

Green Party of California General Assembly Cal State University Fullerton, December 2003

This volume of the agenda packet contains the proposals that will be decided at the General Assembly. A second volume of the packet will contain the schedule, important announcements, and registration and logistics for the meeting.

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Consent Calendar – Bylaws Change

SPONSOR: Bylaws Standing Committee

PRESENTER/CONTACT: Jonathan Lundell, jlundell@greens.org, (650) 726-1949

SUBJECT: Revise bylaw language to describe the organizational changes adopted by the General Assembly in January 2002.

BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE:

In January 2002 the General Assembly approved a proposal to reapportion our regional structure. The affect of this was to change the number of regions, the regional boundaries, and the mix of representatives on the Coordinating Committee. Although that proposal was approved, the bylaws were never amended to describe this new apportionment.

This proposal changes the bylaws to reflect the actual organization with which we have been operating for nearly two years.

Here's a summary of the changes that the reapportionment proposal accomplished:

- GPCA structure changed from 10 regions to 11 regions

- CC changed from [14 Regional Reps plus 6 At-Large Reps] to [16 Regional plus 4 At-large]

- Election of At-Large Reps changed from electing 3 each year to electing 2 each year

PROPOSAL:

The following bylaw language changes are proposed:

7-1.2 Membership

OLD LANGUAGE:

The Coordinating Committee shall be composed of up to twenty voting members including fourteen regional representatives and up to six at-large representatives. There are ten regions as determined by the General Assembly. Two regional representatives are allocated to each of the four regions with the largest number of registered green party voters, as determined by the Liaison to the Secretary of State from the most current California Report of Registration available on January 1st of each year. One regional representative is allocated to each of the remaining six regions. Diversity and gender balance are encouraged through the election of at-large representatives. CC representatives are not eligible for the positions of Treasurer and Liaison to the Secretary of State.

NEW LANGUAGE:

The Coordinating Committee shall be composed of up to twenty voting members, including sixteen regional representatives and up to four at-large representatives. The General Assembly shall define the regions, and determine the allocation of regional representatives. Diversity and gender balance are encouraged through the election of at-large representatives. CC representatives are not eligible for the positions of Treasurer and Liaison to the Secretary of State.

7-1.4 CC Elections and Term of Office

At the first General Assembly meeting of each year, elections shall be conducted for CC seats whose terms are scheduled to expire within the calendar year including two at-large seats and any expiring regional seats not filled by an alternative regional process (see selection of regional members, paragraph 7-1.5). CC representatives shall serve for a nominal term of two years or until their successors are elected. In any event, at-large representatives shall vacate their seats at the end of the term unless reelected, and regional representatives shall retain their seats beyond the end of the term unless replaced or recalled.

THE UNDERLINED PHRASE WAS CHANGED FROM “THREE AT-LARGE SEATS” TO “TWO AT-LARGE SEATS”.

7-1.5 Selection of Regional Members

Regional members shall be selected by regional caucus of delegates at General Assembly meetings, unless the active counties of a region select another process. Any such alternative process must be consistent with the ten key values, GPCA bylaws, and California law; and approved by all the County Councils of the active counties of a region; and filed with the Coordinating Committee and the Bylaws Committee. Regions with two or more seats are encouraged to strive for gender balance.

THE UNDERLINED PHRASE WAS CHANGED FROM “TWO SEATS” TO “TWO OR MORE SEATS”.

7-1.8 Choice Voting

Each delegate shall be provided a written secret ballot containing the names of the candidates in random order. The ballot shall also include a “No Other Candidate” (NOC) option. The delegates shall vote by ranking the candidates along with the NOC option in order of preference. The ballots shall be tabulated utilizing a Choice Voting system with fractional transfers and a Droop threshold, $1/(n+1)$ (1/3 threshold with two open seats). No candidate shall be seated who does not cross the threshold before NOC. Choice Voting is the Single Transferable Vote (STV) form of proportional representation described in the International IDEA Handbook of Electoral System Design. (Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (IDEA). First published 1997. Second edition. Stockholm, Sweden).

THE UNDERLINED PHRASE WAS CHANGED FROM “1/4 ... THREE” TO “1/3 ... TWO”.

TIME LINE:

The language changes will be incorporated into the next published revision of the bylaws document.

RESOURCES:

No additional resources are needed beyond the normal work of the Bylaws Standing Committee.

Consent Calendar – Endorsement of Tom Hutchings

PRESENTER: Campaigns and Candidates Working Group

CONTACTS: Magali Offerman (858) 243-3378 magali@sdgreens.org
Susan King (415) 823-5524 funkyng@mindspring.com

SUBJECT: A resolution to endorse Tom Hutchings for Assembly in District 33

BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE:

Tom Hutchings is a Green Party member running for Assembly in District 33. He is seeking the Green Party of California (GPCA) endorsement.

Tom Hutchings has received the endorsement to the San Luis Obispo and Santa Barbara County Councils, and

Tom submitted a completed questionnaire to the CCWG in February of 2003, and

Tom has received the endorsement of Peter Miguel Camejo, Santa Barbara and San Luis Obispo Counties Building Trades Unions of the AFL-CIO, Emmy-award winning actor, Ed Asner, actor Ed Begley Jr., and many other community members, and

Tom has successfully filed his successfully gathered enough signatures by the filing deadline to qualify for the ballot.

PROPOSAL:

The Green Party of California officially endorses Tom Hutchings for Assembly in District 33.

Proposal/Exercise – Presidential Race

SPONSOR: Campaigns & Candidates; GROW

PRESENTER/CONTACT:

Peggy Lewis, pegola@greens.org, Co-coordinator, 916.501.7001
Susan King, C&C Co-coordinator, funkyng@mindspring.com, (415) 386-5464
Magali Offerman, C&C Co-coordinator, magali@sdgreens.org, (858) 243-3378
Stuart Bechman, GROW Co-coordinator, sbechman@sbcglobal.net, (805) 522-4524
Robyn Oetinger, GROW Co-coordinator, roetinger@usa.net Co-coordinator, (510) 653-1644

SUBJECT: Facilitation/Consensus-seeking processes; GPCA Presidential Position

BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE:

This presentation will improve familiarity with GPCA consensus-seeking and facilitation processes and seek consensus for a GPCA position on the 2004 presidential race.

This presentation has three main sections and will require 2 3/4 hours. Having this activity early in the plenary schedule should support a more smoothly working plenary.

Desired Outcomes:

- Fulfill need for process training
- Focus on presidential race
- Raise interest in being a delegate for 2004
- Increase group of people identified as trained facilitators
- Disseminate use of GPCA processes to more locals
- Encourage new people to participate in state meetings
- Provide model for cooperative efforts among sc/wgs

PROPOSAL:

Section 1 GROW (45 minutes)

The GPCA facilitation and consensus-seeking process, as described in our bylaws

A small group of skilled facilitators will explain the process, step by step, delineating the roles of the facilitator(s), presenter(s), and General Assembly and focusing on how this step moves the group towards a final resolution.

GROW will prepare a handout with this information to distribute to all attendees at the plenary and possibly to add to the GROW website.

Section 2 Campaigns and Candidates (75 minutes; 15 min. C&C, 60 min. small groups)

GPCA PRESIDENTIAL POSITION and Facilitation Practice

C&C will present several possible GPCA position for the Presidential Convention in Milwaukee in June. Such questions as these could be addressed: Do we run or not run? How strongly in which states? What about the candidacies of Dean and Kucinich? What about Bush and “spoiling” a potential Democrat victory? If we decide to run, whom do we support? Favorite child candidate? Etc.

People go to different rooms for small group discussion. In each room, facilitation will be led by PEOPLE WHO HAVE NEVER BEFORE FACIITATED AT ASTATE MEETING. A gender-balanced team of experienced facilitators will be available for coaching in each room.

Section 3 GROW C&C (45 minutes)

The whole group returns to the meeting place. The results of each group process will be presented by a reporter, someone who HAS NEVER BEFORE PRESENTED TO A SATE MEETING. Our 2-3 most skilled facilitators attempt to help the group find consensus for a direction for the 120+ GPCA convention delegates.

TIME LINE: December Plenary in Orange County

RESOURCES: Plenary time: 2 hours 45 minutes

Proposal – Bylaws for Endorsements

PRESENTER: Campaign and Candidates Working Group

CONTACTS: Magali Offerman, (858) 243-3378, magali@sdgreens.org and
Susan King, (415) 823-5524, funkyng@mindspring.com

SUBJECT: To amend and update Article 9, Section 9-1 of the Bylaws of the Green Party of California.

BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE:

Bylaws Section 9-1 governs GPCA endorsements and resolutions. Presently it only covers endorsements of ballot propositions. It is also poorly written and has proven difficult and in some cases, impossible to implement.

This proposal would amend 9-1 by providing the GPCA with a clear grant of authority to endorse candidates and endorse or oppose ballot measures. It would designate the General Assembly of the GPCA as the body that would establish the procedures by which the endorsements would be made.

PROPOSAL:

Article 9, Section 9-1 is amended as follows:

Article 9. Endorsements and Resolutions

Section 9-1. Statewide Endorsement Procedure

9-1.1 Authorization

The GPCA may endorse or oppose state and federal candidates and state ballot measures appearing on the ballot during general, primary and special elections.

9-1.2 Process

The General Assembly of the GPCA will approve the manner and method by which statewide ballot measures and candidates for state or federal offices are endorsed or opposed.

Proposal - Endorsement Procedure for Ballot Measures

PRESENTER: Campaigns and Candidates Working Group

CONTACTS: Magali Offerman (858) 243-3378 magali@sdgreens.org
Susan King (415) 823-5524 funkyng@mindspring.com

SUBJECT: Establish the procedure for endorsing or opposing statewide ballot propositions.

BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE:

Under Section 9-1 of our bylaws, the party may endorse ballot initiatives through a process of polling of the counties. There are no provisions for endorsing ballot propositions that are not initiative-based. There are no provisions for determining opposition to a ballot measure. It is unclear at what stage of the initiative process the party may endorse an initiative, or whether the party may endorse or oppose a ballot measure of any other kind once it reaches the ballot.

Under Section 9-1, an Endorsement Coordinator is supposed to coordinate the polling. There is no provision, however, for appointing an Endorsement Coordinator, or for establishing the procedures by which the polling is done.

This proposal would establish that GPCA endorsements of, or opposition to ballot measures of any kind would be determined by the polling of Green Party County Organizations (GPCO's). It establishes the process by which the polling is administered, assigns the Coordinating Committee the responsibility of appointing the Endorsement Coordinator and details the procedures the Endorsement Coordinator must follow.

The proposal also establishes that polling of the GPCO's is the procedure to be followed in special elections, including the recall. Further, it authorizes the party to take a stand on a ballot proposition before it reaches the ballot, which is particularly important in the case of initiatives.

PROPOSAL:

The process by which the GPCA endorses or opposes ballot measures shall be as follows:

1. County Polls

At each general, primary and special statewide election, the Coordinating Committee shall poll the Green Party County Organizations (GPCO's) to determine the position of the GPCA on ballot measures.

2. Recalls and Special Elections

In special elections, including recall elections, endorsement of candidate(s) shall be determined by polling of Green Party County Organizations.

3. Polling Procedure

a. Polling.

Polling of the Counties shall be carried out by an Endorsement Coordinator (EC) appointed by the Coordinating Committee of the GPCA.

b. Polling Period

The Coordinating Committee need not wait until a ballot proposal has qualified for the ballot before authorizing a polling of the GPCO's. Once authorized, the Coordinating Committee shall establish a polling

period during which GPCO's may discuss the issues and vote. The EC shall undertake the polling in a timely fashion.

c. Quorum

One-half of active Green Party County Organizations must report in during the polling period for quorum to be established. For the polling to be complete, the EC must make a good faith effort to contact all active Green Party County Organizations.

d. Facilitation.

To facilitate the polling the EC may select regional liaisons who will gather the necessary information from the active Green Party County Organizations in their region. Regional representatives or alternates may serve as liaisons to their regions for purposes of facilitating the polling process and assisting the EC.

e. Voting Procedure.

The votes of each county shall be apportioned in accordance with the number of delegates the county was eligible to receive at the most recent General Assembly plenary. In cases where consensus is not reached, an 80% "yes" or "no" vote from all the counties voting is necessary for a ballot proposal to be officially endorsed or officially opposed by the GPCA. In the case of ballot proposals that fall short of an 80% "yes" or "no" vote, the position of the GPCA shall be "no position". Counties have the option of standing aside with their vote.

f. Tabulation and Reporting.

Upon completion of the procedures listed above, the EC shall tabulate the results from all participating Green Party County Organizations. The results of the tabulation shall determine whether the GPCA has decided to endorse or oppose the ballot proposal in question. The EC will immediately report this determination to the GPCA-CC. The GPCA-CC will report the polling results to the General Assembly at the next regularly scheduled plenary.

Proposal - Endorsement Procedure for Partisan Candidates

PRESENTER: Campaigns and Candidates Working Group

CONTACTS: Magali Offerman (858) 243-3378 magali@sdgreens.org
Susan King (415) 823-5524 funkyng@mindspring.com

SUBJECT: Establish the procedure for the GPCA to endorse Green Candidates running for partisan office.

BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE:

Currently there is not a GPCA endorsement process for Green candidates running for partisan office. Since the electoral districts of these offices often overlap several counties, it is beneficial for our candidates to receive endorsements at the local and state level.

A state endorsement not only allows Green candidates to be supported by the GPCA through its publications, media outreach, volunteer coordination, etc., but also makes them eligible for funding.

The policy presented here only covers the GPCA endorsement procedure for partisan candidates. Funding decisions are the responsibility of the Campaign Support Fund Committee.

PROPOSAL:

The process by which the GPCA endorses Green Candidates running for partisan office shall be as follows:

1. Organizational Structure

1-1. The Campaigns and Candidates Working Group (CCWG) is responsible for facilitating the endorsement of partisan candidates.

1-2. Endorsements for candidates running for the statewide constitutional offices shall be ratified by the General Assembly.

1-3. Endorsements for candidates running for the State Assembly, State Senate, and the U.S. House of Representatives shall be ratified by the GPCA Coordinating Committee.

2. Candidate Endorsement Process

2-1. Candidates must demonstrate support from Green Party County Organizations in their electoral district by submitting written endorsement letters from locals to the CCWG.

2-2. Each candidate must complete a brief questionnaire describing their candidacy and submit it to the CCWG for approval.

2-3. The CCWG shall make campaign endorsements and submit them to the appropriate body for ratification.

3. Procedures for Ratification

3-1. The General Assembly

Upon recommendation of the Campaigns and Candidates Working Group, the General Assembly of the GPCA may endorse candidates for the office of Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Secretary of State, Controller, Treasurer, Insurance Commissioner, Attorney General, Superintendent of Public Instruction, State Board of Equalization and the U.S. Senate.

a. Uncontested pre-primary endorsements shall be by consensus or 4/5 of the voting delegates at the first plenary past the filing deadline. Voting may not take place before the filing deadline.

b. Post-primary endorsements shall by consensus or 4/5 of the voting delegates at the first plenary past the primary.

3-2. Coordinating Committee

Upon recommendation of the Campaigns and Candidates Working Group, the Coordinating Committee of the GPCA may endorse candidates for the State Assembly, State Senate, and the U.S. House of Representatives.

a. Uncontested pre-primary endorsements shall be by consensus or 4/5 of the CC members voting. Voting may not take place before the filing deadline. Voting may take place at any regularly scheduled CC meeting, or by on-line vote.

b. Post-Primary endorsements shall be by consensus or 4/5 of the CC members voting. Voting may take place at any regularly scheduled CC meeting, or by on-line vote.

Proposal – Platform Plank

SPONSOR: PLATFORM WORKING GROUP

PRESENTER/CONTACT: Shane Que Hee, (310)208-1624; squehee@ucla.edu

SUBJECT:

SEXUAL ORIENTATION, GENDER IDENTITY, AND GENDER EXPRESSION (SO/GI/ GE) This is part of the Social Justice & Liveable Communities Section of the GPCA Platform. Grassroots democracy, social justice and equal opportunity, feminism and gender equity, respect for diversity, and personal and global responsibility are the major Green Ten Key Values involved.

BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE:

The current California Green Party Lesbian/Gay/Bisexual Rights platform is out of date and requires revision and renaming. The Los Angeles LGBT Greens first drafted a plank in 2001, and revised it again in 2003. The draft has received input from the National and California Lavender Greens, and some LA County Green Party members.

PROPOSAL:

- 1 A consenting adult (18 years and above) has a basic right to love, and make love to another consenting adult, with
- 2 mutual consent. A consenting adult has a basic right to define his or her own individual gender identity and to
- 3 express this, regardless of chromosomal sex, genitalia, assigned birth sex, initial gender role, or sexual orientation.
- 4 We propose the following to end discrimination based on SO/GI/GE:
 - 5 1. Repeal of the Defense of Marriage Act and the Patriot Act, passing federal legislation to outlaw any form of
 - 6 discrimination on the basis of SO/GI/GE, and guaranteeing same-gender partners the same rights under
 - 7 immigration law as opposite-gender partners.
 - 8 2. Repeal of the Knight Amendment (Prop 22 “Californians for Protection of Marriage”).
 - 9 3. Passing California legislation for same gender marriage with the same legal rights as opposite gender marriage,
 - 10 e.g. amending existing domestic partnership and civil union legislation. Passage of legislation to protect
 - 11 LGBTIQ youth from verbal and physical abuse by parents, teachers, clergy, and other adults is also necessary.
 - 12 4. Enacting California and federal legislation for legal recognition of the rights of LGBTIQ parents in child
 - 13 custody cases; allowing LGBTIQs equal opportunity to adopt children and serve as foster parents; for
 - 14 penalizing perpetrators of violence and injustice towards LGBTIQs (e.g. by reparations); and for establishing,
 - 15 expanding, actively enforcing and amending all anti-discrimination and anti-hate crime laws to include
 - 16 protection on the basis of SO/GI/GE.
 - 17 5. Promoting a federal constitutional amendment and a California Initiative to outlaw discrimination based on
 - 18 SO/GI/GE. Any move to ban LGBTIQ marriage in the state and federal spheres by constitutional amendments
 - 19 or initiatives will be resisted by the GP.

- 20 6. Promoting the social values of tolerance and acceptance to help eliminate anti- LGBTIQ hatred through
21 education and publicity by: (a) Establishment of a school sex education curriculum that includes study of SO/
22 GI/GE. Positive LGBTIQ identities should be supported at all levels of the education system. Enforced safe-
23 school laws and programs to protect LGBTIQ youth from verbal and physical abuse are essential. (b)
24 Affirming that all acts of non-consensual sexual intercourse are acts of violence toward the non-consenting
25 party. (c) Including LGBTIQ sensitivity training in all trainee programs, for example, the teacher certification
26 process, the workplace, in police training, and social service providers. (d) Promoting positive images of
27 LGBTIQ youth, and establishing LGBTIQ youth centers, schools, and LGBTIQ youth counseling. (e)
28 Fostering positive visibility of LGBTIQs in the arts, the sciences, and culture (e.g., in TV, theater, radio, and
29 film). Ending censorship to allow free homoerotic and LGBTIQ-positive expression. (f) Ensuring safe unisex
30 bathrooms are available for all who wish to use them. (g) Supplying competent counseling in all aspects of SO/
31 GI/GE. (h) Providing for the special needs of senior LGBTIQs through social service programs. (i)
32 Establishing a registry to allow sex workers (“prostitutes”) to be able to receive free annual medical screening
33 including that for sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) including AIDS/HIV. (j) Allowing LGBTIQ people to
34 serve openly in the armed, police, and security forces.
- 35 7. Funding research, development, and education that seek to find cures, prevent, or treat AIDS (see GPCA
36 AIDS/HIV plank) and other STDs in addition to arts, culture, and the basic/applied science of SO/GI/GE.
37 LGBTIQs have special research, development, and education needs that must be recognized and addressed.
- 38 8. Ending tolerance of prison rape, and of the discrimination that sexual and gender role non-conformers suffer in
39 prisons and security institutions. Prisons must house transgender and intersex persons based on their gender
40 identities. Prisons must provide for the counseling, hormonal and physical transformation needs of LGBTIQ
41 persons.
- 42 9. Ending police entrapment of, and selective police/magistrate enforcement of “indecency” laws for, LGBTIQs.
- 43 10. Lowering the age of consent in California from 18 to 16 years of age (31states).
- 44 11. Stopping arrest, criminal prosecution, discrimination, or other negative treatment of mutually consenting
45 LGBTIQ adults and persons of comparable age in private by any local/state/federal/foreign government,
46 corporation, association, or organization.
- 47 12. Recognizing multi-partner marriages and domestic partnerships if they involve the care of children, by
48 including those excluded in the CA “domestic partners” registry.
- 49 13. Recognizing the rights of transgender persons through: (a) Reassigning legal gender status automatically if the
50 transgender person desires that, regardless of genital status.(b) Hormones, surgery, and other appropriate
51 medical procedures should be covered by insurance.(c) Allowing costs for gender reassignment surgery,
52 hormones, medical procedures, and counseling of persons without means, to be placed on Medicaid. (d)
53 Supporting the right of individuals to competent medical or other professional care when changing their bodies
54 cosmetically, chemically or surgically.
- 55 14. Recognizing the rights of intersex persons through: (a) Allowing them to determine their own sex, gender,
56 gender identity, and sexual orientation. Intersex persons shall not be subject to surgery to “correct” their sex or
57 gender (unless they request such surgery) on the basis of chromosomal sex, genitalia, assigned birth sex, or
58 initial gender role.(b) Affirming that the parent’s distress of the intersex new-born not be treated by surgery on
59 the child. Medical personnel must not make unilateral decisions to opt for immediate surgery of the intersex
60 newborn.(c) Allowing intersex newborns to mature sufficiently to be able to choose their gender identity and
61 gender expression.
- 62 15. Adherence of all nations (including the United States) to the United Nations (UN) Charter on Human Rights
63 provision for individual rights with recognition by the UN of international LGBTIQ organizations.

CC Election – Candidates' Biographies

The Coordinating Committee has an unexpected vacancy of an at-large seat created by the resignation Ken Adams. The selected candidate will fill the remainder of Ken's term, which is until the first General Assembly of 2004.

Chuck Reutter

Accomplishments: Played a major role in forming the Green Party of San Bernardino County, organized Green Party chapters in Hemet, Southwest Riverside County, Banning, Moreno Valley, Coachella Valley, and am helping Dick Morris organize a Downtown Riverside chapter. I have served on the Riverside County Council for 3 terms. I have been involved in organizing two musical festivals to promote our Green Party. I have been a registered Green since October, 1996. I helped form a Southwest Chapter of Health Care For All. This group is in favor of a universal health care system.

Elective Office: I am currently seeking a seat on the Board of Governors of the Mt. San Jacinto Community College. In 2000, I ran for the 66th assembly seat in the California State Assembly.

Community Work: I am a member of the Board of Directors of Riverside County Community Access Center and the purpose of this organization is to empower people with disabilities and I have been on this board since 1997. I am on the Board of Directors of the Menifee Valley/Sun City Community Fund and the purpose of this organization is to raise funds for the non-profits in the Menifee, Sun City and Quail Valley area. I am an active member of the Sun City Friends of Animals, Inc. and the Center for Community Action and Environmental Justice. The CCAEJ was organized by Penny Newman, a well known environmentalist.

Employment: I am a Computer Systems Manager of an HP3000 computer and have been with my employer since January of 1991. I work the night shift and my hours change from time to time as needed by my employer.

Issues: I believe we have a lot of issues in our region and we need to help the Greens in San Bernardino County come back into the fold and spread the word about our Green Party to the people in San Bernardino County. Also, we need to make sure everyone who wants to seek election to the San Bernardino County Council has a copy of the data from the Registrar of Voters so they can gather signatures required to have his/her name placed on the ballot. We need to come up with a way for Greens in counties where districts cross county lines and find ways for these Greens to work together. We need to lift the burden of expenses off the shoulders of our delegates and regional rep and develop a way we can finance the expenses of attending Green Party state-wide meetings. We need to improve our communications between our regions. We seem to have a serious communications issue between the GPCA CC and our locals and I would work hard to overcome these issues.

Tim Fitzgerald

I am a six year resident of Mammoth Lakes, CA. Before that I lived my entire life in Silicon Valley. I joined the Green Party of California in 1991. And served a full term on the first County Council of Santa Clara County. While on that body, I became the Co-Coordinator for the Bay Area "Green's Consensus" - the States first monthly news publication.

In 1993 I left the "Greens Consensus" to Co-Coordinate the State Platform working Group which I led for a year. During that time we founded a State Economic Caucus which met periodically to create a Economic Pillar in the Platform - which had none.

In 1994, I ran for State Assembly from San Jose's East side, getting the highest per cent of vote for any partisan third party candidate on the state ballot - 8.2%. In 1995, I joined Gloria Purcell as Co-coordinator of the Campaigns and Candidates Working Group - a position I held for almost two years.

I removed to Mammoth Lakes because I could no longer afford the high cost of living in San Jose, and to assume a position as adjunct faculty with a fledgling Community college in Mammoth to teach Social Science Subjects. In 2000 I left Cerro Coso Community College to work as a free lance writer hoping to publish what was eventually a three volume Memoir - "Quest" of my work in the trenches as a grass roots organizer for thirty years in San Jose.

For the Last three years I have laboured in Mammoth Lakes to found a Green Party of Mono County, whose blessings from the State CC we have just gotten this past week from Mike Borenstein. I have always been active in the community, in the last decade having served at one point as Vice Chairperson of the City of San Jose Disability Advisory Commission as a consumer - for a term of four years, and later as Chairperson of the Mono County Mental Health Board, from which position I joined the fight to oppose state legislation in 'out patient commitments' for the disabled.

I am a 57 year old single male, with four degrees. All from San Jose State University in the Social Sciences - at both the Graduate and undergraduate level. In 1998, Soon after re-locating in Mammoth, I led the fight on the internet to mobilize Green Support across the country to oppose Yosemite Valley redevelopment plans. A movement that won overwhelming success in Washington DC a year later with Interior Secretary Bruce Babbitt's capitulation to the Green Party of California's demands.

I have often thought of serving on the CC, but have not been positioned, geographically or financially where I could make the effort or volunteer my services. I now believe that barrier has been removed. I would like to bring my thirty odd years experience as an organizer to the services of the State Party, having first started mobilizing my friends and neighbors as a Civil Rights worker in San Jose State campus shortly after Tommie Smith, a fellow student, led the protest at the Mexico City Olympics. We were successful in ending discrimination in Housing in the community, and won many victories for non-violence in the area in the intervening years.

In 1982 I ran on the first District Election for City Council in San Jose, and know how to run campaigns. I have been on the ballot locally for minor offices several times. As an educator I hope to share my knowledge and skills with my fellow Greens, with whom I have such strong ties intellectually and philosophically.

Tim Fitzgerald
Mammoth Lakes, CA.