

The AZGP Presidential Primary Process

The process below shall be used by the Arizona Green Party (AZGP) for selection and binding of delegates to the national convention of the Green Party of the United States falling on presidential election years. Should anything contained in this document conflict with federal or Arizona law, the law will take precedence. This document will include the date of its passage and amendments.

Timeline

This timeline assumes that the AZGP meets three times per year. This timeline will be considered void and must be replaced should the AZGP change the number of times per year that it meets.

The process for selection and binding of delegates will begin at the general meeting of the AZGP which falls one year prior to the general meeting which would immediately follow the national convention itself. At this meeting the process will be discussed and any ideas for amendments to the process should be sought.

At the following general meeting, any amendments to this process should be brought to the AZGP and decided upon. Also the criteria for presidential candidates to appear on the ballot will be decided. County and local parties will be asked to facilitate the primary process by researching potential voting locations, ballot drop-off locations, and internet and phone voting, if possible.

The mailing committee shall be formed and the mailing sent as quickly as possible, keeping in mind that the deadline for returning a completed ballot is April 10th. The tabulation committee shall be formed and shall complete its duties between April 20th and the next general meeting.

At the next general meeting, the tabulation committee shall report the number of delegates bound to each candidate as well as any unbound or otherwise instructed delegates. These results may be amended by the state committee as described below. Also, an election for the delegation itself shall be held at this meeting.

The Mailing

The mailing shall include the following:

1. A cover letter from the co-chairs.
2. A call for fund raising and all that entails.
3. An info sheet covering all candidates and where more information on each candidate may be found.
4. The ballot.
5. A return envelope for donations.
6. A separate return envelope for the ballot.

The Ballot

The ballot shall be a ranked-choice ballot. It will include instructions either at the top of the page or elsewhere in the mailing, such as those in Appendix A for how to properly fill out and return the ballot and how the ballot will be counted. The names shall be presented in reverse alphabetical order and alternating male and female where possible. It shall include adequate space for write-ins and it shall also include a “None of the Above” option. It shall follow the template in Appendix B.

The Tabulation Committee

A committee shall be assembled no later than April 20th whose job it will be to use the results of the primary to determine how delegates shall be bound. That committee’s duties will be as follows:

1. Determine which ballots are spoiled, and report the number and reason of spoiled ballots at the next AZGP meeting.
2. Input all properly filled out ballots’ data into a single document as described in Appendix C.
3. Determine the number of first choice votes each candidate will need in order to be awarded one delegate by the following formula: $1/(\# \text{ of delegates})$ multiplied the total number of first choice votes.
4. Determine which candidates have met any multiple of those votes and bind the corresponding number of delegates to them.
5. Determine by the method of equal proportions (described in Appendix D) how to bind any remaining delegates.
6. Report all this at the following meeting of the AZGP for discussion and approval. The AZGP may not change how the delegates are bound, except in the case of a computational error or if any relevant candidates have dropped out of the race or removed themselves, de facto, as described below.

The Delegates

The delegates shall be chosen by approval vote at the AZGP meeting where the results of the primary election are presented by the tabulation committee. The appropriate number of delegate candidates, who receive the highest votes of approval, shall be elected, provided each receives at least 50% approval. No one receiving less than 50% approval shall be elected.

The delegates shall vote as bound at the convention. Should any relevant candidates be removed from the ballot, prior to any round of voting including the first, the delegates shall caucus and decide how best to represent the will of Arizona Greens and will vote accordingly. A candidate may be determined, by the delegation, to have removed themselves from the ballot, de facto, at which point the delegation will caucus to reallocate his or her support. Examples of de facto removal would include: by support for tickets that will oppose the chosen Green Party presidential candidate team, or by advocacy against the Green Party of the United States or the Arizona Green Party, or by unambiguous advocacy

against the Ten Key Values. The AZGP empowers its delegation to revoke the convention credentials of any delegate whom the delegation, by the unanimous decision of the other delegates, is discovered to be attempting to cast a convention vote which is markedly contrary to their consensus perception of the will of the Arizona Green voters.

Appendix A: Ballot Explanation

This is a ranked-choice ballot. Delegates to the national convention of the Green Party of the United States will be bound by the results of this election proportionally to the number of first choice votes they receive, and the rest of the rankings will be used to bind delegates if any candidate drops out or is eliminated. Each choice below has a space provided where you should write a number indicating how you rank each candidate. Your first choice should have a rank of "1" and your second a rank of "2" and so on. **Do not rank two choices with the same number and do not skip numbers;** if either of these occurs on your ballot, the ballot will be "spoiled" and will not be counted. You do not need to rank every candidate. The choice of "none of the above" means that you do want the Green Party to run someone for president but are not satisfied with any of the candidates. If you prefer some candidate whose name does not appear on this list, space is provided for you to write it in. If you have any questions, please call XXX-XXXX.

Once completed, this ballot should be placed in the return envelope provided and mailed to XXXXXXXX. Ballots postmarked later than April 10th or received later than April 20th will not be accepted. If you prefer not to mail in your ballot, you may vote online at XXXXXXXX or by phone by calling XXXXXXXX or it may be returned in person on March 1st between the hours of 10AM and 4PM to any of the following locations:

PLACE X, Tucson, Arizona
 PLACE Y, Phoenix, Arizona
 PLACE Z, Prescott, Arizona
 Etc...

Appendix B: Sample Ballot

Rank	Candidate Name
	SWIFT, KAT
	MCKINNEY, CYNTHIA
	MESPLAY, KENT
	JOHNSON, JESSE
	BALL, JARED

Rank	Candidate Name

	NONE OF THE ABOVE
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Appendix C: Sample Ballot Results

The tabulation committee shall report the number of 1st and 2nd choice votes each candidate and write-in receives in a single spreadsheet in addition to how the delegates shall be bound. This spreadsheet shall be used by the delegates should they need to caucus to determine how to vote. The results should be in a table similar to the one shown below:

Candidate	1 st Choice	2 nd Choice
Swift, Kat	34	51
Johnson, Jesse	12	18
McKinney, Cynthia	102	33
Etc...		

Appendix D: Method of Equal Proportions

After determining the number of delegates bound to each candidate based on step 3 (under The Tabulation Committee), if there are still unbound delegates remaining, use the following formula to get a value A for each candidate.

$$A = \frac{P}{\sqrt{n(n+1)}}$$

Where P = number of first place votes that candidate received and n = the number of delegates already bound to vote for them. If $n=0$, then assume $n=0.5$ instead.

The candidate with the highest value of A receives one additional bound delegate. Repeat this process until the number of bound delegates equals the total number of delegates. Preserve the order in which delegates were bound, so that the delegation can vote correctly if they have fewer votes for any reason (for example, if some of the delegation dies prior to voting).