

Proposal for vote at the Green Party of Colorado Annual meeting on August 12, 2017.

This is Proposal \_\_\_-17: Encourage Forum Participation

Per Section 4.3 of the GPCO Bylaws: All decisions concerning policy, finance, and objectives shall require consensus or a vote of at least 60% of the membership present at a state meeting and/or the Council. The Green Party of Colorado may adopt a party Platform by consensus or a vote of at least 60% of the membership present at a state meeting.

Per Section 4.1.1. of the GPCO Bylaws: In order for official decisions to be made at a state meeting, a quorum of at least 60% of local chapters must be represented, with a minimum number of voting participants (registered in the Green Party of Colorado) equal to twice the number of local chapters represented.

Per Section 3.2.5 of the GPCO Procedures and Guidelines: Proposals brought to the agenda of a state meeting must be made by local chapters or a minimum of 5 individuals at large, by the Council, or by any Officer of the GPCO. A written statement of the proposal must be sent to the Council by a representative of the sponsoring local, or by a member at large accompanied by evidence of at least 4 other member's endorsements. The statement and evidence may be done by email or on paper.

Per Section 4.2.4. of the GPCO Bylaws: All decisions of the Council are subject to review at the next state meeting and may be overturned by a 60% vote.

There are currently 11 active voting chapters in the Green Party of Colorado. Adoption of this proposal requires an AGREE of at least 60% of all votes cast and also requires a minimum quorum of at least one response from seven (7) chapters.

Active Chapters  
Adams County  
Arapahoe County  
Denver  
Douglas County  
Greater Boulder  
Pikes Peak  
Poudre Valley  
Mesa  
San Miguel  
Longmont  
Ouray

Passage of this proposal will be sought via a vote of 60% of the members present at the GPCO State Meeting on August 12, 2017.

1. Basic Info:

Date proposed: August 5, 2017

Names of the sponsors: Kevin Alumbaugh, Susan Hall, Tom Hall, Michael Haughey, Scott Lupo, Gary Swing

2. Title: Encourage Forum Participation

3. Text of the actual proposal:

Change Bylaws 3.1.1 A Green local shall be placed in Inactive Status if it fails to send any representatives to a state meeting or if it fails to have representatives vote for three or more consecutive votes on the council, or if it no longer has any active members on the council. Council members will be considered inactive if they do not vote on three consecutive votes. They will be notified of their status by the Council Facilitator immediately upon missing the third vote. They can be reactivated by notifying the Council Facilitator that they wish to be reactivated and by voting on the next Council vote. Council representatives cannot be reactivated in an Inactive or defunct local. For absence at a state meeting, the local will be notified by the Secretary within one week of the meeting. Once placed in Inactive Status, a local will not be counted in the quorum for votes and its representatives will not be allowed to vote. For missing votes on the Council, the local will be notified by the Council Facilitator immediately upon failing to vote for the third time, or when it no longer has any representatives on the Council.

To:

3.1.1 The Forum Facilitator shall keep records of the votes on the voting page by individual council members. The voting record of all council members shall be updated after each vote and made available on the forum for all GPCO members to see. If a council member does not participate in three consecutive votes, the facilitator shall contact the council member to determine if there are extenuating circumstances, of which heavy work load, vacation, and family emergencies are examples of qualifying extenuating circumstances. If the circumstance will persist for more than three months, the chapter co-chair(s) will be notified and asked to elect an alternate council rep for the duration of the circumstances. A chapter will remain active so long as there is at least one council rep who is able to vote regularly. If no council member votes for the longest of either three consecutive votes or four months, the chapter will be put on notice of impending suspension. The chapter will have one month to provide council members who can participate. If after the additional month the chapter is still not voting (or if no votes in that time, after the next vote), the chapter will not be counted in determining the existence of a quorum. A chapter shall not be suspended or otherwise “punished” for missing votes. Only the counting of the chapter in terms of determining a quorum will be affected. When the chapter council reps begin participating again, the chapter may ask to be counted toward the quorum again and such request shall not be denied.

4. Background:

The recent “suspensions” of chapters appears to be in retaliation for disagreements of opinion. This is inappropriate. Further, punitive actions do not encourage forum or council participation. Council members should be encouraged to participate by being treated fairly and with dignity.

#### 5. Justification/Goals:

The GPCO will function much more smoothly and democratically when council reps are encouraged to participate with recognition that this is a volunteer position and that work and family do indeed come first. A procedure that allows a quorum to be achieved a reasonable percentage of the time is all that is needed.

#### 6. Pros and Cons:

This proposal seeks to eliminate the negative connotations associated with being occasionally busy and unable to participate in forum business, and further dampens over-zealous members from drowning the council rep volunteers in too many proposals. A side benefit may be better thought through proposals.

#### 7. Alternatives to the proposal: Take no action.

#### 8. References:

Green Party of Colorado Bylaws:

<http://coloradogreenparty.org/about/bylaws/>  
[<http://coloradogreenparty.org/about/bylaws/>].

Green Party of Colorado Procedures and Guidelines:

<http://coloradogreenparty.org/about/procedures-guidelines/>

The Four Pillars of the Green Party of the United States: <http://www.gp.org/>