

Green Party of Washington State
2008 Presidential Preference Vote, Delegate Selection, and Delegate Direction
Revised March 22, 2008

Presidential Candidates to be listed on ballot

Any presidential candidate who is officially recognized by the GPUS Presidential Campaign Support Committee as of March 12 will be included on the ballot.

Format of ballots and voters guides

Each ballot shall list the presidential candidates, and ask the voter to rank the candidates in order of preference. An option to not rank all candidates will be provided (for example, with four candidates, the voter could choose to rank only a “first” and a “second” choice, leaving the other two candidates unranked). Each candidate on our ballot for the presidential nomination will be allowed one side of an 8 ½ by 11 inch sheet of paper, in black and white, for inclusion in the voters guide sent out with the ballot. (GPoWS will use the statements previously sent in by the candidates; a separate statement from the Nader campaign, announcing that he is not seeking the GP nomination, will be included in the ballot mailout.)

Processing of ballots

Ballots and voters guides shall be mailed out to all GPOWS members by March 31st. An April 6th Greener Times will be sent out asking members to contact the SCC if they have not received their ballot. Returned ballots must be postmarked by April 21st. The state CC shall select a Canvassing Board to handle the mailing out and counting of ballots.

Apportionment of delegates

Definition:

Valid ballots are all ballots where a first choice vote is unambiguous as determined by the election committee. The number of valid ballots does not change.

Temporary Delegate Allocation:

Each presidential candidate will receive a *temporary* number of delegate slots equal to the number of first-choice votes for that candidate times 12 (the number of delegate slots allotted to GPoWS) divided by the total number of “valid” ballots. The “whole number” portion for each candidate’s delegate slots as determined by this formula is assured. [For example, if a candidate receives 86 first place votes and there are 225 “valid” ballots, the number of delegate slots received would be 4.59. The candidate is assured 4 delegates.] Then, vote totals that include fractions will be rounded up in order from highest fraction to lowest fraction, until all twelve *temporary* delegate slots are allocated. [For example, if in addition to the candidate in the above example, with 4.59, there were two candidates with fractional delegate slots of .65 and .30, the candidate with .65 would receive one delegate, the candidate with 4.59 would receive the next allotted delegate—for the .59 fractional part of the vote total—and the candidate with .30 would receive one delegate, if any delegates still remain to be allotted. For write-in candidates, there will be a threshold of 1% of the total ballot count in order to be included in the temporary delegate allocation. [This is to avoid numerous iterations for less-than-serious write-in votes.]

Fractional Ties:

In case of a tie, fractions will be rounded up in order from the candidate with the most whole delegates to the candidate with the fewest whole delegates. If a tie still exists, the winner will be determined by lot.

First Iteration:

At that point, ballots with first choice votes for candidates that do not have delegates allocated will be

transferred to the next choice on those ballots, beginning with the candidate with the fewest votes. That candidate shall be deleted from the delegate list, all transferred votes shall be deemed the same as first-choice votes, and the temporary delegate allocation will be redone. [Candidates must be deleted one at a time because transferred votes may result in another of these candidates receiving enough votes to receive a delegate slot.]

Subsequent Iterations:

After rerunning the temporary delegate allocation, if there are still ballots with first choice (or transferred) votes for candidates receiving no delegates, another vote transfer will occur on the ballots for the candidate with the fewest votes. The candidate shall be deleted from the delegate list. NOTE: Previously deleted candidates may not receive transferred votes. The temporary delegate allocation will be done again.

Subsequent iterations will continue until all ballots are used to help select a temporary delegate or have *exhausted* all ranked choices.

Permanent Delegate Allocation:

After the last iteration, the *temporary* delegate allocation becomes the *permanent* delegate allocation.

Selection and Directions of delegates

Delegates shall be selected by the candidate's campaigns. The State CC shall contact the candidates or their designated campaigns with the number of their delegates. They shall also name at least one alternate and one more alternate for every three delegates. Alternates take the place of delegates should the delegates not be able to attend the nominating convention, and all stipulations that apply to delegates apply to alternates. The candidates' campaigns shall reply to the state cc with the names of their delegates prior to the state convention according to the requirements below:

1. The delegates shall be members of, or applicants for membership in, the GPoWS.
2. The delegates shall vote at the convention according any agreements with their candidate's campaign; or if no agreements were made, according to their own best judgment.
3. The delegates shall represent the state party at the national convention.

If a candidate's campaigns do not provide a list of delegates meeting the criteria to the state cc prior to the state convention, a caucus of the Washington State Green Party members supporting the candidate at the state convention shall select the delegates for their candidate.