

Indiana Green Party Bylaws

Last amended on 3 June 2017

ARTICLE I—NAME

The name of this organization shall be: Indiana Green Party (INGP)

ARTICLE II—PURPOSES AND VALUES

We, the active members of the INGP have come together to form a new political party based on the Ten Key Values of the Green movement. The INGP shall strive to understand and live the values of the Green movement in our electoral work, and shall promote the understanding and practice of these values in our neighborhoods, our cities and counties, our state and country, and internationally. The following Ten Key Values shall be embodied in the organization and actions of the INGP, and shall guide all actions of the Party at all times:

- *Ecological wisdom
- *Grassroots democracy
- *Social justice
- *Nonviolence
- *Decentralization
- *Community-based economics
- *Feminism
- *Respect for diversity
- *Personal and global responsibility
- *Future focus / sustainability

These values will be clarified through the ever-unfolding dynamics of study, discussion, and action.

ARTICLE III--Membership

SECTION 1. Membership Definition

- A. Membership in the INGP shall be open to all Indiana residents who agree with the Ten Key Values (Article II) and the Political Practices (Article VI, Section 1) as a framework for organizing and action.
- B. Membership shall be renewable annually and shall be arranged in two categories:
 - 1)–Active state members are members in good standing of a Green local or of the unaffiliated state caucus. Members of locals shall pay local dues, and all active members shall pay state dues and participate actively in local and state organizations. Only active state members are eligible to be delegates to state gatherings and to vote on state issues.

2) All persons who join a local Green party in the state of Indiana shall be considered members of the INGP. However voting privileges shall be given to those individuals who sign the INGP membership form and pay or waive their dues.

3) Supporting members are people who wish to support the work of the organization without being an active member.

C. All membership dues shall be reduced or waived upon request by a member with a financial hardship such as family income below a living wage.

1)-No documentation or means testing is required to request or to grant dues reductions and waivers.

2)-Dues waivers and reductions do not diminish members' rights. Such members have all the rights and obligations of dues-paying members.

SECTION 2. Membership Standards

Policies against the following shall apply at all levels of the INGP. Violation by any individual Green, local chapter or confederal body may be cause for sanctions including (as appropriate) reprimand, suspension or loss of accreditation, recall, or expulsion.

A. Committing the INGP or any of its affiliated locals or confederations to actions, endorsements, and other policy positions outside that body's decision-making process;

B. Misrepresenting the decisions and policies of any such Indiana Green body;

C. Making false statements in an application for membership or affiliation to any such Indiana Green body;

D. Financial irregularities with Indiana Green funds;

E. 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 by the INGP or any of its affiliated locals or confederations; or acting as a strike-breaker, agent provocateur, or government or corporate informer;-

F. Acting to willfully disrupt the freedom of speech, press or assembly of any individual or body of the INGP; or

G. Violating the principles of grassroots democracy as embodied in Article II of the bylaws.

SECTION 3. Membership Review Process

A. Each level of the confederation may sanction or exclude members of affiliates who behave in a manner inconsistent with the membership standards of the INGP as defined in Section 2.

B. Charges of violation of membership standards against any member or affiliate of the INGP may be made by any member.

C. Locals, or the next larger level of the confederation responsible for organizing in their locality, are responsible for reviewing the standing of the members who are charged with violating membership standards.

D. All charges shall be in writing. The accused and the accuser shall have the first option of seeking a resolution of the conflict through mediation if both parties agree.

1) No charges shall be published or otherwise made public prior to the conclusion of the mediation process, without written consent of all parties involved.

E. If mediation is not agreeable or not successful, the case shall be handled expeditiously by a special committee selected by lot from the membership of the appropriate level of the confederation.

1) A written report will be prepared by the mediator(s) and sent to the special committee.

2) The substance of the conflict referred to the special committee must remain strictly confidential, with the exception of notice of the convening of the special committee and names of the parties involved.

3) The special committee shall hear charges, report finding, make recommendations, and then disband.

4) Findings of the special committee shall be reported to all individuals and groups involved, appropriate regional bodies, and any mediators.

F. All members or affiliates charged with violations of membership standards shall have the right to appear, to bring witnesses, and to testify.

G. The burden of proof shall be on those making the charges. After hearing the report of the special committee and statements by those making the charges and by those charged, the membership assembly of the appropriate level of the confederation shall have the right to vote and sanction, including exclusion, by a 66 2/3% vote.

H. Sanctions may be automatically appealed to the next larger level of the confederation. Appeals shall be heard at the next meeting of the appropriate body where the appeal has been announced through that body's normal procedures.

SECTION 4. DUES

Dues shall be collected yearly by the Treasurer according to the following:

A. Active: \$25.00

B. Student, senior citizen, and low-income: \$10.00

C. Waiver: \$0.00 - By application to and approval of Secretary

D. Continually failing, after receiving written notice, to renew Membership will result in removal from the active member list.

E. Locals may give their members the option of paying state dues along with local dues. The local treasurer would then forward the member's state dues to the state treasurer. Otherwise the local member will pay state dues directly to the state.

ARTICLE IV—LEADERSHIP

SECTION 1. OFFICERS

Any office holder of the INGP may not hold office in another political party committee or political campaign committee within the Green Party of the United States or any other political party in the United States.

A. Chair and Assistant Chair

1) It shall be required to have at least one female in this two-person position. If a female coordinator is not available or elected, a member of a minority (i.e.; racial, ethnic, sexual orientation, age, disability) group may serve as coordinator. If a minority member is not available, then any male may serve as an interim coordinator until either a female member or minority group member is available.

2) Coordinators shall be the official spokespeople for the INGP, accountable to the membership and required to obey any imperative mandates or other decisions of the membership.

3) Coordinators shall chair the regular meetings and the Congresses, be responsible for the organization of these meetings, solicit proposals and propose an agenda.

4) Coordinators shall also cosign, with the Treasurer, all required documents.

B. Documentarian

1) The Documentarian shall oversee membership application procedures, maintain membership lists, take minutes of regular business meetings and Congresses, keep and make available to members all non- financial records, and perform general secretarial duties.

C. Treasurer

1) The Treasurer shall have charge of and be responsible for all funds, prepare financial reports for meetings, cosign with the coordinators all required documents, develop and submit budgets, and perform general treasurer duties under oversight of the coordinating committee.

- 2) The Treasurer shall research and understand legal responsibilities of the position and keep accurate and up-to-date records that may be inspected by government entities or members of the INGP.
- 3) Within ten days of the INGP becoming a regular political committee, the Treasurer shall obtain and file a completed Statement or Organization form with the State of Indiana Election Division.
- 4) The Treasurer must understand and complete all reporting requirements within legally specified deadlines as delineated in the Indiana Campaign Finance Manual published by the Indiana Election Division.
- 5) The Treasurer shall report financial activity to the membership and the coordinating committee.
- 6) The Treasurer may not be the Treasurer of any Political Action Committee.

D. Communications Director

- 1) The Communications Director shall have control of the INGP social media accounts and shall contribute to the INGP website as necessary.
- 2) The Communications Director shall compose and send out the INGP electronic newsletter.
- 3) The Communications Director shall compose and send out press releases and press statements as necessary/requested by the CC.

E. Delegates to the Green Party of the United States National Committee.

SECTION 2. COORDINATING COMMITTEE (CC)

A. The CC conducts the organizational business of the Party under the policy guidance of the Congress on an interim basis between Congresses.

B. The CC shall be accountable to the Congress, and CC members shall be recallable by the bodies which chose them.

C. The CC shall be charged to:

- 1) Institute policies and mandates established at the Congress;
- 2) Meet on a monthly basis, and whenever possible, meetings may be held on the internet,
by conference calling, or by live web conferencing;-
- 3) Organize and maintain a Clearinghouse of the INGP members, organizational contacts and materials;

- 4) Vote on the position of State Committee Chairperson (per Indiana Code, Title 3, Ch. 5) from amongst the CC membership;
- 5) Oversee Working Groups and Committees;
- 6) Rule on affiliations of local committees and caucuses; and
- 7) Set date for INGP Congress.

D. Terms for officers last from the INGP annual Congress at which they are elected to the next annual INGP Congress. No person may serve in one officer position for more than five consecutive years.

E. The CC shall consist of:

- 1) State elected officers (Coordinators, Documentarian, Treasurer, Communications Director).
- 2) One delegate each from locals, the unaffiliated caucus and any other caucuses and confederations chartered by the Congress. Each member shall choose one level of confederation through which they are represented in the CC.
- 3) One delegate from each Working Group.
- 4) GPUS National Committee delegates.

F. Voting Process for the CC:

- 1) The CC shall attempt to reach consensus on all decisions. When consensus cannot be reached, the INGP officers (co-coordinators, secretary, and treasurer) shall vote. A majority of officers must vote in favor of a decision for it to pass.
- 2) A simple majority of the CC total Delegates constitutes a quorum on any matter.

G. Replacement of Officers: should a vacancy on the CC occur between Congress sessions, the decision on replacing them should be as follows:

- 1) Replacement of members stated in **IV, 2, E 2** shall be decided by the body they represent.
- 2) Replacement of officers not mentioned above shall be nominated by either of the Coordinators and selected by the majority of the **CC**.
- 3) All positions shall be filled no later than two months of the officer's departure.

ARTICLE V—MEETINGS

SECTION 1. COORDINATING COMMITTEE

The CC of the INGP shall meet on a monthly basis. Meetings may be held through conference calling, live web conferencing or in person.

SECTION 2. CONGRESS

The INGP Congress shall meet at least annually.

SECTION 3. CAUCUSES

Caucuses are required to meet annually.

SECTION 4. PROCEDURAL AUTHORITY

The reference on standard procedure for the conducting of business shall be Roberts Rules of Order (Modern Edition).

ARTICLE VI--POLITICS

The INGP shall be organized and act in accord with the principles of grassroots democracy.

SECTION 1. GENERAL POLITICAL PRACTICES

A. Affirmative action shall be taken within all parts of the organization to reach goals of gender, racial and social diversity and balance in the allocation of responsibilities among members. Additionally, participation in the organization shall be open to all interested people of Indiana, with a special effort made to seek the membership and leadership of those people who belong to historically disempowered social groups.

B. There shall be strict accountability of all parts of the organization to the membership base. Any decision made by delegates, by the leadership or by other parts of the organization can be rescinded or changed by the membership as a whole.

C. All delegates and the leadership shall obey imperative mandates, that is, they must follow the instructions of the bodies they represent. They are free to express their personal views but must state them as such, and they may abstain from implementing, but shall not act against, such mandates if their consciences require. Mandates of discretion may also be given.

D. All delegates and leadership shall always be immediately recallable by the body that chose them.

E. It shall be strongly encouraged that the responsibilities of all delegates and the leadership be rotated, on a staggered basis, to find the fullest and broadest participation of the membership.

F. Decisions of the organization and its duly constituted parts shall be made democratically and only after all points of view are fairly and openly heard. Members shall vigorously strive to reach

decisions by consensus. If consensus fails, then a vote may be taken (see appropriate voting sections in Article IV, Section F).

G. Members in the minority on a decision may publicly dissent from that decision, provided they clearly distinguish their position from that of the majority. Minorities may call for a procedure of division in the allocation of imperative mandated votes. All such minority positions of members are to be noted in meeting minutes.

H. Meeting minutes, financial records, membership lists and all other organizational records and materials shall be open to inspection by any member of good standing in the organization. All meeting minutes shall be posted on the INGP web site as soon as possible.

I. A full range of nonviolent strategies and tactics shall be considered desirable in pursuing Green social change, including but not limited to demonstrations, boycotts, strikes, lobbying, education, civil disobedience, direct action, electoral politics, and building alternative institutions.

SECTION 2. ELECTORAL POLITICAL PRACTICES

A. State Party Chairperson

1) IN Code (Title 3, CH. 5) requires state parties with ballot line access to elect a Chairperson. The CC shall elect the INGP State Committee Chair from among the membership of the CC.

2) The State Chairperson, as an elected representative of the INGP, shall be accountable to the Congress or, on an interim basis, the CC and shall abide by the bylaws of the INGP.

3) The State Party Chair shall be an active member in good standing of the INGP for at least six (6) months.

B. Candidate Selection and Standards

1) Candidates shall be members in good standing of the INGP.

2) Candidates shall publicly commit to Article 1, the Purposes and Values, of the Charter and include the Ten Key Values on their campaign literature.

3) Candidates for statewide public office shall be selected by the Congress or by the CC. If selected by the CC, this decision is subject to an immediate referendum by all active state members. Candidates for local office will be selected by the appropriate local chapter.

4) Candidates, as elected leaders, shall be accountable to the Congress or, on an interim basis, the CC and shall abide by the bylaws of the INGP.

ARTICLE VII-- STRUCTURE

The INGP shall be a confederation of local Greens chapters and an unaffiliated Greens caucus in the state of Indiana and any other alliance or confederation agreed upon by the INGP in keeping with the purpose and values of this organization.

SECTION 1. LOCAL CHAPTERS

A. Local chapters shall be comprised of a minimum of three (3) members of the INGP.

B. Local chapters in counties are encouraged to confederate to form a county party.

C. INGP requires locals to apply to the CC for affiliation. The minimum requirements are:

- 1) Adoption of the 10 Key Values of the Green Party;
- 2) Minimum three active INGP Members in the local;
- 3) Complete and functional bylaws which express the Ten-Key Values;
- 4) Political goals, program or platform which expresses the Ten Key Values Leaders elected according to the bylaws;
- 5) Familiarity with Roberts Rules of Order;-
- 6) No substantial disputes within the local regarding any of the above points; and
- 7) Member forms for Locals must include agreement with the Ten Key Values.

D. The CC shall review all affiliation requests and has the authority to grant or deny provisional affiliation. The CC will make a recommendation to the next scheduled INGP Congress whether to convert the provisional affiliation to regular affiliation, and the Congress will vote to accept or reject the recommendation.

SECTION 2. LOCAL AND REGIONAL CAUCUS

A. DEFINITIONS

- 1) Local caucus shall be defined as a group of Greens who meet and intend to become a Local Green Party Chapter of the INGP.
- 2) Regional Caucus shall be defined as a group of Greens over a wide or multiple county area who meet and intend to become a Local Green Party Chapter of the INGP.

B. To help Locals to draft bylaws, the INGP requires that each local address the following issues in their bylaws. There are many examples of Green bylaws on the Internet. Purpose and values Political practices Membership Structure Membership standards and review process How to amend bylaws.

C. To encourage the formation of local chapters and to increase participation of unaffiliated Members in Party business, the INGP shall recognize local caucuses.

- 1) Three or more INGP Members may request to form a local or regional caucus and elect a delegate to the CC and Congress. The CC will review, approve or deny all written requests within 60 days of receipt. Requests to form a local caucus must be sent to the Secretary of the INGP at the Party's post office box.
- 2) A local caucus may be formed only in jurisdictions where there is no affiliated local chapter or other recognized local caucus.
- 3) Upon approval by the CC a local caucus has twelve months to meet the requirements to affiliate as a local chapter or dissolve.

D. Requirements for Local or Regional Caucus

- 1) Caucus must meet a minimum of one (1) time annually for the purpose of electing a delegate.
- 2) Minutes and delegate voting results are to be forwarded to the INGP Secretary within three weeks of meeting to elect delegates.
- 3) INGP CC must be notified of Local or Regional Caucus Delegates a minimum of one month prior to the INGP Annual Congress.

SECTION 3. UNAFFILIATED CAUCUS

- A. The unaffiliated caucus shall be comprised of members of the INGP who have no local chapter to join.
- B. Once one or more locals form in a county, memberships in the unaffiliated caucus shall be transferred to the member's preferred local in the county.
- C. INGP Members not choosing to participate through their county local may opt to seek representation through or by joining a local of their choice.
- D. Unaffiliated INGP Members may choose to participate through an affiliated local of their choice in lieu of participating in the Unaffiliated Caucus.
- E. INGP shall only recognize one unaffiliated caucus at any one time for the purpose of delegate representation or voting rights.

SECTION 4. CONGRESS

- A. The INGP Congress shall be the highest decision-making body of the organization and shall meet at least one time a year.
- B. Special Congresses may be called with the approval of at least 33 1/3% of the active members.

C. Congress shall be comprised of delegates from the locals, the unaffiliated caucus and other caucuses and confederations chartered by the Congress.

D. As Congress is comprised of delegates from the chartered Green bodies in Indiana, only delegates to Congress shall vote, except as indicated below. Delegates shall have a number of votes equal to the number of active INGP members in their local party, whose INGP membership is up-to-date at the time of the Congress. Individual members may choose to carry their own votes instead of the local delegate or in the absence of a local delegate. The Secretary shall bring to the Congress a record of: 1) active and up-to-date INGP members in good standing with their local party, 2) membership in the unaffiliated caucus, and 3) all other caucuses and confederations chartered by Congress.

1) Secretaries/Documentarians from county locals shall notify the INGP Documentarian of delegate choice(s) at least one week prior to the annual or special congress.

2) Organizer of unaffiliated or regional caucus shall notify the INGP Documentarian of delegate choice(s) at least one week prior to the annual or special congress.

3) Congress shall have the discretion to recognize delegates and delegations not communicated to the Secretary in a timely manner.

4) A quorum for Congress is 60% of the total votes available in the locals, the unaffiliated caucus and any other caucuses or confederations chartered by the Congress, based on one-member/one-vote.

E. Congresses shall have the charge to:

1) Review, amend, and ratify the Charter, by-laws, program, principles, and policies;

2) Elect and recall delegates and leadership;

3) Elect and recall candidates for public office;

4) Sanction members;

5) Review and amend the actions of delegates and leadership;

6) Charter, review, and amend the actions of all working groups; and

7) Review, initiate and set strategic and policy parameters for actions and campaigns.

F. Voting Process for Congress

1) Any active member in good standing of the INGP shall have the right to speak to Congress regarding any proposal. The Coordinators shall determine the length and frequency of such speech with the goal of encouraging participation by everyone present.

2) Any active member in good standing of the INGP shall have the opportunity to submit proposals to Congress. Proposals must be submitted in writing to the Coordinators at least 45 days prior to the Congress. The Coordinators shall publish proposals on the INGP web site and general electronic mailing lists 30 days prior to Congress.

3) Decisions shall pass, after attempts to reach consensus have failed, by the following schedule:

a) 66-2/3% of votes shall be required to approve any written draft amendments or changes to the bylaws, to recall delegates and leadership, to join or leave confederations and alliances, and to sanction members.

b) 50%+1 affirmative vote shall be required for all other matters, including to accredit Green electoral candidates; and instant runoff voting (IRV) shall be used to select the winning option when there are three or more options.

c) In the case of multiple decisions with multiple choices Congress shall use a multiple vote system. In such an event, each voter shall choose as many of the choices as decisions (positions) are available. No choice may be listed more than once. Those choices that receive a majority of the number of votes are elected.

d) Abstentions shall not be counted toward percentage of votes.

e) The annual INGP Congress shall have the authority, on a case-by-case basis, to override, by a vote of 75% of voting delegates and voting members in attendance at the Congress, the requirement of advance submission of resolutions for bylaws and platform changes and resolutions for other purposes.

SECTION 5. WORKING GROUPS

A. Working Groups (WGs) shall be formed as the need arises by the Congress or at CC meetings.

B. WGs shall adhere to the bylaws, choose their own delegates to the CC and take responsibility for working on projects chartered by the Congress or by the CC.

C. **WGs** may commission committees.

D. Voting Process for WGs and Committees:

1) 50%+1 affirmative vote shall be required for all matters, and IRV shall be used to select the winning option when there are three or more options to choose from.

SECTION 6. REFERENDA

A. If 15% or more of active members oppose a decision by the CC, signify so in writing, and wish the membership to vote on the decision, the CC shall conduct a referendum.

B. A ballot question must be drawn up and sent (via email or other preferred method) to the INGP Coordinators. The ballot question must be concisely presented and contain statements

representing all points presented. A vote must take place within 28 days of the date when the Coordinators receive and confirm the signatures of the written request for a referendum. 50%+1 of active members must vote for the ballot for it to pass.

C. The referendum shall use email to reach members with email addresses and postal mail to reach members who do not have email or cannot be reached at their email addresses.

ARTICLE VIII--SELECTION OF DELEGATES TO THE GPUS PRESIDENTIAL NOMINATING CONVENTION

The INGP CC shall select the INGP delegates to the GPUS Presidential Nominating Convention.

ARTICLE IX—AMENDING BYLAWS

SECTION 1. NOTICE REQUIREMENTS

These bylaws may only be amended at a meeting called specifically for that purpose, or at an INGP Congress, to which appropriate notice of proposed amendments to be considered has been given.

A. Appropriate notice of amendments to these bylaws shall consist of notice in writing, issued through email or regular mail, to the Documentarian who shall distribute the amendment to all members.

B. Proposals submitted in writing to Coordinators at least 45 days prior to Congress or special meeting and proposals published on the INGP web site and general electronic mailing lists 30 days prior to meeting at which the vote is to be taken.

SECTION 2. VOTES NEEDED FOR APPROVAL

A 66-2/3% majority of votes of those present and voting shall be required to approve any written draft amendments or changes to these bylaws.

A. Abstentions shall not be counted toward the percentage of votes.

B. Only votes from members in good standing shall be counted toward the percentage of votes.