

Georgia Green Party Nominating Convention Brunswick Georgia - June 3rd, 2000 Minutes

After some trouble gaining entry into the venue, the owner of Eddie's Restaurant at the Day's Inn on Gloucester Street in Brunswick arrived at about 1:00 pm and we convened for business at 1:30 pm.

Peter Wright made a Credentials Report recommending that the following delegates be seated at the Convention: Deborah Mayrhofer of Bibb County, Lisa Hoferkamp and William Jackson of Clarke County, Erin James of Fayette County, Dana Roberts and Patrick Fulton of Glynn County, Peter Wright and Christopher Ott of Grady County, Rovene Askren and Russ Howard of Lamar County, Debbie McAdoo-Goodman of Stephens County and Hugh Esco and Kerrie Dickson of Towns County. In addition there were three observers from Glynn County: Zack Lyde, Robert Randall and Diane Reid. On Peter's motion, and without objection, the Credentials Report was accepted to seat 12 delegates from 7 counties.

On the motion of Dana Roberts, the rules were suspended without objection to seat the three observers as delegates.

On Zack's motion, Hugh Esco was nominated as facilitator and Kerrie Dickson as the Clerk of the Convention. Hearing no further nominations and without objection, this slate of servants to the Convention was affirmed by the body.

Esco presented the agenda, as recommended by the Coordinating Council. Without objection and with the one addition of an "open time for new business" after item #10, the Council's recommended agenda was adopted to govern the business of the Convention.

Dana Roberts gave a first reading of the titles of the new proposed Platform Amendments. They included: Criminal Justice: Addressing Law Enforcement Corruption; Environmental Justice: Reduce, Reuse, Recycle and Compost; Environmental Justice: Water Resources; EJ: Water Resources, amendment; Foreign Policy: War on Drugs; Foreign Policy: Abolish the CIA, End Covert Operations; Global Population: New Plank; Taxes: Capital Gains Taxes, Veterans.

We next considered motions to open or close districts for Green Party nominations. On the motion of Rovene Askren, and without objection, we opened House District #104. On Zack Lyde's motion, and without objection we affirmed our desire to open Commission District #5 in Glynn County and we also opened School Board District #5 in Glynn County for Green Party nominations.

Next the floor was open to nominations for all open seats. For the Glynn County Commission District seat, on Zack Lyde's motion, and without objection the Convention nominated James Bethea. For the Glynn County School Board District seat, on Zack Lyde's motion, and without objection the Convention nominated Gladys Lyde. For the

House District #104 seat, on Rovene Askren's motion, and without objection the Convention nominated Lyn Lawhon.

For the Coordinating Council, there were four seats for two year terms open and five seats for one year terms which were open for nominations. Without objection, the following individuals were nominated to the state Coordinating Council: Erin James, Lisa Hoferkamp, Kris Ott, Rovene Askren, William Jackson, Russ Howard, Patrick Fulton, Dana Roberts and Lyn Lawhon.

We next heard nomination to fill vacancies on the Delegation to the Denver Presidential Nominating Convention scheduled for June 23rd through 25th. Patrick Fulton and Russ Howard were both nominated without objection.

A ballot was prepared and distributed to each credentialled delegate to be cast in secret and returned for counting.

We next took up consideration of the proposed amendments to the state Platform.

CJ#1 Criminal Justice - Addressing Law Enforcement Corruption

Kerrie Dickson (Towns County) offers the following Platform amendment

To amend the Platform - 1999 adopted by the Georgia Green Party's 1999 Americus Convention on April 17th, 1999, as ratified by the Coordinating Council on June 29th, 1999, and amended at the March 18th, 2000 Americus Nominating Convention - 2000, by striking paragraph 3. of the Criminal Justice Plank and inserting in its place, a new paragraph to read:

3. Declare Peace in the War on Drugs

Police officers do and sell drugs from confiscation rooms. The DEA and CIA make millions on drug laundering, sales and use. Corruption exists in all levels of drug enforcement. The Drug War is a waste of money and a bad joke. In the interest of ending coppuption in law enforcement, saving tax dollars and maintaining non-violent offenders as contributing members of our communities, we urge that the state offer treatment for addictions instead of a war on drugs. Replace a criminal justice response to substance abuse with treatment and addiction counseling. Focus on shifting resources away from the prosecution of victimless crimes. We advocate that simple misdemeanor possession of marijauna be dealt with with minimal fines and that we stop incarcerating our citizens for this offense or using this, unsupported by other evidence, as a basis for a finding of deprivation. We advocate the repeal of all mandatory minimum sentences for simple drug possession. We will correct the sentencing disparities between crack and powder cocaine that have resulted in the disproportionate incarceration of African-Americans in Georgia and across the country.

On Lisa hoferkamp's motion and without objection we corrected the spelling of "coppuption", replacing it with "corruption" and struck "bad joke", replacing it with "counterproductive policy". On Zack Lyde's motion, a second from Rovene Askren and without objection, the proposed platform amendment was adopted as amended.

EJ#1 Environmental Justice - Reduce, Reuse, Recycle and Compost

Hugh Esco (Towns County) offers the following Platform amendment

To amend the Platform - 1999 adopted by the Georgia Green Party's 1999 Americus Convention on April 17 th , 1999, as ratified by the Coordinating Council on June 29 th , 1999, and amended at the March 18th, 2000 Americus Nominating Convention - 2000, by striking paragraph 3. of the Environmental Justice Plank and inserting in its place, a new paragraph to read:

3. Prevent Pollution

Shift environmental policy from pollution control (which hasn't worked to protect human health nor conserve non-renewable resources) to pollution prevention - - not producing toxics in the first place. We support the establishment of a Zero-Waste Goal for the State of Georgia. We advocate a comprehensive program of education and other measures aimed at industrial, institutional, office, household and consumers generators of waste to reduce both the toxicity and the quantity of waste they produce. We urge container deposit legislation and other economic incentives and disincentives to promote the re-use of both products and materials. We urge the creation of household, community, municipal and agricultural composting programs to divert from disposal clean organics from household kitchens and yards, from institutional kitchens and from agricultural generators to both reduce the load on waste disposal systems and to build soil. We call for segregating industrial discharges from municipal sewage systems in order to protect the usefulness of these wastes for composting and non-food agricultural uses. We support bans of compostable materials from disposal facilities. We urge the development and public funding of programs for segregating and gathering used materials for recycling. We support an ongoing survey of the waste stream destined for disposal to determine the potential for additional waste and toxic reduction, products re-use, organic composting and materials recycling.

On Lisa hoferkamp's motion and without objection we struck "nor conserve", replacing it with "or to conserve", and struck "divert from disposal clean organics" and replaced it with "divert clean organics from disposal" and inserted "waste" between "agricultural" and "generators". On Rovene Askren's motion and a second from Kris Ott and without objection, the proposed platform amendment was adopted as amended.

EJ#2 Environmental Justice - Water Resources

Rev. Zack Lyde (Glynn County) offers the following Platform amendment

To amend the Platform - 1999 adopted by the Georgia Green Party's 1999 Americus Convention on April 17 th , 1999, as ratified by the Coordinating Council on June 29 th , 1999, and amended at the March 18th, 2000 Americus Nominating Convention - 2000, by renumbering the rest of the Plank as appropriate and by inserting after paragraph 4., a new paragraph to read:

5. Protect our Water Resources

We believe that the provision of a secure source for clean, potable water is one of the primary roles of governments. We recognize that many communities in Georgia can no longer offer uncontaminated water to their citizens. We urge the adjustment of food stamp allocations to permit poor people to buy clean bottled water where public sources of water are no longer safe for human consumption. We oppose the privatization of public water and waste-water systems. We believe that responsibility for protecting our water resources is the most fundamental role of our governments and recognize this as a public function necessary to the security and the promotion of general welfare of Georgia's citizens. We are deeply concerned with the threats to our water security posed by surface and ground water contamination from agricultural, industrial, sedimentation and non-point run-off sources and by the depletion of the Floridian (and other) aquifers. We advocate that the issuance or renewal of surface or aquifer withdrawal permits for industrial use be conditioned on the existence of water conservation programs and on-site water recycling programs. We would condition the renewal of public withdrawal permits on educational and other programs to promote the conservation of water, the use of indigenous vegetation, water efficient irrigation, xeriscaping and efficiency standards for household, institutional, commercial and industrial water appliances and processes. We urge the prompt separation of septic sewage lines from storm water lines to protect from the accidental discharge of untreated sewage into our streams and rivers. We support the use of sewer tap-on moratoriums in those drainage basins which lack the capacity to safely handle the existing and anticipated load on waste water systems. We urge riparian corridor and wetlands protections. We insist that Georgia pursue an environmentally responsible resolution to the Tri-State Water Conflicts.

On the author's motion and without objection, we struck the third sentence dealing with "food stamp allocations" and inserted in its place, "We insist that poor people be provided with clean bottled water." Again on the author's motion and without objection, we struck the word "xeriscaping" and inserted after the phrase "on educational and other programs", the following: "including the Georgia Friendly Yard and Neighborhood Program". Next Hugh Esco offered the following amendment to the Lyde paper of Water Resources:

EJ#2.am.1 Environmental Justice - Water Resources

Hugh Esco (Towns County) offers the following amendment

To amend the Lyde Platform Amendment EJ#2, related to Water Resources by inserting after the sentence recommending the use of sewer tap-on moratoriums a new sentence to read:

To insure the protection of ground water resources, we urge counties and municipal governments to provide for special use permits to encourage the experimental use and development of onsite composting toilets in the place of septic tanks or for retrofits (but not new installations) in those drainage basins subject to moratoriums on new sewer taps.

After much discussion, Esco accepted as friendly a Lyde amendment to strike" or for

retrofits (but not new installations) in those drainage basins subject to moratoriums on new sewer taps." So amended, the esco amendment was accepted as friendly by the author of the paper it amended. On the motion of Lisa Hoferkamp, with a second by Kerrie Dickson and without objection, the Water Resources paper was adopted as it had been amended.

FP#1 Foreign Policy - War on Drugs

Hugh Esco (Towns County) offers the following Platform amendment

To amend the Platform - 1999 adopted by the Georgia Green Party's 1999 Americus Convention on April 17 th , 1999, as ratified by the Coordinating Council on June 29 th , 1999, and amended at the March 18th, 2000 Americus Nominating Convention - 2000, by renumbering the Foreign Policy Plank as appropriate and inserting after paragraph 2., a new paragraph to read:

3. Demilitarize the International War on Drugs

We oppose the expansive new powers granted to the Director of the Office of Drug Control Policy (the Drug Czar) to conduct militaristic foreign policy missions under the cover of drug production intervention. We oppose the massive arms sales being conducted in the name of fighting international drug trafficking.

Esco presented this paper. On the motion of Zack Lyde and with a second by Rovene Askren, the paper was adopted without objection.

FP#1 Foreign Policy - Abolish the CIA, End Covert Operations

Hugh Esco (Towns County) offers the following Platform amendment

To amend the Platform - 1999 adopted by the Georgia Green Party's 1999 Americus Convention on April 17 th , 1999, as ratified by the Coordinating Council on June 29 th , 1999, and amended at the March 18th, 2000 Americus Nominating Convention - 2000, by renumbering the Foreign Policy Plank as appropriate and inserting a new paragraph 5. to read:

5. Abolish the CIA, End Covert Operations

We would abolish the Central Intelligence Agency and those other federal agencies whose primary mission is and has been the conduct of covert military operations. Such activity is a direct threat to the security of democracy. We would reserve to Congress the power to declare war. And prohibit the Executive Branch from using military force without such a declaration.

Kris Ott's moved the amendment of the paper to strike "the security of" and replaced it with "the possibility for" and to strike "war. And", replacing it with "war, and". The author accepted these amendments as friendly without objection. On a motion from Rovene Askren and a second from Russ Howard, the paper was adopted as it had been amended.

GP#1 Global Population - New Plank

Hugh Esco (Towns County) offers the following Platform amendment

To amend the Platform - 1999 adopted by the Georgia Green Party's 1999 Americus Convention on April 17 th , 1999, as ratified by the Coordinating Council on June 29 th , 1999, and amended at the March 18th, 2000 Americus Nominating Convention - 2000, by inserting after the Forests Plank, a new plank to read

Global Population

"We must demonstrate our leadership for equity and sustainability."

The exponential growth of the impact of the global human population is arguably among the more serious threats to environmental integrity our planet now faces. We would like to stabilize this impact. But we reject the easy answers. This is a complicated issue with no clear "bad guys."

We reject the short-sighted premise that this is solely about population control. Throwing contraceptives and access to sterilization at this issue won't address the underlying causes of the exponential growth in the human population. People have large families to provide for their security. Creating meaningful security for everyone is the only guarantee we have of our own security. Our first priority is to recreate Georgia's infrastructure and our very culture of consumption.

Immigration is not the cause of declining real wages, growing income disparity, inequality and oppression. The cause is corporate exploitation. The solution is not nativism or protectionism. It's engaging in the sort of consciousness raising that enables us to see how these divisions are exploited to the advantage of a slim minority. The solution is to fight racism, sexism, classism, homophobia and heterosexism in ourselves and our own community. The solution is to join together to fight exploitation (of both people and the environment) on a local level and globally.

The United States does not have an overpopulation problem. The world does. Eliminating immigration would not do a single thing to ease the population burden on this planet. The US does, however, have an over consumption problem. 6% of the world's people live in the United States, but we use 50% of the world's resources and produce ____% of the world's waste. We're all interdependent. As Greens, we will

1. Support Women's Voices

Working for a political voice for women is a prerequisite for women accessing education and family planning services on their own terms. These are the factors which have tracked declining family sizes.

2. Stop the Exploitation of Immigrant Labor

American workers are being pitted by the forces of fear and division against immigrant workers in a race to the bottom. It is time we loosen (if not eliminate)

our restrictions on immigration. We must create an environment where workers subject to substandard wages and working conditions are safe from deportation when they organize on their job site or seek the enforcement of basic worker protections. Our failure to protect immigrant workers from exploitation dooms native born workers to declining wages and working conditions. The elimination or severe reduction of legal immigration won't stop illegal immigration. People are going to keep coming to this country as long as we live in a world where wealth is concentrated in the hands of a few and moving to this country is seen as a way to access a piece of that wealth. Slowing or stopping immigration is not a solution to any problem. Reducing inequality is.

3. Minimize income disparity.

Higher standards of living usually correspond with lower birth rates. We endorse the maximum wage bill proposed by United for a Fair Economy, which would cap the deductibility from corporate taxable income of employee or contractor compensation which exceeds twenty-five times the annualized wages or salary of the lowest paid employee or contractor in a firm. It's time we stopped using our tax dollars to subsidize corporate behavior which has led to such great income disparities. No other mechanism is more apt to encourage responsible corporate behavior than creating this economic incentive.

4. Forgive Foreign Debt.

We endorse the Jubilee 2000 Campaign's call for international debt relief. The US must reduce its consumption and help developing nations increase the standard and security of their living.

5. Addressing the Impact of Global Population Growth

We as a nation must address within our borders the inequalities in wealth and income distribution and health care. We must focus on unsustainable consumerism. We can have comfortable lives with out consuming the worlds resources. The U.S. is the primary destroyer of the Earth, we must accept responsibility for this and change our ways. We must clean up our own act first. Having taken these steps ourselves, this nation would be better positioned to engage in the international arena on the impact of global population growth and to help our global neighbors devise non-coercive strategies to address this impact which are respectful of the autonomy of the world's diverse cultures.

6. Sex Education, Family Planning and Infant Mortality

We encourage domestic and international education that urges individuals to take personal responsibility for the impact on the global resource base of population growth. We oppose policies for coercive sterilization or contraception. We urge sensitivity in these educational efforts to the diversity of cultures on the planet. We encourage policies and education to honor and respect cultural viability/ integrity and personal autonomy both in the U.S. and globally. We must reduce infant mortality globally. We must focus on preventative health care. We must help improve the likely hood that newborns will survive into old age themselves. We will restore aid cut off in previous administrations to countries that includes

education on abortion in their family planning programs.

Hugh Esco presented this paper, including its history of previous consideration and refinement. Zack Lyde recognized the correction of the problems which had led to the tabling of this paper at the 2000 Americus Convention. On the motion of Rovene Askren and a second from Russ Howard, the paper was adopted without amendment or objection.

Taxes#1 Capital Gains Taxes

Hugh Esco (Towns County) offers the following Platform amendment

To amend the Platform - 1999 adopted by the Georgia Green Party's 1999 Americus Convention on April 17 th , 1999, as ratified by the Coordinating Council on June 29 th , 1999, and amended at the March 18th, 2000 Americus Nominating Convention - 2000, by inserting at the end of the Veterans Plank, a new paragraph to read:

Esco read a letter from a supporter in Athens / Clarke County calling for a Platform statement on the subject. This paper was withdrawn to permit specific language to be drafted.

Vet#1 Veterans

Kerrie Dickson (Towns County) offers the following Platform amendment

To amend the Platform - 1999 adopted by the Georgia Green Party's 1999 Americus Convention on April 17 th , 1999, as ratified by the Coordinating Council on June 29 th , 1999, and amended at the March 18th, 2000 Americus Nominating Convention - 2000, by inserting at the end of the Veterans Plank, a new paragraph to read:

On Kerrie's motion, this paper was withdrawn to permit specific language to be drafted.

There was no non-platform business to come before the Convention.

The facilitator called for a volunteer Election Committee to tabulate the ballots and report the results back to the Convention. Without objection, he appointed Kris Mayrhofer and Erin James to tabulate the ballots.

Zack Lyde invited all in attendance to take thirty minutes immediately upon adjournment to go to the Winn Dixie where a petition circulator had been given a criminal trespass warning the day before for the purpose of collecting signatures. Plans were made for this action which resulted in the collection of about 50 signatures in thirty minutes. This was followed by dinner together at Spanky's on Highway 17, a half mile from the site of the Convention.

The Election Committee returned and reported the following results:

The nominations of James Bethea, Gladys Lyde and Lyn Lawhon were all accepted unanimously. The following individuals were elected to two year terms on the state Coordinating Council: Lisa Hoferkamp, Erin James, Dana Roberts and Rovene Askren. The following individuals were elected to one year terms on the state Coordinating Council: Kris Ott, Wil Jackson, Russ Howard, Patrick Fulton and Lyn Lawhon. Both Patrick Fulton and Russ Howard were confirmed as members of the Delegation to the Denver Presidential Nominating Convention.

We heard announcements and a briefing on the logistics of the Winn Dixie action and dinner at Spanky's.

There being no further business to come before the Convention, and without objection, the Convention stood adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Kerrie Dickson
clerk, 2000 Additional Nominating Convention

Hugh Esco
clerk, Georgia Green Party