

The BC Green Party Provincial Council and Ombuds Election Rules

Approved in principle August 25, 2021

GREEN PARTY POLITICAL ASSOCIATION OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

Definitions

“AGM”	means an annual general meeting of the BC Green Party.
“BC Green Party”	means the Green Party Political Association of British Columbia.
“Candidate”	means an individual whose application to run for a Provincial Council or Ombuds position has been accepted by the Nominations Committee.
“Election” or “Internal election”	means the Provincial Council & Ombud elections for the BC Green Party.
“Nominations Committee”	means the committee responsible for the design, administration and implementation of the Provincial Council & Ombud elections.
“Ombuds”	means one of the two ombudsperson positions with the BC Green Party.
“Party Member”	means a member of the BC Green Party in good standing.
“Provincial Council”	means the member-elected governance body of the BC Green Party.
“Constituency”	means the BC Green Party Members in good standing, eligible to vote for a particular Candidate.
“Voting Period”	means the two-week interval where Party Members in good standing may cast their votes for [a] Candidate[s].
“Returning Officer”	means the impartial individual tasked by the Nominations Committee to certify Internal Election results.

“Voting Results”	means the vote percentages of each round of voting, as well as the overall winners for each Provincial Council & Ombuds position, as certified by the Returning Officer.
-------------------------	--

1. Nominations

- 1.1. A notice of call for applications for Provincial Council and Ombuds shall be issued to all Party Members no less than 60 days prior to an AGM.

2. Candidacy

- 2.1. Candidates must:
 - 2.1.1. Be Party Members in good standing as of the date of the application.
 - 2.1.2. Must not be ineligible pursuant to section 6.4 of the Bylaws of the BC Green Party.
 - 2.1.3. Must not be ineligible pursuant to section 44 of the Societies Act of BC.
 - 2.1.4. Only apply to be a Candidate for one position per election

3. Applications for Candidacy

- 3.1. To apply to be a Candidate, the Nominations Committee must have received a fully completed Provincial Council & Ombuds application at least 45 days prior to the first day of voting.
- 3.2. As part of their application, all Applicants must commit to:
 - 3.2.1. Abide by the Six Core Principles of the BC Green Party;
 - 3.2.2. Run a respectful campaign that engages other Candidates on issues but does not use personal attacks;
 - 3.2.3. Always conduct themselves in a manner that positively portrays the BC Green Party;
 - 3.2.4. Act honestly and in good faith with a view to the best interests of the BC Green Party using care and diligence;

- 3.2.5. Adhere to the BC Green Party privacy policies, Party constitution and by-laws, Code of Ethics, Social Media Policy, all relevant BC Green Party policies; and the BC Societies Act;
- 3.3. Applicants will receive notice of the receipt of their application within one business day.
- 3.4. There will be no requirement to have online endorsements as has been done in previous Provincial Council Elections.
- 3.5. Applicants will receive acceptance or rejection of their application at least 30 days prior to the AGM.
- 3.6. Applicants must not represent themselves as a Candidate unless their application has been accepted.

4. Collection, use and disclosure of Personal Information

- 4.1. In the collection, use and disclosure of Personal Information, Candidates are bound by:
 - 4.1.1. The BC Personal Information Protection Act;
 - 4.1.2. Any and all recommendations made by the Information and Privacy Commissioner of BC in his report entitled Full Disclosure: Political parties, campaign data, and voter consent; and
 - 4.1.3. Any and all privacy policies of the BC Green Party.
- 4.2. Candidates must destroy any and all Personal Information collected by them within thirty-five (35) days of the completion of the AGM, except where retaining Personal Information is required by law.

5. Voter Contact Methods

- 5.1. Candidates will be provided with access to GVote for the sole purpose of calling Party Members in their constituency to campaign for their election.
- 5.2. The Nominations Committee will create and distribute email correspondence to Party Members with information about Candidates and the voting process prior to commencement of the voting period.

6. Official Election Events

- 6.1. Only the Nominations Committee may hold official events for the election of Provincial Council and Ombuds as deemed necessary.

7. Voting

- 7.1. Voting will end 14 days after it begins.
- 7.2. Voting will be conducted using a third-party online voting system.
- 7.3. The election of Provincial Council and Ombuds will use a ranked ballot, one-voter one-ballot system, with an option for “none of the above” on the ballot.
 - 7.3.1. In the case where there is only one Candidate, that candidate will appear on the ballot. Votes in favour of that Candidate must exceed votes for a “none of the above” option.
 - 7.3.2. In the case of the option “none of the above” receiving the largest vote share, no Candidate will be elected to the position and the position will remain vacant.
- 7.4. Voting Results will be announced by the Returning Officer during the AGM and be communicated to Candidates and Party Members by email within one business day of the AGM’s conclusion.

8. Ombuds

- 8.1. The two positions of Ombuds will be filled by two people of different genders, as specified in the Bylaws of the BC Green Party.
- 8.2. The positions will be elected in alternating years.
 - 8.2.1. If both roles are up for election in the same year, the two Candidates finishing with the largest vote share who are of different genders will win the election.
 - 8.2.2. If both roles are up for election in the same year but all Candidates are of the same gender, the Candidate finishing with the highest vote share will be elected and the second Ombuds position will remain open until the following election.

9. Returning Officer

- 9.1. The Nominations Committee must appoint an impartial Returning Officer who is responsible for ensuring the integrity of the vote.
- 9.2. The Returning Officer may not be a sitting member of the Provincial Council or an Ombuds.
 - 9.2.1. The Returning Officer will be barred from sitting on the Nominations Committee.

10. Impartiality

- 10.1. Members of the Provincial Council, members of the Nominations Committee, Riding Association executives and employees and contractors of the BC Green Party must remain impartial during the elections and may not actively support a Candidate.
 - 10.1.1. Actively supporting a Candidate may include providing an endorsement or other activities as deemed inappropriate by Provincial Council.

11. Dispute Resolution

- 11.1. Any disputes under these rules may be brought to the Provincial Council for resolution.

12. Instances not covered by the Provincial Council and Ombuds Election Rules

- 12.1. In all circumstances which are not covered by the Provincial Council and Ombuds Election Rules, the Provincial Council, on the advice of the Nominations Committee, will have jurisdiction to issue adjustments or rulings.

Appendix A

Campaigning Guidelines

1. Candidates may not use any BC Green Party list other than GVote for phoning Party Members.
2. Any and all personal information obtained during a phone call may be entered in GVote; no Party Member personal information may be recorded outside of GVote.
3. Candidates may not request contact lists generated during BC Green Party activities, such as campaign volunteer lists or event participant lists.
4. Candidates are not permitted to send a broadcast email to members using GVote or the BC Green Party's email system.
5. Candidates may not use official BC Green Party branding, other than forwarding or reposting BC Green Party content.