

REPORT of the pre-convention subcommittee, ASGP Platform Committee (6/12/00)

This is a compilation of “recommend/don’t recommend” consensus areas and items marked for further discussion (based on feedback from state representatives) with brief summaries reflecting the content of the various items. For further detail, please consult the full text of the “PRAs report” (61 Proposed revisions and Amendments, 12 solutions, and summary of Proposed Key Areas), as well as the current Platform, which these items would amend or supplement.

On Thursday, June 22, the Platform Committee will meet in Denver, Colo., to review the consensus reflected in this report and discuss and decide outstanding issues. Its recommendation will be considered by the ASGP Coordinating Committee on Friday, June 23, for the purpose of sending a consent agenda on platform revisions and “key areas” to the floor of the convention Saturday, June 24.

CONSENSUS FOR SUPPORT

(Note that a few of these found essential consensus support but included comments for possible improvement. These are included here but marked for some discussion. A few other editorial comments are also provided for the convenience of platform editing.)

PROPOSED KEY AREAS

KEY AREA 2.) DEMOCRACY

PKA/RA 2 **Political Participation:** D.C. Statehood– RECOMMEND

PKA/RA 3 **Foreign Policy:** Endorse U.N. Declaration of Human Rights – RECOMMEND

PKA/RA 4 **Political reform:** A comprehensive reform agenda, including possible changes and new language to various points – RECOMMEND, w/DISCUSSION on full public financing; abolition of electoral college; unfunded federal mandates.

KEY AREA 3.) ECONOMIC JUSTICE/LABOR RIGHTS

PKA/RA 5 **Social Justice and Equal Opportunity:** Change title of Section C from “Welfare/Workfare” to “Economic Justice” – GENERAL SUPPORT w/suggestion (DISCUSS) alternative, less broad title: “Social Safety Net.”

PKA/RA 6 **Economic Justice:** Replace Welfare section w/new language on various points, including economic rights; entitlement funding; supplemental income; shifting spending priorities from military to social services; living wages (renaming section “Economic Justice”) – RECOMMEND

Resolution 1: **Endorse Labor Party’s call for Economic Justice** – RECOMMEND

Resolution 2: **Blue-Green Agenda/opposition to free trade, WTO** – RECOMMEND

PKA/RA 7 **Corporate Accountability:** defining “corporation” as a merely legal, not natural entity – RECOMMEND

KEY AREA 4.) A HUMAN RIGHTS AGENDA

Resolution 3: **A Human Rights Agenda** (Human rights and sexuality; abortion rights; universal health care; drugs and public health measures) – RECOMMEND

KEY AREA 5.) HEALTH CARE

PKA/RA 8 **Universal Health Care** (A “Just Health Care” Program: single-payer national insurance program; full standard medical coverage, including mental health services; drug price controls; opposition to the politicization of health care in foreign relations) – RECOMMEND

KEY AREA 6.) ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

PKA/RA 9 **Agriculture/Biological Diversity**: Opposition to genetically modified organisms and corporatization of nature – RECOMMEND

Common Ground Proposal Foreign Policy (supports international anti-personnel mine treaty) – RECOMMEND

PROPOSED PLATFORM REVISIONS/AMENDMENTS

PRA-1 **Political reform** (opposes Congress’ electoral reform bills as anti-third party)
RECOMMEND

PRA-2 **Community** (adds language on building positive communities, cities, local governments)
RECOMMEND (Can it be worded more specifically? Given context?)

PRA-3 **Democracy** (adds language on empowering citizens, opposing concentration of power)
RECOMMEND (But focus and condense with similar language elsewhere.)

PRA-4 **Free Speech** (reclaim public airwaves from private control)
RECOMMEND

PRA-6 **Direct Democracy** (establishes national referendum process to inform Congress)
RECOMMEND

PRA-9 **Community Involvement** (supports community-based economics as a more sustainable, decentralized economy)
RECOMMEND (Harmonize with resolution 4. “Communitarian”?)

PRA-10 **Global Warming/Global Climate Treaty** (adds language to promote process; set targets and standards; oppose nuclear power as an alternative to fossil fuels; call for practical policies for achievement; endorse international model of universal rights to atmosphere)
RECOMMEND (Add Pennsylvania language re: energy policies as necessary component?)

PRA-11 **Global Warming** (Urges Congress to address the issue domestically; calls on vice president Gore to live up to his 1992 pronouncements on the issue)
RECOMMEND (Add language about renewables and “global” emissions of greenhouse gases.)

PRA-13 **Education** (adds 10-point “Arts” section, including elimination of laws putting restrictions on expression; support for community-based arts funding; arts education programs; etc.)
RECOMMEND

PRA-14 **Nuclear Issues/Foreign Policy** (urges beginning an effort to negotiate treaty abolishing nuclear weapons; end U.S. funding; take nuclear weapons off alert and remove from delivery systems)
RECOMMEND

PRA-15 **Foreign Policy** (Cut military spending 50% in 10 years; increase social spending)
RECOMMEND (Create a Department of Peace? Add specifics on cuts/increases?)

- PRA-16 **Campaign finance reform** (support public financing at state level)
RECOMMEND (Need for clarification: public financing vs. matching funds?)
- PRA-17 **Political reform** (free/cheaper broadcast time for qualified candidates; require publicly financed candidates to participate in debates; suspend incumbents' mass-mailing privileges in election years; ban soft money)
RECOMMEND
- PRA-19 **Corporate Accountability** (raise corporate taxes to reverse current corporations-to-individuals tax burden shift)
RECOMMEND (Can the mechanism be suggested?)
- PRA-22 **Rural Development** (opposes industrial farming and its effects on family farms, the environment, farm animals and the food supply)
RECOMMEND (Tighten, focus language)
- PRA-23 **Organic standards** (supports highest standards for federal designation)
RECOMMEND (But DISCUSS adding language on cost of organic foods; consider adding other aspects of food production, such as sludge/waste fertilizers, animal confinement, pesticides, etc., and the resulting subsidy of non-organic foods that make organics comparatively expensive.)
- PRA-24 **Eco-nomics** (adds language defining "sustainability")
RECOMMEND (Could language be clear for the uninitiated?)
- PRA-25 **Technology/research Initiatives** (calls for federal Technology Assessment Office to examine the effect of technology on neighborhoods and the quality of daily life)
RECOMMEND (But develop the idea a bit; specific examples?)
- PRA-26 **"A Call to Action"** (adds proportional representation)
RECOMMEND (but consider "an alternative, independent politics")
- PRA-28 **Economic Justice** (opposes privatization of Social Security)
RECOMMEND (Consider raising or lifting cap on income subject to FICA)
- PRA-31 **Criminal Justice** (opposes prison privatization, growth of "prison industrial complex," inequities in sentencing and legal representation, over-incarceration of non-violent offenders)
RECOMMEND (Consider adding language on rehabilitation vs. warehousing and larger issue of economic justice of who's incarcerated.)
- PRA-32 **Community Involvement** (supports new "community radio" FM licensure)
RECOMMEND (Combine with other language on public airwaves.)
- PRA-34 **Energy Policy** (endorses more extensive conservation measures and mandatory carbon emissions reduction)
RECOMMEND (but only if conservation is given a highest priority, stronger language, specifics on implementation)
- PRA-35 **Trade** (endorses Tobin Tax [sales tax] on cross-border currency transactions)
RECOMMEND
- PRA-36 **Civil Rights** (anti-terrorism bills a threat to civil liberties)
RECOMMEND
- PRA-41 **Education** (deletes language: "restoring community is central to expanded opportunity")
RECOMMEND

- PRA-43 **Education** (endorses use of “dispute resolution” in schools)
RECOMMEND (Combine with similar language elsewhere)
- PRA-45 **Criminal Justice** (insert “alternative sentencing for non-violent crimes”)
RECOMMEND
- PRA-46 **Criminal Justice** (make education, dispute resolution/mediation more available in prisons)
RECOMMEND (But amplify the point.)
- PRA-50 **Criminal Justice** (racial profiling in police targeting black motorists; curb officialized racism of police brutality; call for monitoring of police on both points)
RECOMMEND
- PRA-53 **Health Care** (opposes arrest or harassment for production, cultivation, transportation, distribution, prescription or consumption of medicinal marijuana)
RECOMMEND (But define “medicinal” marijuana.)
- PRA-57 **Waste Management** (calls for study and addressing of waste management problems in the electronics/personal computer industry, including pollution; power demands and need for alternative energy sources; increased use of paper; excessive and non-biodegradable packaging; lack of recyclability)
RECOMMEND (But edit for conciseness and clarity.)
- PRA-59 **Nuclear Issues/Foreign Policy** (opposes the militarization of space with nuclear, laser or other space-based weapons)
RECOMMEND

RESOLUTIONS

1. **Endorse Labor Party’s “Call for Economic Justice”** (Call: workers whose jobs are endangered by steps taken to protect the environment are to be supported by a “just transition” program; the cost of this program is to be paid by tax on corporate polluters; Green Party resolution also endorses the creation of a new worker-oriented environmental movement) – SUPPORT
2. **Blue-Green Agenda** (supports emerging coalition of labor and green movements on the issues of globalization and fair trade) – SUPPORT
3. **Human Rights Agenda** (includes comprehensive sections on human rights and sexuality; abortion rights; universal health care; drugs and public health measures) – SUPPORT
4. **Community-based Economics** (comprehensive language defining an alternative to both capitalism and socialism based on decentralization and “smallness”; mitigation against the exploitation of labor; defines the distinctiveness of this new, alternative “green” approach to economics) -- SUPPORT (two commenting this is “inside talk” for Greens that doesn’t belong in platform, and another commenting the providers of all essential public services must be publicly, not privately, owned and controlled).
5. **Biological Diversity Crisis** (statement on the reality of the crisis and the limited power of technology as an answer; the threat of biotechnology; the Green Party being a voice and conscience representing Nature; commitment to policies preserving maximum biological diversity) – SUPPORT
6. **Biotechnology** (on the risk in the intersection of biology and ethics; the commodification of nature; the ill effects of international trade treaties and organizations [NAFTA, WTO]; the specific risks of cloning and DNA manipulation; the needs to consider biotechnology as suspect and to create democratically based mechanisms to deal with biotechnology while preserving biodiversity, indigenous rights, and food safety) – SUPPORT
7. **Open Government** (opposing efforts to strict access to public information and supporting efforts to expand such access, with details on impacts within the three branches of government) -- SUPPORT

(one comment: extend open government laws to quasi-public agencies currently exempt, private research cited by public agencies; protect critical files at risk of loss through “modernization” of files; make records available on Internet)

8. **Definition of Sustainability** (that harvest or “take” of biologically renewable sources be less than the natural production of the source; with examples and cautionary language on the misuse of this concept by economists and civic leaders, and with special discussion of sustainable agriculture as natural process not involving a direct “taking”) – SUPPORT
9. **Youth Rights** (statement of the rights of youth as a less-protected class of human beings who nonetheless represent the future and whose potential must be fully achieved; with 11 specific categories of rights listed) – SUPPORT (add to #5 the right to an *effective* education?)
10. **Endorse Globalization Statement** by the International Forum (advocating equitable, democratic, ecologically sustainable economics, as opposed to globalized system dominated by unaccountable supranational corporate trade and banking institutions; with statement of principles) – SUPPORT
11. NOT SUPPORTED (see below)
12. **Direct Democracy** (endorses increased access of citizens to voting processes, including extension of initiative power now available in 24 states to the rest and to the federal level; voting and petitioning by phone and Internet; decreasing the influence of money while increasing the influence of citizens) – SUPPORT

ITEMS NEEDING FURTHER DISCUSSION, DELIBERATION AND DECISION

PROPOSED KEY AREA REVISIONS & AMENDMENTS

PKA/RA 1 **The Ten Key Values** (replace supporting explanatory language w/1986 “How do we...?” questions version) - DISCUSS

PKA/RA 5 **Social Justice and Equal Opportunity**: Change title of Section C from “Welfare/Workfare” to “Economic Justice” – GENERAL SUPPORT w/suggestion (DISCUSS) alternative, less broad title: “Social Safety Net.”

PROPOSED PLATFORM REVISIONS/AMENDMENTS

PRA-7 **Political reform** (establishes public financing through voluntary check-off on tax returns)
DISCUSS (Is it consistent/repetitious with PRA-1 and other areas? How about tax funds, too?
Should it apply to state elections as well?)

PRA-8 **Political Participation** (new democracy “tool box” taught in public schools)
DISCUSS (What’s in the “tool box”? Specify more clearly or leave out.)

PRA-12 **Shipment of Wastes** (oppose shipment of high-level nuclear wastes to Yucca Mountain)
DISCUSS (Generally recommended, but add Waste Isolation Pilot Project [?] and language about ending the generation of nuclear materials.)

PRA-18 **Welfare/Workfare** – Economic Justice (oppose welfare reform, workfare, enterprise zones)
DISCUSS (Be more specific/expansive with objections to reform; define “large” corporations; objection to enterprise zones not shared by all - problem may be administration, not idea itself.)

PRA-20 **Biological Diversity** (questions cloning as commodification of species)

DISCUSS (Questions raised : “cloning,” “slavery”; perhaps deal with as a “patenting of life issue”; is language in resolutions 5 and repetitious, overly lengthy?)

PRA-27 **“A Call to Action”/Political reform** (changes language throughout “A Call to Action”)
DISCUSS (Does language go beyond scope of “Call to Action”?)

PRA-29 **Political reform** (changes support of term limits to opposition)
DISCUSS (Opinion clearly divided.)

PRA-33 **Land Use Planning** (adds and deletes language throughout section)
DISCUSS (Support is clear, but scope represents difficulty, esp. in combination with PRA 58.)

PRA-37 **Foreign Policy** (declares War Powers Act unconstitutional)
DISCUSS. While some recommend, objections are also raised that the Act may be being implemented wrongly, and that the constitutionality is a legal rather than political question.

PRA-39 **Political Participation** (deletes language on volunteering and direct action)
DISCUSS (Insufficient feedback to determine consensus/dissensus.)

PRA-40 **Community** (adds “neighborhood schools” under “A Children’s Agenda”)
DISCUSS (Disagreement over the connotation of “neighborhood” schools.)

PRA-42 **Education** (computer use in early years)
DISCUSS (Most support, but some question on clarity/advisability)

PRA-48 **Tax Justice/Fairness** (encourage small businesses and socially responsible corporations)
DISCUSS (Most don’t commend, but insufficient comment to determine consensus.)

PRA-51 **Civil Rights** (calls for removal of Confederate flags; supports affirmative action, right of descendants of slaves to make a claim for monetary compensation as reparations.)
DISCUSS (Insufficient responses to judge consensus. Among those provided, there is support for flag removal and affirmative action, but no consensus on reparations.)

PRA-54 **Corporate accountability** (opposes corporate welfare, including subsidies, export incentives, tax loopholes and tax shelters as corruption of political process, tax injustice, distortion of marketplace)
DISCUSS (Insufficient responses to judge consensus.)

PRA-55 **Education** (supports universal availability of student loans payable as a proportion of future earnings; individual training accounts for vocational and continuing education)
DISCUSS (Insufficient responses to judge consensus.)

PRA-56 **Waste Management** (environmental justice demands that poor, minority, and under-represented communities not bear unfair burden in the disposal of toxic wastes)
DISCUSS (Insufficient responses to judge consensus.)

PRA-58 **Land Use** (adds language generally and comprehensively on a variety of subjects)
DISCUSS (Language changes are extensive and need to be harmonized with PRA-33. Comments are less extensive, but consensus appears on these key issues: Zero-cut on national forests; grazing ban on public lands; end to drilling on the continental shelf; repeal of Mining Act of 1872; zero-extraction generally from public lands.

Green Tax Policy (describes a proposed shift from taxing production to taxing consumption while reducing undesirable subsidies; outlines how a Green tax policy would be implemented at local, regional and global economic tiers)
DISCUSS (Insufficient responses to judge consensus.)

CONSENSUS FOR RETURN

PROPOSED KEY AREA REVISIONS & AMENDMENTS -- None.

PROPOSED PLATFORM REVISIONS/AMENDMENTS

- PRA-5 **Community involvement** (establish consumer information/representation association)
RETURN (Finance services only? Is federal action required?)
- PRA-21 **Biological Diversity** (adds language on a variety of specific issues)
RETURN (Good stuff, but covers too much ground with too much need for more study, revision)
- PRA-30 **Education** (supports limiting high school class size to 30 and school size to 1,500)
RETURN (Numbers may vary from place to place, seeming arbitrary or inapplicable to some.)
- PRA-38 **Political reform** (encourages political profiles of candidates)
RETURN (What is a “political profile”? Who would write it? Distribute it?)
- PRA-44 **Health Care** (changes introductory language to focus on insurance and health care crisis)
RETURN
- PRA-47 **Criminal Justice** (oppose popular election of judges) - RETURN
- PRA-49 **Economic Justice – Social Welfare** (“children and mothers first”)
RETURN (Objections raised to hint of sexism, of mothering rather than parenting.)
- PRA-52 **Health Care** (substance abuse/addiction intervention) - RETURN (Vague on programs.)
- PRA-60 Political Reform: **Campaign finance reform** (endorses full public financing of federal elections) -- RETURN (Duplicates other measures; goes too far.)
- PRA-61 Education: **Metric system** (encourages adoption of/education on) - RETURN

RESOLUTIONS

11. Reform of the Internal Revenue Code – RETURN