

BALLOT GUIDE

Question 1: Approving Our Mission

Proposed Mission: Big Green DAO is a decentralized community that uses democratic processes to strengthen grassroots organizations growing food.

This mission reflects what we've learned since launching in 2021. Initially an experiment in disrupting philanthropy, Big Green DAO has since granted funding to 147 organizations. Over time, our focus has shifted toward supporting grassroots nonprofits. We've also doubled down on decentralizing decisions and using democratic voting in our governance.

Do you approve this as our official mission? (It will be added to the Light Paper if passed.)

- Yes
- No

Question 2: Eligibility for Grant Round 8

Since our first grant round, we've worked to balance fairness and inclusivity. In early rounds, only new organizations were eligible. Later, we introduced a 12-month pause between grants so previously funded orgs could apply again. In Grant Round 7, we split funding: 80% went to returning grantees, and 20% to new ones.

For Round 8, organizations funded in Round 7 will not be eligible, but those funded earlier can apply again. No organization may vote in a round where they're applying for funding.

Should new organizations (who've never received a grant) be eligible in Grant Round 8?

- Yes
- No

Question 3: Stipends & Honorariums

This question centers on the appropriate use of DAO treasury funds. Big Green DAO has used treasury dollars to fund professional services for learning pathways and the Annual. Sometimes those services have been from DAO members, other times from external subject matter experts. In 2025, the idea of working groups came forward. This question is to determine if drawing honorariums or stipends for members who participate in working groups that are of service to the DAO should be compensated from the treasury, or if other sources of funding should be identified for that compensation. The treasury is the primary source from which unrestricted funding can be allocated to members via grant rounds or other funding proposals.

Should stipends or honorariums be drawn from the treasury to compensate DAO members for participating in working groups or providing other services to the DAO?

- Yes
- No

QUESTIONS 4-6: FUNDING STRATEGY FOR THE NEXT QUARTER

The following questions relate to the use of funds for the upcoming quarter and beyond. The term “treasury” refers to a restricted fund held by Big Green that is governed by the DAO Committee and Community. The treasury in the past has funded grant rounds, Committee grants, governance sessions, Annual expenses and stipends, learning pathways, and other professional services for the benefit of DAO members. The balance in the treasury is \$1.6M. According to the Light Paper, the treasury can grow through donations that are restricted by the donor or allocated by Big Green from other sources. Grants must always come from the treasury. Other expenditures can be drawn from the treasury by a consensus vote of the Committee or $\frac{2}{3}$ vote of participating Community members and $\frac{2}{3}$ vote of the Committee.

We have a total grant pool of between \$320,000 - \$480,000 to distribute, depending on the outcome of this vote. The DAO uses a quadratic voting mechanism, which means that voters can cast support for multiple organizations. Some may receive a small amount of support, as counted by the number of “seeds” allocated. Others can receive significant support by casting a larger number of “seeds.” The algorithm values both the strength of support organizations receive (how many seeds voters cast), as well as the breadth of support (number of unique organizations that allocate seeds to them).

There’s a trade-off to consider:

- A lower minimum grant amount (floor) allows more people to receive grants, but each grant may be smaller.
- A higher maximum grant amount (ceiling) allows for larger grants, but fewer people may receive them.

Question 4: Treasury Allocation

What percentage of the treasury should be used for Grant Round 8?

- 20% (\$330,000)
- 25% (\$413,000)
- 30% (\$495,000)

Question 5: Minimum Grant Size (Floor)

What’s the smallest amount any organization should receive in this round?

- \$1,000
- \$2,500
- \$5,000
- \$7,500
- \$10,000
- Other: \$____

Question 5: Maximum Grant Size (Ceiling)

What’s the largest amount any organization should be able to receive?

- \$20,000
- \$50,000
- \$75,000
- \$100,000
- \$150,000
- Other: \$____