. If a town committee exists in a town, the committee shall elect the representatives from that town as specified in the committee's rules.
- (e) A good-faith effort must be made to publicize Coordinating Committee meetings to all Committee members. Members must be given at least one-week notice of all meetings.

(f) The Coordinating Committee shall follow the decision making process of the Green Party of Suffolk where applicable. A quorum shall be 4 members including at least 2 state Committee members.

(g) The members elected from each town must reside in the town they represent.

(h) The duties of Coordinating Committee shall be as follows:

(i) Coordinate and assist the Chair and the Vice-Chair of Green Party of Suffolk at business meetings and gatherings.

(ii) Help coordinate setting of the agenda for Suffolk County Green Party business meetings, and rotate as facilitator.

(iii) Maintain contact with all current members in their district as well as all citizens in their district.

(iv) If the Chair is unable to carry out their duties, a majority vote of the Coordinating Committee may select a Vice-Chair to operate in the Chair's place as acting Chair of the Suffolk County Green Party until the Committee determines that the Chair can resume their duties, or an election is held for Suffolk County Green Party officers.

(v) Other duties as specified by the Suffolk County Green Party.

#### SECTION 9.09 VILLAGE CHAIR

In the event that a Village lacks a Village Committee with a Village Chair, a Village Election Chair shall be appointed by the Coordinating Committee of the Green Party of Suffolk County when requested by, and in consultation with the members from that village.

### **ARTICLE 10. CANDIDATE DESIGNATION, NOMINATION, AND AUTHORIZATION POLICY**

SECTION 10.01 Nominations of enrolled Green Party members for public office on the Green Party line to be filled by voters of political jurisdictions solely within the county shall be determined within said jurisdictions as specified in New York State Election Law.

SECTION 10.02 Nominations of enrolled Green Party members for public office on the Green Party line for political jurisdictions that include parts of any other county, or other whole counties in New York State, shall be determined within said jurisdictions as specified by New York State Election Law.

SECTION 10.03 In the event of a Special Election, the Coordinating Committee shall be empowered to, at a properly called meeting by a majority vote of those members present at such a meeting provided a quorum is present, nominate a Green Party member for this election, or authorize the designation or nomination of a person as candidate for any office in its jurisdiction who is not enrolled as a member of the Green Party in New York. Any actions for Special Elections are exempt from the rules in SECTION 10.05. Such decision will be authorized with the signature of the County Chair and the County Secretary.

SECTION 10.04 The Green Party of Suffolk at a properly called meeting may by a majority vote of those members present at such a meeting provided a quorum is present, authorize the designation or nomination of a person as candidate for any office in its jurisdiction who is not enrolled as a member of the Green Party in New York subject to the restrictions set forth

in this ARTICLE. Such decision will be authorized with the signature of the County Chair and the County Secretary.

SECTION 10.05 The Green Party of Suffolk may authorize candidates from other parties to run on the Green ballot line in Suffolk provided the candidate supports the Ten Key Values and generally endorses the Green Party of Suffolk Platform with the following limitations:

(a) For a non-Green minor party candidate to be authorized, the party of the non-Green candidate must authorize at least one Green candidate selected by the Green Party of Suffolk to run on that minor party's ballot line.

(b) Subsequent candidates from this minor party may be authorized in a like manner each requiring one Green Party of Suffolk selected Green candidate to be authorized by this party.

(c) For a major party candidate to be authorized, the party of the candidate must authorize at least one Green candidate selected by the Green Party of Suffolk to run on that party's ballot line.

(d) When a major party has authorized one Green candidate selected by the Green Party of Suffolk to run on the major party's ballot line, the Green Party of Suffolk may choose to authorize one additional candidate of this same major party.

(e) Subsequent candidates from this major party may be authorized in a like manner in which for every one Green Party of Suffolk selected Green candidate that is authorized by this major party the Green Party of Suffolk may choose to authorize up to two more candidate's of this same major party.

(f) Candidates authorized to run on the Green Party of Suffolk ballot line from a minor party, under the rules of this SECTION, shall run for an office of a comparable political unit to those of Green candidates authorized to run for office by the other minor party.

(g) Candidates authorized to run on the Green Party of Suffolk ballot line from a major party, under the rules of this SECTION, shall run for an office of a comparable political unit or no more than one political division above that unit to those of Green candidates authorized to run for office by the major party.

(f) Requirements of this section do not apply to non-Green candidates not chosen or supported by the major or minor party they are enrolled in, nor does this section apply to non-enrolled candidates.

SECTION 10.06 A nomination may occur at any official business meeting of the Green Party of Suffolk. Any nomination will be subject to the usual process of review and vote by the members.

SECTION 10.07 A Town or Village Organization in Suffolk County, properly formed and recognized by the Green Party of Suffolk, at a properly called meeting may by a majority vote of those members present at such a meeting provided a quorum is present, authorize the designation or nomination of a person as candidate for any office in its jurisdiction who is not enrolled as a member of the Green Party in New York subject to the restrictions set forth in this ARTICLE. Such decision will be authorized with the signature of the County Chair and the County Secretary.

SECTION 10.08 Any member of the Green Party of Suffolk may propose a candidate for nomination.

SECTION 10.09 Candidates who accept a Green Party of Suffolk nomination for office will be considered official Green candidates. As such, they should be a member of a green organization, embrace the platform of the Green Party of Suffolk, and identify themselves as a "Green candidate" including in speeches and on campaign materials.

SECTION 10.10 Candidates shall be nominated by a majority of votes of those members present. If no candidate receives a majority, the candidate with the least votes shall be struck from the ballot and an additional round shall ensue until a single candidate or "none of the above" receives a majority of those members present and voting. The candidate so selected shall be the Green Party's designated candidate.

SECTION 10.11 If a candidate who is not enrolled as a member of the Green

Party in New York who seeks authorization from the Green Party of Suffolk receives at least 25% of the vote in any nominating vote, that candidate or any enrolled Green Party of Suffolk member may request a run off vote between the candidate and "none of the above." That candidate shall be granted authorization for designation of nomination upon receiving a majority vote of members present.

SECTION 10.12 The County Organization, by a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote, may empower the Coordinating Committee of the Green Party of Suffolk to authorize the designation or nomination of any persons for office the Committee sees fit in the next election cycle.

(a) Such authorizations are subject to the restrictions set forth in this ARTICLE.

(b) Such power will end immediately on the day of the next general election.

## **ARTICLE 11. PLATFORM REVISION PROCESS**

SECTION 11.01 The platform of the Green Party of Suffolk and all revisions will be approved by the following process:

(a) Platform revisions shall be drafted by the Green Party of Suffolk, or platform committee formed by the same at a properly called meeting.

(b) The recommended changes shall be mailed to each member of the Green Party of Suffolk requesting it in a format by which they can indicate approval or disapproval of each new or changed plank.

SECTION 11.02 The Green Party of Suffolk will institute the above process in odd-numbered years.

SECTION 11.03 The Green Party of Suffolk, or designated committee, may approve non-content changes to the platform without the need for the above-described membership ratification process. Such changes may include: titles and arrangement of the planks of the platform; grammatical and stylistic changes to the wording of planks; creating and naming various subsets of the platform to be used in cases when the entire platform would be too cumbersome; combining planks; and other similar changes.

## **ARTICLE 12. AMENDMENTS TO THE BY-LAWS**

These rules may be amended by a majority vote at a regular meeting of the Green Party of Suffolk.

### **ARTICLE 13. SEVERABILITY**

If any clause, sentence, paragraph, subdivision, SECTION or part of these rules or any amendment thereto shall be adjudged to be invalid or otherwise rendered inoperative by any court of competent jurisdiction, such judgment or other judicial action shall not affect, impair, invalidate or render inoperative the remainder thereof, but shall be confined in its operation to the clause, sentence, paragraph, subdivision, SECTION or part thereof directly involved in the controversy in which such judgment or other judicial action shall have been rendered or taken.