

The Report of the Clerk to the
Committee on a National Green Party Platform on

Proposed Changes to the State Party Platform

offered by Georgia Greens since
the 1999 Americus Convention for consideration at

The Nominating Convention of the Georgia Green Party
Saturday, March 18th, 2000 at Koinonia Farms, Americus Georgia

respectfully submitted,
Monday, March 13th, 2000

Agriculture

new prohibit patents on life; bio-prospecting - - sythesize (RAFI)

CJ#1: Criminal Justice

Kerrie Dickson (Towns County) offers the following Platform amendment:

To amend the Criminal Justice plank of 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, by striking paragraphs 3 and 5 and inserting in their places, the following new paragraphs:

3. Declare Peace in the War on Drugs

In the interest of saving tax dollars and maintaining non-violent offenders as contributing members of our communities, we urge that the state offer ~~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 marijuana 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.

5. Rehabilitate Inmates

Reclaim public resources from the prison industry for reinvestment in prevention. Make rehabilitation the purpose of incarceration. Respect for the humanity of all inmates must be the foundation of incarceration. We will redirect public resources from incarceration to fund drug rehabilitation programs available to all regardless of income or offender status.

CJ#2: Criminal Justice

Zack Lyde (Glynn County) and Hugh Esco (Towns County) offers the following Platform amendment:

To amend the Criminal Justice plank of 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, by striking paragraph 6 and inserting in its place, the following new paragraph:

6. Protect Workers from Slavery

Prohibit private prisons from using inmate labor that would leave Georgians working in unsafe conditions for declining wages in competition with unpaid, inmate slave labor. Amend the XIIIth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution to repeal the exception to the Constitutional prohibition against slavery and involuntary servitude.

ED#1: Economic Democracy

Debbie McAdoo (Stephens County), Kerrie Dickson and Hugh Esco (Towns County) offers the following Platform amendment:

To amend the Economic Democracy plank of 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, by renumbering the balance of the plank as appropriate and inserting after paragraph 1., a new paragraph, to read:

2. We recognize that children are entitled to housing, food, healthcare, education, and the care of their parents. We oppose those aspects of Workfare which we feel violate the Constitutional prohibition against *involuntary servitude* and the punitive sanctions created by the 1996 Congressional welfare reform act and the 1997 Georgia Temporary Assistance for Needy Families Act. We commit to restructuring the public welfare program so that children have the benefit of their parent's time and energy; and that respects the autonomy of single parents.

ED#2: Economic Democracy

Hugh Esco (Towns County) offers the following Platform amendment:

To amend the Economic Democracy plank of 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, by inserting at the end a new paragraph 5, to read:

5. Protect the Indigenous Worldview from the Free Trade Agenda

We endorse the Indigenous People's Seattle Declaration adopted on December 1, 1999 on the occasion of the Third Ministerial Meeting of the World Trade Organization in Seattle Washington. We oppose the Agreement on Agriculture which has encouraged export competition and import liberalization destroying ecologically rational and sustainable agricultural practices that have formed the basis for the food security of Indigenous Peoples around the world. We call for the repeal of the provisions of the Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights Agreement (TRIPS) which permit the patenting of life forms and have given rise to bio-prospecting projects to colonize indigenous cultural and biogenetic resources. We urge that scientific researchers and corporations be prohibited from appropriating and patenting indigenous seeds, medicinal plants, and related knowledge about these life-forms. The principles of prior informed consent and right of veto by Indigenous Peoples must be respected. We oppose the General Agreement of Services (GATS), with its focus on liberalizing investment rules and privatization of the service sector.

ED#3: Economic Democracy

Hugh Esco (Towns County) offers the following Platform amendment:

To amend the Economic Democracy plank of 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, by inserting at the end a new paragraph 5, to read:

#. Arts Funding

Educ#1: Education: Military Recruiting and JROTC in Public Schools

Kerrie Dickson (Towns County) offers the following Platform amendment:

To amend the Education plank of 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, by inserting after paragraph 2., the following:

3. Protect our young from manipulative recruiting practices. We are committed to a future without war. We expect our schools to prepare young people for meaningful employment in a peace economy. While some appreciate the role that JROTC programs have played in providing structure, discipline and self-confidence among some students, we oppose these programs militaristic propaganda and their role as recruiting programs for the armed services. We insist that if military recruiters are invited to schools, that

others are also invited who can tell the truth about the military and its enlistment promises and offer young people viable alternatives to enlistment. We oppose the practice of public schools using school hours for ASVAB testing and their providing lists of the student body to military recruiters.

Educ#1: Education: Military Recruiting and JROTC in Public Schools

Kerrie Dickson (Towns County) offers the following Platform amendment:

To amend the Education plank of 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, by inserting at the end, the following:

#. Academic Freedom

We advocate that teachers, like all workers exercise their right to organize on the job site. We support the right of collective bargaining for teachers and other public employees. Teachers like all working people deserve the right to collective bargaining and protections from unreasonable termination. We believe that the quality of our children's education is dependent on protecting the academic freedom of teachers.

#. Student Rights

We will establish independent student advocates in each school to speak on behalf of students, especially in disciplinary cases. We will ensure that students have reasonable due-process protections in school disciplinary actions. We call for the end of mandatory silent lunches for students. We call for the end of dress codes as they are unconstitutional and deny students freedom of expression and individuality.

#. Gateway Testing

Gateway testing is not an accurate means of determining the achievement or intelligence of our children. We oppose proposals to hold back students based on the score of one test or battery of tests. This practice can cause irreparable damage as some children do not test as well as others.

HR#1: Human Rights: Right to Parent without Unreasonable State Intervention

Kerrie Dickson (Towns County) offers the following Platform amendment:

To amend the Human Rights plank of 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, by inserting at the end, the following:

#. Rights to Parent without Unreasonable State Intervention

We affirm the need for community and in some instances state intervention to protect children from abuse and deprivation. It takes a village to raise a child. Still we are concerned about the cultural, classist and racist biases of DFACS workers that so often result in the needless destruction of families without contributing substantively to the safety and welfare of children. When DFACS becomes involved, it can take up to four

years for children to be reunited with their parents. In many cases children are placed in situations far worse than the homes from which they were removed. We recommend that the definition of deprivation be narrowed to prevent the Department of Human Resources and the Juvenile Courts from breaking up families for 1) refusing to participate in compulsory schooling that the child or parents find irrelevant to the child's education or harmful to the child's psyche; 2) refusing to participate in the dominant religious institutions of their community; 3) for choosing non-traditional living conditions; 4) for choosing vegetarian, vegan or other non-traditional, yet healthy, diets; 5) for refusing vaccinations, ritalin or other invasive pharmaceutical products or medical treatments; or 6) for following the reasonable advice of the child's competent health care practitioner.

#. Right to Housing

We support a constitutional right to housing and life-time tenancy and statutory tenant protections from excessive rent increases, condo conversion, unsafe living conditions and eviction without representation and sixty days notice. We support a prohibition on housing discrimination on the basis of age, children, race, gender, sexual orientation, disability, nationality, religious faith or lack of faith, practice, (???)

new immigrant rights - - sythesize

Electric Reregulation

new structure rates to encourage investment in demand side efficiency and conservation

Environmental Justice

6. Population Growth

HR#1: Human Rights: Right to Privacy

Kerrie Dickson (Towns County) offers the following Platform amendment:

To amend the Human Rights plank of 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, by striking the words "As Greens, we will:" and inserting in their place, the following:

"We recognize that privacy, autonomy and personal sovereignty are fundamental human rights. We intend to transform a culture of fear into a culture of hope, creativity and possibility. We are profoundly committed to the preservation the Bill of Rights and those future changes to the U.S. Constitution that have expanded our conception of human rights and human freedom. We are now responsible to make our contributions to this document which written and ratified by slave and property owners, still has offered some seminal theory of human freedom. We intend to turn that theory into reality for all who find themselves in this country and for our global family.

"As Greens, we will:"

And then inserting after paragraph 6., the following:

7. We will reclaim and protect our right to privacy.

We will oppose and roll back the ever expanding web of corporate and governmental intrusion into our lives and persons experienced in so many ways, including random and universal searches of our persons and our property at schools, transportation centers and government buildings; police road blocks and random police stops; mandatory fingerprint, retinal scans, etc. identification for government or corporate uses; governmental eaves-dropping on its citizens whether by random searches of voice phone conversations or surveillance of political associations, absent a warrant issued in the investigation of an actual past crime; property seizures absent conviction of a crime.

Immigration Policy

new plank - - synthesize

TX#1: Taxes: Federal Budget Priorities

Hugh Esco and Kerrie Dickson offer the following Platform amendment:

To amend the Taxes plank of 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, by renumbering the Taxes Plank as appropriate and inserting a new paragraph #1, to read:

1. Federal Budget Priorities

It is time our tax dollars were spent on the general welfare, instead of the welfare of generals. We call for an immediate 50% or greater cut in U.S. Military spending. We urge the investment of the peace dividend in 1) the creation of a Peace Force committed to non-violent strategies, 2) retraining and job placement of workers displaced by changing federal spending priorities, 3) the containment and restoration of the Department of Defense's nuclear and hazardous waste sites, 4) the retirement of national debts incurred to prosecute wars, grants for assisting impacted communities in making the transition to participation in a peace economy, 6) programs to foster food, water and environmental security. We urge comprehensive cuts in corporate welfare and subsidies which undermine worker and environmental protection. We recommend the following programs as priorities for cuts: nuclear weapons development, testing, manufacture and deployment, including depleted uranium weapons.

Veterans

new Vietnam era Vets (KD)