

From: **GPCA Votes** gpcavotes@gmail.com

Subject: [GPCA-SGA-Votes] Discuss ID 154: Bylaws Interpretation regarding GPCA Endorsements of candidates in statewide races in June 2018 Primary Election

Date: February 15, 2018 at 12:43 PM

To: gpcavotes@sfgreens.org

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Please send your discussion comments to gpcavotes@sfgreens.org

Discussion has begun for the following GPCA SGA ranked choice vote

Ranked Choice Vote ID #154

Ranked Choice Vote **Bylaws Interpretation regarding GPCA Endorsements of candidates in statewide races in June 2018 Primary Election**

Ranked Choice Vote Administrators: Victoria Ashley, Brian Good, Laura Wells, Eric Brooks, Mike Goldbeck

Discussion 02/12/2018 - 03/25/2018

Voting 03/26/2018 - 04/01/2018

Voting ends at Midnight Pacific Time

Background

Since the implementation of the Top Two primary system in California in 2012, political party primaries have been eliminated. In response, the GPCA has begun to make endorsements for Greens running in statewide races. The endorsements have been made via the Standing General Assembly (SGA) voting page, beginning with the statewide elections in 2014.

The Coordinating Committee on its February 5th, 2018, teleconference approved the following statement of findings / bylaws interpretation for the Standing General Assembly to determine endorsements of Green candidates in statewide races for the June 2018 Primary. Green candidates running for statewide offices in California who have officially qualified to be candidates on the CA primary ballot by the time of the SGA vote (voting period starting March 26th), will be on the SGA ballot for endorsement. "No position" will be an option. The endorsement process will be voided if the SGA votes against this bylaws interpretation.

Proposal

That the Standing General Assembly confirm the following Bylaws Interpretation / Statement of Findings as approved by the Coordinating Committee on February 5, 2018, establishing the endorsement process for the Standing General Assembly (SGA), to determine endorsements of Green candidates in statewide races for the June 2018 Primary.

Bylaws Interpretation to Establish Process for GPCA endorsements in June 2018 primary

Whereas the June 2018 primary elections are operating under the Top Two primary system for statewide office, a system under which it is highly unlikely that any Green Party candidate (or candidate from any other smaller, ballot-qualified party) will appear on the statewide general election ballot; and

Whereas the existing GPCA procedures governing endorsements in statewide races were passed at the June 2006 Ventura General Assembly (<http://www.cagreens.org/elections/endorsement-procedures>) and were designed for general election endorsements under the prior system, under which the Green Party primary election winner automatically appeared on the general election ballot; and

Whereas at the same time, these same procedures governing endorsements state that in special circumstances, the Coordinating Committee can approve a statement of findings to clarify under which special circumstances a primary election endorsement should be held, and that "an endorsement procedure would be brought before the GPCA."; and

Whereas while existing GPCA rules governing endorsements permit endorsing in Green Party primaries in special circumstances (<http://www.cagreens.org/elections/endorsement-procedures>), under the Top Two primary system, there is no longer a Green Party primary (or other party primary) but only a single non-partisan primary with candidates from all parties running against each other, meaning there will be no primary election held among Green Party members to choose the party's nominees; and

Whereas the criteria for awarding Campaign Support Funds (<http://www.cagreens.org/committees/campaign-support/criteria>) includes a requirement that any candidate to be considered for such fund must be endorsed by their county party (for a non-statewide race) or the state party (for a statewide race); and

Whereas endorsements of statewide candidates are made by the Standing General Assembly, according to GPCA Bylaws 7-6.2 Decision Items (http://www.cagreens.org/bylaws/2016-07-03#Section_7-6_Standing_General_Assembly) which state "The following decision items shall automatically be placed before the Standing General Assembly": 7-6.2(b) Endorsements of statewide candidates (secret ballot); and

Whereas GPCA Bylaws 7-4 Endorsements (http://www.cagreens.org/bylaws/2016-07-03#Section_7-4_Endorsements) state that "A GPCA position to endorse or oppose shall require 2/3."; and

Therefore the Coordinating Committee approves this statement of findings and interprets GPCA Bylaws under 13-3 (http://www.cagreens.org/bylaws/2016-07-03#Article_13-3_Bylaws_Interpretation) that the findings above establish the special circumstances under which the GPCA should make endorsements in the statewide races in the June 2018 Top Two primary election, and

Whereas there are no existing party rules governing specifically how and which candidates shall be placed before the Standing General Assembly for endorsement; and

Whereas in the case of the party's presidential preference primary ballot - which is not a Top Two primary - under GPCA Rules and Procedures 1-5 (http://www.cagreens.org/rules#Section_1-5_Decision-Making), the GPCA's GPUS Delegation and the GPCAs Campaigns and Candidates Working Group (CCWG) may make recommendations to the GPCA General Assembly for approval by the General Assembly for recommendation to the California Secretary for State for inclusion on the GPCA's presidential primary ballot up to ten days before the General Assembly; and

Whereas the CCWG on January 28th approved a proposal that the endorsement process state that "all Green candidates who have officially qualified to be candidates on the CA primary ballot by the time of the SGA vote be on the SGA ballot for endorsement"; and

Therefore, the Coordinating Committee finds that it is appropriate for both the Coordinating Committee and the Campaigns and Candidates Working Group to have the authority to recommend consideration of endorsement by the Standing General Assembly for all Green Party candidates who have officially qualified to be on the June 2018 Primary ballot for any/all 2018 statewide offices; and

Whereas an upcoming Standing General Assembly is scheduled to begin its discussion period on Monday February 12 running through Sunday, March 25, with the voting to begin Monday, March 26 and run through Sunday, April 1; and

Whereas the viable candidates for statewide office (those who officially qualify to appear on the Primary ballot) will be determined after the discussion period begins;

Therefore the endorsement process 6 week SGA discussion period will be timed to the upcoming Standing General Assembly beginning on Monday February 12 and running through Sunday, March 25, and during the discussion period the eligible candidates will be narrowed down from all declared candidates to only those Green Party candidates who will have officially qualified to be on the June Primary ballot by the time of the SGA voting to begin Monday, March 26 and run through Sunday, April 1.

Resources
None

References
GPCA Bylaws 7-4 Endorsements http://www.cagreens.org/bylaws/2016-07-03#Section_7-4_Endorsements

Full details will be available at: http://www.sjcgreens.org/sga_vote_bylaw_interpretations

Please send your discussion comments to gpcavotes@sfgreens.org

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gpcavotes mailing list
gpcavotes@sfgreens.org
<https://list.sfgreens.org/cgi-bin/mailman/listinfo/gpcavotes>

