A Green Party Introduction

The party of Sustainability, Justice, Peace and Democracy – the Green Party of the United States (GPUS) – will hold its 2015 National Committee Meeting at the University of Missouri-Saint Louis, from July 23-26, 2015. This year's meeting will be much more than just a gathering. We are planning a shorter but more productive National Committee Meeting on Friday and Sunday morning. We've also arranged with local activists to provide workshops and events on racial justice in the wake of Ferguson, which is located two miles from the campus.

The Green Party's 2012 Convention in Baltimore showed the party's growth over the last decade and increasingly important Green presence in U.S. Politics for the 21st century. More than 220 Green Party candidates ran for office in 2012.

The Green Party was founded in 2001 as a national party, after spending the 1990s building on the local and state level. Today, 128 Greens hold elected office across the nation, and approximately 300,000 voters are registered Green. Many thousands more identify themselves as Green in states that don't have party membership by voter registration. Greens are organized in all 50 states, as well as the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico, and the number of state Green parties affiliated with the national party stands at 44, more than double the number in 2001. In the 2012 general election, the Green Party had ballot lines in 37 states, including the five largest states.

Internationally, U.S. Greens are part of a global movement of Green Parties in 100 countries, reflecting a shared commitment to heal our planet that transcends national identities and political boundaries.

Greens have run for office since the first Green Parties were founded in Tasmania and New Zealand in 1972. Since then, Greens have been elected to thousands of seats around the globe in local, regional, national and international parliaments. On the national level, Greens hold a total of at least 314 seats as of December 2013, up from 296 in July 2011. This includes 222 seats in 20 European nations and another 86 seats in Australia (10), Brazil (11), Canada (2), Colombia (8), Congo (1), Egypt (1) México (37), Mongolia (2), New Zealand (14) and Vanuatu (5). There are also 46 Greens holding seats in the European Parliament.

Most Greens elected at the regional, national or international level have been elected in multi-seat electorates (districts/constituencies/ridings) through systems of proportional representation. However Greens have increasingly been winning direct election in single-seat electorates, including Elizabeth May to the Canadian House of Commons in 2011 and Caroline Lucas to the British House of Commons in 2010.

The GPUS participates as a member of the Federación de Partidos Verdes de las Americas, and globally as a charter member of the Global Greens. In 2012, over 400 Greens from 76 countries attended the third Global Greens Congress held in Dakar, Senegal. The Congress approved the Rio+20 Summit resolution, which calls for actions supporting a Green economy across the globe.

Ten Key Values

1. GRASSROOTS DEMOCRACY. New types of political organizations will expand the process of participatory democracy by directly including citizens in the decision-making process.

2. SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EQUAL OPPORTUNITY. All persons should have the rights and opportunity to benefit equally from the resources afforded us by society and the environment.

3. ECOLOGICAL WISDOM. A sustainable society utilizing resources will insure that future generations will benefit and avoid dire consequences from wasteful resource management.

4. NON-VIOLENCE. Without being naive about the intentions of other governments, we will work to demilitarize and eliminate weapons of mass destruction. National security is more reliant on diplomacy and good stewardship.

5. DECENTRALIZATION. Restructuring of social, political and economic institutions is required to fix a system which is mired in bureaucracy, and controlled by a powerful few.

6. COMMUNITY-BASED ECONOMICS AND ECONOMIC JUSTICE. A vibrant and sustainable economic system is rooted in independently-owned small businesses. Government must do more to assist socially and economically responsible businesses.

7. FEMINISM AND GENDER EQUITY. Respecting differences of opinion and gender strengthen our country and communities.

8. RESPECT FOR DIVERSITY. High value must be placed on cultural, ethnic, racial, sexual, religious and spiritual diversity.

9. PERSONAL AND GLOBAL RESPONSIBILITY. Individuals should be encouraged to improve their personal well-being and join with people and organizations around the world to foster peace, economic justice, and the health of the planet.

10. FUTURE FOCUS AND SUSTAINABILITY. Short-term profits should not damage long-term economic development and new technologies. Fiscal policies must be held to account for implications to future generations.

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Facebook Page: https://www.facebook.com/GreenPartyUS
Twitter: https://twitter.com/GreenPartyUS
Instagram: https://instagram.com/greenpartyus/

Green Party weblinks

Green Party Homepage: http://www.gp.org
Green Platform: http://gpus.nationbuilder.com/platform
Green candidate database & campaign information: http://www.gp.org/election-news
Green Party News Center: http://www.gp.org/newsroom
Green Papers: http://www.greenpapers.net/
GP-TV Green Party Livestream Channel: http://www.livestream.com/greenpartyus
Green Party Speakers Bureau: http://www.gp.org/newsroom/speakers-bureau
Video Page: http://www.gp.org/video/index.php
Green Pages: http://greenpagesnews.org
Green Party Ballot Access Page: http://www.gp.org/ballot-access-committee
International Committee of the Green Party: http://www.gp.org/committees/intl
Federación de Partidos Verdes de las Americas:
http://www.verdesamericagreens.org/docs/english.htm
Global Greens: www.globalgreens.org
Global Green Charter: http://www.globalgreens.org/globalcharter