

# Platform Proposals 2018

## Green Party of Minnesota

Proposed new language is on the left. Existing language is on the right. Proposed additions are underlined. Proposed deletions are in ~~strikeout~~.

Please read and come to the Summer Membership Meeting with your thoughts on these proposals. There will be an opportunity to discuss each one and amend them before voting. Copies of the full platform and these proposals will be available at the meeting., (The summer meeting will take place in Winona on June 23. Please see the announcement under “Upcoming Events” on the mngreens.org website for details.)

### The Green Vision

[paragraph 5]

We envision each community having a strong level of control over community affairs and over businesses within its boundaries. We envision national and regional governments which are truly democratically-controlled and which take true leadership in protecting the environment, bringing peace to the world, alleviating human suffering and promoting human development. We highly suggest following the practices of the current Nordic states which emphasizes individual freedoms, community, environmental strength, long-term growth, peace, democracy and human rights.

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## A. Human Rights

### 1.) ~~Racism~~ Prejudice

1a. We oppose institutional, interpersonal and cultural ~~racism~~ prejudice (including racism). Greens view racism as prejudice plus power in which prejudice is systematically enforced by the distribution and use of resources, institutions and those who have access to them.

### 2.) Native American ~~Indian~~ Treaty Rights

2a. We recognize that Native American ~~Indian~~ land and treaty rights represent agreements between nations that have international legal standing and cannot be changed without the consent of all nations involved.

### 1.) Racism

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### 2.) American Indian Treaty Rights

2a. We recognize that American Indian land and treaty rights represent agreements between nations that have international legal standing and cannot be changed without the consent of all nations involved.

## A. Human Rights

### 6.) Ageism

6b. We value the perspective of people of all ages and work to overturn the social, institutional and political marginalization of young people and ~~the elderly~~ elderly people.

6b. We value the perspective of people of all ages and work to overturn the social, institutional and political marginalization of young people and the elderly.

6c. Elder Abuse is increasing with the population of elderly people. The Greens stand against any form of elder abuse, whether it be physical, financial, or psychological, and will oppose it wherever it occurs.

6d. The Greens support mandatory diversity training for caregivers of members of the elderly community, as one in ten members of the elderly population is classified as a minority. Training should include religious and cultural awareness, as well as issues concerning elderly members of the GLBTQ community including spouses of elderly members of the GLBTQ community being granted the same rights as elderly spouses of the heterosexual community.

### 7.) People with Disabilities

The Green Party supports protections for Americans with Disabilities and will include practices within our own organization as well as support protections in place as well in outside organizations that assist with grassroots participation of members who face challenges surrounding disabilities.

*Adoption of 7) will result in current points 7) through 13) being renumbered 8) through 14).*

## B. Economics

### 4.) Cooperatives and Public Enterprises

We support laws that would encourage the formation of consumer cooperatives, worker cooperatives, and community land trusts. We also call for the immediate implementation of co-determination, in which businesses of at least 1,000 workers must allow their employees to elect 49% of the board of directors. We also support public ownership especially of essential services such as utilities and mass transportation.

### 5.) Business Decentralization

The Green Party calls for restructuring and decentralizing corporate conglomerates through legislation prohibiting the ownership of one private corporation by another. We advocate community-based and community-owned industries, whether public or private, and the accountability of business to employees, and neighbors, and world citizens. ~~To that end we also recommend the introduction of local currencies that would help stimulate the local economy.~~

### 15.) Workplace Democracy

We support laws and public policies that encourage and support greater control and decision-making power for the workers of corporations that can extend even beyond co-determination.

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### 15.) Workplace Democracy

We support laws and public policies that encourage and support greater control and decision-making power for the workers of corporations.

## **16.) Social Security**

We call for the removal of the cap on the amount of income that is taxed for Social Security. The presence of this cap makes the Social Security tax a profoundly regressive tax on the poor and the middle class. A person making a million dollars per year pays no more Social Security tax than someone earning the Social Security payroll tax cap that limits earnings subject to taxation (\$117,000 in 2014). All persons should receive equal Social Security benefits upon retirement. The present system ties benefits to the amount of money earned in one's lifetime. We call for the elimination of Social Security taxes which are extremely regressive in nature. Instead raise all taxes by the same amount. Bank interest would be taxed the same as income from work..

## **~~22.) State Bank of Minnesota~~**

~~We support legislation to create a state bank owned by the people of Minnesota.~~

## **23.) Fundamental Bank Reforms**

In the interests of creating a more just, democratic, and ecologically friendly economy, we call for the breaking up of "too-big-to-fail" banks by restructuring them into credit unions or mutuals owned by the community. In their current state, these banks serve to strengthen the industries that are ruining the environment. These community-run credit unions or mutuals will be built, however, to serve society.

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*Adoption of these proposals could result in renumbering of points 21)-24) so there would be 26 point under B. Economics.*

## J. Families

2b. We encourage the formation of programs which supports the use of wisdom, expertise and energy of elders in service to the community for those who choose to participate in community programs.

Education and access should be emphasized in what community and social programs have to offer, and assistance provided when and where it is needed, including transportation.

~~2c. Housing options for elders should include multigenerational settings and peer based settings.~~

We support independent living arrangements for elderly citizens who choose to remain at home, and support community assistance with these arrangements whenever possible.

~~2d. We support the option of worker retirement phase-in over a period of several years to ease the working to not working transition trauma and allow time for economic and personal adjustment, to develop replacement social connections and to help people find a new place in the community.~~

As more and more people over 65 continue to be employed instead of retiring, we support full employment opportunities for those who choose to remain in the workforce and do not support this becoming mandatory or expanding the age of retirement beyond the age of 65.

2b. We encourage the formation of programs which support the wisdom, expertise and energy of elders in service to the community.

2c. Housing options for elders should include both multi-generational and peer based settings.

2d. We support the option of worker retirement phase-in over a period of several years to ease the work-to-retirement transition to allow time for economic and personal adjustment, and to give time to develop new social connections and for people find a new place in the community.

## J. Families

### **~~2.) Elderly~~**

~~2e. We oppose the commercialization of private life. We oppose unsolicited commercial advertising and marketing.~~

### **1.) Support to Families**

1e. We oppose the commercialization of private life. We oppose unsolicited commercial advertising and marketing.

*[Proposal is to move this point from 2) Elderly to 1) Support for Families]*

## K. Housing

### **3.) Tax Forfeited Land and Buildings**

~~Donation of tax forfeited land and buildings suitable for housing to non-profit housing groups like Habitat for Humanity to nonprofits and public institutions should be encouraged.~~

## R. Grassroots Democracy

### **16.) Public Ownership Structure**

The Green Party MN calls for increased democracy in the public sector. All publicly owned enterprises must be either 1) self-managed by their workers through the formation of worker's councils/direct democracy/or representative democracy or 2) municipally owned and managed collectively by their community. We also support the formation of unions in the public sector.

## J. Families

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## S. Foreign Policy & Peace

### 2.) Principles of Foreign Policy

2c. Greens oppose any “pre-emptive” military actions or “pre-emptive” and preventative war except when absolutely necessary.

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