

## GPTX Platform Change Proposals for December 2023 Meeting

**Submitted by:**

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Note that related changes are bundled together to discuss and vote on them more quickly, if the group wants to split them up to debate and vote on them separately, that's fine, too.

Suggested text to delete is [in brackets like this], while suggested new text is underlined like this.

Proposal 1A. Topic: education, Bill of Rights in the classroom or school

*Rather than a Bill of Rights posted in every classroom, I propose posting it in the entryway or lobby of every school. Classroom teachers are already micromanaged enough, and in many classrooms there are practical reasons why posting something on the wall might be impractical, such as having shelves or cabinets in the way.*

...the Green Party of Texas supports requiring that the United States Bill of Rights be prominently displayed in every public facility of our nation, especially the White House, the halls of Congress, the Supreme Court, every courtroom, state/county/municipal office buildings, parks, and the [classrooms] entryway or lobby of every educational facility receiving any amount of public funding.

Proposal 1B. Topic: education, school funding

*I propose rewording this section to focus on equitable funding, not just increasing funding. Many Texas public schools are very successful, we shouldn't play into the narrative that most public schools are in bad shape. Only the underfunded ones are.*

The state must [substantially increase funding of local education budgets. Only by spending large sums on education and by making education a national priority with clearly defined goals and priorities can we reduce class sizes and teach special classes for youth with special and different needs, maintain and rebuild school facilities, which are deteriorating nearly everywhere, and modernize the curriculum.] provide equitable funding for all Texas public schools. Many Texas public schools are excellent, and those that aren't usually just need better curriculum and more funding.

Proposal 1C. Topic: education, when to start bilingual education

*As a retired elementary school teacher and reading specialist, my experience tells me second language instruction should start in third grade, not first grade.*

We support the continuation and expansion of bilingual education. In order to place Texas education on a par with most other countries, we believe that all students should be taught a second or third language, beginning in the [first] third grade.

Proposal 1D. Topic: education, nonprofessional teachers

*While all parts of life can be educational for kids, we need to be careful to avoid suggesting that non classroom learning or nonprofessional teachers can be a replacement for trained and certified teachers. Consider what is happening now at Houston ISD, with non-certified teachers being hired. I suggest striking this sentence.*

[Nonclassroom learning and the use of nonprofessional teachers are encouraged.]

Educational experiences can involve community service, citizenship, and job training.

Proposal 2. Topic: Capping oil and gas wells

*Let's add capping oil and gas wells to our clean air plan. Not replacing any text, just adding additional text.*

We call for a reduction in emissions from diesel fuel and the development of alternatives to its use. We must cap abandoned oil and gas wells across Texas to stop methane leaks.

Proposal 3A. Topic: 4-day, 32-hour work week

*There's a growing movement for a 4-day, 32-hour work week, with no loss of pay. This would have environmental and social benefits. Some companies in the UK and Europe are already testing this. Union members at Lamborghini recently won a 4-day week.*

The Green Party of Texas supports a Living Wage that would allow all [35] 32 hours or more a week, minimum-wage workers to afford a one-bedroom apartment in the communities in which they work.

Proposal 3B: Topic: 4-day, 32-hour work week

We oppose the extension of the 40 hour work week under any circumstances. Any person working over 40 hours in a work week must receive overtime pay and benefits. As a long-term goal, we support further reduction in the work week [below 40 hours.] to a 4-day, 32 hour work week, with no loss of pay.

Proposal 4: Election Holiday

*Let's advocate for a full-day holiday on election days.*

[Workers must be allowed one half day off work on election days, unless that day becomes declared a national or state holiday, or moved to a Saturday and the worker is not working that day.] Each election day should be an official holiday.