

Significant changes in v2.9:

- Clarifying that certain other entities are also "states".
- Providing a slightly better definition of "identity caucus".
- Lowering the membership requirement of a caucus from 100/15 to 50/10.
- Inserting language requiring regular submission of updated contact information.
- Providing language that allows for actions short of revocation of accreditation.
- Moving some accreditation criteria around as new formations by definition don't have a history and can't submit a track record of things like networking.
- Allowing the AC and SC to concur on setting a state party as Non-Participating without the need for a formal NC vote, and then providing a simple means for leaving Non-Participating status.
- Santa Barbara addendum removed as the language is now mildly contradictory.

Changes in v2.92 relative to v2.9:

- Added language to the AC role about assisting with the information collection process. (But left it vague – the idea here is only to authorize the AC to do so, not to require it to do so.)
- Offered language which might address the issue of forming a Native American or potentially other caucuses.
- Added language on accreditation as relative to affiliation, including language on the overall purpose of accreditation (see new clause 1-1.1.)
- Slashed the length of the section explaining the AC itself.

Changes in v2.98 relative to 2.92:

- Clearer language put into the section on revocation.
- Annual, not "regular", submission of contact information; and for caucuses, biennial submission of their membership lists.
- Complaint process simplified; reference to the "complaint form" taken out as this is something very old.

ARTICLE I: ACCREDITATION

Section 1-1. Accreditation and Goals of the Accreditation Process

1-1.1 Accreditation is the act by which the Green Party of the United States certifies that a state Green Party or identity caucus has met certain basic requirements, and through which such state Green Party or identity caucus, as an entity functioning on behalf of its respective membership, is recognized as the entity which will select voting delegates to the Green National Committee, and which will administer the process by which delegates to the Green Party Quadrennial Nominating Convention will be selected. The terms "accredited" and "affiliated" should be understood to hold equivalent meaning as regards the relationships between the Green Party of the United States and state Green Parties, and the relationships between the Green Party of the United States and identity caucuses.

1-1.2 The Accreditation Process is intended to assure that applicant state parties and identity caucuses understand

- a) the Green Party of the United States, its goals, values and plans;
- b) the criteria they are expected to fulfill,
- c) the resources available from the Green Party of the United States to assist them in party-building in order to fulfill the criteria.

1-1.3 The Accreditation Process is intended to assist applicants in the application process.

1-1.4 The Accreditation Process is intended to speedily deliberate and make recommendations to the National Committee.

1-1.5 The Accreditation Process is intended to verify that state parties and caucuses are bona-fide organizations meeting the values and criteria set forth in this article.

1-1.6 The Accreditation Process is intended to welcome new state parties, caucuses, and their representatives, and to help facilitate their integration into the Green Party of the United States.

Section 1-2. State Party Accreditation

1-2.1 The Green Party of the United States, for the purposes of this section and all related bylaws, rules, and procedures, considers the various United States, District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, American Samoa, Guam, the Northern Mariana Islands, and the United States Virgin Islands, to be "states" in all referenced respects, except as otherwise specified in GPUS Bylaws or GPUS Rules and Procedures.

1-2.2 The following criteria are requirements for the initial and ongoing accreditation of a state party:

- a) Acceptance of the four pillars of the international Green Party movement [ecological wisdom, social justice, grassroots democracy, non-violence] or the Ten Key Values as guiding principles.
- b) Being organized and run in accordance with these values.
- c) A statewide organization open to, and reflective of, a statewide membership.
- d) Agreement to support national candidates nominated by Green Party conventions.
- e) Making a good faith effort, where reasonable, to achieve ballot status.
- f) Making a good faith effort to run state and local candidates.
- g) Having and maintaining a website.
- h) Applying to the Green Party of the United States for accreditation, with such application including written by-laws, platform, and other documentation.

1-2.3 The following criteria are expectations for the ongoing accreditation of a state party:

- a) Networking with other environmental and social justice organizations.
- b) An ongoing commitment to, and good faith efforts to achieve, gender balance in party leadership and representation.
- c) An ongoing commitment to, and good faith efforts to achieve, the empowerment of individuals and groups from oppressed communities, through leadership responsibilities, identity caucuses, alliances with community-based organizations, and endorsements of issues and policies.
- d) Annual submission to the Green Party of the United States of basic information including updated names and contact information for officers and National Committee delegates, updated party contact information, and updated bylaws.

Section 1-3. Criteria for Identity Caucus Accreditation

1-3.1 The Green Party of the United States considers an identity caucus to be a group of Green Party members who share a common shared identity, such that individual persons who naturally share such an identity constitute a significant sector of the population, and have been historically or traditionally disenfranchised or underrepresented in or by government.

1-3.2 The following criteria are requirements for the initial and ongoing accreditation of an identity caucus:

- a) Acceptance of the four pillars of the international Green Party movement [ecological wisdom, social justice, grassroots democracy, non-violence], or the GPUS's Ten Key Values, as guiding principles.
- b) Being organized and run in accordance with these values.
- c) Being open to and reflective of natural members of the Identity Caucus.
- d) Having held at least one meeting, and continuing to hold such meetings, in person or by some other manner, not less than annually.
- e) Electing its leadership and delegates in a democratic and transparent manner.
- f) Agreement to support national candidates nominated by Green Party conventions.
- g) Having and maintaining a website.
- h) Applying to the Green Party of the United States for accreditation, with such application including written by-laws and a list of at least 50 persons who are members of an accredited or forming state Green Party, such that at least 10 state Green Parties are represented, or in extraordinary circumstances, a request for a waiver from the 10 state rule; the list including those persons' names and the state Green Party of which each is a member.

1-3.3 The following criteria are expectations for the ongoing accreditation of a caucus:

- a) Maintaining a current list of at least 50 members from 10 state parties (unless granted an extraordinary waiver), including the names, addresses, and state party membership of those persons.
- b) Annual submission to the Green Party of the United States of basic information including updated names and contact information for officers and National Committee delegates, updated caucus contact information, and updated bylaws.
- c) Biennial submission to the Green Party of the United States of a list of its members, including the names and state party memberships of those members.

Section 1-4. Role and Duties of Accreditation Committee

1-4.1 The GPUS Accreditation Committee (AC) is chartered to review applications by forming state parties and caucuses for accreditation by the GPUS, and to hear complaints against state parties and caucuses which are based upon the accreditation requirements of the GPUS.

1-4.2 The AC shall prepare and distribute application materials, review applications for accreditation, and make recommendations based on such applications.

1-4.3 The AC shall hear appeals and grievances, review disaffiliation requests, and make recommendations based on such appeals, grievances, and disaffiliation requests.

1-4.4 The AC shall assist in the process of ensuring that accredited state parties and caucuses are submitting regular information as required under this article.

Section 1-5. Rules and Procedures of the Accreditation Committee

1-5.1 Committee Structure. The Accreditation Committee (AC) is a standing committee of GPUS. Each accredited state party and caucus may have up to three representatives serve as members of the AC, and shall inform the AC co-chairs when naming or removing committee members. The AC shall maintain an email list for the communication of committee business and to use in formal decision making.

1-5.2 Leadership. Two co-chairs shall be elected by the membership of the committee yearly, or when a vacancy occurs, either at an in person meeting of the committee at the GPUS Annual National Meeting, or in an online election to be conducted using ranked choice voting. When possible the co-chairs should be of different genders and from different states. The job of the co-chairs is to keep the committee on task and provide leadership to the various sub groups of the committee working on specific tasks.

1-5.3 Quorums and Active Members. An active member of the Accreditation Committee shall be defined as a duly-selected member who has been active within the last three months, taking part in discussion, decisions, or subgroup work within that period. The co-chairs shall be responsible for keeping a roster of active members, though they may ask other committee members to maintain the list. A majority of the active membership shall constitute a quorum for formal decision making. There shall be no quorum requirements for the committee to take on projects, designate people to work on projects, or other informal work that moves the committees operations and projects along.

1-5.4 Decision-Making. Formal proposals may be submitted by any member of the AC, either online or at a meeting. The committee should attempt to achieve consensus before proceeding to any voting process. For online decision-making, if five days after a proposal is posted there are no outstanding concerns, consensus can be declared and the proposal deemed passed. If no consensus is achieved, a vote may be declared by the co-chairs, with at least five days given for votes to be cast online. For decision-making at meetings including teleconferences, except under exigent circumstances, one week notice is required. Either online or at a meeting, in voting situations, approval will require that 2/3 of the voting, non-abstaining members of the committee must vote in the affirmative for passage. In exigent circumstances, a meeting can be called with 24 hours notice, and if 2/3 of all active members are present and achieve consensus, or if 2/3 of all active members vote in the affirmative on a proposal, the proposal shall be deemed passed. The co-chairs shall conduct, certify and record the tally of the votes.

1-5.5 Reports. The AC shall make regular reports to the Green National Committee on its work. The co-chairs shall lead that process.

1-5.6 Committee Members Rights and Responsibilities.

1-5.6(a) Committee members are expected to be professional, respectful, and tolerant in their conduct within the committee.

1-5.6(b) Any member who violates committee rules, acts in a disrespectful or offensive manner, engages in illegal activities within the committee, or in the opinion of the AC acts behaves in a manner inconsistent with Green Party values, will be sent written notice from the co-chairs by agreement of the AC. A written notice will also be sent to the member's state party or caucus.

1-5.6(c) If after repeated notices a committee member continues to engage in behavior as described in this section, or if extreme circumstances such as threats of violence warrant a more immediate response, the committee is empowered, through its decision-making processes, to remove the individual from the committee or issue lesser sanctions such as suspension or removal from the email list. Any such actions must be reported to the member's state party or caucus and also to the National

Committee. The National Committee, or another body designated by the National Committee, shall have the ability to review such matters and may override the Accreditation Committee.

1-5.7 Complaint Process.

1-5.7(a) Green Party members who wish to submit a formal complaint against an accredited state party in which they reside, or against an accredited caucus with which they identify, may make such a formal submission to the Accreditation Committee, which, at its discretion, may decide whether or not to hear the complaint. Complainants are expected to exhaust the relevant processes of the relevant state party or caucus before submitting such a complaint. If the AC decides to hear the complaint, a member of the AC will be appointed as the case manager, and the complaint will be forwarded to the relevant state party or caucus. Except in exigent circumstances, the state party or caucus should be given 30 days to respond to the complaint. If the process extends beyond the time of the response, the AC should endeavor to handle the matter as expeditiously as possible.

1-5.7(b) Accredited state parties or caucuses which wish to submit a formal complaint against another accredited state party or caucus may make such a formal submission to the Accreditation Committee, which, at its discretion, may decide whether or not to hear the complaint. If the AC decides to hear the complaint, a member of the AC will be appointed as the case manager, and the complaint will be forwarded to the relevant state party or caucus. Except in exigent circumstances, the state party or caucus should be given 30 days to respond to the complaint. If the process extends beyond the time of the response, the AC should endeavor to handle the matter as expeditiously as possible.

Section 1-6. Accreditation Process

1-6.1 Application to the Green Party of the United States. Applications should be delivered to the Secretary of the Green Party of the United States, who will notify the National Committee that the application has been received; and to the Co-Chairs of the Accreditation Committee, who shall forward the application to all members of the committee for review. The application should include a formal letter of application which notes the date and setting of the formal decision to pursue accreditation; bylaws; platform (if applicable); a current list of officers; and any additional documentation that may support the application.

1-6.2 Caucus Membership. In addition to other application materials, applicant caucuses must include a list of at least 50 members, residing in at least 10 different states which have affiliated state parties, or under extraordinary circumstances, a request for a waiver explaining why the state distribution requirement cannot reasonably be met; including for such members their name, address, phone number (if available), email address (if available), and the state party of which they are members. This information will not be included in a packet or proposal made available via a publicly accessible email or website. State parties which wish to verify information about caucus members identified as member of those state parties must be given information for verification, but must keep such information off of publicly accessible email or websites.

1-6.3 Accreditation Committee Review. The process should be speedy and non-bureaucratic, erring on the side of permissiveness. The applicant state party or caucus should be able to see the Accreditation Committee as a welcoming committee and as an advocate to the NC. The Accreditation Committee may request additional paperwork and assurances, in order to determine that the applicant state party or caucus satisfies the criteria as delineated in this article.

1-6.4 Report to National Committee. The AC shall make its report to the NC, except in extraordinary situations, within 60 days of receiving the application. The report may be presented either to a meeting of the NC, or via e-mail, whichever can be done most promptly. The report to the

NC should explain the committee's findings based on the relevant affiliation criteria, and recommend for or against approval of the application.

1-6.5 Appeals Process. An application which is contested by an individual or group may require the gathering of extensive evidence by the committee. This might include an on-site visit by an authorized representative of the committee. A written report should be mailed or e-mailed to the NC and the matter should be discussed and decided at the next general meeting of the NC. Should the accreditation committee recommend against approving an application, the committee is obligated to report that negative recommendation to the applicant party, giving the applicant state party or caucus adequate time to prepare an appeal to the NC.

Section 1-7. Revocation of Accreditation and Other Statuses

1-7.1 National Committee. As the highest authority of the Green Party of the United States, the National Committee retains the discretion to revoke the accreditation of a state party or caucus, or to take actions short of revocation which may include the temporary suspension of voting rights for an accredited state party or caucus, provided that such actions are conducted in accordance with the bylaws, rules, and procedures of the Green Party of the United States. Except as otherwise specified in this article, only the National Committee may take action which would revoke or impose sanctions or limits upon the accreditation of a state party or chapter.

1-7.2 Request to Terminate Accreditation. A formal request on the part of a state party or caucus to terminate their accreditation may be accepted by the Steering Committee without action of the National Committee. If the Steering Committee declines to formally accept the request it must be referred to the National Committee. In the event of the submission of such a request, the Accreditation Committee should attempt to prepare a report on the situation for submission to the National Committee.

1-7.3 Non-Participation.

1-7.3(a) An accredited state party or caucus which has failed to cast votes for a period of six months, or has not sent delegates to two consecutive meetings of the National Committee, may be assigned to Non-Participating Status. This determination can be made by a joint action of the Accreditation Committee and Steering Committee, or by a direct action of the National Committee.

1-7.3(b) State parties and caucuses assigned to Non-Participating status will retain Green Party accreditation and, insofar as possible, will continue to receive NC correspondence; but shall not be counted toward the NC quorum.

1-7.3(c) State parties and caucuses may exit Non-Participating status by submitting an updated list of officers and National Committee delegates, and by informing GPUS that such delegates will again be participating members of the National Committee. Such submission should be accepted on its face, with voting rights restored, and NC quorum increased. Such submission may subsequently be subject to complaints or grievances filed as described in this article.

1-7.3(d) Extended Non-Participation. Should a state party or caucus maintain Non-Participating status for over one year, and if in its determination such state party or caucus is no longer a functional entity, the Accreditation Committee may recommend a formal disaffiliation vote to the National Committee.