

Minutes
GPVA Business Meeting
Teleconference
29 January 2022

10 MEMBERS AND 0 GUESTS IN ATTENDANCE:
(An asterisk * denotes a local representative.)
(Corresponding timestamps on the recording are listed in parentheses.)

Arlington: Kirit Mukherjee (treasurer)
Blue Ridge: Charlie Jordan*
Fairfax: Jonah Thomas*, Jim Lowenstern
Fredericksburg (inactive): none
Hampton Roads: Blaizen Bloom (co-chair), Stephanie Aubuchon*, Garry Hubbard
Loudoun (inactive): none
Lynchburg: B. Sidney Smith (Gen. Secretary), Davion Washington (Press Secretary)
New River Valley: none
Richmond: none
Shenandoah: Tom Yager*, Tamar Yager

Guests: none.

Meeting convened at 1pm. (N.B. times below refer to the timestamp on the recording of the meeting for each item.)

facilitator: Blaizen Bloom

(4:20) Agenda: Consideration of cosponsorship of webinars of the GP of St. Louis was added to the agenda following the strategic plan discussion, without objection.

(5:40) Reading of the minutes of the previous meeting was deferred.

REPORTS:

(6:30) Co-chairs: Blaizen's report is attached.

(8:00) Treasurer: Kirit's report is attached.

(10:30) Press Secretary: Davion's report is attached.

(12:00) General Secretary: Sid's report is attached.

(18:00) National Delegates: Kirit and Blaizen commented briefly on activity in the national party.

(21:00) Committee Reports: Sid reported that we are still in need of a chair for the platform committee.

OLD BUSINESS:

(26:00) The interim decision to sponsor the St. Louis Greens webinars on “Healing a Broken Agricultural System” and “Agriculture as a Weapon of Domination” were approved by consensus. The interim appointments of Stephanie Aubuchon to the Animal Rights Committee, of Blaizen Bloom as an alternate National Delegate, and of Davion Washington to the Diversity Committee were approved by consensus.

NEW BUSINESS:

OFFICER ELECTIONS:

(28:00) Tom Yager was elected as non-female Co-Chair for a term of two years.

(35:00) The Press Secretary position had no candidate, and is left vacant.

(37:00) Sid Smith was reelected as General Secretary for a term of two years with Blue Ridge Greens standing aside.

(50:00) Charlie Jordan was elected as List-serve Moderator for a term of 1 year.

(58:00) Blue Ridge National Platform Amendment Proposals. It was agreed to defer most of the proposed amendments to the interim committee for voting by OpaVote. The housekeeping proposals were deferred to the GPUS Platform Committee by consensus. The proposal to change the word “defense” to the word “military” in those proposals was accepted by consensus. The proposal to change the word American to Usonian was defeated on a voice vote.

(1:22:00) Blaizen Bloom was endorsed in his candidacy for School Board in the Chesapeake School District by consensus. Garry Hubbard was nominated to run for House of Representatives in the 2nd Congressional district of Virginia by consensus.

(1:39:30) The revised Social Media Policy was approved by a voice vote.

(2:03:00) The 2022 Strategic Plan was discussed and adopted on a voice vote.

(2:28:00) It was agreed by consensus to cosponsor the St. Louis Greens webinars in 2022.

(2:32:00) The candidate endorsement/nomination questionnaire was approved on a voice vote.

(2:46:00) Blaizen Bloom and Kirit Mookerjee were elected as National Delegates and Tom and Tamar Yager were elected as alternate National Delegates for two year terms on a closed vote conducted on OpaVote.com.

(2:51:30) Meeting adjourned.

*****END MEETING*****

WRITTEN REPORTS:

Co-chairs (Blaizen Bloom):

Fellow Greens,

Since the last meeting, a few interim decisions have been made that will require affirmation at our January 29th meeting. The first is the appointment and election of 3 representatives to various National Committees including Blaizen Bloom to the National Committee as an Alternate Delegate, Steffanie Aubuchon to the Animal Rights committee, and Davion Washington to the Diversity Committee. Additionally, the GPVA chose to co-sponsor two webinars by the St. Louis Green's: the November 3rd "Agriculture as a Weapon of Domination" and December 1st "Healing a Broken Agricultural System" webinars.

Outside of that, we are looking forward to our upcoming meeting which will include discussions and votes on a wide variety of topics. Two of the longest discussed plans being the reworked Candidate Questionnaire and tweaked Strategic Plan for 2022. In addition, we look forward to the revised Social Media policy brought forward by Press-Secretary Davion Washington which will update our current policy to include Instagram and YouTube. Finally, we're looking forward to hearing from prospective candidates including two who will be seeking the nomination of our Party.

However, moving forward we hope to grow the Party further and expand upon past successes by our Locals. To accomplish this, we're hoping to work within the frames of the Strategic Plan if passed and in conjunction with our currently established Locals. This includes developing a more engaging member onboarding process, leading phone and text banks to reach out to prospective Greens, and working with starting and grounded Locals to develop individualized plans for growth. In addition, we're looking to develop a process to onboard interested candidates and connect them with their Locals and available resources within the Party including by the national Coordinated Campaign Committee.

Treasurer (Kirit Mookerjee):

Balances

GPVA Operating fund: \$1579

GPVA Federal PAC: \$102.52

Dues/donations:

January 2022 (a/o tonight): \$76

July-December 2021: \$195

Thanks to our continuing sustainers including Becker & Wendy Smith, Andrew & Mindy Franke, Gerry Keeler and Dianne Blais.

Also to our dozen one-time supporters.

By comparison

January-June 2021: \$430

July-December 2020: \$718

January-June 2020: \$100

Expenses: Domain Renewals, Postal Fees, Meeting room fees: \$350

We have at least \$400 available for an outreach event in 2022; depending on details this could be for speakers, venue reservation or hospitality.

Press Secretary (Davion Washington):

I have had the pleasure of being able to conclude the remainder of this Press Secretary appointment, originally held by Blaizen Bloom.

Along with the typical day to day monitoring of all social media pages, I was tasked with updating and revitalizing the GPVA social media policies, as well as creating graphics for our 2022 call for election candidates which has circulated on our social media pages.

It has been a pleasure to serve in this capacity.

Secretary:

Currently active locals: Arlington, Blue Ridge, Fairfax, Hampton Roads, Lynchburg, and New River Valley. The annual newsletter was just published and disseminated to the members.

LOCALS

Arlington (John Reeder):

Arlington Greens met online on Jan. 12, 2021 with three members participating. Our delegate to GPVA is myself, John Reeder, Our treasurer is Steve Davis.

Major topics at our meeting were: the county carbon emissions reduction (CEP) program, historic preservation efforts, and the effect of redistricting of state delegate and senate boundaries in Arlington. AGP has been active in CEP for the past 7 years. AGP has supported historic preservation of sites in Arlington with the goal of expanding parkland for the 225,000 residents. Our local state delegate and a NOVA state senator introduced a bill in the 2022 VA General Assembly to improve the state historic preservation law.

Blue Ridge (Charlie Jordan):

As I reported in September, the Blue Ridge Greens met on August 16, 2021. There were three members in attendance.

Fairfax (Jonah Thomas):

Fairfax Green Party will hold elections later this year. Until the elections, our co-chairs are Jonah Thomas and Audrey Clement and our representative is Jonah Thomas.

Our last meeting was January 9 with 7 attendees. We have no new accomplishments to report. We are starting some projects.

Hampton Roads (Stephanie Aubuchon):

Hampton Roads Green Party (HRGP) Local Representative Report for January 29, 2022 GPVA Meeting

Local Rep: Steffanie Aubuchon

Last Meeting: 1-9-22 with 4 HRGP voting members in attendance along with 2 non-voting members (6 total).

Protests:

The HRGP has participated in various protests throughout the Hampton Roads area.

Hampton Roads Greens attended an Anti-War protest on September 11th in Town Center, Virginia Beach.

The HRGP Co-Sponsored a Divest MVP, Wells Fargo protection on October 2nd in Hampton, VA.

The HRGP agreed to broadcast and attend a rally organized by Virginia Beach Municipal Workers seeking recognition of their union (UE 111) and collective bargaining rights on January 18th. Co-Chair Blaizen Bloom spoke at the VA Beach City Council meeting representing the HRGP.

Organizing: Hampton Roads Greens continue to be a part of organizing efforts for local municipal employees gaining collective bargaining rights as well as advocating for COVID-19 protections in local public schools.

Appointments: Since the last State Party meeting, the HRGP has had a few members be appointed to national committees. In an interim vote by the GPVA, HRGP member Blaizen Bloom was appointed to be an alternate National Delegate and Steffanie Aubuchon was appointed to the Animal Rights Committee. In addition, Blaizen Bloom was appointed by the YES Steering Committee to serve on the International Committee.

Candidates: The HRGP currently has two candidates for the 2022 election cycle which have both been nominated and sent to the GPVA for nomination. Those being Blaizen Bloom for Chesapeake School Board and Garry Hubbard for the 2nd Congressional District.

Our members have been active inside the local and elsewhere. Hampton Roads Greens were in attendance at an HR RVA Antiwar Meet and Greet to create a coalition between groups in each area to mobilize against American Imperialism and the Israeli occupation of Palestine on September 12th. Greens were also in attendance at an Anti-War protest on September 11th hosted by the newly formed HR Libertarian Party with the main objective of making contact and creating ties for potential ballot access cooperation.

In addition, HRGP Co-Chair was interviewed on the Long Live Alternative Parties Podcast on December 15th. Furthermore, Hampton Roads Greens have been active in national fundraising efforts to support the current budget for 2022. Finally, Hampton Roads Green Blaizen Bloom was also appointed by YES to represent them to the Global Young Greens Conference on January 14th-16th.

Upcoming Events: The HRGP has agreed to amplify another upcoming rally for collective bargaining being hosted by municipal employees up in Newport News on January 25th.

Lynchburg (Davion Washington):

The Lynchburg Local of the GPVA has been heavily engaged in recruitment and membership expansion efforts this past year, revitalizing our current social media pages with plans to create further pages such as Instagram and Twitter, reaching out and engaging with new potential members, and continuing to assess where the local can gain proper footing within the community in the new year. The Lynchburg local has yet to hold a meeting in the new, but our membership expansion efforts continue.

GPVA SOCIAL MEDIA POLICY - Revisions (October, 2021)

This policy was adopted by the Green Party of Virginia by an interim meeting vote on December 27, 2017.

The overall responsibility for the content of our commercial social media accounts will belong to the GPVA Press Secretary. Maintainers, moderators, and other assistants for specific social media accounts may be assigned by the Leadership Council, or by the Press Secretary subject to the consent of the Leadership Council.

Facebook GPVA Main Page: The GPVA Main Facebook Page exists for the promotion of the Green Party of Virginia. The GPVA Main Facebook page will not be a place for party members to debate party positions. The purpose of this page is meant for the Green Party of Virginia to engage with constituents, to promote the party, and to educate non-party constituents about the GPVA, its principles, and its political program. The highest standard of behavior and etiquette is expected from members who participate on the page. Comments and other activity that is counterproductive to the purpose of the GPVA Main Facebook Page may be deleted by the moderators of the page. Moderators will notify the responsible poster in the instance of a deletion, along with the justification for the deletion of the post. Repeat offenders of violations to this policy will be subject to a ban from the page.

Facebook GPVA Organizing and Discussion Page: The GPVA Organizing and Discussion Facebook Page exists as an outlet for GPVA members to engage with each other on topics of direct relevance to the Green Party of Virginia. Only GPVA members may join this page. Greens and others from outside Virginia are not to be given posting privileges. If a post includes a link, image, or any other non-textual elements, the responsible poster must include an accompanying text stating its relevance to the GPVA. Posts about other political parties should never be made unless there is a

direct and explicit connection to, comparison to, or contrast with the Green Party. Additionally, all discussion is to observe the highest standards of behavior and etiquette. Constructive criticism and suggestions for improvement of the Green Party are encouraged, but under no circumstances will personal or implied attacks against the Green Party or any member of the Green Party be tolerated. Posts or comments in violation of these guidelines will be deleted by the moderators of the page. Moderators will notify the responsible poster in the instance of a deletion, along with the justification for the deletion of the post. Repeat offenders of violations to this policy will be subject to a ban from the page.

GPVA Twitter & Instagram accounts: The GPVA Twitter and Instagram accounts exist for the promotion of the Green Party of Virginia, the posting of timely information about the GPVA and official GPVA responses and comments to current events. The GPVA Twitter and Instagram accounts are not meant to be used for personal commentary, engaging in debates, or other responses to tweets by other organizations or individuals.

GPVA Youtube page: The GPVA Youtube page exists for the promotion of the Green Party of Virginia, the posting of timely information about the GPVA and official GPVA responses and comments to current events. The purpose of this page is meant for the Green Party of Virginia to engage with constituents, to promote the party, and to educate non-party constituents about the GPVA, its principles, and its political program. The GPVA Youtube page is not meant to be used for personal commentary, engaging in debates, or other responses to comments by other organizations or individuals.

No other social media accounts bearing the name "Green Party of Virginia" in any form should be created or operated without the express consent of the GPVA Leadership Council and only under guidelines set by the GPVA Leadership Council. Take-down notices will be sent to any person or organization making unauthorized use of the name "Green Party of Virginia" or "Virginia Green Party."

All GPVA members are encouraged to assist the moderators in the enforcement of these guidelines by reporting inappropriate posts or comments and by alerting party members of any unauthorized use of the party's name in social media.

Blue Ridge Greens GPUS Platform proposals.

This is the text of the proposal(s) from BRG, seeking GPVA approval to send them to GPUS for consideration by the National Committee.

**

I. (Item 1)

1.Name of party/caucus/committee and co-chair contact information

This information is unavailable at this time.

2.Brief explanation of approval process and date of approval

By consensus, the Blue Ridge Greens referred to the Steering Committee for final decision on August 16, 2021. By consensus of the Steering Committee, the Blue Ridge Greens approved, with a declaration on August 28, 2021. The Green Party of Virginia (GPVA) was notified of local approval and provided a link to content on September 1. The Green Party of Virginia (GPVA) was provided a text draft on September 18, 2021. The Green Party of Virginia (GPVA) has not yet agendized.

3.Contact Information for author or designated contact person: name, address, phone, e-mail.

Charlie Jordan, 214 Summer Circle, Boones Mill, VA 24065, 540-721-3232, <flyawayjaybyrd@gmail.com>.

4.Chapter of the platform and letter of plank being addressed; or, if introducing new material, chapter and section where new plank should appear

Under I.D.1. (I. Democracy + D. Foreign Policy + 1. Foreign Policy–Peace and Disarmament) are paragraphs a-h, then a-d, then a-h. Thus, “I.D.1.c” can refer to three different planks. The HTML code nests four ordered-list tags, where one might be enough.

5.Current language of plank that is being addressed

Under I.D.1. (I. Democracy + D. Foreign Policy + 1. Foreign Policy–Peace and Disarmament) are paragraphs a-h, then a-d, then a-h. Thus, “I.D.1.c” can refer to three different planks. The HTML code nests four ordered-list tags, where one might be enough.

6.Proposed revision or amendment of the current language, or proposed new plank

Under I.D.1. (I. Democracy + D. Foreign Policy + 1. Foreign Policy–Peace and Disarmament) are paragraphs a-h, then a-d, then a-h. Thus, “I.D.1.c” can refer to three different planks. The HTML code nests four ordered-list tags, where one might be enough.

7. Additional comments or questions

II. (Item 2)

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540-721-3232, <flyawayjaybyrd@gmail.com>.

4. Chapter of the platform and letter of plank being addressed; or, if introducing new material, chapter and section where new plank should appear

Likewise, under II.E.1. (II. Social Justice + E. Education and the Arts + 1. Education) are planks a-i, then a-e, then a-ad. These are separated by paragraphs of text. They are actually separate lists. Yet they overlap in the outline form. Thus, "II.E.1.d" is the location of three different planks. It might be possible to combine them or separate them with another level of hierarchy, but neither option looks simple.

5. Current language of plank that is being addressed

Likewise, under II.E.1. (II. Social Justice + E. Education and the Arts + 1. Education) are planks a-i, then a-e, then a-ad. These are separated by paragraphs of text. They are actually separate lists. Yet they overlap in the outline form. Thus, "II.E.1.d" is the location of three different planks. It might be possible to combine them or separate them with another level of hierarchy, but neither option looks simple.

6. Proposed revision or amendment of the current language, or proposed new plank

Likewise, under II.E.1. (II. Social Justice + E. Education and the Arts + 1. Education) are planks a-i, then a-e, then a-ad. These are separated by paragraphs of text. They are actually separate lists. Yet they overlap in the outline form. Thus, "II.E.1.d" is the location of three different planks. It might be possible to combine them or separate them with another level of hierarchy, but neither option looks simple.

7. Additional comments or questions

III. (Item 3)

1. Name of party/caucus/committee and co-chair contact information

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4. Chapter of the platform and letter of plank being addressed; or, if introducing new material, chapter and section where new plank should appear

III.D. (III. Ecological Sustainability) Nuclear Issues is a duplication that should be renumbered to III.C.

5. Current language of plank that is being addressed

III.D. (III. Ecological Sustainability) Nuclear Issues is a duplication that should be renumbered to III.C.

6. Proposed revision or amendment of the current language, or proposed new plank

III.D. (III. Ecological Sustainability) Nuclear Issues is a duplication that should be renumbered to III.C.

7.Additional comments or questions

IV. (Item 4)

1.Name of party/caucus/committee and co-chair contact information

This information is unavailable at this time.

2.Brief explanation of approval process and date of approval

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Charlie Jordan, 214 Summer Circle, Boones Mill, VA 24065, 540-721-3232, <flyawayjaybyrd@gmail.com>.

4.Chapter of the platform and letter of plank being addressed; or, if introducing new material, chapter and section where new plank should appear

Planks under II.K. (II. Social Justice + K. Housing and Homelessness) should be numbered.

5.Current language of plank that is being addressed

Planks under II.K. (II. Social Justice + K. Housing and Homelessness) should be numbered.

6.Proposed revision or amendment of the current language, or proposed new plank

Planks under II.K. (II. Social Justice + K. Housing and Homelessness) should be numbered.

7.Additional comments or questions

V. (Item 5)

1.Name of party/caucus/committee and co-chair contact information

This information is unavailable at this time.

2. Brief explanation of approval process and date of approval

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4. Chapter of the platform and letter of plank being addressed; or, if introducing new material, chapter and section where new plank should appear

Even for those accustomed to using outlines on paper, the identical appearance of capital Roman numeral “I” and capital letter “I” in different levels of hierarchy can confuse on the small screen. There might be a way to make this clearer.

5. Current language of plank that is being addressed

Even for those accustomed to using outlines on paper, the identical appearance of capital Roman numeral “I” and capital letter “I” in different levels of hierarchy can confuse on the small screen. There might be a way to make this clearer.

6. Proposed revision or amendment of the current language, or proposed new plank

Even for those accustomed to using outlines on paper, the identical appearance of capital Roman numeral “I” and capital letter “I” in different levels of hierarchy can confuse on the small screen. There might be a way to make this clearer.

7. Additional comments or questions

VI. (Item 6) Incomplete title

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4. Chapter of the platform and letter of plank being addressed; or, if introducing new material, chapter and section where new plank should appear

Change title command in header from “Democracy - www.gp.org” to “I. Democracy - www.gp.org”.

5. Current language of plank that is being addressed

Change title command in header from “Democracy - www.gp.org” to “I. Democracy - www.gp.org”.

6. Proposed revision or amendment of the current language, or proposed new plank

Change title command in header from “Democracy - www.gp.org” to “I. Democracy - www.gp.org”.

7. Additional comments or questions

VII. (Item 7) Incomplete title

1. Name of party/caucus/committee and co-chair contact information

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4.Chapter of the platform and letter of plank being addressed; or, if introducing new material, chapter and section where new plank should appear

Change title command in header from “Ecological Sustainability - www.gp.org” to “III. Ecological Sustainability - www.gp.org”.

5.Current language of plank that is being addressed

Change title command in header from “Ecological Sustainability - www.gp.org” to “III. Ecological Sustainability - www.gp.org”.

6.Proposed revision or amendment of the current language, or proposed new plank

Change title command in header from “Ecological Sustainability - www.gp.org” to “III. Ecological Sustainability - www.gp.org”.

7.Additional comments or questions

VIII. (Item 8) Calendar

1.Name of party/caucus/committee and co-chair contact information

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3.Contact Information for author or designated contact person: name, address, phone, e-mail.

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540-721-3232, <flyawayjaybyrd@gmail.com>.

4. Chapter of the platform and letter of plank being addressed; or, if introducing new material, chapter and section where new plank should appear

[none]

5. Current language of plank that is being addressed

[none]

6. Proposed revision or amendment of the current language, or proposed new plank

Can the timeline be made more flexible to reflect general concerns, yet remain manageable?

7. Additional comments or questions

Platforms are supposed to address what voters want from government.

The Democratic platform of 2020 begins by addressing the greatest concern of many voters, one that has altered our lives: the COVID-19 pandemic. It mentions the inadequate response of the Trump administration. That section must have been written less than a year ago. Whoever coordinated the process was on top of things.

In the Green platform, there is nary a word about the pandemic. Rule 12-1.2 closed the window on January 1, leaving no opportunity to incorporate information and ideas as they developed. That made the platform obsolete the day it was adopted.

Can the timeline be made more flexible to reflect general concerns, yet remain manageable?

IX. (Item 9)

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4.Chapter of the platform and letter of plank being addressed; or, if introducing new material, chapter and section where new plank should appear

Add I.A.1.q. (under I. Democracy + A. Political Reform + 1. Electoral reform)

5.Current language of plank that is being addressed

[none]

6.Proposed revision or amendment of the current language, or proposed new plank

Remedy malapportionment in the U.S. Senate, in which 70% of the seats are predicted to be elected by 30% of the population by mid-century.

7.Additional comments or questions

Alexander Hamilton, Sanford Levinson, George Scialabba, and Larry Sabato have all condemned the current system.

X. (Item 10)

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4. Chapter of the platform and letter of plank being addressed; or, if introducing new material, chapter and section where new plank should appear

Add I.A.1.r. (under I. Democracy + A. Political Reform + 1. Electoral reform)

5. Current language of plank that is being addressed

[none]

6. Proposed revision or amendment of the current language, or proposed new plank

Require all states to allow individuals to freely vote for separate president and vice president, rather than counting only votes cast for running mates.

7. Additional comments or questions

Some states allow voters to choose freely. Others disqualify split tickets.

XI. (Item 11)

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3. Contact Information for author or designated contact person: name, address, phone, e-mail.

Charlie Jordan, 214 Summer Circle, Boones Mill, VA 24065,
540-721-3232, <flyawayjaybyrd@gmail.com>.

4. Chapter of the platform and letter of plank being addressed; or, if

introducing new material, chapter and section where new plank should appear

Add I.A.2.q. (under I. Democracy + A. Political Reform + 2. Reducing corruption)

5.Current language of plank that is being addressed

[none]

6.Proposed revision or amendment of the current language, or proposed new plank

Dismantle the executive presidency that enables one individual to pack executive agencies with loyal sycophants and to purge the ethical public servants.

7.Additional comments or questions

The executive presidency was modelled on 18th-century monarchy, chipping away at the absolute power of a ruler. As we saw in the Trump administration, it gives one person vast, dangerous power with little practical accountability. Such an institution thwarts democracy.

XII. (Item 12)

1.Name of party/caucus/committee and co-chair contact information

This information is unavailable at this time.

2.Brief explanation of approval process and date of approval

By consensus, the Blue Ridge Greens referred to the Steering Committee for final decision on August 16, 2021. By consensus of the Steering Committee, the Blue Ridge Greens approved, with a declaration on August 28, 2021. The Green Party of Virginia (GPVA) was notified of local approval and provided a link to content on September 1. The Green Party of Virginia (GPVA) was provided a full draft on September 17, 2021. The Green Party of Virginia (GPVA) has not yet agendized.

3.Contact Information for author or designated contact person: name, address, phone, e-mail.

Charlie Jordan, 214 Summer Circle, Boones Mill, VA 24065, 540-721-3232, <flyawayjaybyrd@gmail.com>.

4.Chapter of the platform and letter of plank being addressed; or, if introducing new material, chapter and section where new plank should appear

Add I.A.2.r. (under I. Democracy + A. Political Reform + 2. Reducing corruption)

5.Current language of plank that is being addressed

[none]

6.Proposed revision or amendment of the current language, or proposed new plank

To prevent a disgraced president from handpicking a successor (as happened in 1974), change the 25th Amendment procedure for filling a vacancy in the elected office of vice president through a process the president does not control.

7.Additional comments or questions

If Richard Nixon did not already have enough power in 1973, Vice President Spiro Agnew's resignation allowed him to choose his own successor, who pardoned his crimes.

XIII. (Item 13)

1.Name of party/caucus/committee and co-chair contact information

This information is unavailable at this time.

2.Brief explanation of approval process and date of approval

By consensus, the Blue Ridge Greens referred to the Steering Committee for final decision on August 16, 2021. By consensus of the Steering Committee, the Blue Ridge Greens approved, with a declaration on August 28, 2021. The Green Party of Virginia (GPVA) was notified of local approval and provided a link to content on September 1. The Green Party of Virginia (GPVA) was provided a full draft on September 17, 2021. The Green Party of Virginia (GPVA) has not yet agendized.

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Charlie Jordan, 214 Summer Circle, Boones Mill, VA 24065,
540-721-3232, <flyawayjaybyrd@gmail.com>.

4.Chapter of the platform and letter of plank being addressed; or, if introducing new material, chapter and section where new plank should appear

Add I.A.2.s. (under I. Democracy + A. Political Reform + 2. Reducing corruption)

5.Current language of plank that is being addressed

[none]

6. Proposed revision or amendment of the current language, or proposed new plank

Require that presidential pardons be reviewed by a non-partisan panel to insure that no associate of the president is pardoned as a personal or political favor.

7. Additional comments or questions

On his way out of the White House, Bill Clinton pardoned donor and stock cheat Marc Rich. Donald Trump pardoned Scooter Libby, who had publicly exposed a CIA agent to benefit a previous Republican administration.

XIV. (Item 14) Proposal to amend GPUS Platform to increase accountability in foreign policy

1. Name of party/caucus/committee and co-chair contact information

This information is unavailable at this time.

2. Brief explanation of approval process and date of approval

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Charlie Jordan, 214 Summer Circle, Boones Mill, VA 24065, 540-721-3232, <flyawayjaybyrd@gmail.com>.

4. Chapter of the platform and letter of plank being addressed; or, if introducing new material, chapter and section where new plank should appear

Add I.D.1.v. (under 1. Democracy + D. Foreign Policy + 1. Foreign Policy–Peace and Disarmament)

5. Current language of plank that is being addressed

[none]

6. Proposed revision or amendment of the current language, or proposed new plank

Take foreign policy out of the exclusive domain of the president.

7. Additional comments or questions

Presidents carry on diplomatic relations and negotiate treaties with minimal oversight. The future is harmed by the results.

XV. (Item 15)

1. Name of party/caucus/committee and co-chair contact information

This information is unavailable at this time.

2. Brief explanation of approval process and date of approval

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3. Contact Information for author or designated contact person: name, address, phone, e-mail.

Charlie Jordan, 214 Summer Circle, Boones Mill, VA 24065, 540-721-3232, <flyawayjaybyrd@gmail.com>.

4. Chapter of the platform and letter of plank being addressed; or, if introducing new material, chapter and section where new plank should appear

Add II.A.6.j. (under II. Social Justice + A. Civil Rights and Equal Rights + 6. Rights of the Disabled)

5. Current language of plank that is being addressed

[none]

6. Proposed revision or amendment of the current language, or proposed new plank

Accommodate communication disability in political organizations.

7. Additional comments or questions

Some political organizations are run by hearing people for hearing people. Would a racial or religious minority be so easily excluded?

XVI. (Item 16)

1. Name of party/caucus/committee and co-chair contact information

This information is unavailable at this time.

2. Brief explanation of approval process and date of approval

By consensus, the Blue Ridge Greens referred to the Steering Committee for final decision on August 16, 2021. By consensus of the Steering Committee, the Blue Ridge Greens approved, with a declaration on August 28, 2021. The Green Party of Virginia (GPVA) was notified of local approval and provided a link to content on September 1. The Green Party of Virginia (GPVA) was provided a full draft on September 17, 2021. The Green Party of Virginia (GPVA) has not yet agendized.

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Charlie Jordan, 214 Summer Circle, Boones Mill, VA 24065, 540-721-3232, <flyawayjaybyrd@gmail.com>.

4. Chapter of the platform and letter of plank being addressed; or, if introducing new material, chapter and section where new plank should appear

Add II.B.9. (II. Social Justice/B. Environmental Justice)

5. Current language of plank that is being addressed

[none]

6. Proposed revision or amendment of the current language, or proposed new plank

Replace legal concept of criminal trespass with Northern European "Allemansret" to cross open land.

7. Additional comments or questions

The concept of exclusion from private land developed in English law as an aristocratic privilege.

XVII. (Item 17) Proposal to amend GPUS Platform to restore freedom to travel across borders

1.Name of party/caucus/committee and co-chair contact information

This information is unavailable at this time.

2.Brief explanation of approval process and date of approval

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3.Contact Information for author or designated contact person: name, address, phone, e-mail.

Charlie Jordan, 214 Summer Circle, Boones Mill, VA 24065, 540-721-3232, <flyawayjaybyrd@gmail.com>.

4.Chapter of the platform and letter of plank being addressed; or, if introducing new material, chapter and section where new plank should appear

Add II.J.2.i. (under II. Social Justice + J. Immigration/ Emigration + 2. Interim Measures)

5.Current language of plank that is being addressed

[none]

6.Proposed revision or amendment of the current language, or proposed new plank

Remove post-2001 passport requirement for travel across Canadian and Mexican borders.

7.Additional comments or questions

Whoever planned the 9/11 attacks wanted to make our lives more difficult and succeeded. It is time to undo that damage.

“Every time something really bad happens, people cry out for safety, and the government answers by taking rights away from good people” from Penn and Teller’s How to Play in Traffic (1997), p. 35.

XVIII. (Item 18)

1.Name of party/caucus/committee and co-chair contact information

This information is unavailable at this time.

2.Brief explanation of approval process and date of approval

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Charlie Jordan, 214 Summer Circle, Boones Mill, VA 24065, 540-721-3232, <flyawayjaybyrd@gmail.com>.

4.Chapter of the platform and letter of plank being addressed; or, if introducing new material, chapter and section where new plank should appear

In IV.L.7. (under IV. Economic Justice & Sustainability + L. Advanced Technology and Defense Conversion + Telecommunications)

5.Current language of plank that is being addressed

Advanced and high definition TV, digital communications, and wireless communications hold promise and challenge. For example, the public airwaves that will accommodate the new generation of telecommunications technology should not be free giveaways to media giants. An auction and built-in requirements that attach licenses to act in the public interest is needed. Technology provides tools: we must use these tools appropriately and ethically. [See section J. Free Speech and Media Reform in chapter II]

6.Proposed revision or amendment of the current language, or proposed new plank

Advanced and high definition TV, digital communications, and wireless communications hold promise and challenge. For example, the public airwaves that will accommodate the new generation of telecommunications technology should not be free giveaways to media giants. An auction and built-in requirements that attach licenses to act in the public interest is needed. There must be adequate support for viewers who have analog televisions, rather than adding workable

receivers to the waste stream. Technology provides tools: we must use these tools appropriately and ethically. [See section J. Free Speech and Media Reform in chapter II]

7. Additional comments or questions

Technological obsolescence creates a toxic waste stream.

XIX. (Item 19)

1. Name of party/caucus/committee and co-chair contact information

This information is unavailable at this time.

2. Brief explanation of approval process and date of approval

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3. Contact Information for author or designated contact person: name, address, phone, e-mail.

Charlie Jordan, 214 Summer Circle, Boones Mill, VA 24065, 540-721-3232, <flyawayjaybyrd@gmail.com>.

4. Chapter of the platform and letter of plank being addressed; or, if introducing new material, chapter and section where new plank should appear

IV.L.8. (under IV. Economic Justice & Sustainability + L. Advanced Technology and Defense Conversion + Telecommunications)

6. Proposed revision or amendment of the current language, or proposed new plank

Restore TV broadcasts to communities where it disappeared because of the 2009 transition to digital signals.

7. Additional comments or questions

When a chunk of bandwidth was auctioned to the Verizon conglomerate, broadcast power was reduced. Many communities lost some or all of the television broadcasts they had relied upon for 60 or more years. Several million people who used to watch current events on television

no longer see them. This marginalization contributes to the fragmentation of society.

XX. (Item 20) Proposals to amend GPUS Platform to remove euphemistic terminology

1.Name of party/caucus/committee and co-chair contact information

This information is unavailable at this time.

2.Brief explanation of approval process and date of approval

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3.Contact Information for author or designated contact person: name, address, phone, e-mail.

Charlie Jordan, 214 Summer Circle, Boones Mill, VA 24065, 540-721-3232, <flyawayjaybyrd@gmail.com>.

4.Chapter of the platform and letter of plank being addressed; or, if introducing new material, chapter and section where new plank should appear

A.

1.Name of party/caucus/committee and co-chair contact information

This information is unavailable at this time.

2.Brief explanation of approval process and date of approval

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Charlie Jordan, 214 Summer Circle, Boones Mill, VA 24065,
540-721-3232, <flyawayjaybyrd@gmail.com>.

4. Chapter of the platform and letter of plank being addressed; or, if introducing new material, chapter and section where new plank should appear

(Address) I. (caption under I. Democracy)

5. Current language of plank that is being addressed

Our defense budget has increased out of all proportion to any military threat to the United States, and to our domestic social, economic and environmental needs. The United States government must reduce our defense budget to half of its current size. The 2012 defense budget exceeded \$700 billion, and that does not take into account military expenditures not placed under the defense budget.

6. Proposed revision or amendment of the current language, or proposed new plank

Our military budget has increased out of all proportion to any military threat to the United States, and to our domestic social, economic and environmental needs. The United States government must reduce our military budget to half of its current size. The 2012 military budget exceeded \$700 billion, and that does not take into account military expenditures not placed under the military budget.

7. Additional comments or questions

The military-industrial complex pretends that none of the military budget is used for offense. Greens must not play into that deadly euphemistic whitewash.

B.

1. Name of party/caucus/committee and co-chair contact information

This information is unavailable at this time.

2. Brief explanation of approval process and date of approval

By consensus, the Blue Ridge Greens referred to the Steering Committee for final decision on August 16, 2021. By consensus of the Steering Committee, the Blue Ridge Greens approved, with a declaration on August 28, 2021. The Green Party of Virginia (GPVA) was notified of local approval and provided a link to content on September 1. The Green Party of Virginia (GPVA) was provided a full draft on September 16, 2021. The Green Party of Virginia (GPVA) has not yet agendized.

3.Contact Information for author or designated contact person: name, address, phone, e-mail.

Charlie Jordan, 214 Summer Circle, Boones Mill, VA 24065, 540-721-3232, <flyawayjaybyrd@gmail.com>.

4.Chapter of the platform and letter of plank being addressed; or, if introducing new material, chapter and section where new plank should appear

(Address) I.D.1.b. (third occurrence under I. Democracy + D. Foreign Policy + 1. Foreign Policy–Peace and Disarmament)

5.Current language of plank that is being addressed

(Change) b.Our defense budget has increased out of all proportion to any military threat to the United States, and to our domestic social, economic and environmental needs. The United States government must reduce our defense budget to half of its current size. The 2012 defense budget exceeded \$700 billion, and that does not take into account military expenditures not placed under the defense budget.

6.Proposed revision or amendment of the current language, or proposed new plank

Our military budget has increased out of all proportion to any military threat to the United States, and to our domestic social, economic and environmental needs. The United States government must reduce our military budget to half of its current size. The 2012 military budget exceeded \$700 billion, and that does not take into account military expenditures not placed under the military budget.

7.Additional comments or questions

The military-industrial complex pretends that none of the military budget is used for offense. Greens must not play into that deadly euphemistic whitewash.

C.

1.Name of party/caucus/committee and co-chair contact information

This information is unavailable at this time.

2.Brief explanation of approval process and date of approval

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3.Contact Information for author or designated contact person: name, address, phone, e-mail.

Charlie Jordan, 214 Summer Circle, Boones Mill, VA 24065, 540-721-3232, <flyawayjaybyrd@gmail.com>.

4.Chapter of the platform and letter of plank being addressed; or, if introducing new material, chapter and section where new plank should appear

(Address) I.D.1.f. (second occurrence under I. Democracy + D. Foreign Policy + 1. Foreign Policy–Peace and Disarmament)

5.Current language of plank that is being addressed

The U.S. must not be a conduit for defense contractors to market their products abroad and must shift our export market from arms to peaceful technology, industrial and agricultural products, and education.

6.Proposed revision or amendment of the current language, or proposed new plank

The U.S. must not be a conduit for military contractors to market their products abroad and must shift our export market from arms to peaceful technology, industrial and agricultural products, and education.

7.Additional comments or questions

Many offensive weapons are sold abroad.

D.

1.Name of party/caucus/committee and co-chair contact information

This information is unavailable at this time.

2.Brief explanation of approval process and date of approval

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3.Contact Information for author or designated contact person: name, address, phone, e-mail.

Charlie Jordan, 214 Summer Circle, Boones Mill, VA 24065, 540-721-3232, <flyawayjaybyrd@gmail.com>.

4.Chapter of the platform and letter of plank being addressed; or, if introducing new material, chapter and section where new plank should appear

(Address) IV.L. (IV. Economic Justice & Sustainability + L. Advanced Technology and Defense Conversion)

5.Current language of plank that is being addressed

Advanced Technology and Defense Conversion

6.Proposed revision or amendment of the current language, or proposed new plank

Advanced Technology and Military Conversion

7.Additional comments or questions

The military-industrial complex pretends that none of the military budget is used for offense. Greens must not play into that deadly euphemistic whitewash.

E.

1.Name of party/caucus/committee and co-chair contact information

This information is unavailable at this time.

2.Brief explanation of approval process and date of approval

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3.Contact Information for author or designated contact person: name,

address, phone, e-mail.

Charlie Jordan, 214 Summer Circle, Boones Mill, VA 24065,
540-721-3232, <flyawayjaybyrd@gmail.com>.

4. Chapter of the platform and letter of plank being addressed; or, if introducing new material, chapter and section where new plank should appear

(Address) IV.L. (supporting paragraph under IV. Economic Justice & Sustainability + L. Advanced Technology and Defense Conversion)

5. Current language of plank that is being addressed

The Green Party supports defense technology transfer towards a peacetime technology-based economy, particularly new industrial applications and developments in the areas of advanced communications, alternative energy, non-toxic battery technology and waste management.

6. Proposed revision or amendment of the current language, or proposed new plank

The Green Party supports military technology transfer towards a peacetime technology-based economy, particularly new industrial applications and developments in the areas of advanced communications, alternative energy, non-toxic battery technology and waste management.

7. Additional comments or questions

The military-industrial complex pretends that none of the military budget is used for offense. Greens must not play into that deadly euphemistic whitewash.

F.

1. Name of party/caucus/committee and co-chair contact information

This information is unavailable at this time.

2. Brief explanation of approval process and date of approval

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3.Contact Information for author or designated contact person: name, address, phone, e-mail.

Charlie Jordan, 214 Summer Circle, Boones Mill, VA 24065, 540-721-3232, <flyawayjaybyrd@gmail.com>.

4.Chapter of the platform and letter of plank being addressed; or, if introducing new material, chapter and section where new plank should appear

(Address) IV.L.6. (under IV. Economic Justice & Sustainability + L. Advanced Technology and Defense Conversion + Telecommunications)

5.Current language of plank that is being addressed

Advanced telecommunications technologies (many of which came originally from defense applications), such as fiber optics, broadband infrastructure, the Internet, and the World Wide Web hold great promise for education, decentralized economies, and local control of decision- making. We believe we must move toward decentralization in these efforts, carefully protecting our individual rights as we go forward.

6.Proposed revision or amendment of the current language, or proposed new plank

Advanced telecommunications technologies (many of which came originally from military applications), such as fiber optics, broadband infrastructure, the Internet, and the World Wide Web hold great promise for education, decentralized economies, and local control of decision- making. We believe we must move toward decentralization in these efforts, carefully protecting our individual rights as we go forward.

7.Additional comments or questions

The military-industrial complex pretends that none of the military budget is used for offense. Greens must not play into that deadly euphemistic whitewash.

XXI. (Item 21)

A.

1.Name of party/caucus/committee and co-chair contact information

This information is unavailable at this time.

2.Brief explanation of approval process and date of approval

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Charlie Jordan, 214 Summer Circle, Boones Mill, VA 24065, 540-721-3232, <flyawayjaybyrd@gmail.com>.

4.Chapter of the platform and letter of plank being addressed; or, if introducing new material, chapter and section where new plank should appear

5.Current language of plank that is being addressed

Our nation was born as the first great experiment in modern democracy. We seek to rescue that heritage from the erosion of citizen participation. Moreover, we seek to dissolve the grip of the ideology, intoned by big-money interests for more than twenty years, that government is intrinsically undesirable and destructive of liberty and that elected officials should rightly “starve the beast” by slashing all spending on social program, in the name of freedom. We challenge that tactic by calling on all Americans to think deeply about the meaning of government of the people, by the people, and for the people. In a democracy, individuals come together to form structures of governance that protect and advance the common good. We the citizens are the government, and we the citizens can direct it to fulfill its finest goals and purposes. Our citizens must not permit usurpation of their authority by acts of individuals and government agencies that isolate or insulate government from their oversight and control. We, the People, have a responsibility to participate in self-government through all the means that our Constitution provides.

Citizens of a democracy must have the information and ability to determine the actions of their government. Vast concentrations of wealth and power that have occurred in recent years are inherently undemocratic. The deregulation of corporate activity and the decentralization and underfunding of the regulatory structures that remain—accompanied by the centralizing of big money—has been a disaster for our country. The true owners of the public lands, pension funds, and the public airwaves are the American people, who today have little or no control over their pooled assets or their commonwealth.

The power of civic action is an antidote to the corporate control of so much of our lawmaking and regulating. The pervasive abuse imposed by corporate power increasingly undermines our democracy, but the Green Party seeks to rekindle the democratic flame. As voting citizens, taxpayers, workers, consumers, and stakeholders, we unite to exercise our rights and, as Thomas Jefferson urged, to counteract the “excesses of the moneyed interests.” Toward this end, we consider serious reform of campaign funding to be essential, as well as curbs on the influence of corporations on lawmakers and regulatory agencies.

The Green Party considers American democracy to be an ongoing, unfolding project that is dynamic and creative in nature. We are committed to the strengthening of our civil society, including the many mediating institutions at the community level that have always characterized our democracy. We seek to heal the alienation and apathy that has been cultivated in the citizenry by the power brokers of the status quo. Righteous anger about the crippling of our democracy is rising in the land, and the Greens offer constructive alternatives. In addition, we seek to repair the plummeting opinion of the United States in the international community resulting from our arrogant, narcissistic foreign policy of recent years. A growing and grave imbalance between the citizens of this country and the interests that extract power from the citizens is an imminent danger to our security and national and global social stability. We strongly feel that our country should view itself as a member of the community of nations... not above it. The United States could well play a leadership role in that community but only if we become committed to an eco-social vision of peace, national self-determination, and international cooperation.

Our goal is to become an important political force in this country, and to present candidates for election at every level of government.

6. Proposed revision or amendment of the current language, or proposed new plank

Our nation was born as the first great experiment in modern democracy. We seek to rescue that heritage from the erosion of citizen participation. Moreover, we seek to dissolve the grip of the ideology, intoned by big-money interests for more than twenty years, that government is intrinsically undesirable and destructive of liberty and that elected officials should rightly “starve the beast” by slashing all spending on social program, in the name of freedom. We challenge that tactic by calling on all Usonians to think deeply about the meaning of government of the people, by the people, and for the people. In a democracy, individuals come together to form structures of governance that protect and advance the common good. We the citizens are the government, and we the citizens can direct it to fulfill its finest goals and purposes. Our citizens must not permit usurpation of their authority by acts of individuals and government agencies that isolate or insulate government from their oversight and

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Citizens of a democracy must have the information and ability to determine the actions of their government. Vast concentrations of wealth and power that have occurred in recent years are inherently undemocratic. The deregulation of corporate activity and the decentralization and underfunding of the regulatory structures that remain—accompanied by the centralizing of big money—has been a disaster for our country. The true owners of the public lands, pension funds, and the public airwaves are the Usonian people, who today have little or no control over their pooled assets or their commonwealth.

The power of civic action is an antidote to the corporate control of so much of our lawmaking and regulating. The pervasive abuse imposed by corporate power increasingly undermines our democracy, but the Green Party seeks to rekindle the democratic flame. As voting citizens, taxpayers, workers, consumers, and stakeholders, we unite to exercise our rights and, as Thomas Jefferson urged, to counteract the “excesses of the moneyed interests.” Toward this end, we consider serious reform of campaign funding to be essential, as well as curbs on the influence of corporations on lawmakers and regulatory agencies.

The Green Party considers Usonian democracy to be an ongoing, unfolding project that is dynamic and creative in nature. We are committed to the strengthening of our civil society, including the many mediating institutions at the community level that have always characterized our democracy. We seek to heal the alienation and apathy that has been cultivated in the citizenry by the power brokers of the status quo. Righteous anger about the crippling of our democracy is rising in the land, and the Greens offer constructive alternatives. In addition, we seek to repair the plummeting opinion of the United States in the international community resulting from our arrogant, narcissistic foreign policy of recent years. A growing and grave imbalance between the citizens of this country and the interests that extract power from the citizens is an imminent danger to our security and national and global social stability. We strongly feel that our country should view itself as a member of the community of nations... not above it. The United States could well play a leadership role in that community but only if we become committed to an eco-social vision of peace, national self-determination, and international cooperation.

Our goal is to become an important political force in this country, and to present candidates for election at every level of government.

7. Additional comments or questions

Describing the people of one country as “American” slights Latin Americans, who claim the word is theirs as well. Frank Lloyd Wright

advocated “Usonia” as a unique alternative. Then he applied it to a neighborhood, making it ambiguous. There are other possibilities, including some collected by H. L. Mencken.

B.

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4.Chapter of the platform and letter of plank being addressed; or, if introducing new material, chapter and section where new plank should appear

I.B.1.c. (under I. Democracy + B. Community + 1. Families and Children)

5.Current language of plank that is being addressed

Family assistance such as the earned income tax credit, available to working poor families in which the parent supports and lives with the children, should be maintained and increased to offset regressive payroll taxes and growing inequalities in American society. [See section E. True Cost Pricing and Tax Fairness in chapter IV]

6.Proposed revision or amendment of the current language, or proposed new plank

Family assistance such as the earned income tax credit, available to working poor families in which the parent supports and lives with the children, should be maintained and increased to offset regressive payroll taxes and growing inequalities in Usonian society. [See section E. True Cost Pricing and Tax Fairness in chapter IV]

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II. (under II. Social Justice)

5. Current language of plank that is being addressed

Historically, America led the world in establishing a society with democratic values such as equal opportunity and protection from discrimination. Today, however, our country is among the most extreme examples of industrialized nations that have a widening gap between the wealthy and the rest of its citizenry – the working poor, the struggling middle class, and those who increasingly cannot make ends meet.

Our public schools, from kindergarten through college, are forced to cut back countless programs and services. Fees for community colleges

are up sharply, and many public universities must turn away qualified students. More than 50 million Americans have no medical insurance coverage. The crisis in publicly subsidized housing is intensifying, while publicly funded “corporate welfare” continues unabated. Our tax code favors the wealthy. Our criminal justice system assigns long prison terms to hundreds of thousands of perpetrators of victimless crimes, such as selling marijuana. Our civil liberties of privacy and free speech are impaired by the excesses of the USA PATRIOT Act and kindred new laws that use a national tragedy (the attacks on September 11, 2001) as an excuse to impose ubiquitous surveillance and control over citizens. In addition, discrimination based on gender, ethnicity, or race continues to sap the potential of our society and to violate personal dignity.

Feelings of isolation and helplessness are common in America today. Children are increasingly shaped by an “electronic childhood” with little direct experience of nature and free play. Our families are scattered, our popular culture is crassly manipulated by the profit motives of increasingly concentrated media conglomerates, and our sense of community is a pale shadow of what earlier generations of Americans knew.

The Green Party strongly believes that quality of life is determined not only by material aspects that can be measured and counted, but also by elements that cannot be quantified. We firmly support the separation of church and state, but we also acknowledge the spiritual dimension of life, and we honor the cultivation of various types of spiritual experience in our diverse society.

We believe that artistic expression and a thriving structure of art institutions are key to community well-being. We believe that a deep and broad embrace of nonviolence is the only effective way to stop cycles of violence, from the home to the streets to the international level. We advocate a diverse system of education that would introduce children early to the wonders of the Great School (Nature), and would cultivate the wisdom of eco-education, eco-economics, eco-politics, and eco-culture. We seek to protect our children from the corrosive effects of mass culture that trains them to regard themselves first and foremost as consumers.

We support the shift in modern medicine to include healing through complementary therapies and engagement with the Great Hospital (Nature). We seek, in short, to facilitate the healthy unfolding of the person within the unfolding story of the family, community, bioregion, state, nation, and Earth community.

6. Proposed revision or amendment of the current language, or proposed new plank

Historically, Usonia led the world in establishing a society with

democratic values such as equal opportunity and protection from discrimination. Today, however, our country is among the most extreme examples of industrialized nations that have a widening gap between the wealthy and the rest of its citizenry – the working poor, the struggling middle class, and those who increasingly cannot make ends meet.

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III.A.2.B. (under III. Ecological Sustainability + A. Climate Change + 2. Economic Policy For A Safer Climate)

5. Current language of plank that is being addressed

Although imported fossil fuel has no more impact on global climate change than domestic, importing petroleum and natural gas has a catastrophic impact on American foreign policy and the American

economy. We will enact this same fee on imported fossil fuels a second time to give the free market an incentive to wean America off foreign oil and gas.

6. Proposed revision or amendment of the current language, or proposed new plank

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4. Chapter of the platform and letter of plank being addressed; or, if introducing new material, chapter and section where new plank should appear

III.L.5. (under III. Ecological Sustainability + L. Forestry Practices)

5.Current language of plank that is being addressed

Ban the export of raw logs and other minimally processed forest products (pulp, chips, carts, slabs, etc.), which causes American job loss.

6.Proposed revision or amendment of the current language, or proposed new plank

Ban the export of raw logs and other minimally processed forest products (pulp, chips, carts, slabs, etc.), which causes Usonian job loss.

7.Additional comments or questions

Wait a minute! Why forbid someone in a tropical country from buying redwood logs to build a cabin? Why force them to chop down tropical trees, if there are even any left? This plank needs another look.

F.

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IV.M. in “OUR POSITION” (under IV. Economic Justice & Sustainability+
M: National Debt + “OUR POSITION”)

5. Current language of plank that is being addressed

Greens will reduce our national debt.

Our nation is in debt because our privatized Federal Reserve monetary system only creates and issues money as debt through loans. The government must constantly borrow more money due to the shortfall in tax revenue, thus steadily increasing the national debt.

Our national debt has grown by trillions of dollars to finance tax cuts for America's wealthiest citizens, war, corporate welfare and bailouts of Wall Street and the automotive industry. The burden of the increasing annual interest payments on the debt falls disproportionately on working people and the small business community. It is not sustainable.

6. Proposed revision or amendment of the current language, or proposed new plank

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7. Additional comments or questions

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2022 Green Party of Virginia Strategic Plan

This strategic plan is meant to be adopted yearly by the Leadership Council of the GPVA to provide guidance to the state party. A plan is incredibly important, enabling us to effectively distribute funds, make clear progress, receive actionable feedback, and make wise use of member time and resources.

Every member of the GPVA should know what we are doing, why we are doing it, and what specific things they can do to always help. This ensure that newer members can immediately be plugged in to existing activities, while long-time members can get a sense for what is working, and what is not. The plan is broken down into SMART goals (Specific, Measurable, Attainable, Realistic, and Timed) and these are broken down, as the national strategic plan is, into SWOT assessments (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Threats). Under each goal there are also specific actionable items that will empower members to take concrete actions towards growing the party.

Goal #1

Organize new locals and expand current ones

By the end of this plan year, the GPVA should have at least 10 active locals with at least 5 dues-paying members in each local.

The GPVA consists of locals distributed throughout the state. Presently, there are 7 locals (New River Valley, Blue Ridge, Lynchburg, Shenandoah, Arlington, Fairfax, and Hampton Roads), but the number of members and degree of member involvement varies dramatically from local to local. Because locals are the primary means by which members are recruited and involvement maintained, it is critical that we have healthy, active locals across the state.

Strengths (internal)

1. Already existing network of locals
2. Social media presence
3. Database of potential local membership thanks to recent bylaws change
4. Resources to help locals get started

Weaknesses (internal)

1. Starting new locals is much more difficult than growing existing ones, since each local will require someone who lives in the area to be willing to put in the time to grow it
2. Lack of membership willing to serve on the local organizing committee

Opportunities (external)

1. Recent interest in joining the Greens thanks to the collapse of the Sanders campaign

Threats (external)

1. Poaching of interested members by competing groups (e.g., DSA and People's Party)
2. Sheep dogging by the Democratic Party

Accomplishing the Goal:

We need to grow the party by 3 locals to meet our goal. The actions we will take to accomplish this goal are as follows:

1. Reach out to every prospective member who registers on the website, providing them with a welcome pack to get involved. This should be automated if possible, and the local they would be a part of informed immediately (presently done by distribution through the LC listserv).
2. Creating local organizing efforts where no local exists. This includes more fully developing the local organizing handbook and placing it on the website for registered prospective members to use. This also includes sending someone from the state party to a new area after three people have registered to organize them into a local. This will require a "point-person" from the local organizing committee for an area with no affiliated locals (preferably near to where they live) who can help those members organize their first meeting and walk them through the process of forming the local.
3. Expanding membership within a local. This could include state party reimbursement for expenses incurred during tabling events, or other activities designed to raise awareness of the party and recruit members. Reimbursement process should ensure that state party funds are not squandered by requiring recipients to clarify the purpose of the funding request, limiting funds distributed (to ensure equitable access), and requiring follow-up to demonstrate use of the funds was successful in meeting GPVA

goals. Decisions regarding distribution of the funds should be made by the LC or those designated by the LC to make that decision.

Goal #2

Update the platform

Convene the platform committee and begin the process of sending platform changes to the LC for voting.

Select issues for each of the Four Pillars to focus on in the upcoming election year.

The Virginia Green Party platform is badly outdated referring to issues that are no longer relevant, using archaic terminology, and committing us publicly to positions that likely no longer reflect the actual preferences of the party. Last year, the GPVA adopted a new bylaw amendment to address this issue by re-empowering the platform committee and charging the General Secretary with convening it, until such time as a chair is elected. The system is in place to implement a new platform, steps just need to be taken to do it.

As we update the platform, we should also select four issues from it that correspond to each of the Four Pillars. These core issues will then be the focus of our advocacy work, and of whatever statewide candidates we run. Ensuring we have a focus message will also help with online and traditional media. As a recommendation, I'd propose implementing local-option Ranked-Choice Voting rules (Grassroots Democracy), Stopping the pipelines and other new fossil fuel infrastructure (Ecological Wisdom), implementing local-option laws for police reform (social justice). For our Peace/Non-Violence Pillar, we might think about demilitarizing Virginia's economy, gun control, or the threat of nuclear war.

Strengths

1. Platform bylaw change has already been passed.
2. The specific mechanism for suggesting new platform amendments already exists and is on our website. This includes examples, templates, and the actual submission form.

Weaknesses:

1. The present platform
2. Lack of membership willing to serve on the platform committee

Opportunities:

1. Recent political shifts will make our new platform quite popular.

Threats:

1. Delaying adoption of an updated platform will open the GPVA up to significant political risk to either defend positions the party no longer supports, or to contradict its written positions.

Goal #3

Compete in Local and Congressional 2022 elections

Have at least 5 different candidates running across the state, with at least 1 running for Congress

As we are a political party, the major focus of our organization is winning elections, and the 2022 elections pose a great way for us to connect with communities and advocate for Green policies and ideals. Although having 5 candidates, with at least 1 being a Congressional candidate, is not a huge number it does pose as another way to show that we are a serious body for political change and adds another platform for party growth to occur.

Strengths:

1. Fundraising from dues
2. Dedicated volunteers who have succeeded in achieving ballot access in previous election cycles

Weaknesses:

1. Few volunteers
2. Lack of obvious candidates willing and able to run effectively
3. Absence of locals across the state for GOTV efforts
4. Lack of membership willing to serve on the candidate exploration committee

Opportunities:

1. Voters turned away by the Democrats after the collapse of the Sanders campaign
2. Disaffected non-voters

Threats:

1. Sheep dogging efforts by the Democratic Party (e.g., Vote shaming)
2. Ballot Access threatened by Duopoly's attempts to keep third parties off the ballot

Goal #4

Budget

Pass an annual budget through the LC for the use of state funds

The recent passage of the Dues bylaw amendment by the LC ensures a stable source of revenue for the state party. Those funds can now be distributed in an agreed upon annual budget.

Strengths:

1. Dues ensure we have a stable source of income

Weaknesses:

1. We have no additional, consistent fundraising efforts

Opportunities:

1. n/a

Threats:

1. n/a

Accomplishing the Goal

1. We may wish to spend some funds on reduced-cost legal counsel to ensure that fund distribution is handled ethically and in full compliance with state and federal law.
2. Estimate the number of dues-paying members.
3. Conduct additional fundraising efforts as needed in collaboration with Locals as needed.

Green Party of Virginia - Candidate Questionnaire

Please email your completed candidate questionnaire with any questions regarding nomination or endorsement to cec@vagreennparty.org and cochairs@vagreennparty.org. We will follow up by phone or email.

Your completed questionnaire will be shared with members of the GPVA in determining whether to pursue nomination or endorsement.

Please be specific, accurate, and precise in your answers providing as much detail as possible.

Name:

Email(s):

Phone Number(s):

Home/Office Address:

Social Media:

Office Running For:

Preferred method of Contact:

Are you a member of the GPVA and your Local? If not, please explain.

Have you read and will you support our Ten Key Values during your campaign? They can be found here: <https://www.vagreennparty.org/about-us/ten-key-values>.

Do you have any questions regarding our Ten Key Values? If so, please explain.

Are you a member of any other political parties? If so, please list below.

How will you submit your name and party affiliation when filing to run for office?

Please describe in length your history and activism with the GPVA, your Local, allied organizations, or other groups that support our Ten Key Values.

Describe in length your experience with at least three of our Ten Key Values.

Please include your educational history, work history, and any criminal record.

Please be as specific and detail-oriented as possible in explaining the following:

Your campaign plans and goals:

Research on voters:

Use of volunteers throughout the campaign:

Campaign budgeting, fundraising, and spending:

Your campaign schedule, including hours per week:

Main Campaign Themes or Policies (Include at least three):

Anything else to add regarding your specific campaign plan:

What support do you expect from the GPVA during your campaign, and if/when you are elected to public office? This may include connecting you with individuals experienced in campaigning and running for office, outreaching to members of the GPVA for support, phone banking, canvassing, data entry, fundraising, event organizing, policy research and writing, and applying for candidate funding.

The national Green Party's Coordinating Campaign Committee offers periodic training throughout the year for candidates and campaign staff. Will you participate in and utilize these training sessions?

Will you list your nomination or endorsement from the GPVA on your website, social media, printed campaign materials, etc? Please elaborate.

Do you commit to getting on the ballot? Is there anything that would make you reconsider or drop out of your race?

During your campaign, and if elected, will you commit to meeting with the GPVA membership on a quarterly basis?

THANK YOU for your time in completing this questionnaire! Please add anything else that you would like us to know about you, your activism, political activity, etc that may be relevant to your campaign.