

May 1st Green Rainbow Convention notes

plenary session 1

Wanda:

First State party meeting as Green Rainbow Party

First convention as the GRP

Approx 10,000 members

First Primary

Debate at Harvard

Newsletter

Candidate Development Committee is kick ass

Over 60 state committee members

Diverse leadership

Approaching goals for diversity on State Committee

Did March to abolish Party

Review of Schedule

Agenda for the two days was reviewed

Note: Floor Proposals can be submitted but are not likely to be discussed today. They may be discussed tomorrow but perhaps at the State Com

Opening remarks of Co-chairs

Grace:

Convention is the highest decision-making body of the group

Where will we be a year from now as you see it.

With 40,000 we would not have to worry about ballot status

Ebony:

Need to recommit ourselves and ask people to step in leadership positions

Phase 1: Male Co-chair, Female Co-chair, Treasurer, Secretary

(Aimee reviews the role of each officer ... also in packet)

Male Co-chair: Aram declined, Mark declined, Ron decline, Gil Obler, Ron

Female Co-chair: Wanda Boeke, Julie Saad, Jennifer Yanco

Secretary: Jim Bosman, Aimee Smith, Jamie O'Keefe

Treasurer: Dan Melnuchuk

Nomination speeches

Phase 2:

Membership Director: Michael Gainer - Sarah Willig (running together)

Fundraising Director: Merelice

Communications Director: Colby Peterson

Phase 3:

USGP Representative Female: Betty Zisk, Lisa Richards, Julie Saad

USGP Representative Male: Owen Braodhurst, Gary Hicks, Rudy Perkins, Ebony

Alternate USGP Rep Male alternate: Gil Obler, Gary, Ebony

Alternate USGP Rep Female alternate: Penelope Herideen, Aimee Smith, Julie, Lisa, Betty

plenary session 2

co-facilitators, Merelice, Gary Hicks

Ballots are handed out
J voters get both ballots, F and G cannot vote for co-chairs, treasurer, or secretary as per State law, so they get a ballot with the remaining offices only.

Proposals ranked: C, B, A

Proposal C: presented by Jamie Cooney - co-sponsors: Robyn Bagley, Wanda Boeke, Shaun Delaney, Gordon Durham, Cecelia Rock, Jack Swindlehurst

Binding convention delegates to national convention to vote for Green Party candidates only. Purpose is to prevent "draft Nader" agenda at the convention stage to prevent subverting of our party building efforts.

Co-chairs inform state who our nominee on the Nov. ballot is. The proposal directs MA delegation, but if the GPUS votes to draft Nader, we will still be able to have him as a candidate.

Friendly amendment? Delegates who were already committed to a non-Green candidate would be exempt.

Friendly Amendment?: Strike language regarding Salzman. Only the first sentence will be the proposal.

Friendly Amendment? except when the Green Party is working to form a coalition with another party.

Adopted by consensus:

It is the hope that the GRP delegates to the 2004 National Convention should make all efforts to vote for candidates registered as Greens as defined with the GRP CDLC presidential primary plan.

Proposal B presented by Aram Falsafi
Co-sponsors: Betty Zisk, Clayton Carter, Dan Melnechuck, Eli Yarden, Own Broadhurst, Mel King

Proposal: No Unilateral Concessions to Democrats in 2004 Election Without True Electoral Reforms in Exchange

Proposal: The Green-Rainbow Party goes on record as opposing the [unilateral?] abandonment of the 2004 presidential campaign in any state or territory of the United States. In our view, the only situation where abandoning of an active campaign might be justified, would be where real reforms are enacted by Democratic Party officials, in matters such as (1) ballot access; (2) proportional representation; (3) majority election by runoff voting; and (4) public financing of elections. We defer to the individual state party to decide, in conjunction with our candidates for president and vice president, what constitutes a "reasonable demand" on the Democratic Party authorities in their state. However, we strongly urge them to demand legislation supporting reforms such as those listed above, and not accept empty promises or token seats in elected or appointed bodies.

No decision taken

Plenary 3:
Sunday, May 2, 2004

Welcome

Electoral issue: due to misprint on a few ballots, one election outcome is not sufficiently determined.

43 people voted. There were 3 bad ballots, but the difference matches the difference in count.

Should we reach all of the previous voters or re-ballot today?
Should we rerun the whole election or only run off the remaining two?

Plenary 3:

The unresolved election will be resolved in the following manner:

Only the voters of the May 1, 2004 election will be allowed to participate

The ballot of the unresolved position will contain all candidates of the correct May 1, 2004 ballot.

All who voted on May 1, 2004 will be contacted and presented with a ballot

All present voters will submit their ballot to the credentialing officer by the close of the May 2, 2004 afternoon plenary mission

Voters who are not present must return their ballots to their credentialing officer via the following methods a) email, b) fax, c) in person by May 7, 2004 5pm eastern standard time.

The result will be posted on the green-rainbow party website and announcement list

The closing of the convention will be extended to May 7, 2004 at 5pm Eastern Daylight Time for the sole purpose of resolving the May 1, 2004 election results.

Accepted with no concerns.

Available Election Results reported:

F. Co-chair: Julie Saad

M. Co-chair: Ron Francis

Secretary: Jim Bosman

Treasurer: Dan Melnechuck

Fundraising Director: Merelice

Communications Director: NOTA

Membership Director: Michael Gainer/Sarah Willig

F. GPUS Rep Julie Saad

F. Alt. GPUS: Aimee Smith

Delegates to national convention:

Need 2 female delegates for National Convention: propose Betty Zisk and Grace Ross

Accepted by acclimation

April 10, 2004 ranking results, *= approved May 2, 2004

No preference delegates

1F) Melanie Campbell

2M) Aram Falsafi

3F) M.K. Merelice

4M) Dan Melnechuck

5F) Jen Mazer

6M) Steve Milder

7F) Betty Zisk *

8M) Elie Yarden

9F) Graqce Ross *

10M) Jared Libby

Alternate:

1F)

2M) Ian Freeman

3F)

4M) Oliver Sawtelle

5F)

6M)

Reports from candidates for state rep and state senate:

Carolina Johnson - running for state rep in Cambridge, 25th Middlesex Dist., representing youth. Got signatures certified. Working on issues and possible legal assistance. Looking for a venue for a community-wide kick-off event.

Need help with general campaign logistics. Running against Alice Wolfe, generally runs unopposed and is a publicly announced supporter of speaker Finneran. Alice Wolfe's husband accosted her for running against his wife at the supermarket as she gathered signatures.

Hot topics are women's safety in streets, public transportation hours should be expanded, affordable housing. Need to hear from others in the district about what is important to them.

Nathaniel Fortune - candidate for State Rep in 1st Franklin District against incumbent of two time backer of Tom Finneran and another candidate who is a contractor. Issues: Stronger schools and fairer taxes, real election reform (including clean elections,) single-payer health-care. Question from floor: Lot of racism, food issues and housing issues in your area. Not a lot of housing that people can afford to keep. Tax structure is a big part of the problem. Boundary conditions of the towns need to be changed so that people can afford to live there, have good schools there, etc. On food, we are losing farmland, and people who can't afford to eat and farmers who can't afford to stay on the land - I am a member of community supported agriculture programs to sustain land and farms. There should be subsidies for these programs to provide to local food banks. "A Greener Fortune for All." <http://www.aGreenerFortuneForAll.org>

Rich Zitola - Candidate for Worcester and Middlesex State Senate District. A dozen hard core volunteers, we have raised several thousand dollars already. State party is broke and he has only raised around \$49,000 dollars. I am going to win. My issues are fair taxes, universal health care, fully fund education, election reform such as instant run off voting.

If I get this senate seat, this will have a national impact - it will send the message that we can actually win public office. A fundraiser concert is planned for June 30. <http://www.votezitola.org>

Back to proposals:

Proposal B:

Proposal: The Green-Rainbow Party goes on record as opposing the unilateral abandonment of the 2004 presidential campaign in any state or territory of the United States. In our view, the only situation where abandoning of an active campaign might be justified, would be where real reforms are enacted by Democratic Party officials, in matters such as (1) ballot access; (2) proportional representation; (3) majority election by runoff voting; and (4) public financing of elections. We defer to the individual state party to decide, in conjunction with our candidates for president and vice president, what constitutes a "reasonable demand" on the Democratic Party authorities in

their state. However, we strongly urge them to demand legislation supporting reforms such as those listed above, and not accept empty promises or token seats in elected or appointed bodies.

Concerns: Can't implement the reforms in time to make the trade
Should ask for more than just electoral reform

Straw poll: Drop entirely, use first sentence only, pass proposal

Recessed from this proposal

Proposal A

sponsors: Sarah Willig, presented by Gil Obler

Proposal Text: The Green-Rainbow Party shall immediately expand upon our definitions of: "diversity" and "diversity seats" by embracing the vision and inclusion of "working class people," of which unionized workers are a critical subset, as a minority category in these United States. In addition, the State Committee shall seek, in collusion with the Administrative Committee, to positively influence the Green Party of the US to similarly expand definitions of "minority" and "diversity" to also actively include "working class people." In addition, the State Committee shall seek, in collusion with the Administration Committee, to themselves set up a Labor Caucus and to influence other State Parties to do the same. In addition, the State Committee shall seek, in collusion with the Administrative Committee, to reflect this new commitment within the Platform of the Green-Rainbow Party and to influence other State Parties, as well as the National Party, to do the same.

Adopted by consensus.

Bylaws review: as per convention packet, by Dan Melnechuck.

Floor Proposals:

CDLC

Party presidential strategy

Statement against DNC occupation

Permanent statecom meeting location

CDLC plan won ranking.

Candidate Development and Legal Committee Plan revised 4/30/2004:

Justification

Considering the uncertainty over which candidate the national convention will choose, we need to plan how we will run our presidential campaign statewide.

Objectives

It is important that we emerge from the 2004 campaign better than we entered it and ready to proceed into 2005 and 2006. We must do this in a way that broadens our grassroots. As such, we have outlined a number of objectives for the campaign:

Activating 2000 Green-Rainbow Party members to volunteer

Turning 500 GRP members into party activists.

Registering 10,000 voters to nearly double our voters.

By achieving the objectives above, we expect our presidential candidate to receive at least 3% of the vote and, thus, for us to maintain ballot status.

We will need to balance reaching out to areas where we have done well with branching out into communities, especially diverse communities, where we are not strong.

Priorities

To achieve the objectives enumerated above we must follow the following priorities in the order listed:

Fundraise to meet the financial needs of this effort.

Hire organizers

Set up campaign offices

Actions/Timeline

It is expected that as money is available, it will be disbursed to carry out the above objectives according to the already defined financial rules of the party.

Funds raised will be used for the following items in the order they are presented:

Statewide coordinator

Hire Eastern Mass coordinator (likely Boston Area)

Design and order materials (leaflets, yard signs)

Hire Central Mass coordinator (likely in Worcester)

Hire Western Mass coordinator (likely in Holyoke/Northampton area)

Open Eastern Mass office

Open Central Mass office

Open Western Mass office

Hire Eastern Mass volunteer coordinator

Hire Central Mass volunteer coordinator

Hire Western Mass volunteer coordinator

Hire South East Mass/Cape Cod coordinator

Hire South East Mass/Cape Cod office

Hire South East Mass/Cape Cod coordinator

It is expected that after the initial design and ordering of materials, additional materials will be created. We also expect the coordinators to ensure that draft advertisements are created for members to place in local papers.

Roles

Campaigns do not operate well by committee. As such campaign staff will have primary responsibility and control over the campaign including, but not limited to, organizing volunteers, dealing with media and other communications.

Campaign staff have authorization to modify this plan as needed due to changing circumstances.

However, as outlined in others rules, the Administrative Committee will oversee the efforts of the campaign staff, but cannot micromanage their efforts.

Training Volunteers

Party Members cannot become volunteers and activists without adequate training. Campaign staff should organize training classes that teach skills such as going door-to-door, registering voters, tabling, voter id and get out the vote (GOTV).

Budget and Fundraising

There isn't a budget as such. It is expected that once sufficient funds have been raised and saved, it will be used in the order listed above. If we only have sufficient funds for a few of the items, then the only those items will be brought on-line.

While campaign staff are not expected to fundraise their salary, staff must identify creative ways to raise money to support this campaign plan.

We should be creative in how we pay for campaign staff. While offering a weekly salary is one way, we should explore other methods such as offering a reasonable stipend and travel/phone/etc. expenditure reimbursement.

The treasurer, fundraising director and the financial/fundraising committee have primary oversight of campaign expenditures.

Returned to proposal B redrafted a 2nd time:

Recognizing that each state party will ultimately determine its own actions, the GRP of MA goes on record as being against an unconditional withdrawal from the presidential race in any state, district, or territory. We will not, under any circumstances, abandon our fight for social justice and real democracy. In those states where the local affiliate of the GPUS chooses to withdraw from the race, we urge them to insist on concrete concessions such as the enactment of legislation in matters of (1) ballot access; (2) proportional representation; (3) majority election by runoff voting; and (4) public financing of elections.

No consensus, moved to a vote:

21 for

6 opposed

5 abstentions

Proposal passes by supermajority vote.

Back to CDLC proposal:

Aimee presented.

First sentence of second paragraph changed to "Boston is facing the implementation of a police state ..."

Concerns from: Dan Melnechuk, Jamie Cooney, Rudy Perkins, Scott Pherson, Caroline Johnson, Ralph Walton, Jen Mazer.

Grace suggested taking it to adcom. Straw poll before taking to adcom:

Yes: 14

No: 5

Abstentions: 10

Final vote:

Yes=12

No = 10

By acclamation, the convention voted to create a differently-worded proposal on this issue.

Convention adjourned Friday, May 7, 2004 at 5pm Eastern Daylight Time.