

Green Party of California General Assembly Minutes

June 19 & 20, 2021



Note Taker: Nassim Nouri

https://cagreens.nationbuilder.com/june_2020_ga

Approved by the GPCA General Assembly on July 9, 2022

Saturday, June 19th

8:00-9:00 am - **Registration/check-in.** Please check in early so that the opening of the General Assembly is not delayed. Once you have been checked in you will be able to turn your video and audio off until it is time to start.

Completed

Facilitator(s): Shannel Pittman & Shane Que Hee

9:00-9:20 am - **Opening Session:** welcome - Agreements - other info
Shane shared a message of welcome and reviewed general GA process and logistics.

9:20-9:25 am - **Quorum Count** - for starting GA and approving agenda
See list of Delegate/Alternates in Appendix A.
Quorum reached at 12 of the 23 (52%) active counties present.

9:25-9:35 am - **Agenda Approval**

Mike Feinstein asked for addition of a 20-minute decision agenda item to be added to the Sunday agenda after the ERWG item in support of a GPCA letter to the state legislature in support of proportional representation.

Delegation approved by consensus to add this item to the Sunday agenda.

Agenda approved by consensus

9:35-9:45 am - **Confirmation of Jared Laiti as the Liaison to the Secretary of State.**
(Coordinating Committee)

Reference: Section 4-7 Liaison to the Secretary of State

The Liaison to the Secretary of State is the official contact of the GPCA with the California Secretary of State. The term of the Liaison shall be two years, beginning in odd numbered years. The Liaison shall be nominated by the Coordinating Committee, and subject to confirmation by the General Assembly. Coordinating Committee members are not eligible to serve as Liaison to the Secretary of State. The Coordinating Committee shall immediately fill any vacancy in the office of Liaison, subject to confirmation by the next meeting of the General Assembly.

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

No questions or concerns, two affirmations.
Approved by consensus

8:45-9:55 am - **Decision Item: Confirmation of Bylaws Interpretation regarding voting dates for current SGA** (Coordinating Committee)

Such Coordinating Committee determinations are subject to a 2/3 confirmation by the General Assembly. See Appendix B.

Presenters: Tarik Kananna & June Brashares

The current SGA discussion period began on May 10th, and includes a Platform Amendment Proposal as well as the Election of the Coordinating Committee and GPUS Delegation. Since the candidates will present and the Platform items will be discussed at this GA the CC finds it appropriate for the current SGA discussion to continue up to Sunday, June 20th at 11:59pm, and the voting period to commence immediately at the close of the discussion period, for one week beginning on a Monday at 12:01 am and ending on a Sunday at 11:59pm.

No questions or concerns, two affirmations
Approved by consensus

9:55-10:50 am - **Presentation: White supremacy powers police violence**

Presenter: Trahern Crews - co-chair of the Green Party of Minnesota and co-chair of the GPUS Reparations Working Group

In 2020 BIPOC communities saw the undeniable roots of white supremacy in healthcare inequities, frontline worker abuses, and most painfully in the killings of our family members by police. We discuss building systems and solutions that can stop the killings and save the soul of our country.

Discussions and questions ensued and focused around reparations, police violence, the 1033 program of military surplus sale to police departments, CA legislation addressing police violence, defunding police, prison system reform, Biden's proposed changes to "domestic terrorism laws" that adversely affect BLM and justice protesters.

Greens interested in working on a community policing platform were encouraged to get in touch with Shane Que Hee of the GPCA Platform Committee.

10:50-11:00 am - **Break**

11:00-12:00 am - Presentation: How Greens Can Join the Fight Against the Neoliberal Assault on Public Education

Nick Cortez (Chair, CA Progressive Alliance and Vice President Campbell High School Teachers Association) and Nicola Walters (California Faculty Association Statewide Membership and Organizing Committee and lecturer in the Department of Politics at Humboldt State).

Public education is under attack - massive restructuring plans and sweeping budget cuts are devastating course offerings, faculty working conditions, job security, and access to healthcare at schools and universities across the country. There is a growing campaign for Education as a Human Right, and this session will explore the role the Green Party can play in the fight for a better future.

Discussions and questions - the informative and eye-opening presentations by speakers were well received by attendees. Discussions focused on how Greens can get involved in supporting education as a human right, as well as the role of teachers unions in advancing equity in education.

12:00-12:45 -Lunch Break

Facilitator(s): Diana Brown

12:45-1:15 - Presentation: Coordinating Committee candidates for the 2021-2023 term make statements

See bios at: https://int-cagreens.nationbuilder.com/sga_vote_216_to_219_6_2021

Candidates present introduced themselves and presented their background and plans for serving as committee members.

1:15-1:35 pm - Committees and Working Groups - Structure and description, Co-Cos and contacts; How to get involved and meeting schedules.

Committee and Working Group Co-Coordinator presented information about vacancies and how Greens can get involved in their work.

1:35-2:00 pm - Presentation: GPUS Delegation delegate and alternate candidates for the 2021-2023 term make statements

See bios here, scroll down to GPUS delegation section:

https://int-cagreens.nationbuilder.com/sga_vote_216_to_219_6_2021

Candidates who were present introduced themselves and shared their background and plans for serving as Delegate.

2:00-2:15 pm - Presentation: How to get involved with GPUS (GPUS Delegation)

A quick Introduction to GPUS committees and platform.

Presenter: Tarik Kananna - described the different ways GPCA members can engage with the GPUS such as running in the elections for GPUS delegation or joining GPUS Committees or identity caucus.

- Announcement Michael Rubin will be presenting at a workshop at the July 2021 GPUS Annual National Meeting

Discussions ended early so Announcements were allowed:

- Vicente Cruz: Report on Oakland Greens activities: they have presentations and discussions regularly on important topics like education, sex workers rights, police conduct, etc. They are starting in-person events and movie screening soon.
- Tarik Kananna proposed directing the discussion to the upcoming topics on the agenda
- Mike Feinstein asked the IT committee about difficulties about updating the Drupal GPCA website. "Is the website in danger of shutting down?" Drupal is getting phased out and will no longer be supported or updated in a few months.
- David Bond (IT co-coordinator) responded regarding the current GPCA website that is not well built with a problematic, unsustainable configuration and no documentation.

2:15-2:25 pm - Break

2:25-3:25 pm - Discussion: GPCA Platform Amendment: Ecosocialism Preamble

Sponsors: (Green Party of Humboldt County, Green Party of Alameda County, Green Party of San Diego County, Green Party of Santa Clara County, and the GPCA Grassroots Organizing working Group). See Appendix C.

This GA Presentation and discussion of the proposed platform amendment will be followed up with a vote by the SGA.

Presenters: David Bond & Rick Greenblatt

Presenters discussed the origin and proposal that has been in discussion in SGA.

Discussions and questions – Majority support was expressed for the Ecosocialism Preamble, with many delegates pointing to a range of reasons why in their experience, GPCA declaring it's political philosophy as Ecosocialist is accurate and necessary.

Among a minority of concerns expressed were that this may be a label alone and it may drive moderate Greens away who are afraid of the term "Socialism".

No amendments were proposed.

3:25-4:00 pm - Discussion: Recall and 2022 Statewide Elections (Statewide Candidate Sub-Committee) see [presentation](#)

Presenter: Greg Jan, Steve Breedlove

Presented the work of the SCSC and the candidates fund that has been set up. There were further discussions on options for GPCA's position on the CA gubernatorial recall and IF the recall position is approved on the CA ballot, would GPCA endorse any candidates for the race. There will be opportunities for more detailed discussion by the SCSC.

Technical issues prevented sharing of the presenters' slides until later in this session.

Greg Jan also presented SCSC on the 2022 election strategy on creating a left unity slate of candidates and clarified how the voting process would be set up.

Discussions and questions

- Mike Feinstein expressed concerns about SCSC leading on this instead of CCWG, and asked how the funds would be dispersed to candidates and how GPCA endorsements will be voted on.

- Steve responded that the funds are not meant for the Gov. recall candidates but only for the 2022 statewide candidates who end up being voted by the GPCA General Assembly to endorse.

SCSC invites all delegates and interested GPCA members to engage and join their group for discussions and sharing their input contact them at: scsc@lists.riseup.net

4:00-4:30 pm - **Tribute to Joe Louis Hoffman (Wildman), GPCA Co-founder and co-organizer of the party's founding ballot drive** (Green Party of Los Angeles County)

Presenter: Mike Feinstein

Joe Louis Hoffman (Wildman) passed away on April 4, 2021. Greens who were active with Joe Louis Hoffman (Wildman) during the founding of the GPCA and afterwards share their remembrances.

([Read more about Joe](#))

Attendees including guests discussed their personal memories of Joe Hoffman and his impact in building the Green Party.

4:30 pm - **Adjourn for Saturday**

Sunday, June 20th

9:00-9:30 am - **Registration/check-in.** Please check in early so that the opening of the General Assembly is not delayed. Once you have been checked in you will be able to turn your video and audio off until it is time to start.

Completed.

Facilitator(s): Shane Que Hee

9:30-9:45 am – **Opening Session:** welcome - Agreements - other info

9:45-9:50 am - **Quorum Count**

See list of Delegate/Alternates attending in Appendix A.

Quorum reached; of the 23 active counties we have 12 (52%) active counties present.

9:50-10:50 am - **Decision: Platform Amendment - Revision of Healthcare plank.**

(Platform Committee)

See Appendix D. Some confusion was expressed regarding if this was a decision vs. discussion item for the GA. Tarik clarified that this is a decision item and has not been on the SGA for a vote.

Presenter: Shane Que Hee - reviewed a line by line description of the amendment proposed and answered some specific questions.

Questions, concerns

There were a large number of concerns and suggested changes to the process that the platform committee has historically used to submit GPCA platform amendments. Requests included: Greens who are actively involved in lobbying on healthcare or other specific issues, be asked to give input on future platform planks prior to amendments being submitted to the assembly. Also suggestions were made that GPCA platform focus on stating the long-term vision of the party and not primarily the short-term incremental changes we want to see.

Presenters reviewed general agreements and paths forward

PlatCom will take the delegation input into consideration in updating the current HealthCare plank amendment and will submit it for the next SGA vote. PlatCom will update certain outdated

language and avoid using time-limited statistics and specifics, they will roll ongoing comments into the drafting process, and will involve more experts into the drafting process.

10:54-11:00 am - **Break**

11:00-12:00 pm - **Presentation: Using Regenerative Economic Development to Re-Indigenize**

David Cobb, GPHC Chairperson, Michelle Vassel, Wiyot Tribal Administrator

We introduce a new tool being developed in Humboldt-- an Indigenous-owned and led Community Land Trust to buy land, build cooperative housing, and support worker-owned businesses. The land itself is owned by (really returned to stewardship of) the Wiyot Tribe, and improvements/buildings would be owned by cooperative structures that enter into long-term leases with the Wiyot. Our approach incorporates a 12-week curriculum where we study/grapple with the intersection of settler colonialism, white supremacy, heteropatriarchy, and capitalism. We want to help Greens imagine replicating this in their community.

Questions and Discussions – The presentation was very well received and inspiring discussions followed on how Greens can build collaborative projects with indigenous people of their own counties.

12:00-1:00 pm - **Lunch Break**

Facilitator(s): Greg Jan

1:00-1:15 pm - **A Call for support by the Nevada Greens Party to GPCA members to help get NV GP ballot access**

Sponsors: Coalition of Green Party of Clark County (NV) and the Green Parties of Riverside and San Bernardino Counties.

Presenter: Daniel Alves

The coalition aims to recruit GPCA members to help reach out to communities in NV especially using the railway lines for travel and NV Greens can offer some housing for volunteers from CA.

Questions and Discussions

- Mike Feinstein noted that ballot access in NV has been recently changed to make it harder for third parties and that was what he expected to hear from this presentation. GP NV needs to collect 20,000 signatures to get on the ballot, details about housing and information would be very helpful in a website so GP NV needs to share that with GPCA.
 - Daniel responded that all that info is in the works and they will provide GPCA more information.
 - The current law requires the 1% (20K) signatures. The upcoming 2021 statewide law that requires a 2% of voters to sign a political party ballot access petition would not affect GP NV.
 - The ANM was suggested as a good opportunity to solicit help from national Greens.
 - There is a proposal coming up for the National Committee to use some un-used funds to develop a ballot access program that would help state parties like GP NV is facing.
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1:15-2:25 pm - **Discussion: Long-Term Electoral Reform Strategy: The California Plan**
(Electoral Reform Working Group)

See Appendix E and [presentation](#)

Presenter: Caledon Myers

Caledon shared a presentation on the background of electoral reforms, why we need more than Ranked Choice Voting, and what can we, as a minor party in the state of California, actively do to initiate and realize major electoral reform?

Questions and Discussions

General interest was expressed and there was wide agreement for the need to implement a proportional mixed representation in CA. Discussions followed on how this plan, once realized, would change the outcome of elections in CA, and how it will affect the Green Party.

- Rick Greenblatt suggested that this presentation does not discuss campaign financing and as long as the law makers in CA are agents of the current system and would not support or allow this reform. Caledon invited all to join the ERWG to discuss terminology and Eric suggested that this is a long-term plan for electoral reform.

- Mike Feinstein noted he supports the citizen's assembly model because experts talking to regular voters is much more effective than the legislature passing on what experts promote for electoral reform. Caledon noted the only models on electoral reforms that have worked internationally have involved coalition building in addition to involving politicians who supported those reforms.

Facilitator(s): June Brashares

2:25-2:30 pm - **Discussion/Decision: GPCA to sign on to a letter asking the CA state legislation to conduct public hearings to review California's Top Two experiments and alternatives to it, and to release a statement and press release on it.**

No formal proposal was shared, and the final approved content that was sent to the Legislative Chairs was not provided to the GPCA CC or Media Committees. The letter can be found at:
<http://losangeles.cagreens.org/issues/public-hearings-electoral-reform>

Sponsor: GPLAC

Presenter: Mike Feinstein

Mike read the letter for delegates to consider support and made minor verbal corrections to the draft letter.

Questions and concerns were answered and addressed

- Mimi expressed concern that this is a statement in support of our current platform that could have been sent to the CC to approve and issue a statement and press release.
- Nassim expressed concern about this item having gone to other political parties before it was presented to the GPCA General Assembly. Mike explained that yes
- No remaining concerns

Approved by consensus

Facilitator(s): June Brashares

2:45-2:50 pm - **Break**

2:50-3:35 pm - **Discussion: Welcome (and welcome back) to GPCA; Working to Grow CA Green Party Registration**

(Grassroots Organizing Working Group)

Presenter: Rick Greenblatt - [Presentation](#)

If the CA Green Party doesn't increase our proportion of registered voters by January 2022, we may lose many of our rights as a party, including the ability to have our candidates identified as Greens on the ballot, and the right to have a Green presidential primary in 2024.

This presentation described the ongoing work of the GPCA Grassroots Organizing Working Group (GROW) to address the problem. We will summarize our use of recent and historic voter registration data to identify nearly 20,000 ex-Greens. These have been sent emails encouraging them to re-register, with apparently modest success. Next, we will work with County Green Parties to reach out to ex-Greens at the county level. As a final step, we can develop and implement plans to register those who are not yet Greens, especially young people.

Questions and Discussions

- Many expressed affirmations for the work Rick has done on this project.
- A few county representatives suggested they would be working on similar projects in their counties.
- Some attendees asked specifics about the survey results that Rick agreed to share individually.
- There was general agreement that more of this type of work needs to be done by GPCA.

3:35-3:50 pm - Next General Assembly Meeting Date and Place

General discussion favored an online / zoom format. Some attendees shared ideas and technical options for a hybrid model.

3:50-4:00 pm - Closing Session

4:00 pm - Adjourn

Appendix

Appendix A. General Assembly registrants and the 2020-2021 SGA/GA Delegates and Alternates – no votes on Sunday

First Name	Last Name	County	Saturday 6/19 Roll Call for Del/Alts present; Y/N	GA online June 19-20 2021registered reg 70+guests	Delegate or Alternate SGA/GA 2020 - 2021
Jan	Arnold	Alameda	Y	x	GA
Bill	Balderston	Alameda	Y	x	GA/Alt1
David	Clifford	Alameda		x	
Vicente	Cruz	Alameda	Y	x	GA/Alt1
Mica	Daniel	Alameda	Y	x	GA
Aidan	Hill	Alameda	N	x	GA/Alt1
Jessie	Huang	Alameda		x	
Greg	Jan	Alameda	Y	x	GA
James	McFadden	Alameda	Y	x	GA
Caledon	Myers	Alameda		x	
Michael	Rubin	Alameda	Y	x	GA
Phoebe	Sorgen	Alameda	N	x	GA/Alt2
Pam	Spevack	Alameda	Y	x	GA/Alt2
Laura	Wells	Alameda	Y	x	GA
Steve	Breedlove	Butte	Y	x	GA
Brooke	Houston	Butte	Y	x	GA
Megan	Buckingham	Fresno	Y	x	GA

Arthur	Fields	Fresno		x	
Richard	Gomez	Fresno	Y	x	GA
Joshua	Gonzales	Fresno		x	
Mark	Quintos-Felten	Fresno		x	
Mark	Adams	Humboldt	Y	x	GA
David	Cobb	Humboldt	Y	x	GA
David	Grover	Humboldt	Y	x	GA
Diane	Ryerson	Humboldt		x	
Nicola	Walters	Humboldt		x	
David	Bond	Los Angeles		x	
Diana	Brown	Los Angeles		x	
James (Henk)	Conn	Los Angeles		x	
Mike	Feinstein	Los Angeles	Y	x	GA
Andrea	Houtman	Los Angeles		x	
Alex	Huezo Sandoval	Los Angeles		x	
Dan	Kapelovitz	Los Angeles		x	
James	Lauderdale	Los Angeles		x	
Danielle	Mead	Los Angeles	Y	x	GA
Efren	Moreno	Los Angeles		x	
Carl	Peterson	Los Angeles	Y	x	GA
Shannel	Pittman	Los Angeles		x	
Shane	Que Hee	Los Angeles	Y	x	GA
Jimmy	Rivera	Los Angeles	Y	x	GA
Rohan	Sabnis	Los Angeles	Y	x	GA
Matthew	Smith	Los Angeles		x	
Mimi	Newton	Marin	Y	x	GA
Molly	Daniels	Monterey		x	
Ezra	Lambert	Monterey		x	
Frank	Lambert	Monterey	Y	x	GA/Alt
Dominique	Wade	Monterey	Y	x	GA
Audra	Walton	Monterey		x	
Alex	Shantz	Napa		x	
Nicole	Castor	Sacramento	Y	x	GA
Randy	Hicks	Sacramento	Y	x	GA
Jared	Laiti	Sacramento		x	
Ali	Moezzi	Sacramento		x	
Kevin	Sabo	Sacramento		x	
Rick	Greenblatt	San Diego	Y	x	GA
Eric	Brooks	San Francisco	Y	x	GA
Veronika	Fimbres	San Francisco		x	
Barry	Hermanson	San Francisco	Y	x	GA/Alt
Rich	Stone	San Francisco	Y	x	GA
Peggy	Koteen	San Luis Obispo	Y	x	GA
Charisse	Cordero	Santa Barbara	Y	x	GA
Brian	Good	Santa Clara		x	
Diane	Harrison	Santa Clara	Y	x	GA
Michele	Mashburn	Santa Clara	Y	x	GA
Nadia	Nouri	Santa Clara	N	x	GA
Nassim	Nouri	Santa Clara	Y	x	GA
Christine	Pepin	Santa Clara	Y	x	GA
June	Brashares	Sonoma	Y	x	GA/Alt
Susan	Chunco	Sonoma	Y	x	GA
Tarik	Kanaana	Sonoma	Y	x	GA/Alt
Karen	Nyhus	Sonoma		x	
Nick	Cortez	CA		guest	
Michelle	Vassel	Humboldt		guest	
Trahern	Crews	NOT CA		guest	
Sandy	Anthis			guest	
				Number of Del/Alt Present	43

				Number of counties Present	14
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Appendix B. Bylaws Interpretation regarding voting dates for current SGA

Background:

The Standing General Assembly is currently in the discussion period. Under GPCA [Bylaws](#) (Section 7-6), the SGA discussion period is to be **six weeks**. The Bylaws also state (in Section 7-6.2) that for the election of the Coordinating Committee and GPUS Delegation **the discussion period shall begin on the first Monday of May**. The current SGA began on Monday May 10th so allowing a six weeks discussion period sets the voting period to be June 21st - 27th. (Had the SGA started on the first Monday of May, May 3rd, the voting period would be June 14th - 20th.) Since the Bylaws refer to the discussion starting on the first Monday of May and also prescribes six weeks of discussion time, the CC needs to clear up any ambiguity over when the voting period will be for the current SGA.

Proposal: Adopt Bylaws Interpretation to clarify the voting period for the current SGA will be June 21 - 27.

Bylaws Interpretation:

Whereas the SGA is currently in the discussion period (for the election of 12 seats on the Coordinating Committee, 9 GPUS Delegates & 8 Alternate Delegates, and the vote regarding the EcoSocialism Preamble Platform Amendment) See:

https://int-cagreens.nationbuilder.com/sga_vote_216_to_220_6_2021

Whereas Under GPCA Bylaws the discussion period for Proposals and Elections shall be six weeks.

Whereas the SGA discussion period began on May 10th, 2021, and includes a Platform Amendment Proposal as well as the Election of the Coordinating Committee and GPUS Delegation

Whereas candidates shall be given time to present themselves at the General Assembly happening June 19-20, 2021, and it would be beneficial for the SGA voting period to occur the week right after the GA (rather than having the vote start prior to the GA with the candidates GA presentations not occurring until the final two days of the voting period).

Whereas it is in the interest of the GPCA to have fully informed SGA Delegates' participation

Whereas the Bylaws state the voting period for Proposals and Elections shall commence immediately at the close of the discussion period, and shall be for one week beginning on a Monday at 12:01 am and ending on a Sunday at 11:59pm.

Therefore the CC finds that it is appropriate for the discussion period for the current SGA election to continue up to Sunday, June 20th at 11:59pm, and the voting period shall be for one week beginning on Monday, June 21 at 12:01am and end on Sunday, June 27 at 11:59pm.

References:

GPCA [Bylaws](#):

Section 7-6. Online Voting

7-6.2(a) The discussion period for Proposals and Elections shall be six weeks, beginning on a Monday at 12:01 am and ending on a Sunday at 11:59pm. The discussion period for Coordinating Committee and GPUS Delegation elections shall begin on the first Monday of May.

7-6.2(d) The voting period for Proposals and Elections shall commence immediately at the close of the discussion period, and shall be for one week beginning on a Monday at 12:01 am and ending on a Sunday at 11:59pm.

Section 8-4. Elections

8-4.1 Elections shall be conducted each year by the Standing General Assembly by secret ballot, using Ranked Choice Voting with a No Other Candidate option, with the six week discussion period beginning on the first Monday of May and the one week voting period commencing immediately thereafter.

8-4.4 Candidates shall be given time to present themselves and respond to questions on a Standing General Assembly teleconference during the Standing General Assembly discussion period in 7-6.3. Where General Assemblies or Gatherings occur after the close of the submission date in 8-4.2, and before the close of the voting period in 7-6.3, candidates shall be given time to present themselves to any General Assembly or Gathering occurring this period.

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.

Implementation/Timeline:

Following CC adoption of the bylaws interpretation, it needs to be added to the draft agenda for the GA for confirmation. (The GPCA Bylaws state that if the CC has a Bylaws Interpretation within 60 days of a General Assembly, it is to be on the agenda of the GA and the agenda approved by the GA must include the vote.)

Appendix C. GPCA ECOSOCIALISM PREAMBLE PLATFORM

Ecosocialism Preamble Platform Amendment Proposal

SPONSORS: Green Party of Humboldt County, Green Party of Alameda County, Green Party of San Diego County, Green Party of Santa Clara County, and the GPCA Grassroots Organizing working Group

PRESENTER: TBD

SUBJECT: GPCA Platform Amendment: Ecosocialism Preamble - amended 6/16/21

BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE:

Since the publication of Kovel and Löwy's Ecosocialist Manifesto in 2001, the adoption of an explicitly ecosocialist plank in the 2016 GPUS platform, and the 2020 Hawkins/Walker presidential campaign, the necessity of an anti-capitalist perspective for realizing our Green values has become increasingly clear. In addition, for years Greens across California and the country have engaged in building models of community organizing around ecosocialist institutions and programs such as those implemented by Cooperative Jackson and Cooperative Humboldt.

Yet, the context of ecosocialism is nowhere to be found in the GPCA platform. Currently our Platform page on the GPCA website (cagreens.org) contains a simple paragraph and links to the five pillars, but lacks a high-level summary of what our collection of platform planks hopes to accomplish. Naming this vision for the type of society we hope to build is an important opportunity to engage and attract left leaning progressive to our party.

PROPOSAL: For the GPCA Standing General Assembly to adopt the following language as the GPCA Platform Preamble in order to explicitly communicate our adoption of an ecosocialist perspective.

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 alternative social, economic, and political system "EcoSocialism", founded on democracy, equity, and solidarity.

As Greens, we understand EcoSocialism to mean:

- An end to the capitalist, class-based power and privilege, marked by inequity, white supremacy, racism, imperialism, colonialism, ableism, heteropatriarchy, and all other forms of oppression; and
- An economic system based on social and worker (waged and unwaged) ownership and democratic control of production and exchange to best meet human and planetary needs; and
- A political system founded on democratic decision-making on the local, regional, national and international levels, able to restore the balance between the worlds of nature and of humanity.

Therefore, the Green Party of California rejects the oppressive and unsustainable capitalist system that exploits both nature and people for private gain.

The Green Party of California also rejects contributions from corporations, and their super-PACs and lobbyists. Our Ten Key Values (<http://www.cagreens.org/ten-key-values>) guide our platform that includes five main sections, each containing detailed platform planks:

- Social Justice and Livable Communities
- Just and Sustainable Economy
- Ecology and Earth Stewardship
- Peace and Non-violence
- Democracy and Electoral Reform

COMMITTEE DECISION: Proposing organizations have all achieved consensus on sponsoring this proposal.

TIMELINE/RESOURCES: Upon GA/SGA approval:

- GPCA IT team will replace the existing paragraph on the GPCA Platform landing page with the text above.
- GPCA Media and Clearinghouse to promote the adoption of the new GPCA Platform Preamble.

REFERENCES:

- Ecosocialist Manifesto, Kovel and Löwy's - <http://green.left.sweb.cz/frame/Manifesto.html>
- GPCA Platform landing page <http://cagreens.org/platform>

Appendix D. Revision of Healthcare plank.

Universal Health Care (underlined=new; struck-out=deleted)

SPONSOR: Platform Standing Group

PRESENTERS/CONTACTS: Shane Que Hee, squehee@ucla.edu

SUBJECT: Universal Health Care in the Social Justice and Liveable Community pillar. Personal and global responsibility, ecological wisdom, and sustainability are the involved 10 Key Values of the GP.

Every person has the right to adequate and affordable health care, ~~as well as~~ confidentiality of medical data and records, and the right ~~of deciding to own and control the fate of any information or products derived from his or her~~ their body. Health care is a human right.

In California ~~in 2005~~, some ~~20~~ 5% of the population is uninsured. Many more have insurance that is inadequate to pay for the care they need. Out-of-pocket costs, such as deductibles, co-pays and the cost of insurance increase every year. Many, especially ~~among~~ seniors, pay out of their pockets for

large portions of their health care costs. The United States America spends more per person for health care than any other nation in the world and yet ranks only 37th by WHO standards in quality of health care.

Studies have shown conclusively that eliminating private health care insurance in the U.S. (along with its associated and egregiously expensive bureaucracy and paperwork) and replacing this system, with the U.S. government serving as a single not-for-profit health insurer, could, each year, save patients and the U.S. economy hundreds of billions of dollars and save tens of thousands of lives.

Therefore the GPCA advocates the following policies:

The GPCA supports a Single Payer Universal Health Care system. This means health insurance coverage for ALL through a single insurance plan offered by the government which would control the growth of health care spending through a simplified administrative structure, consolidated financing and purchasing, and statewide health planning. Such a system would dramatically improve the response to, and control of, pandemics, saving many lives.

That system must offer ~~a~~ an equitable comprehensive benefit package including complete medical, dental, mental health, pharmaceutical, chiropractic, vision, hearing, reproductive health care, gender reassignment, hospice, and in-home and rehabilitation/recovery care, and legalized assisted suicide services. No necessary service can be left out. If co-pays and deductibles are included to finance the system, they must be reasonable and affordable. This system should also cover long-term care and the medical component of Workers Compensation. We support state or federal efforts that would establish such a system.

Everyone must have access to all necessary medical care, including those who are economically disadvantaged, disabled, homeless, undocumented, and/or non-citizens. Appropriate means of communication by language must be provided. Preventive care is more effective, more humane and more cost-effective than treating people after they are already ill. Preventive care should be emphasized in the planning and financing of our health care system. Injury prevention and social support services should be supported. Measures to minimize post-traumatic stress syndromes, mental distress, and psychological problems after injury, illness, or social neglect must also be fully covered. ~~supported need support too.~~ We also support measures to incentivize ~~assure~~ adequate supply of primary care providers, nurses, and other allied health care personnel.

Care must be culturally competent. Our health care system must affirm rights to human dignity, personal choice, and privacy. It must practise respect for racial, ethnic, gender, sexual orientation, age, disabilities, and other cultural needs/differences. The objective is health care equity for all. We oppose triage policies during epidemics and pandemics that disproportionately target disabled and chronically ill people, seniors, people of color, poor people, immigrants, LGBTQI people, people who are incarcerated, the homeless, others at high risk and those impacted by biases in medical treatment.

We support giving patients complete freedom of choice as to their form and providers of treatment, or to refuse treatment, as part of a patient's Bill of Rights. A hospital cannot refuse treatment for any reason, if treatment capacity is available.

The GPCA strongly supports a holistic approach to health care. Different philosophies of care, broadly characterized as conventional and alternative/complementary care co-exist and sometimes compete. Both have roles in a modern and compassionate health care system. We support funding for research for both conventional and alternative/complementary care to cure and prevent ~~and other~~ illnesses such as cancer, heart disease, and AIDS/HIV as well as epidemics/pandemics. We support funding for modalities of care with proven benefit or widespread popular acceptance, such as acupuncture and herbal medicine. We support universal access to and support of natural birthing

alternatives. ~~for all women.~~ We support licensing, medical malpractice insurance, and oversight of alternative/complementary care practitioners, identical to ~~that~~ those for other health care professionals. We support encouraging and educating people about healthy lifestyles, and more awareness of mechanisms of self-healing and how to self-protect during any epidemic or pandemic. In addition, we support funding holistic recovery services after any injury or illness.

We advocate the voluntary adoption of plant-based diets to improve health, and to help reduce the outbreak and spreading of pandemics and epidemics from animals to humans. This would also lessen climate change from green-house gases emitted from animals.

Health care resources must be distributed fairly and used in an efficient and cost effective manner because these resources belong to all of us. Disparities between care for the wealthy and poor must end. Health care costs ~~in 2005~~ account for ~~some~~ 15% a substantial portion of the U.S. Gross Domestic Product.

We support existing measures, programs, and legislative actions that will increase access to high quality, cost-effective medical services for all Californians until we get a Single Payer system, and as necessary afterwards, unless such policies serve to entrench or perpetuate the private health insurance industry.

We need reasonable prices for all medical goods and services. The largest single unnecessary cost ~~in 2005~~ is the health-insurance system. In addition, profits for pharmaceutical and medical equipment companies, health maintenance organizations (HMOs), and for-profit providers are often unjustifiably high. The pharmaceutical industry, for example, has the highest profit margin of any sector of the economy. It is also heavily subsidized by tax breaks, special patent legislation, and lucrative licensing arrangements by the federal government. ~~We assume that~~ Single Payer will ~~can~~ bring costs for prescription drugs in line with what others in the world pay ~~i.~~ ~~This is accomplished~~ through bulk purchasing. Until Single Payer is established, we support measures such as drug re-importation from Canada and high quality generic drugs to reduce drug costs. Drugs should be developed with public money with the objective of getting the best help for the most people. The public should receive a reasonable financial return on its investment. As long as we use the current system, we oppose any legislation to extend the patent of any specific drug. Pharmaceuticals substantially developed with support of public subsidies should be open source and non-patentable.

~~We want hospitals, clinics, and other care providers to try to develop management that is democratic and representative. People representing health care workers, consumers, and other public interests should be included on the Board of Directors and other governing structures.~~

We support mandates requiring a substantial presence of women and non-binary genders, people of color, and other underrepresented groups on Boards of Directors. Hospitals, clinics, and other care providers should have management that is inclusive, democratic, and representative. People representing health care workers, consumers, and other public interests should be included on every care providing organization's Board of Directors and on any other governing structures.

We demand that California's medical and recreational marijuana laws be fully recognized and implemented by all the appropriate local, state, and federal jurisdictions. The federal government must not interfere with duly-enacted California laws on health care, and should legalize recreational marijuana.

We support reimbursement of health care costs FOR ALL, including costs of therapy to treat psychological/mental illness, damage, ~~mental~~ distress, ~~and~~ traumatic shock as well as and their physical effects.

~~We demand~~ the right to informed consent for any individual without force and without coercion relative to his/her own body for any medical, dental, pharmaceutical, or other procedure performed

on them that involves body tissue/organ extraction, insertion, injection, sampling, or imaging. The informed consent must be verifiable, and neither forced nor coerced.

We insist that the ownership or use of The products or information derived from body tissue or organ extraction, and from insertion, injection, sampling, testing, and imaging cannot be transferred to others without informed consent of a patient or a person to whom they have designated with Power of Attorney.

We want the ~~The~~ right to confidentiality, and personal ownership and control, of all medical, dental, pharmaceutical record data for an individual unless otherwise decided by the individual without force and without coercion. Such data also include details on abortions, adoptions, drugs, cloning, test tube babies, aborted fetuses, and genetic material. genes and DNA.

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Universal Health Care

Every person has the right to adequate and affordable health care, confidentiality of medical data and records, and the right to own and control any information or products derived from their body. Health care is a human right.

In California, some 5% of the population is uninsured. Many more have insurance that is inadequate to pay for the care they need. Out-of-pocket costs, such as deductibles, co-pays and the cost of insurance increase every year. Many, especially seniors, pay out of their pockets for large portions of their health care costs. The United States spends more per person for health care than any other nation in the world and yet ranks only 37th by WHO standards in quality.

Studies have shown conclusively that eliminating private health care insurance in the U.S. (along with its associated and egregiously expensive bureaucracy and paperwork) and replacing this system, with the U.S. government serving as a single not-for-profit health insurer, could, each year, save patients and the U.S. economy hundreds of billions of dollars and save tens of thousands of lives.

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COMMITTEE DECISION: The revision of the Health Care plank and its renaming as Universal Health Care occurred after the disapproval of the added “Pandemics” section by the Standing General Assembly after consideration at the virtual General Assembly of November 21 and 22. Revisions of the original Health Care plank were posted on the Platform list serve on November 9, 13 and 26 2020, January 31, February 24, April 21 and April 22 2021 in addition to consideration at the zoom meetings of January 28, February 25, March 25 and April 22 2021. Voting members consented to the plank on May 2 2021.

RESOURCES: This is a revised and renamed platform plank

Appendix E. Long-Term Electoral Reform Strategy: The California Plan

SPONSOR: GPCA Electoral Reform Working Group

PRESENTER: Caledon Myers; Berkeley, CA; 703-955-6511; caledon.myers@gmail.com

SUBJECT (DISCUSSION/ PRESENTATION): Long-Term Electoral Reform Strategy: The California Plan

PROPOSAL/ DESCRIPTION: Though currently absent from larger public discourse, our electoral systems directly inform the makeup of our representative bodies. They shape and

translate voter preferences to political power. In order to educate Greens on the outsized if understated role that electoral systems have in regulating party participation, this presentation will first provide a general outline of prominent electoral systems around the world. After identifying how our electoral system fails to offer meaningful representation in comparison to international counterparts, we will look at the few democracies where major electoral reform has occurred.

Then, the central question of the presentation will be: what can we, as a minor party in the state of California, actively do to initiate and realize major electoral reform?

By applying the components that resulted in the successful, wholesale adoption of new electoral systems in the previously referenced case studies, we will propose a three-part, evidence-based strategy that, if successful, will effectively guarantee Greens a modest number of seats in the California State Assembly and Senate in ten to twelve years. Time requested: one hour for the presentation (with slides) and a half hour afterwards for questions.

BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE: The electoral system of California, which establishes the rules and methods by which we conduct elections, is fundamentally designed in a way that encourages the political representation of only two parties. Many other democracies around the world, however, use electoral systems that are conducive to ensuring the political representation of multiple parties. The purpose of this presentation is to provide an overview of the ways our current electoral system effects our political prospects as a minor party, discuss how alternative systems would function to improve political representation at-large, and submit a long-term strategy that would make California a multi-party democracy.

ERWG DECISION: The Electoral Reform Working Group unanimously voted “yes” to present the California Plan to the GA. The only concerns expressed were related to the logistical content of the proposal, which are highly open to discussion, and not the presentation itself.

TIMELINE/RESOURCES: Resources: Representatives from the Green Party of CA to serve on the board of a coalition of minor parties solely dedicated to pursuing major electoral reform in California. Meetings will occur bi-monthly, separate from the current GPCA-ERWG, and require no resources other than representatives input and endorsement on matters relating to reform objectives and substance. Timeline: Short-term; in one year, form a broad coalition of progressive political organizations to support a plan to craft two citizen-led initiatives that will 1) Create a nonpartisan commission of experts to propose a new electoral design for California, and 2) Allow Californians to vote on the adoption of the proposed design. Because the coalition will function as an external entity, any potential financial, state, or insurance requirements will be the responsibility of the coalition and not the GPCA.

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