

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

This is Proposal ___-17:

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: Re-instate Judy Harrington

3. Text of the actual proposal:

Overturn Andrea Merida's action of banning Judy Harrington from participation in state-level Green Party activities and reinstate her as an active member of the GPCO in good standing.

4. Background:

Judy was banned by the Poudre Valley Chapter for having opinions different from those of Dave Bell and Andrea Merida. One claim, that Judy violated the Poudre Valley by-laws by personally co-sponsoring a proposal without chapter authorization, was untrue because there was no rule of that nature in Poudre Valley's by-laws. The other claim involved Judy's participation in the Restore Green Values complaint to the GPUS Accreditation Committee, a complaint that the Accreditation Committee judged to have merit and which is the focus of an open case against the GPCO. Although the Poudre Valley ban was specifically limited to participation in the Poudre Valley chapter, Andrea expanded it to include all state party activity, including participation as a council member from any GPCO local.

5. Justification/Goals:

The justifications for banning Judy were patently absurd and dishonest. The expansion of the ban beyond the local level was done by Andrea without support from the state by-laws. By-law 3.3 says a local chapter "can" revoke an individual's right of participation statewide, but the Poudre Valley local revoked only the right of participation in the Poudre Valley chapter, not the statewide party. Andrea acted outside the authority of her position by changing a local ban into a statewide ban without a vote of the membership at a state meeting.

6. Pros and Cons:

There is no long term upside to a party that bans everyone who has a difference of opinion from the leadership. Allowing the banning of people who complain when officers violate the by-laws sends the wrong message to the membership.

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/>