

# Green-Rainbow Party Presidential Nominating Convention Delegate Selection Plan

Approved by the Green-Rainbow Party State Committee, June 29th, 2008

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## Introduction

**Having state party status, Massachusetts election laws allow us to place presidential candidates on the-presidential primary ballot without gathering nomination signatures.** All the party will need to do is have the co-chairs provide a list of candidates for the primary to the Secretary of the Commonwealth by a Massachusetts state specified deadline (for 2008 presidential election, it is January 4<sup>th</sup>, 2008, 5pm) and notify said candidates that the party has placed them on the ballot.

The presidential primary ballot includes a “No Preference” (i.e. uncommitted to any particular candidate) choice and allows voters to write-in individuals not on the ballot.

State law does define a minimum set of rules for the selection of delegates to a presidential nomination convention. These include that:

- The distribution of delegates under any such system shall reflect the preference expressed by the voters on the presidential preference portion of the ballot at the presidential primary;
- There must be at least one delegate and one alternate delegate from each congressional district;
- There can be at-large delegates and alternate delegates;

**The State Committee must provide a set of rules and procedures for delegate selection to the Secretary of the Commonwealth by a state specified deadline (for 2008 presidential election the deadline is October 1st, 2007, 5pm).**

**The State Committee must notify the Secretary of the Commonwealth of the number of delegates and alternate delegates we will send to the national nominating convention on or before the first Tuesday in January of the presidential election year (for 2008 presidential election, the deadline is January 1st, 2008, 5pm, but since that day is a holiday we will choose December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2007).**

The Green Party of the United States (GPotUS) Accreditations Committee rules for a national convention where a presidential candidate is nominated or endorsed will determine how many delegates we will have.

The apportionment of delegates will be decided by the results of the presidential primary (for the 2008 presidential election, that is the March 4<sup>th</sup>, 2008 presidential primary). Delegates will be apportioned proportional to their vote. No minimum thresholds will be set.

The Massachusetts General Laws (MGL), the GPotUS Accreditations Committee rules for a national convention and our own rules will determine the method of selection of our delegates.

This plan is in effect starting for the 2008 presidential election. This plan will continue to be in effect for the presidential elections following the 2008 presidential election unless a new plan is submitted to the Secretary of the Commonwealth that has been approved by the State Committee of the Green-Rainbow Party. All dates for 2008 presidential election are noted. If the Secretary of the Commonwealth requires us to physically submit this plan again for presidential elections

after 2008, the Candidate Development and Legal Committee, in conjunction with the Administration Committee, will work to ensure that this plan, if unchanged by State Committee, is submitted with dates specified for the presidential year in question.

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## What is in this Document

This document describes:

- The legal and party requirements for delegate and alternate delegate selection;
- The method of selecting the number of delegates and alternate delegates that each choice on the presidential primary ballot will receive;
- The method of selecting delegates and alternate delegates for a candidate;
- The method of selecting uncommitted delegates and alternate delegates;
- The method of filling delegate vacancies;
- The key dates for delegate and alternate delegate selection.

## Requirements

### *Requirements Summary*

Using Full/Proportional Representation for allocating delegates ensures that each candidate or the No Preference option receives a number of delegates that is proportional to the votes it receives in a Presidential Primary (in the 2008 presidential election the primary is March 4<sup>th</sup>, 2008). The system we selected has been used by a number of nations for the election of their parliaments.

### **Applicable General Laws**

The Massachusetts General Laws (MGL) give the State Committee great flexibility in defining the rules for delegate selection to a Presidential Nominating Convention. The most relevant information is contained in Chapter 53, Section 70 of the MGL. Please see <http://www.state.ma.us/legis/laws/mgl/gl-53-toc.htm> for further information.

The key part is Section 70B (<http://www.state.ma.us/legis/laws/mgl/53-70B.htm>). It states that the State Committee must provide a set of rules for delegate selection to the Secretary of the Commonwealth **by a state specified deadline (for 2008 presidential election the deadline is October 1st, 2007, 5pm).**

Also it specifies that:

- The number of district delegates and alternate district delegates, not less than two from each congressional district, shall be fixed by the State Committee;
- The number of delegates and alternate delegates at-large shall be fixed by the State Committee;
- The State Committee shall notify the Secretary of the Commonwealth of the number of delegates and alternate delegates on or before the *first Tuesday in January of the*

*presidential election year (for 2008 presidential election, the deadline is January 1st, 2008, 5pm, but since that day is a holiday we will choose December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2007).*

Once the presidential primary election has occurred, the Secretary of the Commonwealth will notify the state party of the total number of votes cast, as well as the number of votes the “No Preference” option and each candidate on the primary ballot received. This information will be provided for the entire commonwealth and for each congressional district.

## **Green Party of the United States National Convention Rules**

The Accreditations Committee (AC) of the Green Party of the United States (GPotUS) has rules for the presidential nominating convention (for the 2008 presidential election, these are currently only a draft version). Previous rules stated that our delegates should be apportioned by the rules of the state party. It recommends that we use proportional representation to select our delegates and that we send a delegation that reflects the diversity of our state.

We must submit an application for the credentialing of our delegation to the AC by a certain deadline (for the 2008 presidential election this deadline has yet to be specified).

This application must be sent by mail and email. This application must include the following items or statements:

- It shall bear the witness of the officers of the state party that delegates named in the application were duly elected as delegates to the Convention as provided for in the rules of the state party;
- It states that the state party is a member of the Green Party of the United States;
- It states that it is the policy of the state party that neither its Presidential Nominating Convention delegates nor its Presidential electors will work in active opposition to the Presidential Slate nominated by the Green Party Presidential Nominating Convention;
- It includes a certified copy of the minutes of the state convention or other body of the state party authorized to elect the delegation, which minutes document the delegate election;
- It includes copies of all portions of state election law which are relevant to the selection of delegates to a national convention, whether by primary, caucus, or petitions for national candidates;
- It identifies by name, date of birth, residential address, phone and fax numbers, email address and the party by which they are registered to vote (where possible) each delegate and alternate delegate elected by the party;
- It states that for any delegate who may be credentialed on the basis of their party’s electoral success, attaches documentation of the election results and the endorsement or nomination of the Green candidate whose showing in the polls is the basis of the delegate’s eligibility for credentials;

- And it describes for each congressional district in the state, the nature and time frame of any Green activity in the district.

However, previous rules have defined a procedure for determining the number of delegates each state party may send. For example, State Party Delegate totals will be comprised of the following:

- Electoral Votes for State;
- Number of elected Greens in the state who won their elections with over 500 votes (in 2004 there was a cutoff for races to count of Dec 31, 2003) ;
- An electoral strength adjustment that is the “Highest Statewide Vote Total” multiplied by the Statewide Percentage of the vote, divided by 100,000 (the 2004 presidential convention used the default total from the 2000 Presidential race). The AC allowed a state’s better statewide results in another race (for the 2004 presidential election if it had been notified before Dec 31 2003), and the Green candidate in question had both Democrat and Republican opponents;
- Number of seats on the GPotUS Coordinating Committee.

(For the 2008 presidential election the "ballpark figure" for the number of delegates from Massachusetts will be 33.)

### **Green-Rainbow Party By-laws and Platform**

Sections 5.2 and 5.3 of the Green-Rainbow Party by-laws define the decision-making process of the party. Unfortunately, the nature of the presidential primary does not allow us to seek consensus. Additionally, the voting system the Commonwealth uses does not provide us with the aggregate ranked preferences of the voters in our primary, and as such we cannot use Single Transferable Vote - Proportional Representation as specified in our by-laws.

As a result, we will need to use a method of allocating delegates among competing candidates that is true to the 10 Key Values of the party, but does not fulfill the letter of our by-laws. Thankfully, section 3.4 of the Green-Rainbow Party platform states:

“The Green Party calls upon Massachusetts to lead the U.S. in replacing the undemocratic winner-take-all system with a proportional representation system. Specifically, we call for: ...

Mixed Member Proportional Representation in a Unicameral State Legislature: Voters will vote once (by preferential ballot) for their district State Legislative Representative and then again for the party of their choice. Half the seats will be elected from single-member districts and half from the party vote. Seats are awarded in proportion to the party vote, with district seats elected counting toward the party's total. This mixed member proportional system combines the advantages of proportional representation -- a fair share of representation to all groups -- with the advantages of single-member district representatives -- representation of and service to the districts' constituents.”

Mixed Member Proportional Representation (MMP or MMPR) was first introduced in West Germany and has since spread throughout the world. New Zealand adopted it in the 1990s and has used it successfully. It combines elections for individual member districts with a party based proportional/full representation system. This allows minority opinions to be voiced in a legislative body while also maintaining the constituency services of single member districts.

The Elections New Zealand web site has summarized MMP as such:

“Under MMP each person who is enrolled as an elector for a General electorate or a Maori electorate has two votes:

- The Party Vote is for the political party the elector most wants to be represented in Parliament. The Party Vote portion of the single-page ballot paper shows all the registered political parties that have nominated a party list for the general election. Every voter chooses among the same parties on the Party Vote regardless of whether he or she is enrolled for a General electorate or for as Maori electorate.
- The Electorate Vote is for the candidate the elector wants to represent him or her as the electorate MP. [Note: MP means Member of Parliament and there are currently 69 electorate MPs and 51 list MPs.]

In general, each registered party's total number of Party Votes decides its share of all 120 seats in Parliament. However, before it is entitled to a share of all the seats, a party must first qualify by "crossing the threshold": either it must win at least five percent of all the Party Votes cast at the election, or it must win at least one General or Maori electorate seat. Party Votes cast for parties that do not cross the threshold are disregarded.

The Sainte-Laguë mathematical formula is used to allocate seats to parties that cross the threshold. If an electorate seat is won by an Independent candidate or by a party that did not appear on the Party Vote the Chief Electoral Officer subtracts that number of seats from 120 and uses the lower number to work out allocations of seats between parties that cross the threshold.

Each party that qualifies will be allocated enough list seats to add to any electorate seats it has won so that its share of the total 120 seats is close to its share of all the Party Votes cast for parties that cross the threshold.

If a party that appears on the Party Vote wins more electorate seats than it is entitled to based on its share of all the Party Votes then it does not receive any list seats. It keeps the extra seats (known as "overhang" seats) and the size of Parliament increases by that number of seats until the next general election.

Parties which get list seats fill those seats from the list of candidates they nominated before the general election. List candidates become list MPs in the order they are shown on their party's list, and voters cannot change that order. A person can be a "dual candidate" by standing for an electorate seat as well as being on the party list. A dual candidate who wins an electorate seat has his or her name deleted from the party list.”



Mixed Member Proportional Representation provides the correct mechanism for allocating our Presidential Nominating Convention delegates among the various options on the ballot. The system we will use will be outlined below.

## **Method of Selecting the Number of Delegates for each Option**

### ***Number of Delegates***

Based on the final numbers we receive from the GPotUS, the co-chairs will notify the Secretary of the Commonwealth of the number of delegates and alternate delegates we plan to send to the Presidential Nominating Convention on or before the first Tuesday in January (**for 2008 presidential election, the deadline would be January 1st, 2008, 5pm, but since that day is a holiday we will choose December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2007**).

Where this number is needed in any formulae, N shall be substituted for this value in such formulae.

### ***Method of Selecting the Number of Delegates for Each Choice on the Ballot***

#### **Definitions**

Option on the ballot shall mean a designated candidate on the ballot, a write-in candidate on the ballot or "No Preference". Reported write-in votes for which the Commonwealth has not provided candidate names shall be apportioned among the other options in proportion to the vote totals for those options.

#### **Schedule**

Prior to the Presidential Primary, the co-chairs of the Green-Rainbow Party will request, in writing, that the Secretary of the Commonwealth send us after the primary the primary's results for each congressional district as well as statewide.

The Candidate Development and Legal Committee (CDLC) will do the required calculations as specified in this plan.

The CDLC will present the actual calculations and results to the Administrative Committee for review and approval one (1) week after the co-chairs of the CDLC are provided with the election results. This information will also be posted on the state party web site for membership review after they are provided to the Administrative Committee.

The Administrative Committee must review and approve or reject the results within one (1) week of receiving them. Failure to approve or reject the results will automatically approve them. If they reject the results, the CDLC co-chairs, in consultation with other CDLC members, will review the results, make any changes and submit the revised results within one (1) week of the

rejection. If the Administrative Committee still does not agree with the calculations that determine the results, then they have one (1) week to revise them or they are accepted.

### ***Method of Selecting the Number of Delegates from Congressional Districts***

There shall be one delegate and one alternate delegate for each congressional district.

The option that receives the highest number of votes in a congressional district shall win the delegate and alternate delegate from that district.

### ***Method of Selecting the Number of At-Large Delegates***

A procedure, known as the Sainte-Laguë formula (after its founder) is used to decide the number of delegates each option is awarded.

The following steps define the process for determining the number of delegates each option is awarded.

#### **Step 1**

The CDLC will draw up a table showing the name of each option, the number of votes it won statewide, the percentage of all votes it won statewide and the number of congressional districts it won. The CDLC will sort the options in descending order by the number of votes each option received.

#### **Step 2**

The CDLC then takes the total votes for each eligible option and divides the figures by a sequence of odd numbers starting with 1 (1, 3, 5, 7, 9, 11, 13, 15 etc) and going to  $2 * N$ . The resulting numbers are called quotients.

#### **Step 3**

These quotients are placed into a two-column table with the first column being the value of the quotient and the second column being the option to which this quotient is assigned.

The resulting list is sorted by quotient in descending order. The top N rows of the table are selected, and the number of each option is counted to determine the total number of delegates for each option.

#### **Step 4**

The CDLC then determines how many congressional district delegates each option won, and allocates enough at-large delegates to each option to bring its total number of delegates up to the number to which it is entitled.

In the unlikely event that one or more options wins more congressional districts delegates than its total number of delegates, the total number of delegates for such an option will be set to the number of congressional district delegates it won. The difference between the number of at-large delegates such an option should have received and the number of district delegates it did receive shall be called the overhang value, such that:

$$\text{OVERHANG} = \#\text{DISTRICT} - \#\text{ATLARGE}$$

Next, sum of overhand values to get the total overhang value as such:

$$\text{TOTAL\_OVERHANG} = \text{Sum}(\text{OVERHANG})$$

Next, remove the last delegate apportioned via Step 3 and also reduce the total overhang value by one. Repeat this process until the total overhang value is zero (0).

No option that received at least one delegate can be reduced to less than one (1) delegate. If the overhang value process should result in the elimination of an option's last remaining delegate, then skip over that entry and choose the next higher one to eliminate.

However, due to the fact that the number of at-large delegates is more than twice the number of congressional district delegates, we do not anticipate that this rule will be used.

### Examples

The following example is provided to demonstrate the above process.

In the example below, the total number of delegates (N) is 33.

#### Example 1

Step 1 presents the election results in a table as such:

Option	Votes	% of Vote Received	# of District Delegate
A	2000	40%	8
No Preference	1150	23%	1
B	1000	20%	1
C	750	15%	0
D	100	2%	0
Totals	5000	100%	10

Divisor	Options				
	A	No Preference	B	C	D
1	<b>2000</b>	<b>1150</b>	<b>1000</b>	<b>750</b>	<b>100</b>
3	<b>666.67</b>	<b>383.33</b>	<b>333.33</b>	<b>250</b>	33.33
5	<b>400</b>	<b>230</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>150</b>	20
7	<b>285.71</b>	<b>164.29</b>	<b>142.86</b>	<b>107.14</b>	14.29
9	<b>222.22</b>	<b>127.78</b>	<b>111.11</b>	<b>83.33</b>	11.11
11	<b>181.82</b>	<b>104.55</b>	<b>90.91</b>	68.18	9.09
13	<b>153.85</b>	<b>88.46</b>	<b>76.92</b>	57.69	7.69
15	<b>133.33</b>	76.67	66.67	50	6.67
17	<b>117.65</b>	67.65	58.82	44.12	5.88
19	<b>105.26</b>	60.53	52.63	39.47	5.26
21	<b>95.24</b>	54.76	47.62	35.71	4.76
23	<b>86.96</b>	50	43.48	32.61	4.35
25	<b>80</b>	46	40	30	4
27	74.07	42.59	37.04	27.78	3.7
29	68.97	39.66	34.48	25.86	3.45
31	64.52	37.1	32.26	24.19	3.23
33	60.61	34.85	30.3	22.73	3.03

Count	Option	Quotient
1	A	2000
2	No Preference	1150
3	B	1000
4	C	750
5	A	666.67
6	A	400
7	No Preference	383.33
8	B	333.33
9	A	285.71
10	C	250
11	No Preference	230
12	A	222.22
13	B	200
14	A	181.82
15	No Preference	164.29
16	A	153.85
17	C	150
18	B	142.86

Count	Option	Quotient
19	A	133.33
20	No Preference	127.78
21	A	117.65
22	B	111.11
23	C	107.14
24	A	105.26
25	No Preference	104.55
26	D	100
27	A	95.24
28	B	90.91
29	No Preference	88.46
30	A	86.96
31	C	83.33
32	A	80
33	B	76.92
34	No Preference	76.67
35	A	74.07
36	C	68.18

Finally, Step 4 is completed and the results are:

<b>Option</b>	<b>Votes</b>	<b>% of Vote Received</b>	<b># of District Delegates</b>	<b>Total Number of Delegates</b>	<b># of At-large Delegates</b>	<b>Delegat e %</b>
A	2000	40%	8	13	5	39%
No Pref-erence	1150	23%	1	7	6	21%
B	1000	20%	1	7	6	21%
C	750	15%	0	5	5	15%
D	100	2%	0	1	1	3%
Totals	5000	100%	10	33	23	100%

***Method of Selecting the Number of At-Large Alternate Delegates***

The maximum number of at-large alternate delegates for each option shall be one third (1/3), rounded up, of the number of the at-large delegates for that option.

**Ensuring the Diversity of our Delegates**

***Diversity Goals Summary***

We are a party that encourages diversity and the delegates we send to the national nominating convention must reflect that. We will set concrete diversity goals and work to meet them.

**Goals**

The Green-Rainbow Party is committed to ensuring that our national convention delegation is diverse. Our delegation will be gender balanced. As such we defined the following minimum percentage goals for our delegation (based on the 2008 diversity population percentages in Massachusetts) and example number of delegates based on an example number of total delegates (33):

	<b>African Americans</b>	<b>Latino</b>	<b>Asian, Pacific, and Native Americans</b>	<b>Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgender</b>
<b>% in Massachusetts Population</b>	5.4	6.8	4.0	6.8
<b>% Goals for Delegation</b>	11	14	8	14
<b>Estimated Numeric Goals for Delegation</b>	4	5	3	5

## Method of Selecting Delegates for a Candidate

### ***Schedule***

Within one (1) week of approving the delegate number results, the Administrative Committee must notify each candidate in writing, by email and by phone of the number of congressional districts and at-large delegates and alternate delegates the candidate won, our diversity goals and the date by which they must send us:

- A single prioritized list of people to fill their at-large delegate and alternate delegate slots;
- People to fill any congressional district delegate and alternate delegate positions they won;
- The contact information for each person listed as a delegate or alternate delegate.

The Administrative Committee must set a date by which each candidate must submit a prioritized list of delegates of no more than three weeks after they mail the letter to the candidate.

The Administrative Committee will notify delegates and alternate delegates of their acceptance in writing by the 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday in April (for the 2008 presidential election the deadline is Friday, April 18th 2008). Acceptance letters sent by the Administrative Committee must include confirmation forms and return envelopes.

Members accepted as delegates or alternate delegates must confirm their selection in writing. Confirmations must be postmarked by the last day in April. (for the 2008 presidential election the deadline is by Wednesday, April 30<sup>th</sup>).

### ***Delegate and Alternate Delegate Requirements***

All delegates and alternate delegates must become members of the Green-Rainbow Party no later than the presidential primary.

All delegates and alternate delegates committed to a particular candidate must pledge to vote for that candidate, or another candidate that their candidate has designated. This requirement ceases to be in effect when the candidate, to whom the delegate or alternate delegate is committed, decides to free their delegates and alternate delegates. Candidates that are not in communication with their delegates to instruct them after the first vote or roll call have effectively released and freed their delegates.

Any person a) making a public statement withdrawing her or his candidacy for the Green Party nomination for President; b) making a public statement declaring his or her candidacy for President in another political party or as an independent; or c) otherwise indicating publicly or through formal communication with the GRP that he or she is not or is no longer a candidate for the Green Party nomination for President, shall be deemed to have released any delegates or alternate delegates s/he might be assigned from any obligations these delegates have to vote for such person on the first or any subsequent nominating ballots at the convention.

Delegates or alternate delegates at the Presidential nominating convention are further instructed only to vote for declared candidates for the Green Party nomination for President, or for draft candidates who have publicly declared their willingness to run as Green Party candidates should they be nominated. In particular, delegates and alternate delegates are instructed to NOT vote for persons who have declared they are not seeking the Green Party nomination or who have declared their candidacy for President in another political party or as an independent.

Should a delegate or alternate delegate vote by ranked or choice ballot (such as if the national nominating convention uses instant runoff voting for the selection of its nominee), the delegate or alternate delegate is free to vote for any candidate she desires for her 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, etc. choice.

Delegates and alternate delegates for a particular candidate, who are selected by the State Committee, or its designee, in the sections below, are still the delegates and alternate delegates for the candidate and must follow the requirements enumerated above.

### ***Methods of allocating delegates and alternate delegates***

All candidates must provide a complete list of people, with contact information, to fill their at-large and congressional district delegates and alternate delegates.

The at-large list must at least be in alternating female-male order. For example, the highest ranked person on the list must be a woman, the 2<sup>nd</sup> highest a man, the third highest a woman, etc. Candidates may choose to place all of the female delegates on the list first if they desire, but they may not choose an order that is less favorable to women than the current order.

To achieve our diversity goals as outlined in Section 7, we recommend that candidates submit an at-large list of delegates such that at least one potential delegate in three meets one of the diversity criteria enumerated in Section 7.



The State Committee, or its designee, will approve without question, lists that conform to the above rules and that meet all other qualifications specified in this document. Failure to follow the rules in regards to the order of the gender of the delegates on a list may result in the State Committee selecting the delegates or alternate delegates for positions that do not have an individual who meets the gender qualifications.

At-large candidates will be placed in delegate slots in the order in which they are listed. Once the delegate slots are filled, the alternated delegate slots are filled. Any additional people on the list, who are not already congressional district delegates, will be placed in reserve to fill any vacate alternate delegate positions.

If a candidate fails to provide a prioritized list, and the number of people on the list is larger than the number of at-large and congressional district delegates, then the Administrative Committee will select the order for the list. The Administrative Committee will randomly assign unique numbers from one (1) to the number of people on the list and repeat the procedure above with one (1) being highest ranked, two (2) being 2<sup>nd</sup> highest ranked, etc.

### **Candidate fails to provide a list of delegates and alternate delegates**

If a candidate does not provide a list of their delegates, then the State Committee will select those delegate positions when it selects uncommitted delegates. The delegates so selected will be designated as delegates for the particular candidate.

### **Candidate provides an incomplete list of delegates and alternate delegates**

If a candidate provides a prioritized list of their delegates, but does not provide enough people to fill the delegate or alternate delegate positions they have available, then the State Committee will select those excess delegate or alternate delegate positions when it selects uncommitted delegates. The delegates so selected will be designated as delegates for the particular candidate.

### **Candidate fails to provide a list of delegates and alternate delegates for a congressional district they won**

If a candidate does provide a prioritize list of delegates, but does not also submit a list of the people who are delegates and alternated delegates for any congressional districts they won, then the Administrative Committee will make a good faith attempt to match people from the prioritized list of delegates to congressional district delegate positions. If people are left over from the prioritized list, and have not been designated delegates for either the at-large or congressional district delegate positions, they will be designated as alternate delegates.

## **Method for Selecting Uncommitted Delegates**

### **Definitions**

Uncommitted delegates and alternate delegates are any delegates or alternate delegates received for “No Preferences” in the process outlined above.

## **Delegate and alternate delegate requirements**

All delegates and alternate delegates must become a member of the Green-Rainbow Party by the presidential primary or when submitting their request to be a delegate, whichever is sooner.

## **Schedule**

The newsletter prior to the presidential primary must include a notice to members asking them to run as uncommitted delegates, outlining the requirements of the position, and setting the date by which interested individuals must submit their name, contact information, proof of enrollment in the party and a statement of up to 100 words describing their reasons for running as a delegate.

The newsletter should be mailed no later than a month prior to the date of the presidential primary. (For the 2008 presidential election the deadline for submissions is Tuesday, February 5<sup>th</sup>, 2008.)

After the due date for submissions, the State Committee must select the uncommitted delegates and notify them of their acceptance or rejection in writing. The Administrative Committee will notify delegates and alternate delegates of their acceptance in writing by the 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday in April (for the 2008 presidential election the deadline is Friday, April 18th 2008). Acceptance letters sent by the Administrative Committee must include confirmation forms and return envelopes.

Members accepted as delegates or alternate delegates must confirm their selection in writing. Confirmations must be postmarked by the last day in April. (for the 2008 presidential election the deadline is by Wednesday, April 30<sup>th</sup>).

## **Selection process for delegates and alternate delegates**

The State Committee must meet prior to the 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday in April (for the 2008 presidential election prior to April 18<sup>th</sup>, 2008) to select uncommitted delegates and fill any vacancies for a candidate's delegates and alternated delegates.

Delegates will be selected in accordance with decision-making processes enumerated in Section 5 (Meetings and Decision Making) of the Green-Rainbow Party by-laws.

The State Committee must use its best judgment in the selection of uncommitted delegates to ensure that we meet or exceed our goals for the diversity of our delegates.

## **Method of Replacing Delegate Vacancies**

The State Committee, or, if the State Committee chooses, the Administrative Committee, may fill any vacancies from alternate delegates first, in the case of delegate vacancies, and rejected applicants, in the case of alternate delegates.

Any delegate positions not filled by the above two methods may be filled by a vote of the State Committee, or, if the State Committee chooses, the Administrative Committee, from members it selects.

## **Notifying the National Green Party of the Delegates Selected**

We must submit an application for the credentialing of our delegation to the Accreditation Committee of the GPotUS (for the 2008 presidential election the deadline has yet to be specified). This application must be sent by mail and email. This application must include the following items or statements:

- It shall bear the witness of the officers of the state party that delegates named in the application were duly elected as delegates to the Convention as provided for in the rules of the state party;
- It states that the state party is a member of the Green Party of the United States;
- It states that it is the policy of the state party that neither its Presidential Nominating Convention delegates nor its Presidential electors will work in active opposition to the Presidential Slate nominated by the Green Party Presidential Nominating Convention;
- It includes a certified copy of the minutes of the state convention or other body of the state party authorized to elect the delegation, which minutes document the delegate election;
- It includes copies of all portions of state election law which are relevant to the selection of delegates to a national convention, whether by primary, caucus, or petitions for national candidates;
- It identifies by name, date of birth, residential address, phone and fax numbers, email address and the party by which they are registered to vote (where possible) each delegate and alternate delegate elected by the party;
- It states that for any delegate who may be credentialed on the basis of their party's electoral success, attaches documentation of the election results and the endorsement or nomination of the Green candidate who's showing in the polls is the basis of the delegate's eligibility for credentials;
- And it describes for each congressional district in the state, the nature and time frame of any Green activity in the district.

The Candidate Development and Legal Committee will work with the Administrative Committee to ensure that our application is complete and mailed to the Accreditation Committee of the GPotUS prior to the date required.

## **Amendments**

The State Committee may amend the document provided that the decision-making process as specified in the by-laws is used, and the Secretary of the Commonwealth is notified in a timely manner.

## **Corrections and Adjustments**

The Candidate Development and Legal Committee (CDLC), or the Administration Committee, may make such changes to this document as to correct any typographical and grammatical errors or deadline dates that reflect needs of the party, national party, or for changes by the Secretary of state, that do not affect the substance or legality of the plan.

## **Validity of Plan**

This plan is in effect starting for the 2008 presidential election. This plan will continue to be in effect for the presidential elections following the 2008 presidential election unless a new plan is submitted to the Secretary of the Commonwealth that has been approved by the State Committee of the Green-Rainbow Party. All dates for 2008 presidential election are noted. If the Secretary of the Commonwealth requires us to physically submit this plan again for presidential elections after 2008, the Candidate Development and Legal Committee, in conjunction with the Administration Committee, will work to ensure that this plan, if unchanged by State Committee, is submitted as is with dates specified for the presidential year in question.

## Key Dates for Delegate and Alternate Delegate Selection

### **2008 Presidential Election Cycle Dates**

Items in bold are dates mandated by law.

2007	July	August	September
Key Dates	<i>none</i>	<b>1<sup>st</sup>: Last day to notify secretary of the commonwealth of state of the number of local city and town committee seats</b>	30 <sup>th</sup> : If Presidential Delegate selection plan needs change, get approval of State Committee
2007	October	November	December
Key Dates	<b>1<sup>st</sup>: Last day to submit rules for Presidential delegate selection</b>	<b>9<sup>th</sup>: Last day to submit ward, town and state committee nomination papers to Registrars of Voters for certification of signatures. Registrars must sign both sides of nomination papers.</b>	1 <sup>st</sup> : Compile list of likely presidential candidates  20 <sup>th</sup> : Finalize list of presidential candidates to place on primary ballot  <b>31<sup>st</sup>: Last day to submit to the Secretary of the Commonwealth the number of delegates we will send to the national nominating convention</b>  31 <sup>st</sup> : Get presidential info for newsletter

2008	January	February	March
Key Dates	<b>4<sup>th</sup>: Last day to submit names for Presidential primary To Secretary of the Commonwealth</b>	4 <sup>th</sup> : Mail newsletter to members a month before primary  13 <sup>th</sup> : Last day to register to vote and change party enrollment for the Presidential Primary  13 <sup>th</sup> : Last day to register 1% of voters to keep permanent ballot status	1 <sup>st</sup> : Request to the Secretary of the Commonwealth that our primary results be by each congressional district as well as statewide  4 <sup>th</sup> : Presidential Primary, election of city and town committees, and election of senatorial district state committee representatives  4 <sup>th</sup> : All delegates and alternate delegates must become members of the GRP  5 <sup>th</sup> : Get primary results and start to delegate selection process (see pg 15)
2008	April	May	July
Key Dates	7 <sup>th</sup> : Last day to apply to be uncommitted delegates or alternates  18 <sup>st</sup> : Last day to mail Acceptance & Rejection letters to delegates and alternates  30 <sup>th</sup> : Last day for delegates and alternates to accept	?? <sup>th</sup> : Last day to send GPotUS Accreditation Committee our application for delegates and our list of delegates	10 <sup>th</sup> -13 <sup>th</sup> : Green Party of the US Presidential Nominating Convention