



Ohio Green Party  
People Planet Principles

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FEDERAL ELECTION  
COMMISSION

2016 AUG 31 PM 4: 21

CONSTANCE GADELL-NEWTON  
OHIO GREEN PARTY

OFFICE OF GENERAL COUNSEL  
1021 E. BROAD STREET  
COLUMBUS, OHIO 43205

August 12, 2016

Federal Elections Commission,  
Office of General Counsel  
999 E Street, N.W.,  
Washington D.C. 20463

Re: C00622928

Request for Advisory Opinion regarding the Ohio Green Party PAC

To whom it may concern,

This is in response to your letter dated August 10, 2016, informing the Green Party that we need to seek an advisory opinion regarding whether the Green Party of Ohio meets the definition and requirements of a State Committee. This letter is hereby requesting that advisory opinion.

As a State Committee, we are responsible for the day-to-day operation of the Green Party at the State level. The bylaws state that the organization performs functions such as endorsing political candidates, and it sets out a process for this as well as a Statewide organizational plan. We believe the bylaws, therefore, meet the requirement of 2 U.S.C 431(15) and 11 CFR 100.14. Additionally, as a political party, we are an association, committee or organization which nominates candidates for Federal office, and we run candidates whose names will appear on the election ballot as the candidate of such association, committee or organization. Dr. Jill Stein, the Green Party's candidate for President, has received or expended in excess of \$5,000.00 for her campaign in 2016 and 2012. Accordingly, she fulfills the definition of a "candidate" for the purposes of 2 U.S.C. 431(2).

Attached to this letter, please find a copy of the bylaws for this organization. Additionally, we are attaching documentation from the Ohio Secretary of State's office showing some of the activities of the Green Party of Ohio which support the claim that the Green Party is a recognized political party for the purposes of the FEC.

Ohio Secretary of State Directive 2016-26, Chapter 13, Section 1.03 describes the requirements for minor political parties in Ohio. The Directive requires that "In 2014, a political party whose candidate for governor received less than 20 percent but not less than two percent of the total vote cast for that office at the 2014 general election remains a minor political party for a period of four years after meeting these requirements." In the 2014 election, Anita Rios, the Green Party candidate for Governor, received 3.33% of the vote, ensuring minor party status for the next 4 years after that election. <http://www.sos.state.oh.us/sos/elections/Research/electResultsMain/2014Results.aspx>

The Green Party of Ohio is recognized as an affiliate by the Green Party of the US, the National Green Party. The Green Party of Ohio sent delegates to the National Green Party Convention in Houston, TX August 4-7, 2016; the delegates were properly credentialed and the Ohio delegates took part in voting for and choosing the US Presidential Candidate.

On August 10, 2016, Secretary of State Jon Husted recognized that the Green Party properly certified its candidates for President and Vice-President for the upcoming November 2016 election: <http://www.sos.state.oh.us/sos/mediaCenter/2016/2016-08-10-a.aspx> Accordingly, Jill Stein and her running mate Ajamu Baraka will appear on the ballot as candidates for President and Vice-President this November.

Currently, the Ohio Green Party has active candidates running for local and Federal offices, including Constance Gadell-Newton for Ohio State Representative, Joe DeMare for U.S. Senate, Bob Fitrakis for Franklin County Prosecutor and Joe Manchik for U.S. House of Representatives from Ohio's 12<sup>th</sup> District. Additionally, we will be gearing up for party building activities this fall to support our Presidential candidate Dr. Jill Stein and meet the threshold for continued party status.

If you have any further inquiries or require other information, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,



Constance Gadell-Newton  
Robert J. Fitrakis  
Co-Chairs

Ph: 614-288-1082

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FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20463

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RQ-1

OFFICE OF GENERAL

August 10, 2016

JASON M. BLEIM, TREASURER  
OHIO GREEN PARTY PAC  
1021 E BROAD STREET  
COLUMBUS, OH 43205

**Response Due Date**

IDENTIFICATION NUMBER: C00622928

**09/14/2016**

REFERENCE: STATEMENT OF ORGANIZATION

Dear Treasurer:

This letter is prompted by the Commission's preliminary review of the report(s) referenced above. This notice requests information essential to full public disclosure of your federal election campaign finances. **Failure to adequately respond by the response date noted above could result in an audit or enforcement action.** Additional information is needed for the following 1 item(s):

- Your Statement of Organization indicates in Line 5(d) that you are a state committee for the Green Party. A state committee is defined as the organization which, by virtue of the bylaws of a political party, is responsible for the day to day operation of such political party at the state level, as determined by the Commission. (52 U.S.C. §30101(15) (formerly 2 U.S.C. §431(15)))

Please be advised that before using the contribution limits and/or statutes applicable for state parties, your committee must petition the Commission in the form of an advisory opinion to determine if it satisfies the criteria for state party status. (See Advisory Opinion 2002-10 on the FEC website at <http://www.fec.gov>)

**Please note, you will not receive an additional notice from the Commission on this matter.** Adequate responses must be received by the Commission on or before the due date noted above to be taken into consideration in determining whether audit action will be initiated. Failure to comply with the provisions of the Act may also result in an enforcement action against the committee. Any response submitted by your committee will be placed on the public record and will be considered by the Commission prior to taking enforcement action. **Requests for extensions of time in which to respond will not be considered.**

OHIO GREEN PARTY PAC

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Electronic filers must file amendments (to include statements, designations and reports) in an electronic format and must submit an amended report in its entirety, rather than just those portions of the report that are being amended. If you should have any questions regarding this matter or wish to verify the adequacy of your response, please contact me on our toll free number (800) 424-9530 (at the prompt press 5 to reach the Reports Analysis Division) or my local number (202) 694-1133.

Sincerely,



Christopher Morse  
Senior Campaign Finance Analyst  
Reports Analysis Division

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# Bylaws

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS OF THE GREEN PARTY OF OHIO as required by the State of Ohio

- ORC 3517.02 Contents:

## **Preamble**

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## **Preamble**

*We the people, in order to form a political party committed to Ecological Wisdom, Social Justice, Nonviolence and Democracy, and according to the laws and customs of the State of Ohio, do hereby set forth the Constitution and Bylaws of the Green Party of Ohio. The organization created by the adoption of this document replaces any previous formation calling itself the Green Party of Ohio. The Green Party of Ohio is a political party that is democratically structured. We seek to comply with state laws and organize along the lines of existing political jurisdictions within the state of Ohio. The purpose of this document is threefold:*

- 1. To accurately describe the form of our political party in a way that facilitates its development, organization and sustenance.*
- 2. To satisfy the requirements of the Ohio Revised Code regarding political parties existing in the State of Ohio.*
- 3. To grant specific and limited authority to the various parts of the Green Party of Ohio.*

## **Article I - NAME AND PURPOSE**

- A. The name of this political party is the Green Party of Ohio (herein after GPOHIO).
- B. Mission Statement: The GPOHIO exists in order to focus the political power of the people to: - preserve and restore viable ecosystems, - establish social justice and equity, - foster participatory democracy, - promote and practice nonviolence as a means of conflict resolution, and - ensure the rights of a community-based economic system for all people.
- C. Key Values The GPOHIO, like other Green Parties, is based on values. These values are: Ecological Wisdom, Social Justice, Nonviolence, Grassroots Democracy, Community Based Economics, Respect for Diversity, Decentralism, Personal and Global Responsibility, Feminism and Future Focus.

## **Article II - MEMBERSHIP AND PARTY ORGANIZATIONS**

### **A. Membership in the GPOHIO shall include:**

1. Qualified electors who vote in the primary elections of the GPOHIO.
2. Qualified electors who have signed a Declaration of Candidacy petition for a Green Party candidate.
3. Political candidates who run as candidates of the Green Party, whether or not these candidates are endorsed by the GPOHIO or its parts.

### **B. Green Party Organizations aligned with the GPOHIO shall include:**

1. State (defined according to Ohio State Board of Education District boundaries) and county committees elected by direct vote of party members in even-numbered year primary elections which have agreed to be organized according to these bylaws and the constitution of the GPOHIO.
2. Central committees and their members, specific issue committees and task forces which are created by and accountable to the GPOHIO Convention and State and/or County Central Committees. Only affiliated members of the GPOHIO as defined in Article II, Section A shall be eligible to serve on State and County Central Committees.

### **C. All PACs, Candidate Committees, etc., are considered separate from and unaffiliated with the GPOHIO.**

## **Article III – DECISION-MAKING BODIES, EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, FUNCTIONARIES, AND RECALL**

### **A. Decision-Making Bodies**

1. The highest decision-making body of the GPOHIO is the part of the Ohio electorate that votes in the Green Party primary.
2. The Convention, consisting of affiliated members of the GPOHIO pursuant to current Ohio law, is empowered to set broad goals, objectives and policies; ratify the platform, elect representatives and delegates; endorse candidates in the name of the GPOHIO, adopt and modify this Constitution and Bylaws, and allow for review of the performance of the State and County Central Committees.
3. Central Committees of Minor Political Parties in Ohio
  - a. State and County Central Committee members shall be elected at primaries in even-numbered years according to the Green Party of Ohio Statewide Organizational Plan ratified this date, January 23, 2010 and contained within Appendix I of this Constitution and Bylaws. Modified on Feb. 15, 2014.
  - b. The State Central Committee reserves the right to prepare the platform ratification process and candidate endorsement and presidential elector selection process and selection process for national Green Party delegates to be used at the State Convention,

and to interpret, strategize and implement plans for achieving the goals, objectives and policies set by the State Convention. This includes the raising and expending of funds towards these ends in the name of the GPOHIO; the endorsement of activities by, and the participation in coalitions by the Green Party of Ohio; the continued formation, development, and sustenance of the Green Party of Ohio; the cultivation and nomination of future and present candidates for office, including the endorsement of these candidates in the name of the State Central Committee; the appointment of non-voting special advisors or observers; the upholding of and the implementation of the Constitution and Bylaws of the GPOHIO, including making recommendations to the Convention for their improvement; and the representation and advocacy of the GPOHIO in all of its affairs. Endorsements of State and Federal candidates shall be made by the GPOHIO State Central Committee or Convention. Additionally, the State Central Committee shall be responsible for the advancement of Green values, recruitment of new party members, empowerment of the membership, and the establishment of subcommittees and issue committees as agreed to by its members. The State Central Committee may choose to delegate tasks for which it is responsible to subcommittees as necessary, however, ultimate responsibility for carrying out these tasks is nontransferable and remains the State Central Committee's. Members of the State Central Committee shall not be personally liable for monetary damages for any action taken, or any failure to take any action, to the fullest extent permitted by law. The GPOHIO shall indemnify any member of the State Central Committee to the fullest extent of the law.

- c. Officials to be chosen by the State Central Committee: Co-Chairpersons, Secretary, and Treasurer.

## B. Executive Committee

1. The Co-Chairpersons are responsible for arranging the bringing together of participants, possible agenda items, miscellaneous details of a meeting, and the other functionaries, especially a facilitator.
2. The GPOHIO Secretary is responsible for maintaining the current mailing lists of all Green Party County Central Committees and their members, State Central Committee members, etc. The lists of State Central Committee members, Party Officials, and Green Party County Central Committees must be maintained on the Internet Web page and must be made available to members upon request.
3. The Treasurer is legally responsible for keeping detailed records of everything received or given, providing reports to the Convention and State Central Committee and filing campaign finance reports as required by state law. The State Central Committee shall indemnify the Treasurer to the fullest extent of the law. (There may be treasurers of Green Party County Central Committees who are responsible for the record keeping and reporting activities of that particular organization.)

### C. Functionaries.

1. The Facilitator/Co-Facilitator conducts the process of the meeting at the discretion of the meeting participants. Their primary task is the orchestration of the flow of input into the meeting. The facilitator is never the presenter of an agenda item. Their role is (literally) to make it easier for the group to express its ideas and identify agreement on issues.

Tasks include:

- a. calling the group back to the agenda,
- b. keeping member comments short and to the point,
- c. restating comments for clarity as needed,
- d. applying various processes and rules when appropriate, and
- e. being attentive to the needs and input of the timekeepers, minute takers, process observers, starting and stopping the meeting on time, and generally keeping things moving along at a timely pace.

Facilitators must remain nonpartisan and objective. If they perceive a conflict of interest or become emotionally charged by a particularly intense exchange or agenda item, they should allow a co-facilitator or other acceptable meeting participant to facilitate the meeting. The facilitator may be removed from the position at any time by the agreement of the meeting participants.

2. The Recording Secretary is responsible for assuring the recording the proceedings of the meeting, noting all decisions as separate "minutes," and for producing a written copy of the minutes and a summary of the content of major discussions for distribution to the group:

- a. at the time of a decision by the group, the Recording Secretary should read out loud a written copy of the tentative agreement;
- b. a copy of the list of attendees, minutes and summary of each Convention and State Central Committee Meeting shall be mailed to each member of the State Central Committee and to each Green Party County Central Committee and this record shall be posted on the Internet Web site;
- c. costs incurred and environmental impact shall be minimized by using electronic communication where possible, a hard copy shall be maintained by the Secretary and provided at cost to any member upon request; and
- d. a proposal that is submitted to the group should be written in its final form including amendments, clarifications and refinements, and given to the Secretary for inclusion in the minutes. This guarantees that all agreed upon items get included and frees the minute taker for other duties.

3. Other offices as determined, including but not limited to Corresponding Secretary, Press and Media Secretary, Membership Chairperson, Auditor, Parliamentarian, Issue Campaign Chairpersons, etc.)

### D. Recall of the Members of State and County Central Committees including Executive Committee Members

1. Individual members of the State Central Committee may be recalled by the other members of the State Central Committee or by the Convention. Individual members of County Central Committees



may be recalled by the other members of the County Central Committee, by the State Central Committee, or by the Convention. Members of the committee must be available during the required meeting agenda time allotted for review of their activities and for questions from the participants, or face recall or probation.

2. 75% of the participants voting for recall removes the committee member from the committee.
3. 66-2/3% of participants voting for recall places the committee member on probation until the next required meeting. No State Central Committee member while on probation may be an official of the GPOHIO.

#### **Article IV - REQUIRED MEETINGS**

A. This Constitution and Bylaws will go into effect upon ratification at the January 23, 2010 Green Party of Ohio Convention.

B. Biennial Convention - the GPOHIO shall meet once every two years in order to nominate or endorse candidates, ratify platform positions, initiate projects and issue campaigns, modify the Constitution and Bylaws, review the performance of the State Central Committee, etc.

1. At the convention immediately prior to the gubernatorial election the meeting shall include the ratification of a state platform, the ratification of platform proposals to a national convention and the endorsement of candidates for Governor, Lt. Governor and other statewide offices as necessary.
2. At the convention immediately prior to the presidential election the meeting shall include the ratification of platform proposals to a national convention, the endorsement of presidential and vice presidential candidates and others as necessary, and the selection of presidential electors and delegates to the national convention of the Green Party.

C. Central Committee Meetings - ORC 3517.03, 5317.14, 3517.05, 3517.06 (Also see Appendix I)

1. At the first meeting of the State and County Central Committees as required by the Green Party of Ohio Statewide Organizational Plan contained in Appendix I, each committee shall proceed to organize by the selection of such officials as these rules provide.
2. A majority of the members of a State or County Central Committee shall constitute a quorum and shall have the authority to conduct the business of the Committee, unless otherwise provided herein or by law.
3. In case of vacancies due to death, resignation, failure to elect, or removal from the county or district from which a State or County Central Committee member was elected, the State or County Central Committee shall fill the vacancy for the unexpired term by a majority vote of the committee. The Green Party County Central Committee(s) existing within the jurisdiction in which a vacancy occurs may choose to appoint State Central Committee members to be accepted by the State Central Committee by majority vote.
4. All changes in the membership of State or County Central Committees shall be promptly reported to the Local County Board of Elections and the Secretary of State. These lists will be open for inspection at all times when the offices where they are filed are open. (See ORC 3517.06)

#### **Article V - TRANSPARENCY AND INTERNAL DEMOCRACY**

A. All required meetings and records of required meetings, decisions, and finances of the GPOHIO and Green Party County Central Committees shall be open to the members of the GPOHIO, the media and the general public.

B. Participation in task force and project meetings may be limited to the active members of those groups only to the extent required to protect the strategic interests of the GPOHIO.

C. Notices of all meetings of the GPOHIO and the State and County Central Committees must be posted publicly on the Internet Web site at least one week in advance.

1. Written notice of all meetings must be given by the Chairperson to each of the affiliated Green Party County Central Committees and to each of the State or County Central Committee members and members-elect at least five days prior to the meeting by e-mail or, if necessary, US Mail.
2. These notices must include the date, time and place of the meeting.
3. At such time as the GPOHIO is recognized as a major political party, notice must be posted in the office of the Secretary of State or County Board of Elections, as the case may be.

#### **Article VI - MEETING PROCESS, AGREEMENT-SEEKING, AND DECISION-MAKING GUIDELINES**

A. Process - "Agreement-seeking with a fallback vote" decision-making process shall be used by all parts of the GPOHIO - see the process manual for a more detailed description.

B. Order of Business

1. Seating and Introductions - Everyone should position themselves wherever they feel most comfortable in a circle (the preferred configuration for effective communication) and introduce themselves, stating their names, the group they belong to, and other relevant information such as their status at the meeting, i.e., delegate, representative, observer, etc.

2. Agenda Review - a tentative agenda should be assembled by the Chairperson including each item's title, the presenter's name, type of item (report, decision, brainstorm, etc.) and the item's time limit. In addition, there might be more than one facilitator during the meeting which should be listed alongside the items, and an indication of the priority of items or their numerical order. At the beginning of each meeting, the agenda may be reviewed by the meeting participants and altered. However, acceptance of the agenda implies a commitment to follow it.

3. Agenda Items:

- a. Reports - The Chairperson(s), Secretary and Treasurer must submit written reports at each State Central Committee meeting. Persons representing the GPOHIO at any meeting or convention must submit written reports to the Secretary including the votes cast on behalf of the GPOHIO.
- b. Proposals - In order to be considered at the Convention a proposal must be sponsored by the State Central Committee, a member of the GPOHIO State Central Committee's Executive Committee, or a County Central Committee.
- c. Constitutional Amendments and Changes to the Bylaws - Constitutional amendments and changes to the bylaws may only be made by an agreement or 66-2/3% vote of the Convention or a mail referendum of the delegates responding from affiliated Green Party County Central Committees. Proposed amendments and changes must be circulated to all registered Green Party County Central Committees at least six weeks in advance of the regularly scheduled meeting of the Convention or referendum response deadline.
- d. Review of State Central Committee activities - Agenda time may be allotted for accountability of the members of the State Central Committee.

4. Allowable interruptions during the course of a discussion:

- a. If a participant has information unknown to the rest of the group that is immediately relevant and necessary to what a speaker is saying, that participant should interrupt by saying "POINT OF INFORMATION." The facilitator should then allow that participant to briefly and concisely present their strictly informational, non-opinionated input. Following the interruption, the regular sequence of discussion is resumed.
- b. If a participant is unclear about what has been said or what is going on and interrupts with "POINT OF CLARITY," the facilitator may suspend discussion briefly to respond to that participant's question. If the facilitator is unable to clear up the confusion, another participant may be recognized to briefly offer the necessary information. This allows the participant seeking clarity to be brought up to speed so their input can be included in the ongoing discussion. Once the issue is resolved, or reasonable effort has been expended trying to do so, the facilitator should direct the group back to the regular sequence of discussion.
- c. The call for "POINT OF PROCESS" should come from any participant who sees a problem developing due to the process breakdown. Once recognized by the facilitator, the participant should briefly indicate what "point of process" is involved (such as an impending time limit, straying from the topic, dealing with a non-agenda item, etc.) and offer a proposed solution.
- d. Recall - A proposal may be made from the floor to recall a Central Committee member. This motion takes precedence over any other agenda item and upon the motion being made, the group does not seek agreement on this decision but moves directly to a vote to defer the decision or to vote on the question.

5. "Calling The Question" may occur when the facilitator or any participant of the meeting feels that discussion is complete and no new input is forthcoming, s/he may say "call the question." If it is a simple and clear proposal or decision, the facilitator may briefly restate it, check to see if there is general agreement on calling the question, and ask "Is there any call for clarification?" If there is no call for clarification, the facilitator will ask "Is there any call for concern?" If there are neither further questions or concerns, the facilitator may ask the group to indicate their agreement.

6. Proposals may come complete from a single author, group, committee, or may be formed through discussion and brainstorming during the meeting. In general, detailed or complicated proposals should be in writing and circulated prior to the meeting. During discussion of a particular item, a "sense of the meeting" often emerges that can be put into words. When a participant feels that it would be helpful, s/he should state their understanding of the "sense of the meeting" as a proposal. A presenter should have the proposal written out for clarity.

7. Seeking Agreement - Participants should clearly indicate their position either with body language or vocally so that the facilitator has no difficulty determining the sense of the meeting.

- a. Call For Clarification - The facilitator or minute taker will state the proposal and ask if there is any call for clarification. Questions about the proposal are answered during this part of the process, concerns are saved for later discussion. Once the group is satisfied that the proposal is clearly understood, the facilitator will ask if there is any call for concern.
- b. Call For Concerns - The facilitator or minute taker will restate the proposal and ask if there is any call for concern regarding the proposal. A concern is a statement of how the proposal as stated might conflict with the group's stated purpose and shared values. The facilitator will recognize those who have concerns, distill their concerns into short phrases and a co-facilitator or scribe may list them on a blackboard or easel. Listing concerns in this manner helps the group focus on the

concern, not the presenter or the person raising the concern. Concerns should be impersonal. After all the concerns have been listed, the facilitator will deal with each in turn to resolve the concerns through group discussion and friendly amendments.

- c. Indicating Agreement - If there are no questions or concerns, a test for agreement is made where the facilitator may ask for an action by the group to indicate their AGREEMENT. The facilitator should then move the group on to the next item. If there are further questions and concerns, discussion should continue, or if time has run out, the group should move on to the next item or contract for more time. In more complicated decisions and for issues which may require exact understanding of the proposal, the Secretary or minute taker should be prepared to read the proposal to the group prior to testing for agreement.
- d. Group Resolution - Concerns are resolved as the proposal is explained or changed to address them. To make agreement more easily attainable, it may be possible for a participant having difficulty accepting a proposal to offer a "friendly amendment" that expands somewhat on the original idea or changes it to a minor degree in a manner that satisfactorily addresses their concerns without altering the "sense of the meeting" on the issue. If accepted by the presenter and the group, the friendly amendment should be worded into the proposal being discussed. If, after further discussion, the proposal seems satisfactory, it should be carefully restated and the facilitator should call the question. The accepted proposal with amendments should be written down by the Secretary and confirmed by the presenter in its final form for inclusion in the minutes.
- e. Standing Aside - If, after reasonable discussion and exploration, the group cannot resolve the concerns through friendly amendments, the facilitator should try to determine the depth of the concerns. The facilitator will ask if those with concerns will "stand aside" to allow the group to reach "agreement." The individuals who "stand aside" from the decision may be noted in the minutes with their reasons recorded. Many decisions can be made in this way without resorting to voting and without harmful consequences to the group. However, if a large percentage of the group is "standing aside," the rest of the group should weigh the consequences of making the decision without the support and inclusion of those who are "standing aside."
- f. Withdrawal of the Proposal - If those with concerns are not willing to stand aside from the decision, the facilitator will ask the presenter if s/he will withdraw the proposal or the part of the proposal which is causing concern so that agreement may be reached. If not, the proposal can be delegated to a committee of resolution.
- g. A Committee of Resolution may be formed which includes skilled representatives of all sides of the issue who are acceptable to all members of the larger group. They may meet during a break or temporarily withdraw from the larger group, which should then occupy itself with some other relatively minor issue, and attempt to come to agreement. The resolution this committee develops may then be carried back to the larger group and introduced for discussion and approval. It may be necessary to reconvene the smaller group for further attempts at achieving a workable solution before agreement can be reached.

8. The fallback vote to defer decision/vote - If the committee of resolution of the group absolutely cannot reach agreement, and it is determined that a decision must be made at the particular meeting, the facilitator will call for the group (voting members only) to vote on whether or not to defer the issue. If the vote to defer passes by 50% + 1, then a decision on the item is postponed for consideration at a future meeting. If the vote to defer does not pass, the facilitator then calls for a vote on the proposal. If the search for agreement through this process is unsuccessful, a group decision may be made by taking a vote on the issue. If the voting members or delegates vote to accept or reject the particular proposal (66-2/3% on substantive issues and changes to the

Constitution and Bylaws, 50% +1 on procedural issues) the decision becomes binding and is entered into the minutes with a record of votes for and against, including abstentions. This means of decision-making should be used only as a last resort and it can be perceived as an abandonment of the principles of the consensus model of decision-making. Sometimes, with pressure of time and a sense of urgency, the group may vote on much of its agenda.

9. Evaluation - If the process is to improve, there must be an opportunity to review what went on and why, and a time to suggest ways to make it work better next time. For a large group the scribe can make a list on a blackboard or a large sheet of newsprint that the whole group can see. Headings should be placed at the top: a "-" on the left side, and a "+" on the right side. In brainstorming fashion and without argumentation or discussion, the group should create a list of all the things that did not work well under the "-" and of all the things that did go well under "+". After listing, the group should briefly discuss how to improve those items listed under "-" and, where necessary, ways of maintaining the items. Suggestions and listings should be included in the minutes. Agreed To January 23, 2010.

**(C) Ohio Green Party Endorsement Policy Adopted by OGP Convention on February 15, 2014**

(1) This Endorsement Policy is intended to provide candidate and issue endorsement parameters to the Ohio Green Party State Central Committee, all Ohio County Central Committees, and all individual members of either body [collectively the "Central Committees"]; all of whom are expected to comply with this Endorsement Policy.

(2) "Endorsement" means publicly supporting or recommending the election of a candidate for political office or recommending the passage or defeat of a ballot issue.

(3) Endorsements given by a Central Committee are considered the official position of the Ohio Green Party.

(4) A County Central Committee may only issue endorsements related to candidates and ballot issues in its county. The State Central Committee may issue endorsements related to any and all statewide and federal elections [Article III(A)(2)(b)] and ballot issues as well as endorsements on county specific candidates and ballot issues if there is no functioning county central committee in the county.

(5) For purposes of this Endorsement Policy "Green Party Candidate" means any of the following: a political candidate who is running as a candidate of the Green Party; in a non-partisan race a candidate who is a current member in good standing of the Green Party; or, a write-in candidate who is a current member in good standing of the Green Party.

1. If there is a Green Party candidate in the race Central Committees may only endorse that candidate unless that candidate has been specifically disavowed by a Central Committee, in which case an endorsement may be issued as long as it complies with the remainder of this policy.
2. In partisan races Green Party Central Committees may not endorse a member of any other recognized political party.
3. In non-partisan races with no Green Party Candidate the Central Committees may endorse candidates as long as there is no mention of the endorsed candidate's political party and the candidate does not publicly identify herself or himself as a member of another recognized political party.

(6) Subject to Sections 1-5 above Central Committees may endorse non-Green Party candidates as long as the endorsement complies with the remaining provisions of this Endorsement Policy.

(7) Central Committee endorsements related to ballot issues may be granted after the Central Committee holds at least one (1) properly convened public meeting with public notice that at the meeting the Central Committee intends to consider the ballot issue endorsement. During the meeting the ballot issue must be discussed and debated prior to an endorsement decision by the Central Committee.

(8) Other than Green Party Presidential and Vice-Presidential candidates, any candidate seeking an endorsement must appear for a public discussion/interview with the Central Committee considering the endorsement, with public notice provided consistent with the Ohio Green Party Bylaws. During the discussion/interview the candidate seeking the Green Party endorsement must affirm his or her commitment to the Green Party key values and be able to demonstrate that commitment via past, current or promised actions consistent with the key values. If granted the Central Committee's endorsement reasoning shall be put into writing. If the candidate receiving the endorsement disagrees with, or has acted inconsistently with, any Green Party key values the Central Committee must set forth a written analysis explaining both the endorsement benefits and potential endorsement detriments with an explanation of why the Central Committee believes the benefits outweigh the detriments.

(9) A County Central Committee or State Central Committee member may request that the State Central authorize endorsing a candidate not otherwise permitted to be endorsed under this Endorsement Policy. The State Central Committee may grant an Endorsement Policy exception if there is a compelling justification that is discussed and approved by the State Central Committee.

#### **Appendix I Green Party of Ohio Statewide Organizational Plan**

The Green Party of Ohio, being recognized as a minor political party in the State of Ohio will at its first opportunity elect state central committee members and county central committee members through election in the Ohio Primary Election to be conducted on May 4, 2010, and in each subsequent statewide primary. Election of State Central Committee Members The candidates will be elected within and represent the districts currently drawn along the boundaries of Ohio's 11 (eleven) State Board of Education Districts. At the primary election to be held May 4, 2010, and in each subsequent statewide primary, candidates will be found qualified if they:

- 1) Are qualified electors properly residing within the district they seek to represent.
- 2) Submit a valid declaration of candidacy and petition for candidate to the Board of Elections in the most populous county or part-county within the district by 4pm February 18, 2010, or within the appointed deadline to appear on the ballot in any subsequent statewide primary. Recognizing that candidates of newly formed political parties may seek election as a member of a newly formed political party regardless of prior party affiliation, all candidacies for these elected positions in this election will be considered valid for this purpose. Election of state central committee members at future primary elections in even numbered years, will require candidates to be affiliated members of the Green Party of Ohio pursuant to current Ohio law and in full compliance with Ohio requirements for candidates for this party office. It is the intent of this plan to elect four state central committee members from each district, including at least one man and at least one woman. If sufficient numbers of potential candidates reflecting required gender equity do not file declarations of candidacy and petitions for candidates then that gender specific seat shall be held unfilled. The elected term of state central committee members shall commence six days after certification of election by the Board of Elections in the most populous county of the district and expire two years later or six days after certification of the next primary election held in even-numbered years, whichever is longer. Vacancies may be filled by a majority vote of state central committee members, as provided in Article IV, Section C.2 of the Green Party of

Ohio's bylaws and in accordance with current Ohio law. Upon election and certification by the Boards of Elections in the most populous county in each district, the newly elected state central committee will in not less than 10 days nor in not more than 15 days meet and elect two chairpersons, one man and one woman, a secretary and a treasurer. The party officers will serve at the pleasure of the state central committee. Within 30 days of the election, the party's secretary will file the names and addresses of the state central committee and party officers with the Secretary of State. Election of County Central Committee Members Furthermore, this plan provides for the creation of county central committees, requiring committee persons to also be elected to those positions at the primary election in even-numbered years. The candidates will be elected within and represent the county in which they seek election at the primary election to be held May 4, 2010. Candidates will be found qualified if they:

- 1) Are qualified electors properly residing within the county they seek to represent
- 2) Submit a valid declaration of candidacy to the County Board of Elections by 4pm, February 18, 2010, or within the appointed deadline to appear on the ballot in any partisan primary.

Recognizing that candidates of newly formed political parties may seek election as a member of a newly formed political party regardless of prior party affiliation, all candidacies for these elected party positions in this election will be considered valid for this purpose. Election of county central committee members at future primary elections in even numbered years will require candidates to be affiliated members of the Green Party of Ohio pursuant to current Ohio law and in full compliance with Ohio requirements for candidates for this party office. It is the intent of this plan to elect a maximum of 15 county central committee members per county, when there are at least 5 candidates, no more than 60% may be of any gender. If sufficient numbers of potential candidates reflecting required gender equity do not file declarations of candidacy then that gender specific seat shall be held unfilled. Election of county central committee members shall be conducted in each county in the state. The elected term of county committee members shall commence six days after certification of election by the Board of Elections and expire two years later or six days after certification of the next primary election held in even-numbered years, whichever is longer. Vacancies may be filled by a majority vote of county central committee members, as provided in Article IV, Section C.2 of the Green Party of Ohio's bylaws and in accordance with current Ohio law. Upon election and certification by the Board of Elections the newly elected county committee will in not less than 10 days nor in not more than 15 days meet and elect two chairpersons, one man and one woman, a secretary and a treasurer. Within 30 days of the election, the county committee secretary will file the names and addresses of the members of the county central committee and committee officers with their County Board of Elections. Adopted January 23, 2010 On behalf of the Green Party of Ohio Anita Rios Co-chairperson January 23, 2010 David Berenson Co-chairperson January 23, 2010 Timothy Kettler secretary January 23, 2010

Handwritten text at the top of the page, possibly a title or header, which is mostly illegible due to fading.

Handwritten text in the middle of the page, appearing to be a list or a set of notes, also mostly illegible.



# Green Party of Ohio

1021 East Broad Street, Columbus, Ohio 43205  
614-374-2380

August 8, 2016

Mr. Jon Husted  
Ohio Secretary of State  
180 East Broad Street 16<sup>th</sup> floor  
Columbus, Ohio 43215

Dear Secretary of State Jon Husted:

This letter is to certify to you, as the Ohio Secretary of State, the placement on the presidential ballot of Ohio the following names as President and Vice President for the Ohio Green Party:  
President: Jill Stein; Vice President: Ajamu Baraka.

This certification is in accordance with Chapter 3505.10(B)(3). This is in accordance with both the Ohio Green Party's state and national conventions. The state convention was held on April 3, 2016 and the national Green Party convention was held August 4-7, 2016. The above referenced candidates are certified in accordance with the rules of the Ohio Green Party and the Green Party of the United States.

This certification as required by law designates the following presidential electors to satisfy the requirements of Chapter 3505.10(B)(3).


1. Phillip Mohorich, 170 East 192nd St., Euclid, OH 44119
2. Constance Gadell-Newton, 1082 Fair Ave., Columbus, OH 43205
3. Tekla Taylor-Lagway, 5100 Kingshill Dr., Columbus, OH 43229
4. Gwen E. Marshall, 1417 Bercliff Ave., Cincinnati, OH 45223
5. Donald L Rucknagel, 621 E. Mehring Way, Apt. 1209, Cincinnati, OH 45202
6. Dorsey R. Stebbins, 11625 Mount Holly Ct., Cincinnati, OH 45240
7. Jim Villani, 4966 Brookwood Rd., Boardman, OH 44512
8. Robert Fitrakis, 1021 East Broad St., Columbus, OH 43205
9. Suzanne Patzer, 1021 East Broad St., Columbus, OH 43205
10. Stephen Caruso, 6463 Blacks Rd., SW Pataskala, OH 43062
11. Joseph DeMare, 517 South Main St., Bowling Green, OH 43402
12. Anita Rios, 2626 Robinwood Ave., Toledo, OH 43610
13. Nathaniel Lane, 331 Crestline Ave, Cincinnati, OH 45205
14. Kim Wise, 387 Amazon Ave., Cincinnati, OH 45220
15. Mary A Rios, 5611 Dennison Rd, Toledo, OH 43615

2016 AUG - 8 PM 2:37

16. Adela Rios, 5611 Dennison Rd, Toledo, OH 43615
17. Douglas Jambart Sweet, 808 Village Trail Rd., Maumee, OH 43537
18. Connie Hammond, 166 Acton Road, Columbus, OH 43214

If there are any questions or concerns regarding this official certification, please contact Robert Fitrakis at 614-374-2380 or robertfitrakis@gmail.com.

Sincerely,

  
Connie Coadell Newton  
Tekla Taylor-Lagway

Robert J. Fitrakis, Ohio Green Party Co-Chair  
Constance Gadell-Newton, Ohio Green Party, Co-Chair  
Tekla Taylor-Lagway, Ohio Green Party Secretary

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Home / Media Center / 2016 News Releases / Major & Minor Political Parties Certify Candidates for Ohio Ballot, Independent and Write-In Candidates File

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### MEDIA INQUIRIES

Joshua Eck  
Press Secretary  
[JEck@OhioSecretaryofState.gov](mailto:JEck@OhioSecretaryofState.gov)  
(614) 466-2729

Tweets by @OhioSOSHusted

Ohio SOS Jon @OhioSOSHusted

We've partnered w @OhioHistory 2 produce an eBook that can be used as a tool 2 educate/engage people in US Democracy bit.ly/sos-book

Ohio: Pathway to the ...  
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49m

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### NEWS RELEASE

## MAJOR & MINOR POLITICAL PARTIES CERTIFY CANDIDATES FOR OHIO BALLOT, INDEPENDENT AND WRITE-IN CANDIDATES FILE

August 10, 2016

**COLUMBUS** – Ohio Secretary of State Jon Husted announced today that all recognized Major and Minor Political Parties in Ohio have certified their candidates for President and Vice President of the United States, solidifying the parties' place on Ohio's ballot in the November 2016 Presidential General Election.

**The Democratic National Committee:**  
*Certified by Representative Marcia Fudge and Mayor Stephanie Rawlings-Blake*

**For President of the United States:** Hillary Rodham Clinton

**For Vice-President of the United States:** Timothy Michael Kaine

**The Green Party of Ohio:**  
*Certified by Green Party Co-Chairs Robert J. Fitrakis & Constance Gadell-Newton*

**For President of the United States:** Jill Stein

**For Vice-President of the United States:** Ajamu Baraka

**The Republican National Committee:**  
*Certified by U.S. House Speaker Paul Ryan and Convention Secretary Susie Hudson*

**For President of the United States:** Donald J. Trump

**For Vice-President of the United States:** Michael R. Pence

Today (90th day before the Presidential General Election) also marked the filing deadline for independent candidates for President and Vice President of the United States.

**The following individuals have filed to run for President (and Vice President) as an Independent Candidate:**

- Darrell Castle (V.P., Scott Bradley)
- Richard Duncan (V.P., Ricky Johnson)
- Charles Earl (V.P., Kenneth Moellman, Jr.)
- Michael Steinberg (V.P., "Rocky" Roque De La Fuente)

Secretary Husted will direct the county boards of elections to validate the petitions and signatures of the independent candidates by Friday, August 19, 2016.

The following individuals have filed to run for President (and Vice President) as a Write-In Candidate

**(deadline to file is August 29th):**

- Michael Bickelmeyer (V.P., Robert Young)
- Ben Hartnell (V.P., Dave Marshall)
- Douglas Thomson (V.P., Thomas Ducro)

Pursuant to Section 3505.01 of the Ohio Revised Code, the Secretary will certify the official form of the ballot no later than August 30, 2016.

**Additional Information:**

- [Democratic National Committee Presidential Nomination](#)
- [Republican National Committee Presidential Nomination](#)
- [Green Party of Ohio Presidential Nomination](#)

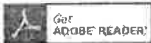
###

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## MEDIA CENTER

### MEDIA INQUIRIES

Joshua Eck  
Press Secretary  
[JEck@OhioSecretaryofState.gov](mailto:JEck@OhioSecretaryofState.gov)  
(614) 466-2729

Tweets by @OhioSOSHusted

Ohio SOS Jon Husted  
@OhioSOSHusted

We've partnered w @OhioHistory 2 produce an iBook that can be used as a tool 2 educate/engage people in US Democracy  
[bit.ly/sus-book](http://bit.ly/sus-book)

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### NEWS RELEASE

#### Filed Presidential Candidates Primary Election Candidates

As of the close of business Wednesday, December 16, 2015, the candidates below have filed with our office to run in the 2016 Primary Election. **Today (4:00pm) was the filing deadline** for anyone wishing to appear on the ballot during the 2016 Primary Election.

For **President of the United States\*** (listed in alphabetical order)

*View the candidates' filing documents [here](#)\*\**

- Jeb Bush, Republican
- Ben Carson, Republican
- Chris Christie, Republican
- Hillary Clinton, Democrat
- Ted Cruz, Republican
- Roque "Rocky" De La Fuente, Democrat
- Carly Fiorina, Republican
- Lindsey Graham, Republican
- Mike Huckabee, Republican
- John Kasich, Republican
- Martin O'Malley, Democrat
- Rand Paul, Republican
- Marco Rubio, Republican
- Bernie Sanders, Democrat
- Rick Santorum, Republican
- Donald Trump, Republican
- Willie Wilson, Democrat

*\*This is a list of candidates who have filed with the Secretary of State's office. Certification of these candidates' filings must be done by January 5th  
\*\*Electronic copies may not be available for all candidates. Continue to check the link above for updates.*

For **Member of the United States Senate from Ohio** (listed in alphabetical order, alongside their stated party affiliation):

- Joseph DeMare, Green Party
- Don Elijah Eckhart, Republican
- Rob Portman, Republican
- Kelli Prather, Democrat
- P.G. Sittenfeld, Democrat
- Ted Strickland, Democrat
- Melissa Strzala, Republican

For **Supreme Court of Ohio** (listed in alphabetical order, alongside their party affiliation and the position they will seek). FTC stands for Full Term Commencing:

- Pat DeWine, Republican, Justice of the Ohio Supreme Court (FTC 1/2/2017)
- Pat Fischer, Republican, Justice of the Ohio Supreme Court (FTC 1/1/2017)
- Maureen O'Connor, Republican, Chief Justice of the Ohio Supreme Court (FTC 1/1/2017)
- John P. O'Donnell, Democrat, Justice of the Ohio

- Supreme Court (FTC 1/1/2017)
- Colleen O'Toole, Republican, Justice of the Ohio Supreme Court (FTC 1/1/2017)
- Cynthia Rice, Democrat, Justice of the Ohio Supreme Court (FTC 1/2/2017)

Candidates for all other offices must file with the county boards of elections. You may find a listing of all county boards of elections on Secretary Husted's website [here](#). Congressional and General Assembly candidates file in the most populous county in their district. You can find a listing of the most populous county in each district on page 23 of the Candidate Requirement Guide (available [here](#)).

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# Jon Husted Ohio Secretary

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### Cover Page Details

<b>Committee Name</b>	GREEN PARTY OF OHIO (GENERAL POLITICAL ACCOUNT)
<b>Report Type</b>	ANNUAL (JANUARY)
<b>Report Year</b>	2015
<b>Line(1) Amount Forward</b>	\$1,300.76
<b>Report Filed Date</b>	02/01/2016
<b>Line(2) Total Contribution Received</b>	<u>\$680.00</u>
<b>Line(3) Total Other Income</b>	<u>\$0.00</u>
<b>Line(5) Total Expenditures</b>	<u>\$1,484.71</u>
<b>Line(6) Balance On Hand</b>	\$496.05
<b>Inkind Contribution Made</b>	<u>\$0.00</u>
<b>Inkind Contribution Received</b>	<u>\$0.00</u>
<b>Outstanding Debts Owed By Committee</b>	<u>\$0.00</u>
<b>Outstanding Loans Owed By Committee</b>	<u>\$0.00</u>
<b>Outstanding Loans Owed To Committee</b>	<u>\$0.00</u>
<b>Independent Expenditures Made</b>	<u>\$0.00</u>
<b>Total Ohio Receipts</b>	<u>\$0.00</u>

1 - 1

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#### Disclaimer

THE CAMPAIGN FINANCE INFORMATION IN THIS DATABASE CONTAINS DATA FROM THE YEAR 2010 TO PRESENT. THE DATABASE CONTAINS BOTH AUDITED AND UNAUDITED DATA. AS REPORTS ARE AUDITED, IT IS LIKELY THAT THE DATA WILL CHANGE. THE MOST CURRENT INFORMATION AVAILABLE FOR EACH TRANSACTION AND REPORT IS REFLECTED IN THE DATABASE.

## OFFICIAL GREEN PRIMARY BALLOT

A	B	C	
_____ County	Primary Election	March 15, 2016	
<p><b>Instructions to Voter</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>To vote:</b> completely darken the oval ( <input type="radio"/> ) to the left of your choice.</li> <li>• Note the permitted number of choices directly below the title of each candidate office. Do not mark the ballot for more choices than allowed.</li> <li>• If you mark the ballot for more choices than permitted, that contest or question will not be counted.</li> <li>• <b>To vote for a write-in candidate:</b> completely darken the oval ( <input type="radio"/> ) to the left of the blank line and write in the candidate's name. Only votes cast for candidates who filed as write-in candidates can be counted.</li> <li>• Do not write in a candidate's name if that person's name already is printed on the ballot for that same contest.</li> <li>• <b>If you make a mistake or want to change your vote:</b> return your ballot to an election official and get a new ballot. You may ask for a new ballot up to two times.</li> </ul>	<p><b>For U.S. Senator</b> (Vote for not more than 1)</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Joseph R. DeMare</p>	<p><b>For County Commissioner</b> (Full term commencing 1-3-2017) (Vote for not more than 1)</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Print Candidate Name</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Print Candidate Name</p>	
	<p><b>For Representative to Congress</b> ( _____ District) (Vote for not more than 1)</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Print Candidate Name</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Print Candidate Name</p>	<p><b>For Prosecuting Attorney</b> (Vote for not more than 1)</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Print Candidate Name</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Print Candidate Name</p>	
	<p><b>For Judge of the Court of Appeals</b> ( _____ District) (Full term commencing xx-xx-20xx) (Vote for not more than 1)</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Print Candidate Name</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Print Candidate Name</p>	<p><b>For Clerk of the Court of Common Pleas</b> (Vote for not more than 1)</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Print Candidate Name</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Print Candidate Name</p>	
	<p><b>For Member of State Central Committee</b> ( _____ District) (Vote for not more than 4)</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Print Candidate Name</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Print Candidate Name</p>	<p><b>For Sheriff</b> (Vote for not more than 1)</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Print Candidate Name</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Print Candidate Name</p>	
	<p><b>For State Senator</b> ( _____ District) (Vote for not more than 1)</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Print Candidate Name</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Print Candidate Name</p>	<p><b>For County Recorder</b> (Vote for not more than 1)</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Print Candidate Name</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Print Candidate Name</p>	
	<p><b>For State Representative</b> ( _____ District) (Vote for not more than 1)</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Print Candidate Name</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Print Candidate Name</p>	<p><b>For County Treasurer</b> (Vote for not more than 1)</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Print Candidate Name</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Print Candidate Name</p>	
	<p><b>For Judge of the Court of Common Pleas</b> (Full term commencing xx-xx-20xx) (Vote for not more than 1)</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Print Candidate Name</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Print Candidate Name</p>	<p><b>For County Engineer</b> (Vote for not more than 1)</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Print Candidate Name</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Print Candidate Name</p>	
	<p><b>For County Commissioner</b> (Full term commencing 1-2-2017) (Vote for not more than 1)</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Print Candidate Name</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Print Candidate Name</p>	<p><b>For Coroner</b> (Vote for not more than 1)</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Print Candidate Name</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Print Candidate Name</p>	
			Page 1 of 2
	A	B	C
	001 _____ TWP A	0001:1	001

This **SAMPLE** ballot provides the **CORRECT TITLES** and **ORDER OF OFFICES** for ballot layout for candidates for the March 2016 Primary Election. The space for a write-in candidate should be provided only if applicable. See ballot layout directive AOR024 1/5/2016



Special notice for Green Party Ballots: Primary election ballots for minor political parties shall list only the offices and positions for which valid declarations of candidacy have been filed.

## OFFICIAL GREEN PRIMARY BALLOT

D	County	E	Primary Election	F	March 15, 2016
<b>For Member of County Central Committee</b> (Vote for not more than 15)					
<input type="radio"/> Print Candidate Name					
<input type="radio"/> Print Candidate Name					
<p style="text-align: center;">If applicable insert: OFFICIAL QUESTIONS AND ISSUES BALLOT from this point forward</p> <p>Insert board member signatures</p>					
				Page 2 of 2	
D	001 _____ TWP A	E	0001:1	F	001

This **SAMPLE** ballot provides the **CORRECT TITLES** and **ORDER OF OFFICES** for ballot layout for candidates for the March 2016 Primary Election.  
 The space for a write-in candidate should be provided only if applicable. See ballot layout directive AOR025  
 1/5/2016

# Chapter 13

## Political Parties

Directive 2016-26  
permanent directive issued on 08/05/2016

**Jon Husted**  
Ohio Secretary of State 

Ohio Election Official Manual

### SECTION 1.01 PARTY AFFILIATION

---

#### A. Primary Election

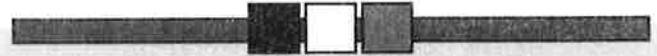
Primary election voters determine who will be nominated as candidates for political parties to compete for particular offices at the general election. Primary election voters also elect members of the controlling committees of political parties, and delegates and alternates to the conventions of political parties.<sup>1</sup> Some issues also might be on the ballot at a primary election.

For purposes of Ohio election law, an individual affiliates with a political party by voting in that party's primary election. An individual does not register a political party preference when he or she registers to vote. If a voter does not want to affiliate with a political party, then the voter may vote for issues only if any issues were certified to the ballot in that voter's precinct.

If an elector votes in a party's primary election, the elector's voting history will reflect the fact that the elector voted in that party's primary election.

---

<sup>1</sup> R.C. 3501.01(E)(1)-(2).



## B. Determining Party Affiliation

An elector is considered to be a member of a political party if he or she voted in that party's primary election within the preceding two calendar years, or if he or she did not vote in any other party's primary election within the preceding two calendar years.<sup>2</sup> Each board of elections must enter voting history and update party affiliation following each primary election. For additional information on determining party affiliation (see [Chapter 3](#) Voter Registration of this manual).

## C. Elected Official May Change Party Affiliation

A person who holds an elective office for which candidates are nominated at a party's primary election may be a candidate for a different political party's primary election if the person completes and files the appropriate declaration, Secretary of State [Form 10-Y](#).<sup>3</sup> The person's declaration must:

- Be filed not later than 4:00 p.m. of the 30th day before a declaration of candidacy and petition is required to be filed under section [3513.05](#) of the Revised Code;
- Be filed with the same official with whom the person filing the declaration of intent is required to file a declaration of candidacy and petition; and
- Indicate the political party whose nomination in the primary election the person seeks.<sup>4</sup>

No person who files a declaration, [Form 10-Y](#), can file another such declaration for a period of 10 years after the declaration is filed.

---

<sup>2</sup> [R.C. 3513.05 ¶7](#).

<sup>3</sup> [R.C. 3513.191\(C\)](#); The individual must use Secretary of State [Form 10-Y](#).

<sup>4</sup> [R.C. 3513.191\(C\)](#).



## **SECTION 1.02 MAJOR V. MINOR POLITICAL PARTIES**

---

Political parties in Ohio are either major political parties or minor political parties.<sup>5</sup>

### **A. Major Parties**

A **major** political party is a political party organized under the laws of the state whose candidate for governor or nominees for presidential electors received not less than 20 percent of the total vote cast at the most recent regular state election.<sup>6</sup> There are two major political parties in Ohio – the Democratic and Republican Parties.

### **B. Minor Parties**

A **minor** political party is a political party organized under the laws of the state as a result of one of the following:

- The minor party's candidate for governor or its nominees for presidential electors received less than 20 percent but not less than 3 percent of the total vote cast at the most recent regular state election; or
- A group of voters filed a party formation petition with the Secretary of State that satisfied the requirements of Revised Code 3517.01.<sup>7</sup>

---

<sup>5</sup> Am. Sub. S. B., No. 193 eliminated an "intermediate political party."

<sup>6</sup> R.C. 3501.01(F)(1).

<sup>7</sup> R.C. 3501.01(F)(2).

## **SECTION 1.03 MINOR POLITICAL PARTIES**

---

### **A. Establishing a Minor Political Party**

#### **1. Percentage of Total Vote**

The law provides a mechanism for a group to achieve minor political party status by fielding a candidate for governor or nominees for presidential electors and receiving a requisite number of votes:

- In 2014, a political party whose candidate for governor received less than 20 percent but not less than 2 percent of the total vote cast for that office at the 2014 general election remains a minor political party for a period of four years after meeting these requirements.<sup>8</sup>
- In 2016 and after, a political party whose candidate for governor or nominees for presidential electors receive less than 20 percent but not less than 3 percent of the total vote cast for such office at the most recent regular state election will remain a minor party for four years after meeting these requirements.<sup>9</sup>

#### **2. Petition Process**

The law also provides a mechanism for groups to become minor political parties by petition. To become a minor party by petition, a group must file a party formation petition with the Secretary of State.

The party formation petition must:

- Be signed by qualified electors equal to at least 1 percent of the total vote for governor or nominees for presidential electors at the most recent election for such office;

---

<sup>8</sup> Am. Sub. S.B. No. 193, 130th General Assembly, Section 4 (2013).

<sup>9</sup> R.C. 3501.01(F)(2)(a).

- Be signed by not fewer than 500 qualified electors from each of at least one-half of the congressional districts in the state;
- Declare the petitioners' intention of organizing a political party and of participating in the succeeding general election that occurs more than 125 days after the filing date;
- Designate a committee of not less than three nor more than five of the petitioners, who will represent the petitioners in all matters relating to the petition; and
- Name the prospective political party in the declaration. The name must not be similar to that of an existing party name.<sup>10</sup>

Upon filing the petition, the new political party comes into legal existence and is entitled to nominate candidates to appear on the ballot at the general election in odd or even-numbered years that occurs more than 125 days after the filing date.<sup>11</sup>

The Secretary of State must promptly transmit to each board of elections the separate petitions papers of that board's county.<sup>12</sup> Each board of elections must examine and determine the sufficiency of the signatures on the petition papers and return them to the Secretary of State not later than the 118th day before the general election. The petition papers must be submitted to the Secretary of State's Office along with the board's certification of the validity or invalidity of the signatures on the petition.<sup>13</sup>

<sup>10</sup> R.C. 3517.01(A).

<sup>11</sup> R.C. 3517.012(A)(1). *Libertarian Party of Ohio*, Case No. 2:13-cv-953.

<sup>12</sup> R.C. 3517.012(A)(2)(a).

<sup>13</sup> R.C. 3517.012(A)(2)(b).

- A written protest against the petition may be filed with the Secretary of State by any qualified elector not later than the 114th day before the general election.<sup>14</sup>
- The Secretary of State must determine the sufficiency of the party formation petition and notify the committee designated in the petition of that determination not later than the 95th day before the general election.<sup>15</sup>

## B. Nomination of Candidates

Each candidate or pair of joint candidates wishing to appear on the general election ballot as the nominee or nominees of the party that filed the party formation petition shall file a nominating petition not later than 110 days before the general election and not earlier than the day the applicable party formation petition is filed.<sup>16</sup>

The nominating petition must both be on a form prescribed by the Secretary of State and include the name of the political party that submitted the party formation petition.<sup>17</sup> These nominating petition forms prescribed by the Secretary, Forms 4-C through 4-G are available on the Secretary of State's website.

If the candidacy is to be submitted to electors throughout the entire state,<sup>18</sup> the nominating petition must be signed by at least 50 qualified electors who have not voted as a member of a different political party at any primary

<sup>14</sup> The protest will be resolved in the same manner as specified under R.C. 3501.39.  
R.C. 3517.012(A)(2)(c).

<sup>15</sup> R.C. 3517.012(A)(2)(a).

<sup>16</sup> R.C. 3517.012(B)(1).

<sup>17</sup> With the exception of the provisions of Revised Code 3505.03, 3505.08, 3506.11, 3513.31, 3513.311, and 3513.312, the provisions of the Revised Code concerning independent candidates who file nominating petitions apply to candidates who file nominating petitions under this Revised Code section. R.C. 3517.012(B)(1).

<sup>18</sup> This includes petitions for joint candidates for the offices of governor and lieutenant governor. R.C. 3517.012(B)(2)(a).

election within the current year or the immediately preceding two calendar years.<sup>19</sup> The nominating petition for a candidacy to be submitted to electors throughout the entire state must be filed with the Secretary of State's Office.<sup>20</sup>

If the candidacy is to be submitted only to electors within a district, political subdivision, or portion thereof, the nominating petition must be signed by not less than five qualified electors who have not voted as a member of a different political party at any primary election within the current year or the immediately preceding two calendar years.<sup>21</sup> The nominating petition for offices to be voted on by electors within a district or political subdivision comprised of more than one county but less than all counties of the state must be filed with the most populous county's board of elections according to the last federal decennial census.<sup>22</sup> The nominating petition for offices to be voted on by electors within a county or district smaller than a county must be filed with the board of elections for that county.<sup>23</sup>

Each board of elections must examine and determine the sufficiency of the signatures not later than the 105th day before the general election.<sup>24</sup> A written protest may be filed not later than the 100th day before the general election.<sup>25</sup>

The Secretary of State or the board of elections, as applicable, must determine whether the nominating petition is sufficient and notify the candidate and the committee designated in the party formation petition of that determination not later than the 95th day before the general election.<sup>26</sup>

<sup>19</sup> R.C. 3517.012(B)(2)(a).

<sup>20</sup> R.C. 3513.257(C).

<sup>21</sup> R.C. 3517.012(E)(2)(b).

<sup>22</sup> R.C. 3513.257(C).

<sup>23</sup> *Id.*

<sup>24</sup> R.C. 3517.012(B)(3)(a).

<sup>25</sup> The protest must be filed in the same manner as specified in R.C. 3513.263, R.C. 3517.012(B)(3)(b).

<sup>26</sup> R.C. 3517.012(B)(3)(c).



The committee for a party that has submitted a sufficient party formation petition, must, not later than the 75th day before the general election, certify to the Secretary of State a slate of candidates consisting of candidates or joint candidates who submitted sufficient nominating petitions. The names of the candidates or joint candidates certified by the political party slate will appear on the ballot at the general election as the party's nominees for those offices.<sup>27</sup>

If a candidate's nominating petition is insufficient or if the committee does not certify the candidate's name on the certified slate, the candidate will not appear on the ballot in the general election.<sup>28</sup>

The slate certifying the candidates must:

- Be on a form prescribed by the Secretary of State (the minor political party slate of certified candidates form, Form 4-B, is available on Secretary of State's website);
- Be signed by all of the individuals on the committee designated in the party formation petition; and
- Not include more than one candidate for any public office or more than one set of joint candidates for the offices of governor and lieutenant governor.<sup>29</sup>

If a party formation petition is insufficient, no candidate will appear on the ballot in the general election as that political party's nominee, regardless of whether any candidate's nominating petition is sufficient.<sup>30</sup>

<sup>27</sup> R.C. 3517.012(C)(1).

<sup>28</sup> R.C. 3517.012(C)(2).

<sup>29</sup> R.C. 3517.012(C)(1).

<sup>30</sup> R.C. 3517.012(C)(3).

### C. Presidential and Vice Presidential Candidates of Recognized Party

A recognized minor party must certify the names of its nominees for the offices of president and vice president to the Secretary of State no later than 90 days before the date of the general election for those offices. The certification must be accompanied by a list of the names of 18 presidential electors who will represent the party and candidates in the Electoral College, should the candidates win the general election.

### D. Participation in New Political Party's Primary Election

At the first primary election held by a newly formed political party, any qualified elector who desires to vote the new party primary ballot must be allowed to vote the new party primary ballot regardless of prior political party affiliation.<sup>31</sup>

### E. Controlling Committee of a Minor Political Party

All members of controlling committees of a minor political party are determined in accordance with party rules. The party must file a list of its controlling committee members and other party officials with the Secretary of State's Office within 30 days of their election or appointment.<sup>32</sup>

A minor political party may elect controlling committees at a primary election in the even-numbered year by filing a plan for party organization with the Secretary of State's Office on or before the 90th day before the day of the primary election. The plan must specify which offices are to be elected and provide the procedure for qualification of candidates for those offices. Candidates to be elected pursuant to the plan must be designated and qualified on or before the ninetieth day before the day of the election. Such parties may, in lieu of electing a controlling committee or other officials, choose such committee or other officials in accordance with party

<sup>31</sup> R.C. 3517.016.

<sup>32</sup> R.C. 3517.02.



Constance Gadell-Newton  
Ohio Green Party  
1021 E. Broad Street  
Columbus, Ohio 43205

October 3, 2016

Federal Elections Commission,  
Office of General Counsel  
999 E Street, N.W.,  
Washington D.C. 20463

Re: C00622928: Request for Advisory Opinion regarding the Ohio Green Party PAC

Dear Mr. Joseph Wenzinger,

You requested a factual statement, citing the Bylaws, of actions performed by the Ohio Green Party constituting activity commensurate with the day-to-day functions and operations of a political party at the state level.

As a State Committee, we are responsible for the day-to-day operation of the Green Party at the State level, as follows:

- The bylaws contemplate State and County Central committees which are elected by direct vote of Party members, as well as issue committees and task forces which are created by and accountable to the GPOHIO. (Art. II, Sec. B)
  - This year, central committee members were elected by a direct vote of party members in the primaries.
- The State Central Committee prepares the platform ratification process, candidate endorsements, Presidential elector selection, and process for National Green Party delegates. (Art III, Sec A-3.)
  - This year, the Ohio Green Party endorsed candidates, submitted Presidential electors to the Ohio Secretary of State, and sent delegates to the National Convention.
- The State Central Committee raises funds to support its activities and candidates, appoints non-voting special advisers or observers, recruits new members, promotes Green Values, delegates tasks to subcommittees as necessary, and endorses activities. (Art. II Sec. A-3).
  - This year, the State Central Committee organized a candidate recruitment informational session and training, held fund raisers to support the party, has appointed Election Observers in elections, has appointed a political director and a webmaster/technology committee, has organized to recruit new members and volunteers, and has endorsed local issues and participated in coalition building with local groups. We are in regular communication with County Central Committees.
- The bylaws contemplate an executive committee which shall carry out the functions of the

Party. (Art II Sec B).

- The Ohio Green Party has at least one conference call meeting monthly, as well as an in-person meeting at least once per year, and a Convention every two years.
- Co-Chairs bring together the agenda, usually based on email communications. Central Committee members communicate via email regularly, almost daily regarding Party business.
- The Secretary keeps the official records and the Secretary or Webmaster updates the website without official records.
- The treasurer keeps detailed records of our donations and expenditures and prepares the necessary reports and filings as required by law.
- The bylaws contemplate a process for meetings which includes guidelines for facilitation of meetings and roles in the meetings. (Art. II Sec. C) Meetings occur at least monthly. The Ohio Green Party has appointed a Press Secretary who has been making regular press releases at the request of the Central Committee based on current events and decisions made at meetings, such as a statement that the Ohio Green Party supports an issue campaign.
- The Bylaws require Central Committee meetings and a Biennial Convention, and we are in compliance with this provision. (Art IV).
  - As required, the Biennial Convention of the Ohio Green Party Central Committee endorsed candidates for Governor and Lt. Governor, Anita Rios and Bob Fittrakis, in 2014.
  - In 2016, the Convention selected electors and delegates to the National Convention of the Green Party.
- Per the bylaws, (Art VI, Sec C) the Ohio Green Party has endorsed candidates which will appear on the ballot this fall. The Ohio Green Party has succeeded in placing Jill Stein and Ajamu Baraka on the ballot for President this fall. Additionally, the Green Party has endorsed Joe DeMare for US Senate, Bob Fittrakis for Prosecutor, Joe Manchik for US House of Representatives, and Constance Gadell-Newton for State Representative. All are Green Party members in good standing.
  - We are actively promoting the Presidential candidate Jill Stein and we are in regular communication with the National Committee and the Stein campaign. We are the official organization to move the Stein campaign forward in Ohio.

We assert that the bylaws, therefore, meet the requirement of 2 U.S.C 431(15) and 11 CFR 100.14. As a political party, we are an association, committee or organization which nominates candidates for Federal office, and we run candidates whose names will appear on the election ballot as the candidate of such association, committee or organization. Dr. Jill Stein, the Green Party's candidate for President, has received or expended in excess of \$5,000.00 for her campaign in 2016 and 2012. Accordingly, she fulfills the definition of a "candidate" for the purposes of 2 U.S.C. 431(2). Joe DeMare has raised around \$8000 and has filed with the FEC.

The Green Party of Ohio is recognized as an affiliate by the Green Party of the US, the National Green Party. Please see the attached letter which documents this.

If you have any further inquiries or require other information, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,

Constance Gadell-Newton

Robert J. Fitrakis  
Co-Chairs



September 22, 2016

To whom it may concern:

The Ohio Green Party is an affiliated party of the Green Party of the United States. They send three delegates to the GPUS National Committee, and links and contacts for OGP are on the national website at [www.gp.org/state\\_parties](http://www.gp.org/state_parties).

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**Steering Committee**

**Co-Chairs**

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Darlene Elias  
*Massachusetts*  
Sanda Everette  
*California*  
Andrea Mérida Cuéllar  
*Colorado*  
Darryl! Moch  
*Washington, D.C.*  
Tamar Yager  
*Virginia*  
Bahram Zandi  
*Maryland*

**Secretary**

Jan Martell  
*North Carolina*

**Treasurer**

Brian Bittner  
*Maryland*

Jan Martell  
Secretary