

Bylaws of the Green Party of Virginia

Mission

1. Name and Definition

1.1 The Greens of Virginia/Green Party of Virginia (also referred to as the GPVA) is an autonomous, independent political party.

1.2 The GPVA shares kinship, common goals and values with other Green Parties and Green organizations in the U.S.A. and throughout the world through our common adherence to the Ten Key Values.

2. Ten Key Values

2.1 The Ten Key Values of the Greens in the U.S.A are:

- Ecological Wisdom
- Social Justice
- Grassroots Democracy
- Nonviolence
- Decentralization
- Community-Based Economics
- Feminism
- Respect for Diversity
- Personal and Global Responsibility
- Future Focus/Sustainability

3. Purpose

3.1 Promote throughout Virginia the Ten Key Values of The Greens.

3.2 Publicize purpose and issue position statements.

3.3 Encourage the development of Green Locals.

3.4 Serve as a networking structure so that the Green Locals in Virginia can better communicate, share ideas and experiences, and provide mutual support and fellowship.

3.5 Coordinate joint activities among GPVA Locals.

3.6 Nominate Green candidates for office, and support these candidates with contributions of money and labor.

3.7 Occasionally endorse independent candidates.

3.8 Work to end the two-party duopoly in Virginia and the nation.

3.9 Seek to establish and maintain legal party status in Virginia.

3.10 Seek to establish a multi-party system based on citizen participation.

4. Political Practices

4.1 The GPVA is accountable to its Green locals and members thereof.

4.2 The GPVA may designate spokespersons in addition to the Co-Chairs and the Press Secretary.

4.3 Chairs, officers, delegates and other representatives of the GPVA shall be recallable at any meeting of the GPVA, by consensus or three-quarters vote.

4.4 Chairs, officers, delegates, and representatives will be rotated regularly. An attempt will be made to include new members in these positions.

4.5 Representatives and delegates of the GPVA may express personal opinions, but must act and vote within the guidelines agreed on by the GPVA.

4.6 The GPVA is committed to encouraging participation by all Virginia residents but in particular members of those groups which tend to be underrepresented: women, racial and economic minorities, and minorities of sexual orientation.

4.7 Significant minority opinions within the GPVA will be recorded in the minutes and communicated to other national and regional Green organizations as appropriate.

4.8 Access to Meetings and Records

4.8.1 Meetings and records of finances and membership of the GPVA shall be open to attendance or inspection by any member of the GPVA except:

4.8.1.1 members who have been expelled or suspended by a Green Local or by GPVA itself;

4.8.1.2 members who have been barred from GPVA meetings;

4.8.2 GPVA meetings may be closed to non-members on a majority vote.

4.9 A full range of nonviolent strategies and tactics shall be considered permissible and desirable in pursuing Green social change, such as rallies, demonstrations, boycotts, citizens' initiatives, civil disobedience, direct action, building alternative institutions, and/or electoral politics

5. Other Green Organizations

- 5.1 The GPVA may join or affiliate itself with regional, national, global, etc. Green organizations which share the values of the GPVA.
- 5.2 The GPVA may choose to send delegates to these organizations.
- 5.3 Delegates should represent the policy of the GPVA to the extent possible.
- 5.4 Delegates, where possible, should seek explicit direction previous to representation.
- 5.5 GPVA agrees to endorse and support only those national candidates selected by the Green Party nominating convention, if such candidates exist. Other decisions and rules of other organizations with which GPVA is affiliated or a member of will in no way be considered binding upon the Green Party of Virginia.

Members

6. Locals of the Green Party of Virginia

6.1 Definition

- 6.1.1 A Local is a group of three or more Virginia residents who meet together on some regular basis to advance the Ten Key Values.
- 6.1.2 Locals shall be defined geographically.
- 6.1.3 Locals may accept members as they wish, consistent with their own rules.
- 6.1.4 For the purposes of representation in the Green Party of Virginia, a person can claim membership in only one Local at any given time.
- 6.1.5 An unaffiliated, at-large local called the Greens of Virginia is available for membership by those Greens in Virginia who are not members of an affiliated local. Membership in the At-Large Greens is restricted to those who do not have an affiliated local whose municipal center lies within a one hour drive from their place of residence, as determined by a standard Global Positioning System mapping application. At large members who are within an hour's drive of an affiliated local, but who do not believe the local is a good fit for them, may apply to the co-chairs for an exception. Such exceptions are considered a major decision and will be granted by a majority vote at any state business meeting or by the Interim Committee. Exceptions must be reviewed annually. At-large members are expected to work towards establishing a local in their area if one does not exist.

6.2 Affiliation

- 6.2.1 Locals may request affiliation with the Green Party of Virginia by sending at least one representative to a meeting of the GPVA and affirming their commitment to the Ten Key Values.
- 6.2.2 Requests for affiliation will be considered according to the standard decision-making process of the GPVA.
- 6.2.3 As a requirement for affiliation, each local shall designate the following officers:
 - 6.2.3.1 a Treasurer, responsible for all financial transactions
 - 6.2.3.2 a Representative to the Interim Committee.
- 6.2.4 Such designees may, but need not necessarily, be the same person.
- 6.2.5 As a requirement for affiliation, each local shall prepare a set of written bylaws.
- 6.2.6 Affiliated locals are referred to herein as "Green Locals."
- 6.2.7 Affiliated locals may participate in state party decisions in accordance with and subject to the restrictions of other relevant paragraphs herein.

6.3 Disaffiliation

- 6.3.1 The GPVA may suspend affiliation of a Green local for valid reasons by a three-fifths vote of the GPVA membership at a business meeting.
- 6.3.2 Valid reasons include but are not limited to:
 - 6.3.2.1 actions in contradiction to the Ten Key Values.
 - 6.3.2.2 concerted efforts to undermine the stated purposes of the GPVA.
 - 6.3.2.3 failure to attend GPVA meetings or otherwise participate in GPVA activities for over a year.
- 6.3.3 Members of the affected local may submit a motion to override the suspension decision at the next GPVA business meeting at which quorum is satisfied, supplying evidence and/or arguments, but may not vote on this or any other matter.
- 6.3.4 If the local's motion to override passes according to the rules for a Major Decision, the affiliation suspension is revoked. Otherwise disaffiliation is permanent.

6.4 Local Contacts

- 6.4.1 Each Green Local must choose a Local Contact for the GPVA.
- 6.4.2 The Local Contact will be responsible for bringing information from their local to GPVA meetings and for bringing information from those meetings back to their local.
- 6.4.3 The Local Contact will be responsible for ensuring that their local has a democratic and timely procedure for reviewing GPVA decisions. The Local Contact will communicate this decision to a Chair.
- 6.4.4 The Local Contact must ensure that the Co-Chairs have up to date information on how to reach the Local Contact.

7. Membership

7.1 Eligibility

7.1.1 Membership in GPVA is open to all members of GPVA locals in Virginia and/or anyone holding membership in the GPVA At-Large local, except for officers, official spokespersons, candidate and central committee members of other competing political parties.

7.1.2 For purposes of enforcing 7.1.1, GPVA shall determine which political parties are competing.

7.1.3 The GPVA welcomes and embraces all members regardless of age, race, color, gender, spiritual belief, physical challenge, sexual orientation or national origin.

7.2 Membership Standards

7.2.1 Members of GPVA are expected to:

7.2.1.1 uphold the Ten Key Values

7.2.1.2 be honest and forthright in all dealings

7.2.1.3 act scrupulously in handling state and local party funds.

7.2.2 Members of GPVA are proscribed from engaging in the following activities:

7.2.2.1 committing GPVA to actions, endorsements, and other policy positions outside that body's decision-making process;

7.2.2.2 misrepresenting the decisions or policies of the party or its officers;

7.2.2.3 financial irregularities with party funds;

7.2.2.4 acting to subvert the Green Party or its values, for example:

- advocacy or practice of racial, sexual, national or religious oppression;
- advocacy or practice of violent political actions;
- acting as a strike-breaker, agent provocateur, or government or corporate informer; or

7.2.2.5 acting to willfully disrupt the freedom of speech, press or assembly of any member or members of GPVA; or

7.2.2.6 infringing the First Amendment rights of others by disrupting party meetings or personally attacking other members in Green Party forums; or

7.2.2.7 acting contrary to the principles of grassroots democracy.

7.3 Membership Review Process

7.3.1 GPVA may reprimand, bar from meetings, suspend, expel or otherwise sanction members who behave in a manner inconsistent with its membership standards as defined in 7.2 above.

7.3.2 Charges of violation of the above membership standards may be made by any member or members.

7.3.3 Such charges must be forwarded in writing to one of the Co-Chairs of the GPVA who will confer together. If either or both Co-Chairs believe that the charges are warranted, or if half the affiliated locals agree with the charges, then the matter shall be placed on the agenda of the next scheduled GPVA meeting.

7.3.4 All members charged with violations of membership standards shall have the right to rebut the charges.

7.3.5 The burden of proof shall be on those making the charges. After hearing testimony from the accusers and the accused, including the presentation of evidence and/or witnesses by both sides, the membership shall vote to impose sanctions on the accused by a two-thirds vote.

7.3.6 Members who have been sanctioned by the party may have their rights restored if:

7.3.6.1 the sanctions imposed by a Local are revoked by the Local, or

7.3.6.2 the sanctions imposed by GPVA are revoked by GPVA, or

7.3.6.3 the sanctions expire, or

7.3.6.4 the GPVA Interim Committee votes to lift the sanctions.

7.4 Voting Rights

7.4.1 Each GPVA member who is registered with the state party for at least one year or is designated to party officers by his/her local representative or alternate as a member in good standing of the local is entitled to participate in discussions, nominate officers and committee members, join in consensus, and block consensus on major or minor decisions at business and general meetings; such members may also vote on minor decisions at business meetings. At-large members who wish to exercise voting rights within the first year of joining the party shall be vetted by one of the co-chairs.

7.4.2 Affiliated locals of the GPVA may cast one vote on all major decisions at state party meetings and in the Interim Committee through their representative or designated alternate. The representative or designated alternate of the local shall be named to GPVA co-chairs prior to the meeting by the local's co-chair or Interim Committee representative. The At-Large Local may cast one vote on major decisions at state party meetings by being polled by the facilitator and their majority decision, if any, recorded as a single vote.

7.4.3 Affiliated locals that have not submitted, either to the co-chairs or in a written report to the state party, confirmation of a business meeting of the local held within the previous 365 days and attended by at least three local members in good standing shall not vote on major decisions during state business meetings, or on the Interim Committee, and shall not be counted toward the threshold of Para 9.2 for purposes of overturning state party decisions or the threshold of Para 10.2 for quorum.

Decision Making

8. Scope of Decisions

8.1 Decisions of the Green Party of Virginia shall be divided into minor and major decisions.

8.2 Minor decisions are process, scheduling, and communication decisions such as scheduling GPVA meetings and informal networking.

8.3 Major decisions include, but are not limited to:

8.3.1 organizational structure

8.3.2 platform ratification

8.3.3 candidate nomination or endorsement at the state level

8.3.4 formally joining coalitions

8.3.5 financial matters of the GPVA

8.3.6 bylaw changes

8.3.7 election of state party officers and state and national committee members

9. Local Review

9.1 Major decisions may be reviewed by Green Locals.

9.2 Major decisions will stand unless opposed by 25% or more of Green Locals before the next meeting of the GPVA which occurs 31 or more days after receipt of the minutes concerning the decision.

9.3 Minor decisions cannot be overturned by Green locals.

10. Meetings and Decision Making

10.1 Local Representation

10.1.1 Each Local, through an inclusive democratic process shall designate a Local Representative and one or more Alternates to serve as its principal point of contact with the state party.

10.1.2 The Local shall provide the names and contact information of the Local Representative and Alternates to GPVA Officers along with a copy or reference to published meeting minutes at which such representation was designated.

10.1.3 Notice of changes in representation shall be submitted to the party within 31 days of the change so that the party can publish the change in a timely manner.

10.1.4 The names and contact information of the Local Representative and Alternates shall be published to the GPVA website in a timely manner after they are received and validated by GPVA officers.

10.1.5 The GPVA strongly encourages its locals to promote gender balance and diversity in the selection of its Local Representative and Alternates.

10.2 Quorum

10.2.1 Quorum consists of:

10.2.1.1 At least one of the Chairs or the Treasurer, and

10.2.1.2 A Local Representative or Alternate from each of 50% or more of the affiliated Locals.

10.2.2 For the purpose of quorum counting at state party meetings, the At Large Greens are considered an affiliated local, no member may represent more than one local, and officers and local representatives may be the same person.

10.2.3 Locals which have no Local Representative or Alternate present and have not sent representatives to either of the two preceding business meetings of the GPVA will not be counted for purposes of the 50% quorum requirement.

10.3 Major Decisions

10.3.1 Major decisions shall be made by consensus of those GPVA members present or, if consensus cannot be achieved, by a vote of three-fifths of voting members present, unless the Bylaws specify a different approval threshold for the decision at hand. Voting members are the co-chairs, treasurer, press secretary, web-master, and one representative from each affiliated local in good standing present, except that no person shall have more than one vote. At-large members present at state meetings may vote in accordance with Para. 7.4.2.

10.3.2 Decisions of Green Locals will be considered in the process but do not directly affect consensus or voting.

10.4 Minor Decisions

10.4.1 Minor decisions shall be made by consensus of those GPVA members present, or if consensus cannot be achieved, a simple majority of voting members present for approval.

10.5 Conduct

10.5.1 Participants in meetings of the GPVA are expected to treat each other with gentleness and consideration.

10.5.2 Persons who violate this standard may be asked to remain silent and/or leave the meeting.

10.6 Scheduling

- 10.6.1 The Chairs will call at least one in-person business meeting each year, and at least one in-person meeting of the general membership each year that includes party-building activities such as seminars or noted speakers. These meetings may be scheduled consecutively on the same day if they are in the same location. The Chairs will call at least one additional business meeting each year, and more as needed. Such additional meetings should be conducted by teleconference when there is not a compelling reason for an in-person meeting
- 10.6.2 The Chairs of the GPVA may call an unscheduled meeting of the GPVA with the concurrence of a majority of the GPVA Local Contacts and GPVA officers. A good-faith effort must be made to publicize this meeting to all GPVA members.
- 10.6.3 A future meeting date or continuance of a meeting may be set at any meeting of the GPVA with the concurrence of a majority of the Local Representatives and GPVA officers, and will be publicized to the Contact Person for each local.

10.7 Meeting Agenda

- 10.7.1 The agenda and any proposals to be presented at a GPVA meeting must be distributed to the Local Contacts at least 31 days prior to the meeting.
- 10.7.2 Items which have not been distributed 31 days prior to the meeting may be placed on the agenda by consensus or a majority vote of the Local Representatives and GPVA officers.
- 10.7.3 Bylaw amendments added to the agenda at the meeting will be placed on the agenda for discussion only.

11. Candidate Nomination and Endorsement Policy

- 11.1 The GPVA may nominate or endorse candidates for local, regional, state, and national offices.
- 11.2 The word "nomination" will be used when the candidate will be publicly identified with the GPVA. The word "endorsement" will be used in all other cases.
- 11.3 A nomination/endorsement may occur at any official business meeting of the GPVA.
- 11.4 Any nomination/endorsement will be subject to the usual process of review by the locals, unless the proposed nomination or endorsement was specified on an announcement distributed to all affiliated locals at least one month prior to the GPVA business meeting.
- 11.5 A candidate may be proposed for nomination/endorsement by any member of the GPVA or affiliated local.
- 11.6 No candidate will be nominated or endorsed by the GPVA if the nomination or endorsement is opposed by all of the Green Locals in the candidate's electoral district.
- 11.7 It is highly encouraged that candidates who wish to be considered for nomination:
- 11.7.1 Be an active member of an affiliated local.
 - 11.7.2 Seek the nomination of all locals within their district, and then seek the GPVA nomination.
 - 11.7.3 Attend, or send a letter to, the GPVA meeting at which their nomination will be considered.
- 11.8 Candidates who accept a GPVA nomination for office will be considered official Green candidates. As such, they should:
- 11.8.1 be a member of a Green organization.
 - 11.8.2 embrace the platform of the GPVA.
 - 11.8.3 identify themselves as "Green candidates."
- 11.9 The GPVA may endorse other candidates who support the Ten Key Values and who generally endorse the GPVA State Platform, provided there is no Green Party - endorsed or nominated candidate in the race.
- 11.10 Locals engaged in electoral activity will be responsible for choosing to nominate or endorse candidates whose districts lie within their general area.
- 11.11 If in a given area there is no local engaged in electoral activity, prospective Green candidates from that area may request nomination by the GPVA.
- 11.12 If in a given electoral district, there are multiple candidates for a given office or if at least one but not all of the Green Locals in the district oppose a candidate, then a democratic process open to all GPVA members in that district will be used to nominate a single candidate or to not nominate any candidate. If the Locals in that district cannot agree on a democratic process in a timely fashion, then the Co-Chairs of the GPVA will conduct a ballot of GPVA members in that district.
- 11.13 The GPVA will utilize all legal means to prevent self-description as Green or Green Party candidates by persons who have not been approved through the process described above.

12. Amendments to the By-Laws

- 12.1 Proposals in final form for Amendments to these By-laws must be published to the GPVA membership 31 days prior to the next state meeting.

13. Platform Revision Process

- 13.1 The platform of the Green Party of Virginia and all revisions will be approved by the following process:
- 13.1.1 Platform revisions shall be drafted by a meeting of the Green Party of Virginia or a designated committee.
 - 13.1.2 The recommended changes shall be mailed to each member of the GPVA in a format by which they can indicate approval or disapproval of each new or changed plank.

13.1.3 Ballots will be tallied 30 days after the beginning of the polling process by a person or persons designated by a meeting of the GPVA.

13.1.4 The tally clerk will forward all ballot materials to the Co-Chairs for archiving.

13.1.5 New or changed planks in the platform are approved if the votes in favor are 75% or greater of the total votes for or against that change.

13.1.6 Deletions are approved if supported by more than 50% of the total votes for or against the deletion.

13.2 In extraordinary circumstances, the GPVA may amend the platform at any regular meeting.

13.3 The Platform and all changes made through the above process shall remain in effect until changed by the same process.

13.4 The GPVA, or designated committee, may approve non-content changes to the platform without the need for the above described membership ratification process. Such changes may include:

- titles
- arrangement of the planks of the platform
- grammatical and stylistic changes to the wording of planks
- creating and naming various subsets of the platform to be used in cases when the entire platform would be too cumbersome
- combining planks
- other similar changes

Officers

14. Officers

14.1 Qualifications

14.1.1 The Green Party of Virginia shall establish the following positions ("Officers"): two equal positions of Chair, not both of which shall be filled by male or female at the same time, unless there are insufficient candidates; a Treasurer; a Press Secretary; and a Webmaster.

14.1.2 Each Officer shall be an active member of the GPVA.

14.1.3 The Officers shall be elected as follows:

14.1.3.1 Officer elections are to be held at the first business meeting of each calendar year except in extenuating circumstances or lack of quorum.

14.1.3.2 In even-numbered years elections shall be held for one Co-Chair and the Press Secretary. In odd-numbered years elections shall be held for one Co-Chair, the Treasurer, and the Webmaster.

14.1.3.3 Terms of office end on the date of the meeting at which a new election for the office is prescribed by Para. 14.1.3.1. Offices for which scheduled elections are not held at the prescribed meeting are vacant. (Cf. Para 14.1.5.).

14.1.3.4 The Co-Chairs shall be eligible to serve no more than two terms consecutively.

14.1.4 Election of an Officer may take place at any business meeting of the GPVA by consensus or by a majority vote of members present.

14.1.5 Officer vacancies may be filled at any business meeting of the GPVA by consensus or by a majority vote of members present or otherwise by a majority vote of the Interim Committee. Any such decision of the Interim Committee must be ratified at the next scheduled business meeting at which quorum is achieved.

14.1.6 Recall of an Officer may take place at any business meeting of the GPVA by consensus or by a three-quarter vote of members present.

14.2 Duties

14.2.1 The duties of the Chairs shall be as follows:

14.2.1.1 Act as contacts and spokespersons for the GPVA.

14.2.1.2 Schedule and publicize GPVA meetings. Arrangements for in person meetings shall be coordinated with the hosting local where appropriate.

14.2.1.3 Coordinate setting of the agenda for GPVA business meetings.

14.2.1.4 Arrange for facilitation of GPVA business meetings.

14.2.1.5 Record the minutes of GPVA business meetings, distribute a draft version on the GPVA business listserv, and publish it on the GPVA website within two weeks of the meeting. The minutes shall record:

14.2.1.5.1 the date and location of the meeting;

14.2.1.5.2 those in attendance and their local affiliation, except that the name of anyone who so requests will be redacted from the record, with a notation of the total number so redacted;

14.2.1.5.3 whether quorum was met;

14.2.1.5.4 the selection of meeting officers;

14.2.1.5.5 the meeting agenda as agreed to by the members in attendance;

14.2.1.5.6 officer and other reports, except that any report not directly pertaining to the state party shall be published as an addendum to the minutes;

14.2.1.5.7 proposals considered and their disposition, along with the vote tally, if any;

14.2.1.5.8 the date, time and location of the next meeting, if known.

14.2.1.6 Certify acceptance or rejection of proposals adopted at GPVA business meetings by Green Locals, and notify the locals of the results.

14.2.1.7 Maintain a list of all current members, contact persons and alternates for all Virginia Green locals.

14.2.1.8 Other duties as specified by the GPVA.

14.2.2 The duties of the Treasurer shall be as follows:

14.2.2.1 Receive and disburse all funds of the GPVA and maintain records of all such transactions.

14.2.2.2 Present a report at each business meeting covering the current financial status of the GPVA and other such information as requested.

14.2.2.3 Reimburse the Chair(s) for appropriate expenses incurred in the performance of their duties (i.e. phone, postage, etc.).

14.2.2.4 File financial reports as required or requested by the GPVA and law.

14.2.2.5 Present the annual budget for approval by GPVA no later than the beginning of the calendar year to which the budget applies.

14.2.3 The duties of the Press Secretary shall be as follows:

14.2.3.1 See that all activities and events of the GPVA receive the maximum amount of favorable publicity that is possible.

14.2.3.2 Assist the Locals in seeing that all of their activities and events receive the maximum amount of favorable publicity that is possible.

14.2.3.3 Maintain a database of publications and other media for use in publicizing GPVA activities and events.

14.2.3.4 Act as spokesperson for the GPVA, in the same manner as the Chairs.

14.2.3.5 Distribute and follow up all press releases of the GPVA.

14.2.3.6 Maintain a record of all known media coverage of the GPVA.

14.2.3.7 The Press Secretary shall follow all written guidelines of the GPVA.

14.2.4 The duties of the Webmaster shall be as follows:

14.2.4.1 Develop and maintain the GPVA website, including but not limited to: posting GPVA meeting agendas and minutes; bylaw and platform updates; newsletters; committee rosters; and officer contact information.

14.2.4.2 Maintain GPVA listservs.

Committees

15. Legally Required Committees

15.1 As required by local, state, or federal law, the GPVA will create committees and/or organizations that comply with any and all necessary legal requirements for ballot access, elections, fund-raising, voter registration, etc.

15.2 These committees and/or organizations will always remain subject to decision making articles of this document, but may be allowed limited autonomy as specified by the GPVA.

16. Central Committee

16.1 Definition

In order to comply with state law, the GPVA shall establish a Central Committee.

16.2 Composition

16.2.1 Each member of the Central Committee must be a member of the GPVA, must be a registered voter, and shall not be a member of another political party.

16.2.2 The Central Committee shall consist of one member from each of the eleven Congressional districts and two at-large members.

16.2.3 The GPVA Co-Chairs shall assume the at-large seats, unless not lawfully qualified to serve, in which case they shall appoint qualified replacements.

16.2.4 The Party Chair shall be a GPVA Co-Chair and shall be affirmed in this role by the Interim Committee.

16.2.5 The Party Secretary shall be the other GPVA Co-Chair.

16.2.6 The District seats shall be recruited by the GPVA Co-Chairs and affirmed by the Interim Committee, unless selected in an inclusive, democratic process by the GPVA members of the district.

16.2.7 Alternates for the District seats shall be recruited by the GPVA Co-Chairs and affirmed by the Interim Committee, unless selected in an inclusive, democratic process by the GPVA members of the district.

16.2.8 If a member leaves the Central Committee, the alternate shall assume the seat.

16.2.9 Each District member of the Central Committee shall serve for a term of one year or until a successor has been affirmed by the Interim Committee.

16.2.10 The terms of the At Large seats shall be concurrent with the terms of the GPVA Co-Chairs.

16.3 Responsibilities

- 16.3.1 The GPVA Co-Chair designated as Party Chair shall, in a timely fashion, certify the nominations that have been approved according to GPVA bylaws.
- 16.3.2 Central Committee members shall inform the GPVA Co-Chairs of any changes of their address, legal name, congressional district or voter registration, or of their resignation from the committee.
- 16.3.3 The GPVA Co-Chairs shall ensure that all Central Committee seats are filled at all times.
- 16.3.4 The GPVA Co-Chairs shall communicate any changes in the composition of the Central Committee to the State Board of Elections in a timely fashion.
- 16.3.5 The Central Committee shall have no decision making power.
- 16.3.6 The Central Committee shall receive direction in any legally required decisions from the GPVA at a business meeting, from the Interim Committee, or from the GPVA Officers within the limits of their duties as defined in the GPVA bylaws.

17. Interim Committee

17.1 Definition

The GPVA shall have an Interim Committee, accountable to the GPVA and responsible for making GPVA decisions between GPVA business meetings.

17.2 Composition

- 17.2.1 Each member of the Interim Committee must be a member of the GPVA.
- 17.2.2 The GPVA Co-Chairs shall be members of the Interim Committee.
- 17.2.3 The GPVA Treasurer shall be a member of the Interim Committee.
- 17.2.4 The GPVA Press Secretary shall be a member of the Interim Committee.
- 17.2.5 Each Local Representative is an ex officio member of the Interim Committee. In the event a Local Representative is unable to participate in an Interim Committee session, the Local or its Representative may designate an Alternate to participate in his/her absence, unless another Local member has been so designated.
- 17.2.6 One of the Co-Chairs shall be designated as the convenor of the interim committee.
- 17.2.7 The position of convenor may be alternated, as the Co-Chairs choose, upon notification of the other committee members.
- 17.2.8 If the representatives from half of the affiliated Locals with designated representatives to the Interim Committee so request, the convenor shall convene the Interim Committee.
- 17.2.9 If any convenor fails to schedule the convening of the Interim Committee within five days after receiving the request, the requesting representatives may appoint another convenor, who shall be an Interim Committee representative, to serve for the duration of the requested meeting of the Interim Committee.
- 17.2.10 All discussions of the interim committee are open to any member of the GPVA. Any member of the GPVA may participate in discussions unless the committee finds such participation to be disruptive.

17.3 Responsibilities

- 17.3.1 The convenor shall facilitate discussions of the Interim Committee.
- 17.3.2 The convenor shall certify and record any decisions made by the Interim Committee.
- 17.3.3 The convenor shall make reports to the meetings of the GPVA.
- 17.3.4 The Interim Committee shall conduct the day-to-day business of the GPVA.
- 17.3.5 The Interim Committee shall make decisions on any matters which cannot reasonably be put off until the next meeting of the GPVA.
- 17.3.6 The Interim Committee shall issue statements on behalf of the GPVA concerning current events.
- 17.3.7 The Interim Committee shall hire and oversee the activities of all staff of the GPVA.

17.4 Decision Making

- 17.4.1 A quorum of the Interim Committee for conducting business shall be the same as that required for GPVA major decisions.
- 17.4.2 The Interim Committee shall strive for consensus in all of its decisions.
- 17.4.3 A good-faith effort shall be made to contact every Interim Committee member on any decision pending before the committee. A specified period of time shall be allowed for discussion. Not less than seventy-two (72) hours shall be allowed for a vote, including at least two full business days.
- 17.4.4 If consensus is not achievable, then the decision making rules for major and minor party decisions outlined in sections 10.3 and 10.4 shall apply.
- 17.4.5 All decisions of the Interim Committee are subject to revision by the GPVA at any scheduled meeting.

18. Standing Committees

18.1 Establishment

- 18.1.1 The party membership may elect to establish Standing Committees as it may from time to time deem necessary to conduct party business.
- 18.1.2 Existing committees shall function until such time as they are dissolved.
- 18.1.3 Establishment of a committee shall be considered a major party decision.

18.2 Dissolution

18.2.1 The party membership may elect to dissolve a Standing Committee whose purpose has been accomplished or whose function is no longer needed.

18.2.2 Dissolution of a committee shall be considered a major party decision.

18.3 Records

18.3.1 The rules and archives of all GPVA standing committees shall be publicly accessible.

BYLAWS HISTORY

- [Nov. 17, 2016](#)
- [Jul. 20, 2015](#)
- [May 8, 2015](#)
- [Mar. 30, 2013](#)
- [Sep. 16, 2012](#)

[GPVA](#)

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The Green Party of Virginia
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