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Mark A. Dunlea, Esq.
156 Big Toad Way, Poestenkill NY 12140 • (518) 283-6512

June 18, 1996

Commissioners
Federal Election Commission
Washington, DC 20463

Identification Number C00318907
Statement of Organization dated 5/23/96

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A Petition for An Advisory Opinion to Determine if the
NYS Green Party is a State Committee of A Political Party

and for an Advisory Opinion With Respect to other matters
Concerning NYS Green Party Participation in Federal elections
Include Nomination and Support for Ralph Nader for President

cc: Vincent Tallman, Reports Analyst, Reports Analysis Division
Dorothy Yeager

Dear Commissioners:

I am writing on behalf of the New York State Green party at the request of Betty Wood, Treasurer for the New York State Green Party, in reference to a letter we receive from Mr. Vincent Tallman, Reports Analyst, Reports Analysis Division dated June 12, 1996.

Such letter advises the NYS Green Party that it must petition the Commission in the form of an advisory opinion to determine if it satisfies criteria for state party status.

We believe that our previous communications with the FEC, including the Statement of Organization dated 5/23/96, should have been sufficient to prompt the issuance of any necessary advisory opinions.

On behalf of the NYS Green Party and Greens / Green Party USA, I contacted the FEC on phone on several occasions in April and May of 1996 to request guidance as to how to comply with any necessary legal, financial and reporting requirements with respect to the participation of the NYS Green Party on behalf of candidates for federal office in NYS in 1996, particularly candidates for Congress in NYS and Ralph Nader for President. I also asked the FEC staff to check the status of any other national Green Party filed with the FEC.

On at least one of the occasions, I spoke with Ms. Dorothy Yeager as well as other individuals in public records and information and/or extension #5.

Among the issues I raised with the FEC staff and sought their opinions on were:

- Ralph Nader does not want to spend more than \$5,000 on his Presidential campaign and will not coordinate his activities with local groups supporting his nomination and candidacy for President. Mr. Nader does not wish to exceed the threshold limit of \$5,000 that would require him to file with FEC. How should members of the NYS Green Party organize their operations to ensure compliance with all FEC regulations while complying with Mr. Nader's desires?;

- how would support for Mr. Nader for President relate to and impact upon support provided by the NYS Green Party to other NYS Green Party candidates for Congress running as NYS Green Party?;

I explained that the:

- NYS Green Party is not recognized as a legal party by the NYS Board of Elections since one needs to obtain 50,000 votes for Governor to qualify as a party and that the NYS Green Party had never ran for candidate for President;

- NYS Green Party intended to state "that we raising money for our candidates for Congress and President, including Mr. Nader". We would also inform donors that the Green Party would determine how best to allocate the money among the various candidacies it was organizing on behalf of (i.e., money could not be designated specifically for the Nader campaign);

- NYS Green Party preferred, if possible, to organize its electoral activities, including its Presidential efforts, under its own name rather than some other entity (e.g., Committee to Draft Ralph Nader); it is our desire to promote the Green Party rather than Mr. Nader;

- NYS Green Party was registered as a political action committee with the NYS Board of Elections;

- NYS Green Party was duly recognized by the U.S. Postal System as a state committee of a national political party; and,

- NYS Green Party was the NYS affiliate of the Greens / Green Party USA, which is incorporated as a political party under the IRS code;

Mr. Nader has received the nomination of the NYS Green Party to be its candidate for President. The NYS Green Party will need to collect 15,000 signatures between July 9 and August 20th in order to qualify Mr. Nader, the Vice-Presidential candidate, and the 33 Presidential electors for the November ballot. Mr. Nader has not signed a certificate of acceptance for the nomination (he has not yet been asked to do so); he has until August 23rd to do so.

I was advised by the staff of the FEC that the NYS Green Party should file with the FEC as a state committee of a national political party, and that they would send all the necessary forms that I would need to register the NYS Green Party with the FEC for the purpose of supporting candidates, including Ralph Nader for President, in the 1996 federal elections.

I was also informed that in terms of avoiding problems with the \$5,000 limit imposed by Mr. Nader for his Presidential campaign, it would be better to organize our efforts in NYS as a state political party as opposed to a Draft Nader for President committee.

Upon receipts of such forms and learning that they needed to be signed by the Treasurer of the NYS Green Party, I forwarded them on the Ms. Betty Wood, the present treasurer of the Party (I am a former treasurer). Ms. Wood filled them out and dutifully filed them with the FEC, per the instructions of the FEC.

We would appreciate clarification from the FEC Commission as to which staff representatives of the FEC are providing the NYS Green Party with the correct information.

We would appreciate any clarification from the FEC Commission as to how to operate our campaign efforts to ensure compliance with Mr. Nader's determination not to spend more than \$5,000 in a coordinated manner in support of his Presidential candidacy.

(Please note. Ms. Wood is also coordinator of the Greens /Green Party USA Clearinghouse. Per my discussions with the FEC staff, the forms to file as a national political party were sent by the FEC to Ms. Wood. These forms have also recently been filed with FEC.)

The NYS Green Party has run candidates for office in New York State for the last five years, under its name in partisan elections, for positions such as State Assembly, Congress, County Executive, County Legislature and Town Board. The NYS Green Party has its own by-laws, which states that it is the NYS affiliate of the Greens/ Green Party USA. The state committee of the NYS Green Party meets 5 to 6 times a year.

Sincerely,



Mark A. Dunlea
NYS Green Party



FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION

Washington, DC 20463

July 9, 1996

Mark A. Dunlea
Attorney at Law
156 Big Toad Way
Poestenkill, NY 12140

Dear Mr. Dunlea:

This responds to your letter dated June 18, 1996, which requests an advisory opinion concerning application of the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971, as amended ("the Act"), to the status and Federal election activity of the New York State Green Party, including its political and financial support of Ralph Nader as a presidential candidate.

Your letter summarizes a number of contacts you have had with various Commission staff members over the last three months regarding application of the Act and Commission regulations to the status of the New York State Green Party ("the Party") as the "State committee" of a political party, and to the Party's campaign activities in New York in support of Congressional candidates and the potential 1996 presidential campaign of Mr. Nader. Your letter states that you seek guidance "as to how to comply with any necessary legal, financial and reporting requirements with respect to the participation of the NYS Green Party on behalf of" Federal candidates in the 1996 elections.

As you may know, the Act authorizes the Commission to issue an advisory opinion in response to a "complete written request" from any person with respect to a specific transaction or activity by the requesting person. 2 U.S.C. §437f(a). The request is made public, and the Commission's opinion also becomes a public document. 11 CFR 112.2(a), 112.4(g). The request must concern a specific transaction or activity that "the requesting person plans to undertake or is presently undertaking and intends to undertake in the future." 11 CFR 112.1(b). One person may submit a request as the authorized agent of another person whose activity is presented, but such person (the principal) must be identified. 11 CFR 112.1(a). The regulations also explain that an advisory opinion request "shall include a complete description of all facts relevant to the specific transaction or activity with respect to which the request is made." 11 CFR 112.1(c). In addition, the regulations provide that this office shall determine if a request is incomplete or otherwise not qualified as an advisory opinion request. 11 CFR 112.1(d).

In several respects your inquiry is general and hypothetical at this time, and to that extent it would not qualify as an advisory opinion request. 11 CFR 112.1(b). In other respects your letter apparently contemplates specific proposed activity of the Party, but vital factual information is missing. For example, your inquiry as to the connections and relationships between the Party and Mr. Nader with respect to possible presidential campaign activity on his behalf in New York is vague, ambiguous, and quite hypothetical. To the extent your inquiry presents issues concerning the Commission's recognition of the Party as the "State committee" of a political party and as the New York affiliate of the Greens/Green Party USA, a purported national political party organization, it is also incomplete in several respects.

With respect to the State political party committee and national party affiliation questions, I enclose a copy of currently pending Advisory Opinion Request 1996-27 which illustrates the type of documentation that is necessary in order for the Commission to address these issues in the advisory opinion process. In addition, as regards the Party's State committee status and the possible national party committee status of the Green Party USA, I have enclosed copies of Advisory Opinions 1995-49 and 1992-30. It is not apparent from your letter that you have previously had an opportunity to review these opinions (and others cited therein) which may have relevance to the factual situation of the Party. As you may know, any person can rely on an opinion issued to another if the facts and circumstances of the relying person are "indistinguishable in all . . . material aspects" from the activity presented in the past opinion. 2 U.S.C. §437f(c).

Finally, for your further information and guidance, I note other relevant sections of the Act. If the Party qualifies as the State committee of a political party, it may finance several types of exempt State party activity with the coordinated support of clearly identified Federal candidates which, subject to compliance with the statutory conditions (including the Act's disclosure rules), would not count as limited contributions to those candidates or as expenditures on their behalf. *See generally* 2 U.S.C. §§431(4), 431(8)(B)(i), 431(8)(B)(v), 431(8)(B)(x), 431(8)(B)(xii), 431(14), 431(15), and 431(16). These exemptions are not available to other political committees that do not qualify as State (or local) political party committees. Consequently, the expenditures of other committees or persons for the cited activity would be either contributions in kind to the Federal candidates mentioned (and thus subject to the Act's contribution limits) or, to avoid the contribution limits, the payments for these candidate-support purposes would have to qualify as independent expenditures. *See* 2 U.S.C. §§441a [contribution limits], 431(17), and 431(18); *see also* 11 CFR Part 109.

If you have any questions concerning the advisory opinion process, the enclosed documents or this letter, you may contact me at (202) 219-3690.

Sincerely,



N. Bradley Litchfield
Associate General Counsel

Enclosures
Cited FECA provisions
FEC regulations
Advisory opinion documents

Green Party of New York State
156 Big Toad Way, Poestenkill NY 12140 - 518 283-6512

September 16, 1996

Federal Election Commission
Washington, DC 20463

AOR 1996-43

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OFFICE OF GENERAL
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Advisory Opinion Request with Respect to
Green Party of New York State status as a
Political Party and ability to make
exempt expenditures in support of Presidential candidate

Dear Commission:

The Green Party has previously submitted an advisory opinion request dated June 18th, 1996 to the Federal Election Commission, seeking a determination as to whether or not the Green Party of New York State is a State Committee of a Political Party, and seeking direction as to the proper conduct of its activities in support of its Presidential nominee Ralph Nader. We have not yet received a response from the Commission.

We hereby request an expedited advisory opinion with respect to our status as a political party. Section 431(16) of the Federal Election Campaign Laws states that "the term 'political party' means an association, committee, or organization which nominates a candidate for election to any Federal office whose name appears on the election ballot as the candidate of such association, committee or organization". The Greens have qualified a candidate for Congress in NYS. Enclosed is our state by-laws, outlining how we conduct our activities. We have a bank account; Betty Wood is Treasurer of the Green Party of New York State.

We have been told by staff attorneys for the Federal Election Commission that our status a political party would allow us to make exempt party expenditures under section 431(9)(B)(viii) on behalf of our federal candidates, including Ralph Nader for President and Muriel Tillinghast for Vice-President.

If the Commission was to deny the Green Party of New York State status as a political party, in the alternative we would want an advisory opinion as to our ability to make independent expenditures (Sec. 431(17); CFR 109) on behalf of our Presidential nominee Ralph Nader. We have had no discussions with Mr. Nader throughout 1996 and are not in any way coordinating our campaign or expenditures with him.

On August 20, 1996 the Green Party of New York State submitted 27,603 signatures to the NYS Board of Elections to nominate Ralph Nader for President and Muriel Tillinghast for Vice-President. The petition has been accepted by the Board of Election.

Petitions were also submitted to the New York City Board of Elections to qualify Tom

Leighton for the U.S. House of Representatives in the 14th District. Mr. Leighton was also a candidate for this office in 1994. Certification of his 1996 nomination has already been sent to the FEC as part of the application of the Green Party of USA for national party status.

The Greens also nominated several candidates for State office, including Craig Seeman for State Assembly in the 52nd District, Tony Gronowicz for Assembly in the 73rd District, and Bob Polhemus in the 26th District.

The Green Party of New York is a state affiliate of the Greens \ Green Party USA. For the last five years, the Greens have established a central state committee (Green Party of New York State) to coordinate its statewide electoral activities. Enclosed is the by-laws of the NYS Greens, which governs the conduct of the Green Party of New York State. (The name change was approved as the Statewide convention and assembly in Peekskill on June 15th).


At its September 7th Statewide Assembly, the Green Party of New York State established a campaign committee to coordinate the day to day electoral activities for the 1996 election. The members include Masada Disenhouse of the Brooklyn Greens; Mark Dunlea, Capital District; Pat Dwyer, Nassau; Jon Greenbaum and Tim Saunders, Rochester; Carol Holland, Westchester; Mark Jacobs and Rob McRoberts, Highland Greens (northern Westchester); Dave Menzies (Woodstock); Ric Sprout, Binghamton; and Merrie Zaretsky, Rockland.

Over the last five years, the Green Party of New York has nominated several dozen candidates for State and local office, and have won six positions, including Poestenkill Town Board, two members of the Ithaca City Council, and several members of the Woodstock town government.

The Green Party of New York State is registered with the NYS Board of Elections as a political action committee. To qualify as a political party for state purposes, a party must receive 50,000 votes for Governor. The Green Party of New York State has never nominated a candidate for Governor but it is its stated intention to do so in 1998.

We respectfully request an expedited ruling that the Green Party of New York State is a political party.

Sincerely,


Mark A. Dunlea
Attorney

Bylaws of the New York State Greens

NAME

- 1.1 The name of this organization shall be the New York State Greens.

PURPOSE

- 2.1 New York State Greens Statement of Purpose:

We are a statewide organization of citizens working to set a political, social, and economic framework to provide a peaceful, just, and environmentally sane world for the generations to come.

The following is a statement of purpose adopted by our organization:

A global society of hope and true prosperity must today be founded on the four Green principles of ecology, social justice, democracy, and nonviolence. We come from and make common cause with all of those involved in the grassroots movements for the protection of the environment and all species, peace, safe energy, sustainable communities, international solidarity and democracy, and rights for all peoples and groups: workers, women, gays, disabled, people of color, indigenous peoples, and all minorities, regardless of spiritual belief. We support the full array of nonviolent means to establish a just society including rallies, demonstration, boycotts, citizen initiatives, civil disobedience, building alternative institutions, and electoral politics. We will, in pursuit of our goals, seek the support of all the people. Our shared purpose is to find the path to an evolving and sustainable society.

ECOLOGICAL RESPONSIBILITY - We are committed to ending the destruction of the environment by taking positive action in our lives and in our communities: by encouraging waste reduction, by recycling, by responsible land use, by sustainable agriculture, by renewable energy, and through planning our resource usage and population growth. Our relationship to the environment mirrors our relationship to one another.

NONVIOLENCE - The World's military machines must be dismantled and a new respect for people and their cultures must arise so that they can control their own lives. World peace demands a fairer allocation of economic and social resources. We must transform the obsession with military domination, excessive material consumption, and the exploitation of the environment into a genuine commitment to education, health, and preservation of the environment.

GRASSROOTS DEMOCRACY - We seek to encourage informed and active participation of all people in decision that affect their lives. This must include political, social, economic, and environmental issues.

SOCIAL & ECONOMIC JUSTICE - Greens believe that all people have a genuine contribution to make to society. We want greater sharing of wealth and resources and less concentration of riches. We are committed to economic alternatives that meet the financial and social needs of all people. We will work for greater self-sufficiency through economic initiatives, relying on local resources, local people, and appropriate technology.

MEMBERS

- 3.1 Membership in the New York State Greens (NYSGs) shall be open to any individual who (1) participates consistently in a Local, (2) pays dues consistent with his or her means as explained in Article 5, and (3) subscribes to the NYSGs Statement of Purpose.
- 3.2 Members shall have decision-making rights in the organization and receive membership mailings and publications.

SUPPORTERS

- 4.1 Any individual may become a Supporter of the NYSGs and receive membership mailings and publications by paying supporting dues as defined in Article 5.
- 4.2 Supporters do not have decision-making rights in the organization, but have a welcome voice at Green meetings.
- 4.3 Supporters may become Members with decision-making rights at any time by declaring their intention and consistently attending the meetings of their nearest Local.

DUES

- 5.1 Dues for Members and Supporters are \$10 a year, payable January 1.
- 5.2 Locals will collect membership dues and forward them to the NYSGs Clearinghouse.
- 5.3 Supporters may pay their dues either through a Local or directly to the NYSGs Clearinghouse.
- 5.4 No one will be denied Membership for inability to pay. The Local will cover the state dues assessments of Members who are unable to pay. If a Local is unable to pay all of its dues assessments, it may require a partial or full waiver from the NYSG Coordinating Committee.

DEFINITIONS

- 6.1. **CONFEDERATION** - An association of Locals in which the Locals determine the policies of the larger association by mandating their delegates to its decision-making bodies.
- 6.2. **ASSEMBLY** - A face-to-face meeting of the membership. At larger levels of confederation, this may involve decision-making delegates from Locals proportionally representing the number of Membership in good standing in each Local, although all Members may attend as observers.
- 6.3. **COUNCIL** - A representative body of delegates from smaller units of the Confederation.
- 6.4. **MANDATES** - Mandates are instructions from a smaller unit of the Confederation to their delegate, candidate, spokesperson, or staffer on what policies that person should represent on behalf of the that unit. Mandates may be strict and narrow, or they may be broad boundaries within which the delegate is asked to remain. Delegates do not have to have a mandate for every contingency, but should be given the freedom to vote in a manner they believe to be consistent with the policies of the unit they represent. To say that delegates to delegated bodies are under imperative mandate does not mean that the delegated body cannot act without prior instructions on every question before them. Delegates should vote according to what they believe the units they represent would support. In some cases, this may mean voting contrary to instructions because of new information or arguments that come out in the delegated meeting. In all cases, the units they represent should review their delegates' votes, replace delegates who stray too far or frequently from the bodies' policies, and, in serious cases, revoke their delegates' votes and ask to re-open the vote in question when the delegated body reconvenes.

LOCALS

- 7.1. The basic unit of the NYSGs in which all Members shall participate shall be the Local. The Local shall consist of geographically-proximate groups of Members who meet regularly for education and action. These participatory groups shall be no larger than is consistent with egalitarian group dynamics and efficient political work; when a Local grows larger than this scale, it shall divide into two Locals. Locals shall usually be defined by geographic communities, but may be defined functionally (e.g., school, workplace, social affinity, convenience of meeting time, etc.) if that is more appropriate for the Members concerned.
- 7.2. A Local shall have a minimum of 5 Members to be recognized by the NYSGs for the purposes of the decision-making processes defined in these Bylaws.
- 7.3. A Local with less than 5 Members shall be considered Local Organizing committee until they have 5 or more Members and receive NYSG mailings to Locals.
- 7.4. Affiliation with the NYSG Confederation is open to any Local, which (1) participates consistently in the NYSG Assembly and Coordinating Council, (2) pays its dues in timely fashion to the NYSGs, and (3) subscribes to these Bylaws.

MUNICIPAL, COUNTY, AND BIOREGIONAL CONFEDERATIONS

- 8.1. When two or more Locals are formed in a municipality, they are encouraged to form a municipal Green confederation to coordinate activities around municipal issues and elections.
- 8.2. When two or more Locals are formed in a county, they are encouraged to form a county Green confederation to coordinate activities around county issues and elections.
- 8.3. Locals are encouraged to form bioregional confederations when the need arises to deal with common concerns in a common bioregion.
- 8.4. All levels of confederation in the NYSGs shall be controlled by the Locals through representatives subject to imperative mandates from the membership they represent at the delegated assemblies and coordinating councils of larger levels of confederation.

NYSG ASSEMBLIES

- 9.1. NYSG Assemblies shall have final authority in all matters concerning the NYSGs' Bylaws and all policies.
- 9.2. NYSG Assemblies shall be held at least twice a year.
- 9.3. NYSG Assemblies may be called at any time by a simple majority vote of a NYSG Assembly, or by a simple majority vote of the Coordinating Council, or by petition of 1/3 of the Locals, or by petition of 10% of the Members.
- 9.4. The agenda of NYSG Assemblies shall include a review of minutes from the previous NYSG Assembly, a review of the agenda, a financial report from the Treasurer, and reports from all existing Standing Committees.
- 9.5. Locals shall be notified of the date, time, place, agenda, and proposals at least 3 weeks prior to a NYSG Assembly. Locals shall be responsible for disseminating the notice to their Members.
- 9.6. Each Local shall have one vote for every 5 Members with dues paid up to date (5 Members = 1 vote, 6-10 Members = 2 votes, 11-15 Members = 3 votes, and so on). A Member in good standing must be present to exercise each vote of a Local. There shall be no proxy voting.

- 9.7. NYSG Assemblies shall be open to observation by all Members and Supporters.
- 9.8. Proposals with minority support of at least 25% may be entered into the minutes of the NYSGs Assembly with the amount of support noted.
- 9.9. Proposals shall be placed on the agenda of a NYSG Assembly at the request of the Coordinating Council, a Local, or any 3 Members.
- 9.10. Proposals introduced after the agenda has been mailed to the Locals may be added to the agenda of a NYSG Assembly by a vote of 10% of votes cast at a NYSG Assembly.

NYSG COORDINATING COUNCIL

- 10.1. Between NYSG Assemblies, a NYSG Coordinating Council shall be responsible for organizing the proposed agendas of NYSG Assemblies, for overseeing the administration of policies set by NYSG Assemblies, for initiating actions consistent with those policies, and, when necessary, for initiating new policies under the mandates of the Locals, subject to review and possible revocation by the next NYSG Assembly.
- 10.2. Each Local shall have two delegates on the Coordinating Council, with a goal of one male and one female.
- 10.3. The Coordinating Council shall meet no less than once in every 4 months.
- 10.4. The Coordinating Council shall be composed of the representatives of the Locals, the NYSGs Delegates to the national Green Council, the Clearinghouse Coordinator, the Treasurer, and any other members of Caucuses, Standing Committees, Working Groups and staff that the other members of the Coordinating Council ask to attend.
- 10.5. Each Local shall have one vote for every 5 Members with dues paid up to date to the NYSGs. Each Local's Coordinating Council representatives may cast half of these votes. There shall be no proxy voting.
- 10.6. Coordinating Council meetings shall be open to observation by all Members and Supporters.
- 10.7. Locals shall be notified of the date, time, place, agenda, and proposals at least 3 weeks prior to a meeting of the Coordinating Council. Locals shall be responsible for disseminating the notice to their Members in a timely fashion.
- 10.8. Proposals shall be placed on the agenda of a meeting of the Coordinating Council at the request of the Coordinating Council, a State confederation, a Local, or any 3 Members.
- 10.9. The Clearinghouse Coordinator shall be responsible for organizing the proposed agenda of meetings of the Coordinating Council in consultation with the members of the Coordinating Council.
- 10.10. Proposals introduced after the agenda has been mailed to the Locals may be added to the agenda of a meeting of the Coordinating Council by a vote of 10% of votes cast.

DECISION RULES AND DEMOCRATIC DECENTRALISM

- 11.1. Consensus shall be sought on proposals considered by the NYSG Assembly and Coordinating Council. If there is not consensus on a proposal, a motion to vote instead of seeking consensus is in order. A 2/3 majority of votes cast shall carry any motion or proposal.
- 11.2. The NYSGs shall function under the principle of democratic decentralism: the majority view on any proposal is entitled to carry out its decision in the name of the organization, but individual Members and Locals are not bound by decisions made at any larger level of the confederation, except for Members who have taken on responsibilities to represent the NYSGs as statewide spokespeople, staffers, or candidates.

GREEN COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES

[The Greens/Green Party USA currently has regional delegates to the Green Council. But there is widespread sentiment and a proposal to amend the national structure to provide for direct state representation on the Green Council for states that so desire. We could adopt now this and send NYSG reps as observers until the amendment to the national structure is considered in August in Minneapolis.]

- 12.1. The NYSG delegates to the Green council are responsible for acting in a manner consistent with the instructions and mandates they receive from the NYSG Assembly and Coordinating Council.
- 12.2. The NYSG delegates to the Green Council are responsible for attending all NYSG Assemblies and meetings of the Coordinating Council in order to understand and convey the NYSG's mandates and instructions at meetings of the Green Council.
- 12.3. NYSG Assemblies shall elect the NYSG's Delegates to the Green Council.
- 12.4. Each NYSG Delegate to the Green council shall be elected for a term of one year.
- 12.5. The NYSGs shall seek to stagger the terms of its Delegates to the Green Council.
- 12.6. If a vacancy occurs, the NYSG Coordinating Council shall elect a new Delegate to the Green Council, subject to review of the next NYSG Assembly.
- 12.7. The NYSGs shall reimburse the travel expenses its Delegates to the Green Council to the extent that funds permit.

ADMINISTRATION

- 13.1. The NYSG Assembly or Coordinating Council may form permanent Standing Committees or task-limited Working Groups at any time to carry out policies authorized by the Membership.
- 13.2. The first NYSG Assembly of each calendar year shall elect a Treasurer of the NYSGs for a term of one year, whose responsibilities shall include the keeping of financial records, records of the dues payments of Members to the NYSGs, assisting in the preparation of an Annual Audit and Financial Report, and serving as convener of the Finance Committee.
- 13.3. The first NYSG Assembly of each calendar year shall elect a standing Finance Committee, which shall consist of at least three members and the Treasurer. The Finance Committee shall work under the direction of the NYSG Assembly and Coordinating Council and shall be charged with budget formulation and plans for ongoing fundraising.
- 13.4. The first NYSG Assembly of each year shall elect a Clearinghouse Coordinator for a term of one year, whose responsibilities shall include maintaining a NYSG Clearinghouse of information and records, answering the phone and the mail to the NYSG Clearinghouse, putting new people in touch with their nearest Local, filling literature orders, organizing proposed agendas of meetings of the Coordinating Council, and sending agendas and minutes of NYSG Assemblies and meetings of the Coordinating Council to the Locals.
- 13.5. The coordinating Council shall fill any vacancies for Treasurer, the Finance Committee, and Clearinghouse Coordinator, subject to review of the next NYSG Assembly.
- 13.6. The NYSG Assembly shall authorize and the Coordinating Council shall supervise paid staff for the organization.
- 13.7. Minutes of NYSG Assemblies and meetings of the Coordinating Council shall list the agenda items addressed, record decisions made, and record only such other minutes as are specifically requested by the meeting, with 25% of votes cast necessary to support the inclusion of a minute. Minutes shall not consist of narrative notes of discussion.

GREEN CANDIDATES FOR PUBLIC OFFICE

- 14.1. Only Members shall be eligible to run for any public office on the Green ballot line.
- 14.2. Only Members who reside in the political district concerned shall select Green candidate for that district.
- 14.3. All Green candidates must agree to support the Green platform for that district and abide by the mandates of the Greens that such candidates represent during the campaign and, if elected, during their tenure in office, unless and until the political system has been restructured to allow for imperative mandates from the citizenry represented.
- 14.4. Green members may not run as Democrats or Republicans, except that they may, at the discretion of the Members in the political district concerned, be listed on the Democratic or Republican ballot line in addition to the Green ballot line as dual or fusion candidates, so long as such candidates remain accountable to the Green platform and the binding mandates of the Greens represented.
- 14.5. Affiliated Locals of the NYSGs may not endorse Republican or Democratic candidates who are not Greens and listed on the Green ballot line.
- 14.6. Affiliated Locals may endorse the candidates of similar independent political organizations insofar as their political principles are compatible with the Greens.
- 14.7. Greens elected to public office shall donate any income received as salary for the office that exceeds the median income for full-time work in the United States to the Green organization(s) in the political district served.

AMENDMENTS

- 15.1 These Bylaws may be amended by a simple majority of votes cast at any NYSG Assembly.