

SPONSOR: Policy & Platform Committee

PRESENTERS/CONTACTS: Shane Que Hee, squehee@ucla.edu 3102067388

SUBJECT: Affirmative Action Platform Plank

BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE: Revised GPCA Platform plank in the Social Justice and Liveable Community pillar. The Ten Key Values involved are Social Justice and Equal Opportunity, Feminism and Gender Equity, Personal and Global Responsibility, Respect for Diversity

PROPOSAL: To amend the GPCA Affirmative Action platform plank as follows:

New=underlined; crossed out=deleted; yellow outline=changes since last version

Affirmative Action

Patterns of Systemic exclusion, exploitation and oppression of people and groups based on race, ethnicity, nationality, religion sex, gender, age, disability, class or other differences by a primarily white male capitalist propertied overclass women and minorities (primarily people of color) must be acknowledged as a ~~is an ongoing serious local, national and global barrier continuing practice that violates any semblance of to social justice, or respect for equality, diversity, equity, inclusion, and democracy.~~

Early laws in this country, and the very construction of the U.S. Constitution, exclusively favored white, male, landowners. That group maintained its almost total dominance until deliberate actions were taken to include ~~minorities~~ others. ~~In t~~During the over ~~two five-~~ century history of the European colonization of this continent, country and much of the world, the quest for liberation and equality in what is now the U.S. has produced four Constitutional Amendments and multiple ~~a plethora of~~ Congressional Acts, Executive Orders and Supreme Court decisions. ~~Along the way,~~ Slaves were ostensibly freed from chattel slavery and given citizenship. Women won the right to vote. And "separate but equal" was recognized as segregation and ~~was dismantled.~~

Beginning in the 1960s a broad array of Affirmative Action laws and practices were adopted throughout the late 20th Century, which sought to proactively eliminate systemic white male propertied and ableist preference and dominance and to provide marginalized groups with truly equal opportunities in education, work, wealth and personal freedom. ~~Race / gender affirmative actions attempt to include specific groups that have a history of being excluded regardless of their economic status or level of education. We should be proud of the gains these affirmative actions have achieved,~~

but we must also recognize the inequalities that still exist. In a heterogeneous society, equality requires constant vigilance.

Yet with all of these advances and gains, countless fundamental and deep systemic inequalities not only still tenaciously remain, in some cases they have dramatically worsened. For example, the Black population in the U.S. correctional system (including prisons where in many states slavery shockingly remains legal) has grown from about 360,000 in the 1970s to over 2 million in the 21st century, a 500% increase, this when the US population has risen by only 65% since 1970).

Worse still, beginning just a decade after their inception, Affirmative Action efforts and laws have faced continuous legal attacks and have been scaled back, By June 2023 the U.S. Supreme Court completely struck down race-based Affirmative Action in higher education, and Federal government and other Affirmative Action programs are currently now under a broader threat.

~~The Green Party disagrees with the assertion that affirmative actions should be class-based rather than race / gender-based. There is merit to the class-based argument, but it would have a different goal: an attempt to provide opportunity to those trapped in poverty. Race / gender affirmative actions attempt to include specific groups that have a history of being excluded regardless of their economic status or level of education.~~

~~Anti-affirmative action sentiments are being provoked as a subterfuge to hide economic problems: the concentration of wealth and power in the hands of the few; the exploitation of labor in the U.S. and abroad; the problems presented by greater automation; and the continued decline in real wages and jobs. Our political leaders have failed to address these issues even though other industrial nations are beginning to deal with them. The common practice of these leaders has been to use minorities as scapegoats in order to divert attention from the real issues. This is a recurring scenario in history: economic disparity causes social unrest; anger is directed at easy targets—those least able to fight back; the underlying issues are deflected because they are complex and carry enormous social implications and long term effects.~~

The Green Party of California recognizes the crucial need for Affirmative Action to be restored and expanded programs and we supports proactive corrective action and decision making to ensure that members of any marginalized race, ethnicity, nationality, religion, sex, gender, age, class, or other group, and people with disabilities, have fully

equal opportunities and inclusion, regardless of their group status or income.

This first means that any person's status as a member of one or more marginalized groups must be legally permitted to be considered as a factor in any choice between themselves and similarly qualified white male applicants in access to higher education, training, employment, housing, and in lotteries for limited social welfare benefits. All laws and court decisions which have struck down such consideration should be struck down themselves and reversed.the following:

To this end the Green Party of California specifically supports:

1. When pursuing Affirmative Action for any marginalized group, that group must be given a lead legal role in determining how such Affirmative Action is implemented.
2. Retention of inclusion goals for all members of marginalized groups ~~women and minorities~~ in government hiring and procurement when all other qualifications are equal - similar to the preferences given to veterans.
3. ~~Providing~~ Maintaining employment programs whose goals are to achieve a workforce that reflects the diversity of applicants and workers in any community and in the nation as a whole.
4. Direct financial, property, infrastructure, basic income, and other Reparations for all members of groups or classes which have suffered a substantive lack, loss, or theft, of wealth, property, economic opportunity and/or freedom due to past and current discrimination against their group or class, especially individuals and groups suffering under systemic and continued oppression and lack of opportunity arising from slavery, Jim Crow laws, the European colonization and genocide of indigenous people and Nations, and immigrant indentured servitude. For details see the GPCA platform section **Reparations**. [hyperlink Reparations platform plank]
~~Promoting equal employment opportunity through education and examples of successful programs, but also pursuing Court imposed remedies and legal retribution where necessary.~~
5. Aggressive, rapid, prosecution and compensation for all abuses by police, judicial and incarceration systems, the disarming of public and private police and guards who are not specifically trained responders to armed violent crime in progress (as in

the United Kingdom) and a shift to community based and coordinated security and justice.

6. Adequate government funding, support and available attorneys, for aggressive legal accountability, prosecution, and relief for all illegal discrimination in employment, education, housing (including redlining), predatory lending, and all other group-based illegal exclusion or theft.

~~A realistic aAssessing realistically ment of our future economy and employment in the post-industrial age, while not discriminating against poor people, — Since economic disparity causes social unrest, and that anger is directed at easy targets— those least able to fight back— the poor become scapegoats and targets of discrimination.~~

7. Adequate legal and financial supports to enable Environmental Justice Communities to sue for and leverage the full elimination and cleanup of disproportionate sources and wastes contaminating their communities, lands, waters and resources.

8. Adequate government funding, support and available attorneys, for competent and strong legal defense against eviction, home foreclosure, and utility shutoffs.

9. Implementing Proportional Representation as an affirmative action towards achieving fair representation for all. [See Proportional Representation plank.] Electoral systems can promote patterns of inclusion or exclusion and ,so, the Green Party of California supports full implementation and enforcement goals of the Voting Rights Act.

10. Basic Housing As A Right, Free Primary and Higher Education for All, Universal Healthcare (Medicare For All). and the expansion of minimum Social Security payments to all U.S. residents (regardless of age and work income) to provide a Universal Basic Income to strengthen and underpin Affirmative Action for all groups.

Recognizing that reparations are a debt (not charity) that is due from the government, corporations, and institutions that profited from slavery and racial and sexual exploitation.

11. ~~Supporting reparations as a policy priority to elevate the voices of descendants of chattel slavery.~~ **We fully recognize and support their right to self-determination and autonomy to chart the path to healing as part of a Black Agenda.**
12. ~~Continuing to seek the guidance and participation of Black, Brown, other groups discriminated against, and female activists and leaders in policy development within their communities.~~

~~A way to try to achieve affirmative action and equity, diversity and inclusion is through reparations*. The United States has been built on stolen ancestral lands of Native Nations, by the labor of enslaved Africans and their descendants, and by exploiting documented and undocumented Latin Americans. To this day, our nation continues to reap the benefits of race-based oppression and slave labor in prisons across the United States.~~

~~The Transatlantic trade by European and American slave traders, starting in 1619 resulted in abducting nearly 12.5 million enslaved Africans from their homelands. These men and women were forced to build the American colonies, settlements, farms, towns for well over two centuries, and even after the passage of the Emancipation Proclamation and the 13th Amendment. These descendants of enslaved Africans, whose ancestors endured centuries of human rights violations, including the Transatlantic slave trade, now recognized by the United Nations as a “crime against humanity”, have legitimate claims to reparations including monetary compensation. Reparations are now due to address the debt still owed to descendants of enslaved Africans.~~

~~The Green Party condemns white supremacy, colonialism, racism, dehumanization, and discrimination that communities of color continue to face in our country.~~

~~*-The Merriam-Webster Dictionary definitions for “reparation” are “1a: a repairing or keeping in repair—1b: reparations plural : repairs; 2a: the act of making amends, offering expiation, or giving satisfaction for a wrong or injury—2b: something done or given as amends or satisfaction; 3: the payment of damages : indemnification—specifically : compensation in money or materials payable by a defeated nation for damages to or expenditures sustained by another nation as a result of hostilities with the defeated nation—usually used in plural.)~~

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Affirmative Action

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primarily white male capitalist propertied overclass is an ongoing serious local, national and global barrier to social justice, equality, diversity, equity, inclusion, and democracy.

Early laws in this country, and the very construction of the U.S. Constitution, exclusively favored white, male, landowners. That group maintained almost total dominance until deliberate actions were taken to include others. During the over five-century history of the European colonization of this continent, and much of the world, the quest for liberation and equality in what is now the U.S. has produced four Constitutional Amendments and multiple Congressional Acts, Executive Orders and Supreme Court decisions. Slaves were ostensibly freed from chattel slavery and given citizenship. Women won the right to vote. And "separate but equal" was recognized as segregation and dismantled.

Beginning in the 1960s a broad array of Affirmative Action laws and practices were adopted throughout the late 20th Century, which sought to proactively eliminate systemic white male propertied and ableist preference and dominance and to provide marginalized groups with truly equal opportunities in education, work, wealth and personal freedom.

Yet with all of these advances and gains, countless fundamental and deep systemic inequalities not only still tenaciously remain, in some cases they have dramatically worsened. For example, the Black population in the U.S. correctional system (including prisons where in many states slavery shockingly remains legal) has grown from about 360,000 in the 1970s to over 2 million in the 21st century, a 500% increase, this when the US population has risen by only 65% since 1970).

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COMMITTEE DECISION: This revision was directed by the Policy and Platform Committee 2024 zoom meeting of September 26 and versions posted on the PPC list serve on October 3, 5, 18, and 20, and a new edit was approved at PPC zoom meeting on October 24. The revision was not discussed at the General Assembly of November 23 2024.

RESOURCES: This is a revision of an existing platform plank.