

Green Party of Minnesota
Proposed Platform Changes
Biennial Convention, June 11, 2016

Underlined words are proposed to be added to the platform. ~~Strikeout words~~ are proposed to be deleted.

A) Human Rights 1) Racism

1d. Greens support government enforcement of civil rights laws, targeting both overt and covert violations that lead to racial disparities in employment and housing. Covert violations of the civil rights of others, whether intended or unintended, must be detected and prosecuted in order to achieve full compliance. This would enhance affirmative action programs and end an era of token enforcement that allows employment discrimination through minimal compliance strategies.

1e. The Green Party opposes "color-blind" policies in K-12 education that have a disparate effect on people of color, such as those that result in schools attended mostly by children of color having the least experienced teachers. Under federal education laws, including Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, color-blind policies that harm people of color and other protected classes may be considered violations of the law which require a timely remedy.

A. Human Rights 3) Feminism

3e. Greens oppose all neonatal genital cutting, including female, male and intersex.

Renumber current 3e to 3f and modify it by adding underlined words:

3f. While working to end domestic violence against women, men and children, we support shelters for battered women and men and their children as they are needed, as well as education/outreach efforts, in every county in Minnesota.

A. Human Rights 8) End All Torture

Add 8a. in front of existing paragraph: Greens demand a ban on any and all forms of torture and that the United States abides by Geneva Conventions.

8b. Greens consider all forms of genital mutilation as torture. Greens oppose all genital cutting/mutilation against children and infants and a violation of their human rights.

B. Economics (intro paragraph)

Greens seek to create an economy in which wealth and economic power is distributed broadly among the entire population rather than concentrated in a few hands; we reject domination of economic life by corporate and government oligarchies alike; we believe in a marketplace governed not only by supply and demand, but also by a conscious commitment to the welfare of

all participants in that marketplace, as well as a commitment to ecological harmony with the rest of the natural world. Greens seek an ecology-based economy where each economic exchange inherently restores the water, air, soil and habitats to health and sustainability.

B. Economics

24) Ecological Economics

Two policy steps will help move toward ecological economics.

24a. Implement the Genuine Progress Indicator (GPI) as Minnesota's primary measurement of economic well-being.

24b. Establish a Minnesota currency at zero interest and which is redeemable in state taxes.

C. Energy

5) Green Energy Jobs

Transition to 100% renewable energy by 2050, with at least 80% achieved by 2030, using wind, solar, ocean, small-scale hydro, and geothermal power. Renewable energy is technically and economically feasible. The barriers to a renewable energy economy come from economic, political, and social interests, and are not technical.

C. Energy 8) Fossil Fuel Depletion

8d. The Greens call for an immediate end to all investments in fossil fuel extraction companies.

D. Land Use 3) Mining

3b. Greens oppose the mining of tar sands and frac sands, and ~~the use of hydraulic fracturing for the extraction of oil and natural gas reserves~~ stand for the enactment of bans on hydraulic fracturing for the extraction of oil and natural gas on the local, state, and federal levels, and bans on disposal of fracking wastes. We also call for a ban of bulk transportation of oil sands and oil shale products in Minnesota and instead call for an immediate and significant transition to a renewable energy economy not dependent on fossil fuel.

F.) Waste Management

5) Plastic Bags

The Green Party of Minnesota calls for a ban on single-use plastic bags in an effort to further protect the planet and all its inhabitants.

G. Air and Water 1) Air

1c. We support the collection of all used heating and cooling units to recover or destroy chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs) and hydrochlorofluorocarbons (HCFCs) used as refrigerants or

insulation. Service and salvage operations that deal with air conditioning units should be required to recover all CFCs and HCFCs. We also call for the phasing out of other ozone-damaging chemicals including dichloromethane and other chlorine gases.

1j. We call for legally binding commitments to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by at least 40% by 2020 and 95% by 2050 over 1990 levels. We also call for wealthy nations to financially assist poorer countries struggling with the effects of climate change.

G. Air and Water 2) Water – Long-Term Planning

2a. ix. ~~wetlands conservation~~ a no-loss policy for remaining wetlands in Minnesota to assure adequate surface area for groundwater recharge,

J. Families 1) Support to Families

1b. We advocate increasing the minimum wage for all workers, temporary and permanent, to a living wage so that all Minnesotans who work full time are able to support themselves and their families. The federal minimum wage for all workers should be set to at least \$15 per hour, indexed to inflation.

J. Families

5) Adoptee Rights

The Green Party advocates the following reforms:

5a. Immediate and direct access to all identifying birth, hospital, foster care and adoption agency records and files concerning the adult adoptee to assist with researching their genealogy, medical history and the truth regarding the circumstances surrounding their adoption or foster care.

5b. Strict financial penalties need to be enforced when birth/adoption records have been lost or destroyed under the care of agencies, hospitals, lawyers, etc.

5c. Full reparations for historical injustices in adoption.

M. Education 2) General Policies

2o. Teacher turnover rates should be brought to low levels in all schools.

2p. The Green Party opposes the corporate school reform agenda, including elimination of teacher tenure and seniority rights, privatization of the public school system, de-funding of schools in high-need areas, and a curriculum focusing on standardized testing.

O. Crime and Justice 3) Drugs

3a. War on Drugs. Greens recognize that the “war on drugs” is racist and disproportionately targets people of color and poor communities. We call for a revised view of the “drug problem” and ending the “war on drugs;” ~~and w~~We call for more innovative approaches to healing communities in which there is a high frequency of drug abuse—such as investing in the development of locally-based economic opportunities, and redirecting funds presently budgeted for the “war on drugs” toward expanded research, education, counseling, and treatment.

3b. Drug abuse. Drug abuse of all kinds should be treated as a disease, rather than a criminal offense. We call for amending the Controlled Substances Act to reflect that drug use in itself is not a crime. We support the decriminalization of personal possession and use of non-addictive ~~drugs.~~

3c. We advocate for the legalization of cannabis possession, sale, and cultivation. ~~And~~ ~~Regulation of its production, sale and use, should be similar to the way we regulate alcohol and tobacco.~~

3d. We call for striking from record all prior convictions for cannabis possession, sale, or cultivation.

3e. We call for amnesty and release from confinement without any further parole or probation, those who have been incarcerated solely for the use, sale, or cultivation of cannabis and other drugs.

O. Crime and Justice

5) The Green Party of Minnesota calls for a complete, thorough, impartial, and independent investigation of the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, including the role of the administration of George W. Bush, various US-based corporations and interests, and other nations and third parties.

R. Grassroots Democracy 6) Election Reform

6d. Abolish the Electoral College and provide for the direct national election of the president by Instant Runoff Voting.

6e. We endorse the following changes to Article 1, Section 2, Paragraph One of the US Constitution: “The House of Representatives shall be chosen every second year by the people of the several states, and the electors in each State shall have the qualifications requisite for electors of the most numerous branch of the state legislature.” To read “The House of Representatives shall be chosen every source year by the people of the several states, and the electors in each state shall have the qualifications requisite for electors of the most numerous branch of the state legislature. The representative term shall run concurrently with the presidential term, and a representative shall resign the office should he or she offer for the Senate after the first two years of the term.”

6f. We also endorsed the following change to Article 4, Section 4 of the Constitution of the State of Minnesota: “Representatives shall be chosen for a term of four years, except to fill a vacancy. Senators shall be chosen for a term of four years, except to fill a vacancy and except there shall be an entire new election of all the Senators at the first election of representatives after each new legislative apportionment provided for in this article. The governor shall call elections to fill vacancies in either house of the legislature.

6g. We endorse the following changes to Article One of the US Constitution: Delete Article 1, Section 6, Paragraph 2: “No senator or representative shall, during the time for which he was elected, be appointed to any civil office under the authority of the United States, which shall have been created, or the emoluments whereof shall have been increased during such time; and no person holding any office under the United States, shall be a member of either house during his continuance in office.”