

1. **Name of Individuals or Group Filing the Complaint:** Nancy T Keyser, William Colwell, Rob Matteson, Kenneth O'Connor, Ryan Fournier, Andrew Stewart
2. **Contact Information:** Andrew Stewart, HASC.Warrior.Stew@gmail.com, mailing addresses available upon request
3. **Date Complaint is Filed:** 9/14/20
4. **Name of Individual or Group Against Whom Complaint is Filed:** Green Party of Rhode Island and Green Party of Rhode Island Steering Committee
5. **Contact Information for that Individual or Group:** StateCommittee@RIGreens.org
6. **Summary of the Complaint:** Multiple violations of both State and National Party bylaws pertinent to internal state party administration and national party accreditation requirements combined with refusal to present accountable processing and redress of grievances
7. **Specific Bylaw, Rule, Procedure, Policy, or other legal document that were violated:**
 - RULES AND PROCEDURES OF THE GREEN PARTY OF THE UNITED STATES, ARTICLE I: ACCREDITATION, SECTION 1, SUBSECTION II, BYLAW 3
 - RULES AND PROCEDURES OF THE GREEN PARTY OF THE UNITED STATES, ARTICLE I: ACCREDITATION, SECTION 1, SUBSECTION II, BYLAW 4
 - RULES AND PROCEDURES OF THE GREEN PARTY OF THE UNITED STATES, ARTICLE I: ACCREDITATION, SECTION 1, SUBSECTION II, BYLAW 5
 - GPRI BYLAWS-1.0 MEMBERSHIP AND CANDIDACY FOR OFFICE, LINES 74-87
 - GPRI BYLAWS-6.1
 - GPRI BYLAWS-6.2
8. **If any other Green Party committee, caucus, etc. has been involved in this issue, information about the nature the involvement and who was who was involved:**
Andrew Stewart as a member of both the Accreditation Committee and member of the Young Eco-Socialist caucus as well volunteers with the Hawkins-Walker 2020 campaign who are not members of the Green Party of RI
9. **Action requested by the individual or group making the complaint:** Intervention to provide a transparent and accountable redress of grievances so to ameliorate ongoing and continuing grievances and lack of procedural methods
10. **Appendices:** Provided below in footnotes to the complaint

September 14, 2020

WE, THE UNDERSIGNED, DESIRE TO MAKE THE FOLLOWING COMPLAINT TO THE ACCREDITATION COMMITTEE OF THE GREEN PARTY OF THE UNITED STATES (GPUS):

We write today to formally complain to the national party regarding the intransigence and lack of accountability on the part of the Green Party of Rhode Island (GPRI) and the State Committee that is designated as GPRI's leadership/decision-making body. We believe it is necessary for us to advance this complaint to a national body because the current structure and practical methods of the GPRI makes it fundamentally impossible for us to redress the grievances herein on the state level.

We believe our complaint qualifies for consideration because of the following reasons:

- All of us are Rhode Island residents;
- Some of us are involved in Green politics on the national level, including work with Caucuses, national party committee work, and/or participation in the 2020 presidential campaign;
 - Notably, not all of us are actively participating in the 2020 presidential campaign, demonstrating a lack of alleged bias.
- All of us subscribe to the basic principles of the GPUS as embodied in the Ten Key Values and Four Pillars;
- All of us believe in complete and total independence from the two-party system, unlike the current GRPI State Committee, at least one-half of which seems to include registered Democratic Party members¹;
- All of us desire to see a fully-functional and healthy Green Party in Rhode Island existing as an independent political formation capable of running candidates, leading non-electoral campaigns, and participating in coalitions with other community organizations. Contrary the claims of GPRI State Committee member Greg Gerritt, who seeks to accuse “the authoritarian Left” of attempting to take over the GPRI², our ideology is solely defined by the Green Party national platform, which says “...we will build an economy based on large-scale green public works, municipalization, and workplace and community democracy. Some call this decentralized system 'ecological socialism,' 'communalism,' or the 'cooperative commonwealth,' but whatever the terminology, we believe it will help end labor exploitation, environmental exploitation, and racial, gender, and wealth inequality and bring about economic and social justice due to the positive effects of democratic decision making. Production is best for people and planet when democratically owned and operated by those who do the work and those

¹ <http://bit.ly/GPRI-Dems>

² <http://bit.ly/Gerritt-AK-Video>

most affected by production decisions. This model of worker and community empowerment will ensure that decisions that greatly affect our lives are made in the interests of our communities.”

With these qualifications in mind we present these following grievances:

- We adamantly oppose press statements³ and social media statements⁴ made by the GPRI refusing to support the 2020 presidential ticket. In so doing, we claim GPRI has violated the following GPUS Affiliation Requirements:
 - *Agrees to support national candidates selection by Green convention. (RULES AND PROCEDURES OF THE GREEN PARTY OF THE UNITED STATES, ARTICLE I: ACCREDITATION, SECTION 1, SUBSECTION II, BYLAW 4)*
 - *Makes good faith effort, where reasonable, to achieve ballot status. (RULES AND PROCEDURES OF THE GREEN PARTY OF THE UNITED STATES, ARTICLE I: ACCREDITATION, SECTION 1, SUBSECTION II, BYLAW 5)*
- We feel that the decision making process that led to these statements was undemocratic and lacked accountability. We claim the GPRI State Committee acted on this decision by not participating in the GPUS Presidential Nominating Convention, by not holding a state party primary, by not petitioning to place the GPUS nominee on the ballot, and by issuing several public statements that it would not support the GPUS presidential nominees. Thus we claim the GPRI State Committee’s May 25 decision and subsequent actions are in violation of GPUS affiliation requirements 4 and 5.
- We believe this decision is invalidated by the existing GPRI bylaws, which bar State Committee members from being registered with other political parties, as is the case of several State Committee members at the time of the decision (cf. Footnote 1). The 8 officers of the GPRI State Committee who voted in favor of the May 25 decision not to petition for ballot access and not to otherwise support the GPUS presidential nominees are named by GPRI as “Gerritt,” “D. Schmader,” “Rourke,” “Affigne,” “N. Schmader,” “Gallagher,” “Fisher,” and “Dixon.” However, at least 5 of these 8 officers (D. Schmader, Rourke, Affigne, N. Schmader, and Gallagher; the full name of officer “Dixon” is unknown, and thus Dixon’s voter registration is unknown) apparently were registered Democratic Party voters at the time of this decision, in violation of GPRI bylaws:
 - *However, whenever such party designation is not available, or if the prospective member is not a qualified elector by reason of age or legal status, he or she may become a member by declaring Party membership on a form provided by the State Committee. Said form shall request that the prospective member attest to his or her agreement with the Green Values of Ecology, Equality, Democracy, and Peace, and that he or she is not affiliated with another ballot qualified party in*

³ <http://bit.ly/GPRI-Uprise-RI>

⁴ <http://bit.ly/GPRI-Facebook-May-28>

Rhode Island. (GPRI BYLAWS-1.0 MEMBERSHIP AND CANDIDACY FOR OFFICE, Lines 74-87)⁵ [Emphasis added]

- We claim the decision making process further violated other GPRI bylaws. The GPRI State Committee says that on May 16, 2020 it invoked a “Declaration of Emergency and Special Rules” in order to suspend its usual bylaws stipulations so it could in turn make the May 23 special rule not to support the GPUS presidential nominees. In the Emergency Declaration, the GPRI invoked sections 6.1 and 6.2 of its bylaws, stating that “Situations Not Anticipated” allow the State Committee to create special rules where the bylaws do not offer guidance. However, sections 6.1 and 6.2 of the GPRI bylaws state that such rules created by the GPRI State Committee are “*subject to review by a duly-constituted General Membership Meeting or Convention.*” The GPRI State Committee did not allow for the General Membership to review the special rules at a General Membership Meeting or Convention. At this current time, there in fact does not exist in any form an internal party membership roster that would be requisite for such a policy review by membership.
- We believe the State Committee is currently continuing to violate the Accreditation bylaw requirements of the GPUS and has no desire to come into compliance with these requirements, demonstrated by their responses to the GPUS Accreditation Committee on 6/9/2020⁶ and 6/12/20⁷. We claim GPRI is in violation of GPUS affiliation requirement 3, which requires “*a statewide organization open to, and reflective of, a statewide membership.*” With at least one-half of its State Committee officers being members of the Democratic Party, in violation of its own bylaws, we claim the GPRI is not a statewide organization reflective of a statewide membership. We claim further that Gerritt's public accusatory claims about "the authoritarian Left" (cf. Footnote 2) demonstrates organizational hostility and a toxic internal culture that actively antagonizes those aspiring to join the GPRI.
 - We affirm and agree with the argument that GPRI State Committee members and GPRI members in high-risk COVID-19 virus contraction cohorts should not be compelled to participate in petitioning for the 2020 presidential campaign. However, it is a false tautology to claim membership in a high-risk cohort *by default* equals a refusal to endorse the presidential ticket, refusal to allow Hawkins-Walker 2020 access to the GPRI name on the ballot, and refusal to withdraw statements causing GPRI noncompliance with GPUS Accreditation requirements. None of these reversals would require a risked contraction of COVID-19 and claiming otherwise is disingenuous.
- We believe that the structures created in the GPRI bylaws *in practice* prevent us from gaining any accountable process for redress of grievances from the State Committee. In

⁵ <https://archive.org/details/gpri-bylaws>

⁶ <http://bit.ly/GPRI-AccredCom-Resp>

⁷ <http://bit.ly/GPRI-AccredComm-61220>

practical terms, the GPRI State Committee functions as an opaque body that has been engineered within the Bylaws to preserve the control of a small clique of individuals who lack any viable means for checks and balances on their power and decision making capabilities. This is brought about via working in tandem with the following grievance.

- We believe that the membership qualifications of the existing GPRI bylaws are so ill-defined they function in a way that enables opportunism. As the late Bruce Dixon wrote in 2017, *“Anybody can be a Republican or Democrat or something else on Monday, email the black caucus on Tuesday, and on Wednesday be an accredited member, **eligible to elect or to serve on the [Green] Party’s national committee or its steering committee.**”* [Emphasis in original] We believe in practice this is the way the State Committee of the GPRI also functions. Attempts at internal democratic redress and accountability are easily hindered by flooding the membership rolls with those in agreement with State Committee decisions or policy overnight.

We therefore seek intervention by the Accreditation Committee to aid us in remediation of these issues and bring the GPRI into compliance with GPUS accreditation requirements. In so doing, we hope to build a viable Green Party in Rhode Island.

Respectfully,

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