

Bylaws of the Charleston Green Party

Article I: Name

The name of this organization shall be the Charleston Green Party.

Article II: Statement of Purpose

The Party shall act as a local affiliate of the South Carolina Green Party and shall serve the residents of the Lowcountry. The Party shall uphold and advocate the Ten Key Values of the Green Party:

- Ecological Wisdom
- Grassroots Democracy
- Social and Economic Justice
- Nonviolence
- Decentralization
- Community Based Economics
- Gender Equity
- Respect for Diversity
- Personal and Social Responsibility
- Sustainability and Future Focus

In addition, the Party shall nominate and promote individuals for public office.

Article III: Membership

Membership shall be open to all residents of the Lowcountry. No individuals shall be denied or stripped of membership in the Party based on gender, race, ethnicity, age, nationality, nation of origin, religious creed, sexual orientation, disability, or any other reason other than conduct in the deliberate disinterest of the Party as determined by the current members.

Article IV: Organizational Structure

The organizational structure of the Party shall consist of the following elected offices:

- Coordinating Committee
- Treasurer
- Secretary

All elections shall be by approval voting.

The Coordinating Committee shall be composed of three individuals, serving six month terms. Its duties shall include but not be limited to:

- Facilitating meetings and policy decisions
- Managing public relations
- Planning
- Overseeing administrative activities
- Promoting diversity in membership and leadership

A term limit of eighteen months will be applied to all Coordinating Committee Seats.

For the initial election,

- The candidate with the most votes shall be eligible for three consecutive terms.
- The candidate with the second most votes shall be eligible for two consecutive terms.
- The candidate with the third most votes shall be eligible for one term.

The Treasurer's duties shall include but not be limited to:

- Collecting donations in accordance with state law
- Managing all bank accounts
- Recording all transactions
- Reporting quarterly to secretary and coordinating committee

The Secretary's duties shall include but not be limited to:

- Handling and keeping all party business and correspondence
- Maintaining an up-to-date file on all members
- Informing the membership of all meetings and activities

Both the Treasurer and Secretary shall serve six months terms, with no term limits applicable.

Article V: Decision-Making Process

The Party shall use the method of majority vote for all decisions.

Article VI: Finance

The Party shall adopt a budget and fund its operation through donations, fundraising events, and South Carolina Green Party and the United States Green Party grants. Endorsed candidates shall seek public financing where available.

Article VII: Freedom of Information

Records of meetings, finances, and membership shall be open to inspection by any members in good standing upon request.

Article VIII: Coalition Building and Cooperation

The Party shall cooperate and/or form coalitions with other like-minded organizations.

Article IX: Removal from Office

Any member of the Party may submit to the Coordinating Committee a petition signed by no less than four active members to ask for the removal of an officer. The case shall at first be submitted to a conflict resolution process. If the process does not yield an agreeable solution, the matter shall be put on the agenda for the next meeting, where the issue shall be given ample time for debate. At the end of the discussion a vote shall be taken by secret ballot on whether or not the officer in question shall be removed from office. A majority vote by the members present will be binding, and its effect will be immediate.

Article X: Amendment Process

Any member of the Party may submit to the Coordinating Committee a petition with no less than four signatures of active members in order to propose an amendment to this document. The proposed amendment(s) shall be put on the agenda of the next meeting, and the subject will be given ample time for debate. A three-fourths majority vote by the members voting will approve the proposed amendment.

Article XI: Ratification

A majority vote by the members present at an official party meeting will ratify this document.

Ratified by unanimous vote on October 20, 2008.