April 9, 2026

TYPE OF PROPOSAL

Amendment to GPUS Rules & Procedures
(With consequential clarification to Steering Committee procedures)

EXPECTED APPROVAL THRESHOLD

Two-thirds (2/3) of votes cast
(per Rules & Procedures Article VI, Section 6-2.1)

BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE

The Green Party of the United States has long recognized the value of **Dispute Resolution Committees (DRCs)** at the state level to address internal conflicts in a fair, confidential, and restorative manner. However, at the national level, GPUS currently addresses disputes through a fragmented set of mechanisms, including Steering Committee executive sessions, National Committee procedural appeals, and listserv/Basecamp moderation.

This fragmentation has resulted in:

- Disruption of National Committee business,
- Public airing of incomplete or inaccurate information,
- Escalation of interpersonal conflict,
- Inconsistent handling of ethical and procedural disputes,
- Barriers to participation, particularly for younger and marginalized members.

This proposal **expands the mandate of the national-level Dispute Resolution Committee (DRC)** to serve as the **central, first-line body** for handling procedural disputes, ethical complaints, and legal or personnel-related concerns—thereby reducing toxicity, protecting due process, and preserving the National Committee's ability to focus on policy and party-building.

PROPOSAL

Rules and Procedures of the Green Party of the United States

ARTICLE XIII – DISPUTE RESOLUTION COMMITTEE (Amended and Expanded)

Section 13-1. Purpose and Scope (Amended)

The Dispute Resolution Committee (DRC) shall serve as the primary body for receiving, reviewing, mediating, and recommending resolutions for internal disputes within the Green Party of the United States.

The jurisdiction of the DRC shall include:

a) Procedural disputes arising under the GPUS Bylaws, Rules & Procedures, or approved internal policies;
b) Ethical complaints involving GPUS officers, Steering Committee members, committee or caucus leadership, delegates, alternates, or volunteers;
c) Legal or personnel-related concerns not involving paid staff discipline governed by Fiscal Policy;
d) Matters referred by the Steering Committee or the National Committee for confidential review;
e) Appeals or grievances that would otherwise be brought directly before the National Committee, except where immediate action is required by electoral or legal deadlines.

Section 13-2. Exclusivity and Order of Review (New)

1. Matters within the jurisdiction of the DRC shall be **referred to the DRC prior to consideration by the National Committee**.

2. Procedural appeals currently described in Article VI, Section 6-10 shall be reviewed first by the DRC, which shall issue findings and recommendations to the National Committee.

3. Ethical, legal, or personnel-related matters otherwise eligible for Steering Committee Executive Session shall be referred to the DRC unless immediate action is required to prevent harm or legal exposure.

4. No dispute within the jurisdiction of the DRC shall be debated on National Committee listservs/Basecamp prior to completion of the DRC process, except as required for final action.

Section 13-3. Composition (Amended)

1. The DRC shall consist of **7 members**, elected by the National Committee. Elections shall be conducted and tabulated pursuant to The Rules and Procedures of the Green Party of the United States, Article 7, related to “Preference Voting Rules for Steering Committee Elections”.

2. No more than **two members** of the DRC may simultaneously serve on the Steering Committee.

3. Members should demonstrate experience or training in:

    - Conflict resolution or mediation,
    - Organizational governance,
    - Ethics, restorative justice, or community accountability.

4. The composition of the DRC shall reflect gender balance and diversity consistent with Green Party values.
5. The term of office is two years, with a limit of two consecutive terms. For the purposes of defining terms of office, years are defined as the period between regular elections as

described in Article VI. Four Co-chairs shall be elected in odd-numbered years and three in even-numbered years.

Section 13-4. Procedures (Amended)

1. Complaints or grievances must be submitted in writing through a confidential process established by the DRC.

2. The DRC shall:

    - Acknowledge receipt within seven (7) days,
    - Determine jurisdiction,
    - Gather statements and documentation,
    - Offer mediation where appropriate,
    - Make findings and recommendations.

3. The DRC may recommend:

    - Dismissal of the complaint,
    - Mediation or restorative action,
    - Procedural correction,
    - Referral to the Steering Committee for Executive Session,
    - Referral to the National Committee for final action.

4. All proceedings shall respect confidentiality, due process, and non-retaliation.

Section 13-5. Reporting and Transparency (New)

1. The DRC shall provide confidential reports to the Steering Committee when appropriate.

2. When National Committee action is required, the DRC shall provide a **written recommendation**, with sensitive information redacted as necessary.

3. The DRC shall publish an **annual aggregate report** summarizing:

    - Number of cases handled,
    - General categories of disputes,
    - Systemic recommendations, without identifying individuals.

CONSEQUENTIAL AMENDMENTS

Amendment to Rules & Procedures Article VI, Section 6-10 (Appeals)

Add the following sentence:

> "Procedural appeals shall be referred first to the Dispute Resolution Committee for review and recommendation, except where immediate action is required to meet statutory or electoral deadlines."

Amendment to Rules & Procedures Article III, Section 3-2 (Executive Session)

Add to Section 3-2.1:

> "Except in urgent circumstances, ethical, legal, or personnel-related matters shall be referred to the Dispute Resolution Committee prior to or in conjunction with any Executive Session."