

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

This is Proposal \_\_\_-17: Restoration of Active Status to Certain Chapters

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: Restoration of Active Status to Certain Chapters

3. Text of the actual proposal:

The Jefferson County and Platte Valley chapters are restored to active status effective on this date.

4. Background: These two chapters were declared inactive in June 2017 for allegedly missing on-line council votes as specified in By-law 3.1.1 in the version of the by-laws in effect at that time, which reads "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." The Facilitator failed to inform the representatives that they had missed three consecutive votes until all representatives in each chapter had missed three votes, whereupon the Facilitator declared the chapters inactive. By-law 3.1.1 had not been enforced for many years, and no notice was given that the Facilitator planned to begin enforcing the by-law.

The Colorado Green Party Procedures and Guidelines require all email proposals to be under agreement seeking for one full week, regardless of any blocks. *"3.5.4 Proposals for ACTION will be called by the current convener/facilitator, who will announce a week period of Consensus discussion of a proposal. During that week, members may discuss the proposal, express support for the proposal by saying "I agree with this proposal," or may express concerns or blocking concerns by stating their concern, or may offer amendments."*

5. Justification/Goals: Surprise enforcement of long-ignored by-laws gives the impression of selective enforcement. These two chapters were caught by surprise. Since the Facilitator was remiss in failing to discharge duties specified under the by-law, the council members did not have the required notice and therefore did not have the opportunity to reactivate. It is unfair to penalize the chapters for a situation that would not have occurred if the Facilitator had been fulfilling her obligations as specified in the by-law. Further, the referenced "missed votes" mostly occurred on the agreement-seeking page which is a violation of the Rules and Procedures. Proposals are required to be under agreement-seeking for a minimum of one week and then if there is not consensus or if there is a blocking concern, either sent to a committee to try to develop language that would achieve consensus, be tabled, or be sent to a vote. Therefore the council members in question did NOT miss three consecutive votes in the proper place for voting.

It is not appropriate to remove a chapter because the current co-chair has disagreements with some of the chapters particularly using this method, nor to withhold re-activation for same. To illustrate the absurdity, The Jefferson County Chapter is a long-standing active chapter that has been holding regular monthly meetings consistently since before 2003. One of the council members alleged not to have participated in three consecutive votes is the second most frequent poster on the forum not including two administrators.

The council members were never notified that they were alleged to have missed three votes, nor were they given an accounting of which votes they were alleged to have missed. It may be that the following proposals were included in that number:

Proposal 002-17: Amend GPCO Bylaws to Clarify Two Year Term of Office posted on agreement seeking March 12, 2017, blocked by Larry Dunn March 12 and moved to the Voting page without the required one week agreement-seeking time (Procedures and Guidelines 3.5.4).

**VOTE: REGISTRATION REQUIREMENTS FOR VOTING AT GPCO STATE MEETINGS** posted on the voting page April 15, 2017. This proposal was never posted on agreement seeking, and is therefore the vote is invalid.

Proposal 005-17: GPCO Co-Sponsor Amendment to GPUS Platform on Sex Workers posted on agreement seeking on May 12, 2017 and votes were taken there improperly. It was never moved to the voting page and is therefore the vote is invalid.

6. Pros and Cons: It is better to have local chapters in active status than not. Restoration of the chapters to active status will remind the membership and the officers that local chapters and the state party have mutual obligations to uphold.

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/>