



Young Greens of Canada Council Election Rules

Adopted by Young Greens of Canada (YGC) Council on March 14th, 2018. Amended on February 7th, 2019, and February 26th, 2020. These rules govern the nomination and election of members to the YGC Council.

General

1. All nominations and elections related communication will take place via governance@greenparty.ca for the duration of the election cycle.
2. All necessary information for members to participate in the nominations and elections processes will be made available on the Party's website at www.greenparty.ca, and a link to this information will be made available on the YGC's website at www.youth.greenparty.ca.
3. Calls for nominations will include a message encouraging diversity.
4. To preserve neutrality and fairness, any member of the YGC Council who has submitted their application for election or re-election to Council must not take part in any meetings or discussion regarding elections fairness, nominations, or Council candidate search.
5. Party staff must remain impartial throughout the nominations and elections processes and refrain from publicly supporting or campaigning for or against any contestant. Members of the YGC Council may nominate contestants for Council positions but may not campaign for or against any contestant. Any YGC Council member who serves as a nominator for a contestant must not take part in any meetings or discussion regarding elections fairness, nominations, or Council candidate search.

Nominations

1. Contestants for YGC Council positions must be members of the YGC at the time of their nomination, and remain members in good standing until the close of voting. Contestants for Co-Chair positions must meet the membership requirements outlined in the Federal Council Nomination and Election Rules. Elected contestants must continue to hold

membership for the duration of their service on YGC Council.

2. Contestants may run for only one position per election cycle.
3. Contestants must be under the age of twenty-nine (29) as of the close of the voting period.
4. Provincial or Territories Representative contestants must reside within the province or the territories they are seeking to represent for at least eight (8) months per year.
5. Contestants must submit a completed, legible nomination package by the close of the nomination window. The nomination package must include:
 - a. A contestant profile of 250 words or less if writing in English, or of 300 words or less if writing in French, which promotes their candidacy and outlines any relevant experience and qualifications. Profiles may be submitted in English or French. Profiles received in only one language will be translated by the Party.
 - b. One high resolution electronic photo.
 - c. A complete nomination form with the correct number of nominators required for the position being sought.
 - d. Contact information for communication with YGC Council and Party staff.
 - e. Optional: any contact information that the contestant would like to share with the YGC membership (phone, email, website, etc.).
6. Nomination packages will be evaluated by Party staff. Staff will notify prospective contestants, via their provided contact information, whether or not their candidacy is accepted within ten (10) business days of package submission.
7. Contestants for Co-Chair positions will be evaluated according to the vetting requirements stipulated in the Federal Council Nomination and Election Rules.
8. The lesser of five (5) members of the YGC residing within a province or the territories of Canada, or 20% of YGC members residing in a province or the territories, shall be required to nominate for the position of Provincial Representative or the Territorial Representative of their respective province or territory.
 - a. 2020 requirements:
 - i. Five (5) nominators: Alberta, British Columbia, Nova Scotia, Ontario, Quebec
 - ii. Four (4) nominators: Prince Edward Island, Saskatchewan
 - iii. Three (3) nominators: the Territories
9. Ten (10) members of the YGC, representing at least two (2) provinces and/or territories, shall be required to nominate for the position of Co-Chair of the YGC.

10. Nominators must be members in good standing on the date they nominate, and remain in good standing until the close of voting.
11. Nominators must provide written confirmation (either via email or via signature on a nomination form) of their agreement to nominate a contestant, along with the necessary contact information to allow Party staff to verify their membership status.
12. Nominator names will be published.
13. Contestants will be informed by staff when the applicable minimum number of nominators have been verified, and/or when a nominator is found to be invalid.
14. Nominations shall close at least thirty (30) days prior to the vote.

Elections

1. YGC Bylaws call for one Co-Chair and the representatives of Newfoundland and Labrador, the Territories, New Brunswick, Quebec, Manitoba, and Alberta to be elected in odd numbered years, and for one Co-Chair and the representatives of Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island, Ontario, Saskatchewan and British Columbia to be elected in even numbered years.
2. Each province and the territories must have a minimum of ten (10) members of the YGC residing within their borders in order to be eligible to elect a provincial representative or territorial representative to Council. Membership numbers will be reviewed by Party staff at the end of the nomination window.
3. After the closure of the nomination window, the Party will provide YGC members with a full list of contestants, along with the profiles and photos submitted by contestants as part of their nomination packages.

Campaigns

1. In accordance with privacy regulations, contestants will not have, and are not to have, direct access to YGC membership lists in order to promote their campaign.
2. Contestants will be provided with the following opportunities to communicate directly with members in good standing in their respective constituencies during the election period:
 - a. one message of 250 words or less, if writing in English, or of 300 words or less if writing in French, sent out via Party staff to the YGC membership;
 - b. space on the Party's Volunteer Slack platform through which they may interact with the membership;
 - c. contact information for the EDAs and campus clubs in their constituencies; and

- d. a Party email address (valid until the close of the election period).
3. No campaign spending or donations, either by contestants or members on behalf of a contestant, are permitted as part of the YGC nominations and elections processes. Individuals must pay their own membership fees.
4. Contestants may campaign for support via their networks and personal contacts. No contestant may use their official position within the YGC and/or their access to official YGC communication channels (ex. Facebook page, working group mailing lists, youth@greenparty.ca, etc.) to access additional contact information or to post campaign messages.
5. Contestants and their campaigns must remain in keeping with the Green Party of Canada's Member Code of Conduct at all times. Negative campaigning is not permitted.
6. Suspected breaches of the YGC election rules must be reported to the Federal Council Governance Committee. Confirmed breaches of the election rules by a contestant may result in disqualification.
7. Contestants must accept the results of the YGC elections as final. Campaigns may not continue past the close of the voting period.

Voting

1. All YGC members between the ages of 14 and 29 (inclusive) are eligible to vote in the election of Co-Chairs to the YGC Council.
2. All YGC members between the ages of 14 and 29 (inclusive) residing within a province or the territories are eligible to vote for the Provincial or Territories Representative of their respective province or territory.
3. Voting rights for new YGC members commence once an individual has been a member of the Green Party of Canada for thirty (30) days and has provided the necessary information to the Party to confirm their eligibility for YGC membership. Lapsed members who renew their membership within ninety (90) days of expiration will have their voting rights reinstated immediately upon renewal.
4. The assignment of a YGC member to a province or territory for voting purposes shall be based on the mailing address on file for that member on the date that the voting period opens. YGC members are responsible for contacting the Party to update or correct their mailing address.

5. Instructions for how to vote in the Council election shall be emailed out at least thirty (30) days prior the Council election date.
6. The vote for Provincial and Territorial Representatives shall require None-of-the-Above (NOTA) to be a contestant, shall be by preferential ballot, and a majority vote shall elect.
7. The vote for Co-Chairs shall require None-of-the-Above (NOTA) to be a contestant and shall be by preferential ballot. The Co-Chair contestant who wins the preferential vote will be elected. If the successful contestant is not a self-identified cisgender man, the second placed contestant will be elected to the second Co-Chair position, regardless of gender identity. If the successful contestant is a self-identified cisgender man, all other contestants who are self-identified cisgender men will be excluded from the vote and the remaining contestant with the highest number of votes will be elected to the second Co-Chair position.