Provision of Resources to Presidential Candidates
Report of the Working Group on Candidate Assistance
Approved by Steering Committee on March 11th, 2020

1. Introduction

The following procedures for the provision of Green Party (GPUS) resources to candidates for the Green Party presidential nomination is hereby adopted by the GPUS Steering Committee. All persons and committees that manage GPUS resources are hereby instructed to comply with the provisions below to the best of their ability.

2. Basic Principles

These principles govern the provision of resources under the control of the Green Party of the United States, to candidates running for the party's presidential nomination.

2.1 The term "resources" includes the Party's website, communication tools, databases, meetings, conventions, staff time, funds, and other items paid for and managed by the Green Party. It does not include resources that are managed by state green parties, campaign committees, or independent political entities such as political action committees and nonprofit organizations.

2.2 In all its relations with political campaigns, it is the responsibility of those acting on behalf of the Green Party to understand and abide by campaign finance laws and reporting requirements at both the federal or state level.

2.3 In dealing with candidates, several candidate categories will be defined. See Section 4, for a full description of those categories.

2.4 In the provision of resources to candidates, all candidates in a given category shall have equal rights to apply for and receive the resources allocated to that category. This may not result in an equal quantity of resources being received by each candidate for various reasons such as different levels of activity exhibited by different campaigns and the limitations on quantities of resources or staff/volunteer workload available to deliver resources. Equal access is the goal, when feasible.

2.5 This document is intended to comply with Green Party policies with regard to privacy and information sharing for information about donors and members (see Reference 1). Obviously, donors and members must expect their contact information to be used for party purposes. And it is important to the party that its contact databases be available to promote party objectives. However, limitations on the release of data must be observed.

3. Policy Considerations

3.1 Ease of Entry. The Green Party wants to make it easier for capable candidates who are able to make an important contribution to the Party to jump into the race to become known, and win support. So procedures should be designed to remove barriers to initiating a campaign.

3.2 Identifying the more successful candidates. The Green Party wants to focus the attention of voters on the more capable and prepared candidates who are demonstrating an ability to win the support of Green Party voters. The candidates should also be able to demonstrate the ability to run successful campaigns in 40 or more states. Candidates who fail to generate enthusiasm and support will naturally fall by the wayside and it is not the responsibility of the Green Party to keep their campaigns going.

3.3 Protection of Green Party databases. In every election year, it is likely that some of the declared presidential candidates will not be suitable spokespersons for the Green Party and may even be hostile to the Party. In the past, some candidates have declared their intention to sweep away the existing Green Party and replace it with a new organization organized according to their own new principles and operating under their leadership. Some candidates have said that they do not want to be a "spoiler" and that if the national race is close they will withdraw from the race in favor of the Democratic Party nominee. After failing to succeed in early campaigning, some candidates drop out of the Green Party and seek support from other parties or else run as independents against the Green Party nominee. For these reasons, the Green Party should not surrender control of its member and donor databases to any candidate prior to the Presidential Nominating Convention (PNC). Assistance given to candidates prior to the PNC should come through candidate information being mailed to contacts by GPUS personnel rather than the transfer of databases to candidates. This approach will protect our databases and will let us ensure that our members and donors are not subject to hostile mailings or spam.

Databases are things of value. If an individual can gain access to a valuable database in exchange for declaring themselves to be a presidential candidate and spending a couple of hours filling out Presidential Campaign Committee (PCSC) forms, then some individuals are likely to declare their candidacy merely to get access to the databases, which they will then employ in support of their own agenda. Easy giveaway of databases could lead to a profusion of candidates that are not seriously contending for the GPUS presidential nomination.

3.4 Post nomination. Once a candidate is nominated by the PNC, they are presumed to have the confidence of the Green Party and to be working for the best interests of the Party. A successful presidential campaign generates thousands of new contacts and new donors which are then shared with the party. At this point, the candidate and the Party should be working closely together to their mutual benefit.

4. Candidate Status

4.1 Candidate Categories. The PCSC is asked to maintain lists of candidates, in which each candidate is classified into one or more categories as specified below.

Table 4.1 Categories of Candidates

Category	Requirement
1. Known	The PCSC has received evidence that the candidate has self-declared as a possible candidate for the nomination or a candidate is being proposed without a clear declaration by the candidate (e.g. there is an active draft movement). In many cases in this category the information about a candidate will be incomplete or ambiguous, and the PCSC may not have been able to establish a line of communication with the candidate.
2. Active	Candidates that are actively pursuing the nomination, by proof of participating in the basic mechanisms to become Official Recognized (see below) with the Green Party. Placement in this category will require a minimum of a meeting the Party Affiliation requirement (10-1.2 of GPUS Rules and Procedures), returned a Letter of Interest, and filed as a candidate with the FEC.
3. Officially Recognized	Candidates that have been certified by the PCSC as meeting the Official Recognition requirements in Article 10 of the GPUS Rules and Procedures.
4. Nominated	Candidate has been certified as nominee of the Green Party by the Presidential Nominating Convention.

4.2 Candidate Removal. The GPUS Presidential Candidates, present an image of the Green Party's values to the public. In this light, it is important for candidates to conduct themselves in a way that represents the party in a way that is in keeping with our Key Values and our Platform. At any point in time during the nomination process, any candidate may be removed from our public listings (i.e. lose active or officially recognized status), per the standard policies and procedures of the PCSC, with a 2/3 vote of the committee. Grounds for removal include:
- refusing to provide information needed to pursue Official Recognition;
- determination that the candidate is no longer seeking the nomination;
- finding of significant fraud or misrepresentation and refusing to correct misinformation;
- engaging in criminal behavior (except in cases of civil disobedience) or harassment (including harassment of GP Staff and/or GP Members);
- exhibiting signs of mental instability (e.g. talking about suicide, engaging in stalking, etc);
- disparaging the image of the Green Party and/or GP Members.

5. Resources Available to Candidates

Table 5.1 indicates which GPUS resources shall be made available to candidates in each category. In the case of a resource that is not listed in this table, managers should be guided by the listed resource that most closely resembles the resource in question. Delivery of resources is not guaranteed since it depends on the resources available and the workload that can be imposed on staff and volunteers.

Table 5.1. Allocation of Resources to Each Candidate Category

No.	Resource or Support Action	Manager	1 Known	2 Active	3 Officially Recognized	4 Nominee
1	Appear in a listing of candidates to track progress towards official recognition. This listing will include a link to the candidate's website and the candidate's response to the presidential questionnaire.	PCSC		X	X	X
2	Subscribed to PCSC's presidential candidate listserv.	PCSC		X	X	X
3	Receive contact information for persons submitting a signature of support for the candidate on the PCSC signature form.	PCSC		X	X	X
4	Featured listing on a GP.ORG and/or GPUS.ORG Candidates Webpage.	GP Staff, PCSC			X	X
5	Permitted to post items on GP.ORG Presidential Campaign Blog (subject to posting frequency limit and suitability of content).	GP Staff			X	X
6	Access to nationally sponsored forums/debates.	MEDIA COM ANM COM			X	X
7	GPUS media contacts list shared with candidates.	MEDIA COM			X	X
8	Provided media outreach assistance by Media Committee	MEDIA COM				X
9	One or two campaign email appeals distributed to GPUS members, volunteers, and donors (with frequency, length and standards for content specified by GPUS.)	GP Staff, FUND COM				X
10	Periodic posting on GPUS Facebook pages (with frequency, length and standards for content specified by GPUS.)	MEDIA COM				X
11	Twitter posting sent to followers of GPUS tweets.	MEDIA COM				X
12	Receive copy of GPUS contact list (subject to release approval from Steering Committee)	SC				X
13	Receive copy of GPUS donor list (subject to release approval from Steering Committee)	SC				X
14	Receive monetary donation or in-kind donation to campaign committee from Green Party funds (with amounts subject to approval of Steering Committee)	SC				X

References

[1] GPUS Fiscal Policy: Section 7-3, Donors Bill of Rights