

GPCA COORDINATING COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Monday, February 7, 2022 7:30 PM - 9:30 PM via zoom

(1) Roll call: (5 minutes)

There are currently 14 CC committee members. This means quorum is a simple majority of 8 CC members: David Bond, June Brashares, Nicole Castor, David Cobb, Mica Daniel, Barry Hermanson, Greg Jan, James Lauderdale, Nassim Nouri, Karen Nyhus, Christine Pepin, Nicole Raglin, Audra Walton and Laura Wells.

Present: David Bond, June Brashares, Nicole Castor, David Cobb, Mica Daniel, Barry Hermanson, Greg Jan, Nassim Nouri, Karen Nyhus, Christine Pepin, Audra Walton and Laura Wells.

Quorum was achieved at 7:36pm (with 12 of 14 CC members)

Present guest: Justin Richardson (Treasurer) joined at 7:38pm

James Lauderdale joined at 7:41pm

Absent: Nicole Raglin

(2) Roles: (4 minutes)

Roles for CC call on Feb. 7, 2022:

Facilitator: Nassim Nouri

Note Taker: June Brashares

Time Keeper: Mica Daniel

Vibes Watcher: Barry Hermanson

Roles for CC Call on Mar. 7, 2022:

Facilitator: Christine Pepin

Stack-taker (to assist Facilitator): Nicole Raglin

Note Taker: Barry Hermanson

Time Keeper: Mica Daniel

Vibes Watcher: Karen Nyhus

Sang Happy Birthday to Barry Hermanson

(3) Approval of Agenda: (3 minutes)

(3a) Late items: Approved adding as late item at the end of the agenda the email sent from Jared Laiti on February 7 at 5:45pm

Approved by consensus

(4) Approval of CC minutes (2 minutes) as posted to the CC listserv by Karen Nyhus most recently on February 7 at 4:56PM

June had a concern and stood aside:

June's recollection of the January CC meeting was that the decisions approved by consensus for both Items #7 and #8 were that GPCA sign on in support of the proposed legislation (SB 90/AB 1416 and AB260); also that draft letters subsequently would be sent to the CC listserve and if no objections were posted in response to the drafts within 3 days, the letters would be considered approved to be submitted to the legislative portal.

Approved by consensus

*Action Item for Implementation: The monthly meeting minutes need to be put into the standard format, turned into a final pdf, and then be posted to the website. This has been an IT task in the past, Nassim has been volunteering to do this and no longer has time to do those tasks. The Note Taker will be expected to complete, format and make a pdf of the final minutes.

- Nassim asked IT members David and Audra on the call to please come up with a proposal on how IT plans to ensure this monthly task is accomplished. They will propose a process.
- Within 3 weeks, the CC needs to find a volunteer who will post the minutes to the website.

(5) Consent Items (5 minutes)

Background and Purpose: The consent calendar is intended to pass non-controversial items or items consensed prior to the actual meeting. Any item may be objected to and that item will be placed at the end of the evening's agenda.

Proposal: Accept the following committee reports for inclusion in the meeting minutes:

Finance, Fundraising, & Budget Committees January meeting minutes - Appendix A

Bylaws Committee January meeting minutes - Appendix B

Media Committee January meeting minutes - Appendix C

Clearinghouse Committee & GROW joint meeting January minutes - Appendix D

Approved by Consensus

Updates since the last CC call

48 HOUR ONLINE VOTES - None

Continuing ACTION ITEMS:

- Report out (if any) from Nassim, Tarik, Justin and James, who had volunteered to work on a subcommittee to draft written guidelines, rules and plans for next steps with respect to effective moderation and facilitation at GPCA meetings and calls. This report-out item can be removed.
- Karen reported that she created a document that she posted in BaseCamp.

Other Updates

- CC Retreat (session 1) which was a Political Discussion took place February 5th from 4pm-6pm on zoom. 10 CC members attended. Notes from the retreat are posted in Basecamp. A doodle poll will be emailed to the CC listserv later this week to schedule the CC Retreat (2 - 13 weeks away) for session 2 which will focus on internal operations, communications and trainings for GPCA.

(6) Appointments - No proposals received, no action taken.

(7) Decision Item: Political Party Statement for the June election

(Time Requested: 15 min, adjusted to 45 minutes with a time check at the 30 minutes mark)

Sponsor: Greg Jan, Alameda County

Background and Purpose: For every statewide election, we are allowed to include a Political Party statement in the official Voter Information Guide that is sent to all households that have a registered voter. For the upcoming June election, since we are running an "unprecedented Left Unity Slate", this will be an excellent opportunity to not only highlight that fact, but to also respond to increased voter dissatisfaction with "politics as usual" (and of course here in California, as it's being run by the Democrats). So therefore, within a few days (and definitely several days prior to our CC meeting), I will send to this list a draft statement for feedback (along with a copy of the previous statement, which was used for last year's Recall election). Then, after I hear from you'all, I will revise the initial draft into a "final draft" to be approved (if at all possible) at the CC meeting. The deadline to submit our statement to the Secretary of State is Feb. 17 -- please see below for some more details.

Proposal: Approve the "final draft" that I will send to this list prior to the CC meeting. [SEE email to the CC dated 2/3/22, 4:39pm, subject "By 6:00 pm on Sat: Any comments on this Political Party Statement draft?... etc..." - APPENDIX E]

Or if needed, approve a further revised draft after the CC meeting via a 48-hour online vote, following online discussion to resolve (as much as is possible) whatever might still be unresolved at the upcoming CC meeting itself.

Implementation/Timeline/Resources:

- (1) Please see the above sections for the timeline -- no resources are needed (except for reading and responding to emails, and being on our CC meeting).
- (2) I can forward whatever is approved to our Liaison to the Secretary of State, Jared Laiti, for him to then officially send to the SoS

The proposal was discussed and after the allotted 45 minutes of time, a proposal was made to add 5 more minutes. Nicole Castor had an unresolved concern about adding time, so a vote on approving 5 more minutes was taken.

The vote tally was:

Yes votes: David Bond, June Brashares, David Cobb, Mica Daniel, Barry Hermanson, Greg Jan, James Lauderdale, Nassim Nouri, Karen Nyhus, Christine Pepin, Audra Walton and Laura Wells.

No vote: Nicole Castor

5 minutes additional time was approved by a vote of 12 Yes votes to 1 No vote.

Greg amended his proposal to a draft version that Nassim had captured input on and screen shared. Greg, Laura, June and Christine are to work together to make further edits, cut it down to the word limit, and propose a final version to the CC in a 48-hour online vote.

(8) Subject/Title: GPCA Legislative Subcommittee

Co-sponsors: Green Party of Sacramento County (GPSC) Legislative Working Group (LWG): Nicole Castor, Kevin Sabo, and Randy Hicks, (and still open to CC co-sponsors)

Background and Purpose: The GPSC Legislative Working Group has been analyzing bills, sending position letters, and voicing our positions to the California State Legislature for nearly three years now, and so when one of its members was elected to the GPCA CC, we were very excited by the prospect of being able to propose in regular CC meetings, so that the state party may take positions on legislation.

[SEE Proposal email to the CC, subject "Proposal plus attachment with the text in a doc", from Nicole Castor, dated 1/31/22, 8:09pm - ALSO re-emailed on Feb 7 at 7:14pm - APPENDIX F]

Proposal:

Form a Legislative Sub Committee (LSC) of the Green Party of California Coordinating Committee
[SEE MORE IN REFERENCED EMAIL in APPENDIX F]

(The section below was added to the minutes approved on 3/7/22)

Discussions ensued and the following questions and concerns were raised:

- The CC has taken positions on legislation through proposals by CC members, committees and counties in the past, why is there a need for a new subcommittee?
- Granting unilateral authority to a committee to take positions on legislation on behalf of the party without any review by CC was concerning to a number of CC member. The proposal's process for the CC to publicly retract the Legislative Subcommittee's inappropriate positions within is not a workable solution.
- Audra and Nassim asked why the process can not include a 48-hr email CC vote on a completed letter of support/oppose on legislation for submission through the legislative portal by the Subcommittee.
- Nicole Castor responded that a 48 hr vote by CC would be too slow and she will not agree to amend the proposal to include any review process by the CC.
- June noted that the CC minutes will reflect we ran out of time on this item so the proposer can attempt to address concerns and resubmit if desired.

During discussion the item ran out of time at 9:30PM.

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 9:30PM

Due to lack of time, the CC did not get to the late item below:

Late item:

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Jared Laiti < >

Date: Mon, Feb 7, 2022 at 5:45 PM

Subject: [gpca-cc] Fwd: Political Party Endorsement for April 5, 2022 State Assembly 11 Special Primary Election

To: GPCA Coordinating Committee <gpca-cc@lists.cagreens.org>, GP of Sacramento County County Council <gpsac-cc@cagreens.org>, nicole castor < >

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Startup. Karen <startupk@saccounty.net>

Date: Mon, Feb 7, 2022 at 9:03 AM

Subject: Political Party Endorsement for April 5, 2022 State Assembly 11 Special Primary Election

To: liaison@cagreens.org <liaison@cagreens.org>

Good Morning,

Reminder that the deadline to submit your party candidate endorsement for the April 5, 2022 Assembly District 11th Special Primary Election is by 5:00 p.m. February 10, 2022.

If you are not planning on endorsing a candidate, please let me know by email voters-campaignservices@saccounty.gov or by fax (916) 854-9567.

Thanks,

Karen

Karen Startup

Campaign Services Manager

County of Sacramento

7000 65th Street, Suite A

Sacramento, CA 95823

(916) 875-6365

startupk@saccounty.gov

APPENDICES

APPENDIX A - FINANCE & FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

JANUARY 27, 2022 AT 7:30 PM

(1) Roll Call: Justin Richardson, Treasurer, Mica Daniel CC liaison, Vicente Cruz, Barry Hermanson, Kevin Sabo, Laura Wells

(2) Roles: Facilitator: Justin Richardson Notetaker: Mica Daniel Timekeeper: Vicente Cruz Vibeswatcher: Vicente Cruz

(3) Build and approve the agenda - Added agenda item 7A

(4) Approved the minutes of December 16, 2021, as posted by Mica Daniel to GPCA CC on Monday, December 27, 2021, @ 2:48 PM

(5) Review 2022 schedules and deadlines from FPPC when we need to turn in our forms:

Political Parties committees:

<http://www.fppc.ca.gov/learn/campaign-rules/where-and-when-to-file-campaign-statements/when-to-file-campaign-statements-state-local-filing-schedules.html>

Working on end of year forms due January 31, 2022

(6) GPCA Treasurer's report was provided

(7) Update on Fundraising Letter Laura Wells is considering a targeted fundraising letter to increase sustainers that are currently active in the GPCA.

(7A) Update on Fundraising Possibilities

Phone Banking, Text banking, Become a dues-paying party, State of the State ---> Green Response. Town Halls, Comedy Night, Host a Debate were some of the possibilities that were discussed.

- (8) Confirmed next meeting on February 24, 2022, from 7:30 PM until 8:30 PM.
(9) Meeting adjourned at 8:24 PM.

APPENDIX B - Bylaws Committee Report to the GPCA Coordinating Committee – JANUARY 2022

Submitted By: James Lauderdale, Co-Co, Bylaws Committee
JANUARY 2022 MEETING CANCELLED DUE TO SCHEDULE CONFLICT
Date of the next Bylaws Committee Meeting: Sunday, February 13, 2022 at 12:30 pm

APPENDIX C - MEDIA COMMITTEE meeting minutes

January 17, 2022, 2:00 pm

ATTENDEES: Laura Wells, (co-coordinator), Laine Gillette (volunteer), Christopher Lozinski (volunteer)
NOT IN ATTENDANCE: Thomas Leavitt (committee member), volunteers Christine Pepin and Nassim Nouri
AGENDA

(1) INTRODUCTIONS of new volunteers Laine and Christopher,

- Laine, lives in Tehama County, student at Chico State in Butte County, interested in writing and editing beyond academia, and many issues including climate crisis
- Christopher, voter in San Mateo County, interested in developing web material and software infrastructure, and many issues including climate crisis and censorship

(2) INTRODUCTION TO THE GPCA MEDIA COMMITTEE (by Laura) including:

- Media releases are for public media
- Regular email blasts (produced by Nassim) are for California Greens, a list with several thousand now, with plans to increase

(3) MEDIA RELEASES discussed

- CalCare - California's proposed healthcare system is in process. Monitoring what's happening with AB 1400 etc in Sacramento to determine how and when the GPCA will respond. Sacramento contact Cres is available to distribute

- Left Unity Slate with GPCA and Peace and Freedom candidates running for statewide office in the June 2022 primary

- Climate Crisis, Censorship/Assange, and other ongoing important issues - need to produce short releases when there's a news opening, a "news hook"

(4) LINKS - Christopher offered several links, including

<https://greenmaps.us/california/list-candidates>
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_newspapers_in_California
<https://findyournews.org> (46 nonprofit media outlets)
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_newspapers_in_California
<https://uncensorednews.us/censorship-by-the-msm/categories>

(5) Next Meeting: Third Monday, February 21, 2022, 2-3pm.

APPENDIX D - Clearinghouse/GROW Meeting Minutes

Jan. 11th, 2022, 7:30 pm

1. Roles (5 min)

Facilitator: Rick Greenblatt, Notetaker: Michael, Timekeeper: Mica

2. Roll Call (5 min)

CH: Nassim Nouri (Santa Clara), Mica Daniel (Alameda)

GROW: Laura Wells (Alameda), Rick Greenblatt (San Diego), Richard Gomez (Fresno), Michael Shin (Orange)
Barry Hermanson (San Francisco) joined at 8:23pm

3. Approved agenda - review last month's min & actions (5 min) –

4. Clearinghouse Report (15 min)

Mica reported checking databases and processing a volunteer or two.

Nassim reported that the last email blast at 12/21 had surprisingly high open rate. The latest blast has been delayed to report on both AB1400 votes.

A new volunteer in Riverside is interested in starting a Green group in Riverside. Nassim will continue contact with him.

Obstacle: NationBuilder does not report new volunteers, so Nassim needs to manually check it every time.

Richard Gomez brought up a demand for trifold flyers for the 2022 election campaign.

5. GROW

5.1 From goals to strategy (30 min)

There was a discussion of strategy for mobilizing for 2022 election petitions, reviving and activating county parties, and recruiting more people.

Rick Greenblatt: We may continue the discussion next meeting on reactivating counties.

5.2 AB1400 (Guaranteed Health Care for All) (15 min)

Barry: The AB1400 bill passed by 11-3 vote in the California Assembly Health Committee.

GPCA should issue a response to Governor Newsom's announcement on healthcare coverage access for all Californians.

Nassim: Greens have to show up in activism, and also not be coopted.

6. Confirm next second Tuesday conference call, Feb. 8, 2022, 7:30 pm (5 min) - Confirmed.

7. Announcements (5 min)

Laura: Signature gathering in San Francisco McLaren Park on Sunday Jan 16, noon.

8. Adjourned 9:03 pm

APPENDIX E - Political Party Statement of Purpose

From: Greg Jan < >

To: GPCA Coordinating Committee <gpcaccc@lists.cagreens.org>

Date: Fri, 4 Feb 2022 00:37:51 +0000 (UTC)

Subject: By 6:00 pm on Sat: Any comments on this Political Party Statement draft? -- Was: Due 2/17! Fwd: Political Party Statement of Purpose for 2022 Primary VIG

Hi CC,

As I mentioned in the proposal I posted a few days ago, below is a new draft of our Political Party Statement, for us to submit to the Secretary of State. Perhaps the biggest goal I tried to focus on in drafting this Statement was: What can help us to attract new registrants and new voters -- and especially new volunteers (and donors) -- people who might become "active" with us! So I figured that there needed to be some text to specifically highlight the crisis we're in -- the need for change -- as well as an invitation to join with us to create these needed changes. Such that, by including that sort of text, it would help to motivate people to "register Green, vote Green, and become active with the Greens"!

Simultaneously, I figured that a lot of "mini platform planks" weren't really needed to achieve the above goals - - that just a "taste" of what we're about in that regards would suffice. So I significantly reduced the "platform section" (although I did mention that we do have a 70-page platform -- for the (probably small) "subset" of people who actually do want to see more platform material). And I included some "actions to take" at the very end. (That is, as they say, the most important parts of an essay (or a "flyer", or a "statement") are the beginning -- and the end. And by the way, the previous Statement, published for last year's Recall election, is also attached, along with the info we received from the Secretary of State regarding this. Also, following the "clean copy" of the new draft Statement is a version which shows the additions and deletions, and then a "clean copy" of last year's statement).

In addition, since this new Statement is "focused on the future" (in the sense of trying to get people to "now" register with us, vote with us, and (especially) to become active with us), I thought that mentioning the number of Greens who've previously been elected (*over the past 30 years!*) wasn't really going to make that much of a difference regarding the above goals, and especially regarding helping to get people to volunteer with us. Also, in regards to the LeftUnitySlate.org URL near the end, yes, that website isn't up yet, but as soon as we get a draft of it put together, I'll forward it to you'all for feedback, and then once we've combined it with input from the candidates and Peace and Freedom, we'll then approve that too. (Note: The Political Party Statements won't be published until late March or April, so we do have time to finalize this website. And of course, we'll be sure to check if some of the material from the two relevant Green Party press releases on our website

(here: <https://www.cagreens.org/california-greens-endorse-left-unity-slate-peace-and-freedom-party-2022-elections> and here: <https://www.cagreens.org/endorsed-2022-statewide-candidates>) can be used for the website too! Thank you so much to everyone who worked on those press releases!).

So -- in conclusion -- I'm hoping that the "re-conceptualization" of the Statement (as explained above) can end up with us getting many more people to "register Green, vote Green -- and become active with the Greens"! Therefore, *please provide your feedback ASAP (and definitely no later than by Saturday at 6:00 pm)*, so I can try to make further revisions (as needed) -- toward us finalizing this at our CC meeting. (Note: The current draft is only about 5 words under the word limit, so if your suggestion(s) will require adding words, please also suggest ways to cut existing words).
Thank you!,
Greg

Draft Statement (clean copy):

We've arrived at a crucial fork in the road. Continuing with business as usual means accelerating societal and ecological collapse. Or -- we can choose the hard but joyous work of positive transformation. Now is the moment to act!

Imagine a politics in service to people and the planet instead of to corporations -- that is the Green Party. Our early vision has resulted in the scheduled closure of California's last nuclear power plant, cannabis legalization, and enabling public banking. Join us now as we push forward for a socially and racially just, ecologically sustainable, democratic, and peaceful society that exists in harmony with nature -- what we call EcoSocialism.

Our 70-page platform includes:

ECONOMIC FAIRNESS

- * Living wage, green jobs
- * Affordable housing, universal healthcare, free higher education
- * Close corporate tax loopholes, tax the super-rich

CLIMATE CRISIS

- * 100% clean, renewable publicly-owned energy
- * Restore watersheds, regenerative agriculture

HUMAN RIGHTS

- * End oppression based on race, gender, orientation, disability, economic status, etc.
- * Black Lives Matter, police accountability
- * Abolish the death penalty, reduce prison populations, end private prisons

ELECTORAL REFORM

- * Proportional representation, ranked choice voting
- * Publicly-financed elections to eliminate corporate money

REGISTER GREEN! See: registertovote.ca.gov VOTE! See: LeftUnitySlate.org TAKE ACTION! See: cagreens.org

Green Party of California
P.O. Box 485
San Francisco, CA 94104
(916) 448-3437
E-mail: gpca@cagreens.org
Website: <http://www.cagreens.org>
Social media: @cagreens

Draft Statement (additions are in bold and deletions are in strikethrough type):

Also, here are some notes about some of the changes: 1) In the 2nd paragraph, this new draft moves up the (revised) sentence that begins with, "Our early vision has resulted in the scheduled closure of California's last nuclear...."; 2) In that sentence in the 2nd paragraph, I replaced the word "closing" with the words "the

scheduled closure of", since Diablo Canyon is still operating (but yes, it is scheduled to be closed in a few years); 3) Just before the "platform planks", the previous mentions about registering and voting Green have been moved to the end of the statement (that is, just above our contact info); 4) Reasons for most of the additions and deletions are described in the "introductory info" that's further above -- hopefully it's won't be too hard to find that info,

We've arrived at a crucial fork in the road. Continuing with business as usual means accelerating societal and ecological collapse. Or -- we can choose the hard but joyous work of positive transformation. Now is the moment to act!

Imagine a politics in service to people and the planet instead of to corporations -- that is the Green Party. ~~Over 350 California Greens have served in elected office since 1990. Greens'~~ **Our** early vision has resulted in ~~closing the scheduled closure of~~ California's last nuclear power plant, cannabis legalization, and enabling public banking. ~~Our actions match our values because we refuse contributions from corporations.~~ **Join us now as we push forward** The Green Party of California works to build an alternative ~~system~~ for a socially and racially just, ecologically sustainable, democratic, and peaceful society that exists in harmony with nature ~~we call this system -- what we call~~ EcoSocialism.

Our 70-page platform includes: ~~Registering Green and voting Green means:-~~

ECONOMIC FAIRNESS

- * Living wages, green jobs ~~workers' rights~~
- * Affordable housing, universal healthcare, free higher education ~~food security for all~~
- * ~~Reforming Proposition 13 to~~ Close corporate **tax** loopholes, ~~restore schools and public services~~ taxing the super-rich

CLIMATE CRISIS

- * ~~Going 100% clean, renewable through publicly-owned clean energy and efficiency programs--~~
- * ~~Switching from fossil fuels to clean electric-powered public transportation~~
- * **Restore** ~~Restoring groundwater and watersheds, Reforestation, restorative~~ **regenerative** agriculture

HUMAN RIGHTS

- * ~~Ending oppression based on race, sex, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, disability, economic status, etc.~~
- * ~~Protecting immigrants with sanctuary and pathways to citizenship~~
- * Black Lives Matter, police accountability
- * ~~Gun control/safety~~
- * Abolishing the death penalty, ~~reducing~~ prison populations, ending private prisons

ELECTORAL REFORM

- * Proportional representation, ranked choice voting
- * Publicly-financed elections to eliminate corporate money
- * ~~Overturning Top Two primary~~

REGISTER GREEN! See: registertovote.ca.gov VOTE! See: LeftUnitySlate.org TAKE ACTION! See: cagreens.org

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E-mail: gpca@cagreens.org
Website: www.cagreens.org
Social media: @cagreens

The previous statement (for last year's Recall election):

The Green Party of California works to build an alternative system for a socially and racially just, ecologically sustainable, democratic, and peaceful society that exists in harmony with nature, we call this system EcoSocialism.

Over 350 California Greens have served in elected office since 1990. Greens' early vision has resulted in cannabis legalization, closing California's last nuclear power plant, and enabling public banking. Our actions match our values because we refuse contributions from corporations.

Registering Green and voting Green means:

ECONOMIC FAIRNESS

- Living wages, green jobs, workers' rights
- Universal healthcare, free higher education, affordable housing, food security for all
- Reforming Proposition 13 to close corporate loopholes, restore schools and public services
- Taxing the super-rich

CLIMATE CRISIS

- Going 100% renewable through publicly-owned, clean energy and efficiency programs
- Switching from fossil fuels to clean electric-powered public transportation
- Restoring groundwater and watersheds
- Reforestation, restorative agriculture

HUMAN RIGHTS

- Ending oppression based on race, sex, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, disability, economic status
- Protecting immigrants with sanctuary and pathways to citizenship
- Black Lives Matter, police accountability
- Gun control/safety
- Abolishing the death penalty, ending private prisons, reducing prison populations

ELECTORAL REFORM

- Proportional representation, ranked choice voting
- Publicly-financed elections to eliminate corporate money
- Overturning Top Two primary

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Social media: @cagreens

----- Forwarded Message -----

From: Jared Laiti <--->

To: GPCA Coordinating Committee <gpca-cc@lists.cagreens.org>

Sent: Monday, January 24, 2022, 05:40:11 PM PST

Subject: [gpca-cc] Due 2/17! Fwd: Political Party Statement of Purpose for 2022 Primary VIG

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Arata, Haley** <harata@sos.ca.gov>

Date: Mon, Jan 24, 2022 at 4:25 PM

Subject: Political Party Statement of Purpose for 2022 Primary VIG

To: Jared Laiti < >

Hello,

The Secretary of State is once again offering California's qualified political parties the opportunity to provide a Political Party Statement of Purpose for inclusion, should space allow, in the June 7, 2022, Statewide Direct Primary Election state Voter Information Guide. Please refer to the attached letter, mailed today, for details. You may email or call me with any questions.

Best,
Haley

Haley Arata (she/her)
Voter Information Guide Coordinator
California Secretary of State's Office: Elections Division
1500 11th St., Fifth Floor
Sacramento, CA 95814
(916) 698-1273

APPENDIX F - Proposal for GPCA Legislative Subcommittee

Subject/Title: GPCA Legislative Subcommittee

Co-sponsors: Green Party of Sacramento County (GPSC) Legislative Working Group (LWG): Nicole Castor, Kevin Sabo, and Randy Hicks, (and still open to CC co-sponsors)

Background and Purpose:

The GPSC Legislative Working Group has been analyzing bills, sending position letters, and voicing our positions to the California State Legislature for nearly three years now, and so when one of its members was elected to the GPCA CC, we were very excited by the prospect of being able to propose in regular CC meetings, so that the state party may take positions on legislation.

So far, there have been three bills analyzed and decided on by the CC, and I was very proud to report back to GPSC that there had been great interest and enthusiasm from some of the committee members in taking on this task. This is incredibly encouraging but at the same time, the most noticeable thing to me during the process was that it took up a massive chunk of the CC's time, both in discussion and in running overtime outside of meeting space. I also noticed that this type of work with legislation almost immediately became a niche area, with huge enthusiasm, but only from a small portion of the total committee.

I have decided to ask the other members of the GPSC Leg WG to join me in sponsoring a proposal to allow us to branch off, in order to handle this work separately, to conserve everyone's valuable time and energy, to not dominate CC meetings with one niche topic, and most importantly, to be able to take many more positions on bills!

Why are our Positions Important?

Taking positions on bills is an easy and free way for our party to have a public record on where we stand. These positions can always be referenced in the future, can be used to illustrate a comparison between our values against those in power, can be used to demonstrate how a Green would operate in the CA Legislature, and perhaps most importantly, these recorded positions show the public that our party is engaged and watching what our lawmakers are proposing, and that we are serving as a voice for those who share our values and our party registration. The most important thing, though, is the advocacy itself. We have so much untapped power to actually weigh in on the lawmaking process, and influence amendments to proposed law!

Justification for a Subcommittee

We may very well be the only CA political party without a Legislative Committee.

The GPCA bylaws endow the GPCA CC with the authority to make statements in the party's name, and as such, these legislative positions shall be considered under that scope. Since it is a duty of the GPCA CC, the CC may rely on a subcommittee to delegate this task.

What Would the Subcommittee do?

The structure of the subcommittee would be arranged by its members, after receiving approval, as the forming members do not wish to start a tremendous amount of work when there is no guarantee of approval. However, we have a general vision for how we would like to operate, and it would likely look like this:

The subcommittee would follow the same typical framework of other GPCA committees and working groups, and would hold the same standards for decorum, attendance, removal, etc. We would also honor any existing or future disciplinary actions imposed on members of the party which may limit participation in committees.

All of our work will be based on our platform and *Ten Key Values*.

The LSC would likely communicate via email with a constant, unscheduled flow of proposals and discussions, and the bulk of the work would take place in that forum.

We would schedule official monthly meetings while utilizing the efficiency of online voting.

We would like to form an avenue of communication to be able to reach out to counties when legislation affects specific regions. For background, Sac LWG has already helped two other counties send position letters, and we have a pdf of instructions on how to do it, which we have been told was helpful. We feel that doing the same thing from the state party would be even more effective, and have a wider outreach.

We plan to design a streamlined and easy-to-follow process to be able to work quickly and efficiently with Media Committee in order to post our letters and other information on the cagreens website.

The LSC would work to announce positions, communicate calls to action when necessary, to all GPCA outlets such as social media, the GPCA newsletter, the general discussion forum, and anywhere else suggested.

The LSC would be responsible for external communications to sponsoring orgs, when it is necessary to record our position to advocacy groups who often work to collect and record support and opposition on bills.

The LSC would arrange for members to participate in Legislative hearings by phone, and in person when it is safer to do so (Covid).

The LSC will take great care and reserve flexibility in order to create a failsafe plan to ensure the LSC is accountable to the CC and to the rest of the party. We could reserve a sort of “veto power” to the CC, who would be able to communicate to Media Committee in the event any publications need to be removed, or some similar arrangement.

Even though there’s “no such thing as factions” in our party, the LSC would intentionally strive to ensure that members from different corners of the party are represented in the group to keep checks and balances, and to ensure that our work stays true to its goals, which is to establish continuous legislative advocacy in our party’s name.

The LSC forming members aim to recruit talented individuals who are interested in this advocacy work, while also creating a learning space for those less experienced, so that we may be effective while still being inclusive.

The LSC wishes to also structure educational mentorship during our meetings, as mentioned above, and to serve in a role of professional references for individuals who wish to claim experience and skills developed in their volunteer work within the group.

The LSC plans to create a structure of horizontal organizing, while still utilizing mentorship, in order to create a routine of constantly training and making resources available to enable the group to function throughout any changes in membership.

One of the forming members has been studying the structure of the advocacy group, “Indivisible CA,” and wishes to create a similar structure so that the LSC can quickly mobilize GPCA and its affiliate counties, caucuses, and other groups in order to have a strong showing for our party just like *Indivisible* does.

If formed, the LSC would have a liaison to the CC, and this individual can share all of our work with the CC to be kept in our basecamp app. If there is a CC member on the LSC, they could likely just upload items themselves, and if there is not a CC member at a given time, the liaison would then just pass everything to a CC member to add.

Some of the feedback which was given before proposal was a suggestion to try doing this work within the CC for a while to see how it works out, and that we may find that we don’t really need a subcommittee. This was really the only thing we ultimately disagreed with, and what we would like to suggest instead, is a sort of reversal of this idea. Instead of trying and seeing in that way, we would like to try out the subcommittee and see how *that* goes. We are willing to set boundaries beforehand, essentially setting up a trial/probation period in order to earn everyone’s confidence in our abilities to manage this group. We’ve come up with two methods listed below in the official proposal, and we are willing to take suggestions for any other methods which may add to a culture of trust in moving forward with this. We are likely willing to accept extra steps, even if it’s far beyond what has been required of other subcommittees, because we really want to get this work produced.

Why Can’t we Just do this in CC?

This work is very specialized, and it is very difficult to get through these bills among a large group of

individuals with different levels of experience, and interest, without a structure in place to manage and make effective use of this type of diversity in ability and knowledge.

We don't want to make the CC a Legislative Committee, and we also don't want to limit ourselves on bills in an attempt to not monopolize the CC time with this.

Deadlines! The CC meets only once per month, and we will rarely have situations where getting approval only on the first Monday of the month, or through emergency online votes (which we don't want to do), will coincide with deadlines to submit positions. We already anticipate missing deadlines, and Sac has had this happen many times. But the chances of the timing of it all lining up with our CC meetings is very slim.

We did consider the possibility of just forwarding everything Sac works on, which was suggested on feedback on the proposal, but an issue with this is that Sac would like to take *fewer* positions so we can be more focused on our region. We have been taking broader positions than what we feel is appropriate, and the sole reason for this is because the state party is not doing it, and as such, we have felt that any Green Party is better than no Green Party (on support/oppose lists), but in reality, it ends up having the appearance that a couple chapters of a party are engaged and active, and for some odd reason, the state is not.

And to tie both these things together, neither Sac LWG, nor any individual, wants to put in the amount of time into these bills only to end up getting a small portion through. Within a subcommittee, there will still be times when a bill gets killed after we worked on the analysis, or we may miss deadlines... but this will likely happen a fraction of the time it would likely happen while doing it through CC.

I had gone and edited my "Instructions to Counties" doc to make it work for CC, had planned to share in basecamp, with the idea that once the structure is set in CC, and we have easy access to send in the letters, that everything will then work smoothly. I keep coming back to the deadline issue, mostly, though, and the only workaround seems to be to delegate this out to a subcommittee.

Proposal:

- Form a Legislative Sub Committee (LSC) of the Green Party of California Coordinating Committee
- Nicole, Kevin and Randy wish to be its founding members. Randy and Kevin have extensive legislative and advocacy knowledge and several years of experience, and I, Nicole, have just the few years with Sac Greens and a couple relevant college classes covering policy, but consider myself still a learner. We hope to encourage others to get engaged, too, because we believe the learning process itself will be helpful in engaging members who join, too.
- If approved, the LSC shall present the CC with its general structure and Internal Rules and Procedures within 30 days of its approval. If requested items are not produced within the timeframe, the CC may choose to extend the deadline or to automatically terminate the newly-formed group.
- The proposers want to remind all for assurance, that the subcommittee can be cancelled by the General Assembly, as all CC decisions can be, according to the process in GPCA bylaws, if any party members are unsatisfied with our work.
- This subcommittee will be enabled with the authority ONLY to take positions specifically on California Legislative bills and proposals which are relevant to our platform and Ten Key Values. The LSC will have the authority to create a new Legislative Advocate account through the Legislature, or to gain access to the existing one, and to sign our real true names on behalf of Green Party of California.
- The LSC will have the authority to establish its own rules and procedures, but to always be accountable to the GPCA CC, as well as the GPCA GA. The LSC may only establish rules and procedures when they align with GPCA Bylaws and local and state laws.
- The LSC is asking for no budget.
- Membership procedures shall follow the same guidelines as other GPCA CC working groups and committees, and membership may only be available to California Greens as defined by our bylaws.
- The LSC also asks for the authority to work with other parties or entities when opportunities arise to make joint positions, and may set rules for exclusions on any specific entities, etc. For example, GP Sacramento had worked in a "3-party coalition," (GP, LP, & PFP) to support a bill in the past, and GPSC had also supported a bill with Peace and Freedom. But we may establish exclusions for working with specific parties, for example. These opportunities are not the majority of our work but do present themselves regularly, and we like to take the opportunities whenever they come up.
- This forming subcommittee also asks that a tab is created on the cagreens site (<https://www.cagreens.org/committees/coordinating/subcomm>), and that by working with Media

Committee, we may keep our internal procedures and copies of our position letters on such a tab, if possible.

- The LSC shall share any work produced with the CC, so the CC may hold access to the group's records, and be able to keep them filed in the CC's basecamp application.
- We have not found a method where any individual could see all the positions an org takes, but we will still strive to seek a way for the CC to check on the group through the legislature, to ensure the group isn't taking positions they are not reporting. Of course, an individual could check the "bill analysis" tab on a bill to look for GPCA listed, and make a case based on this- but we will still seek a more direct way to show this accountability.

Implementation/Timeline/Resources:

The Subcommittee shall be effective and active immediately upon approval of the GPCA CC. The LSC will have 30 days upon approval, to produce an outline of its structure as well as Internal Procedures, or receive a time extension from CC, or risk withdrawal of the approval.

References:

<http://www.cagreens.org/bylaws/06-24-2019> (Duties/Authority of CC)

Article 8. Coordinating Committee (as last amended 4/2/2018)

8-1.9 Make statements in the name of the Party.

&

8-1.12 Establish Sub-Committees of the Coordinating Committee as necessary to accomplish these and other tasks of the Coordinating Committee as defined in these Bylaws.

Coordinating Committee Internal Procedures:

https://www.cagreens.org/sites/cagreens.huang.radicaldesigns.org/files/CCInternalProcedures_071221.pdf

Article VII. Subcommittees

When needed for addressing specific issues or completing specific projects, the CC may decide to form temporary and ad-hoc sub-committees, other than those listed below.

GPCA Bylaws: <http://www.cagreens.org/bylaws/06-24-2019>

5-1-3 Any decision by the Coordinating Committee may be appealed to the GPCA General Assembly.

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