



The Cook County Green Party

www.cookcountygreens.org

Email: secretary@cookcountygreens.org

Cook County Green Party Bylaws

ARTICLE 1 Name, Mission, and Function

1-A. Name. The name of this organization shall be the Cook County Green Party (CCGP).

1-B. Mission. The mission of the Cook County Green Party is to advance the green movement within Cook County and beyond, based on the Ten Key Values (Ecological Wisdom, Social Justice, Grassroots Democracy, Nonviolence, Decentralization, Community-based Economics, Feminism, Respect for Diversity, Personal and Global Responsibility, Future Focus), through political and non-political means.

1-C. Function. The mission of the Cook County Green Party shall be fulfilled through actions including but not limited to:

1. Supporting Green Party candidates and recruiting qualified Green Party members to run for office.
2. Maintaining a website.
3. Developing suggested common campaigns on major issues of countywide importance in which locals and all Greens in Cook County will be invited to participate.
4. Developing a newsletter and media relations to increase the visibility of the Green Party actions and positions.

ARTICLE 2 Membership

2-A. Members. The Cook County Green Party shall be composed of individuals who are members of the Illinois Green Party, and who either reside within the boundaries of Cook County, or who specifically request Membership within the Cook County Green Party on other grounds.

2-B. Authority. The Membership is the highest decision making body of the Cook County Green Party. All formal decisions made by the Membership, either at a county Membership Meeting or by some other manner, are binding upon all committees and officers of the county party.

2-C. Standing. A member of the Cook County Green Party shall be considered members in good standing if he/she is considered a member in good standing of the Illinois Green Party, and shall be eligible to participate in the decision-making processes of the Cook County Green Party if he/she is eligible to participate in the decision-making processes of the Illinois Green Party, unless otherwise permitted to participate, or constricted from participating, by a Membership vote as allowed by these bylaws.

2-D. Removal. Any member can be removed from Membership in the Cook County Green Party by a 3/4 secret ballot vote of the Membership. The member affected shall have a right to hear the charges against them, the right to be heard and to present evidence, and the right to confront witnesses against them. A member may only be removed for cause.

ARTICLE 3 Membership Meetings

3-A. Annual Meetings. The Cook County Green Party shall have an Annual Membership Meeting every calendar year, and may have additional Membership Meetings in a given year as called for by the Membership or the Locals Council. Notice shall be sent by U.S. mail to the Membership at least 45 days prior to the meeting.

3-B. Decision-Making. Unless otherwise stated in these bylaws, decisions will be made by consensus, or if a consensus cannot be reached, a vote will be taken. In order to pass, a proposal must receive twice as many "yes" votes as "no" votes, and more "yes" votes than "no" and "abstain" votes combined. Proposals in Instant Runoff Vote format will require the final position to achieve a majority for action to be taken.

3-C Special Membership Meeting. Member may call for a Special Membership Meeting by petition the Locals Council with signatures from 20% of the membership who have been in good standing for the preceding 6 months. The petition must specify the date, time, location and agenda of the proposed meeting. The officers are responsible for sending written notification, including the agenda, to the Membership at least 28 days in advance. CCGP resources shall be made available for the notification process and the meeting. Quorum for such meeting is defined as equal to or more than 33% of the CCGP members in good standing for the preceding 6 months.

ARTICLE 4 Locals Council

4-A. Purpose and Form. The Locals Council is the primary governing body of the Cook County Green Party, conducting business of the organization between Membership Meetings. The Locals Council shall consist of one individual from every affiliated ILGP local within Cook County. Each member shall cast an equal vote, regardless of local.

4-B. Meetings. The Locals Council shall meet at least six times every calendar year. At least three of these meetings will be in person. Meetings may also be conducted by phone teleconference.

4-C. Decision-Making. Unless otherwise stated in these bylaws, provided a quorum is present, decisions will be made by consensus, or if a consensus cannot be reached, a vote will be taken. In order to pass, a proposal must receive twice as many "yes" votes as "no" votes, and more "yes" votes than "no" and "abstain" votes combined. Quorum will require a majority of affiliated ILGP locals within Cook County to be represented.

4-D. Role. All decisions of the Locals Council are subject to review and reversal by the Membership. The Locals Council may not reverse a decision of the Membership. Any function delineated to the Locals Council within these bylaws may similarly be executed by the Membership.



The Cook County Green Party

www.cookcountygreens.org

Email: secretary@cookcountygreens.org

ARTICLE 5 Officers

5-A. Qualifications. All officers must be members in good standing of the Illinois Green Party and of the Cook County Green Party. Officers do not need to be representatives of affiliated locals on the Cook County Green Party Central Committee.

5-B. Selection. All officers will be elected to one-year terms at the Annual Membership Meeting using Instant Runoff Voting.

5-C. Chair. The Chair shall convene Locals Council meetings; serve as the primary spokesperson for the Cook County Green Party; and in conjunction with the Secretary, shall handle mail, e-mail, and phone calls on behalf of the CCGP.

5-D. Secretary. The Secretary shall keep and distribute the minutes of Membership and Locals Council meetings; in conjunction with the Chair, shall handle mail, e-mail, and phone calls on behalf of the CCGP; and shall administer credentialing at Membership meetings and shall be the primary tabulator of any votes.

5-E. Treasurer. The Treasurer shall manage all of the financial matters of the CCGP, including disbursement and management of CCGP funds:

1. shall prepare reports on the finances of the CCGP for Membership and Locals Council meetings;
2. shall submit the financial records of party operations to the State of Illinois as necessary by law;
3. shall submit the financial records of the party operations to the Federal Elections Commission as necessary by law;
4. shall file all documents necessary to ensure the CCGP can endorse candidates and ballot initiatives supported by the CCGP;
5. and shall ensure legally required records are maintained for all funds collected.

ARTICLE 6 Central Committees

6-A. The Cook County Green Party Central Committee shall be considered a standing committee of the Cook County Green Party, constituted in the manner provided for under Illinois statute.

6-B. The County Central Committee shall operate under state statute to the extent required to remain in compliance with certain statutory provisions. The primary directive document for the County Central Committee shall be these bylaws, augmented by a separate rules document specifically for the County Central Committee.

6-C. The County Central Committee is considered organizationally subservient to the Membership of the Cook County Green Party.

6-D. The Chair of the County Central Committee, unless also serving in such position, may not identify as the Chair of the Cook County Green Party.

6-E. All other statutory committees formed under the auspices of state statute covering jurisdictions entirely or partially within Cook County shall be subject to the conditions of these bylaws and also to the bylaws of the Illinois Green Party. Such committees shall also be directed by separate rules documents specifically for those committees.

ARTICLE 7 Standing and Ad Hoc Committees

7-A. The Locals Council may create standing or ad hoc committees, such that upon creation the composition, nature of leadership, and any specific rules for that committee are delineated.

7-B. Unless otherwise specified by committee rules, chairs of standing and ad hoc committees may be appointed and/or removed by the Locals Council per the standard proposal process.

ARTICLE 8 Procedures for Nomination and Endorsement of Candidates for Public Office

8-A. The Cook County Green Party shall use the rules provided for in Illinois Green Party bylaws for defining official Green Party candidates for public office.

8-B. The Cook County Green Party may endorse candidates for any countywide office, the Cook County Board of Review, and for the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District. The Cook County Green Party may also endorse candidates in areas of the county which are not assigned to any local of the Illinois Green Party. The Membership or the Locals Council, but no other body, may make such an endorsement on behalf of CCGP. Any such endorsement vote must be preceded by reasonable notice being given to members living in the relevant jurisdiction. Any such endorsement must be consistent with the rules provided for in Illinois Green Party bylaws for defining official Green Party candidates for public office and shall be done in consultation with the ILGP members resident within the affected jurisdiction.

8-C. Nothing in these bylaws shall be interpreted to supersede the autonomous authority of ILGP-affiliated locals to issue endorsements.

ARTICLE 9 Amendment

9-A. These bylaws may be amended at any Membership meeting, provided that the proposed amendments are submitted in writing, pursuant to the notification requirements specified in Article III.A or C, as applicable.

ARTICLE 10 Adoption of Initial ByLaws

10-A. This document will take effect on February 23, 2008, at the Inaugural County Convention of the Cook County Green Party, if no changes are adopted and it receives the approval of the members present as defined in Article 3-B.