

Topics raised from Sunday Feb 26 meeting:

- 1) We need to have fun being green and working on the petition drive. We as a collective party need to work on gelling with each other, promoting limited stress gatherings and work together for this petition drive. If being green is a nail biting, teeth pulling, and a “I can’t live with these people” experience – we are doomed.
- 2) We need the right people in the right positions to drive to success. We must grow individuals skill sets because organization and politics can be learned and honed.
- 3) Need to develop workgroups to support petition drive. Need to get on the ballot this time because we have two judicial candidates that are not opposed by a democrat.
- 4) We absolutely must stop turning people away. They come to us because they hear about what we are doing. They are interested in action. Let’s give them some. We need them to be immediately integration into a workgroup with a skill they have or want to have.
- 5) We lost the recipe from 2000 but we can regain it. We had State Wide organization feeding into the local level. We had traveling speakers helping to promote the drive. We must rebuild this infrastructure – statewide.
- 6) Need to look at prior successes and failures from across the state and nationally. One contributing factor for the low vote for Nader is thought to be lack of specific itemized agenda. We cannot make it into office solely by pointing out what we feel is wrong with the other candidates and with the current system. This is also too similar to the smear campaigns that we want to avoid. We have to provide concrete examples of what we will change, when, and how. Candidates doing nothing in office are a waste of taxpayer funds and the Greens should not condone nor vote for them. In the long run, this will hurt the party’s future not help it.
- 7) We need to have position statements from the candidates. We as Greens should not vote anyone into office, just because they proclaim to be green or because they live by the 10 key values. We can’t sell our candidates to others if we don’t know anything about them.
- 8) We need to work on selling our message. For the petition drive, T-Shirts should say Green Party on the front and back. They should have pictures of the statewide candidates, their names, and three sentence fragments detailing individual platform details. For example “breathe - air quality” “for a living wage” “stop police brutality”. We need bumper stickers, buttons with web address’ on them. Need petitioning workshops.
- 9) Must outreach to local microcells. Such as start a “UT Campus” cell, east-side cell, ... We need to work hard on feeding these cells with supplies and information. Organization is key. We can’t reach the 75k with a small core group. We must grow and empower people to join and take up the pen.
- 10) Gender equity, feminist values, post-patriarchal values? We need to find the short, succinct verbiage for our key values.
- 11) We need diversity of thought and culture in our party. Solving this problem will not be easy, we must be seen being green.
- 12) We need to get our IT infrastructure going. We need blogs, calendar of events, contact lists, podcasts, videocasts. We must be competitive on this front.

A possible Workgroup Organization structure, certainly up for discussion. We need to limit the number of workgroups so we don't get spread too thin while our ranks are thin and we need to make their missions clear :

Publicity Workgroup: Works with local media organization and outlets to publicize the petition drive and candidates. Trys to generate funds for ongoing expenses though advertising.

Events /Petitioning Workgroup: Finds and makes up events for petitioning. Recruits more petitioners in the process.

Media Workgroup: Generate pamphlets, brochures, and other media for handing out to the other workgroups.

IT Workgroup: Makes an top notch website to show case our candidates, calendar of events, platform and other information for publication on computer. Establishes and maintains contact databases.

Outreach Workgroup: Try's to build coalitions and start new Green Party sprouts (cells). Runs phone banks trying to drum up volunteers.

List of Tips for petitioning, originally sent to Stewart Snider who was supposed to be running our petition drive. I don't know if he gave up because he did not get a response to this email he sent or not.

Joy (jglatz@dallasgreens.net),

I attended my first Green Party meeting yesterday (in Austin), where it came up that you are heading a statewide effort to get, as I understand it, a "Green" space on any ballot for which there is a Green Party candidate.

I tentatively volunteered to help with this. Could you let me know what I might do?

Please keep in mind I've never been engaged in a political campaign or party before. While I do pay attention to national politics, I don't keep up too much with state politics. Best to consider me "green" with regard to civics as pertains to state and local offices.

Thanks,

Stewart Snider  
512.345.7047

==== my response to his request for petitioning tips =====  
Hello Stewart,

Here is my list of tips:

1) lead by example. If you want to get people to join in the effort and collect a substantial amount of signatures then you will need to show them the ropes and go about it passionately yourself.

2) We had very good look at events such as SBSW, Spammorama, Eyoure's B'day.

3) We also had good luck at the town lake hike and bike trail.

4) Petitions should be on clip boards with pens attached. This way you can hand some out to passers by. Petitioners should try to get 3-5 being signed at a time (Linda Curtis school of getting sigs).

5) Approaches need to be short and catchy. Petitioners must be able to speak about the petition sincerely.

6) Avoid debates, confrontations, the goal is to get signatures.

7) Have a email sign up on the back of the clip boards or on the last page so that the inspired can join in.

8) Need to send out a weekly email listing the petitioning events. For us to get ballot access, we need appr. 75,000 signatures in 75 days. That is 1k per day statewide. At the end of the summer, it gets too hot and people don't want to petition and people sign less. Try to get the bulk of the signatures early.

9) I usually read the people. If I think they think "here comes another petitioner" I will stay further way and try to draw them to me. If not, I will go to them. We have even been known to stop moving cars to get signatures.

10) I used lines like "Hi, would you like to sign a petition to let the Green party on the ballots" or "Petition for Democracy, interested in signing?"

11) Try to get the petitioners to set up shifts at popular localities such as Whole Foods, Book People, Sun Harvest, ...

12) Coordinate a petition signing party and advertise in the Chronicle.

13) It is better to notarize as you go than to try to do notarize 1000 pages at the last minute.

Regards,

Doug

Additionally I should have mentioned the need for buttons, bumperstickers, pamphlets, postcards of information to hand out to people who want to sign.

Skelton for Travis County Ballot Access Volunteer Teams Formation Proposal (taken largely from the Harris County Greens' plan)

**Requirement for Ballot Access petition drive**

- Assist GPTX to achieve ballot access collection of 75,000 signatures by Travis County collecting 20,000 signatures
- The average volunteer can collect 35 signatures in a 2-3 hour shift
- The petition drive will last effectively 10 weeks
- The 20,000 signatures will require 58 volunteer shifts per week
  - o This is  $58 \times 10 \times 35 = 20,300$
- The average volunteer work 1 shift every other week so that we need a total of 120 – 150 volunteers over the period of the petition drive

**Petitioners requirements**

- Will have 2-3 clipboards with petition sheets per volunteer
- Needs 10-20 petition forms to collect signatures
- A volunteer script, information handouts, a sign-up sheet for TCGP and petition volunteering will be available
- Voter registration cards?
- Events/Petitioning Workgroup members will serve as coordinators for volunteer activities
- Volunteers will be trained by coordinators at the events and locations
- Need intermittent notarization to prevent a rush at the end
- Postcard sized handouts with 10 key values, candidates, website address
- T-shirts with Green Party logo on front and back with candidates and 10 key values would help

**Events / Petitioning Workgroup Organization**

- Set up teams to work different venues in shifts
- Establish calendar of events
- Establish events for petitioning
- Collect signatures
- Notarize signatures
- Try to encourage others to volunteer
- Train others to collect petition signatures

**Timeline for Events / Petitioning Workgroup**

- 3/5 – finalize initial strategy for petition drive
- 3/5 – start recruiting volunteers from existing lists
- 3/7 – establish details of locations and events for first week of petitioning
- 3/7 – scripts, handouts, etc. circulating for review
- 3/10 – volunteer material and scripts, handouts etc. complete
- 3/10 – mass printing of petitions, information complete
- 3/10 – information regarding how to collect valid signatures given to petitioners
- 3/12 – petition drive starts
- 5/30 – petitions delivered to the Texas Secretary of State in Austin

End of Week	Date	Shifts worked	Volunteers recruited	Total volunteers	Weekly signatures	Total signatures
1	3/19	25	25	25	875	875
2	3/26	25	10	35	875	1750
3	4/2	50	10	45	1750	3500
4	4/9	75	10	55	2625	6125
5	4/16	75	10	65	2625	8750
6	4/23	75	10	75	2625	11375
7	4/30	75	10	85	2625	14000
8	5/7	100	10	95	3500	17500
9	5/14	75	10	105	2625	20125
10	5/21	50			1750	21875
11	5/28	50			1750	23625