

**Report of the Election Tabulation Committee  
Green Party of the United States**

For the Steering Committee Election of July 26, 2014  
Green Party Annual National Meeting  
St. Paul, Minnesota

To: Green Party of the U.S. Green National Committee

From: GPUS Elections Tabulations Committee:  
Holly Hart (Iowa)  
Frank Young (West Virginia)  
Rich Zitola (California)  
Morgen D'Arc (Maine)  
Craig Thorsen (Lavender Caucus)

Date: August 15, 2014

Subject: Final report 2014

We hereby submit this final report in accordance with our responsibilities pursuant to the Bylaws of the Green Party of the United States, Article VI §6-2, and as further specified in the GPUS Rules and Procedures Article VII, as amended.

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**I. DECLARATION of RESULTS FOR CO-CHAIR AND TREASURER**

We declare that the following candidates for Co-Chair of the Steering Committee of the Green Party of the United States were duly elected on July 26, 2014, according to the rules specified in Article VII of the Green Party Rules and Procedures:

Audrey Clement (Virginia)  
Karen Young (New York)  
Charles Ostdiek (Nebraska)

We declare that the following candidate for Treasurer of the Green Party of the United States was duly elected according to the rules specified in Article VII of the Green Party Rules and Procedures:

Jeff Turner (Hawaii)

We recommend that the Green National Committee certify the candidates named above as having been elected to the positions indicated.

## **II. NARRATIVE REPORT**

Prior to the 2010 Steering Committee and Treasurer elections, the Steering Committee authorized Hugh Esco to perform several modifications to the online voting page software to establish a “secret ballot, open upon close” option for Steering Committee co-chair elections.

One modification told the voting software to send electronic “ballot keys” to a generic email address as well as to the voter. The second step involved installing a program into the vote software that would automatically fetch the ballot keys from that email account, re-connect voters with their ballots, and display them on the Vote Results page. The third step involved installing a “cron job” that would close the election at 5 PM instead of the default closing time of midnight (11:59 p.m. Pacific Time) on Saturday of the Annual National Meeting.

The software concluding the vote 5:00 p.m. on Saturday of the Annual National Meeting (ANM) did not function as expected, and for that and subsequent elections, the vote was concluded manually by having Hugh Esco log into the voting page and manually close the elections.

For the 2013 Steering Committee and Secretary elections, the same voting system software was used. This time, no one with access to the voting software was available to close the election on time, and votes were recorded until the default time of 11:59 p.m. Pacific Time (1:59 a.m. Central Time).

This year, the election also did not close at the specified time of 5:00 p.m. Hugh Esco and David Doonan were able to manually close it shortly after 5:30 p.m. Central Time.

After the elections were closed, Tamar Yager, the Floor Manager “certified” the elections, and the results were then displayed on the online vote page. The results matched with individual voters were not immediately displayed, however, because that function also requires manual entry into the voting page to perform a function to release the data so that it will appear on the voting page.

During the following 2 weeks, Frank Young, Holly Hart, Rich Zitola, Craig Thorsen, and Morgen D’Arc accessed the ballot key inbox and determined that all voters who cast ballots were accounted for. We also discovered that one extra vote had been cast for the co-chair election; that the second vote was cast about 1 minute after the first; that both were identical; and that only one vote for that voter had been recorded and tabulated by the voting page tabulation software. In all, 97 ballot keys had been

generated for the co-chair election; 96 votes were actually tallied by the voting page tabulation software.

In previous years there were reports of some voters not receiving a voting key, and whose vote did not appear in the election results. Previous ETCs believed that there was a high probability that the individuals did not completely confirm their votes, and therefore it was never actually cast. However, in the election at hand (for 2014) the ETC has had no reports of voters not receiving a voting key.

The ETC feels confident that the election results were tabulated correctly by the voting page software, and that the anomaly that appeared affected only the function that matches voters to their respective votes at the close of the election.

Our manual tabulation matched the result determined automatically by the voting software. The two late votes did not change the outcome of the election.

### **III. ANOMALIES and RECOMMENDATIONS**

The following is a list of anomalies that appeared in the 2014 Co-chair and Treasurer elections. These have surfaced in past elections, and even though they have so far not appeared to affect the actual election results, the ETC recommends that the steering committee appoint/hire someone with the capability to investigate, determine the cause(s) and fix the problems.

#### **KNOWN BUGS:**

It is possible to cast more than one vote. There was only one instance of this occurring in this election, with two identical ballots being submitted one minute apart. This was clearly a duplicate and the committee simply disregarded this vote. The committee has identified the likely cause of this bug, but chooses not to disclose the details here to avoid exploitation of this bug.

#### **FURTHER RECOMMENDATIONS:**

Further recommendation would be to modify the voting page to allow from the "front end" a way to conclude the vote at a different time of day, and to manually release data matching votes with voters at the conclusion of a "closed, open upon conclusion" ranked choice vote.

Although it did not happen in the 2014 election at hand, previous elections resulted in some numbers of voters, ballots, and ballot keys not being displayed on the results page.

The committee recommends that the voting page indicates that the voter may rank as many or as few candidates as she / he desires, and they should only rank candidates they support.

### **IV. TABULATION of VOTES**

#### **DETERMINATION OF VALIDITY OF RECORDED VOTES**

The voting software recorded a total of 97 votes. All recorded votes appear in the table in Appendix I to this report. Two identical votes were cast by the same voter, one minute apart. One of these was

discarded as a duplicate. The committee has no reason to believe this was an intentional action on the part of the voter.

GPUS Rules and Procedures Article VII §B(2)(d) states that any ranked votes cast for eligible write-in candidates shall be tabulated in the same manner as those for candidates whose names are printed on the ballots. Therefore write-in votes were included in this tabulation.

GPUS Bylaws Article VI §6-2.1 states that the Steering Committee election shall end at 5:00pm in the time zone in which the ANM is held, in this case Central Time. Timestamps in the Appendix table are in Eastern Time, and therefore the deadline is indicated as “18:00” hours. Two votes were received after this deadline and were discarded.

All of the remaining 94 votes were deemed valid.

#### DETERMINATION OF VICTORY THRESHOLD

The first step is to determine the number of votes required in order for a candidate to be elected. As defined in Article VII §B(1)(b) of the GPUS Rules and Procedures, this threshold is defined as:

$$(\text{total valid votes cast}) / (\text{seats to be filled} + 1)$$

In this election, there were 94 votes cast for 3 available seats, so the threshold for election is:

$$94 / ( 3 + 1 ) = 23.500$$

#### STAGE ONE:

In the first stage, we simply count the first-choice votes for each candidate as follows:

27	Audrey Clement
22	Karen Young
18	Charles Ostdiek
15	Lora Friedenthal
8	Bruce Hinkforth
4	Bahram Zandi (write-in)

ELECTED: Audrey Clement is elected with a surplus of 3.5 votes

#### STAGE TWO:

Since there are two remaining seats, the count continues with the transfer of surplus votes as defined in GPUS Rules and Procedures Article VII §B(2)(a). We examine the second choices of each vote cast for Clement as follows:

15	Karen Young
5	Charles Ostdiek

- 3 Lora Friedenthal
- 2 Bruce Hinkforth
- 2 exhausted (no second choice)

The surplus proportion is  $3.5 / 27 = 0.130$ . Thus the second choice votes are multiplied by this proportion and added to the remaining candidates:

- $22 + (15 \times 0.130) = 23.950$  Karen Young
- $18 + (5 \times 0.130) = 18.650$  Charles Ostdiek
- $15 + (3 \times 0.130) = 15.390$  Lora Friedenthal
- $8 + (2 \times 0.130) = 8.260$  Bruce Hinkforth
- $4 + (0 \times 0.130) = 4.000$  Bahram Zandi

ELECTED: Karen Young is elected with a surplus of 0.450 votes.

Since the first transfer created a new surplus, this is then transferred to the next succeeding choices, as defined in GPUS Rules and Procedures Article VII §B(3)(c). The surplus proportion is  $0.450 / 1.950 = 0.231$ . Thus the third choice votes are multiplied by this proportion and added to the remaining candidates:

- $18.650 + (9 \times 0.130 \times 0.231) = 18.920$  Charles Ostdiek
- $15.390 + (5 \times 0.130 \times 0.231) = 15.540$  Lora Friedenthal
- $8.260 + (1 \times 0.130 \times 0.231) = 8.290$  Bruce Hinkforth
- $4.000 + (0 \times 0.130 \times 0.231) = 4.000$  Bahram Zandi

Since there is still one remaining seat, and no one has passed the threshold after all surpluses have been transferred, we must proceed to Stage 3.

### STAGE THREE:

As defined in GPUS Rules and Procedures Article VII §B(3)(d), we now eliminate the candidate with the least number of votes. In this case, two of Zandi's votes are exhausted (no further preferences stated), and one each is transferred to Ostdiek and Hinkforth:

- $18.920 + 1 = 19.920$  Charles Ostdiek
- $15.540 + 0 = 15.540$  Lora Friedenthal
- $8.290 + 1 = 9.290$  Bruce Hinkforth

Since there is still one remaining seat, and no one has passed the threshold after the last place candidate was eliminated, we must proceed to Stage 4.

### STAGE FOUR:

Once again, we eliminate the last place candidate, and transfer their votes to their next succeeding preference:

- $19.920 + 5 = 24.920$  Charles Ostdiek

15.540 + 2 = 17.540 Lora Friedenthal

ELECTED: Charles Ostdiek is elected with a surplus of 1.420 votes.

As defined in GPUS Rules and Procedures Article VII §B(3)(e), we now have filled all available seats and the election is concluded.

Submitted, August 15, 2014

GPUS 2014 Elections Tabulation Committee  
(s) Holly Hart, Frank Young, Rich Zitola, Morgen D'Arc, Craig Thorsen

Timestamp (ET)	Voter Name	Voter Email	Ballot Key	AC	KY	CO	BH	LF	TA	HS	KC	LC	BZ	*
19.07.2014 00:27	Paul Pipkin	fanshape@destiny64@gmail.com	7624406661cc7c79c93d8f07687d1616d865106034870689	3	1	2		3						
19.07.2014 01:05	Susan Chunco	ukapole@att.net	762932863f92d3e226d8001bcd2d2dcd130305799404596	3	2	1	5	4						
19.07.2014 02:16	Bill Krentl	billkrentl@gmail.com	7626a287ec660e838bb6b1456819c224710526956454917	3	2	1								
19.07.2014 10:14	John Rensenbrink	john@ensenbrink.com	7623f1b4fa14ea8529fc4c7b22a3eb098b127281739052869	3	2	1								
19.07.2014 10:35	David Whiteman	davidwhiteman@yahoo.com	7629bab06a0441dc9e4f58b9668081fab8f952000710234496	5	1	3	4	2						
19.07.2014 11:02	Karen Young	karenyoung521@yahoo.com	7620bfd9e1683c4353625c8a99f72da795f2612370662509	3	2	1								
19.07.2014 11:12	Fina Campbell	finacampbell@att.net	762bac34239aebdd40ac479203a9520aae8133792869722854	2	1	3	5	4						
19.07.2014 11:49	Tony Affigne	affigne@greens.org	762c6c292d09933d44b35c278bdc2ec9e480140834917407	2	1	2			3					
19.07.2014 12:14	Evan Lyne	elyne@gmail.com	762eddaae627b8d332c3f05330e06fbd10763576544281	1	3									
19.07.2014 15:28	Douglas Campbell	NaderLaDuke2000Detroit@yahoo.com	762a0cae9fcedb942038ecbf15a1215f810946688013598	2										
19.07.2014 17:51	Paul Loney	blc@hevanet.com	7628c29751979aefbd37f1b05f7df1819106848832136418	3	5	1	4	2						
19.07.2014 19:38	Lora Friedenthal	darkmagess@secretive.name	76221e070fe2fe3249560a5699a934a7088101032517891335	1	3	2								
19.07.2014 21:54	Darrel Armstrong	dchasa@outlook.com	762c100dfc5fb141c78d81473f98e7094125066280019086	1	1	2	3							
19.07.2014 22:22	Bruce Hinkforth	brinkforth@milwpc.com	7622a1d58cd4523a96f22424202df8895128056203973514	3	2	1								
19.07.2014 23:57	Dave Sutliff-Atias	greenpmc34@yahoo.com	7621d4621903e32a7d4ba8a5b58b2efcad86105616139235371	3	2	1								
20.07.2014 08:18	Henry Lawrence III	hmlbicycle@yahoo.com	76205fe744fd2adbf94d42f45de498f079912447694932067	3	2	5	1	4						
20.07.2014 15:40	Dani Liebling	danielliebling@yahoo.com	76221e070fe2fe3249560a5699a934a7088101032517891335	2	3	1								
20.07.2014 16:01	Angel Torres	aatorres29@hotmail.com	762deeb01f03e123df07ce57199251cb31138559675126617	1										
20.07.2014 18:53	Frank Young	frankly@mtparty.org	762c784c0688272e2e7539213aedeb71249670546949288	5	2	1	4	3						
20.07.2014 21:08	Elie Yarden	yen.yarden@verizon.net	7621d6d9dfc78270c7e4bec5e2269977a12872562465146	4	2	5	1	3						
20.07.2014 22:35	Rich Zitola	rich@zeepriime.com	762d96429fd196a11c8baadfd9015accb12878916112862	1	2	3								
20.07.2014 23:09	Charles Sherrouse	options@critpath.org	76221e070fe2fe3249560a5699a934a7088101032517891335	5	2	1	3							
21.07.2014 01:40	Kent Mesplay	kentmesplay@gmail.com	76244651234aec17b7a4d3b76228a67a768110493075013271	3	2	1								
21.07.2014 11:55	Richard Chacker	greenhemosa@yahoo.com	762d33d9b22ad8da75f7eaf3bdc1d1a713562370800854	1	3	2								
21.07.2014 11:58	Josefina Aranda	jvsia@yahoo.com	7625c6d1d80083393a7d9d8ba6695937365381166192355153	1	2	3								
21.07.2014 12:26	Craig Seeman	cseeman@optonline.net	762d19827ca97032d1ba13c9c9dcd9d651767339925675024	3	1	4	2							
21.07.2014 12:28	Cynthia Santiago	Miss.Cynthia.Santiago@gmail.com	762d4f3a15cb76a6124351799c16ced2e29467608886114	1	2	3								
21.07.2014 12:36	Lisa Hsu	lisakhsu@gmail.com	762e71d370faeca838b98354d5a53ae47d9711531253041934	1	2	3								
21.07.2014 14:29	Doug Barnett	doug@bar-nett.com	76298b4cd0a8ecd84b6807ed4108475c7339321946629947	1	3	2								
21.07.2014 14:30	Marla Bernstein	marlaismom@gmail.com	762eb39362e5915ca70d47390982e0896510382519053997	1	2	3								
21.07.2014 16:58	Jacqui Deveneau	jacquigpus@yahoo.com	762683c3e4d7b1e9d6f7c6ba07a0252295479410832591823	3	2	1								
21.07.2014 19:53	Audrey Clement	aclement65@hotmail.com	76221e070fe2fe3249560a5699a934a7088101032517891335	1	2	3	5	4						
21.07.2014 21:02	Mike Feinstein	mfeinstein@feinstein.org	762405f78e47657b52c5823a56780333ac655291965223921	1	3	2								
21.07.2014 21:17	Genevieve Marcus	genevieve.marcus@gmail.com	762b7841cfa14b038a292224e2d07af24b36701061436735	1	2	3								
21.07.2014 21:49	David Black	DBlack107@aol.com	762ade91767831b966d8931053769e328906307998122398	2	1									
21.07.2014 23:26	Jenefer Ellington	jellygreen3@gmail.com	762236b59ba809c6047f5d39363c47d68135391678560116	2	2	1		3						
22.07.2014 11:45	Linda Cree	creelinda@hotmail.com	76291fee47875071170effe01013983ff357609294943185	2	3	1								
22.07.2014 12:10	Joanna Herlithy	joanna_herlithy@yahoo.com	762478b5e9877ada38fade4b4af69e10a92e569324759474228	5	4	1	2	3						
22.07.2014 13:26	Baird Welch-Collins	baird.welchcollins@gmail.com	762be23b684529354370fc488f1b7242ce702248199712109	3	1	2								
22.07.2014 14:20	Julie Jacobson	jacobs@hawaiianisp.com	7623620d667045caae0cd6e04414406927c301522535801756	1										
23.07.2014 12:36	Starlene Rankin	greenstarlene@gmail.com	762298f181992504d7e1562dafd941ac4140156179688811	4	1	3	2							
23.07.2014 13:02	Claudia Ellquist	ellquist.c.to.atty@juno.com	76269d1b8e10eb4d31367a542b8d0250b6c10671983830009	3	1	2	4	5						
23.07.2014 20:41	Dan Neuspjel	dneuspjel@gmail.com	76204f378c05ca06621d6519fa91ec87a329527581672232	1	4	3	5	2						
23.07.2014 23:32	Andy Finko	andrewfinko@yahoo.com	762dfde3f0502bcac6c9d161ecc22a6e513808699813464	1	2	4	5	3						
24.07.2014 00:17	Paul Krumm	pkrumm@rhelectric.net	762a4894ab2455dd4337dcb840ef6640101286396436536	3	1	4	2							
24.07.2014 05:35	Jason Nabewaniec	jason@ggp.org	76212bbf71ff9d4935efa13f18a54f185890915021307421	2	4	3	1							
24.07.2014 07:13	A.J. Janssen	gpus@washcogreens.org	762d94eb8b76d2d29f3cbe460bb11e278618988644562973	2	1	3	4	5						
24.07.2014 08:50	Martin Pleasant	martin_pleasant@yahoo.com	7621ae3615f2135f91d9d49d4ad325d1b513864824559161	3	2	1	5	4						
24.07.2014 11:12	Daphne T. Stevens	daphnetstevens4@gmail.com	762542fe0118b0b6c01d1a736f023fcb4a10863942790849	2	5	2	3	4						
24.07.2014 14:57	Katy Meyer	meyera@earthlink.net	762fef9a3cd3163eb30a188665fba1a9e2b211939918743956	5	2	3	4	1						
24.07.2014 20:55	Mark Jenkins	adamcadmon@aristotle.net	762b3b17f6bd972be75ad8bc3c2b986c7761094178476377	1	3	2								
24.07.2014 20:58	Barbara Ward	adamcadmon@aristotle.net	762c8eaa5cd070671f36083cbdfbec1a7870610215784626	1	2	3								
24.07.2014 21:04	Denice Traina	denicetraina@gmail.com	762494ced28ec4f0996a0f619e298bd23279444786946474	1	1	2								
24.07.2014 21:06	Bahram Zandi	bahram@greens.org	7629e9d787ab17da043f6c322ccb6436a236053490433015										1	
25.07.2014 00:11	Linda Pitera-Avila	lindap_a@verizon.net	7621f4e534e520e9efdac9e83ea1aeb9914782770484748658	1	2	3								
25.07.2014 03:04	Tamar Yager	tamar@gp.org	762f53e8adda9023796f4601301a2ea21a2193276520201014	5	2	3	4	1						
25.07.2014 03:05	Tamar Yager	tamar@gp.org	762f53e8adda9023796f4601301a2ea21a2193276520201014	5	2	3	4	1						
25.07.2014 15:50	David McCorquodale	dfung@gmail.com	762c9c3e7117538709914ad86425d38a2a5492942478745	1	3	2								
25.07.2014 15:53	Hillary Kane	hillaryk@pobox.upenn.edu	762d88416c6851093db0703925d45b2508078672981292104	1	1	3	2							
25.07.2014 16:03	Denise Brush	denisebrush1107@comcast.net	762aef0c47b529caeedecf6c4d3d36b69fd127347997435948	3	1	4	5	2						
25.07.2014 17:13	Sheldon Schafer	sschafer7@comcast.net	762243902901a99d1b7fc405884bfeb6c9253064976114761	4	5	2	3	1						
25.07.2014 18:33	Craig Thorsen	craig.thorsen@gmail.com	7627ecbf63be9ac7917b154f042e0613f150072995173498	1	3	2	5	4						
25.07.2014 21:04	Jody Gage	jody@gp.org	7629af6a8b011d6e29fcec500b05df1f1f00252413889626	4	2	1	3							
25.07.2014 21:09	Budd Dickinson	budd.dickinson@gmail.com	7629cf236808a5f25acfc6be86460e82f112241145291128	4	2	1	3							
25.07.2014 21:35	Tim McKee	timckee321@gmail.com	76208429152ad8b22b0511b647ee3c8578b112285026972601	1	2	3								
25.07.2014 22:16	Gene Hunter	hunters56@earthlink.net	7622f2cead4e0713d73b39e21ee9e9807fd21547997048036	1	2	4	3	5						
25.07.2014 23:47	Jack Ailey	jailley-gpus@comcast.net	7620cd81aada08d7b981dd4c4fa95a03f3ca18828673456664	1	5	4	3	1						
26.07.2014 00:20	Morgan Moss Jr	mmossjr@hotmail.com	762aeca68d752b6ba196b6a5d7b73972824692921870233513	1	4	5	2	3						
26.07.2014 01:56	Suzia Auferheide	souzianzan@mind.net	762250cceb50ecc1f0bddd84ea74a264937132594275781143	1	4	5	2	3						
26.07.2014 09:18	Candace Caveny	candacecaveny14@gmail.com	762c5a0bb408e0e6d99dd8731998f457ed11291929149829	1										
26.07.2014 10:38	Louis Nouak	lmm@ppals.com	7620c2b8713a8c1ee6cf0e8a3888ea949e2463692057557486	5	1	4	3	2						
26.07.2014 11:03	Sanda Everette	sanda@greens.org	7622eb836e5c10294fc541b451b51cbff112044309186629	1	2	3	4							
26.07.2014 11:31	Nekita Candy	rubies1111@gmail.com	762965d23b283725b5c7ebaa680904e6165804360509012255	3	2									
26.07.2014 11:53	Bob Marsh	bob@marsh.name	76294ac08e4725f3c5baea4899e10f1e2b132892026061758	1	2	1								
26.07.2014 11:59	Holly Hart</													

Source: <http://gp.org/rules-and-procedures-of-the-green-party-of-the-united-states#07>

## **ARTICLE VII: PREFERENCE VOTING RULES FOR STEERING COMMITTEE ELECTIONS: .**

### **A. DEFINITION**

"Preference Voting" shall mean a voting system which achieves representation in deliberative bodies proportional to the support such representation enjoys among the voters by allowing voters to rank candidates for the internal Party offices in the order of their choice, according to the method described and by tabulating votes pursuant to the rules provided in this Article.

Preference Voting tabulates votes based on the principle that any vote cast which would not otherwise help elect a voter's most preferred candidate(s), shall be used to help elect that voter's next most preferred candidate(s). Thus, if a voter's first choice among the candidates receives more than enough votes to win, the surplus proportion of that vote will be transferred to that voter's second or succeeding (next-highest ranking) choice. Alternatively, if a voter's first choice candidate is eliminated, that vote instead will be cast for the voter's second or succeeding (next highest ranking) choice.

### **B. TABULATION OF VOTES**

Two months before each Annual National Meeting (reduced to one month for 2006), the Secretary of GPUS shall post to the GNC a request for nominations for an Election Tabulation Committee. The Election Tabulation Committee will consist of five members of the GNC and will be elected by the NC using the current system of Single Transferable Voting employed by the Green Party website: Multi-Seat Ranked-Choice Voting <http://lobitos.net/voting/>

Ballots shall be counted by the Election Tabulation Committee according to the following rules:

#### **1. Determination of Victory Threshold**

**(a)** In order for a candidate to be elected, the number of votes for that candidate to be an elected shall surpass the "threshold" or "winning threshold".

**(b)** The threshold determines transferable surpluses as defined below. The threshold is determined by dividing (the number of valid votes cast) by (the number of seats + 1). In an election to name a single individual to fill an office, the winning threshold shall be a simple majority of the ballots cast and these rules may be referred to as instant run-off voting.

#### **2. Rules regarding the transfer of votes at all stages of tabulation:**

**(a)** Votes acquired by a candidate in excess of the threshold for that election shall be termed their "surplus". A candidate's surplus votes shall be transferred according to the following rule: transfer a portion of each vote determined by dividing the surplus of the candidate by the total number of votes for that candidate, rounded to the third decimal place, to each voter's next choice. Votes cast for candidates who are eliminated (as described below) shall be transferred at their full current value to

those voter's next choice(s).

**(b)** Votes may not be transferred to candidates who have already surpassed the threshold, nor may votes be transferred to candidates who have been eliminated. When a voter's next choice is not eligible for receipt of transferred votes, that vote (or portion of a vote) shall be transferred to the voter's next indicated choice until all choices on that ballot have been exhausted.

**(c)** If a voter fails to designate a candidate to a ranking, the vote shall be transferred to that voter's next clearly indicated choice.

**(d)** Any ranked votes cast for eligible write-in candidates shall be tabulated in the same manner as those for candidates whose names are printed on the ballots.

**(e)** If a ballot has no more available choices ranked on it, that ballot shall be declared "exhausted." Ballots ranking two or more candidates as the voter's first ranked choice shall be declared "exhausted". Ballots with two candidates sharing the same rank shall be declared exhausted when a transfer of a surplus would put in doubt which candidate would next be eligible for the transfer, unless all but one of the candidates with the shared ranking have already been defeated or elected making them ineligible to receive a transfer.

### **3. Stages in the Tabulation for multi-seat positions:**

**(a)** Any candidate whose total votes at any stage of the tabulation exceeds the winning threshold shall be declared to have won a seat.

**(b)** Vote counting shall start with a tabulation of first choice votes and with the transfer of a proportion of any existing surplus votes according to the rules specified above. Transfer of surpluses shall commence with the candidate having the largest surplus and proceed successively to the candidates with the next largest surplus

**(c)** If the transfer of surplus votes to voters' next choice candidates creates a new surplus, then a proportion of these votes shall be transferred to those voter's succeeding choices, until all surpluses have been transferred or all declared choices on a ballot have been exhausted.

**(d)** When all surplus votes have been distributed in this manner, a tally shall be taken. Any remaining surpluses created by any transfer shall once again be transferred, and a new tally taken, until all surpluses have been transferred. Then the remaining candidate with the least number of votes shall be eliminated.

**(e)** This process of transferring surpluses followed by eliminating candidates with the least number of votes shall continue until every available seat has been filled by a candidate whose support has surpassed the winning threshold, or until no candidate remains to be eliminated. Any seat not filled by a candidate surpassing the winning threshold shall be declared vacant and a new election shall be called to fill such vacancies.

### **4. Tabulation for single seat positions:**

If a candidate receives a majority of the first-choice votes, then that candidate shall be declared elected. If no candidate receives such a majority, then the candidate with the fewest first choices shall be declared defeated. Ballots cast for this defeated candidate shall be transferred at full value to the next choice candidate marked on each ballot. Last-place candidates are eliminated and their supporters' ballots transferred to next-choice candidates who are still in the race in a similar manner until a candidate receives a number of votes surpassing the winning threshold. Should no candidate enjoy sufficient support to surpass the winning threshold, a vacancy is declared and a new election shall be held to fill the vacant seat.

#### **5. Determinations in the case of a Tie:**

For ties between candidates occurring at any stage in the tabulation, determinations shall be made based on whomever was credited with the most votes at the previous successive stages of tabulation. Specifically, if in any round of tabulation, two or more candidates have an equal number of votes, the candidate with the most first choices shall prevail. If two or more candidates have an equal number of first choices, then the candidate with a greater number of second choices shall prevail, and so on. If this information fails to resolve the tie, the Election Tabulation Committee shall consider the approval expressed by the ballots determined by the ranks assigned by all the ballots which ranked each tied candidate in question and whether any ballots cast ranked no-other-candidate at a higher preference than a candidate in question.

### **C. CERTIFICATION OF ELECTION RESULTS**

#### **1. Tabulation & Report**

Immediately upon the close of the polls the Election Tabulation Committee shall tabulate the ballots pursuant to these rules. Immediately following the tabulation of such ballots, the Election Tabulation Committee shall file its written report on the election with the National Committee. The report shall declare which candidates were elected to which seats and for what terms for each election they are charged with tabulating, and a narrative description of the tabulation detailing how surpluses were redistributed, how candidates were identified for elimination at the end of each round, how ties were resolved and other factors that weighed in the final determination of the winning candidates. The Election Tabulation Committee shall publish as an appendix to their Report the details of each ballot received sufficient to permit an independent tabulation. The report shall further evaluate the extent to which these rules anticipated the demands of the election and gave adequate guidance to the Election Tabulation Committee on the conduct of its responsibilities.

#### **2. Receipt & Right to Challenge Election Results**

When the GNC receives a report from the Election Tabulation Committee or a properly filed Challenge as described in paragraph 3., below, the question shall be put to the GNC, on the fourteenth day following the transmittal of the report, on certifying the results as so reported, and as a distinct question, on sustaining each Challenge as may have been timely filed. In presenting a question on sustaining a Challenge, it shall be made clear that to sustain the Challenge is to act to adopt such

amendments to the certification as may be proposed by the sustained Challenge. Such questions shall be resolved by a simple majority vote of the GNC.

### **3. The Resolution to a Challenge to Election Results, Proposed for certification**

**(a)** Any contest to the results proposed by the Election Tabulation Committee for certification by the body conducting the election shall be filed within seven days of the transmittal of the report to be challenged. It shall take the form of a Challenge to the Election Results, as Reported by the Election Tabulation Committee on (a date). It shall set out the facts supporting its contention that the election proposed to be certified was not conducted in accordance with the rules governing such elections, and that a proper application of the rules would have yielded a different result. Such Challenge shall also propose amendments to the certification report to permit the GNC to certify those portions of the report, supportable by the evidence, and proposing a course of action for the resolution of the remaining contested seats.

**(b)** Such a Challenge may be filed by (i) any candidate who appeared on the ballot by virtue of having been nominated for consideration in such election, or (ii) any write-in candidate for whom the Election Tabulation Committee reports that they have received a number of votes within five percent of the winning threshold necessary to win a seat in the election or (iii) by any voter who presents evidence that their ballot was not appropriately recorded in the tabulation of the election.

**(c)** If there is objection to the certification, the question of sustaining the challenge shall be put to the GNC, followed by the question of Certifying the Report, as amended by any sustained challenge. A majority vote of the GNC shall be binding on each question.

### **D. PRESERVATION OF ELECTION RECORDS**

**(a)** All original election materials, including ballots and tally sheets, with an original signed copy of the report of the Election Tabulation Committee shall be sealed under the signatures of each committee member. An additional signed copy of the report and copies of all other election materials shall be preserved for review. The sealed original record may not be unsealed except by resolution of the GNC or by Order of a Court of competent jurisdiction.

**(b)** An original signed report of the Elections Tabulation Committee, including the details of each ballot received sufficient to permit an independent tabulation, shall be preserved, published and made available at the principle office of the Party for inspection by any member of the Party. An electronic form of the report shall be published, web-accessible, in the archives of the Party.

### **E. FILLING A VACANCY:**

Any vacancy that occurs within one month of an election shall be filled by interim appointment by recounting the ballots from the election which elected that member, by an Election Tabulation Committee designated by the GNC experiencing the vacancy, in the manner specified herein, except that the vacating member's name shall be deleted from all ballots. Any candidate accruing sufficient votes to surpass the winning threshold in the recount that was not elected to office in the original count shall fill the vacancy. If such a recount fails to resolve a vacancy or if the vacancy occurs more than

one month after the election, the Steering Committee may provide for a special election under these rules to fill the seat until the next regularly scheduled election for that position.

**F. NO-OTHER-CANDIDATE**

An implicit 'no other candidate' shall remain an option of each voter who chooses not to rank possible candidates on their ballot.

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