

Green Party of the United States
2008 Presidential Nominating Convention and Annual National Meeting
Summary of Proposal to Select Location and Dates

Prepared by the GPUS Annual National Meeting Committee and Steering Committee

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Explanation of Bidding Process

The Annual National Meeting Committee circulated a RFP (Request for Proposal) regarding hosting the 2008 GPUS National Nominating Convention in late winter. The Letters of Interest/Intent were due on April 15, 2007, with first drafts due on June 15, 2007, and final proposals due on July 1, 2007.

Requested was a website proposal to be showcased at the 2007 Annual National Meeting in Reading with discussion and voting to begin shortly after returning from Reading. The goal was for the Green Party of the United States to know where their 2008 Nominating Convention would be held by late August 2007. Members of the Annual National Meeting Committee assisted the four groups with their proposals to create more comprehensive proposals so members of the National Committee can make an informed decision. The RFP document is available online at http://www.gp.org/committees/anmc/documents/2008_rfp.pdf and is also included as an appendix in this document.

For any questions about the bidding process, please contact Ruth Weill, Chair of the Annual National Meeting Committee at ruthweill@gmail.com or 414-350-2107.

Four groups have submitted bids: Chicago, Detroit, Minneapolis, and Oakland-Berkeley. The bids have been condensed into eight individual bid packages, two from each bidding group. The Chicago packages are very similar, with the dates being different and with some slight price differences. The Minneapolis packages are very similar, with the dates being different. Detroit has submitted packages for two different locations, one in Detroit and one in Dearborn. Oakland-Berkeley has submitted packages for two different locations.

In order to make the voting process as equitable as possible, the bidders were asked to condense their options into two packages. Some of the bid packages are for only one weekend; some of the bid packages are for several different weekends. Some venues allowed us to place a hold for a short period of time, and other venues gave greater ranges of dates instead of offering holds. Because of this, it is possible that, depending on which package is selected, the National Committee will be subsequently asked to select a weekend from that package. It is also possible that a preferred weekend may not be available by the conclusion of voting because the proposals were put together several weeks in advance of the completion of voting. Most organizations do not conduct their bidding processes for conventions in a manner which requires a large body to consider multiple proposals at once over time, so we have had to adapt our system to facilitate the actual options on the table.

Explanation of Voting Process

The Green National Committee will select a convention site and dates using standard Instant Runoff Voting (IRV). While the voting system is standard, the options are somewhat unusual for an IRV vote. The Annual National Meeting Committee and Steering Committee feel it is necessary to explain this in some detail so the National Committee has a complete understanding of how the vote will be conducted.

As with any standard IRV vote, delegates will rank choices, assigning a rank of 1 to their first preference, a rank of 2 to their second preference, and so on. A delegate may assign ranks to all options or to as few options as he/she chooses. To win, ultimately a single bid package will need to receive a majority vote.

Unlike many IRV votes delegates have experienced, with this vote there are a large number of options. This presents two issues. First, if a delegate ranks only a small number of options, there is a good chance that his/her ballot will become "exhausted". It is very likely that the vote will proceed through multiple rounds before a final outcome is determined, so a delegate will want to carefully consider all options and not just pick the options corresponding solely to his/her preference for a location and/or date. Second, if several delegates rank only a small number of choices, it is very possible that the vote will end without any option winning the majority of support necessary. This is a potentially serious problem, as some of the bids are being held only for a certain amount of time, and other bids are on a first-come first-serve basis such that any delay in selection may cost us the venue. For these two reasons, **delegates are very strongly urged to rank all or nearly all options**, and are urged only to decline to rank an option if there is some reason why the delegate feels that option is completely unacceptable.

It is possible that at the completion of voting, the winning package will prove to be unavailable, because we were not able to hold all packages. In the event that the winning package is unavailable, the ballots will be retabulated with the winning package excluded so as to determine a new winning package.

It is also possible that at the completion of voting, the winning package will include multiple different options for dates, and the National Committee will be asked to consider an expedited proposal to select the dates from the options available.

For most delegates, the packages as a whole will be the main criteria for voting. It is understood that some delegates may wish to prioritize dates ahead of venues. Because of the voting method employed, though, it was imperative to limit all bidders to two packages. A bidder with more packages than another bidder could actually be at a competitive *disadvantage* because of the way in which IRV works. The packages compiled and presented as voting options are designed with the greatest fairness in mind to all bidders.



Chicago (Packages C1, C2)

Bid Website

<http://www.greenconvention2008.com>

Introduction

The importance of this election cannot be understated. America is fed up with corporate candidates offering more of the same. This is our year to shine.

Our 2008 convention is an important first impression for voters and the media, where we will demonstrate that Greens are with THE PEOPLE on the issues, not the corporations. And a convention in Chicago, a big media town, with its grand venues and a rich political history, will help deliver our message. Chicago is also a convenient transportation hub, and home to 350,000 Green voters. Let's continue our momentum with a convention in Chicago!

Contact

Patrick Kelly, patrickfkelly@gmail.com

City, State

Chicago, Illinois

Proposed Dates

Package C1: July 10-13

Package C2: July 17-20

Venue and Seating Capacity for Nominating Convention

Chicago Theatre. Capacity 3600. Imagine the GREEN PARTY name on the most famous, most visible marquee in Chicago's bustling downtown. A convention held at the Chicago Theatre will give the Green Party unmistakable presence, not to mention help us attract top-tier speakers and national media. Also: this venue is a union shop.

Venue and Rooms/Seating Capacity for Other Meetings/Events

Blackstone Hotel. Ballroom capacity 350, with several breakout rooms. The newly restored Blackstone Hotel has a storied political history, and they are excited about hosting the Green Party's political convention! The Blackstone, when it re-opens this fall, will be a union shop.

Lodging: Hotel Rooms / Capacity / Price

Blackstone Hotel. Number of rooms: 250. Room price: \$189/night. The Blackstone Hotel is completely renovated, and is the "greenest" hotel in the city, right up to its green roof. When it opens, it will be a union shop. If we can fill 250 rooms, we will have the run of the hotel, which will allow us full access to common areas as well as all meeting spaces.



Lodging: Off-Site Capacity with Local Greens

We will attempt to accommodate all requests for off-site lodging with local Greens. There are a number of nearby hotels to handle overflow if the Blackstone fills. There is also a hostel located just a few blocks from the meeting sites.

Media and Audio/Visual Capabilities of Site

Both venues feature state-of-the-art audio-video capabilities.

Transportation: Airport / Freeways / Public Transit

Chicago is the nation's transportation hub, with low cost airfare to two major airports (Midway and O'Hare), direct Amtrak rail service to dozens of cities, and several major interstate highways. Once in Chicago, you will not need to rent a car; convenient mass transit is available from both airports. Additionally, you can use mass transit – or rent a bike – for all your sightseeing. Bikers will enjoy Chicago's 150 miles of dedicated bike lanes throughout the city, including a stunningly beautiful ride along Lake Michigan.

Base of Available Volunteers

Chicago and the surrounding metropolitan area is home to hundreds of Greens, and there is no shortage of skilled, capable, dedicated volunteers. And because the Illinois Green Party already has statewide ballot access for 2008, and because our primary occurs in Feb. 2008, our volunteers will not be bogged down with petitioning or legal challenges leading up to the convention.

Projected Role of Local and State Party

The Illinois Green Party and the locals in Chicagoland are ready to take the lead on planning, organizing, volunteer coordination, etc. Our goal is to make this convention the most memorable to date, and use the inroads we made with the media during the Rich Whitney for Governor campaign to elevate the national presence of the Green Party.

How Choice of Site is to Grow Green Party at the State and National Levels

Not only will a convention help a number of local candidates, but a convention in Chicago will help raise the profile of the Green Party nationwide. Chicago is a big media town, home to many national newspapers, television stations/programs, and reporters. With its vast history of hosting conventions, including the notorious 1968 Democratic Convention in which anti-war protestors scuffled with police right in front of the Blackstone Hotel, a Chicago convention gives rise to numerous historical parallels and themes, just ripe for the media to cover. Plus, what better way to get the Democrats' goat by holding the convention in Hillary's home town and Barack's backyard! Chicago is the only convention site that can promise this level of media coverage, which will help Greens in all races across the country.



Minneapolis (Packages M3, M4)

Bid Website

<http://gpus2008.mngreens.org>

Introduction

Minneapolis offers a centrally located, accessible, affordable convention with a well organized, experienced local support team, and state-of-art, fully unionized facilities.

In Minneapolis, being Green is a way of life and a growing political movement. We:

- * Are stewards of abundant lakes, creeks, river, urban forest, and parkland.
- * Celebrate our arts and cultural diversity.
- * Foster a human-scale economy with cooperatively owned and unionized businesses.
- * Enjoy walkable neighborhoods and convenient public transit.
- * Serve in municipal government and on community councils.

Visit www.gpus2008.mngreens.org to learn more. Come spend some time with us as we live Green and grow.

Contact

Annie Young, anniey@visi.com

City, State

Minneapolis, Minnesota

<http://www.minneapolis.org/travelinfo/pdf/mplsmapt.pdf>

Proposed Dates

Package M3: July 9-14

Package M4: July 23-28

Venue and Seating Capacity for Nominating Convention

http://www.minneapolisconventioncenter.com/meeting_planners/floorPlans.asp

28,000 sq. ft. ballroom, flexible in seating style (3,500 in theater style), 87 column-free meeting rooms, auditorium seats 3,433 if all sections used, all can be set up for separation of delegates and observers. Price for this full package: \$3,750.00 per event day, \$7,500.00 total.

Venue and Rooms/Seating Capacity for Other Meetings/Events

<http://gpus2008.mngreens.org/dates>

The fully unionized Millennium Hotel is 125 steps away from the Convention Center. Its Loring Room is available for the board sessions and can seat 200 in a double horseshoe configuration. This is close to the four Avenue rooms, each seating 60 in theater style, for breakout sessions and other meetings. Room rental for use would be \$12,800 for the four days; this would be less by adding food and beverage

use. Hold on all rooms, rates and prices indicated are valid until Sept. 1, 2007. Audio visual charges are additional.

Lodging: Hotel Rooms / Capacity / Price

<http://gpus2008.mngreens.org/dates>

Ramada Inn has 100 rooms (50 singles, 50 doubles) on hold until Sept. 1, 2007 at the rate of \$99/night. Millennium Hotel, 125 steps from the Convention Center, has 100 rooms with an indoor pool, sauna and workout suite with state of the art exercise equipment. They are on hold until Sept. 1, 2007. Rates are Single \$159, Double \$169, Triple \$179, and Quad \$189. Both are union hotels. Other non-union hotels are also nearby.

Lodging: Off-Site Capacity with Local Greens

A few homes are available on a first come, first serve basis. Group camping sites for over 1200 persons are available in Minneapolis St. Paul metropolitan area; additional individual sites are also available. Public transportation is readily available throughout the metro area to easily bring people to the convention site. Rides and shuttles can also be arranged to facilitate the group camping option.

Media and Audio/Visual Capabilities of Site

<http://www.minneapolisconventioncenter.com/content/PDF/UserGuide/roomSpecs.pdf>

State of the art production and flexible technology options are available throughout the convention center, with wired and wireless Internet and networking available, computer stations located in most of the lobbies. The onsite business center provides additional hours on request. State of the art production and flexible technology options are available throughout the convention center, with wired and wireless Internet and networking available, and computer stations located in most of the lobbies. Onsite Technology support teams will be provided at both the hotel and convention center. Minneapolis should have citywide installation of WiFi by the time of the 2008 convention. 87 column-free meeting rooms are available at the Convention Center for possible press conference use.

Transportation: Airport / Freeways / Public Transit

<http://gpus2008.mngreens.org/travel>

Minneapolis-St. Paul International airport is a major hub for Northwest Airlines and is also served by many other carriers. Onsite auto rental agencies for Alamo, Avis, Budget, Hertz and National are all located in the airport. Light rail transit runs from the airport to downtown Minneapolis within blocks of the Convention Center; rates are \$1.50, \$2.00 at rush hour. Regular bus service connects throughout the metro area (same rates as LRT). Bus, taxi and Super Shuttle are also available for ground transportation. Many hotels also run shuttle services. Additional transportation around downtown includes horse drawn carriages and bicycle rental. Minneapolis is within a day's drive to over one-third of the US. Interstates 94 and 35 come right into downtown Minneapolis. Minneapolis is second only to Portland, Oregon in bicycle commuters, and has a well developed bike trail system.

Base of Available Volunteers

http://www.nationalservice.gov/pdf/07_0712_via_cities_factsheet.pdf

We have over two dozen volunteers already signed up to serve as the host committee for the 2008 convention, including an experienced Volunteer Coordinator. We are in the process of identifying Housing, Transportation and Information & Technology Coordinators to head up teams to ensure a smooth and successful convention and lighten the load for national organizers. Our proven record of volunteer organizing includes running over 100 electoral campaigns, convening annual state-wide conventions since 1994, and hosting a very successful 12,000 person Nader/LaDuke “Super” Rally at our local Target Center in 2000 with less than one month’s notice. Every year Greens volunteer at parades and festivals throughout the state, including over 100 volunteers who work at our State Fair – selling the Green Party. Additionally, a new study by the Corporation for National and Community Service found that “the Minneapolis metro area has the highest volunteering rate” of the 50 large cities it studied.

Projected Role of Local and State Party

<http://mngreens.org/locals>

Both the state Green Party of Minnesota and the local Minneapolis/5th district Green Party are fully and formally supportive and involved in efforts to host the convention in Minneapolis in 2008. This spring a joint committee of both party units formed to draft this proposal. The state Green Party members approved the proposal by over 85% at our June 2nd Membership Meeting. We fully expect that cooperative effort to continue and grow to include ongoing support and involvement from the active St. Paul/4th Congressional District Green Party as well as the Minneapolis-based University of Minnesota College Greens, and the over 9 additional smaller Green Party affiliated local party and campus groups in the greater metropolitan area.

How Choice of Site is to Grow Green Party at the State and National Levels

The energy, experience and organizing strength of the Greens in Minnesota and Minneapolis offer the synergy and capacity needed to make the 2008 Green Party of United States convention a success and help the national party prepare for the important next steps of growth and activism in 2008 and beyond. A convention here will provide a big boost to local organizing efforts, activate and educate individuals, bring media attention, inspire potential candidates and help locals grow. The media coverage (in part because the national Republican Convention will be held in nearby St. Paul in early September) we have already experienced indicates that the convention in Minneapolis will be of great interest to local and national media alike. The Green Party has a long history of success in Minnesota and Minneapolis. In 1997, 2001 and 2005 we elected endorsed candidates to the Minneapolis City Council and Park and Recreation Board. We are eager to share how our Greens in government have shaped public policy in Minneapolis and to learn from others Greens throughout the nation.



Berkeley (Packages B5 and B6)

Bid Website

http://rachel.cagreens.org/oakland/html/2008_convention.html

Introduction

The 12,000-member Green Party of Alameda County has two different sites for you to consider: 1) the downtown Marriott/Oakland Convention Center, a "standard" convention center, with 484 hotel rooms and capacity for 6,000, with typical convention center pricing. 2) the downtown Berkeley Community Theater, owned by the Berkeley School District, which has 3,500 seats, and is significantly less expensive when all basic expenses are considered (facilities, meeting rooms, housing, and food). It offers us more flexibility with housing and meals, and the opportunity to have a "less corporate" convention.

Contact

Greg Jan, gregjan3@yahoo.com or 510-444-7336

City, State

Berkeley, California

http://www.downtownberkeley.org/templates/dbaTransit/images/dba_print_map.gif

Proposed Dates

Package B5: June 17-23 * or June 24-30

Package B6: July 8-14 * or July 15-21

* - The availability of these dates is pending decisions by other groups which are first in line, but it is believed that at least two of the dates will be available.

Venue and Seating Capacity for Nominating Convention

http://rachel.cagreens.org/oakland/html/berkeley_site.html

http://rachel.cagreens.org/oakland/html/berkeley_food.html

The Berkeley Community Theater is located in downtown Berkeley, across the street from City Hall and Civic Center Park, and just two blocks from the downtown Berkeley BART (rail) station. The Theater is two blocks from the main library, three blocks from Berkeley's Arts District, 4 blocks from the UC Berkeley campus, and there are hundreds of restaurants, cafes, and retail stores within walking distance. A map of downtown Berkeley is available at

The Berkeley Community Theater can seat 3500 attendees. Sections of the theater can be designated for delegates, and for observers. If fewer than 800 observers are expected, they could all be accommodated in the balcony -- if more than 800 observers are anticipated, then the rear (and extreme sides) of the main floor seating could also be used for observers. Or alternatively, everyone could be accommodated on the main floor (assuming that total attendance is less than 2700).

The cost for the Berkeley Community Theater is \$3,300 per day, for use from 12 noon until 12 midnight. Extra hours are \$253 per hour. In addition, a \$1,624 custodial fee will also be charged. However, we can use outside caterers for any meals that we serve at the venue, and we are not obligated to use any specific hotels. We therefore anticipate saving over \$20,000 when compared to venues that require on-site caterers, and another \$10,000 to \$30,000 when compared to venues that require booking rooms at a specific hotel(s) – depending also on the number of homestays that are requested.

Venue and Rooms/Seating Capacity for Other Meetings/Events
http://rachel.cagreens.org/oakland/html/berkeley_site.html

The meeting of the National Committee Plenary prior to the convention will be held at the Berkeley High School library, which has a capacity of over 300. (The library is just south of the Theater -- both are on the High School campus). For other meetings, we will have many dozens of high school classrooms at our disposal, including larger rooms in the career center and several rooms in the upper level of the Theater. The cost for using the library, and other larger rooms, is \$33 per hour. The charge for all other rooms is \$25 per hour. At least 4 larger rooms will be available to us, as well as scores of classrooms.

Lodging: Hotel Rooms / Capacity / Price

The Shattuck Plaza Hotel, with 175 rooms, is less than two blocks from the Theater. If we reserve this Fall (for next Summer) 100 or more rooms for both Friday and Saturday nights (plus a few dozen rooms each on Tuesday through Thursday nights), then the charge will be \$99 per room, plus the 12% city hotel tax. After remodeling, which is currently underway, each room will then have 2 beds, and cots will also be available.

There are many other hotels within a mile or two of the Theater, most of which are located on convenient bus lines. These include a Holiday Inn Express Hotel (69 rooms), Travelodge Berkeley (30 rooms), the French Hotel (18 rooms), and the Best Western University Inn Berkeley (109 rooms). The rates for these hotels is \$90 to \$134 per room. There are also a few less expensive hotels located a bit further away.

Lodging: Off-Site Capacity with Local Greens

Over 3,500 Greens live in Berkeley, with over 6,000 more residing in neighboring cities (mainly in Oakland). In addition, over 15,000 Greens live in other cities served by our BART rail line. In January, 2008, and again in May, 2008, we will be sending our Voter Guide to all households in Alameda County with a Green voter. If the NC chooses to have the 2008 convention in Alameda County, we will include in these two mailings a request that our local Greens help house convention attendees. If just ten percent of the 10,000 households that will receive our mailings respond affirmatively, then we will be able to house over 1,000 out-of-the area Greens. And that figure doesn't even include the over 15,000 other local Greens who live outside of Alameda County, many of whom may also be willing to house out-of-town attendees. (Note: Besides mailings, we also have phone numbers for about 7,000 of these households. Depending on the need, we could have local volunteers make calls (in-person) to thousands of these phone numbers. However, if we wanted to leave a voice-mail message for all 7,000 households, it would probably be more efficient to pay a few hundred dollars to leave a pre-recorded



message – perhaps from one of our local elected Greens. Finally, we will also send e-mail requests, but we only have about 1,500 local email addresses).

Given that the Berkeley Community Theater is just 2 blocks from the BART rail line, and that it is also very close to several major bus routes, transportation to and from homestay locations throughout the area should be quite convenient.

Media and Audio/Visual Capabilities of Site

The Berkeley Community Theater is equipped with a screen, dual 35mm projectors, a standard sound system, a 100' x 55' stage, and a 53' orchestra platform on a lift. (It also has a magnificent vintage 1922-1932 Wurlitzer pipe organ). There is a green room, a stage shop, dressing rooms, and several upstairs rooms, which could be used as needed for press, computers, and other needs.

The Berkeley High School Library has a pull-down screen, and screens and other audio/visual and computer equipment can be brought in to the various meeting rooms, as needed.

Transportation: Airport / Freeways / Public Transit

<http://rachel.cagreens.org/oakland/html/transportation.html>

The Oakland International Airport (OAK) is the closest airport. It is a hub for Southwest Airlines, and also serves 12 other airlines, including American, Delta, United, US Air, and Jet Blue. The San Francisco International Airport (SFO) is also convenient. It is a hub for United Airlines, and at least 14 other domestic airlines (and over 20 international airlines) fly into and out of SFO. The trip to the downtown Berkeley BART station (2 blocks from the Theater) will take about 45 minutes from the Oakland airport (\$5), and about 60 minutes from the San Francisco airport (\$6). Minivans, taxis, and rental cars are also available at both airports.

For those traveling by train, the Berkeley AMTRAK station is located about 2 miles from the Theater, and is on a bus line to downtown. The closest Greyhound bus station is in downtown Oakland, about 10 blocks from the nearest BART station, or you can take a bus from there to Berkeley.

Base of Available Volunteers

Over 10,000 Greens live in the Berkeley/Oakland area -- we do not anticipate any problems with recruiting sufficient volunteers. Our members regularly volunteer for Green Party and other activist projects, with as many as 100 Greens working on a single project at the same time. Our volunteers have a wealth of skills and backgrounds, and we also include several who have previously helped coordinate conferences or gatherings, for up to 1000 people. (In addition, Greens from other Bay Area counties have already offered to volunteer as well). For more information about the Green Party of Alameda County, our volunteers, and our activities, please see:

http://rachel.cagreens.org/oakland/html/local_green_party.html

Seven Alameda County Greens currently hold elected office, including a Berkeley City Council member, a Berkeley School Board member, and 4 Berkeley Rent Board members. In addition, at least 22 other Greens in our Bay Area region are also elected officeholders, including the Mayor of Richmond (Contra Costa county), and a majority of the Sebastopol City Council (Sonoma county). Plus several



prominent Bay Area Greens are former elected officeholders, including Matt Gonzalez, who served as President of the San Francisco Board of Supervisors, and Wilson Riles, who was a member of the Oakland City Council for over a dozen years, and who ran against Jerry Brown for Mayor in 2002. For more information about Alameda County and Bay Area elected Greens, please see:

http://rachel.cagreens.org/oakland/html/elected_officials.html

Projected Role of Local and State Party

Volunteers from the Berkeley and Alameda County Green Parties will work with the site committee and the ANMCOM to host the convention. We are completely flexible as to the structure and process for coordinating the convention, plenary, and other meetings, towards hosting the best possible event. In addition to local volunteers, Greens from other Bay Area counties, as well as our 45-member state party delegation to the GPUS, may also be tapped, as needed or desired.

How Choice of Site is to Grow Green Party at the State and National Levels

Over 12,000 Green Party members live in Alameda County, with a total of over 45,000 Greens residing in our San Francisco Bay Area region. At least 29 Greens in our area currently hold elected office (with 7 of them from Alameda County). We have the Green Party resources and infrastructure to help the national party hold the best possible national convention. As a center of progressive and radical politics, there are over 300 activist nonprofit organizations located in the Berkeley/Oakland area, with a total of over 1200 such organizations located throughout the Bay Area. (Please see <http://www.bapd.org/> for an extensive listing). There are also hundreds of progressive and environmental businesses in the area, including enterprises working on solar and/or wind energy, recycling, green building materials, biodiesel, etc. We expect many of these groups to offer to staff tables, hold workshops, and provide resource people for the convention as needed, and generally participate in whatever way the GPUS would like to make use of this strong activist community in our area. (For more info. on the Berkeley/Oakland area, please see: http://rachel.cagreens.org/oakland/html/local_area.html).

In addition to the outstanding Green Party and activist resources in our area to make the convention a success, we also anticipate (as described in section #2, above) that having the convention in Berkeley can save us between \$30,000 and \$50,000 when compared to venues that require on-site caterers and/or that require booking rooms at specific hotels (depending on the number of homestays that will actually be used). A healthy portion of these savings can be structured so that the funds can go directly to the GPUS, to be used however the NC prefers.



Oakland (Package O7 & O8)

Bid Website

http://rachel.cagreens.org/oakland/html/2008_convention.html

Introduction

The 12,000-member Green Party of Alameda County has two different sites for you to consider: 1) the downtown Marriott/Oakland Convention Center, a "standard" convention center, with 484 hotel rooms and capacity for 6,000, with typical convention center pricing. 2) the downtown Berkeley Community Theater, owned by the Berkeley School District, which has 3,500 seats, and is significantly less expensive when all basic expenses are considered (facilities, meeting rooms, housing, and food). It offers us more flexibility with housing and meals, and the opportunity to have a "less corporate" convention.

Contact

Greg Jan, gregjan3@yahoo.com or 510-444-7336

City, State

Oakland, California

http://mondomap.com/mondo/map_ocvb.cfm

Proposed Dates

Package O7: June 24-30

Package O8: July 8-14 or July 15-21 or July 22-28

Venue and Seating Capacity for Nominating Convention

The Marriott/Oakland Convention Center is located in downtown Oakland's City Center district, 3 blocks from City Hall, 2 blocks from the City Center retail shops, and one block from the historic Old Oakland area (with restaurants, art galleries, and retail stores). The Convention Center is also just one block from Oakland's Chinatown, which has hundreds of restaurants and stores, and it is 7 blocks from the Jack London Square tourist area, and 8 blocks from the Oakland Museum, the main library, and Lake Merritt.

The Oakland Convention Center can hold 6,000 people, but as specified, this proposal is for a section of the convention center that can accommodate up to 2,000 attendees. The seating for the flat floor area that we will be using is completely moveable – areas can specifically be designated for delegates and for observers

Based on the hotel room commitment below, the cost for the Convention Center is \$2,000 per day (plus \$150 per breakout room, per day).



Venue and Rooms/Seating Capacity for Other Meetings/Events

http://rachel.cagreens.org/oakland/html/oakland_site.html

The meeting of the National Committee Plenary prior to the convention will be held in one of several Marriott/Oakland Convention Center rooms that can accommodate at least 250 people. For other meetings, up to 15 breakout rooms at the Convention Center will be available to us.

Based on the hotel room commitment below, the cost for the NC plenary meeting at the Oakland Convention Center is \$500 per day (plus \$150 per breakout room, per day).

Lodging: Hotel Rooms / Capacity / Price

http://rachel.cagreens.org/oakland/html/oakland_housing.html

The Oakland Marriott City Center Hotel, which has 484 rooms, is directly connected to the Oakland Convention Center. If we contract this Fall (for next Summer) an average of 250 or more rooms for both Friday and Saturday nights, plus an average of 37 rooms on Tuesday through Thursday nights, then the charge will be \$105 per room for July 1-7, 2008; \$115 per room for June 24-30, July 8-14; July 15-21, or July 22-28, 2008. These rates are exclusive of the Oakland City occupancy tax, which is 11%. The rooms can be single or double occupancy, whichever we prefer, and the hotel has a limit of four adults per room.

Two other hotels are located within one block of the Convention Center: the Washington Inn (47 rooms), and the Courtyard by Marriott (162 rooms). Rooms in these hotels are priced from \$89 to \$178. One mile from the Convention Center, on a bus line, is the Jack London Square tourist area, which has 4 less-expensive hotels (with over 500 total rooms), with prices starting at \$72 (including the 10% group discount rate). Even less expensive hotels are located around the Oakland Airport, 7 miles from the Convention Center.

Lodging: Off-Site Capacity with Local Greens

Over 5,000 Greens live in Oakland, with over 4,500 more residing in neighboring cities (mainly in Berkeley). In addition, over 15,000 Greens live in other cities served by our BART rail line. In January, 2008, and again in May, 2008, we will be sending our Voter Guide to all households in Alameda County with a Green voter. If the NC chooses to have the 2008 convention in Alameda County, we will include in these two mailings a request that our local Greens help house convention attendees. If just ten percent of the 10,000 households that will receive our mailings respond affirmatively, then we will be able to house over 1,000 out-of-the area Greens. And that figure doesn't even include the over 15,000 other local Greens who live outside of Alameda County, many of whom may also be willing to house out-of-town attendees. (Note: Besides mailings, we also have phone numbers for about 7,000 of these households. Depending on the need, we could have local volunteers make calls (in-person) to thousands of these phone numbers. However, if we wanted to leave a voice-mail message for all 7,000 households, it would probably be more efficient to pay a few hundred dollars to leave a pre-recorded message – perhaps from one of our local elected Greens. Finally, we will also send e-mail requests, but we only have about 1,500 local email addresses).

Given that the Oakland Convention Center is across the street from the 12th St. BART station, and that it is on several major bus routes, transportation to and from homestay locations throughout the area should be quite convenient.

Media and Audio/Visual Capabilities of Site

The Marriott/Oakland Convention Center has several audio/visual equipment companies that we can use for overhead screen projection, etc. – or we can bring in our own equipment. Three separate rooms (for press, computers, and staff) at the Convention Center have been offered complimentary for both the convention and for the NC plenary and other pre-convention sessions, based on the hotel room commitment above.

Transportation: Airport / Freeways / Public Transit

<http://rachel.cagreens.org/oakland/html/transportation.html>

The Oakland International Airport (OAK) is the closest airport. It is a hub for Southwest Airlines, and also serves 12 other airlines, including American, Delta, United, US Air, and Jet Blue. The San Francisco International Airport (SFO) is also convenient. It is a hub for United Airlines, and at least 14 other domestic airlines (and over 20 international airlines) fly into and out of SFO. The trip to the 12th St. (downtown Oakland/Convention Center) BART station will take about 35 minutes from the Oakland airport (\$5), and about 60 minutes from the San Francisco airport (\$6). Minivans, taxis, and rental cars are also available at both airports.

For those traveling by train, the Oakland AMTRAK station is located about 15 blocks from the Convention Center -- you can walk there in about 30 minutes, or take a bus, or take a taxi. The closest Greyhound bus station is in downtown Oakland, about 10 blocks from the Convention Center. Again, you can walk, or take a bus, or take a taxi.

Base of Available Volunteers

Over 10,000 Greens live in the Oakland/Berkeley area -- we do not anticipate any problems with recruiting sufficient volunteers. Our members regularly volunteer for Green Party and other activist projects, with as many as 100 Greens working on a single project at the same time. Our volunteers have a wealth of skills and backgrounds, and we also include several who have previously helped coordinate conferences or gatherings, for up to 1000 people. (In addition, Greens from other Bay Area counties have already offered to volunteer as well). For more information about the Green Party of Alameda County, our volunteers, and our activities, please see:

http://rachel.cagreens.org/oakland/html/local_green_party.html

Seven Alameda County Greens currently hold elected office, including a City Council member, a School Board member, a Transit Board member, and 4 Rent Board members. In addition, at least 22 other Greens in our Bay Area region are also elected officeholders, including the Mayor of Richmond (Contra Costa county), and a majority of the Sebastopol City Council (Sonoma county). Plus several prominent Bay Area Greens are former elected officeholders, including Matt Gonzalez, who served as President of the San Francisco Board of Supervisors, and Wilson Riles, who was a member of the Oakland City Council for over a dozen years, and who ran against Jerry Brown for Mayor in 2002. For more



information about Alameda County and Bay Area elected Greens, please see:
http://rachel.cagreens.org/oakland/html/elected_officials.html

Projected Role of Local and State Party

Volunteers from the Oakland and Alameda County Green Parties will work with the site committee and the ANMCOM to host the convention. We are completely flexible as to the structure and process for coordinating the convention, plenary, and other meetings, towards hosting the best possible event. In addition to local volunteers, Greens from other Bay Area counties, as well as our 45-member state party delegation to the GPUS, may also be tapped, as needed or desired.

How Choice of Site is to Grow Green Party at the State and National Levels

Over 12,000 Green Party members live in Alameda County, with a total of over 45,000 Greens residing in our San Francisco Bay Area region. At least 29 Greens in our area currently hold elected office (with 7 of them from Alameda County). We have the Green Party resources and infrastructure to help the national party hold the best possible national convention. As a center of progressive and radical politics, there are over 300 activist nonprofit organizations located in the Oakland/Berkeley area, with a total of over 1200 such organizations located throughout the Bay Area. (Please see <http://www.bapd.org/> for an extensive listing). There are also hundreds of progressive and environmental businesses in the area, including enterprises working on solar and/or wind energy, recycling, green building materials, biodiesel, etc. We expect many of these groups to offer to staff tables, hold workshops, and provide resource people for the convention as needed, and generally participate in whatever way the GPUS would like to make use of this strong activist community in our area. (For more info on the Oakland/Berkeley area, please see: http://rachel.cagreens.org/oakland/html/local_area.html).

In addition to the outstanding Green Party and activist resources in our area to make the convention a success, Oakland is also the most ethnically diverse city in the United States, according to a University of Wisconsin study. Over 125 different languages are spoken in Oakland, and over 70% of Oakland's residents are people of color. With its reputation as a working-class, ethnically-diverse city, holding the convention in Oakland will send a message of Green solidarity with the struggles of working people and people of color, wherever in the country that they may live. We could even do pre-convention events in Oakland (and perhaps also across the country?), during the month(s) preceding the convention to build on this message. And we will also of course be able to strengthen these connections locally, by holding the convention in Oakland.

Detroit (Package D9)

Bid Website

<http://www.detroitgreens.org/anm08/Detroit.html>

Introduction

Detroit, the Motor City, recently celebrated its 300th anniversary. Its history includes initiating the law leading Michigan to become the first territory in the western hemisphere to ban capital punishment. It became home to the auto industry which attracted hundreds of thousands of immigrants and poor people from the South. Key unionization movements of the 30s were initiated in Michigan and Detroit. It had one of the largest Black and working class political movements in the country. It also had one of the largest urban rebellions. For these, Detroit was punished. In addition, the auto industry has waned. Detroit has lost over 1/2 its population. It is now among the poorest, most segregated cities where 40,000 each year have their water cut off. Detroit sits in a larger metropolitan area of 5 million.

Contact

Lou Novak, lmn@lppals.com

City, State

Detroit, Michigan

Proposed Dates

June 18-22

Venue and Seating Capacity for Nominating Convention

Cobo Center Riverview Ballroom (large section, room W1-52) Seating 1,500 Theater

Venue and Rooms/Seating Capacity for Other Meetings/Events

Cobo Center, Large, boardroom-style breakout -	Skyline Room	Add'l Mtg. Space
Room O3-45/46	W1-51	Registration? F&B?
O2-37 Theater-style mtg rm	W1-52	General Session
O2-38 Theater-style mtg rm	W1-53	Green Room
O2-39 Theater-style mtg rm	W2-57	Storage
O2-40 Cyber Cafe	W2-58	Main Office
O2-41 Media Committee	W2-66	Board-room mtg rm
O2-42 Press Conferences	W2-67	Board-room mtg rm
O2-43 Theater-style mtg rm	W2-68	Board-room mtg rm
	W2-69	Board-room mtg rm
	W2-70	Board-room mtg rm

Please note, all of the space mentioned above is on the south end of Cobo Center which will minimize the attendees walking between sessions.

Lodging: Hotel Rooms / Capacity / Price

Detroit Marriott at the Renaissance Center, 1300 rooms, \$119/night
Comfort Inn Downtown Detroit, 78 rooms, \$100/night
Holiday Inn Express, 241 rooms, \$110/night
Shorecrest Motor Inn

Lodging: Off-Site Capacity with Local Greens

Though availability of off-site lodging with local greens cannot be quantified at this time, every effort will be made to provide such, including web-based registration of offers and requests for lodging.

Media and Audio/Visual Capabilities of Site

Audio-Visual (meeting room, exhibit hall or Cobo Arena events)
Allied Vision (office in building)
A-V Detroit (office in building)
Pick's Audio Visual Services

Transportation: Airport / Freeways / Public Transit

Centrally located in the mid-west, with an international airport which is a main Northwest Airlines hub, Detroit is also easily accessible by car or train. It is 5 hours by car from Chicago, Pittsburgh and Cincinnati. Public transportation in Detroit is poor though many restaurants and attractions are within walking distance. Transport services between the airport and hotel is available.

Base of Available Volunteers

The Detroit Greens and the Green Party of Michigan are prepared to provide up to a dozen volunteers for each day of the convention. A number of local greens are interested in acting as a local operative in advance of the convention.

Projected Role of Local and State Party

The Detroit Green Party and the Green Party of Michigan both support this proposal. Detroit Greens meet monthly and have run candidates in partisan races in Detroit for 6 years. Detroit and Michigan Greens have good working relationships with many progressive groups and are confident that we can supply the necessary volunteers from our ranks and those of our friends.

How Choice of Site is to Grow Green Party at the State and National Levels

The Convention in Detroit will help local Greens strengthen ties to the African-American community and the larger Detroit metro area communities. The Convention will increase the possibilities of recruiting candidates for public office from the African-American community. The Convention will increase Green Party visibility in the local African-American media -- Michigan Citizen, Michigan Chronicle, local radio, and community access cable stations -- as well as mainstream media like the Detroit Free Press.

The Convention in Detroit will also enable Convention delegates to learn more about the Arab-American community in the United States. The largest Arab-American community in North America is in the adjacent suburb of Dearborn.

Dearborn (Package D10)

Bid Website

<http://www.detroitgreens.org/anm08/Dearborn.html>

Introduction

Dearborn is the 10th largest city in Michigan and contains the largest Arab American community outside the Middle East. It is the birthplace of Henry Ford and home to the Ford Motor Company. Attractions in Dearborn include: the Henry Ford, the nation's largest indoor-outdoor American history museum; the Arab American National Museum, the first museum in the world devoted to Arab American history and culture and the Automotive Hall of Fame. Within walking distance are the University of Michigan-Dearborn, containing one of the largest natural areas in metropolitan Detroit and Henry Ford Community College, sites for recruiting student participation and additional venues.

Contact

Lou Novak, lmn@lppals.com

City, State

Dearborn, Michigan

Proposed Dates

June 25-29

Venue and Seating Capacity for Nominating Convention

Dearborn Hyatt Regency, Hubbard Ballroom, Seating 1,200 Theater
Great Lakes Center, Seating 1,800 Theater

Venue and Rooms/Seating Capacity for Other Meetings/Events

Dearborn Hyatt Regency, Regency Ballroom, Seating 750
Regency Rooms A-E, Seating 100+
Regency Rooms F-K, Seating 50+

Lodging: Hotel Rooms / Capacity / Price

Hyatt Regency, 772 rooms, \$119/night
Best Value Inn & Suites - Dearborn, 73 rooms, \$60/night
Courtyard by Marriott - Dearborn, 147 rooms, \$160/night
Econo Lodge - Dearborn, 76 rooms, \$75/night
Extended StayAmerica - Dearborn, \$75/night
Hampton Inn - Dearborn, 119 rooms, \$110/night

Lodging: Off-Site Capacity with Local Greens

Though availability of off-site lodging with local greens cannot be quantified at this time, every effort will be made to provide such, including web-based registration of offers and requests for lodging.

Media and Audio/Visual Capabilities of Site

Hyatt Regency Dearborn offers a complete range of today's cutting-edge audio and visual equipment to help make your meeting all it can be. The expert staff of Swank Audiovisual is on hand to help turn an everyday meeting into an extraordinary event. Swank Audiovisual offers a variety of services, including:

- * Expert onsite staff, to help you formulate and execute your ideas
- * Comprehensive selection of high-tech equipment, including digital audio, professional cameras and more
- * Webcasting and archiving of all your meeting presentations
- * Exhibit displays and set design with flat screen and plasma monitors
- * Computers and networking capabilities, such as Internet cafe set-up
- * Lighting and special effects, including concert sound systems
- * Budget planning, to ensure your costs stay in line

Transportation: Airport / Freeways / Public Transit

Centrally located in the mid-west, with an international airport which is a main Northwest Airlines hub, Dearborn is also easily accessible by car or train. It is 5 hours by car from Chicago, Pittsburgh and Cincinnati. Public transportation in Dearborn is poor though bus service is available from the adjacent shopping mall. Transport services between the airport and hotel is available.

Base of Available Volunteers

The Detroit Greens and the Green Party of Michigan are prepared to provide up to a dozen volunteers for each day of the convention. A number of local greens are interested in acting as a local operative in advance of the convention.

Projected Role of Local and State Party

The Detroit Green Party and the Green Party of Michigan both support this proposal. Detroit Greens meet monthly and have run candidates in partisan races in Detroit for 6 years. Detroit and Michigan Greens have good working relationships with many progressive groups and are confident that we can supply the necessary volunteers from our ranks and those of our friends.

How Choice of Site is to Grow Green Party at the State and National Levels

The Convention in Dearborn will help local Greens strengthen ties to the Arab American community and the larger Detroit metro area communities. The Convention will increase the possibilities of recruiting candidates for public office from the Arab-American community. The Convention will increase Green Party visibility in the local media -- Michigan Citizen, Dearborn Press and Guide, local radio, and community access cable stations -- as well as mainstream media like the Detroit Free Press.

While not the same as having the convention in Detroit, having it Dearborn will strengthen ties to the African-American community in Detroit as well.

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

Hosting of the 2008 Annual National Meeting and Presidential Nominating Convention of the Green Party of the United States

Proposal Due Dates:

Letter of interest: Due April 15, 2007

(an e-mail of intent is good, please send to Ruth Weill at moondog@execpc.com)

Initial proposal draft: Due June 15, 2007

Complete and final proposal: Due July 1, 2007 for inclusion in delegate packets for 2007 Annual Meeting

Proposal Presentation:

Proposal to be presented online, and visually to delegates at 2007 Annual Meeting, July 12-15 in Reading, PA
Summary for delegate packet with all appropriate links to online proposal.

Projected 2008 Meeting Dates:

Mid-June through Late-July, 2008

Projected Meeting Attendance:

1200-1500 attendees: including 100-150 Green National Committee delegates, 800-1000 nominating convention delegates, committee members, media, and observers.

Approximate space and accommodation needs:

- One room that can seat 1500 delegates and observers in theater style for 1-3 days of meetings
- One room that can seat 150-200 delegates and observers at tables in boardroom style (double horseshoe) with large screen or wall for use with LCD projector for 3-4 days of meetings
- 5 rooms that can seat 50-100 individuals in theater style for 4 days workshops and speakers
- 5 rooms that can seat 25-50 individuals in board room style for 4 days of meetings
- 1 room for press conference to accommodate 25-50 media members in theater style
- 1 room for SC/annual meeting staff to accommodate 4-5 workstations and a 10-15 person conference table, with internet access
- 1 room for media committee and staff to accommodate 4-5 workstations and a 10 person conference table, with internet access
- Internet access and computer use rooms available for staff, delegates and attendees.
- Additional side spaces to accommodate ad hoc meetings and social areas

Desired location:

Close to a transportation hub, with public transportation, restaurants, hotels and shopping nearby.

Location accessible to national media.

Additional Considerations:

Union Facilities: In cities with union facilities, the host committee is requested to give preference to unionized vendors, venues and hotels. In cities where union hotels or venues are not available, the host committee is encouraged to seek out facilities with fair labor practices.

Green Facilitates: The host committee is encouraged to seek out hotels and venues that employ green practices and provide opportunities to accommodate carbon offsets in the planning of the meeting.

Proposal format: Web based proposal to link to GPUS Voting Page, hard copy proposal for inclusion in delegate packets at annual meeting, and visual presentation to be presented at 2007 Annual Meeting, July 12-15 in Reading, PA

Process: Presented to national committee at 2007 Annual meeting, forwarded to the National Committee and linked to GPUS Voting page for discussion and an IRV vote to select the host location. Vote to occur in weeks following the 2007 Annual Meeting, to be concluded no later than August 15, 2007.

Financial arrangements:

GPUS handles and is responsible for financial arrangements for the meeting including reservation expense

Local/state commitment: It is essential that there are a good many local Greens who are able and willing to work both on planning the meeting with this committee (including a conference call every two weeks) and at the meeting itself. Local committee is also encouraged to fundraise on their own to cover local fundraising and entertainment activities. There should be at least three people locally on the ground who can set up and attend meetings with convention planners at proposed venues, have both e-mail and some cell phone contact. Both the state and local party if applicable should be involved and supportive and be willing to help promote convention. During the convention the local committee will be expected to recruit at least 20-25 local volunteers. Major assistance with meal planning and other venue related issues until staffer comes on board. If the staffer is not from the area the local party will assist staffer to the best of their ability. Note that the ANMC will advise and direct as needed and requested.

Please send questions, comments, suggestions, and proposals to Ruth Weill at moondog@execpc.com. This process works best when there is ongoing communication while a local/state is determining if it wishes to host the meeting.

Thank you, ANNUAL MEETING COMMITTEE

2008 Annual National Meeting and Presidential Nominating Convention Hosting Proposal

We recommend that your proposal address at minimum these questions regarding the venue (meeting spaces):

- Estimated costs
- Dates of availability
- Rooms and Capacity
- Venue services including Internet availability and other technical needs
- Extent unionized
- Other Green considerations
- Transportation services

We recommend that your proposal address at minimum these questions regarding housing:

- Estimated costs
- Dates of availability
- Type of accommodations: as many details as possible is helpful
- Extent unionized
- Other Green considerations
- Additional housing and camping options in area, with prices

We recommend that your proposal address at minimum these questions regarding the host location in general:

- Public transportation within city and convention area
- Transportation services to site from airports and train/bus stations
- Commitment of local Greens to volunteer for planning and for event

- Special political/cultural/ecological attractions
- Food options (catering, restaurants, etc) including vegan and vegetarian options
- Green Friendly businesses/organizations in area

No proposal will be considered unless it has the formal support of the both the local and state-level Green Party in question.