

By-Laws of the Green Party of Michigan
As Amended Through November 12, 2022

Article I – Name and Purpose

Section 1: The name of this organization is the Green Party of Michigan (GP-MI).

Section 2: The purpose of this organization is to advance Green Party principles.

Article II – Membership

Section 1 – *Becoming a Member:* All you need to do to become a member of GP-MI is to sign and submit a statement that you live in Michigan, have read the principles of the party, and support them. Your membership continues until you resign, move out of state, or die or your membership is revoked.

Section 2 – *Voting Rights:* You have voting rights at any GP-MI State Membership Meeting (SMM) if you are a member [at the time], and have been for 60 days. The body may decide, on request, to grant voting rights to those who have not been members for 60 days, but it is not obligated to do so.

Section 3 – *Member Responsibilities:* Members shall become familiar with the consensus model used by GP-MI and shall participate within that model, showing respect for all views and members. Members shall keep their contact information current with the Membership Manager.

Section 4 – *State Meetings:* The leadership shall schedule at least three SMMs each calendar year, and publish a yearly schedule of those meetings. All members are encouraged to attend.

Section 5 – *Revocation or Suspension of Membership:* The procedure for revocation or suspension of membership shall be as specified in the Appendix, and may be amended only at an SMM. Any amendment shall take effect only for revocation or suspension processes that start after the amendment is approved, and no amendment to the procedure shall enable a decision to revoke or suspend a membership by less than consensus or a 2/3 supermajority.

Article III – Locals

Section 1 – *Locals Defined:*

- A)** A local may be created by three or more GP-MI members who live in a single county or up to five contiguous counties, except that Upper Peninsula members may combine counties as they determine works best for them. There may be more than one Local in a county.
- B)** For a local to become official, its membership shall submit to the Locals Liaison, in a format provided, the name of the local, the names and current contact information of its members, its officer structure (if it has one), and its official contact person(s) for the flow of information to and from the Locals Liaison.
- C)** Once the requisite documentation is submitted, the local is automatically an official affiliate of GP-MI and may conduct appropriate business and activism as such. The affiliation may only be ended by a decision on an announced agenda item at an SMM.
- D)** Each local of up to ten members may appoint one representative to the SCC. Each local of 11 or more members may appoint two representatives to the SCC.

Section 2 – *Responsibilities of Locals:*

- A)** A local may volunteer to host state meetings and training in its area.
- B)** Locals may meet and organize as seems best to them, but are responsible for providing an update to the Locals Liaison six weeks in advance of the next SMM as to their numbers, structure, and efforts.
- C)** Locals are responsible for having their representatives be active on the SCC. If a representative is not active, the local may be invited to replace that representative.

D) Locals are solely responsible for media pertaining to their activities, information and membership.

Article IV – Identity Caucuses

Section 1 – Identity Caucuses Defined:

- A) An identity caucus may be created by three or more GP-MI members who identify as persons of traditionally underrepresented groups, including, but not limited to, African-American, Asian-American, Disability, Indigenous Peoples, LatinX, Women, LGBTQIA/Lavender, and Youth.
- B) For an identity caucus to become official, its membership shall submit to the state leadership, in a format provided, the name of the caucus, the names and current contact information of its members if the caucus chooses to disclose, its officer structure (if it has one), and its official contact person(s) for the flow of information to and from the state leadership.
- C) Once the requisite documentation is submitted, the identity caucus is automatically an official affiliate of GP-MI and may conduct appropriate business and activism as such. The affiliation may only be ended by a decision on an announced agenda item at an SMM.
- D) Each identity caucus of up to ten members may appoint one representative to the SCC. Each identity caucus of 11 or more members may appoint two representatives to the SCC.

Section 2 – Responsibilities of Identity Caucuses:

- A) An identity caucus may volunteer to host state meetings and training.
- B) Each identity caucus may meet and organize as seems best to its membership, but it shall provide an update, in advance of each SMM, as to their numbers, structure, and efforts.
- C) Identity caucuses are responsible for having their representatives be active on the SCC. If a representative is not active, the identity caucus may be invited to replace that representative.
- D) Identity caucuses are solely responsible for media pertaining to their activities, information and membership.

Article V – Officers

Section 1 – Officer Elections:

- A) Biennial Elections: All officers shall be elected at the first SMM of each odd-numbered year to serve for two years, except as otherwise per GP-US rules and procedures.
- B) Posting of list of officers: A list of who holds each party leadership position (officer or National Delegate) listed in this Article, each SCC representative seat, and each Committee Chair shall be made available at each SMM.
- C) Interim vacancies in party leadership: If a GP-MI officer or National Delegate position is vacated for any reason before a completed term, the SCC may appoint someone to the position until the next SMM. Any such vacancy or appointment shall be on the agenda at the next SMM.
- D) Concentration of positions: Members may hold up to two GP-MI positions until the next election, excluding shared Committee Chairs and National Delegate posts.
- E) Officer Working Groups: All officers may designate members to assist them in their duties, provided those so designated are reported to the SCC and all responsibility remains with the officer.
- F) Removal of Officers: Officers may be removed from their positions by the procedures stated in the Appendix.

Section 2 – Chairpersons: There shall be two co-Chairpersons, one self-identified female and one self-identified male. The party Chairs shall respond to requests from the media and the public for interviews and appearances, and seek opportunities to represent the party to its members and to the public.

Section 3 – Committee Manager: The Committee Manager shall facilitate the SCC and manage the standing committees.

Section 4 – Treasurer: The Treasurer shall receive and manage all funds of the GP-MI and its committees; prepare and file all required financial documents and keep GP-MI in compliance with laws and regulations; send out at least annual requests for donations, in coordination with the Membership Manager; and keep the GP-MI informed about its financial condition at SMMs and through the SCC.

Section 5 – Archivist: The Archivist shall collect and preserve records such as GP-MI meeting minutes, press releases, the Handbook, the By-laws, and the platform. The Archivist may assist the Treasurer in archiving all financial documents.

Section 6 – Membership Manager: The Membership Manager shall keep records of membership, coordinate with the Treasurer to send annual requests for donations and when donations come in; supply membership forms for meetings and other events; and supply current member contact information to officers and GP-MI candidates as provided in the Handbook.

Section 7 – Meeting Manager: The Meeting Manager shall arrange state membership meetings and nominating conventions, and provide a yearly schedule of these by date and region. The Meeting Manager shall also keep track of and deliver supplies for SMMs and conventions, including AV equipment, and notify all members about these meetings at least 28 days in advance.

Section 8 – Elections Coordinator: The Elections Coordinator shall keep GP-MI aware of and following laws and regulations in its election-related activities, including: appointment of election challengers and poll-watchers; recruiting candidates for GP-MI nomination or endorsement; assembling and providing current information about the party's nomination/endorsement processes, including advance/draft convention rules; helping nominated candidates file required paperwork; and supporting campaigns. The Elections Coordinator shall also manage any election-related online group activities.

Section 9 – Locals Liaison: The Locals Liaison shall serve as the primary advocate for locals: welcoming new members; assigning mentors for the new members; and receiving the registration forms from new locals and the quarterly reports from locals to enter them into the state party records.

Section 10 – Communications Manager: The Communications Manager shall coordinate and update GP-MI publications, both traditional and digital, and maintain the GP-MI Handbook.

Section 11 – Merchandise Manager: The Merchandise Manager shall have a supply of GP-MI literature and merchandise; provide them to state meetings; and maintain a budget (that shall be reconciled with the Treasurer) for replenishing the supply and shipping the materials to locals and tabling events.

Section 12 – Web Stewards: Two GP-MI members will be responsible for maintaining GP-MI-owned electronic resources, including website hosting, official email, and marketing email, according to the “Handbook” chapter for Web Stewards.

Section 13 – Ways and Means Manager: The Ways and Means Manager will be responsible for exploring and administering ways to implement activities that would increase public awareness of the Green Party of Michigan. The Ways and Means Manager will work in direct collaboration with the Party Treasurer, the Locals Liaison and locals.

The Manager is responsible for submitting monthly status reports to the SCC and at SMM's. Any policy decisions shall require approval by the SCC or SMM before implementation. Any working group volunteers shall be chosen from active GP-MI members who show interest in taking part in activities, and are approved by the SCC or at an SMM.

Section 14 – Local Representatives At Large: Two members, who live in counties not served by a local, shall be at-large representatives to the SCC for all members living in counties not served by a local; preferably they shall come from unserved areas distant from each other. A representative shall serve out the remainder of the term if the county in which they lives becomes served by a local.

Section 15 – Delegates and Representatives to Committees of the Green Party of the United States (GP-US): The number of voting delegates and alternate delegates on the GP-US National Committee and the number of representatives on standing committees of GP-US are determined by GP-US. These delegates, alternate delegates, and representatives are also elected at the first SMM of each odd-numbered year to serve for two years, with vacancies filled as for other officers.

Section 16 – Secretary: The Secretary shall be responsible for taking minutes at SMMs (or arranging for someone else to

take minutes) and making copies of the minutes (both electronic and printed) readily available for approval at subsequent meetings. Additional duties include assuring that tabled items are included in the agenda for subsequent meetings, recording all adopted proposals and votes for each meeting, and working directly with the Treasurer to assure that a financial report is included in the minutes. The Secretary shall also handle all communications with the national party (except those handled by the Election Coordinator or Co-chairs) on all matters necessary for the compliance with the GPUS bylaws and rules applicable to the relationship between the state and national parties.

Article VI – Committees

Section 1: The State Central Committee (SCC) is composed of the officers defined above and the representatives from locals and state identity caucuses, except for representatives to GP-US standing committees, who may request to join the SCC and must agree to actively participate on the SCC by taking part in discussions and voting on proposals requiring a vote.

Section 2: Other committees are formed and dissolved at the discretion of the SMM or the SCC. Membership on committees is subject to the approval of the SMM or the SCC. The minimum requirement for committee membership is to be a member of GP-MI and be willing to serve on the committee. Committees created at the discretion of the SMM/SCC are required to have clearly defined purposes and responsibilities. Rules for membership on specific committees are contained in the Handbook.

Article VII – Decision-making

Section 1: The SCC is the decision-making body of GP-MI between SMMs. The SMM is the supreme decision-making body of GP-MI.

Section 2 – Proposals: Any member, local, identity caucus, or committee may propose an idea for consideration to the SCC or to the Meeting Manager to be put on the next SMM's agenda. Every idea submitted needs two additional supporters to be considered a formal proposal. Formal proposals shall be considered within seven days by the SCC (or expedited upon request), or at the next SMM.

Section 3: Decisions of GP-MI between SMMs shall be made by the SCC. Decisions of SMMs shall be made by members; 28-day notice of the procedures for voting shall be given. On any formal proposal, participants shall first try to reach consensus. If a blocking concern arises and is not resolved or withdrawn, consensus is not reached, and a vote of at least 2/3 of those voting yes or no is required to adopt the proposal.

Section 4 – Required Votes: When the SCC votes on a proposal, a quorum of at least 2/3 of the members of SCC must vote (yes, no, or abstaining) for the proposal to be adopted.

Article VIII – Nominations

Section 1 – State Convention:

- A)** GP-MI shall hold a state convention (which may coincide with a state meeting/SMM) every major election year in accordance with party rules and state law, to nominate candidates for statewide and multi-county partisan offices, including electors in Presidential election years, and endorse candidates for statewide and multi-county nonpartisan offices. The convention may also nominate or endorse candidates for any office serving constituents entirely within one county or district if there is no nominating caucus scheduled for that county or district. GP-MI may select delegates to a national convention to nominate a Green Presidential ticket at a state convention or an SMM.
- B)** The Meeting Manager shall send written notice of the date(s), times, and place of the convention by US mail and/or e-mail to all GP-MI members, all GP-MI locals, and all known candidates for the Green nomination for President or Vice President (or their campaigns), at least 50 days before the start of the convention. The Meeting Manager shall also present all scheduling information known about the convention at each of the two preceding SMMs.
- C)** Each county is allocated as many state convention delegates as there are GP-MI members residing in that county as of 60 days before the convention. The state convention may fill any county's delegate vacancies with GP-MI

members residing in that county as of 60 days before the convention who attend the convention, in accordance with party rules, state law, and relevant court cases. The Meeting Manager shall notify all eligible members 50 days before the convention and they must inform the Meeting Manager at least 30 days before the convention if they plan to attend.

Section 2 – County and district nominating caucuses:

- A) At the request of at least three GP-MI members in a county or district, GP-MI shall call a county or district nominating caucus in accordance with party rules and state law to nominate candidates for partisan offices (and, if the caucus so chooses, to endorse candidates for nonpartisan offices) serving constituents entirely within the county or district. The request – including the planned date(s), times, and place of the caucus – shall be made either at a SMM or to the SCC at least 50 days before that year's state convention, or to the SCC at least 28 days before a caucus to be held after the state convention. A nominating caucus may be held at a state convention if a timely request so asks.
- B) GP-MI shall send notice to all GP-MI members who live in the county or district for which a nominating caucus is called of the date(s), times, and place of the caucus, by US mail or e-mail, at least 14 days before the start of the caucus. Notice shall also be sent to others if the requesters so desire.
- C) After a nominating caucus, the chair and secretary of the caucus shall arrange for the filing of required nomination paperwork, and report to the Elections Coordinator on all nominations and endorsements made by the caucus.
- D) A county nominating caucus held before the convention may elect up to the allocated number of delegates. The chair and secretary of the caucus held before a state convention shall inform the Membership Manager of any delegates elected. The Membership Manager shall verify the GP-MI memberships of those people, contact the caucus chair and secretary with any questions, report on elected delegates to the convention, and organize an *ad hoc* credentials committee with members from different parts of the state if any question or dispute arises about a person's qualification to be a state convention delegate.

Section 3 – Special-election nominating caucuses: The SCC may, in consultation with GP-MI members in the area involved, hold a special-election nominating caucus in accordance with party rules and state law to nominate a candidate for any partisan special election called. If a special-election nominating caucus is held, GP-MI shall provide the best possible notice of the caucus to all GP-MI members in the area involved in the special election.

Article IX – Amendment of By-Laws

The by-laws may be amended, altered, or repealed by the membership at a regular SMM upon at least 28 days' notice to the membership of each proposal.

Certification of By-Laws

Sherry A Wells, acting secretary, at November 12, 2022 State Membership Meeting of GP-MI, certifies that this is a true and correct copy of the by-laws of GP-MI, incorporating the amendment adopted at that meeting.

Dated: November 12, 2022

Sherry A. Wells (acting secretary)

Appendix to GP-MI By-Laws

Revocation or Suspension of Membership

Section 1 – Initiating Membership Revocation:

A) Members may submit a Petition for Removal to the State Central Committee (SCC). A revocation petition summarizing the allegations against the member facing removal and justifying a removal action shall be signed by ten members in good standing representing at least two locals. A petition for removal should begin with the language, "We move to exercise our right of association, and disassociate from and expel _____, for any and all of the following reasons: We believe that _____ has engaged in behavior inimical to the aims of GP-MI, which may include but is not limited to violations of the Ten Key Values or the By-Laws, or persistent disruption of party activities. Specific reasons for this request include:"

B) Signatures on petitions shall be dated within six months of the submission date.

C) The timetable for scheduling and beginning the discussion of the petition shall begin upon receipt of a physical petition. Email may be used to expedite and facilitate the proceedings but is not a suitable substitute for a physical document.

Section 2 – Distribution and Notification:

A) The Archivist shall ensure that a copy of the petition, including any amendments, and notification of the dates of the removal discussion and vote are sent to each party to the petition at least 15 days before the removal discussion is scheduled to begin. The copy sent to the member facing removal shall be sent via certified mail, personal service, or other method which provides confirmation of receipt.

B) The Archivist shall send notice of the outcome of the proceedings to the member facing removal within 2 days after a decision is reached.

Section 3 – Preparation for Discussion of Petition:

A) The SCC shall schedule a discussion and vote on the removal between 15 and 30 days after receiving the petition.

B) Prior to beginning the removal discussion, the SCC shall make any necessary inquiries of the members submitting the petition to clarify the petition. The results of these inquiries shall be forwarded to the entire SCC.

C) The results of these inquiries shall be kept as part of GP-MI's permanent records and a copy shall be sent to the member facing removal.

D) All parties to the petition, the member facing removal and the complainants, shall receive access to the SCC e-mail list for the duration of the discussion of the petition upon individual request. Requests may be made to any SCC member, who shall transmit them to the SCC.

Section 4 – Discussion of Petition: During the SCC discussion of the petition:

A) The SCC shall give the member facing removal an opportunity to make a written response via the SCC e-mail list, which may include statements from other members.

B) The SCC will then have 10 days from the beginning of the removal discussion to discuss and vote on the motion.

C) Once discussion is complete, but prior to the final vote, an SCC member may propose limiting action on the petition to a suspension of the subject's membership for six months.

Section 5 – Resolution of Petition: Once the discussion is complete:

A) If a proposal to limit action on the petition to suspension is passed, the SCC shall vote on the question "Shall GP-MI suspend _____ for a period of six months?"

B) If there is no proposal to limit action on the petition to suspension, or if such a proposal is offered and defeated, the SCC shall vote on the question "Shall GP-MI disassociate from _____ by revocation of his/her membership?" An affirmative vote is a vote to remove, with a 3/4 supermajority needed to pass the motion and effect the removal.

C) SCC members who are parties to a removal petition may vote.

D) Prepaid membership dues shall be refunded in full after a vote to revoke membership.

E) Half of prepaid membership dues shall be refunded after a vote to suspend membership.

Section 6 – Effects of Suspension and Expulsion:

A) An individual whose membership has been revoked is no longer a member of GP-MI. Individuals conducting GP-MI or GP-MI local events open to the general public may bar the former member from participating.

B) An individual who has had their membership suspended is still a member of GP-MI, but may not participate in any event or activity restricted to members in good standing and may not cast votes as a GP-MI member. They shall not be barred from GP-MI events and activities open to the general public.

Section 7 – Normalization of Membership Status:

A) Former members whose membership has been revoked may apply for membership one year after revocation.

B) Suspended members shall have all privileges of membership reinstated after six months.

Section 8 – Appeal:

A) An individual may appeal to an SMM to reverse suspension or the revocation of their membership, according to the

following procedure.

B) The appeal must be made within 6 months of the SCC's decision to revoke membership.

C) The appellant must notify the Meeting Manager of the intent to appeal no less than three weeks before the SMM.

D) The appeal must be made in person and accompanied by a petition signed by 10 members representing at least two locals requesting reversal of the membership revocation or suspension.

E) The SMM must allocate at least 15 minutes for discussion of the appeal, and the appeal must be resolved before election of officers and discussion of by-laws, platform, or other proposals.

F) A decision by an SMM to reverse an expulsion or suspension shall be effective immediately.

Removal of Officers

Section 1 – Members may initiate removal proceedings against party leaders: Any ten GP-MI members, representing at least two different locals, may allege that any GP-MI officer or National Delegate is in contempt of the goals of the Green Party of Michigan and invoke the procedure in Section 2 to seek removal of those person(s) from their leadership position in GP-MI.

Section 2 – Procedure for addressing removal complaints:

A) To institute a recall proceeding against a party officer or National Delegate, the ten GP-MI members must prepare and submit to the SCC a written complaint summarizing the allegations against the persons targeted for removal and justifying the removal.

B) The SCC shall ensure that copies of the complaint are forwarded (or made accessible) to all GP-MI members at least 30 days before a meeting where the removal will be scheduled for discussion. If a complaint is initiated and received by the SCC not later than 15 days before a previously scheduled state quarterly meeting the SCC may elect to schedule discussion of the recall at that quarterly meeting or to call a special meeting of all GP-MI members for that purpose within 45 days of the date the complaint is filed.

C) At the meeting where the removal is to be discussed, the motion will be handled as follows:

i) Complainants will have up to 10 minutes to explain their complaint and make the case for removal without interruption.

ii) The target(s) of the complaint will, collectively, have up to 20 minutes to respond to the complaint and defend their actions without interruption.

iii) The complainants will have up to 5 minutes to restate and summarize their complaint.

iv) The targets will have up to 5 minutes to rebut.

D) Once the discussion is complete the GP-MI voting members in attendance shall immediately vote on the question "Shall (GP-MI party officer or National Delegate) _____, named in this complaint, be removed from office?" An affirmative vote is a vote to remove, with a 3/4 supermajority needed to pass the motion and effect the removal (and with abstentions counting as negative votes). A separate vote will be held for each person targeted in the complaint with the results of each vote entirely separate.