

Polling Membership - 2008 Convention

presented by John Anthony LaPietra, 2/10/08
(poll-counting method amended 2/13/08 as stated on SCC list)

PROPOSAL to Finalize Procedure for Polling Membership & Selecting Convention Delegates (2/10/08)

I propose that GPMI adopt the following procedure to poll its membership and select delegates to attend the 2008 GPUS Presidential Nominating Convention this summer.

* Invite Presidential candidates to attend our next SMMs and/or send representatives or information.

* Include in the next issue of *Green Light*:

– A ballot including all candidates invited to the SMMs who do not withdraw in writing or by e-mail to the editor (or the Elections Coordinator) in time for their names to be taken off the ballot - plus spaces for votes of “uncommitted”, “none of the above”, and “no candidate” as well as space for write-ins.

– Information, up to one page each, from each invited candidate who submits it, plus the same amount of space for any of the other options on the ballot if a GPMI member volunteers to advocate that option. Any added cost of including candidate information will be accounted for as required by law and FEC regulations; individual GPMI members may donate money to cover this cost, and GPMI will provide appropriate information to the candidates involved to help them with required campaign-finance reports.

– Instructions for confirming one's GPMI membership at least 30 days before the spring SMM so that one's ballot will be counted in the poll, voting the poll ballot IRV-style, and making sure the Elections Co-ordinator gets the ballot by noon on the first day of the spring SMM. (Ballots will be counted by first choices for the poll's binding effect. Ballots may also be counted using IRV and using approval voting to give the delegation information.)

* Authorize the Elections Co-ordinator to receive poll ballots from members by mail (at the GPMI mailbox), by hand, or electron-ically; to confirm current member-ship on the date the ballot was cast; to count the latest ballot received by noon of the first day of the spring SMM from a “registered” GPMI member (and to consult with the member if more than one ballot purporting to be from that member is received, or if information on the ballot is unclear); and to report the results by the end of the spring SMM.

* Include the same information in at least one “GPMI Update” e-mail between now and the deadline for “registering” as a GPMI member to become eligible to vote in the poll (that is, at least 30 days before the spring SMM).

* Allow each recognized, actively meeting local to select one delegate (and, if desired, one alternate) for the GPUS Nominating Convention. To do so, the local must:

– have all documentation in place to be considered recognized;

– announce selection at a particular meeting (regularly scheduled or announced at least 30 days in advance) using its normal meeting announcement procedures, and include it on the agenda of the meeting;

– select from among its members one delegate (and, if desired, one alternate) at the meeting – and provide voting guidance to the delegate (and alternate) -- in accordance with its own procedures and by-laws and the Ten Key Values; and

– report the result of its selection to the Elections Coordinator by the spring SMM along with documentation that the delegate (and alternate, if any) was a GPMI member at least 30 days before the spring SMM and meets all the other requirements below for state-level delegates (and alternates).

* Invite all GPMI members to be state-level delegates or alternates to the GPUS Nominating Convention. State the following requirements:

– Be a GPMI member in good standing by 30 days before the spring SMM. (If not enough candidates to fill GPMI's allotment of delegates have been members in good standing for 30 days by the spring SMM, then the SMM is authorized to seek delegates among former members and members with lapsed memberships who may not necessarily meet the 30-day rule as of the spring SMM. If there are still not enough delegates at the end of the spring SMM, SCC is authorized to seek more delegates among former and lapsed members to fill all vacancies in the delegation.)

– Commit to attending the GPUS convention (or at least the voting sessions on Saturday).

– Provide full contact information and other information required by GPUS or useful for tracking diversity of the delegation.

And invite state-level delegate-candidates to:

– express their own Presidential preference[s] in a poll similar to the general poll but with the opportunity for added comment and the additional preference/option of “voting as the poll directs”;

– say if they're willing to serve as alternates; and be prepared to speak or otherwise campaign for the position of delegate or alternate at the spring SMM.

* Put information received in time from state-level delegate-candidates into *Green Light* and the “GPMI Update” in time for that information to be considered before and at the spring SMM.

* Select delegates (and alternates) at the spring SMM using the following rules and procedure.

– Select as many delegates (and up to as many alternates) as are allocated to GPMI, less those selected by locals.

– No member shall be a delegate (or alternate) both for a local and at the state level.

– At the spring SMM, the Elections Co-ordinator will provide printed copies of the delegate-candidate poll responses of all delegate-candidates who submit them at least a week before the SMM. All delegate-candidates will have a fair and equal chance to speak (time permitting) or

otherwise campaign at the SMM for selection as a delegate (or alternate).

- No member shall be a delegate (or alternate) both for a local and at the state level.
- If there are more candidates than state-level delegate seats available, all GPMI members with voting privileges attending the SMM will vote (using approval voting) to select as many of the top finishers as necessary to fill all available state-delegate seats. The following finishers will fill all available state-level alternate seats if they are willing.
- [Alternative – add to the above:] To the extent candidates are available, half of the state-level delegates will be female and half will be male. If an odd number of state-level delegates are selected, the odd seat will be filled by whichever of the next-placed candidates in each gender has more approval votes.
- After the poll results are announced, there shall be an opportunity for any member present to propose either
 - specific limits on how the results may bind delegates (other than the first-round limit stated below); or
 - that the results not bind state-level delegates at all.

Such a proposal must be declared to be based on one or more of the Ten Key Values.

– The results of the statewide poll will be binding (to the extent practical, and not limited or overridden as described above) on the state-level delegates for the first round of voting at the convention. That is, votes cast by state-level delegates or alternates in the first round must be proportional to the support for candidates (or other options) shown in the results of the statewide poll.

If a candidate withdraws from consideration (or any option in the GPMI poll is not practically available) by the time of that first round of voting, first-round votes for the remaining options will be recalculated based on the proportion of votes in the poll for those remaining options only.

– After the first round, all state-level delegates (and alternates) are free to vote their own preferences. Also, the delegation (all state-level and local delegates and alternates) may caucus at the convention – as it deems necessary and appropriate – to take action necessary to protect GPMI's interest and intent to have a Green Party Presidential ticket on the ballot in Michigan.