

Indiana Green Party (INGP) Bylaws

Adoption Date:

Preamble:

The Indiana Green Party is a federation of environmentally passionate, justice affirming, not-corporate-financed, peace promoting and democracy expanding Hoosiers united for the advancement of Green Party political candidates in Indiana, for making this state the Crossroads of Green America and for advocating for the health of all persons living, working or visiting the Hoosier State.

Simply, we are the Indiana Greens.

Facing the challenges of operating within the oppressive and self-serving regulations created by the Democratic/Republican party duopoly, we seek to build a creative, sustainable and uniquely Green Hoosier movement sourced on the Four Pillars of the Green Party US and blossoming through our collective action across Indiana.

The following bylaws represent our ongoing and ever-developing attempt to organize and resource those who seek a place at the civic tables in our local, county and state offices.

ARTICLE I – Name and Affiliation

The name of the organization shall be the Indiana Green Party (hereinafter INGP). The INGP shall maintain its designation as the state organization for Indiana recognized by the Green Party of the United States (GPUS).

ARTICLE II – Organizational Overview

The INGP is not a corporation. We are a political committee under the Indiana Elections code. We are keenly focused on getting Green Party candidates on ballots across Indiana and then getting them elected to public office. To meet these primary objectives, the INGP is creating a statewide political structure to empower our local efforts and for these local efforts to be the momentum for the gargantuan task of statewide ballot access that will open every Indiana ballot to Green local, state and federal candidates. We engage in this civic responsibly by structuring in the manner described in these bylaws.

County-based Green Party Organizations are established to be the basic building blocks of our Indiana movement.

Representatives from each recognized County Organization will form the INGP Central Committee. The INGP Central Committee shall appoint people to three primary councils designated to manage key aspects of our party -- the INGP Platform Council, the INGP Administrative Council and the INGP Operations Council.

The INGP Platform Council (INGP-PC) will be tasked with the nurture and growth of the INGP Platform that will set goals and guide progress toward achieving them based on our Green values.

The INGP Administrative Council (INGP-AC) will oversee the legal and financial functions necessary to maintain a sound Indiana Elections code compliant foundation for our eco-action movement.

The INGP Operations Council (INGP-OC) will manage the day-to-day advocacy actions, candidate coordination, communications and ballot access, serving as force that which propels us towards a Green Indiana.

ARTICLE III - INGP Central Committee (INGP-CC)

1. The INGP-CC shall consist of two representatives for each of the counties in which there is a current approved county organization or where there are INGP-AC appointed county co-organizers.
 - a. The representatives, by default, shall be the county party co-organizers. However, the county organization under an INGP-AC approved structure may designate one or two other county party residents in lieu of one or both of their county co-organizers.
2. The INGP-CC may approve a rules and procedures manual.
 - a. Rules and procedures must be approved and may be amended by a 50% plus 1 majority of the INGP-CC.
 - b. In the event there is not an approved rules and procedures manual, the INGP-CC shall function under Robert's Rules of Order.
3. The INGP-CC shall convene at least annually in a manner allowed in the rules document and may be called more frequently in a manner allowed in the rules document.
4. The INGP-CC may hold in-person, virtual or hybrid in-person/virtual meetings, but in any case, there must be a quorum to conduct any substantial business. The INGP-CC quorum for in-person only meetings is set at 30% of the current number of representatives. The quorum for virtual meetings or hybrid virtual/in-person meetings is set at 35% of the current number of representatives.
5. The INGP-CC is given the authority to amend these bylaws.
 - a. A vote to amend these bylaws requires approval of greater than a two-thirds (2/3) vote in the affirmative of the representatives present.
 - b. All proposed amendments to the bylaws should be made available to the INGP-CC representatives at least 30 days in advance of an INGP-CC meeting in which such amendments are to be considered.
6. The INGP-CC is given the authority to appoint members to the INGP Party Platform Council.
7. The INGP-CC is given the authority to appoint members to the INGP Administrative Council.
8. The INGP-CC is given the authority to appoint members to the INGP Operations Council.
9. The INGP-CC is given the authority to appoint an INGP Documentarian.
 - a. The INGP Documentarian shall maintain the list of current representatives of the INGP-CC.
 - b. The INGP Documentarian shall notify members of the INGP-CC of all INGP-CC meetings.
 - c. The INGP Documentarian shall maintain the official minutes of the INGP-CC meetings

- d. The INGP Documentarian shall appoint a parliamentarian for INGP-meetings. The INGP Documentarian may choose to appoint themselves as parliamentarian.
 - i. In the event the position of INGP Documentarian is vacant at the start of a meeting, the INGP-CC may appoint a parliamentarian or may select a new INGP Documentarian first who would then appoint a parliamentarian for that meeting.
 - e. The INGP Documentarian shall serve until resignation or appointment of another INGP Documentarian by the INGP-CC.
 - f. On the resignation of the INGP Documentarian, the INGP-AC may appoint an INGP Documentarian to serve until the next gathering of the INGP-CC.
 - g. The INGP Documentarian may assist the INGP Treasurer in maintaining list of contributors for campaign finance reporting.
10. The INGP-CC is given the authority to appoint two (2) National Delegates to the GPUS pursuant to the rules of the GPUS. The INGP-CC may also appoint one (1) Alternate Delegate to the GPUS.
- a. The term of the appointments for these national and alternate GPUS delegates shall be two years.
 - b. The INGP-CC may remove an appointment at any time. If the removal is of an INGP National Delegate, then the INGP Alternate National Delegate, if not vacant, shall fill the empty INGP National Delegate position.
 - c. The INGP National Delegates and Alternate Delegate have the responsibility to:
 - i. Act on the behalf of the INGP to the GPUS National Committee.
 - ii. Keep the INGP-AC Council, INGP-OC and the INGP-PC informed of relevant news, policy changes, votes, etc.
 - iii. Seek the general, nonbinding opinions of the INGP-CC or one of the three Councils for votes that may be important to the INGP, contentious or impactful.
 - iv. Provide a report to INGP-CC at each annual meeting.

ARTICLE IV – INGP Party Platform

- 1. The INGP authorizes the creation of an INGP Platform.
 - a. Our INGP Platform shall be focused on Indiana issues to supplement our national Green Party Platform.
 - b. Our goal in creating the INGP Platform is a meaningful, focused document that is nimble enough to address arising issues, foundational enough to withstand the onslaught from the corrupt duopoly and robust enough to drive our statewide political efforts. We stress that it should not be a document that is created then forgotten for 10 years, rather regularly revised in a consensus decision-making process.
 - c. The purpose of our INGP Platform is not to restate the national agenda but enhance it with the flavor of our uniquely Hoosier advocacy and passion to address environmental, justice and community issues within Indiana.
 - d. The first article of the INGP Platform shall be “The INGP affirms the GPUS Party Platform.”
 - e. Items in the INGP Platform do not have to conform to the GPUS Party Platform. When in tension or disagreement with the GPUS Party Platform the INGP Platform item shall not

be worded negatively against the GPUS National Platform. Rather such items shall be worded to model a fuller expression of our Indiana Green values and to guide future development of our GPUS National Platform.

2. The INGP establishes a permanent INGP Platform Council.
 - a. The INGP-PC shall have 10 members.
 - b. The council members shall be designated by the INGP-CC.
 - c. INGP-PC members shall be expected to provide positive, constructive participation.
 - d. In the event of a vacancy on the INGP-PC, the vacancy may either be filled by the INGP-AC, or, if the INGP-AC chooses, the appointment may be deferred to the INGP-CC at its next meeting.
3. The INGP-PC shall only operate under the consensus model of decision making.
 - a. Robert's Rules of Order shall not be used in any form.
 - b. False consensus models such as "if consensus cannot be made then we will take a vote" shall never be allowed. These practices undermine a true consensus process by leaving a path for the simple majority viewpoint to not seek consensus but to just wait it out until a vote is called.
4. The INGP-PC shall create a INGP Platform Council Rules Document.
 - a. These rules shall define their processes for review, consensus and updating, removing and adding party platform items.
 - b. The INGP-PC shall not function without an approved Rules Document. When there is no Rules Document the only action available to the INGP-PC is to affirm a Rules Document.
 - c. The Rules Document shall be adopted, revoked or amended using the consensus model of decision making.
 - d. The Rules Document may include a standard of etiquette for discussions.
 - e. The Rules Document may include procedures for the recommendation to the INGP Administrative Council for removal of a INGP Platform Council member.
 - i. This process may incorporate an outside mediation team to make the recommendation.
 - ii. This process does not infringe on the authority of the INGP-CC to remove any appointee to the INGP Platform Council by INGP-CC vote.
5. At each annual INGP-CC gathering, the body shall take a simple vote of affirmation of the current INGP Party Platform.
 - a. The vote shall not be debatable.
 - b. The pronouncement shall be "The INGP-CC will now vote on affirming the current INGP Platform. If this vote fails to obtain 2/3 or greater votes in the affirmative, the current INGP Platform shall be revoked and the INGP Platform Council vacated."
 - c. A roll call vote may be requested by any one representative. For the roll call vote the names of each of the present representatives will be read and their vote shall be recorded as "Affirm", "Do not affirm," or "Present" in the minutes. No other forms of voting shall be allowed.
 - d. If the vote of affirmation fails to garner 2/3 or greater support for the current document the following occurs:
 - i. The current INGP Platform is revoked and replaced with "The INGP affirms the GPUS Party Platform"

- ii. All current INGP-PC members' positions are vacated.
 - iii. New INGP-PC members shall be appointed by the INGP-CC.
 - e. A motion to reconsider may be presented pursuant to the guidelines in Robert's Rules of Order. That motion shall be debatable.
- 6. The INGP-CC does not have the authority to motion line-item removals, additions or amendments to the INGP Platform. Such authority is granted solely to the INGP-PC and its consensus process. Motions to directly alter the Platform by the INGP-CC shall be considered out of order.

ARTICLE V – Indiana Green Party County Organizations (INGP-COs)

1. The building blocks of our party are active, strong county-based Greens Party affiliates. Therefore, the INGP authorizes the establishment of Indiana Green Party County Organizations.
2. The INGP-COs will be either “auxiliary party organizations” under the definition and regulations of Indiana Campaign Finance law or independently filed with their county’s Board of Elections (or the Indiana Election Division). (see Chapter 7 of the Indiana Campaign Finance Manual)
 - a. An INGP-CO may only be classified as “auxiliary” if and only if they 1) do not incur \$5,000 in contributions or expenses in at least one of the last two years and 2) has NOT made a contribution of more than \$1,000 to another committee or candidate. (IC 3-5-2-2.5). Any County Organization that does not meet those standards has to be independently filed at the appropriate county’s Board of Election (or the Indiana Election Division).
 - b. An INGP-CO that qualifies for “auxiliary” status may choose to independently file with their county election board (or the state election division).
 - c. “Auxiliary” INGP-COs shall immediately notify the INGP-AC if they exceed the statutory limits.
 - d. Independently filed INGP-COs shall immediately report any campaign finance reporting issues including missed reporting deadlines to the INGP-AC.
 - e. Independently filed INGP-COs are required to have an Organizational Document approved by the INGP-AC that outlines its responsibilities for filing forms and campaign finance adherence.
3. County Party Co-organizers
 - a. Each INGP-CO shall have two Co-organizers.
 - b. County co-organizers shall either be appointed by the INGP-AC or by the INGP-CO pursuant to approved INGP-AC county guidelines as follows:
 - i. For appointed co-organizers:
 1. County co-organizers may be appointed by the INGP-AC.
 2. If necessary for county-specific election laws, the INGP-AC may designate one of the appointed co-organizers to perform the legal actions as the “County Chair”

- a. Such designated “County Chair” shall not be considered above the other co-organizer as their party responsibilities remain equal.
 - ii. For INGP-COs operating under INGP-AC approval:
 - 1. County organizations may develop their own organizational rules which may outline a local process for the appointment, election or selection of county co-organizers.
 - a. These county organizational rules must be approved by the INGP-AC before co-organizers selected by this process will be recognized as representatives to the INGP-CC.
 - b. The INGP-AC may rescind its approval of the county organizational rules at any time.
 - c. Any amendments to the rules shall be submitted to the INGP-AC.
 - d. The denial or rescinding of a INGP-CO’s rules by the INGP-AC is appealable to the INGP-CC.
 - e. If necessary for county specific elections purposes, the county organizational rules may outline a process for the designation of a “County Chair” to perform the legal actions as required for county election rules.
- 4. INGP-COs may choose to collaborate under a regional banner. Such collaborations, even if filed with the Indiana Elections Division, have no bearing on the governance and administration of the INGP and thus are not regulated by these bylaws.

ARTICLE VI – Indiana Green Party Administrative Council (INGP-AC)

- 1. Shall consist of five County Party Co-Organizers.
 - a. Each INGP-AC member shall be from a different county.
 - b. The council members should reflect areas from across the state and a diversity of demographics, identities and justice-foci.
 - c. Each council member shall serve a term of two years.
 - d. The INGP-AC may meet in person, virtually or a hybrid (in-person and virtual), but in all cases, a quorum to conduct any substantial business shall be three members.
 - e. In the event of a resignation of a member, the remaining INGP-AC members shall appoint a replacement. The appointment must meet the guidelines established.
 - f. If ever the number of members of the INGP-AC falls below three (3), the council is dissolved and a special meeting of the INGP-CC shall occur within 60 days to reconstitute the INGP-AC.
 - g. The INGP-AC member who convenes council meetings shall rotate. Each council member shall be designated the rotating meeting convener in pre-scheduled three-month slots.
 - i. A council member may designate another to serve all or part of their three-month slot. Such designation shall not be considered a de facto swap.

- h. The INGP-AC shall meet every two months or when called for special purpose by the rotating convener or by the request of three of the members.
 - i. The loss at the county level of a member's qualifying designation of county co-chair means the immediate termination of their appointment to the INGP-AC.
 - j. A person may not concurrently serve on both the INGP-OC and the INPG-AC.
- 2. The INGP-AC is the primary fiduciary body for the INGP.
- 3. The INGP-AC shall handle all legal matters.
- 4. The INGP-AC shall create standard operating procedures, including but not limited to the management of finances, codes of behavior, conflict management, etc.
- 5. The INGP-AC shall appoint one person to be designated as "State Party Chair."
 - a. The State Party Chair shall have no powers beyond the ones required by Indiana Code with the Indiana Election Division.
 - b. The State Party Chair does not have to be a member of the INGP-AC.
 - i. If the designated State Party Chair is a member of the INGP-AC, such designation shall not signify any elevation of preeminence. It is only designated to serve a required statutory function.
- 6. The INGP-AC shall refer one person to the State Party Chair to be appointed INGP Treasurer. (Indiana law requires the chair of a political committee to appoint its treasurer and attest to that appointment.)
 - a. The treasurer has specific legal obligations as defined in Indiana Campaign Finance law.
 - b. Pursuant to IC 3-9-1-13, the INGP Treasurer shall not be the chairperson of a PAC, a registered Party Committee or Candidate Campaign Committee. The INGP Treasurer shall adhere to all requirements and restrictions expressed in Indiana law.
 - c. The INGP Treasurer does not have to be a member of the INGP-AC.
 - i. If the treasurer is not a member of the INGP-AC, they shall have voice but no vote at INGP-AC meetings.
 - d. The INGP Treasurer shall be the financial officer for the INGP Party and shall report to the INGP-AC.
 - e. The INGP Treasurer shall complete all required campaign finance filings as required by Indiana law.
 - f. The INGP Treasurer shall serve until a new one is appointed by the INGP-AC.
 - g. If the INGP Treasurer resigns, the INGP-AC shall convene within two weeks to name a new person for referral to the INGP Chair for appointment and attestation as INGP Treasurer, as required under Indiana Campaign Finance Law.
 - h. The INGP Treasurer has the authority to deny or refund any contribution to the INGP that is not allowed under Indiana Campaign Finance regulations or INGP policy.
 - i. The INGP Treasurer has the authority to deny any expense that is not allowed under Indiana Campaign Finance Regulations or INGP policy.
- 7. The INGP-AC shall approve an annual budget and supplemental expense appropriations to guide the INGP Treasurer in paying expenses.
 - a. Supplemental expense appropriations may also be authorized through a standardized method of communications (such as group email, text, or IM) for approval between meetings.

- b. Any one INGP-AC member may request that a such a between-meeting appropriation be tabled to the next meeting.
8. The INGP Treasurer shall provide a financial report at each INGP-AC regular meeting or any other meeting if requested.
9. The INGP-AC shall set the date, time, location and type (virtual, in-person or hybrid) for meetings of the INGP-CC.
10. The INGP-AC shall designate the presiding officer for the INGP-CC.
11. The INGP-AC shall present bylaw amendment proposals to the INGP-CC.
12. In questions or contradictions of these bylaws the INGP-AC shall be the interpretive body of the INGP Bylaws.
13. The INGP-AC shall review recommendations from the INGP Platform Council for the removal of a councilmember. Upon review the INGP-AC has the authority to vote to remove the council member from the INGP-PC, defer the recommendation to the INGP-CC, or take no action.
14. The INGP-AC shall have the authority to remove a National Delegate or Alternate National Delegate with cause.
15. The INGP-AC shall be the authorizing body, if required, for any appointments to GPUS committees.
16. The INGP-AC may establish protocols for the INGP Treasurer to administer the funds of a county Green Party organization that is not independently filed with their county elections board or the Indiana Elections Divisions.
 - a. Such funds administered by the INGP Treasurer shall be reported on INGP Campaign Finance filings.
 - b. The INGP Treasurer maintains full authority over the funds managed by the INGP on behalf of another entity.
 - c. Contributions received by INGP Treasurer on behalf of another entity shall be reported as contributions to the INGP and thus count towards the annual contribution limits, if applicable, to the INGP.

ARTICLE VII - INGP Operations Council (INGP-OC)

1. The duties of the INGP-OC are to oversee the development of the INGP across the state.
2. The general areas of focus for the INGP-OC are as follows:
 - a. INGP Development - resource and grow local county organizations.
 - b. Support local and statewide Green Party candidates through training, technical assistance and resource development.
 - c. Develop and implement communications and media, including website(s), social media and database management.
 - d. Oversee fund raising; implement fund raising strategies to build a consistent and sustainable contribution base.
 - e. Develop a targeted strategy for obtaining local and statewide ballot access in Indiana.
 - f. Other activities that the INGP-OC determines are in the interest of the INGP.
3. The INGP-OC shall consist of 10 council members appointed by the INGP-CC.
 - a. The term of each appointment shall be two years

- b. The terms shall be staggered with five members appointed each year
 - c. Vacancies shall be filled by appointment of the INGP-AC and shall serve out the remainder of the term.
 - d. A person may not concurrently serve on both the INGP-OC and the INPG-AC.
 - e. Council members do not have to be county co-organizers
4. The INGP-OC may create any committees necessary to complete its mission.
 5. The INGP-OC may create volunteer positions to complete specific tasks or functions.

ARTICLE VIII – Local Candidates and Elected Greens

1. Candidates

- a. Candidates seeking local or state elected office in Indiana may request official recognition as a Green Party candidate.
 - i. For candidates seeking a local or county office the endorsement is delegated to the approved county organization, if formed, or the appointed county co-organizers of the county in which the election is being held.
 1. If the county does not have either an approved county organization or appointed county co-organizers, then the INGP-AC may either appoint co-organizers for that county, designate an adjoining county organization / co-organizers with the endorsement authority or designate the INGP Operations council to make the endorsement.
 2. This section also applies to Indiana House, Indiana Senate or U.S. House of Representative districts that are entirely encompassed within one county.
 - ii. For candidates seeking offices that have districts larger than one county but are not state-wide an ad-hoc endorsement committee will be formed.
 1. The endorsement committee will consist of up to two appointed representatives from each of the counties that are fully encompassed in the district and up to one appointed representative for counties that are partially in the district.
 2. Each approved county organization or appointed co-organizers shall appoint the representatives from their county to the endorsement committee.
 3. A county with only one representative to the endorsement committee but with a substantial percentage of the district’s population may petition the INGP-AC for an addition representative. The INGP-AC is authorized to grant that second representative if the request creates an endorsement committee that is more representative of the district.
 4. If the number on the committee is two (such as the district is partially in only two counties), the number of members for each county is automatically doubled.
 5. Given the gerrymandered nature of Indiana state legislative and congressional districts, the INGP-AC is authorized to further modify the

specific district endorsement committees to either increase or decrease the numbers for a more manageable, functional or representative committee.

6. This section also applies to candidates for the U.S. House of Representatives where the U.S. House district includes more than one county.

iii. For candidates seeking statewide offices the INGP-OC shall be authorized to endorse candidates or to establish a process to endorse statewide candidates. This includes candidates for the U.S. Senate.

b. Issues relating to candidates obtaining ballot access through the nominations by signature process with "Green Party" designated on their nominations paperwork but have not been endorsed by INGP or the designated county organization(s) are deemed legal matters and shall be handled by the INGP Administrative Council.

2. Elected Greens

a. This section is reserved for the future development of Party rules needed when a Green Party Candidate wins an election in Indiana. These rules will include INGP policy for when the elected official resigns and the appointment of their replacement.

b. In the event that a Green Party candidate is elected to a federal, state or local office, the INGP Administrative Council shall immediately be tasked with revising this section of the bylaws to be presented to the INGP-CC.

ARTICLE XI – National Presidential Nominating Convention Delegates

1. As authorized in the GPUS Presidential Nominating Convention rules, the INGP will have a number of delegates that can cast votes at the convention.
2. Once the number of Indiana voting delegates has been determined by the GPUS, the delegates shall be selected by the INGP-OC prior to the deadline established by the GPUS and they will serve until the end of the convention.
3. The INGP-OC shall establish the method for determining the allocation of delegates' vote.

ARTICLE X – GENERAL PROVISIONS

1. The INGP shall not accept contributions from corporations, lobbyists, dark money PACs and union organizations.
2. Affirmative action shall be taken within all parts of the INGP to reach goals of sex, gender-expression, sexual orientation, racial and social diversity and balance in the allocation of responsibilities, council positions and leadership.
3. All action under the INGP shall be nonviolent in strategy, tactic and implantation.

ARTICLE XI - TRANSITION

This section creates a path from the model under the current bylaws to an organization outlined in these bylaws. Once the transition has completed this article becomes obsolete.

1. Once ratified by the existing INGP Congress:
 - a. The current INGP Congress shall remain called to order and can conduct business until the meeting is adjourned.
 - b. The existing INGP Party Platform shall be revoked in its entirety and replaced with “The INGP affirms the GPUS Party Platform.”
 - c. The INGP Congress shall appoint five members, each from a different county, to a INGP Transition Council (INGP-TC). The INGP-TC will be tasked with the following:
 - i. Within six months the INGP-TC shall jump start at least 10 county-based organizations with the appointment of one or both of the county co-organizers.
 - ii. The INGP-TC shall not have the authority to approve county organizational documents.
 - d. The existing INGP Coordinating Committee shall continue to oversee the operations of the Party until the councils are constituted.
 - e. Six months after the ratification of these bylaws a gathering of the INGP-CC shall convene to constitute the INGP-AC and the INGP-OC. The INGP-CC may also constitute the INGP-PC at that time.
 - f. If an INGP Treasurer is elected at the INGP Congress that INGP Treasurer shall continue to serve in that role and will do so until resignation or replacement by the INGP Administrative Council pursuant to their authority.
 - g. If a Party Chair is elected at the INGP Congress they shall continue that role until resignation or the INGP Administrative Council appoints a new Party Chair.
 - h. If an INGP Documentarian is elected at the INGP Congress they shall continue in that role under these bylaws.