

# **Rules of Conduct**

## **for the Green Party Women Committee Election**

### **November 2021- January 2022**

The following rules for the conduct of elections have been drawn up to ensure a fair, open and equitable contest for all nominees. Candidates are asked to read and abide by them and share them with their supporters.

Rules have been drawn up in line with clauses within the Constitution of GPW, which will be referred to in contracted form only, e.g., C8 for Clause 8.

1. A returning officer (ERO) or job-share EROs shall be appointed by the committee to manage the conduct of the election.
2. The following posts will be advertised: Co-Chairs (voted in separately), Secretary, Membership Secretary, Treasurer and up to three other members (C8). All posts are available as job shares.
3. Any member of GPW who (C4) identifies as a woman or as gender variant may be nominated, subject to rule 5 below.
4. The deadline for Nominations will be at least three weeks before the date of the ballot.
5. 'Each candidate must be a fully paid-up member of the GPEW in good standing, and must be nominated and seconded by full members of Green Party Women'. (C8)
6. Candidates for each role will provide a photograph and a statement no longer than 200 words including a brief biography and explanation of why they wish to be elected to the role. Candidates planning to job share a role will be allowed a maximum 250 words.
7. Candidates will be asked to complete a GPW equality and diversity monitoring form.
8. Nominations will be made by via the form available on the Green Party Women website and newsletter by the deadline given. Candidate photos should be emailed to the ERO's at [ero@greenpartywomen.org.uk](mailto:ero@greenpartywomen.org.uk) . An exception may be made if the EROs put out a call for additional candidates to apply in order to encourage a more diverse field of candidates to stand. A new deadline one week later will stand, to enable checks to be completed and the rest of the election schedule will be followed without adjustment.
9. Once the candidate list is prepared, the election will be promoted on the GPW's website and Facebook page/social media, in posts approved by the EROs, showing all candidates for each role in a randomised order. EROs will be using this randomiser: <https://www.random.org/lists> and will not approve any posts that alter the order of candidates so generated.
10. Candidates may promote themselves on personal web sites and social media.
11. If official Green Party websites and social media platforms wish to publicise the election, they

must advertise all candidates in the random order published by the EROs on the GPW website and media.

12. All materials (such as newsletters or social media mentions) from Green Party Women about the election must either be to promote the full list of candidates in random order as above or to encourage members to vote in the ballot.

13. In view of the problems of slates and negative campaigning last year requiring the rerun of the election, and also the entrenched factions within the party, we will deal extremely firmly with candidates who refuse to engage fairly and in good faith. Negative campaigning between candidates will not be permitted - the EROs remind all candidates that they have to abide by the GPEW code of conduct, especially "9.3 Members should in all their interactions with colleagues, assume the best of them." Repeated infractions *will* lead to removal from the ballot.

14. Candidates will not promote a slate of candidates on personal web sites or social media. We require that all candidates also discuss with their supporters the need for fairness and civility at all times, and importantly that they understand that their supporters promoting slates and/or negative campaigning on their behalf also risk sanctions.

15. There will be an online hustings in the week following the announcement of the candidate list at which all candidates should be available to answer questions from GPW members. If a candidate is unavailable, their statement will be read by an ERO.

16. The election will be open for two weeks to all eligible members of GPW; i.e. those who identify as a woman or as gender variant (C4) *and* who registered to vote before the deadline and were members of GPEW at the time that nominations were opened.

17. To form an accurate electoral roll, emails will be sent to all members of GPW from the database before the close of nominations asking the member to confirm they comply with Clause 4 of the GPW Constitution. Only members who have confirmed that they comply within the deadline and who were members of GPEW at the opening of nominations will be sent voting details.

18. In previous elections, this stored data was kept for one month after the election closed and was then destroyed for GDPR compliance. As there is ongoing debate within the GPW committee as to whether this data should be securely stored as a basis for future electoral rolls or destroyed, we will push for urgent resolution of this issue and publish supplementary information on what will happen to this data before the election closes. Confirmation of any destruction of information will be sent to the CEO and to the co-chairs of GPW.

19. The EROs' interpretation of these rules is final, and candidates who fail to comply with them will be dealt with by one or more the following sanctions based on the severity of the breach:

- No further action / ERO warning
- Required to make a public retraction or apology
- Removed from the ballot prior to close of election

- The ballot will be voided and the election re-run

EROs can be contacted at [ero@greenpartywomen.org.uk](mailto:ero@greenpartywomen.org.uk) (please note: a longer delay in responding to emails is to be expected over the Christmas and New Year period)

SB and KS  
November 2021