



Fredericksburg Green Party
P.O. Box 3401
Fredericksburg, VA. 22402
fgp.vagreenparty.org
fgp@vagreenparty.org

PLATFORM of the FREDERICKSBURG GREEN PARTY

Initiated: 10/6/2002
Last edited: 9/16/2019

Purpose

The point of a platform is not only to define our party, but to identify specific policy initiatives which we can bring to our local government for consideration, either as citizens or as candidates.

Method for Amendment (Ratified 10/20/2002)

The procedure is as follows: additions and deletions are to be emailed to the coordinator or brought to the next meeting. Changes to a proposed item should be phrased as a deletion of the item followed by an addition of a revised item. At the next meeting, we will go through each item and assess consensus. If an item meets with approval by all who voice an opinion (emails included), it will be added to our platform. If not, the item will need to wait until all items have been assessed, at which point any individual member may bring the item up again for consideration.

Platform

A) Urban Sprawl & Development (From GPVA, Not yet ratified at FGP)

1. We oppose the commercial degradation of public land. Activities that fragment, diminish, or destroy these lands (e.g., old growth timber sales, mining and gas and oil operations, irresponsible road building, harmful recreation, needless game management) should cease.
2. We oppose measures which subsidize large corporate development to the detriment of local communities (e.g., tax breaks, compromised land use regulations, weak enforcement of environmental codes, and subsidized highway construction).
3. We support imposing an appropriate share of costs on commercial property owners who benefit from transportation and other public infrastructure.
4. We oppose construction of the Lake Gaston pipeline, which would deprive southwest Virginia of water while subsidizing unmanaged growth in Virginia Beach.
5. We oppose the construction of the King William reservoir which would inundate 524 acres of valuable wetlands, submerge American Indian archaeological sites, and harm animal and plant life along the Mattaponi River by changing its salinity. We support the use of water conservation measures to eliminate the need for this reservoir.

B) Transportation (Last Ratified 1/5/2003)

1. We support the expanded use of rail for transportation, recognizing that it is less polluting and more energy efficient than automobile and air transportation.

2. We support development of zero-emission motor vehicles, and requirements that an increasing percentage of the Federal motor fleet be converted to natural gas and aims at being pollution free over the next decade.
3. We support requiring all non-automobile funds from the federal Intermodal Surface Transportation Act (ISTEA) to be used for non-automobile modes of transportation, instead of highway beautification.
4. We call for a gradual phase-out of gasoline and other fossil fuels. Until gasoline driven cars can be replaced, we advocate raising FUEL EFFICIENCY standards to a minimum of 45 miles per gallon by 2005, instituting a “gas guzzler” tax on new low mileage vehicles, and a “gas sipper” rebate on high mileage vehicles.
5. We encourage providing a broad range of incentives for ALTERNATIVE TRANSPORTATION, including natural gas vehicles, solar and electric vehicles, bicycles and bikeways, and MASS TRANSIT.
6. We support efforts to develop inexpensive, efficient solar cells, chips and panels via “industrial grade” silicon and other advanced materials. We are especially interested in public/private partnerships that work to create breakthrough battery technology which would enable electric cars (and all solar electric applications) to become energy efficient and market competitive.
7. Greens enthusiastically endorse the *Metropolitics* movement, which seeks to control sprawl by integrating such measures as urban growth boundaries, tax base sharing, fair housing, and metropolitan transportation. Urban areas can be revitalized through “brownfields” redevelopment, although standards for the clean up of contaminated sites must not be lowered.

C) Ecology & Farming (From GPVA, Not yet ratified at FGP)

1. We support organic and biologically sustainable farming and encourage development of farmers' markets, cooperative markets, and education to increase public acceptance of organically and locally produced food.
2. We encourage small-scale family and cooperative farms, polyculture crops, and regional food supplies rather than large-scale, chemically dependent agribusiness.
3. We oppose government incentives that encourage chemical farming over organic farming.
4. We encourage agricultural colleges to include organic and sustainable farming methods in their curriculum.
5. We encourage the expansion of fast-growing, renewable plant sources (e.g. hemp and kenaf) to replace the use of trees and nonrenewable (i.e., petroleum-based) substances for paper, fiber, food, and oil production.
6. We support phasing out factory farming. We oppose inhumane treatment of food animals and the routine use of hormones, antibiotics, and other chemicals associated with factory farming.
7. We support eliminating all government subsidies, including water subsidies, for agribusiness.
8. We support inclusion of curriculum in our schools that emphasizes the ecological concerns of the local environment.

D) Pollution & Waste Management (From GPVA, Not yet ratified at FGP)

1. We support the individual citizen's right to bring legal suit against those who pollute.
2. We oppose any law that restricts Virginia and its localities from passing environmental legislation that provides more protection than federal requirements. In accordance, we oppose any state laws that restrict localities from providing more protection than the Commonwealth.
3. We support requiring local planning commissions and boards of zoning appeals to fully account for compliance with environmental protection regulations.
4. We support strengthening the Clean Water Act and full compliance with the Clean Air Act.
5. We support strengthening protection of the Chesapeake Bay.

6. We support market-based solutions and the concept of the "polluter pays" to improve the environment (e.g., "green" taxes, measures to include a product's social and environmental costs in the consumer costs of the product, and cost preferences/discounts for environmentally benign products and services).
7. We support a "bottle bill" (beverage-container deposit legislation).
8. We support rigorous measures to reduce the amount of hazardous waste generated within and imported into Virginia. We oppose the import, export, and generation of nuclear or toxic waste products resulting from nuclear energy or weapons production.
9. We support collection of a deposit on batteries and other hazardous materials to separate them from the waste stream.
10. We support a moratorium on all landfill permits until studies have been completed on inspection and reporting requirements for solid waste; transportation hazards (road, rail, and water) for moving waste; and impact on local economic development of landfills and their growth.

E) Energy & Resource Extraction (From GPVA, Not yet ratified at FGP)

1. We support vigorous development of sun-to-electricity technologies and other solar, wind, geothermal, and biomass energy sources.
2. We support the revision of building codes to remove barriers to the use of new energy-efficient technologies and alternative human excrement disposal methods.
3. We support the reinstatement of tax rebates for retrofitting existing homes with passive solar heating.
4. We support removing any obstacles that prevent Virginia utilities from promoting energy efficient technologies.

F) Education (Last Ratified 11/17/2002)

1. More open discussions should take place between school officials and the community.
2. More funding should be made available for testing, but the Reassessment Standards test is too difficult and is not adjusted for grade level.
3. Teacher pay should be raised at least to the state mean.
4. More consideration should be given to teacher experience in assessing proper pay rate.
5. Adequate transportation should be provided for all students.

G) Economics & Living Standards (From GPVA, Not yet ratified at FGP)

1. We support the elimination of sales tax on purchases of raw, organic, bulk, or unprocessed food.
2. We support changing tax laws to encourage the development of small businesses, worker-owned businesses, and cooperatives.
3. We support raising the minimum wage to a liveable wage so that Virginia's families can afford the basic essentials of decent food, housing, and health care.
4. We support the creation of community-based housing trust funds that will grant money to build affordable housing.
5. We support homelessness prevention programs which allow families to receive temporary assistance before they become homeless.
6. We support community-based services for the homeless and oppose all laws that criminalize homelessness.
7. We support a publicly financed, single-payer universal health insurance system with an emphasis on disease prevention and well-being and the inclusion of alternative treatments.
8. We oppose using prison construction as a method for stimulating the economy
9. We recognize uncompensated labor (e.g. volunteerism, domestic work, and childrearing) as contributions to the economy that should be included in standard economic measures. We recognize external costs (e.g. pollution, resource depletion, and loss of open space) as deficits to the economy that

should also be included. Statistical reports, accounting, and economic decisions should reflect these values.

H) Campaign Funding / Electoral Reform (Last Ratified 11/3/2002)

1. Political contributions not used in a campaign shall go to that public campaign fund which is relevant to the level of office, and be subject to an independent audit.
2. No corporate contributions shall be permitted.
3. Except for the two at-large seats every state receives, representation to the electoral college shall be by congressional district.
4. Citizens of the District of Columbia and U.S. Territories shall be given proportional representation in the U.S. House of Representatives.
5. There shall be no party affiliation requirement in order to vote.
6. Felons still serving their sentence shall not be allowed the right to vote.
7. Illegal aliens and non-citizens shall not be allowed the right to vote.
8. Candidates must maintain personal financial records going back two terms of the relevant office, and make them fully available for public scrutiny.
9. Organized parties must choose their candidates internally -- no open primaries.
10. The only requirements needed for voting status are citizenship, non-felon status, and age (18 years).
11. Lying on voter registration forms shall be regarded as perjury, and ballots cast by these perjurers shall be discarded.
12. Unclear ballots or ballots containing more than one vote per office shall be discarded.
13. All ballots must contain a write-in blank for each office.
14. Write-in candidates shall register with the appropriate elections board prior to the latest poll closing time in the area to be represented, but there shall be no fees assessed.

I) Crime (Last Ratified 1/19/2003)

1. We support community-based services for the homeless and oppose all laws that criminalize homelessness.
2. We oppose the criminalization of private sexual acts of consenting adults.
3. We support seeking a reversal to the Supreme Court decision that gave corporations the status of persons, thereby permitting the owners and officers to avoid personal responsibility for their acts and allowing corporations to be shielded by the Bill of Rights.
4. We support crime prevention programs such as after-school recreation and youth employment initiatives.
5. We support "offender restitution" and "restorative justice" programs.
6. We support fully-informed juries that are instructed in their constitutional right to judge the law as well as the case in question.
7. We support judicial discretion in setting sentences for those convicted of crime.
8. We support measures requiring gun owners to be qualified to use firearms safely and held strictly accountable for any illegal use of the firearm.
9. We oppose the "21-day rule" that prevents defendants from introducing new evidence more than 21 days after their original trials.
10. We oppose the death penalty. Dangerous criminals should not be released as long as they pose a threat to society.
11. We support the teaching and implementation of conflict resolution skills and techniques in all schools.
12. We support prevention programs to deter hate crimes and domestic violence.
13. We support U.S. compliance with international law.

14. We seek to eliminate all laws which restrict or censor artistic expression, including those which withhold government funds on the basis of political or moral content.
15. A plan to revitalize our economy must be a central element of any overall plan to reduce crime. Fear of violent crime is growing and it is our belief that the fear of crime itself, and the breaking of the bonds of community, must be addressed in the same way politicians today propose putting more firepower on the streets, threatening criminals with harsher sentences, or building more prisons.
16. The Green Party opposes privatizing of prisons.
17. We would initiate social programs that are alternatives to gangs, such as “Gang Intervention Units.”
18. While toughening penalties for violent crimes, it is inappropriate to have a de facto policy of leniency to “WHITE COLLAR CRIME.” We believe broad corporate crime legislation should be enacted and enforced. Convicted corporations should be stripped of their charters. Jail time and fines should be imposed on convicted officers, commensurate with an assessment of the lasting effect of their crimes.
19. We recommend establishing effective, independent CIVILIAN REVIEW of complaints of police misconduct.
20. We support the ‘Brady Bill’ and thoughtful, carefully considered GUN CONTROL.
21. We endorse EDUCATION and JOB TRAINING while in prison.
22. We support innovative approaches to rehabilitation, and transitioning of non-violent criminals back into their communities. We support alternative sentencing for non-violent crimes (i.e. community service).
23. We support JUDICIAL REFORM that opens up the court system, makes it affordable and convenient to ordinary citizens, and provides for more efficient administration of justice.
24. We call for a consistent policy of protection against VIOLENCE IN SCHOOLS, but one which does not restrict students' right to free expression or violate their rights of privacy.
25. We endorse federal funding for RAPE CRISIS CENTERS and DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SHELTERS. We call for rape and domestic violence prevention and education programs.
26. VICTIMS’ RIGHTS must be guarded and protected. Victim-impact statements are appropriate vehicles for achieving full justice, and restitution should be considered in many cases to ensure victims will not be lost in the complexities of criminal justice.
27. We support decriminalization of “VICTIMLESS” CRIMES, for example, the possession of small amounts of marijuana.
28. We call for legalization of industrial hemp and all its many uses.
29. We believe mandatory drug testing violates civil rights; therefore, we oppose mandatory testing.
30. Consumers have the right to adequate enforcement of the federal and state CONSUMER PROTECTION LAWS.
31. We affirm the right to openly embrace SEXUAL ORIENTATION in the intimate choice of who we love.
32. The EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES COMMISSION (EEOC) should actively investigate and prosecute sexual harassment complaints.
33. We call for the restoration of consumers’ rights to file class actions suits against manufacturers of unsafe products and restrictions on secrecy agreements that act to prevent lawsuits by not revealing damaging information.
34. We support “whistleblower rights” laws.
35. Recently proposed bills that encroach on civil liberties, such as the Crime Bill of ’96, the Terrorist Bill of ’97, the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act, and the Patriot Act, are fundamentally in violation of the U.S. Constitution, and shall be subject to review, modification, and repeal.

J) Civil and Labor Rights (Last Ratified 12/15/2002)

1. We support a guarantee of adequate education, health care, housing, nutrition, and safety for all children.
2. We support the adoption of an amendment to the United States Constitution guaranteeing equal rights to women.
3. We oppose the criminalization of private sexual acts of consenting adults.

4. We support the full enforcement of the “Americans with Disabilities Act” to enable all people with disabilities to achieve independence and function at the highest possible level.
5. We support community-based services for the homeless and oppose all laws that criminalize homelessness.
6. We support extending the full civil rights afforded to ethnic/religious minorities and women to include gays and lesbians.
7. We support the rights of gays and lesbians to marry, adopt, and receive equal treatment under the law in child custody cases.
8. We support seeking a reversal to the Supreme Court decision that gave corporations the status of persons, thereby permitting the owners and officers to avoid personal responsibility for their acts and allowing corporations to be shielded by the Bill of Rights.
9. We support legislation to strengthen collective bargaining, the right of all workers to organize with democratically elected leadership, and the right to negotiate binding contracts with their employers.
10. We support worker control over pension assets.
11. We support vigorous enforcement of child labor laws.
12. We support extending to migrant labor the protections covering other workers.
13. We support extending to contingent workers (i.e., temporary, leased, and contract workers) and workers receiving welfare the protections covering other workers.
14. We support the strict enforcement of mine safety regulations.
15. We support a fair MINIMUM WAGE, adjusted regularly for inflation.
16. We support the right to strike without being “permanently replaced.”
17. We affirm the right to worship or not to worship as each one chooses.
18. We support affirmative action to remedy discrimination, to protect constitutional rights and to provide equal opportunity under the law.
19. We support effective enforcement of the “VOTING RIGHTS ACT,” including language access to voting.
20. We strongly support the strengthening of legal services for the poor.
21. Consumers have the right to adequate enforcement of the federal and state CONSUMER PROTECTION LAWS.
22. We support the creation of CONSUMER ADVOCACY AGENCIES (for example, along the model of the Illinois Citizen Utility Board) to protect the interests of consumers against the corporate lobbyists who have essentially (and too often successfully) argued against the rights of consumers before the regulatory agencies. We would require that legal monopolies and regulated industries (for example, electric, gas, water, and telephone utilities) set-up statewide CONSUMER ACTION GROUPS to act on behalf of and advocate for consumer interests.
23. We call for reforms to better inform consumers about the products they are buying; and where and how they are made.
24. We call for the restoration of consumers’ rights to file class actions suits against manufacturers of unsafe products and restrictions on secrecy agreements that act to prevent lawsuits by not revealing damaging information.
25. We support “whistleblower rights” laws.
26. We support a citizen’s right of access to justice. Our system of justice must be made convenient to rich and poor alike, guarding it against big business attempts to regulate and, in effect, control our civil justice/civil jury system.
27. Recently proposed bills that encroach on civil liberties, such as the Crime Bill of ’96, the Terrorist Bill of ’97, the Patriot Act, and the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act, which circumvents the 4th Amendment and opens the door for CIA to spy domestically on U.S. citizens, are of special concern to the Green Party. The Bill of Rights must remain a fundamental touchstone in defense of our civil rights.
28. Our legal right to criticize government is essential to the effective working of democracy.
29. We support openness in government, not secrecy, and endorse the “FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT” (FOIA) as a way of guaranteeing access to government decision-making.

30. The FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION (FCC) must promulgate telecommunications policies that ensure the First Amendment rights of viewers and listeners. New and existing technologies must provide outlets for scientific and cultural expression and enhance the electoral process, and the FCC should closely monitor applications for license renewals to the public airwaves to ensure that public interest criteria are met.
 31. The Green Party supports “community radio,” particularly those rulemaking petitions before the F.C.C. which allow for a new service of small, locally-owned FM stations.
 32. We oppose censorship in the arts, media (including the World Wide Web and Internet), and press. We encourage individual and social responsibility by artists, creative media, writers – and all citizens.
 33. We recognize both the SOVEREIGNTY of Native American tribal governments and the government’s trust obligation to Native American people.
 34. The federal government must affirm the RELIGIOUS RIGHTS of Native Americans in ceremonies (“American Indian Religious Freedom Act”); provide funds for innovative economic development initiatives, EDUCATION and public HEALTH PROGRAMS; and respect land, water and mineral rights within the borders of reservations and traditional lands.
 35. Preferential quotas based on race, class, and ideology should be abandoned for immigration policies that promote fairness, NON-DISCRIMINATION and family reunification.
 36. We support immigration policies that reflect our constitutional guarantees of freedoms of speech, association and travel. We find particular attention should be given those minorities who are political exiles and refugees.
-