

To: The Green National Committee
Green Party of the United States

From: The Election Tabulation Committee (ETC)
2008 Annual Meeting in Chicago, Illinois
Terry Campbell (Illinois)
Audrey Clement (Virginia)
Dave McCorquodale (Delaware)
Robb Tufts (Maryland)

Date: September 12, 2008

Subject: Final Report 2008

We are pleased to submit this final report, in accordance with our responsibilities pursuant to Resolution 222, "Resolution to Amend the Rules and Procedures on Steering Committee Elections Policy," adopted June 18, 2006, and Article 7 of the Rules and Procedures of the Green Party of the United States, Section C "Certification of Election Results," Sub-Section 1, "Tabulation and Report."

Declaration of election results, for Co-Chairs and Treasurer

We declare that the following candidates for Co-Chair of the Steering Committee of the Green Party of the United States were duly elected on July 11, 2008, according to the rules specified above:

1. Sanda Everette (California)
2. Jill Bussiere (Wisconsin)
3. Craig Thorsen (California)

We declare that the following candidate for Treasurer of the Green Party of the United States was duly elected on July 11, 2008, according to the rules specified above:

1. Jody Grage (Washington)

We recommend that the Green National Committee certify the candidates named above as having been elected to the positions indicated.

Narrative description, tabulation of votes

Two teams each took half the ballots and marked the choices in a spreadsheet. The teams then switched stacks and marked the remainder of the choices in their respective spreadsheets. The contents of the two spreadsheets were compared, with corrections made by inspecting the original ballot to resolve discrepancies. The resulting ballot file was converted into text format and uploaded to the

Lundell STV software website located at <http://www.lobitos.net/voting>. The ballots were tabulated using the STV software, and the website provided the results.

The election was subsequently re-tabulated using the same software and checked using a version of Lundell STV software called OpenSTV, downloaded from <http://stv.sourceforge.net>. Results for the Treasurer election were determined using the same method as for the Co-Chair election. There were no observers present during the counting and calculation of the results, other than the four members of the committee. Because of travel delays, ETC member Esther Choi did not participate in the tabulation or drafting of the report.

Recount

The committee subsequently decided that it was necessary to remove one of two proxies (#22 and #29) cast on behalf of California delegate Conor Dixon. Having determined in advance that the choice of which ballot to remove would not affect the outcome of the election, it was decided to eliminate Ballot #29, the second one cast. In addition, one ballot with no identifying information was removed (#106).

Since Maine cast one more ballot than it was allotted under the recent apportionment, the ballot cast on behalf of Maine delegate Julie Sawtelle (#130) by Maine alternate John Olsen was removed on the recommendation of Maine delegate Jacqui Deveneau. Finally Aimee Smith indicated that the ballot cast by Margaret Guttshall (#71) of Michigan was invalid, because she is not a GPUS delegate. Therefore Ballot #71 was removed. The results of the election were unchanged by the elimination of these ballots.

It is the case that twenty-three ballots were cast by unnamed proxies, i.e. ballots cast on behalf of named, absentee delegates by unnamed attending delegates. Although the Election Tabulation Committee finds no justification in GPUS bylaws or rules as currently written to remove the unnamed proxies cast by California, Pennsylvania and Maine, it nevertheless re-tabulated the election without these ballots to determine whether removal would affect the outcome of the election. The results were unchanged by the elimination of the twenty-three unnamed proxies.

In response to concerns raised about the need for transparency in the conduct of Steering Committee elections, Sanda Everette, past co-chair of GPCA, supplied the ballot numbers of the delegates who cast California's proxies, as well as the ballot numbers of the delegates for whom they proxied. From this information the committee was able to adduce the names of California's unknown proxy voters. In addition, Fred Vitale of Michigan indicated that he cast an unnamed proxy on behalf of Aimee Smith (#100). Inspection of Maine delegate Rob Brown's proxy

(#39) indicates that it was cast by John Rensenbrink (#40), because both ballots were ranked the same way and had virtually identical markings.

Hillary Aisenstein, co-chair of GPPA, indicated that the Pennsylvania delegation caucused to cast proxies on behalf of Ceci Wheeler (#86) and Katrina Brabham (#97), who attended the convention but did not attend the National Committee meeting at which the election was held. Because the Pennsylvania delegation size exceeded the number of Pennsylvania absentee voters, there was a question which delegates should cast the proxies. Therefore the delegation caucused to determine how to cast the proxy ballots.

In this circumstance, assignment of proxy names to proxy ballots becomes in the committee's view a meaningless exercise. If anything the attempt to assign an individual's name to what was in effect a group decision is misleading, as it posits an association between two delegates that doesn't exist. Some interpret the rules to mean that a proxy can be exercised by one and only one attending delegate. Under that interpretation, it is impermissible for a delegation to exercise proxies, and such proxies must be thrown out.

The committee views this interpretation as unduly rigid insofar as it excludes proxies otherwise warranted under the rules. It is also undemocratic insofar as it either dilutes a state's vote by excluding proxy ballots or forces the state to weight some ballots more than others by assigning the proxies to preferred delegates. Therefore the committee considers the unnamed proxies cast on behalf of Wheeler and Brabham to be legitimate and included them in the re-tabulation.

The complete list of unnamed attending delegates and the proxied delegates with whom they were subsequently linked is reproduced below.

Unnamed Attending Delegate	Proxied Delegate
12 D. Silvernale	11 C. Wolman
13 L. Piera-Avila	14 G. Marcus
15 W. Bloomberg	16 E. Hernandez
17 P. Koteen	18 S. Amir
19 B. Dickinson	143 T. Casebolt
20 A. Tanaka	94 M. Ditmanson
21 J. Brashares	22 C. Dixon
23 W. Hastings	91 F. Hill
25 M. Feinstein	24 C. Woods
56 D. Johnson	26 S. King
28 J. Arnold	27 M. Rubin
30 B. Marsh	29 C. Dixon
60 C. Thorsen	59 C. Velucci
92 K. Tanaka	90 J. Laiti
93 P. Spevack	95 O. Osborne

96 J. Linblad	144 L. Taylor
137 M. Zehr	142 L. Hsu
138 G. Jan	139 J. Dorenkott
141 S. Everette	140 L. Bonett
72 F. Vitale	100 A. Smith
40 J. Rensenbrink	39 R. Brown
PA Delegation	86 C. Wheeler
PA Delegation	97 K. Brabham

Finally, the committee scrutinized the ballots cast against an official list of National Committee delegates who attended the Presidential Nominating Convention in Chicago. The list was prepared by GPUS Operations Director Emily Citkowski at the convention. The following delegates who cast ballots in the Steering Committee election were not found on Citkowski's official list. As indicated by the notations accompanying the names, all of them, except Margaret Guttshall, were subsequently accounted for against one of the following: the contact list maintained on the GPUS National Committee Votes website, the GPUS Secretary, state co-chairs or other delegates.

NC Delegates Casting Ballots Not On Official PNC Attendance List	Verification Source
Berenson, David (121-OH Alternate)	On NC contact list
Brabham, Katrina (97-PA Delegate)	Confirmed with GPUS Secy, PA co-chair
Bronstein, Paula (84-PA Delegate)	Confirmed with GPUS Secy
Dziubek, Priscilla (131-MI Delegate)	On NC contact list
Guttshall, Margaret (71-MI Not a Delegate)*	Confirmed with MI delegate
Hammell, Eric (85-PA Delegate)	Confirmed with PA co-chair
Herrick, Steve (66,67-WI Alternate)	Confirmed with WI co-chair
Land, Don (102-TN Alternate)	On NC contact list
Merle, Roger (118-NJ Delegate)	On NC contact list
Smith, T.E. (103-DC Delegate)	Confirmed with DC delegate
Spencer, Andrew (115-AZ Delegate)	On NC contact list
Stimmler, Cynthia (68-WI Delegate)	Confirmed with GPUS Secy
Wheeler, Ceci (86-PA Delegate)	Confirmed with GPUS Secy, PA co-chair

*As noted above, Guttshall's ballot (#71) was removed from the final tabulation.

Recommendations for Improvement

We recommend that during the coming year, the Green National Committee consider the following suggestions for improving the manner in which the Steering Committee is elected and how the votes are tabulated.

1. Amend the rules for election of the Steering Committee to specify precisely when, how and under what circumstances proxies votes are allowed to be exercised.
2. Ensure there is an appropriate, private work area including access to computers with Internet access for the Election Tabulation Committee.
3. A process needs to be created to verify that the persons voting are registered delegates or proxies, and that the persons casting ballots for themselves and proxies are actually present during the roll call preceding the election.
4. A process needs to be put in place for creating and validating the ballot. A template ballot should include a space for the voting delegate's name, a space for the voting delegate's delegation, a checkbox to indicate the ballot is cast for a proxy, and a space for the proxy's name. The ballot should be validated with each candidate prior to making copies and distributing the ballots.
5. A chair should be designated for the election tabulation committee as the person receiving the highest rank in the election of committee members. The chair should be the primary point of contact for the committee and should be responsible for organizing the committee before, during and after the election.
6. The national committee is encouraged to recruit and elect at least one committee member who has previous experience on the election tabulation committee.

Conclusion

We regret the conflict and distraction created by the first version of our report, and we hope that this version with its recommendations for improvement is more acceptable to the National Committee.

Sincerely,

Terry Campbell
Audrey Clement
David McCorquodale
Robb Tufts

Attachments