

MINUTES OF THE GREEN PARTY OF CALIFORNIA GENERAL ASSEMBLY, NOV. 23, 2024



GPCA General Assembly Notetaker for Nov. 2024: Mimi Newton, Marin County
Approved by the Standing General Assembly in June 2026

8:30 - 9 am - Registration/check-in.

9:00 - Opening Sessions

9:15-9:20 am - Quorum Count for starting GA and approving agenda

Quorum was achieved with a total of 41 delegates attending from 17 of 21 active counties participating. [The list of delegates and attendees is at [Appendix A.](#)]

9:20- 9:30 am - Decision: Approval of [Agenda](#)

The Agenda was approved by consensus.

9:30-9:40 am - Decision: [Approve Draft June 2024 GA minutes](#) (Coordinating Committee)

The Minutes from the June 2024 GA were approved.

9:40-10:40 am - Decision: Approval of the 2025 [Budget \(updated 11/22\)](#) and 2025 [Strategic Plan \(Calendar\)](#). (Coordinating Committee and Finance)

The Budget and the Strategic Plan were approved by consensus.

**10:40-11:00 am - Decision: Reappointment of GPCA Treasurer
[Confirmation of Coordinating Committee Nomination of Justin Richardon as GPCA](#)**

Treasurer for the Two-Year Term Jan 2025 - Dec 2026. (Coordinating Committee)

Justin Richardson accepted the nomination and his confirmation as GPCA Treasurer was approved by consensus.

11:00 - 11:15 am - Break

11:15-11:45 am - Decision: Amendment to GPCA Rules and Procedures Amend Section 2-3.7 of the GPCA Rules and Procedures with respect to the deadline to apply to be a GPCA Presidential Nominating Convention (PNC) delegate. (Bylaws and Rules Committee)

The proposed amendment to Section 2-3.7 of the GPCA Rules and Procedures from “no later than 60 days prior to the California Presidential Primary” to “no later than the deadline established by the Delegate Selection Committee in Presidential Election Years” was approved by consensus.

11:45 am - 12:00 pm - Next General Assembly Meeting Date and Place A discussion ensued about appropriate dates for the next GA. Two dates for a virtual GA via Zoom were approved by consensus, with the first preference being Saturday, June 14 and the second being Saturday, June 7, 2025.

12:00 - 1:00 pm - Lunch Break

1:00-2:30 pm - Decision: Platform amendment (Policy and Platform Committee)

- Reparations (Plank as proposed)

Changes were discussed and agreed to by the Policy and Platform Committee and a revised Reparations Plank was approved by consensus. [The final, agreed-upon version of the plank is at Appendix B.]

- Affirmative Action (Plank as proposed)

There was insufficient time on the agenda to review the proposed Affirmative Action Plank, which will be agendized to a future GA.

- Human Rights and Civil Liberties (Plank as proposed)

There was insufficient time on the agenda to review the proposed Human Rights and Civil Liberties Plank, which will be agendized to a future GA.

2:30-3:00 pm - Presentation from Dr. Butch Ware

Decision: Endorse Dr. Butch Ware for Governor. Includes a presentation by Dr. Ware and time for Q&A (Candidates Committee).

Dr. Ware was endorsed by consensus after a robust discussion and Q and A.

3:30 pm ADJOURNED THE GA

APPENDICES

Appendix A - General Assembly Attendees by County/Affiliation for Quorum and Vote Tracking Purposes

First Name Registered for GA 11-23-24	Last Name	County	GA /SGA Delegate	Delegates & Other A.M. counted	Delegates & Other P.M.. counted	Shaded for DEL or ALT or other	County Quorum count A.M.	County Quorum count P.M.	Consensus, no votes for any decisions
Bill	Balderston	Alameda	SGA	1					
Greg	Jan	Alameda	SGA	1	1				
James	McFadden	Alameda	SGA	1	1				
Justin	Richardson	Alameda	sga	1	1				
Laura	Wells	Alameda	SGA	1	1		1	1	
Orlando	Johnson	Alameda	SGA	1					
Pam	Spevack	Alameda	SGA						
Gene	Riddle	Alameda	x						
Steven	Casmeer	Contra Costa	x	1	1				
Richard	Gomez	Fresno	SGA	1	1		1	1	
Terrance	Tovar	Fresno	SGA	1	1				
Shane	Que Hee	Los Angeles	SGA	1	1		1	1	
Ashley	Brown	Los Angeles	x	1	1				

Elisabeth	Green	Los Angeles	x	1	1				
Jon	Andreas	Los Angeles	x						
Christopher	Jewell	Marin	SGA	1	1				
Mimi	Newton	Marin	SGA	1	1		1	1	
Dominique	Wade	Monterey	SGA	1	1		1	1	
Gabriel	Medina	Monterey	SGA	1	1				
Arthur	Watkins	Monterey	x		1				
Audra	Walton	Monterey	x	1	1				
Jacob	Honeyhume	Monterey	x	1	1				
Ron	Rodarte	Orange	SGA	1	1		1	1	
Christoper	Faulkner	Sacramento	x	1	1				
Jane	Jarlsberg	San Bernardino	SGA	1	1		1	1	
Rick	Greenblatt	San Diego	SGA	1	1		1	1	
Eric	Brooks	San Francisco	SGA	1	1		1	1	
Rich	Stone	San Francisco	SGA	1	1				
Yolanda	Catzalco	San Francisco	SGA		1				
Peggy	Koteen	San Luis Obispo	SGA	1	1		1	1	
Charisse	Cordero	Santa Barbara	SGA	1	1		1	1	

Donna	Pulling	Santa Barbara	SGA	1	1				
Leo	Raabe	Santa Barbara	SGA	1	1				
David	Han	Santa Clara	SGA	1					
Diane	Harrison	Santa Clara	SGA	1	1				
George	Koerner	Santa Clara	SGA	1	1				
Nadia	Nouri	Santa Clara	SGA	1	1		1	1	
Ali	Kalbali	Santa Clara	x						
Brian	Good	Santa Clara	x	1	1				
Sean	Dougherty	Santa Cruz	SGA	1	1		1	1	
Alexandra	Moore	Santa Cruz w/SD	SGA	1	1				
Tarik	Kanaana	Sonoma	SGA	1	1		1	1	
June	Brashares	Sonoma	x	1	1				
John	Schmit	Stanislaus	SGA	1	1		1	1	
Don	Manro	Tulare	SGA	1			1		
Merrily	Davies	Tulare w/Don	SGA	1					
Mike	Cordova	Yolo	SGA	1	1		1	1	
z1-TOTALS	z1-TOTALS	z1-TOTALS	z1-TOTALS	41	38	0	17	16	0
2-NO	2-NO	2-NO	2-NO						

a breach of the government's duties. Reparations are not only a remedy for the injustices of slavery and segregation but also a legal necessity to address these ongoing violations of Reconstruction-era protections.

Acknowledging Historical Injustices

The Transatlantic slave trade was primarily initiated by European traders in the early 15th century, with the Portuguese being the first major participants. By 1619, enslaved Africans had arrived in the English colony of Virginia, marking a significant point in American history. Over nearly four centuries, the trade resulted in the abduction of approximately 12.5 million Africans, who were forced to build the American colonies and, subsequently, the United States. After the abolition of the international slave trade in the early 19th century, the domestic or internal slave trade expanded significantly within the United States. This period, often referred to as the "Second Middle Passage," involved the forced migration of enslaved people from the Upper South to the Deep South to work on various agricultural plantations. Additionally, forced reproduction practices were imposed on the enslaved to increase the enslaved population domestically year-over-year. This practice helped to further perpetuate the cycle of hyper-exploitation and dehumanization.

Even after the Emancipation Proclamation and the 13th Amendment, the legacy of slavery persisted through Jim Crow laws, redlining, and mass incarceration. The Green Party of California denounces the persistent dehumanization and discrimination faced by American Freedmen communities across the United States. This injustice is driven by European-American hegemony and economic dominance, aiming to maintain a labor force essential for sustaining the current exploitative and inequitable economic structure.

Reparations as a Moral and Legal Obligation

Reparations for Black American Freedmen Descendants are a fundamental necessity, grounded not only in historical and legal precedent but also in the breach of Reconstruction Era duties. After the Civil War, laws like the 13th, 14th, and 15th Amendments were designed to ensure freedom, civil rights, and political participation for Freedmen. However, systemic exploitation, discriminatory policies, and denial of these legal protections persisted through Jim Crow, redlining, and mass incarceration, violating the spirit and letter of those laws.

Reconstruction Era laws sought to provide economic and social opportunities for Freedmen, including land redistribution and protection from discriminatory practices. The unfulfilled promise of Special Field Order No. 15 ("40 acres and a mule") and the failure to enforce these laws underscore the breach of duty that continues to harm Freedmen descendants today. Reparations are necessary not only to right these wrongs but also to fulfill these neglected legal obligations.

Suggested Action Steps:

1. REPARATIONS TRUST FUND – Establish a reparations trust fund financed by corporate

taxes and recovered wealth amassed through the exploitation of Freedmen. This will address both historical injustices and the breach of Reconstruction Era duties. Black American Freedmen and their descendants must play a central legal role in shaping the distribution of the fund.

2. LAND RESTORATION & ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE – Return stolen land to Freedmen Descendants and compensate for lost opportunities due to discriminatory practices, fulfilling the promises made during Reconstruction.

3. HOUSING – Create affordable housing for Freedmen descendants and address discriminatory practices like redlining, a direct breach of rights promised during Reconstruction.

4- HUMAN RIGHTS - Support Black American Freedmen liberation movements, release all political prisoners criminalized for their defense of Black American Freedmen peoples rights to self-determination, regardless of the specific location or movement associated with their activities. While advocating peaceful solutions, affirm self-defense as a tool for justice. Demand proportional electoral systems that amplify Black American Freedmen voices.

5- EMPLOYMENT & WAGES - Full employment and a national living wage to break the cycle of poverty and end environmental racism. Invest in historically Black American Freedmen and disadvantaged communities by creating green jobs, funding worker-owned cooperatives, and a guaranteed minimum income funded by progressive taxation.

6- PRISONS - Support the federal repeal of the slave labor clauses in the Thirteenth Amendment of the United States Constitution that contribute to ongoing racial disparities, mass incarceration, and ongoing injustices. Replace the current punitive in-justice system with a comprehensive restorative justice system to provide all needed social services to defendants. [[CA has a 2024 bill to end forced prison labor]]

7- POLICE BRUTALITY ON BLACK PEOPLE - End Cop Cities and Police Qualified Immunity, demand aggressive prosecution of police brutality against Black American Freedmen people, vigorously prosecute hate crimes and enforce civil-rights laws, and strengthen legal services for Black defendants.

8- WAR ON DRUGS - End the false 'war on drugs' that has marginalized and incarcerated Black American Freedmen people for decades, traumatized entire generations, and deprived whole communities of other paternal support and family unity. Release and automatically expunge the records of all those incarcerated for possession of cannabis, and provide them lost-wage compensation.

9- EDUCATION AND OPPORTUNITY - Support existing Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) and Education and Development Funds for Black American Freedmen youth. Strengthen Equity, Diversity and Inclusion programs and restore Affirmative Action programs to race/gender based, as they were originally intended. Mandate teaching of a historically accurate curricula on slavery and racism for public schools and universities.

10- SYMBOLS OF SLAVERY AND RACISM - Call for the removal of the Confederate battle flags from all government buildings and institutions, ban racial profiling, defend voting rights, and support truth and reconciliation community initiatives for Black American Freedmen.

END