

Bronx Green Party

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1 Mission Statement

The Bronx Green Party (BXGP) is the Green Party political & activist organization for Bronx County in New York City. BXGP works for two complementary goals: The first is to be a county organization as defined by the Green Party of New York State; the Bronx Green Party is the sole body responsible for nominating Green Party candidates for elective offices within Bronx County. Based on a democratically defined platform, BXGP will organize issue campaigns that work to advance our program, capacities, and enable our electoral campaigns to meet their goals. BXGP will keep the institutional memory of past campaigns and operational activities, and provide support for future Green Party work in the Bronx.

2 Definitions

2.1 The Bronx Green Party County Organization: “County Organization”, “CO”, “BXGP”

2.2 Green Party of New York State: “GPNYS”

2.3 Green Party of New York State’s State Committee: “SC”

3 Organization Structure

3.1 Membership

3.1.1 All those whose most recent registration filed with the NYC Board of Elections indicates their party affiliation as Green Party are members.

3.1.2 Current enrollment as a Green shall be understood as individuals who are enrolled in time to be included in the most recent report of the NYC Board of Elections.

3.1.3 If legally ineligible to register to vote, registered Supporting Members in good standing (as defined in the GPNY Rules, please see Article 5 Section 2) and currently residing in Bronx County are eligible BXGP members. Supporting members shall have all of the rights of membership provided for in these rules, except where prohibited by statute or else specified in these rules. Supporting Members not restricted by state law must also be an Enrolled Member of the Green Party registered to vote at a Bronx residence.

3.1.4 Only members of the Bronx Green Party shall be authorized by the Green Party of New York State to elect from their membership the Officers of Bronx Green Party, and to otherwise officially represent the Green Party in Bronx County, NY.

3.2 Executive Officers

3.2.1 Any Green Party enrollee in the Bronx is eligible to be an Executive Officer (defined below).

3.2.2 The Officers are the Chair, Secretary, and the Treasurer (defined below).

3.2.3 The Officers are elected by the CO to two-year terms at the first meeting set as close as possible to and just after each New Year's Day. After the founding meeting all candidates must be nominated by a member of BXGP at a meeting held before the end of November (see Voting below).

3.2.4 All Officer positions are limited to three consecutive terms per person. A former officer may run again for an officer position if one full term has passed after the end of that person's last term.

3.2.5 The Chair and the Secretary shall sign the party authorizations.

3.2.6 The Executive Committee shall consist of all the Officers for BXGP. The Executive Committee is authorized to make decisions on behalf of the BXGP CO in between county meetings and by majority vote of the Executive Committee, except decisions requiring party authorization. Decisions regarding fundraising, marketing, elections and allies require approval of the CO. All Executive Committee decisions are subject to review by the CO at the next county meeting.

3.2.7 Duties of the Executive Committee:

1. The Executive Committee members are the day to day administrators of activities for BXGP that have been assigned to the Executive Committee by the CO. The Executive Committee shall meet in between county meetings.
2. The Chair is the chief executive officer for BXGP. The Chair is the primary spokesperson for the Bronx Green Party. The Chair is the day to day administrator of all activity not directly assigned to the Executive Committee by these rules or delegated to someone else by the CO. The Chair is responsible for organizing Executive Committee meetings. The Chair shall sign the party authorizations.

3. The Secretary is the chief information officer for BXGP. Responsibilities include:

- a. Keeping updated information about enrollees and CO members
- b. Preparing items for each meeting
- c. Publishing the agenda and all minutes
- d. Managing contact and reference databases
- e. Retaining, organizing and preparing all official documents for BXGP
- f. Signing party authorizations

4. The Treasurer is the chief financial officer for and signatory on all BXGP financial transactions. As default head of the budget committee, the Treasurer is responsible for preparing and presenting the annual budget of BXGP CO for approval at the second meeting of the new year. This person is responsible for keeping, organizing and rectifying all financial records and documents. The Treasurer and the Chair are only allowed discretionary spending of items under \$100 and these items must be directly related to meeting the needs of the Bronx Green Party; All other expenditures require the approval of the CO.

3.2.8 In the event of a vacancy for the position of Chair of Bronx Green Party, the remaining officers shall designate a green party member of the CO to fill the position until the next meeting of the CO where a permanent replacement will be chosen.

3.2.9 A meeting to consider the removal of an Officer for an egregious action, or failure to carry out the functions of the office held, may be called by petition of 25% of the members. The petition must be filed with the BXGP Secretary. If the petition is going to be filed against the Secretary then the petition needs to be filed with the Chair and the Chair will continue the process in the manner the Secretary would have done so according to these rules. The Secretary shall call a meeting of the BXGP within 40 but no fewer than 20 business days of receiving said petition and determining that such petition is valid. At that time, the Secretary shall e-mail a meeting notice to all members. At the meeting, a simple majority vote is required to remove an Officer.

3.3 Committees

3.3.1 Committees exist to pursue specific BXGP activities.

3.3.2 BXGP members may form or disband a committee by a majority vote at a county meeting with the exception of the Executive Committee. The Executive Committee shall not be disbanded.

3.3.3 BXGP members who want to create a committee may do so by submitting a mission statement to the Secretary at least 10 days in advance of the meeting that is to vote on such committee.

3.3.4 Committee Co-Chairs must be approved within six weeks of the committee's creation. Gender parity among the Co-Chairs must exist when possible.

3.3.5 A committee must submit a mission statement to the Secretary within three months of its creation date. This statement should define its purpose and specify goals. Guidelines for membership on the committee must be included.

3.3.6 A committee must submit a budget to the Treasurer within six months of its creation date.

3.3.7 Each committee must file a report with the Secretary at least seven days prior to scheduled BXGP county meetings. The report should clearly outline the current progress and status of the committee.

3.3.8 If six (6) or more reports have not been submitted by a committee, then the Secretary will ask said committee(s) to elect new Co-Chairs for said committee(s).

4 Procedures

4.1 Quorum

4.1.1 A quorum for County meetings shall consist of 5 members, two of whom must be Executive Officers.

4.2 Voting

4.2.1 For routine CO business, voting may be done by a show of hands. For internal party elections, written ballots and the single transferable vote tabulation method will be used.

4.2.2 **Single Transferable Vote:** BXGP shall use the following procedure for the ranked choice vote in internal party elections, and decisions as appropriate, as provided

for in these rules. Members shall cast a vote for each candidate in order of preference: 1,2,3, and so on. The threshold for election shall be determined by the following formula: $1 + \text{votes cast}/(\text{seats} + 1)$ rounded down to the nearest whole number. An STV election shall proceed according to the following steps:

- a. Any candidate who reaches or exceeds the threshold with first preference votes shall be declared elected.
- b. If a candidate has more first preference votes than the threshold, that candidate's surplus votes shall be fractionally transferred to other candidates according to the next preference listed on each ballot. The surplus fractional vote shall be expressed as a percentage of that candidate's total votes: surplus percentage = $(\text{number of votes} - \text{threshold})/(\text{number of votes})$.
- c. If no one new meets the threshold after the transfer of surplus votes, the candidate with the fewest votes shall be eliminated and that candidate's votes shall be transferred to the next preference listed on each ballot.
- d. Steps a, b, and c shall be repeated until a winner is found for every available seat or there are as many seats as remaining candidates.
- e. 50 percent of the BXGP members elected to the state committee shall be individuals who identify as being women. If during the counting of the votes the number of elected individuals who identify as being women would drop below 50% with the elimination of one more such candidate, then those remaining candidates that identify as being women shall not be eliminated.

4.2.3 The BXGP County Organization may overturn any decision made by the Officers by a two-thirds vote at a county meeting.

4.2.4 Each member of a committee has one vote for committee meetings.

4.2.5 No proxy voting is allowed, Absentee Ballots validated by the Secretary are allowed.

4.3 Meetings

4.3.1 BXGP County Organization meetings will be scheduled to take place no fewer than two weeks before each GPNYS SC meeting. Meetings must be announced no later than 10 days before the date of the county meeting. Members shall be responsible for the correct contact

information for them being on file with the Secretary and notifying the Secretary of any changes to this information and address.

4.3.2 The Secretary, or in this person's absence the Chair, shall be responsible for notifying all members of meetings.

4.3.3 Proposals to amend these rules must be supported by a minimum of two-thirds of the members present at a county meeting, including at least two (2) Executive Officers. The text of the proposed amendment(s) must be submitted to the membership at least five days prior to the county meeting. Rules amendments shall not go into effect until approved by the State Committee of the Green Party of New York State.

4.3.4 Notice of any proposed rule change must be made at least one prior meeting before it can be voted on.

4.3.5 The Executive Officers may call a meeting at any other time by simple majority vote.

4.4 Candidate Selection

4.4.1 At the meeting prior to but closest to the start date of the petition period for an election, BXGP green party members shall include and vote on any requests for party authorizations for electoral offices, either general or special, pursuant to Section 6-120 of the Election Law of the State of New York.

4.4.2 If a certificate of nomination is required for a person to become the Green Party candidate in a special election, a preferential vote of the BXGP members present and voting will determine the Green Party nominee. The Executive Officers shall use multiple tools to organize an emergency county meeting for the purpose of determining who shall be the Green Party nominee.

4.4.3 Nominations For Public Office

- a. Political Independence: The Bronx Green Party shall be politically and economically independent of the big banks, corporations, and their political representatives in the Democratic, Republican, and allied parties that permit the running of fusion candidates on their ballot lines who are also on the Democratic or Republican ballot lines.
- b. Financial Independence: The Green Party and all of its candidates for public office shall not accept financial contributions from for-profit businesses, their trade associations, or associated political action committees.

- c. Enrolled Green Party Candidates: Green Party candidates shall be enrolled members of the Green Party, unless otherwise provided for in these rules.
- d. Green Party Candidates Not Enrolled in the Green Party: The Green Party may nominate, designate, and/or authorize a candidate who has filed his or her enrollment in the Green Party, but pursuant to Election Law remains officially enrolled in another party until after the next general election. The Green Party may nominate, designate, and/or authorize a candidate who has chosen to remain enrolled in no party.
- e. Candidates of Green Party Allies: The Green Party may nominate, designate, and/or authorize the candidates of other political parties or independent bodies that share Green Party principles and goals and are politically and financially independent of the big banks and corporations and their political representatives in the Democratic, Republican, and allied parties.
- f. Candidates of Democratic, Republican, and Allied Parties: The Green Party shall not nominate, designate, and/or authorize the candidates of the Democratic and Republican parties or any other party or independent body that has a policy that permits nomination, designation, and/or authorization of candidates of the Democratic, Republican or allied parties. Green candidates shall not accept ballot lines offered by the Democratic, Republican, and/or their allied parties.
- g. District Nominations: The nomination, designation, and/or authorization of candidates for office in any political subdivision of the County shall be made by a vote announced and open to only the enrolled members of that political subdivision being within the jurisdiction of the BXGP CO.
- h. Multi-County District Nominations: If a district comprises more than one county and at least one of these counties has an affiliated County Organization, then the nomination, designation, and/or authorization of a candidate shall be made by a meeting of the organized County Organization or Organizations.

4.4 New York State Election Law & Political Campaign Funding

- a. Individuals who attempt to take action(s) in violation of New York State election law shall be banned from BXGP email lists for a length of time determined by the CO.
- b. The Treasurer for the Bronx Green Party and campaign managers for candidates shall periodically meet with the candidates for public offices representing the Bronx as a county or electoral districts in the Bronx to make sure that they are following BXGP rules

regarding financial independence. Candidates for public office who do not follow this rule will be banned from BXGP email lists for a length of time determined by the CO.

4.5 Endorsements

The Bronx Green Party shall endorse candidates for public office who are registered with the Green Party. The Bronx Green Party shall not endorse a candidate for public office who will be running in a Green Party primary election.

5 Miscellaneous

5.1 BXGP Logo

The BXGP CO can choose a logo for BXGP. Changes to the logo as well as the selection of a new one must be approved by the BXGP CO. Placement of the logo on advertisements and documents must be directly related to the business of the BXGP and must be approved by the Executive Officers of the BXGP. Only Executive Officers can place the BXGP logo on advertisements and documents.

5.2 Conformity with Green Party of New York State Rules & Policies

All rules and actions of this County Organization shall be in accordance with the Rules and Policies of the Green Party of New York State.