



FORWARD2004!

GREEN NATIONAL CONVENTION

GPUS PLATFORM

GREEN PLATFORM - 2004

Dear Delegate to the GPUS national Coordinating Committee:

Along with the Presidential nomination process, the national convention will vote to adopt the 2004 Platform on Saturday, June 26. The national convention delegation is the body charged with approving final adoption of the Green Platform.

Convention delegates will be asked to participate in any final decision-making that needs to take place. As a member of the national GPUS Coordinating Committee, your input and assistance is valuable in helping to make convention delegates and your state membership aware of the Platform and the development process, as we move toward finalization of the 2004 Platform.

The following includes information and instructions provided to all national convention delegates. The Platform Committee asks that each state have someone to represent them at the Platform Hearings on Friday, June 25; and, of course, members of the GPUS – CC and observers are welcome.

Please read over the information provided here, read over the Green Platform FAQ, check out the 2004 Draft Platform, and help ensure that your state will have one or more members attending Platform Hearings (more about this below), if hearings are needed.

Most importantly - please show up promptly at 9:00 a.m. the morning of the convention, and help us take the final steps to adopt the 2004 Green Platform!

If you have any questions - feel free to e-mail or call one of us:

GPUS Platform Committee co-chairs:

Holly Hart - hhart@blue.weeg.uiowa.edu; 319-337-7341

Tom Fusco - tfusco@gwi.net

GPUS Platform Committee Secretary:

Budd Dickinson – budd.dickinson@greens.org

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The 2000 Green Platform can be found at <http://gwww.gp.org/platform>

The 2004 Draft Platform can be found at : <http://greens.org/platforms/us/>

There are .doc and .pdf files for each section. If you use Safari (and perhaps other browsers), you may find this site is not accessible. In that case, the files are backed up and accessible to any browser at : <http://greens.org/~hcart>.

These addresses can and should be forwarded to your general membership. However, we ask that you not send them outside the Green Party. Although fairly close to complete, this is still a draft and not an official document. We would like to avoid having this mistaken for the official platform until it really is official; and we would like to avoid this falling into the hands of those who might wish to use it to cause trouble (hostile media, etc.).

At this time, the Platform Committee continues with final editing of the document. It's expected that a few errors may be discovered, or items mistakenly omitted. The Platform Committee may get feedback on some issues, and will make slight revisions accordingly. Files on the website will be regularly updated, as needed, but no major changes are anticipated.

BASIC INFORMATION

If you are familiar with the Green platform, you will notice that the 2004 Platform is longer than the 2000 version. While we may cut or transpose some portions, the length is due to the fact that there are several new planks, and several planks that have been expanded. A few include: Foreign Policy, Agriculture, Energy, Women, Immigration, Media Reform, Health, Verifiable Votes, Oceans, Space, Housing, Sustainable Cities and Land Use, and Economics. Introductory material has been updated. We hope to include cross-references, along with an Index, in the 2004 Platform.

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Many of those reading this will know that this work has been in progress for the past 1 ½ - 2 years. At this time, all material has gone through at least two rounds of “vetting,” and is now being posted for final review. Most interesting has been the fact that the Platform Committee received submissions from several states on the same topics (indicating similar concerns shared by Greens across the country); as well, the feedback we've received on those submissions was not voluminous, but it was consistent.

Recent feedback we've gotten from what should be our harshest critics indicates that it's safe to say about 98% of the material will be non-controversial (for Greens). Any remaining questionable items involve material that received some support but for which there may not be agreement in some details.

It is possible these details can be worked out before the convention. If not, the place to be to resolve outstanding questions will be at the PLATFORM HEARINGS on Friday afternoon, June 25, at the Hyatt Regency Hotel, 1:30-5pm.

More about what these will involve, who should be there and how to participate is included in the Platform FAQ, below.

Holly Hart, Co-chair, GPUS Platform Committee
Tom Fusco, Co-chair, GPUS Platform Committee
Budd Dickinson, Secretary, GPUS Platform Committee





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GREEN PLATFORM FAQ

Q. What is the GPUS Platform?

A. Not a silly question: the GPUS Platform is a document that presents to Greens and the general public the policies and views that most Greens reasonably agree on. It is the basis on which a Green presidential campaign is run. In 1996, Ralph Nader was convinced to accept the Green Party's invitation to run for president on the basis of the Green Platform.

Q. What's in it? What's new?

A. The 2004 Platform has expanded and updated topics covered in earlier versions. New planks and material have been added in the areas of Foreign Policy, Labor, Women, Immigration, Water Quality and Rights, Agriculture, Ocean Protection, Housing, Job Creation, Health, Youth, Militarization of Space, Technology, Energy - and more.

Q. How is it developed?

A. Two years before the presidential election cycle, the national Coordinating Committee of the GPUS adopts a process and timeline for new submissions, feedback and editing, prepared by the Platform Committee based on the CC's instructions.

During the past 1 ½ years, interested Greens have written and submitted material to the Platform Committee for inclusion in the 2004 Draft Platform.

Q. Can just anyone send in material?

A. Yes, but any material submitted to the Platform Committee must have been approved by at least one state Green Party or accredited caucus, and is asked to be sent through a template specifying the part of the Platform to be addressed, whether the material is entirely new, etc.

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The Platform Committee accepts all such material, provided it has been submitted upon state/accredited caucus approval; is not a duplicate of material already in the Platform; is not seriously at odds with generally accepted Green policy already in the Platform.

Hundreds of Greens have participated to some degree in the development of the 2004 Platform, and the committee received nearly a hundred submissions (some large, some very brief).

Q. What happens next?

A. The deadline for the first round of submissions was April 30, 2003. The

Platform Committee compiled a document which included the new material side-by-side with current Platform material and posted it on a website for Greens to view. December 31, 2003, was the deadline for submissions of new material.

During both "submissions cycles," the Platform Committee reviewed the submissions and began work on the 2004 Draft Platform. Importantly, the committee received feedback from member states, telling us what they approved and what they didn't like.

Q. How does the Platform Committee decide what to include? Do you choose? Do you vote on what to include?

A. The Platform Committee accepts all material as described above. One the submissions were posted on the website, state parties were asked to have their members review and rate them based on whether they found the material acceptable; mostly acceptable but in need of some revision; not acceptable, except through a major revision; or, not acceptable at all.

Of interest is the fact that the Platform Committee received nothing really outrageously unacceptable in terms of policy. There were some items that may be overly-specific for use in a document like this, and the committee has solicited further feedback on whether





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to include this material; in some cases, we have provided alternate language.

Also of interest is the fact that the Platform Committee received submissions on some of the same topics from more than one state, and feedback was, overall, very consistent. This seemed to us a good sign that the material and feedback really reflected views and concerns shared by Greens throughout the country.

The Platform Committee relies on Greens throughout the country to provide and approve material, and to let us know what to include. Of course, committee members can write and submit material, but they must go through the same process as anyone else. The committee does make decisions based on feedback, involving slight revisions, alternate language, etc. In some cases, the submitters sent their material to several states first, then re-wrote it based on the feedback they received.

Q. My state/caucus submitted something, but I don't see it. What happened?

A. See above - we received material addressing some of the same issues from more than one state. In such cases, it was the job of the Platform Committee to incorporate the material (and in most cases material from the 2000 Platform) into a new plank. Committee members aimed at achieving a relatively (although not uniformly) consistent style, and at times simply chose one plank over another based on style or language. Editors did make use of material from nearly all submissions.

Q. What happens now with material where questions have been raised?

A. THIS IS IMPORTANT! Based on the response we've received, nearly all of the material is meeting with general approval, especially on major issues. There are a few more minor items where questions have been raised as to whether they would be appropriate for a document such as this. On these issues, the Platform Committee has some recommendations, but we want to hear back from members' states/accredited caucuses. It is especially important for national





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convention delegates to be aware of any outstanding issues that need to be resolved, to solicit feedback from your membership, and get back to us. At this time, all material has gone through one or two rounds of vetting. However, if there are concerns and questions raised about any area, the Platform Committee needs to hear about it.

You can contact the Platform Committee by writing to the committee co-chairs and/or secretary:

Holly Hart hhart@blue.weeg.uiowa.edu

Tom Fusco tfusco@gwi.net

Budd Dickinson budd.dickinson@greens.org

Platform Committee members will also try to contact all national convention delegates to review the Platform approval process and encourage attendance at the Platform Hearings.

As feedback comes in, the Platform Committee may make revisions, and updated material will be posted to the website. It is possible that all outstanding issues may be resolved by the time of the convention. If not, there is time reserved for final discussion, debate and decisions at the convention. (See below, Platform Hearings)

Q. What website?

A. The 2004 Draft Platform is available for you to read at this address:

<http://greens.org/platforms/us/>

There is a .doc and .pdf file for each section. Some browsers (notably Safari) may not be able to access this address. In that case, all the material is backed up here, and should be accessible:

<http://greens.org/~hhart>

To save paper and expense, we are not sending out draft copies to each delegate, although we will provide hard copies at the convention. If you have no way to access this material from the internet, we will send you a hard copy. To request a hard copy of the 2004 Draft Platform, e-mail hhart@blue.weeg.uiowa.edu, or call 319-337-7341.

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Q. Ok, we want this thing official so we can get copies and start using it for tabling. Let's get the show on the road. How do we finally adopt this?

A. Two steps. If all outstanding issues are resolved before the convention, we can skip the first step and move on to the second.

1) PLATFORM HEARINGS will be held on Friday, June 25, from 1:30 to 5:00 p.m. at the Hyatt-Regency Hotel. The purpose of the hearings will be mainly to resolve any remaining issues, and to answer any questions about the material. The Platform Hearings will be open to all Greens. Convention delegates are especially encouraged to attend. Not everyone in everyone your delegation may be able to attend, but each state should make sure to have one or more representatives at this event.

a. Before the convention, the Platform Committee **must** make known those issues that will come up for discussion at the convention. This information will be posted to the national Coordinating Committee listserv, and we ask your delegates to pass this along to convention delegates; committee members will try to contact all delegates, as well.

b. We will find someone to present each of the various viewpoints on an issue (pro,con, alternative language). There will be a sign-up sheet for others who would like to address the issue. Specific time will be set for each item to be discussed, and for each speaker. There will be time included for Q & A, possibly more open discussion.

c. We will move to a decision/vote on recommendation for each item.

2) At the CONVENTION, Saturday, June 26, promptly at 9:00 a.m.:

The Platform Committee will present a brief report and any recommendations coming out of the previous day's Platform





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Hearings. If desired, we can ask for a vote on each item discussed at the hearings.

The final step is then an up-or-down vote to approve the 2004 Platform. By this time, all material has been through two or more rounds of vetting and received the general approval of GPUS state parties/accredited caucuses and general Green membership, and outstanding issues shall have been raised and resolved. The final vote will lead to the adoption of the 2004 Green Platform - ready to go to the printer, up on the website and out on your tables!

See you in Milwaukee!

Holly Hart, Tom Fusco, Budd Dickinson
and Members of the GPUS Platform Committee

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