

 The following is the text adopted at the Sept 1 meeting as interim bylaws for the Cook County Green Party. The agreement was to put these back up for a vote before a Membership Meeting within six months.

A separate bylaws document governing the Central Committee also needs to be developed. Rich Whitney developed a template for such a document which should substantively address that need, and once that document is ready, the language in it and in the CCGP bylaws should be brought more in concert with one another. I think the best approach to use is to have the Central Committee bylaws be effective only upon ratification by the Membership, which in turn makes it all the more important that we hold the inaugural membership meeting in advance of March 5.

- Phil

Cook County Green Party Bylaws v3.0 - Adopted as Interim Bylaws on September 1, 2007

ARTICLE I - Name, Mission, and Function

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

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.

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

1. This section will be generated by the CCGP in coming months.

ARTICLE II - Membership

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.

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, to the extent permissible by law.

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.

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.

E. 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 Coordinating Committee. Notice shall be sent by U.S. mail to the Membership at least 45 days prior to the meeting.

F. 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.

ARTICLE III - Coordinating Committee

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

B. Meetings. The Coordinating Committee 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.

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.

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

ARTICLE IV - Officers

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.

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

C. Chair. The Chair shall convene Coordinating Committee 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.

D. Secretary. The Secretary shall keep and distribute the minutes of Membership and Coordinating Committee 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 conducted outside of meetings.

E. Treasurer. The Treasurer shall manage all of the financial matters of the CCGP, including disbursement and management of CCGP funds; shall prepare reports on the finances of the CCGP for Membership and Coordinating Committee meetings; shall submit the financial records of party operations to the State of Illinois as necessary by law; shall file all documents necessary to ensure the CCGP can endorse candidates and ballot initiatives supported by the CCGP; and shall ensure legally required records are maintained for all funds collected.

ARTICLE V - Central Committees

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.

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.

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

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.

E. All other Central 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.

F. Any individual who is not a member in good standing of the Illinois Green Party will be considered barred from participating in any decision-making process of any Central Committee formed under state statute.

ARTICLE VI - Standing and Ad Hoc Committees

A. The Coordinating Committee 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.

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

ARTICLE VII - Procedures for Nomination and Endorsement of Candidates for Public Office

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.

B. The Cook County Green Party may endorse candidates for any office entirely or partially within the county. The Membership or the Coordinating Committee, 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.

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