

Georgia Green Party Candidate Development Project

as adopted by the Coordinating Council, December 9th, 2000

I. Candidate Development Project

There is established the Georgia Green Party Candidate Development Project. This Project is established to work between election cycles to recruit, train and develop candidates who will seek public office and to support the development of their campaigns to obtain ballot access, do voter contact and identification work, raise campaign funds, enroll and develop campaign staff and volunteers and to wage successful campaigns for electoral office in Georgia.

II. Nomination and Endorsement of Party Candidates

The question of nominating or endorsing a candidate is the sole domain of the Nominating Convention of the Georgia Green Party. The Convention is under no obligation to nominate or endorse a candidate because they have participated in the Candidate Development Project. Participation in this Program shall not be construed by the Council as a condition for seeking or securing a nomination or endorsement by the Nominating Convention of the Georgia Green Party.

III. Party Support and Resources

The Council or the Quick Decision Council shall assign a staff member, contractor or volunteer to serve as Coordinator of the Candidate Development Program. Any staff or contractor of the Party assigned to serve as Program Coordinator or to support a volunteer Program Coordinator shall work no more than quarter time on this Program. The publications, web site, email lists and other resources of the Georgia Green Party may be used in support of the Candidate Development Project. The Party may share the Registered Voter Database, subject to the usual contract and conditions applicable thereto, with a Candidate Participant in the Project. Subject to budgets adopted by the Coordinating Council and expenses approved by the Quick Decision Council, the Party shall spend no more than \$1,000.00 per year to support efforts to enroll Candidate participants in applicant orientations. No Party funds other than staff stipends or contract payments to support the Program Coordinator shall be expended on the day-to-day operation of the Program.

IV. Application Process

A. The Project Coordinator shall develop and publicize an application process, consistent with the rules established in this policy. The Coordinator shall develop a written application. The Coordinator shall organize bi-annual applicant orientations.

B. The Application for participation in the Candidate Development Project shall include an affidavit stating 1) the applicant's intention to participate fully in the Candidate Development Program, and to miss Program work days and phone conferences only in case of emergency; 2) the applicant's intention to attend the Party's Nominating Convention and to seek the nomination or endorsement of the Party and, in the case of a Candidate for local office, the endorsement for their candidacy for public office from any Green Party Local(s) with jurisdiction over the district they intend to contest; 3) that the applicant grants their permission for the Party to publish, at an appropriate time in the Program and if the applicant is accepted as a participant in the Program, the affidavit and the applicant's responses to the below survey; 4) that the applicant is in basic agreement with the ten key values of the Georgia Green Party as a basis for organizing; and 5) that the applicant has completed and filed with the clerk of the Party, their responses to the following five questions

a) What five issues do you think are most important and what will you do about them once elected to the post you seek?

b) Is there anything in the Platform of the Georgia Green Party with which you disagree? If so, what?

c) Most Green Parties use a modified form of consensus decision making process to promote wide participation and encourage consideration of divergent viewpoints. What experience do you have with consensus?

d) Over the past few years, have you become more or less inclined to believe that a third party can work here in the USA?

e) How can we work together to make the Green Party more effective?

C. An application shall be filed with the clerk of the Georgia Green Party. An application shall not be accepted without a \$150 non-refundable application fee made payable to the Green Candidate Development PAC. Each completed application shall be published in the Internal Discussion Bulletin of the Georgia Green Party. An applicant's participation in the Project shall require the majority support of the state Coordinating Council of the Georgia Green Party. The Clerk shall notify each applicant as to whether their application has been accepted by the Coordinating Council. An applicant accepted for participation in the Program shall be known as a Candidate.

V. Program

The Candidate Development Project shall be structured to include work days, phone conferences, coaching calls and homework designed to develop the candidate, their campaign and their capacity to effectively run for and win elective public office. The work days shall be organized to not exceed three days or 36 hours per calendar quarter. Most but not all work days will be held on the weekend. The work days shall be held at a series of locations around Georgia to be determined by the Coordinator in cooperation with the Candidate participants. Candidates will be expected to help organize host logistics when a work day is held in or near their community. Candidates are expected to participate in Project phone conferences, not to exceed ninety minutes each, once every two weeks unless such phone conference would fall within six days of a planned work day. Candidates will also be expected to enter in to peer coaching relationships with other Project participants. Candidates will be expected to faithfully complete all homework assignments from each work day and from each phone conference. Some of the homework assignments will include enrolling volunteers to staff key campaign positions and bringing those volunteers to subsequent work days for training and support.

VI. Funding

The Project shall organize as a Political Action Committee under the laws of Georgia. The Project Committee shall be known as The Green Candidate Development PAC. Project participants shall elect a participant or enroll a volunteer to serve as the Treasurer of the Green Candidate Development PAC. Candidates participating in the Program are expected to solicit sufficient contributions to the Green Candidate Development PAC to fully fund their participation in the Program. The Project Coordinator shall develop and present a budget for the review and adoption of the participants. Candidates are expected to contribute, to the Green Candidate Development PAC, from personal funds no more than \$250.00 per year beyond their personal meals, travel, and phone expenses. A Candidate may elect to raise from other sources all of the funds they raise for the PAC.

VII. Participant Expectations

Candidates are expected to operate with integrity with respect to the Program and to attend faithfully and punctually all workdays, phone conferences and coaching calls and to complete all homework assignments. Candidates are expected to comport themselves as candidates for public office at all times during Project work days. Candidates are expected to participate fully in the fundraising efforts necessary to

fully fund the activities of the Green Candidate Development PAC. Each candidate is expected to personally raise their pro-rata share of the adopted budget for conducting the Program. Candidates are expected to use the Green Candidate Development Program to support the development of their own Campaign Committee and of their own campaign in their districts. Candidates are expected to organize their lives, work, family and other obligations so as to minimize emergencies that would interfere with their full participation in the Program.

VIII. Grounds for Termination of Participation in the Project

Failure to attend a work day, participate in a phone conference or to complete a homework assignment -- except in an emergency -- will be the basis for the review of the candidate's right to continue their participation in the Program. Failure to attend three or more planned work days or to participate in three or more phone conferences or to fall two months' worth of homework assignments behind in a twelve month period is grounds for the candidate's immediate removal from the Program. Failure of a Candidate to raise at least 50% of their pro-rata share of the funding goals for the PAC over a three month period is grounds for the review of the candidate's right to continue their participation in the Program. Failure to correct this fundraising deficiency within the next three months is grounds for the candidate's immediate removal from the Program.