

A1-AGM Extraordinary Circumstances Constitutional Motion: AGM Extraordinary Circumstances

Proposer: Edinburgh Greens Branch Committee

Motion text

- 1 In the Constitution,
- 2 Add section 2.3.1: In extraordinary circumstances, it may not be possible to
- 3 hold an AGM within 14 months. The branch committee may therefore be permitted to
- 4 postpone the AGM until circumstances have changed, following a majority vote of
- 5 the branch committee. The branch committee must inform the members of the branch
- 6 of this decision. The terms of office of the branch committee will be extended
- 7 until the AGM can take place.
- 8 Add section 2.3.2: If 5% of the membership of the Branch object to the
- 9 postponement of the AGM, then the branch committee must ensure that the AGM
- 10 takes place.
- 11 Amend 11.2 to read: "By the Branch not having called an AGM within 14 months of
- 12 the previous such meeting, unless there are extraordinary circumstances which
- 13 have been communicated to the members."

Reason

With the pandemic in 2020, it was realised by the branch committee that it would not be possible to hold the AGM at its normal time. While the party and branch were flexible under the circumstances, it was clear that the Constitution was not.

Both Section 2.3 and Section 11 deal with reasons that the branch may be dissolved, specifically that there has not been an AGM within 14 months. These amendments incorporate scope for the branch to continue functioning under extraordinary circumstances.

A1-Branch Reserves Constitutional Motion: Edinburgh Greens Branch Reserves Policy

Proposer: Edinburgh Greens Branch Committee

Motion text

- 1 Insert into EGP Constitution, Section 4:
- 2 In order to ensure the ongoing financial sustainability of the Edinburgh branch,
- 3 reserves should be retained in the branch bank account for the equivalent of one
- 4 (minimum) to two (desirable) years' branch running costs. Costs may include, but
- 5 not be limited to, monthly branch and committee venue hire, Edinburgh Greens
- 6 website hosting and domain charges, and an accessibility bursary fund. As at
- 7 2020, the reserves would be set at £3000 for one year's running costs or £6000
- 8 for two years'.

Reason

This policy should not be difficult to uphold, given the ongoing generosity of the standing orders from Edinburgh branch members. However if circumstances were to change, it is important to ensure that each committee passes on a financially sustainable branch to the next. By requiring 1-2 years running costs to remain in the bank, it means that if there is a drop in income in the future, there will be time to find new funds before needing to cut back on constitutionally required activity. Please note that running costs do not include costs involved with elections.

Supporters

Becky Luff (Treasurer); Ben Parker (Co-Convenor)

A1-Elected Official Reports Constitutional Motion: Elected Officials Reports To Branch

Proposer: Andrew Brough

Motion text

- 1 Insert in Constitution new Section 6.2:
- 2 During scheduled branch meetings a representative of elected councillors and a
- 3 representative of elected MSPs will report work from the current month of the
- 4 meeting on behalf of their group

Reason

We currently have MSP's reporting work done during the last month at the Branch meeting but Councillors report a month after so that makes the report nearly a months old when reported at a Branch meeting. This is a simple motion to bring them into line with each other and update the Branch with news sooner rather than later.

Supporters

Andrew Brough (Edinburgh Greens); Conrad Hughes (Edinburgh Greens)

A1-Gender Pronouns Standing Orders Motion: Gender Pronouns

Proposer: Edinburgh Greens Branch Committee

Motion text

- 1 In Standing Orders section 5.3.6, remove “may dismiss that member from his/her
- 2 Branch post” and replace with “may dismiss that member from their Branch post”.

Reason

The Party has strived in recent years to only use pronouns where a member has expressed a preference, in recognition that members may not wish to use gender-binary pronouns (eg he/she). There is only one instance of male/female pronouns being used in the Standing Orders or Constitution, and therefore this is a technical amendment to make this pronoun more generic.

A1-Office Bearers Extraordinary Circumstances Standing Orders Motion: Office Bearers In Extraordinary Circumstances

Proposer: Edinburgh Greens Branch Committee

Motion text

- 1 In the standing orders,
- 2 2.4.1, insert 'in normal circumstances' after 'shall hold office', so that the
- 3 sentence reads: "The Branch Committee shall be elected at the AGM and shall hold
- 4 office in normal circumstances for one year".

Reason

This amendment incorporates the possibility that, under extraordinary circumstances, office bearers' roles may be extended beyond the one year that they were elected for.

A3-Holyrood Constituencies Branch Motion: Standing in constituencies for Holyrood 2021

Proposer: Alys Mumford (Lothian campaign board)

Motion text

- 1 Edinburgh branch supports the recommendation of the Lothian 2021 campaign board
- 2 to stand in two constituencies within our region and that:
- 3 • Those 2 constituencies should be the 2 in which Green vote share is
- 4 highest – namely Edinburgh Central and Edinburgh Northern and Leith.
- 5 • The 2 candidates for those constituencies should be the 2 top-ranked
- 6 candidates on the Lothian list and our two sitting MSPs: Alison Johnstone
- 7 and Andy Wightman.

Reason

Reason:

While our Scottish parliament elections are focused on winning seats on the regional list, our long-term election strategy sees us contesting constituencies, with the aim of:

- increasing the profile of the party as a whole, and our top list candidates;
- supporting our 2022 council campaign with voter reach and canvassing data;
- offering (some) voters the opportunity to vote green for both the list and the constituency votes;
- "Emphasising that we offer a distinct and radical agenda from other parties rather than being solely a focus for list votes"

The 2021 strategy at a national level recommends that all branches stand in one constituency seat, and that seat be offered to the top candidate on the list. As Edinburgh currently has two sitting MSPs, and in order to continue the strategy started in 2016 (where Alison Johnstone stood in Edinburgh Central), the national party is happy to support the Lothian 2021 Campaign Board recommendation to stand in two constituencies. The top list candidates (Alison Johnstone, Andy Wightman and Lorna Slater) have been consulted with, and agree with this proposal. The costs incurred for this would be £500 for the second deposit, with the first being covered by the national party, which is reflected in the campaign budget.

Supporters

Rebecca Luff (Treasurer); Kate Nevens (Co-convener)