

Bylaws of the Green Party of Madison County and North Alabama

- I. **The Green Party of Madison County and North Alabama** is under the wider umbrella of the Green Party of Alabama and the Green Party of The United States. Our local party platform is in line with and based on the Green Party of The United States. This includes the Ten Key Values as well as the Four Pillars. We consider North Alabama to encompass the Alabama counties of Madison, Limestone, Morgan, Jackson, Lawrence, Lauderdale, Colbert, Franklin, Marshal, and Dekalb until and unless other Green Party affiliates are established in a county outside of Madison County. The Pillars and Values will stay in lockstep with the national Green Party. See www.gp.org for more information.

- A. The Four Pillars

1. Peace
2. Ecology
3. Social Justice
4. Democracy

- B. Ten Key Values

1. Grassroots Democracy
2. Social Justice and Equal Opportunity
3. Ecological Wisdom
4. Non-Violence
5. Decentralisation
6. Community-Based Economics and Economic Justice
7. Gender Equity
8. Respect for Diversity
9. Personal and Global Responsibility
10. Future Focus and Sustainability

II. Membership

- A. Eligibility

Members should be residents of the aforementioned counties of North Alabama. Members must be 18 years of age or older; younger persons may attend meetings but may not vote or pay dues.

B. Dues

Payment of dues will be accepted at the regular monthly, in-person meetings. Payment of dues is according to the ability of the member and of an amount commiserate with the member's ability to pay while creating no hardship for the member. All disbursements from dues received will be completely transparent and available on the Green Party of Madison County and North Alabama's website.

C. Code of Conduct

The Code of Conduct is a set of principles that every member must adhere to; any violation of this code may result in disciplinary action up to and including the recommendation of expulsion.

1. We will use clear, welcoming and inclusive language and will not intentionally use racist, sexist, homophobic, or classist language.
2. We will prioritize honest and principled political struggle as a tool to build positive cohesion over negative peace, and will disagree without using demeaning, discriminatory, or harassing behavior and speech.
3. We will be open to constructive criticism.
4. We shall not pursue political struggle through sectarian demands of adherence to dogma but through discussion and debate of emergent political assessment and analysis.
5. We will remember that the people are not fighting for ideas or for the things in anyone's head. They are fighting to win material benefits.
6. We will avoid publicly sharing unsubstantiated information.
7. We will not indulge in personal attacks, pick quarrels, vent personal spite, or seek revenge.
8. We will resolve personal conflicts (as opposed to political disagreements) through deescalation and mediation.
9. We will not engage our comrades with condescension, intimidation, or dismissiveness.
10. Our political struggle will be oriented by the principles of the Green Party of the United States.
11. We will avoid making assumptions about identity or experience.
12. We will get explicit consent for all forms of interpersonal contact and communication, including when sharing personal information, photographs, or information about event attendees.
13. We understand that there is a difference between intent and impact, and will acknowledge and be held accountable for harm.
14. We will tell no lies and we will mask no difficulties.
15. We will not engage in nor tolerate any harassment or discrimination relating, but not limited to, sex, gender, gender identity or expression, sexual orientation, physical appearance, age, disability, race, color, national origin, religion, or class. We will not tolerate nor make welcome offensive or derogatory remarks, jokes, or slurs.
16. We will not tolerate nor engage in intimidation, harassment, or stalking of anyone.
17. We will not engage in nor tolerate abusive verbal or physical conduct.
18. We prioritize marginalized people's safety over privileged people's comfort. This means we will **not** act on complaints regarding ...
 - "Reverse"-isms, including "reverse racism," "reverse sexism," and "cisphobia"

- Criticism for racist, sexist, cis-sexist, or otherwise oppressive behavior or assumptions
- Reasonable communication of boundaries, such as “leave me alone,” “go away,” or “I’m not discussing this with you”;
- Communicating in a “tone” someone does not find congenial

D. Expulsion of member

Membership shall be forfeited should a member publicly go against the ten key values as well as violate any nonaggression principle. One is expelled by a general vote of party membership where 2/3rds majority of members present is required to expel. The member in question is allowed to make an appeal before the vote is carried out. (Expulsion is a tool that should only be used when all other diplomatic avenues have been exhausted or the offence is so great it bypasses all diplomatic avenues.)

III. Organization

A. Structure

The party has a unitary structure with the current official offices in the county party being ...

1. Chair
2. Secretary-treasurer
3. Organizer
4. Ballot Access Committee
5. Candidate Recruitment Committee

These positions are not exhaustive and may be expanded to include more offices as need arises. More offices may be created at the county/regional convention to be held in February. Elections to these offices will occur at the county/regional convention to be held in February. Offices take effect the moment the annual (February) meeting/convention concludes.

B. Recall

An elected or appointed group official may be recalled. Said recall follows the same process & requirements as membership expulsion.

C. Transparency

All officers must show complete transparency in all party and affiliate matters. Any failure to do so may result in disciplinary actions, including expulsion.

D. Responsibilities

1. Chair

The chair is to guide the party and ensure no bylaws are broken. They are also responsible for calling meetings into order & overseeing the process of meetings. The chair also works with Secretary-treasurer to maintain Google calendar.

2. **Secretary-treasurer**
The Secretary-treasurer is to record minutes of all group meetings once in order. They are also responsible for overseeing party funds & collection of dues. They also carry out any dispersing of funds pending group approval.
3. **Organizer**
The Organizer oversees meeting dates and events. They also are responsible for the county's social media pages & website. They work in tandem with the Chair to maintain the Google calendar. The Organizer will be responsible to create and maintain a spreadsheet of contacts for organising and disseminating affiliate information.
4. **Committees**
All committees must be approved by the membership. The only ones that are not dissolvable are Ballot Access and Candidate Recruitment. Ballot Access and Candidate Recruitment committees work on exactly those issues. Membership in a committee is voluntary and removal from a committee may happen under the same criteria as expulsion of affiliate members.

IV. **Meetings**

Regular meetings of Green Party of Madison County and North Alabama will be at least monthly and communicated by email and the group's Google calendar:

<https://calendar.google.com/calendar/u/4?cid=bWFKY29ncmVlbnBhcnR5QGdtYWlsLmNvbQ>

Meeting date for the next month will be decided at the current month's meeting. Meetings may happen more frequently than once per month. Meetings may be held online for the sake of flexibility. A yearly Convention is to be held in February to amend bylaws & elect officers. It is the responsibility of the Secretary-treasurer to follow through on meeting dates and announcements.

V. **Platform & Candidates**

The Green Party of Madison County and North Alabama follows the platform of the national Green Party (<https://www.gp.org/platform>) and will craft a local platform that fits the needs of the local community while holding to the national priorities.

A. Candidate endorsement

This group follows the Alabama Green Party bylaws on endorsement. We do not endorse members or candidates of another party. Endorsement votes are held in August and February.

B. Candidate platform

Candidate platforms must align with the national and the Green Party of Madison County and North Alabama platform.

VI. **Communication**

Party communication must take place on approved platforms: email and Facebook. All other platforms for party-specific use must be approved at a party meeting or will be recognised as unofficial. Discord is banned from use due to its security risk to the party. (Discord ban is not amendable.)

VII. **Amendments to These Bylaws**

The amendments to the bylaws are to be held in the annual county & regional convention, the February meeting. Amendments require a 2/3rds majority of

attending members. Any member may submit proposals for an amendment so long as they meet the membership bylaw requirements. All amendments are to take effect the moment the convention is concluded.