

Priority Agenda - 2002 of the Georgia Green Party

A. Non-Violent Juvenile Offender Sentencing Reform Act:

No youth accused or convicted of a non-violent crime should be incarcerated. Communities, courts, local and state government should fund alternatives to incarceration and the elements of a restorative justice system.

B. Healthy School Lunches Act:

Prohibit the use of BGH-treated dairy products, irradiated meats and produce and the products of genetic engineering in the preparation of school lunches. Phase-out over seven years all non-organic meats and produce from school lunches. Establish a unit of the Department of Agriculture to cooperate with the Georgia Organic Growers Association to assist farmers in the transition from the use of chemical inputs to operating practices that will allow for Organic Certification.

C. Democratically Financed Elections Act:

Prohibit the use of private money for public elections. Establish the Georgia Public Elections Campaign Fund. Establish a method of qualifying for an equitable share of the Fund to allow all candidates for public office access to the resources necessary to effectively campaign to the voting public.

D. Create a Pollution Victim's Compensation Fund to receive dedicated revenue from a pollution tax on all releases reportable in the Toxic Release Inventory. The Fund is to be divided into separate accounts and disbursed to pay a) the health-care costs of Pollution Victims; b) providing technical assistance to community groups in holding responsible corporations accountable for containing and cleaning up uncontrolled toxic sites; c) funding grants for technical assistance by the Office of Pollution Prevention to be matched by and to assist polluting industries to retool production processes to reduce reportable discharges; and d) for retraining, job placement and worker transition costs associated with displacement created by production process changes motivated by pollution prevention efforts.

E. Open the Electoral Process.

Provide for the use of Proportional Representation systems for casting and counting ballots in the election of multi-member bodies and for the use of instant run-off voting for electing a single candidate to a public office. Amend the Constitution of the State of Georgia, Article II, Section I, Paragraph I to provide that the ballot access procedures for political bodies and independent candidates cannot be more difficult than for members of political parties. Amend the ballot access petitioning requirements to base the number of signatures required on the number of voters who actually participate in elections and not on the number of people "registered and eligible" to participate; or to provide whatever other relief might be gained from Georgia's ballot access standard, which is ten times more difficult to meet than the national average. Provide for Election Day Voter Registration.

F. Use Georgia's share of the tobacco class action settlement to fund the start-up costs of a single-payer health care system. Create a Georgia Health Care Corporation to receive the tobacco settlement funds and to use them to provide universal access to health care in a system that includes all providers, and assures consumer choice and freedom, including proven "alternative" and "complementary" health care disciplines and practices, and with emphasis and priority given to health measures and education designed to prevent the need for curative health measures.

G. Implement a Living Wage for Georgia Workers.

Campaign at the municipal and state level to support the passage of municipal Living Wage ordinances and of a state statute that will guarantee to Georgia's full-time workers an income that will support a family at above the poverty line.

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