

GPUS Platform 2008 Timeline/Process

I. Basic Timeline

Approval by National Committee in summer or fall of 2006

First deadline for submissions: April 1, 2007

First draft by May 31, 2007 (comparison draft, also let's assume a document which incorporated new text; may be rough, but will give an idea...)

Second deadline for submissions: December 31, 2007

Second draft by January 30, 2008 (may still be rough, but less so than the first draft; will incorporate the rest of the new text)

Final/near-final draft - ca. 2 months before convention.* NOTE: 2 mos. prior to the convention is something to aim for; depending on the exact date, we may get cut a week or two, if the convention is early. If the convention is *very* early, we will need to go back and revisit this.

*ca. should = within a week of the convention date

1 - National Committee approves the timeline/process this summer or early fall of 2006. Platcom can already be looking over current document and looking where to weed out extraneous stuff, recommend areas for updates, possible new areas, etc.

2 - First deadline, April Fool's Day (why not): 4/1/2007. Throughout late 2006 and early 2007, intensive outreach will be done to make sure that all states and caucuses have informed their membership of the opportunity to submit platform amendments. A template for online/email submissions will be distributed to state Green parties and accredited caucuses. A postal mail box will also be made available for hard copy submissions.

The Platform Committee will track and organize submissions. They will also 'recycle' submissions back to state parties/accredited caucuses: 1) that come directly from individual Green party members back to their state parties to encourage further discussion and debate; 2) for clarification, if needed.

Submissions which don't conform to submission guidelines would be returned with an explanation of the needed changes. To help ensure that all state Green parties are made aware of the platform and members enabled to participate, we will ask each state that does not have a member on the platform committee to designate a member to act as a platform contact.

3 - First draft by 5/31/2007. Submissions will be accepted until 5/25/2007. Submissions, possible comparison draft, {and/or} early draft will be posted on the web.

Reminders will go out periodically to all members urging them to read the

draft and send in feed back. Qualitative and quantitative feedback will be actively sought from all states/caucuses. Opportunity to submit feedback via web should be available. Feedback will be posted on the website.

4 - Second deadline: 12/31/2007. Second draft by 1/30/2008. Based on feedback from first round of proposals, the committee will create a second draft and facilitate work with material for which further work is needed. To assist in assessing the level of support for platform submissions, the committee will ask each affiliated state party and accredited caucus to obtain feedback from their membership and use a simple rating system to indicate the type of support, along with comments, concerns and suggestions. Non-responses will not be counted when evaluating support or opposition to a proposed amendment. Feedback from a state/caucus that is qualitative, but lacking quantitative ratings will be interpreted by the Platform Committee when evaluating quantitative support for an amendment.
**SEE RATING FORMULA, BELOW.

5 - Final draft by two months prior to 2008 convention. There should only be a few, if any, unresolved issues at this point. Unresolved amendments will be circulated back to states/caucuses at least two months prior to the convention for last-minute feedback, informing them that they could be voting on these at the final platform hearings, to be scheduled as close as possible to the day preceding the presidential nominating convention. Any items and language that remain to be determined at the final hearings, if such are needed, will be made available to all convention delegates as part of the convention packets (as well as available online).

6 - Copies of the nearly final platform (with an addendum listing unresolved issues) would be made before the convention and would be available at the convention. Platform hearings would be held to refine the unresolved issues in an effort to make them acceptable to Greens at large. Platform hearings would be open to all, but only those chosen specifically to represent their state or caucus on the matter of these unresolved amendments would be entitled to vote, {if such is needed; however, consensus is the goal, so material not gaining obvious overall support will not be included}. States/caucuses can caucus at the convention and choose who will represent them in these hearings (it's up to the state/caucus chair or co-chairs to inform the PlatCom about who was chosen to represent them).

States/caucuses can choose more than one representative, but votes will be counted in such a way that each state/caucus will be represented proportionally, with voting weight equal to the number of voting delegates they're entitled to have at the convention. No single person may carry more than three votes. If consensus cannot be reached in the hearings, the voting representatives shall vote on proposed amendments. Those amendments pass only if they obtain the support of 90% or more of the weighted vote of the representatives in attendance.

7 - Final copies of any amendments approved on the floor of the convention will be printed and made available, as a final addendum to the printed "near final" draft that the delegates will already have. This will prevent a frantic, last-minute printing adventure. Nice and pretty final copies can be done up after the convention.

**RATING FORMULA

A rating of 1 = 3 points

A rating of 2 = 2

A rating of 3 = 1

A rating of 4 = 0, and

A rating of 5 = -1

1 - Approval. Material meets with general approval of membership, a strong majority or consensus.

2 - Approval, with minor revisions. Overall approval, but minor revisions such as corrected or updated information may be needed, or minor revisions to meet concerns are suggested.

3 - General support, but with more substantial concerns to be addressed (this could involve more substantial working out of material, possibly referring content to those with particular expertise or background)

4 - General lack of support. This might be more acceptable if (...), but overall, members find it unnecessary/unacceptable/doesn't really fit. (Unlikely that material garnering this type of rating will make it into the 2004 platform, but worth looking into.)

5 - Reject. Members do not support inclusion in the Green Platform