

Dear Green Party member,

In most political parties, the decisions are made by a handful of party brass. In the Green Party, the members make the most important decisions. We walk the talk of "grassroots."

Every two years, members vote for council representatives as well as policy, constitutional and directive motions that are then sent to the Biennial General Meeting. Those votes are always important, but this year's resolutions are especially so. In fact, they are critical.

Normally, only a small portion of our members vote. I often hear people say that they don't feel well enough informed about who is running or what the resolutions could mean for the party. Take the time to do a little research. It is critical that you vote.

<http://greenparty.ca/convention/election/contestants>
<http://greenparty.ca/convention/resolutions>

This time there is no misunderstanding how fundamental the issues are. Some resolutions would cause an immediate leadership race, forcing me to resign -- even before the next election. Please read the backgrounder provided with the resolutions.

As a member, I urge you to go to the websites and Facebook pages put up by the candidates and decide who you would like to represent you on the governing body of council. Council rules do not allow me (or any other senior party staff or elected representatives) to endorse candidates. There are some significantly different visions for the party between those running for council.

We have some excellent resolutions to expand council to include a francophone co-chair, more youth and more women. We also have other resolutions which erode the leadership. Resolution G10-c001 would change council's structure and place the leader, in more of a staff position, with no vote. I ask for your support that the Leader may continue to have a vote on council.

Please review all the related leadership motions. Recent changes to Election legislation have put our Party's constitution into conflict with the Elections Act, and this must be rectified. Council has put forward a solution avoiding any immediate leadership race as Resolution c029. I abstained on that vote, but it is entirely up to you, our members, whether I remain as leader through the next election or not. We have an excellent chance of winning seats in the next election -- in fact, some recent polls have projected as many as four Green seats! The campaign in my riding of Saanich Gulf Islands is going extremely well. But the election strategy is only one factor. If members want me to step down, so be it. It will have been my honour to serve you since 2006.

It is critical that the membership knows what is at stake and takes the time to work through the ballot. All members in good standing can vote NOW on line, or by mail in ballot, and there is still time to join or renew if you want to come to the Toronto BGM Aug 20-22 and vote in person there.

Thanks so much for your support of the Green Party of Canada.

Elizabeth May, O.C.
Leader
Green Party of Canada