

Green Party of California General Assembly Minutes

June 13 & 14, 2020



Note taker: Nicole Raglin

https://cagreens.nationbuilder.com/june_2020_ga

Approved by the GPCA General Assembly on July 9, 2022

Saturday, June 13th

8:30-9:00 am - **Registration/check-in.**
Completed

Facilitator(s): Nassim Nouri

9:00 - 9:30 am - **Opening Session:** welcome - Agreements - other info
A message of welcome, a land acknowledgement and a description of general GA process and logistics was shared.

9:30 - 9:40 am - **Quorum Count** - for starting GA and approving agenda
See list of Delegate/Alternates in Appendix A.
A review of attendees shows a quorum reached with a majority of active counties present, and with 75 Greens joining throughout the day.

9:40-10:00 am - **Agenda Approval – Draft Agenda**
Tarik Kanaana listed additional sessions on Sunday for time slots 10-11:30 and 11:30-12, which did not take time away from any other sessions previously scheduled.

No Questions and concerns.
Agenda approved by consensus

10:10 - 10:15 am - **Confirmation of bylaws interpretation regarding two current (5/2020) SGA proposals from Contra Costa GP.** (Coordinating Committee)
Presenter: Tarik Kanaana

See Appendix B. Tarik Kanaana explained that these two bylaws' interpretations were submitted by the Contra Costa County GP after the deadline for inclusion in the current SGA. The CC is proposing adding discussions on these items to this GA (Sunday 10-11:30 am) and then waive the 6-week SGA discussion period allowing for a reduced 4-week discussion period. This will allow delegates to have discussions on these items tomorrow and add them on the SGA vote queue along with other current items.

No questions or concerns, one affirmation

Approved by consensus

10:15 - 11:00 am - The Kente Cloth Catastrophe of 2020: how the prevailing political process fails people and what YOU can do about it **Guest speaker Reyma McCoy McDeid**

Bio: Reyma McCoy McDeid is the executive director of Central Iowa Center for Independent Living (winner of the 2018 Organization of the Year award from the Des Moines Civil and Human Rights Commission) and serves as both Treasurer and Anti-Racism and Equity Taskforce Co-Chair for the National Council on Independent Living and Chair of the Autistic Self Advocacy Network. She is the recipient of a 2019 AT&T Humanity of Connection award and her 2018 run for office was endorsed by the Working Families Party, the Asian & Latino Coalition, and Iowa Women for Progressive Change. She is also a single mom. Her work has been featured in the New York Times, Vice, Pantsuit Nation, TIME, The Des Moines Register, The Cedar Rapids Gazette, and Progressive Voices of Iowa. Her vocation is mobilizing marginalized persons- the working class, people of color, folks with disabilities, religious minorities, and others- to engage with the political process at every available opportunity.

WWW.REYMA.ORG

<https://www.facebook.com/ReymaMcCoyHyten>

Discussions and questions

Reyma shared an inspiring presentation, debunking myths about rural America, highlighting the forgotten communities around the country. She raised the issues of having a voice and platform by average and everyday people to speak on behalf of people living a real life, "We need commentary from people with a real life".

- Shannel shared she is connecting people to each other and to organizations within the Green Party and within the movements that she is involved with.
- Attendees pointed to the oppressive systems in our social structures including in all political organizations. Some noted that Greens are trying to change the world, and we need to articulate the intersection of oppression and acknowledge the class wars that benefit so many of us.
- Randy asked about the presence of Greens in IW, and also brought up the need for campaign finance reform, and Iowa's polar political environment with a strong conservative vote.
- Reyma noted that Trump is not a boogeyman, he is the result of generations of white supremacist capitalist toxic masculinity.

11:00 - 11:30 am - The George Floyd and Black Lives Matter Protests: Possible Green Party Actions (CC)

Speaker: Greg Jan

Greg used a survey to ask attendees questions regarding their awareness and participation in the national protests that started in May after the violent murder of George Floyd by Minneapolis police. Greg discussed what initial actions Green can take to support this uprising.

From joining protests to platform and policy work and more, what actions can Greens take to support the uprisings and also help build the Green Party?

- For platform and policy aspects, we may form a group (or an ad-hoc committee) within the Platform Committee to work on platform and policy which might begin by reviewing these three websites below.

Those interested contact Shane of Platform Comm at squehee@ucla.edu

<https://www.joincampaignzero.org/#vision>

This group proposes 10 mandates to address the police violence crisis. How can these reforms be supported and implemented by Greens in our communities?

<https://8cantwait.org/>

Eight immediate reforms are proposed by 8 can't wait, that are also instructive and process reforms.

<https://www.8toabolition.com/>

This group is proposing more transformative and abolitionist ideas that address the system of oppression. Defund, demilitarize, remove police from schools, etc.

- Another path is to do general work on support and develop our party in this movement through an ad-hoc committee within the GROW. Those interested contact Greg Jan at gregjan4@yahoo.com

Discussions and questions

- Shannel Pitmann and Randy Hicks asked if the committees would be open to other approaches and to candidates? Greg affirmed they would operate according to consensus and decisions by those who join the committee. Candidates can also highlight in their campaign any GPCA platform revisions.

- Diana Brown clarified that currently the GPCA does not include community policing in our platform but GPUS does have some positions on this, Greg affirmed that can be used as a resource.

- Earlier in the day Mike Feinstein notes that Cameron Gordon (Cam) is a Green who has served on the Minneapolis city council who had helped shape their recent police reforms.

- Shannel suggested as Greens we can 'be there' in a supporting role and be in solidarity with the movement.

- Eric noted that SF was legally ordered to implement police reforms and they are not working, so he advocated for radical change and restructure starting with disarmament.

- Greg closed the session by inviting all to get involved, get the group started then stay the course to amend our platform.

11:35 - 12:10 - Green candidates Margaret Villa and [Jake Tonkel](#), reporting on their campaigns (CC)

Both candidates shared information about themselves and their goals in running for office, as well as challenges and accomplishments of their campaigns.

A [presentation](#) by Mike Feinstein followed on how to:

(1) use your county voter registration database and your county registrar's list of local candidates for outreach to Greens in your county to let them know which offices they can run for.

(2) once the filing deadline has passed, how to identify Greens in non-partisan local races November 2020 (CCWG)

Mike noted he has been doing this for all states and no longer has the bandwidth, so he suggested individual County Green Party need to do this task to find local Green candidates and then be sure to report the details on those candidates to the GPUS elections database at: <https://www.gpelections.org/>

Discussions and questions

- Karen Nyhus, Randy Hicks, and Eric Brooks offered help for Margarete Villa's campaign for her campaign Facebook pages and legislative work.

- Mike offered to help individual counties to do the tasks he has described in his presentation.

- Other suggestions were shared.

- Nassim spoke about her experience with Jake's campaign and the various strategies Greens use in running for office; to win, to serve one's community, to focus on a specific issue, to represent the Green Party, etc...

- James shared that Greens elected to office could get together and asked if there had been a conference of elected Greens. Mike Feinstein reported that there have been 2 conferences of Green officeholders in 1998 and 2003 in Santa Monica, and Green city council members used to meet annually in the California League of Cities. Also an email list was set up under CCWG but only one person knew the password and no one was able to organize that.

12:10-12:15 pm - Information on breaks

Nassim shared that the chat line is open during breaks for people to socialize, and noted that there will be an announcement session immediately after lunch at 12:45. For those who have announcements, please join early and get on stack.

12:15 - 12:45 pm - **Lunch Break**

Facilitator(s): Eric Brooks

12:45 - 1:05 pm - **Announcements**

County Green party representatives and delegates shared announcements.

- Discussions were shared about the People's Party and the many other leftist or progressive groups emerging from people's discontent.

- Nicole Castor shared that Sac GP has formed a legislative Committee which has been submitting their positions to the CA legislative portal, she invited other County GPs to contact Randy or her to learn how to submit their positions through the portal; nmcastorsilva@gmail.com, Rhfactor_98@yahoo.com

- Rick Greenblatt suggested the discussions about DSA, People's Party and other emerging groups has been very interesting and hoped to have future discussions at other GAs

1:05-1:35 pm - **Presentation: Introductions and statements from Coordinating Committee candidates for 2020-2022 term (CC)**

All candidates present who are running for the Coordinating Committee spent 3 minutes presenting their background and experiences.

1:35-2:20 pm - **Presentation on Committees and Working groups (CC)**

Nassim Nouri shared a brief [presentation](#) on the overall structure of GPCA Committees and Working Groups. Attending Coordinators from GPCA committees and working groups each presented information on the role and mandate of their teams, noted current vacancies, and answered questions. Coordinators also shared their contact information for anyone who is interested in getting involved.

2:20-3:50 pm - **"From Theory to Practice: Putting the 10 Key Values into Action"**

Presenters: David Cobb and Mel Figueroa

This workshop explored how to actualize the principles of a "Solidarity Economy" in a local community. We will focus on Cooperation Humboldt as a case study, including how they quickly created a mutual aid network in response to the COVID crisis.

Mel shared a presentation on how we got to this critical moment in our history of inspiring a revolution. David followed up with a discussion on the work being done by Cooperation Humboldt and how we can move forward in building a solidarity economy.

<http://cooperationhumboldt.org>

Discussions and questions

- Attendees shared their thoughts about the general hopelessness and angst in our communities and posed questions on how we as Greens can inspire and lead people into building a way out of this system using the models being implemented by Cooperation Humboldt.

- Karen Nyhus asked about what resources and tools CH drew from when it is hard to engage people who have not been organically involved in the process? David noted Cooperation Jackson was a model, CH started with a 20-member in movement school who went on to build a program on worker-owned cooperatives.

- Peggy Koteen and Ann Menasche mentioned difficulty in getting cooperation with quarantine practices and also with funding. Mel noted it is needed to be prepared and have a community that can help and coordinate to manage around the pandemic.

- Rick Greenblatt and Randy asked about funding sources and leadership models, David noted that CH got started with the help of an angel investor and later as a 501C3 got grants and seed money later including small donations from the community.

- Attendees went to two breakout rooms to continue discussions with Mel and David separately.

3:50 -4:15 pm - **Announcements**

County Green party representatives and delegates shared announcements.

Erick Brooks suggested anyone who is interested in further discussing going forward with Greg Jan's 11 am session (GPCA platform on community policing) can stay after the GA adjourns.

4:15 pm - **Adjourned for Saturday**

Sunday, June 14th

9:00 - 9:30 am - **Registration/check-in.** Completed.

Facilitator(s): Mimi Newton and Tarik Kanaana

9:30 - 10:00 am – **Opening Session:** a welcome statement, agreements, and other info was shared.

10:00 - 10:45 am - **Discussion of SGA Proposal: Timing of Fiscal Year - Contra Costa County Amendment, Fiscal Policy: Timing of Fiscal Year** - See Appendix B.

Presenter: Tim Laidman

Tim presented the proposal which will be posted to the SGA listserv for a vote after an abbreviated discussion period of 4 weeks. Further discussions will shortly begin on the SGA listserve.

10:45-11:30 am - **Discussion of SGA Proposal: Requesting audit required in the approval of the 2018-19 Budget** - See Appendix B.

Presenter: Tim Laidman

Tim presented the proposal which will be posted to the SGA listserv for a vote after an abbreviated discussion period of 4 weeks. Further discussions will shortly begin on the SGA listserve.

Facilitator(s): Christine Pepin

11:30 - 12 pm - **"Street Medics: Healers, Health Workers, and Activists" - Guest speaker Xylem Larla Dey – an interview by Nicole Raglin**

Xylem's Bio: Xylem Larla Dey has lived for 16 years in Nisenan Territory, in the Sierra Foothills, now known as Nevada City, California. Xylem's history in direct action began in 2001 as a tree sitter and forest activist in Portland, Oregon, primarily in the Mount Hood National Forest and volunteering full-time with Cascadia Forest Alliance. She was involved in supporting various environmental causes as well as the labor movement, GMO labeling, and anti-war protests. Xylem was trained in 2003 as a Street Medic by Doc Rosen, one of the founders of the Street Medic movement. Doc had been adopted by

Lakota Chief Crowdog after serving as a medic with the American Indian Movement at Wounded Knee in 1973, and brought Xylem into AIM spaces where she was taught how to be a guest and supporter in Indigenous-led direct actions and ceremonies. Now an herbalist and a Wilderness First Responder, Xylem served as an herbal action medic at Standing Rock in 2016, where she received updates to her direct action training from the Indigenous Peoples Power Project (IPPP), was a medic during the long night of police violence with water hoses on the Backwater Bridge. Xylem has a masters in education in curriculum and instruction, is a mentor and outdoor educator for teenagers, and serves on the Nisenan Tribe's curriculum development committee. She plans to run a bridge training for those with existing medical training to be helpful at direct actions by learning street medic ethics & techniques.

Questions and discussions ensued on the work of a Street Medic and how others can get involved.

12:00 - 12:30 pm - **Break**

12:30-1:15 pm - **Presentation: Introductions and statements from GPUS Delegate and Alternate Delegate candidates for 2020-2022 term (CC)**

Candidates running for GPUS Delegate and Alternate who were present introduced themselves and shared their background and experiences.

1:15-1:30 pm - **"The GPUS and the National Committee. How to make a difference!" - GPUS Delegation**

Tarik Kanaana shared information about the Annual National Meeting (ANM) and the Presidential Nominating Convention (PNC) that will be taking place virtually from July 9th to the 12th. No travel expenses! Now is the time to get involved.

Tarik introduced the GPUS committees and highlighted ways for GPCA members to engage both with the GPUS Delegation as well as national Green Party Committees.

1:30-2:30 pm - **"Organizing into the Rapture - GP organizing during COVID-19." Karen Nyhus -Sonoma County**

Presentation - Have we seen more turbulent, unpredictable times? Are we all going crazy together, and apart? What are the challenges and opportunities for organizing a stronger, more relevant Green Party during COVID-19? From mutual aid to mutiny, join us to hear about models, successes -- and to share your own.

- Karen reminded us of some of the issues that other GA speakers have brought up this weekend, and she used a number of informative polls to get attendees participating in the discussions.

- Karen also asked GP Santa Clara County Council member Nassim Nouri to share information about a mutual aid group URG (Unhoused Response Group) she co-founded with another Green, Jake Tonkel, that works to distributed 'COVID kits' with information and essential PPE items to unhoused residents in the county in response to the vanishing city and county sources of information and support for unhoused residents due to COVID.

- Does your party have a representation issue? How do you address that?

Questions and Discussions

- Attendees shared the wide range of problems and crises that are compounding what people in our communities are living through, such as the pandemic, healthcare, wages, housing, capitalism, etc.

- Karen and Nassim noted the opportunities this type of work opens up about building relationships, especially with local municipal entities.

- Karen answered questions as they appeared on the chat.

2:30 - 2:40 pm - **Next General Assembly Meeting Date and Place**

Laura Wells noted that the next General would be in November or December and the budget would be on the agenda. She suggested that having the GA in Nov would be best to avoid people's holiday plans in Dec. Possible weekend to consider would be either November 14-15 or 21-22. We'd likely use a zoom format again but if we decide to host it in person we'd need to pick a place. Further suggestions were encouraged in the chat.

No decisions was made, further input encouraged to go to the GA agenda team.

2:40 -2:50 pm - **Announcements**

- Eric Brooks suggested that Green doing tenant and eviction protection organizing, when the rent waivers and eviction moratorium end there will likely be national rent strikes, so that should be on our radar.

- Greg Jan (Alameda Co.) reminded all that at 5 pm today anyone can join AC discussions on racism and police brutality, find more info at the event link:

<https://acgreens.wordpress.com/2020/06/08/green-sunday-6-14-police-racism-and-george-floyd-our-past-and-our-future/>

- Mimi Newton (Marin Co.) shared that Richard Weiner working with an attorney to coordinate a lawsuit to possibly challenge the CA Top Two Primary. For further info reach out to mimi.newton@gmail.com

- Nicole Castor (Sacramento Co.) shared announcements; a year ago Faygo a Sacramento Green, was named in a lawsuit with the ACLU and won against the city of Sacramento opposing panhandling ordinances, he was also named in a recent lawsuit with BLM Sac and ACLU against the Sacramento city's curfew, the lawsuit was dropped. Also Chris Richardson, Sac Green, ran for Congress and won over 4,000 votes. GPSC is starting a recall campaign against County Supervisor Sue Ross because of her NO vote on the moratoriums on evictions and foreclosures during COVID, and GPSC are collecting donations for this project. GPSC also ran their county elections.

2:50-3:15 pm - **Closing Session**

June invited impressions and thoughts on how this General Assembly went, so we can improve on the process.

Tarik thanked everyone for joining our GA and Nassim led a cheer to VOTE GREEN.

3:15 pm - **Adjourned**

Appendix

Appendix A. June 2020 General Assembly registrants, Delegates and Alternates

GA JUNE 2020 roll call	First Name	Last Name	County	Present Sat am 6/13/20	Present Sun am 6/14/20	Registered Delegate, Alternate or Not
1	Jan	Arnold	Alameda	x	x	Delegate
2	Greg	Jan	Alameda	x	x	Delegate
3	Noura	Khoury	Alameda	x		Reg-not-Del
4	James	McFadden	Alameda	x	x	Delegate
5	Justin	Richardson	Alameda	x	x	Alternate
6	Michael	Rubin	Alameda	x	x	Delegate
7	Susan	Schacher	Alameda	x		Reg-not-Del
8	Phoebe	Sorgen	Alameda		x	Reg-not-Del
9	Chris	Specker	Alameda		x	Delegate
10	Laura	Wells	Alameda	x	x	Delegate

11	Baba Kofi	Weusijana	Alameda		x	Reg-not-Del
12	Meleiza	Figueroa	Butte	x		Reg-not-Del
13	Jessica	Montiel	Contra Costa	x	x	Delegate
14	Leo	Torres	Contra Costa	x		Reg-not-Del
15	Richard	Gomez	Fresno	x	x	Delegate
16	David	Cobb	Humboldt	x	x	Delegate
17	David	Bond	Los Angeles		x	Reg-not-Del
18	Diana	Brown	Los Angeles	x	x	Reg-not-Del
19	Mike	Feinstein	Los Angeles	x	x	Delegate
20	Andrea	Houtman	Los Angeles	x		Reg-not-Del
21	Soo Yun	Kim	Los Angeles	x	x	Reg-not-Del
22	James	Lauderdale	Los Angeles	x	x	Reg-not-Del
23	Diana	Little	Los Angeles	x	x	Alternate
24	Carl	Peterson	Los Angeles			Delegate
25	Shannel	Pittman	Los Angeles	x		Reg-not-Del
26	Shane	Que Hee	Los Angeles	x	x	Delegate
27	Jimmy	Rivera	Los Angeles	x	x	Reg-not-Del
28	Robin	Rowe	Los Angeles	x	x	Alternate
29	Rohan	Sabnis	Los Angeles	x		Delegate
30	Margaret	Villa	Los Angeles	x		Reg-not-Del
31	Charles	Wilken	Los Angeles	x		Reg-not-Del
32	Mimi	Newton	Marin	x	x	Delegate
33	Efrem	Valentin	Monterey	x	x	Delegate
34	Dominique	Wade	Monterey	x	x	Delegate
35	Audra	Walton	Monterey		x	Alternate
36	Michael	Gaboury	Nevada	x	x	Delegate
37	Nicole	Raglin	Nevada	x	x	Delegate
38	Brian	Snyder	Nevada	x		Reg-not-Del
39	Robert	Chavez	Orange NOT ACTIVE	x		Reg-not-Del
40	Cesar	Lopez	Riverside NOT ACTIVE	x		Alternate
41	Christopher	Carlson	Sacramento		x	Alternate
42	Nicole	Castor	Sacramento	x	x	Delegate
43	Ashley	Frame	Sacramento	x		Alternate
44	Randy	Hicks	Sacramento	x	x	Delegate
45	David	Quinley	Sacramento	x	x	Alternate
46	Jane	Jarlsberg	San Bernardino	x	x	Delegate
47	Rick	Greenblatt	San Diego	x	x	Delegate
48	Ann	Menasche	San Diego	x	x	Delegate
49	Eric	Brooks	San Francisco	x	x	Delegate
50	Barry	Hermanson	San Francisco	x	x	Reg-not-Del
51	Rich	Stone	San Francisco		x	Delegate

52	Mica	Daniel	San Joaquin	x	x	Delegate
53	Colt	Gonzales	San Joaquin		x	Delegate
54	Peggy	Koteen	San Luis Obispo	x	x	Delegate
55	Sanda	Everette	San Mateo NOT ACTIVE	x	x	Delegate
56	Charisse	Cordero	Santa Barbara	x	x	Delegate
57	David	Han	Santa Clara	x	x	Alternate
58	Michele	Mashburn	Santa Clara	x	x	Alternate
59	Nadia	Nouri	Santa Clara	x	x	Delegate
60	Nassim	Nouri	Santa Clara	x	x	Delegate
61	Christine	Pepin	Santa Clara	x	x	Delegate
62	Ruscal	Cayangyang	Solano	x	x	Delegate
63	June	Brashares	Sonoma	x	x	Delegate
64	Susan	Chunco	Sonoma	x	x	Delegate
65	Tarik	Kanaana	Sonoma	x	x	Delegate
66	Susan	Lamont	Sonoma	x	x	Delegate
67	Nancy	Meredith	Sonoma	x		Reg-not-Del
68	Karen	Nyhus	Sonoma	x	x	Reg-not-Del
69	John	Schmit	Stanislaus	x		Delegate
70	Don	Manro	Tulare	x	x	Delegate
71	Lauren	Mauricio	Tulare	x	x	Alternate
72	Judy	Pendleton	Tulare	x	x	Delegate
73	Anthony	Krzywicki	Ventura	x	x	Delegate
74	Neal	Roche	Ventura	x	x	Reg-not-Del
75	Mike	Cordova	Yolo	x	x	Delegate
76	Sadie	Fulton	Yolo	x	x	Reg-not-Del
77	Mark	Adams	Humboldt	absent	absent	Reg-not-Del
78	Sasha	Karlik	Los Angeles	absent	absent	Reg-not-Del
79	Vicente	Cruz	Alameda	absent	absent	Reg-not-Del
80	Richard	Gallagher	Alameda	absent	absent	Reg-not-Del
81	Carol	Zhou	Alameda	absent	absent	Reg-not-Del
82	Martha	Henderson	Fresno	absent	absent	Reg-not-Del
83	Sean	Ahearn	Los Angeles	absent	absent	Reg-not-Del
84	Collin	Friscia	Los Angeles	absent	absent	Reg-not-Del
85	Alex	Huezo Sandoval	Los Angeles	absent	absent	Reg-not-Del
86	Jason	MacDonald	Los Angeles	absent	absent	Reg-not-Del
87	Scott	Nass	Los Angeles	absent	absent	Reg-not-Del
88	Donovan	Russell	Los Angeles	absent	absent	Reg-not-Del
89	Jeser	Suarez	Los Angeles	absent	absent	Reg-not-Del
90	James	Williams	Los Angeles	absent	absent	Reg-not-Del
91	Braden Daniel	Murphy	Sacramento	absent	absent	Reg-not-Del

92	Collin	Friscia	San Diego	absent	absent	Reg-not-Del
93	Greg	Keydel	San Francisco	absent	absent	Reg-not-Del
94	Richard	Besco	San Luis Obispo	absent	absent	Reg-not-Del
95	James	Hilsinger	San Luis Obispo	absent	absent	Reg-not-Del
96	George	Schimpf	Tulare	absent	absent	Reg-not-Del
97	Woody	Hastings	Sonoma	parttime ?	parttime?	
98	Jake	Tonkel	Santa Clara	parttime ?	parttime?	
99	Frank	Lambert	Monterey	parttime ?	parttime?	
100	Chris	Richardson	Sacramento	parttime ?	parttime?	
101	Xylem Larla	Dey	Nevada		guest	
102	Reyma	McCoy McDeid	z-NOT CA		guest	

Appendix B.

Title: Bylaws Interpretation regarding shortening the discussion period for two current (5/2020) SGA proposal from Contra Costa GP from six to four weeks

Title: Bylaws Interpretation regarding shortening the discussion period for two current (5/2020) SGA proposal from Contra Costa GP from six to four weeks

Background: Contra Costa GP submitted two SGA proposals (referenced below) with the intention of having them run at the same time as the CC and Delegation elections. Due to a miscommunication this did not happen.

The simplest solution would be to shorten the six week required discussion to four weeks so that it coincides with the mentioned elections. The proposals are also being discussed at the GA in June which would make up for the missed two weeks of discussion.

Proposal: Adopt Bylaws Interpretation shortening the discussion period from six to four weeks for the mentioned SGA proposals and direct SGA to start the discussion period on Monday 5/18/2020 with the voting period starting on Monday 6/15/2020

References:

GPCA Bylaws Section 13-3 Bylaws Interpretation

In cases of ambiguity or procedural disagreement, the General Assembly shall decide for itself the meaning of its governing documents, the appropriate procedure to be followed and what amendments are necessary to resolve any further ambiguity or disagreement. Between General Assembly meetings, the Coordinating Committee shall decide these questions and the Bylaws Committee is charged with assisting with the Coordinating Committee in this process by providing analysis. Such Coordinating Committee determinations are subject to a 2/3 confirmation by the General Assembly. If the Coordinating Committee makes such a determination within 60 days of the receipt of the petition, the Coordinating Committee shall place the vote on the draft agenda, and any agenda approved by the General Assembly must include the vote. If an in-person General Assembly is not scheduled to occur within 60 days of the receipt of the petition, the Coordinating Committee shall submit the decision for confirmation by the Standing General Assembly for an on-line discussion and vote at the next available starting date for on-line proposals, as defined in these bylaws.

First proposal from GPCCC:

SPONSOR: Green Party of Contra Costa County

PRESENTER: Tim Laidman

SUBJECT: Amendment, Fiscal Policy: Timing of Fiscal Year

BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE: At the June 9-10, 2018 GPCA General Assembly in Stockton, an amendment to the GPCA Fiscal Policy was proposed by an improper method not provided for under GPCA Bylaws. As a result, under GPCA Bylaws this amendment did not take force. Yet GPCA practice has gone on as if it was.

This proposal would properly propose such an amendment in keeping within GPCA bylaws, in order to bring the party's current practices in compliance.

Specifically GPCA Bylaws 7-5.1(a) require that "The Coordinating Committee shall establish a Draft Agenda for all General Assembly meetings, distribute it at least 42 days in advance to each County Organization" , and GPCA Bylaws 7-5.1(b) require that "The Draft Agenda shall incorporate agenda items submitted by committees, working groups and County Organizations as provided for in these bylaws; shall distinguish among decision making items, reports and discussion items"

Additionally according to GPCA Bylaws 13-2.2. any proposed amendments to the GPCA's governing documents (Bylaws, Rules and Procedures, Fiscal Policy) " must be submitted to the Bylaws Committee. The Bylaws Committee shall review the proposed amendments and provide recommendations to the sponsors, including to promote consistency in numbering, format, terminology and meaning with existing documents, to minimize ambiguity and to promote clarity."

Despite these party rules, without prior notice to the the County Organizations and without prior submission to the ByLaws Committee, a proposal was made from the floor at the Stockton General Assembly to amend the GPCA Fiscal Policy to change the Fiscal Year from July 1 through June 30 to a calendar year of January 1 through December 31. Instead of being submitted according to party rules, this proposal was submitted by the GPCA Treasurer (who does not have standing under GPCA Bylaws to individually propose a party rules change) as part of the draft budget proposed for approval at this GA, and not even as a stand alone amendment to the Fiscal Policy. Furthermore this text not released in any form electronically or in paper to anyone before being raised at the actual meeting, meaning there was no background explanation accompanying the proposal, comparing and contrasting the then existing fiscal year timing and comparing and contrasting it to the proposed new timing, meaning GA delegates did not have the benefit of being exposed to such an explanation before hearing the proposal.

Despite all of this, this proposal from the floor without a proper sponsor and without required prior process was discussed and voted on by the GA. Despite this, no minutes were ever posted from the Stockton GA reflecting this change, and the Fiscal Policy was never amended on the GPCA website to reflect it.

Since the Stockton GA did not have a written background to compare and contrast the existing and proposed timings, and since the GPCA will now have some experience with this changed timing, this proposal would effectuate the proposed fiscal year time change, but do so with a sunset clause, after which the GA could receive a report on its use since 2018 and make an informed judgement whether to make the change permanent or revert to the prior fiscal year timing.

PROPOSAL: To amend the bylaws by proper procedure to set the fiscal year of the GPCA for a trial Period, automatically sunsetting in June 2022 to the calendar year of January 1 through December 31.

Part I: The GPCA Fiscal Policy shall be amended from
Section 5-1 Fiscal Year

The Fiscal Year shall run from July 1 to June 30.

Part 1: The GPCA Fiscal Policy shall be amended from
Section 5-1 Fiscal Year

The Fiscal Year shall run from January 1 through December 31, through 2022. Afterwards the Fiscal Year shall revert to July 1 to June 30, unless the Finance Committee brings forward a proposal to the May/June 2022 General Assembly, to permanently amend the Fiscal Policy to retain the calendar year fiscal year, where such proposal would include a background discussion comparing the calendar year fiscal year with the prior July to June fiscal year, no later than the May/June 2022 General Assembly.

Part II: Should the proposal from the Finance Committee in 2022 to amend Section 5-1 not pass, then the language for Section 5-1 shall revert to

Section 5-1 Fiscal Year

The Fiscal Year shall run from July 1 to June 30.

COMMITTEE DECISION: Consensus vote of the GPCC County Council

TIMELINE/RESOURCES: Effective immediately, GPCA Treasurer and Finance Committee to make report and possible proposal in SGA in spring 2022

Second proposal from GPCCC:

SPONSOR: Green Party of Contra Costa County

PRESENTER: Tim Laidman

SUBJECT: Request for an audit report as required in the approval of the 2018-19 Budget

BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE: At the June 9-10, 2018 GPCA General Assembly in Stockton, an amendment to the Budget was approved to require an internal audit of GPCA finances. No report from such an audit has been presented, nor were minutes even posted from the Stockton General Assembly recording this decision.

Given the lack of clarity about GPCA finances and the failure of the GPCA to legally account for income and expenses from the Kern County March 2017 General Assembly, there is great danger that the GPCA is in violation of one or more legal requirements under California campaign finance law. Not complying with campaign finance law would be in contradiction to the GPCA Platform about transparency about money in politics. If such lack of transparency of GPCA finances were well-known, let alone if the GPCA has violated California campaign finance law, this would present a grave threat to the GPCA's reputation among California voters, and by extension, an additional threat to the GPCA losing its ballot status by falling GPCA voter registration totals.

This proposal would restate the request for a timely audit of GPCA finances by the Finance Committee assisted by the Treasurer and a full report to the Coordinating Committee and the General Assembly. This audit is required to determine what happened to the revenue for the Kern County GA in order to bring the party's practices in compliance with our bylaws, Fiscal Policy, rules and FPPC reporting requirements.

PROPOSAL: To restate the direction from the Stockton General Assembly to require Finance Committee with assistance of the Treasurer to conduct an audit of GPCA Finance beginning before the Kern County GA to the current time and make a timely report of the findings to the Coordinating Committee and the next GA.

COMMITTEE DECISION: Consensus vote of the GPCC County Council

TIMELINE/RESOURCES: Effective immediately, GPCA Treasurer and Finance Committee to conduct an audit and make a report.

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