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GREEN NATIONAL CONVENTION

Platform Committee Report

PLATFORM COMMITTEE REPORT
GREEN PARTY OF THE UNITED STATES PLATFORM COMMITTEE REPORT

TO: GREEN PARTY OF The U.S. NATIONAL COORDINATING COMMITTEE

FROM: REPORT from the GPUS PLATFORM COMMITTEE, June 2004
June 14, 2004

The recent posting of the 2004 Draft Platform and information and instructions currently being distributed to all national convention delegates, represents the near-culmination of nearly two years of work updating, expanding and revising the Green Platform.

The Green Platform is a consensus document that represents to Greens and the general public the policy on which most Greens reasonably agree, and provides the basis for a Green presidential campaign.

The task of the Platform Committee is to develop, implement and facilitate a process for Platform development and revision that is accessible to all interested Greens, importantly, encourages as many Greens as possible to take responsibility for input and feedback. We have tried to encourage and impress on all that it is the responsibility of all Greens to take part in the platform process.

Most useful information about the Green Platform and the process by which it is developed is included in the convention delegate packet (provided with this report). Additionally, we would like to review a few more details for the national Coordinating Committee.

In September 2002, the GPUS CC approved, by an overwhelming majority, the Platform development timeline and process (which is still posted on the Platform Committee's web page: <http://www.gp.org/platform>). In accordance with this timeline and process, a call was put out soon afterwards for interested Greens to review the 2000 Green Platform and begin





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sending in suggested revisions, new materials and amendments. The Platform Committee adopted a template through which we requested material be sent: this helped the committee to know where material was intended to be placed and how it was to be used; it also enabled those interested in submitting a material to focus on clarity and accuracy.

The committee also experimented with several electronic communications programs and tools. One was password-protected online submissions template. Another was an online php bulletin board, intended for committee work. There was also an open forum, which did gain many participants. It was removed a few months ago, at the recommendation of our website manager, due to concerns about infiltrators and troublemakers as we near a tense election season. Platform Committee members did not make much use of the bulletin board, preferring instead to use the more familiar listserv. The online submissions template proved confusing and was used two or three times. While the online version wasn't particularly helpful, most of those sending submissions did use the requested template, and is clearly something that we recommend using again in the future.

The Platform Committee had adopted a 2-cycle submissions process, stipulating 2 submissions deadlines and a clear cut-off date past which no new material could be accepted. The announcement (reminder) on the COO listserv of the first deadline at the end of April 2002, two days after it had passed, brought forth a flurry of renewed interest (with several extensions granted for work in progress). From the material submitted up through this time, the Platform Committee compiled a "comparison draft," in which new material was placed side-by-side with the original Platform text and posted on the internet.

The final deadline for new material was December 31, 2003. Leading up to this, the Platform Committee and interested Greens around the country helped review the Platform and submissions and determine any "holes" – places where new





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material was needed, or revisions or updates should be made. In some states, Greens volunteered to undertake drafting needed language, which we had other states review and (mostly!) approve. Submissions were also drafted by a few groups of Greens who shared a particular interest: the 4-state Ag Conference; Secular Greens; the International Committee, and the Lavender and Women's Caucuses. Their work was circulated through one or more state parties (per the approved process), and received the necessary approval to be sent to the Platform Committee.

After the final deadline, the submissions were posted on the internet, and the Platform Committee has continued to receive feedback while compiling the 2004 Draft Platform. All material submitted to the Platform Committee had to be included in the draft, unless it was sent without the approval of a state or accredited caucus; duplicated material already in the Platform; or, was obviously antithetical to Green Platform policy (there was only one such submission, involving the increased criminalization of marijuana, including abolishing medicinal use altogether – that one got sent back).

The 2004 Draft platform is now available on the internet at <http://greens.org/platforms/us>

The Platform committee is continuing to take feedback. Some editing continues: correcting grammar and spelling, cleaning up some language; inserting inadvertent omissions; and small revisions based on the latest feedback. While we cannot take any new material at this time, we believe that we covered all necessary ground for 2004. We are also planning to include some cross references and an index. You will notice that the 2004 Platform is a larger document: we have added new planks and expanded material in several areas, including Foreign Policy, Labor, Women, Lavender Issues, Health, Energy, Agriculture, Ocean Protection, Youth, Green Economics, Verifiable Voting Equipment, Technology, Privatization, Media, Criminal Justice, Veterans' Rights, Space and more. Additionally,





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feedback indicates that major policy is receiving overall support from Greens throughout the country.

The 2004 platform process had to accommodate both those who wanted very short, concise blocks of material and those who wanted a document bordering on a series of research papers. Because we received some good material which was simply too much to include in this type of document, the Platform Committee would like to post these submissions on our website for further reference by those interested.

We encourage further feedback. If any outstanding issues remain that we cannot resolve before the convention, we will send out a notice of any items for which discussion is still needed. Platform Hearings are scheduled for Friday, June 25, 1:30-5:00 p.m. at the Hyatt Regency Hotel (check convention schedule for exact location). See the Platform FAQ, included in the delegate packets which you are also receiving, for the process by which we will resolve any final issues. The FAQ also includes the final adoption process which will take place at the national convention the morning of Saturday, June 26th.

Thanks to the GPUS-CC, SC, members of the Platform Committee and Greens throughout the country for participating and helping the process work, and helping to make the Green Platform still the best Platform in the U.S.!

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

Special Thanks Are Due To:
The states of California, Nevada, Oregon, Iowa, Washington, D.C., Wisconsin, Minnesota, Rhode Island, Virginia, Maine, New Jersey, New York, Hawaii, Pennsylvania, Missouri, Kansas and Florida (doubtless some are being left out) for reviewing and submitting new or updated material.





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Ohio (should win a prize for the nicest feedback report), Missouri, Iowa, Virginia, Rhode Island (among others) for offering helping feedback.

The 4-State Ag Conference – the first group to begin work on the 2004 Platform (comprising Greens from Missouri, Kansas, Iowa and Nebraska), and Dee Berry who convened the group and facilitated work done there.

The GPUS International Committee including Tony Affigne and Justine McCabe, for work on U.S. economic policy toward Cuba and Middle East peace process.

Mike Ewall for research and work on energy and various areas, for help with editing., and advice on tech support.

Milo Vanucci, Claire Mortimer and Cameron Spitzer for material on various areas.

Brian Czeck for help on economics; more Green economists for material and advice (and a workshop coming up at the convention).

The GP of Texas website and anonymous writer who plagiarized important needed material.

Morgen D'Arc who provide material for a Women's plank; and the GPUS National Women's Caucus, which oversaw strengthened language in support of the ERA.

GPUS Lavender Caucus, which provided important new material on civil rights and health care issues.

Secular Greens, who took the trouble to get feedback from several states and revise their material based on that feedback – exactly how we hoped the process would work!





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Marc Reichardt, who took on the task of editing the “comp-draft” for needed corrections and style.

Jenefer Ellingston, in conjunction with the DC Statehood Greens and International Committee for work on foreign policy, labor and other areas, and help with editing.

Budd Dickinson, for work on a number of areas and major work on editing.

Tom Fusco, for calling and pestering people to look at the darn thing.

Jeff Strang and Cara Campbell for editing help.

Cameron Spitzer for providing the Platform Committee listserv and webspace for posting the 2004 platform submissions and Draft platform.

Susan Dridi for crucial important and timely help which enabled us to get the material on the website.

Steven Schmidt, former Platform Committee co-chair and major force behind the 1996 and 200 Platforms, who provided guidance and advice.

