

Information on Green Party Positions on Voting Rights and Electoral Reform 2005

Many people believe that we live in a two party system. We the people of the United States have the right to vote however we feel and this right is being threatened. The largest threats to true democracy are corporate sponsorship of Democrats and Republicans, and the electoral systems that these two parties have designed to maintain their incumbencies. "Democrats have tried to rig elections so only two teams can play. Republicans have tried to rig elections so only one team can win. Greens demand fair, free, and open elections," said Brent McMillan, political director of the Green Party. "The only real democracy is multi-party democracy."

The Green Party of the United States and state and local Green Parties have proposed a wide range of proposals to help the U.S. live up to its promise of democracy:

- Voter-verified paper ballots to provide an auditable record of votes cast on computer voting machines; voting machine source code designed to be open for public inspection and verification before and after an election. "If we fail to reform computer voting by 2008, we'll witness abuses that dwarf what happened in Florida in 2000 and Ohio in 2004," said David Cobb, who will also attend the June 30 Carter-Baker hearings. More information: 2004 Cobb/LaMarche Campaign and archives of the Ohio and New Mexico recounts <<http://www.votecobb.org>>.
- Repeal of ballot access rules enacted by Democrats and Republicans to hinder third parties and third party and independent candidates. "Rules that favor two parties over all others inherently violate the principle of fair, democratic elections," said Peggy Lewis, co-chair of the Green Party of the United States. "Presidential campaign debates should be sponsored by citizens' organizations that welcome third party participation, not by the Commission on Presidential Debates, which is corporate-sponsored and owned and operated by and for Democrats and Republicans."
- The Electoral College is an 18th century anachronism. We call for a constitutional amendment abolishing the Electoral College and providing for the direct election of the president by Instant Runoff Voting. Until that time, we call for a proportional allocation of delegates in state primaries.
- Instant Run-off Voting, Proportional Representation, and Cumulative Voting to replace current Winner-Take-All and At-Large systems, to ensure that election winners enjoy the support of a majority of voters, and to afford minority populations of all kinds with representation in legislative bodies, school boards, and other bodies. More information: Center for Voting & Democracy <<http://www.fairvote.org>>.
- Public funding for political campaigns; free and fair access to the public airwaves for all political candidates.
- Various steps to broaden voter participation: universal or at least same-day registration; an Election Day holiday; elections that take place over two days (perhaps during a weekend).
- Fully restored citizenship for all persons convicted of felonies upon completion of their sentences, including the right to vote and to run for elected office; the right to vote for prisoners.
- Statehood for the District of Columbia, affording D.C.'s majority African American population full political self-determination, legislative autonomy, and voting representation in Congress.

For More Information:
Green Party of the United States
<http://www.gp.org>
1700 Connecticut Avenue NW, Suite 404
Washington, DC 20009.
202-319-7191, 866-41GREEN
Fax 202-319-7193