

PROPOSAL for The Fredericksburg Green Party

Proposal #: **GM140817CFa**

Date: 8/17/2014

Status:

Title: Campaign to get FLS to publish upcoming votes and voting results for state and federal legislatures.

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Time Frame: August 2014 – July 2015

Relevant Body: FGP General Membership

Purpose: To encourage public participation in our democracy.

Background & Statement: The Free Lance-Star (FLS) is the most widely read local newspaper, and as the journalism profession is ostensibly dedicated to informing the public about the most important matters affecting their daily lives, it seems odd that they do not carry a regular column listing upcoming votes in congress or state legislatures, and the results of past votes, including details regarding which legislators voted which way. A democracy without public involvement is no democracy.

To that end, the proposal is to:

1. Research the extent to which the FLS does or doesn't publish this material.
2. Write a letter to the FLS editors, or meet with them directly, to offer this suggestion, and give them an example layout to use. Be specific about how long we will wait before taking action.
3. Solicit/select a "point person" from our membership to coordinate the resulting action, which will comprise these remaining steps:
4. Collect examples of unpopular passed legislation, and statistics on the decline in popular opinion of their legislatures, to reinforce the message that such a column is necessary.
5. Draft a sample letter-to-the-editor and sample petition.
6. Research/implement ways to collect signatures on this petition online (e.g. our website, Facebook, canvassing on Caroline St., etc.).
7. Set up a page on our website for this campaign, to give details about the intent, provide the sample letters and petition forms to download, to track total signatures and letters written, etc.
8. Get the VOP (Virginia Organizing Project) involved, since this aligns with their mission statement.
9. Deliver/Forward petition results to the FLS editors on a regular basis.

Time / Financial Budget Requirements:

Financial requirements are expected to be minimal / incidental. Time estimates for each campaign task are below, according to the numbering scheme above:

1. Man-hours : 2
2. Man-hours : 5
3. Man-hours : 2 over two weeks.
4. Man-hours : 20 over one week.
5. Man-hours : 5
6. Six months to a year.
7. Man-hours : 10 over two weeks.
8. Man-hours : 6 over two months.
9. Man-hours: 2 every month.