

GPMN CAUCUS 2008 PROCEDURES AND PROCESSES

CONSENSUS DECISION MAKING SEEKING PROCESS: “Everyone makes the decisions”

- A decision making process in which all members present reach a decision to approve a proposal.
- Consensus does **not** mean everyone agrees with the proposal.
- It involves every person and reflects the will of the entire group.
- Conflict is resolved cooperatively and with respect.

The Facilitator Gives an Overview of the Rules of Consensus Decision Making

- One person speaks at a time and everyone listens without interrupting
- All contributions are valued and are respectful
- Individuals can agree to disagree
- Consensus cannot be rushed but previously determined time limits may be used

The Facilitator Introduces the Presenter, the Proposal or the Issue

- The Facilitator asks if there are Clarifying Questions
 - Clarifying questions are to help understand exactly what it is that the proposal means
- Clarifying questions are answered to the best of the presenters ability, others may help

The facilitator calls for discussion

- A broad general discussion about the proposal is held
- It is good to have someone keep track of who is next to speak (in GP lingo this person is generally called the “stacker”)
- This is the time to bring up any concerns or reservations you might have about the proposal

The facilitator calls for consensus

- Facilitator asks if there are any **unresolved concerns**.
 - If there are no unresolved concerns, the proposal passes/is voted on.
 - **If there are unresolved concerns:**
 - Discussion can be continued to resolve concerns
 - List All Concerns_

To Resolve Concerns:

- Concerns can be grouped together or addressed individually
- Facilitator asks for clarifying questions/comments about the concerns
- Everyone has the opportunity to discuss the concerns and offer ways to resolve the concerns
- Facilitator calls for consensus on each concern or group of concerns
- Facilitator continues to review the List of Concerns until each Concern has been discussed.
- If all Concerns are resolved, proposal passes/is voted on.

Options if concerns are not resolved:

1. The person who has the concern can Stand Aside
 - a. The decision is adopted with unresolved concerns stated and or noted in the notes
2. Vote (you can use 50%+1 or 2/3rds majority)

CONCERNS: There are 2 types of concerns: minor concerns and blocking concerns.

Minor Concerns:

- A person generally supports the proposal but has some reservations. Minor Concern allow for resolution.
- Minor Concerns can lead to small changes that improve the proposal.
- When a person has a minor concern, time is allotted for the person to express his/her concern and to persuade others to make minor changes to the proposal.

Blocking Concerns:

- A blocking concern is a concern that the proposal is in conflict with the Green Party Key Values or GP Principles.
- A Blocking Concern is **not** based on a personal preference.
- A proposal is blocked when the allotted amount of time is finished and legitimate concerns remain unsolved. The group must accept the Blocking Concern as a legitimate concern that is based on the Green Party's Principles.
- If the group decides that the concern is not in conflict with the Green Party's Principles, the group **may** decide that the concern has been resolved regardless if the individual accepts this resolution.

INSTANT RUN-OFF VOTING (IRV): (FYI, You should not need IRV at caucuses)

Purpose:

- IRV ensures that that winner wins with over 50% of the vote

Ballots:

- Voters can make their own ballot by simply writing “1st choice, 2nd choice, 3rd choice etc. on a piece of paper.
- Voters write the name of their 1st, 2nd and 3rd choice candidates on a piece of paper.
- Voters can rank as many candidates as they wish.
- Ranking additional delegate candidates can only help the chances of electing ranked candidates;
- Ranking a 2nd choice candidate will never cause your 1st choice candidate to lose; it helps the chances of your 2nd choice if your 1st choice is eliminated.

Counting/Sorting IRV Ballots

1. Try to honor the intent of the voter if it is clear. Only disregard a ballot if the voter's intent is not clear or if the voter voted improperly, such as by listing two candidates for first choice.
2. Sort the ballots according to the first choice ranking.
3. Count each pile of votes (there will be one pile for each candidate)
 - a. If at this time any one of the candidates has received a majority (greater than 50%) of the votes that candidate is the winner
4. If at this time no candidate has received a majority (greater than 50%) of the votes then:
 - a. Take the pile of ballots for the candidate who received that fewest votes and redistribute those votes to the candidate who is ranked 2nd on each ballot
 - b. If the ballot does not rank any other candidates or ranks two candidates as 2nd choice those ballots are set aside and not counted
 - c. If at this time any one of the candidates has received a majority of the votes that candidate is the winner
5. If no candidate has received a majority yet you repeat step 4 of above process.
6. If 2 candidates are tied, use consensus, flip a coin, or best judgment for selecting delegate.