



# FORWARD2004!

## GREEN NATIONAL CONVENTION

### BRPP PROPOSAL

# BRPP PROPOSAL

PROCESS FOR ELECTING THE STEERING COMMITTEE

#### **Proposal: Process for electing the Steering Committee - Option 1**

Presenter: BRPP Committee

Floor Manager: Greg Gerritt

Phase: Discussion

Discussion:

Voting: Mon 06/07/04 - Sun 06/27/04

Mon 06/28/04 - Sun 07/04/04

Quorum: (0.6666)

Threshold: (0.6666)

Background: The process for electing the Steering Committee and replacing SC members when they drop off the SC has been insufficient for the growing and evolving needs of the GPUS. The restructuring of the SC that will take effect with the electing of a new SC in Milwaukee lends some urgency to an upgrade of the rules governing SC elections. The BRPP has been unable to muster enough energy to completely revamp the system, but we have been able to develop some short term fixes that move us forward. These three specific fixes will be presented as a whole package, but the vote on each fix will be conducted separately as each section can be implemented without the others.

The first fix is in the nomination process, in which instead of the clause on closing nominations if there are sufficient nominees to fill the seats available, we offer an early nominations time and the opportunity to nominate at the meeting.

The second change we offer is to codify the election process, clearly stating the type of proportional vote we are to use.

The third change we offer because we believe that the system of alternates has not been very good. It is very difficult for alternates to find a place in the system and it causes stress by asking people to step into difficult roles unexpectedly. What we offer instead is elimination of the alternate position and a requirement for online elections to fill vacant seats as they occur.





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#### **Background on Nominating Process:**

This is the current rule.

“At least two months before a national Green Party gathering, the secretary shall ask members of the Coordinating Committee for nominations for the various offices. One month shall be given for all nominations to be submitted. Once all the nominations have been received by the secretary, candidates shall submit a short biography online for all delegates to read at least two weeks before the convening of the next Green Party gathering. Nominations may be reopened at the meeting of the Coordinating Committee if there were insufficient nominations.”

It closes nominations one month before the annual meeting if there are enough candidates. We have never defined sufficient, so we get into scrapes. For obvious reasons it makes sense to have nominations ahead of time. Give everyone an opportunity over a two-month period to get familiar with the candidates. Make sure that all candidates for SC positions have some experience with the CC before being elected.

But we have repeatedly demonstrated a shortage of candidates for the positions, so rather than fight about when to reopen nominations on the floor, let's just assume they will be open to people who are in the room as long as they meet all of the qualifications for the office.

#### **Background on the elimination of alternates:**

The system of alternates has been tested and has proven to not work very well. Sometimes we get more resignations than we have alternates. The alternates who were elected may be unable to serve or to serve well by the time their services are needed, for anyone of a variety of reasons. For example, they may no longer be a delegate, and therefore ineligible, or they took a new job and can not put in the time, a job they would not have taken if they were serving on the SC.

So we propose eliminating the position, elect who we elect, and if there are vacancies do an online election with a 3 week nomination process, two weeks of discussion and a one week vote us-

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ing the voting page. This way we get people ready to serve right then and we can handle as many vacancies as occur, and we can replace the Treasurer or Secretary if need be as well.

Background on election system:

The type of voting chosen by the BRPP is called "choice voting". Delegates rank as many candidates as they like. In order to get elected a candidate must pass a threshold of one divided by the number of seats available plus one. If there are 5 seats available, then to get elected a candidate must get at least 1/6 of the votes. It could mean that even if we only have 5 candidates for 5 seats someone may not get elected, which would have been bad news under the previous system, but if we have a mechanism for filling open seats, they can be filled via online election. Thus we do not have to accept candidates with little support.

Proposal: By-Law Change

Material to be added is **bolded**. Material to be deleted is in [brackets].

#### ARTICLE VI. SELECTION, ELECTION, AND REMOVAL OF OFFICERS

##### **Option 1 change:**

From:

At least two months before a national Green Party gathering, the Secretary of the GPUS shall ask members of the Coordinating Committee for nominations for the various offices. One month shall be given for all nominations to be submitted. Once all the nominations have been received by the secretary, candidates shall submit a short biography online for all delegates to read at least two weeks before the convening of the next Green Party gathering.

Nominations may be reopened at the meeting of the Coordinating Committee if there were insufficient nominations. The official announcement of candidates and the elections will be held on separate days during the Green Party gathering.





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To:

At least two months before a national Green Party gathering, the Secretary of the GPUS shall ask members of the Coordinating Committee for nominations for the various offices. One month shall be given for all nominations to be submitted. Once all the nominations have been received by the secretary, candidates shall submit a short biography online for all delegates to read at least two weeks before the convening of the next Green Party gathering. [Nominations may be reopened at the meeting of the Coordinating Committee if there were insufficient nominations.]

**Nominations will reopen at a specified part of the Agenda at the Annual National Committee Meeting.** The official nomination and announcement of candidates and the elections will be held on separate days during the Green Party [gathering] **annual meeting.** [Election of officers will be conducted by preferential voting.]

**SC members shall be elected using choice voting, with a fractional Droop threshold (one divided by the number of seats to be filled plus one:  $1/(seats+1)$ ) and fractional transfers. A candidate must pass the Droop threshold in order to be elected.** [For the position of co-chair the individual with the fourth highest vote total will automatically become the alternate and automatically assume the office of co-chair if a vacancy occurs between Green Party gatherings.]

**Any vacancy in the offices of co-chair, treasurer or secretary shall cause the SC to call for an on line election to be held immediately upon confirmation of the vacancy, to be completed within six weeks of the call for election, with a nomination period of three weeks to be followed by a two-week discussion period and a one-week vote.**

**Co-chair elections shall take place online using choice voting. Elections for secretary or treasurer shall take place on line and be conducted using IRV, one election for each vacant office. Upon election the replacement shall be deemed to be filling the remainder of the term of the SC member being replaced.**

(Note the BRPP made no changes to the following section, it is just included here for completeness)





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The following will be grounds for expulsion of officers:

1. Committing the Green Party to actions, endorsements, and other policy positions outside the decision-making process (see powers of Steering Committee).
2. Misrepresenting the decisions and policies of the Green Party.
3. Misappropriation, embezzlement, or unauthorized disbursement of Green Party funds.
4. Advocacy or practice of discrimination.
5. Advocacy or practice of violent political action.
6. Misrepresentation of self.

Any three Coordinating Committee delegates from different states can bring charges of impeachment against a Green Party officer. Such charges must be in writing. Once charges are brought, a grievance tribunal will be selected by members of the Steering Committee who are not the subject of the impeachment. The grievance tribunal will hear both sides and decide the matter in a manner consistent with the principles of due process. The grievance tribunal shall consist of three individuals from states associated with the Green Party and shall not consist of any Green Party officers or individuals from the states that originally brought the charges. The grievance tribunal will make a recommendation to the Coordinating Committee online within a reasonable amount of time. The Coordinating Committee will then conduct an online vote with a two-third no vote necessary to remove an individual from office.

Resources:

References: Definitions and Explanations of Voting Methods  
CHOICE VOTING

{Note: Choice voting is also sometimes called "single transferable vote (STV)" or "preference voting."}

I. DEFINITION, PRINCIPLE, AND APPLICABILITY:

(a) DEFINITION: "Choice Voting" shall be defined as a voting sys-





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tem which achieves proportional representation by allowing voters to rank candidates for Steering Committee (SC) in the order of their choice, according to the method described below; and by tabulating votes according to the rules described below.

(b) PRINCIPLE: Choice 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.

II. BALLOT SPECIFICATIONS AND DIRECTIONS TO VOTERS: Ballots shall be simple and easy to understand. Directions provided to voters shall conform substantially to the following specifications

#### DIRECTIONS TO VOTERS

STEERING COMMITTEE: Vote for up to [number of empty seats] Steering Committee candidates by ranking them in your order of choice. Indicate your first choice by marking an "x" in column 1 next to that candidate's name, your second choice by marking an "x" in column 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.

III. TABULATION OF VOTES: In accordance with the principle expressed above, ballots shall be counted by election authorities according to the following rules:

(a) 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 in (b)(1) below. The threshold is the number of votes (possibly fractional) that





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must be exceeded by a winning candidate. This threshold is determined as follows: (valid votes cast) divided by (number of seats to be filled plus one).

(b) RULES REGARDING TRANSFER OF VOTES: The following rules regarding vote transfer shall apply to all stages of the tabulation:

(1) Votes acquired by a candidate in excess of the threshold for that election shall be termed his or her "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. For example, if a candidate receives 15,000 votes in an election whose threshold is 10,000, that candidate has a surplus of 5000 votes and one-third ( $5000/15,000 = .3333$ ) of a vote from each of those 15,000 ballots is transferred to those voters' next choices. Votes cast for candidates who are eliminated (as described below) shall be transferred at their full current value to those voters' next choice(s).

(2) 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.

(3) 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.

(c) STAGES IN THE TABULATION:

(1) 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 in (b) above. Transfer of surpluses shall commence with the candidate having the largest surplus and proceed successively to the candidates with the next largest surplus.

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(2) 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 voters' succeeding choices, until all surpluses have been transferred or all declared choices on a ballot have been exhausted.

(3) 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 candidates named on these ballots. If a next-choice candidate already has been elected or defeated, then the vote goes to the succeeding choice.

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. This process of transferring surpluses followed by eliminating candidates with the least numbers of votes shall continue until the number of candidates remaining matches the number of positions to be filled or until only elected candidates remain, whichever occurs first.

(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 random selection.







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#### **Proposal: Process for electing the Steering Committee - Option 2**

Presenter: BRPP Committee

Floor Manager: Greg Gerritt

Phase: Discussion

Discussion:

Voting: Mon 06/07/04 - Sun 06/27/04

Mon 06/28/04 - Sun 07/04/04

Quorum: (0.6666)

Threshold: (0.6666)

Background: The process for electing the Steering Committee and replacing SC members when they drop off the SC has been insufficient for the growing and evolving needs of the GPUS. The restructuring of the SC that will take effect with the electing of a new SC in Milwaukee lends some urgency to an upgrade of the rules governing SC elections. The BRPP has been unable to muster enough energy to completely revamp the system, but we have been able to develop some short term fixes that move us forward. These three specific fixes will be presented as a whole package, but the vote on each fix will be conducted separately as each section can be implemented without the others.

The first fix is in the nomination process, in which instead of the clause on closing nominations if there are sufficient nominees to fill the seats available, we offer an early nominations time and the opportunity to nominate at the meeting.

The second change we offer is to codify the election process, clearly stating the type of proportional vote we are to use.

The third change we offer because we believe that the system of alternates has not been very good. It is very difficult for alternates to find a place in the system and it causes stress by asking people to step into difficult roles unexpectedly. What we offer instead is elimination of the alternate position and a requirement for online elections to fill vacant seats as they occur.

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#### **Background on Nominating Process:**

This is the current rule.

“At least two months before a national Green Party gathering, the secretary shall ask members of the Coordinating Committee for nominations for the various offices. One month shall be given for all nominations to be submitted. Once all the nominations have been received by the secretary, candidates shall submit a short biography online for all delegates to read at least two weeks before the convening of the next Green Party gathering. Nominations may be reopened at the meeting of the Coordinating Committee if there were insufficient nominations.”

It closes nominations one month before the annual meeting if there are enough candidates. We have never defined sufficient, so we get into scrapes. For obvious reasons it makes sense to have nominations ahead of time. Give everyone an opportunity over a two-month period to get familiar with the candidates. Make sure that all candidates for SC positions have some experience with the CC before being elected.

But we have repeatedly demonstrated a shortage of candidates for the positions, so rather than fight about when to reopen nominations on the floor, let's just assume they will be open to people who are in the room as long as they meet all of the qualifications for the office.

#### **Background on the elimination of alternates.**

The system of alternates has been tested and has proven to not work very well. Sometimes we get more resignations than we have alternates. The alternates who were elected may be unable to serve or to serve well by the time their services are needed, for anyone of a variety of reasons. For example, they may no longer be a delegate, and therefore ineligible, or they took a new job and can not put in the time, a job they would not have taken if they were serving on the SC.

So we propose eliminating the position, elect who we elect, and if there are vacancies do an online election with a 3 week nomina-





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tion process, two weeks of discussion and a one week vote using the voting page. This way we get people ready to serve right then and we can handle as many vacancies as occur, and we can replace the Treasurer or Secretary if need be as well.

#### Background on election system:

The type of voting chosen by the BRPP is called "choice voting". Delegates rank as many candidates as they like. In order to get elected a candidate must pass a threshold of one divided by the number of seats available plus one. If there are 5 seats available, then to get elected a candidate must get at least 1/6 of the votes. It could mean that even if we only have 5 candidates for 5 seats someone may not get elected, which would have been bad news under the previous system, but if we have a mechanism for filling open seats, they can be filled via online election. Thus we do not have to accept candidates with little support.

Proposal: By-Law Change

Material to be added is **bolded**. Material to be deleted is in [brackets].

#### ARTICLE VI. SELECTION, ELECTION, AND REMOVAL OF OFFICERS

At least two months before a national Green Party gathering, the Secretary of the GPUS shall ask members of the Coordinating Committee for nominations for the various offices. One month shall be given for all nominations to be submitted. Once all the nominations have been received by the secretary, candidates shall submit a short biography online for all delegates to read at least two weeks before the convening of the next Green Party gathering. [Nominations may be reopened at the meeting of the Coordinating Committee if there were insufficient nominations.] Nominations will reopen at a specified part of the Agenda at the Annual National Committee Meeting. The official nomination and announcement of candidates and the elections will be held on separate days during the Green Party [gathering] annual meeting. [Election of officers will be conducted by preferential voting.]

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SC members shall be elected using choice voting, with a fractional Droop threshold (one divided by the number of seats to be filled plus one:  $1/(seats+1)$ ) and fractional transfers. A candidate must pass the Droop threshold in order to be elected. [For the position of co-chair the individual with the fourth highest vote total will automatically become the alternate and automatically assume the office of co-chair if a vacancy occurs between Green Party gatherings.]

#### Option 2 change:

From:

For the position of co-chair the individual with the fourth highest vote total will automatically become the alternate and automatically assume the office of co-chair if a vacancy occurs between Green Party gatherings.

with

**Any vacancy in the offices of co-chair, treasurer or secretary shall cause the SC to call for an on line election to be held immediately upon confirmation of the vacancy, to be completed within six weeks of the call for election, with a nomination period of three weeks to be followed by a two-week discussion period and a one-week vote.**

**Co-chair elections shall take place online using choice voting. Elections for secretary or treasurer shall take place on line and be conducted using IRV, one election for each vacant office. Upon election the replacement shall be deemed to be filling the remainder of the term of the SC member being replaced.**

(Note the BRPP made no changes to the following section, it is just included here for completeness)

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2. Misrepresenting the decisions and policies of the Green Party.
3. Misappropriation, embezzlement, or unauthorized disbursement of Green Party funds.
4. Advocacy or practice of discrimination.
5. Advocacy or practice of violent political action.
6. Misrepresentation of self.

Any three Coordinating Committee delegates from different states can bring charges of impeachment against a Green Party officer. Such charges must be in writing. Once charges are brought, a grievance tribunal will be selected by members of the Steering Committee who are not the subject of the impeachment. The grievance tribunal will hear both sides and decide the matter in a manner consistent with the principles of due process. The grievance tribunal shall consist of three individuals from states associated with the Green Party and shall not consist of any Green Party officers or individuals from the states that originally brought the charges. The grievance tribunal will make a recommendation to the Coordinating Committee online within a reasonable amount of time. The Coordinating Committee will then conduct an online vote with a two-third no vote necessary to remove an individual from office.

Resources:

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#### CHOICE VOTING

{Note: Choice voting is also sometimes called "single transferable vote (STV)" or "preference voting."}

#### I. DEFINITION, PRINCIPLE, AND APPLICABILITY:

(a) DEFINITION: "Choice Voting" shall be defined as a voting system which achieves proportional representation by allowing voters to rank candidates for Steering Committee (SC) in the order of their choice, according to the method described below; and by tabulating votes according to the rules described below.





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(b) PRINCIPLE: Choice 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.

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(b) RULES REGARDING TRANSFER OF VOTES: The following rules regarding vote transfer shall apply to all stages of the tabulation:

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(3) 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 candidates named on these ballots. If a next-choice candidate already has been elected or defeated, then the vote goes to the succeeding choice.

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PROCESS FOR ELECTING THE STEERING COMMITTEE

#### **Proposal: Process for electing the Steering Committee - Option 3**

Presenter: BRPP Committee

Floor Manager: Greg Gerritt

Phase: Discussion

Discussion:

Voting: Mon 06/07/04 - Sun 06/27/04

Mon 06/28/04 - Sun 07/04/04

Quorum: (0.6666)

Threshold: (0.6666)

Background: The process for electing the Steering Committee and replacing SC members when they drop off the SC has been insufficient for the growing and evolving needs of the GPUS. The restructuring of the SC that will take effect with the electing of a new SC in Milwaukee lends some urgency to an upgrade of the rules governing SC elections. The BRPP has been unable to muster enough energy to completely revamp the system, but we have been able to develop some short term fixes that move us forward. These three specific fixes will be presented as a whole package, but the vote on each fix will be conducted separately as each section can be implemented without the others.

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#### **Background on Nominating Process:**

This is the current rule.

“At least two months before a national Green Party gathering, the secretary shall ask members of the Coordinating Committee for nominations for the various offices. One month shall be given for all nominations to be submitted. Once all the nominations have been received by the secretary, candidates shall submit a short biography online for all delegates to read at least two weeks before the convening of the next Green Party gathering. Nominations may be reopened at the meeting of the Coordinating Committee if there were insufficient nominations.”

It closes nominations one month before the annual meeting if there are enough candidates. We have never defined sufficient, so we get into scrapes. For obvious reasons it makes sense to have nominations ahead of time. Give everyone an opportunity over a two-month period to get familiar with the candidates. Make sure that all candidates for SC positions have some experience with the CC before being elected.

But we have repeatedly demonstrated a shortage of candidates for the positions, so rather than fight about when to reopen nominations on the floor, let's just assume they will be open to people who are in the room as long as they meet all of the qualifications for the office.

#### **Background on the elimination of alternates.**

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#### **Background on election system:**

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Proposal: By-Law Change

Material to be added is **bolded**. Material to be deleted is in [brackets].

#### ARTICLE VI. SELECTION, ELECTION, AND REMOVAL OF OFFICERS

At least two months before a national Green Party gathering, the Secretary of the GPUS shall ask members of the Coordinating Committee for nominations for the various offices. One month shall be given for all nominations to be submitted. Once all the nominations have been received by the secretary, candidates shall submit a short biography online for all delegates to read at least two weeks before the convening of the next Green Party gathering. [Nominations may be reopened at the meeting of the Coordinating Committee if there were insufficient nominations.] **Nominations will reopen at a specified part of the Agenda at the Annual National Committee Meeting.** The official nomination and announcement of candidates and the elections will be held on separate days during the Green Party [gathering] **annual meeting**. [Election of officers will be conducted by preferential voting.]

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#### Option 3 change:

From:

[Election of officers will be conducted by preferential voting.]  
with

**SC members shall be elected using choice voting, with a fractional Droop threshold (one divided by the number of seats to be filled plus one:  $1/(seats+1)$ ) and fractional transfers. A candidate must pass the Droop threshold in order to be elected.** [For the position of co-chair the individual with the fourth highest vote total will automatically become the alternate and automatically assume the office of co-chair if a vacancy occurs between Green Party gatherings.]

**Any vacancy in the offices of co-chair, treasurer or secretary shall cause the SC to call for an on line election to be held immediately upon confirmation of the vacancy, to be completed within six weeks of the call for election, with a nomination period of three weeks to be followed by a two-week discussion period and a one-week vote.**

**Co-chair elections shall take place online using choice voting. Elections for secretary or treasurer shall take place on line and be conducted using IRV, one election for each vacant office. Upon election the replacement shall be deemed to be filling the remainder of the term of the SC member being replaced.**

(Note the BRPP made no changes to the following section, it is just included here for completeness)

The following will be grounds for expulsion of officers:

1. Committing the Green Party to actions, endorsements, and other policy positions outside the decision-making process (see powers of Steering Committee).
2. Misrepresenting the decisions and policies of the Green Party.
3. Misappropriation, embezzlement, or unauthorized disbursement of Green Party funds.
4. Advocacy or practice of discrimination.

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5. Advocacy or practice of violent political action.
6. Misrepresentation of self.

Any three Coordinating Committee delegates from different states can bring charges of impeachment against a Green Party officer. Such charges must be in writing. Once charges are brought, a grievance tribunal will be selected by members of the Steering Committee who are not the subject of the impeachment. The grievance tribunal will hear both sides and decide the matter in a manner consistent with the principles of due process. The grievance tribunal shall consist of three individuals from states associated with the Green Party and shall not consist of any Green Party officers or individuals from the states that originally brought the charges. The grievance tribunal will make a recommendation to the Coordinating Committee online within a reasonable amount of time. The Coordinating Committee will then conduct an online vote with a two-third no vote necessary to remove an individual from office.

Resources:

References: Definitions and Explanations of Voting Methods  
CHOICE VOTING

{Note: Choice voting is also sometimes called "single transferable vote (STV)" or "preference voting."}

#### I. DEFINITION, PRINCIPLE, AND APPLICABILITY:

(a) DEFINITION: "Choice Voting" shall be defined as a voting system which achieves proportional representation by allowing voters to rank candidates for Steering Committee (SC) in the order of their choice, according to the method described below; and by tabulating votes according to the rules described below.

(b) PRINCIPLE: Choice 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





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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.

II. BALLOT SPECIFICATIONS AND DIRECTIONS TO VOTERS: Ballots shall be simple and easy to understand. Directions provided to voters shall conform substantially to the following specifications

#### DIRECTIONS TO VOTERS

STEERING COMMITTEE: Vote for up to [number of empty seats] Steering Committee candidates by ranking them in your order of choice. Indicate your first choice by marking an "x" in column 1 next to that candidate's name, your second choice by marking an "x" in column 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.

III. TABULATION OF VOTES: In accordance with the principle expressed above, ballots shall be counted by election authorities according to the following rules:

(a) 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 in (b)(1) below. The threshold is the number of votes (possibly fractional) that must be exceeded by a winning candidate. This threshold is determined as follows: (valid votes cast) divided by (number of seats to be filled plus one).

(b) RULES REGARDING TRANSFER OF VOTES: The following rules regarding vote transfer shall apply to all stages of the tabulation:

(1) Votes acquired by a candidate in excess of the threshold for that election shall be termed his or her "surplus". A candidate's surplus votes shall be transferred according to the following rule:

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transfer a portion of each vote determined by dividing the surplus of the candidate by the total number of votes for that candidate. For example, if a candidate receives 15,000 votes in an election whose threshold is 10,000, that candidate has a surplus of 5000 votes and one-third ( $5000/15,000 = .3333$ ) of a vote from each of those 15,000 ballots is transferred to those voters' next choices. Votes cast for candidates who are eliminated (as described below) shall be transferred at their full current value to those voters' next choice(s).

(2) 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.

(3) 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.

#### (c) STAGES IN THE TABULATION:

(1) 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 in (b) above. Transfer of surpluses shall commence with the candidate having the largest surplus and proceed successively to the candidates with the next largest surplus.

(2) 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 voters' succeeding choices, until all surpluses have been transferred or all declared choices on a ballot have been exhausted.

(3) 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 candidates named on these ballots. If a next-choice candidate already has

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been elected or defeated, then the vote goes to the succeeding choice.

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. This process of transferring surpluses followed by eliminating candidates with the least numbers of votes shall continue until the number of candidates remaining matches the number of positions to be filled or until only elected candidates remain, whichever occurs first.

(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 random selection.

Proposal Details

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