

Grievance Form

1. Name of Individuals or Group Filing the Complaint: Caucus to Restore Green Values to the Green Party of Colorado
2. Contact Information: kalumbaugh@restoregreenvalues.org, hhempy@restoregreenvalues.org, slupo@restoregreenvalues.org, haughey@restoregreenvalues.org, cbninski@restoregreenvalues.org, jharrington@restoregreenvalues.org
3. Date Complaint is filed: 13 June 2017
4. Name of Individual or Group against whom complaint is filed: Andrea Merida, David Bell, Jason Justice
5. Contact Information for that Individual or Group: andreamerida@gmail, counterclockwise@azci.net. We do not have an e-mail address for Jason Justice but he lives with Andrea Merida and we will send the complaint to him via the GPCO forum.
6. Summary of the Complaint-provide date, situation, etc.: Throughout 2016 and 2017, the individuals have violated key values and have largely succeeded in consolidating control of the Green Party of Colorado in their hands rather than in the grassroots chapters of the state. Their control of the state party forum suppresses meaningful dissent and prevents efforts to conduct party business according to the bylaws and guidelines. We have objected repeatedly, but Andrea Merida uses unorthodox interpretations of state bylaws and procedures to derail our complaints. Redress through the state process is therefore impossible.
7. Specific Bylaw, Rule, Procedure, Policy, or other legal document that was violated:
Key Values regarding Feminism and Gender Equity, Respect for Diversity, Personal and Global Responsibility, Grassroots Democracy, Social Justice and Equal Opportunity, Decentralization, Non-Violence, Ecological Wisdom, and Future Focus and Sustainability.

Colorado Bylaws 3.1.1.2, 3.1.1.3, 3.2, 4.1, 4.2.2, 4.2.3, 5.9

Colorado Procedures and Guidelines 3.5.3, 3.5.4, 3.7.

Other standard practices and goals: calculation of quorum, honesty, fair play, ethics, rule of law, no abuse of power, building the party.

Outline of Violations

Ms. Merida has

- approved of a **conspiracy to rig the election** of officers including Ms. Merida at the upcoming GPCO state meeting, consisting of an elaborate scheme to pack the GPCO annual meeting with temporary Greens who are friends of Ms. Merida; in violation of social values *honesty, fair play*
- **advocated violence** as a method of dealing with opposing viewpoints; in violation of KV *non-violence*
- appointed herself to **fill every GPCO position** that has recently fallen vacant while ignoring volunteers for those positions; in violation of KV decentralization which calls for restructuring of social, political and economic institutions away from a system controlled by and mostly benefiting the powerful few; in violation of KV *grassroots democracy* which call on us to improve public participation in every aspect of government and expand the process of participatory democracy; in violation of Colorado Procedures and Guidelines 3.7
- **removed her co-chair** under questionable circumstances using false pretenses; in

violation of Green Party of Colorado Bylaw 5.9

- **violated state bylaws**, state council procedures, and guidelines; in violation of social values ethics, rule of law
- delayed, edited, and **obstructed proposals** that were contrary to her wishes; in violation of KV *grassroots democracy* which calls on us to improve public participation in every aspect of government and, expand the process of participatory democracy; in violation of KV *decentralization* which calls for restructuring of social, political and economic institutions away from a system controlled by and mostly benefiting the powerful few; in violation of Colorado Procedures and Guideline 3.5.3; in violation of social values *fair play, no abuse of power*
- **antagonized Green candidates** running for state and federal offices; in violation of the political goal of *building the party*
- **contributed to a deep schism** within the GPCO; in violation of the political goal of *building the party*
- failed to support and actively rejected and **opposed admission of supporters of Senator Bernie Sanders** who were moving or attempting to move to the Green Party; in violation of KV *personal and global responsibility* which calls for us to join with people and organizations around the world to foster peace, economic justice, and the health of the planet; in violation of KV *grassroots democracy* which calls for us to- improve public participation in every aspect of government and expand the process of participatory democracy
- made irresponsible, unsupportable **accusations of sexism, racism, and white supremacy** within the GPCO; in violation of KV *feminism and gender equity* which calls for cooperative ways of interacting; in violation of KV *respect for diversity* which calls for development of respectful relationships
- made **unorthodox interpretations of rules** to suppress dissent and to benefit her own agenda; in violation of social values *honesty, fair play, no abuse of power*
- **ghostwritten proposals** that were later presented as grassroots proposals made by local chapters; in violation of KV *decentralization* which says decision-making should, as much as possible, remain at the individual and local level
- **posted comments** suggesting that people of color and the working class are the **only true believers** in progressive politics; in violation of KV *social justice and equal opportunity* which call on us to consciously confront in ourselves, our organizations, and society at large, any discrimination by race, class, gender, sexual orientation, age
- elevated values of **social justice and feminism above other party values** in the bylaws of two local chapters and **twisted** them into “anti-racism” and “anti-white (male) supremacy”; in violation of KV *feminism and gender equity* which says “We recognize that the processes for determining our decisions and actions are just as important as achieving the outcomes we want.”
- **dismissed the March for Science** on Earth Day 2017 as not worth the trouble of participating; in violation of KV's *ecological wisdom; personal and global responsibility; future focus and sustainability*. What does the “Green” in Green Party stand for if not for ecology and environmentalism?

8. If any other Green Party committee, caucus, etc. has been involved in this issue, information about the nature the involvement and who was involved. None known.

9. Action requested by the individual or group making the complaint:

- a. Bar the three individuals from membership in the Green Party of Colorado for life,

eliminate the prior registration requirement that was part of the conspiracy to stack the vote, and delay the annual meeting so other candidates can be recruited.

b. Appoint a National Committee sub-committee to oversee restoration of the Green Party of Colorado (GPCO).

c. Should the above action not be available, as a last resort de-certify the GPCO and appoint a National Committee sub-committee to oversee the restart and reformation of the GPCO.

10. Appendices: Include documentation such as minutes, bylaws, e-mails, etc.: See the file available at <http://restoregreenvalues.org/>.