

## **Shoreline Green Party Platform**

(November 19, 2017)

### **1. Grassroots Democracy**

Every human being deserves a voice in the decisions that affect his or her life and not be subject to the will of another. Therefore, we are committed to increasing public participation at every level of government, to ensuring that our public representatives are fully accountable to the people who elect them and to creating new types of political movements which expand the process of participatory democracy by directly including citizens in the decision-making process. We seek support, financial and otherwise, from individuals and groups that share our values and do not accept such support from corporate interests.

In pursuing this objective, SLGP will:

- Assure that legislators account for their actions and their consequences through frequent voter forums and formal reports to their constituents.
- Cooperate with other local groups that share this objective, such as the Guilford Peace and Justice Alliance and the League of Women Voters to assure access to the ballot and to promote increased voter participation and to assure that voters have sufficient awareness of their voting opportunities and of the consequences of their votes for themselves and others.
- Foster referenda to encourage broad citizen participation.
- Promote electoral candidate debates that would provide voters with information bases for their decisions
- Reform local voting procedures to increase voter options, e.g., Rank-Choice votes, electoral direct democracy, and open primaries to assure election transparency.
- Disrupt corrupt crony political processes.

## 2. Social Justice and Equal Opportunity

All persons must have the rights and opportunity to benefit equally from the resources afforded by society and the environment. All persons must consciously confront in ourselves, our organizations, and society at large, barriers such as racism and class oppression, sexism and homophobia, ageism and disability, which act to deny fair treatment and equal justice under the law.

In pursuing this objective, SLGP will:

- Assure that Municipal, State and National laws/ordinances/regulations enforcers are held accountable for their actions and their consequences through frequent reviews and reports to their constituents.
- Cooperate with other local groups that share this objective, such as the Guilford Peace and Justice Alliance.
- Promote awareness of social justice and equal opportunity matters in the Shoreline communities.
- Actively promote the representation of members of minority groups at all levels of political action and in SLGP.

### 3. Ecological Wisdom

The scale of ecological phenomena is vast and has taken billions of years to develop. Humankind's role in this story is small and unlike the world that has evolved naturally, it doesn't effectively co-exist with its planet. The Green Party is committed to peoples' relearning how to live harmoniously with nature. Politics doesn't serve us as well as it might because politics has devolved into a philosophy of self-interest rather than ecological wisdom. Self-interest can be destructive. The present system of unrestrained capitalism is devouring the earth and will eventually destroy us. The corporate-government system demonstrates an incapacity to understand the interrelation of all organisms to their environment. We will strive to live within the resources of the planet and to respect all forms of life. We depend on the earth's resources and will strive to protect the integrity of those resources. All decisions must be considered in light of their impact on our natural environment.

In pursuing this objective, SLGP will:

- Promote ecologically healthy individual behavior.
- Promote ecologically healthy collective behavior
- Monitor and publicize performance by local boards, commissions and legislators as their actions influence environmental policy.
- Promote local efforts to provide solar source electricity.
- Promote local efforts to preserve open spaces.
- Monitor and publicize performance by private actors as their actions influence environmental policy.
- Promote environmental education.

#### 4. Non-Violence

We are committed to developing and maintaining effective alternatives to society's current patterns of violence. We are committed to a process of demilitarization and elimination of weapons of mass destruction, without being naive about the intentions of other governments. We recognize the need for self-defense and the defense of others who are in helpless situations. We promote non-violent methods to oppose practices and policies with which we disagree, and will guide our actions toward lasting personal, community and global peace.

In pursuing this objective, SLGP will:

- Support diplomatic alternatives in conflict resolution in all matters, locally and globally.
- Support initiatives to monitor and control access to privately-owned weapons, especially those designed for mass violence.
- Support ethical and sociological analyses of the cause of violence in the home and in public and remedies thereof. Support responsible actions that arise from such analyses.
- Promote a shift from military investment in support of the community's economy toward more healthy forms of community development such as the Green New Deal and New Haven's resolution.
- Monitor and publicize performance by local boards, commissions and legislators as they practice healthy conflict resolution.
- Oppose the militarization of local police forces and counter the damaging effects of police violence against racial and ethnic minorities.

## 5. Decentralization

Concentration of private wealth and power contributes to social and economic injustice, environmental destruction, and militarization. Therefore, we support a restructuring of social, political and economic institutions away from a system which is controlled by and mostly benefits the powerful few, to a democratic, less bureaucratic system. Decision-making should, as much as possible, remain at the individual and local level, while assuring that civil rights are protected for all citizens.

In pursuing this objective, SLGP will:

- Promote community-based actions, such as cooperatives, credit unions and community gardens

## 6. Community-Based Economics and Economic Justice

Economic justice is only possible when the people have certain rights. We commit ourselves to these rights: a job with a living wage, the right to join a union, the right to a free education, the right to affordable housing, the right to affordable health care, the right to fair taxation, the right to equal treatment in the justice system, the right to accept immigrants in our community, the right to unrestricted access to the Internet, the right to be free from fear, and the right to transparency in our government. We support the idea of a state bank which will work for the community rather than making its officers rich. We will fight inequality in all its forms. We will drive regionalization to more equally allocate revenues and expenses between rich and poor districts. We will work in our communities to assure these rights and they will strengthen us economically.

In pursuing this objective, SLGP will:

- Endorse and promote actions that reduce unfair tax burdens.
- Affirm that local public resources shall be used for public vs private interests and resist the privatization of public resources.
- Broad engagement of all community members should be the basis for political decisions, especially in the allocation of public resources.
- Endorse and promote the freedoms that President Franklin Roosevelt espoused:
  - ✓ “...freedom of speech and expression ...”
  - ✓ “...freedom of every person to worship God in his own way ...”
  - ✓ “...freedom from want which, translated into world terms, means economic understandings which will secure to every (person and community) healthy peacetime life ...”
  - ✓ “... freedom from fear which , translated into world terms, means a worldwide reduction of armaments to such a point and in such a thorough fashion that no person or nation will be in a position to commit an act of physical aggression against any neighbor ...”

## 7. Feminism and Gender Equality

We have inherited a social system based on male domination of politics and economics. We call for the replacement of the cultural ethics of domination and control with more cooperative ways of interacting that respect differences of opinion and gender. Human values such as interpersonal responsibility; honesty; and equity among people with varied sexual orientations must be developed with moral conscience. We should remember that the process that determines our decisions and actions is just as important as achieving the outcome we want.

In pursuing this objective, SLGP will:

- Advocate equal opportunities for women in our communities and in organizations within our communities, including SLGP.
- Advocate equal opportunities for people who identify as Lesbian, Gay, Bi-Sexual, Transgender, and Queer in our communities and in organizations within our communities, including SLGP.
- Promote decision-making by consensus, including all voices.
- Reach out and engage all voices including those with different opinions than those of SLGP.

## 8. Respect for Diversity

We value and support all diversity, biological and ecological, within the context of individual responsibility. We do not accept abusive behavior towards people, animals or the earth.

Everyone is of equal value regardless of age, sex, religion, culture, language and ethnicity. Where differences are separating us, we are dedicated to respectfully bridging those disparities. We recognize the differences but we also know that most people have common values such as wanting a peaceful and just world.

In pursuing this objective, SLGP will:

- Cooperate to identify common goals.
- Engage and listen to each other about how to achieve common goals while accepting our distinctions.
- Increase awareness of actions or policies that encourage or countenance discriminatory behavior, mistreatment or disrespect.

## 9. Personal and Global Responsibility

We encourage individuals to act to improve their personal well-being and, at the same time, to enhance ecological balance and social harmony. We join with people and organizations around the world to foster peace, economic justice, and the health of the planet.

In pursuing this objective, SLGP will:

- Promote community action to protect valuable community resources from private actions or natural threats, e.g., sea level increases.
- Safeguard public resources from wanton destruction by private action or natural effects and support those who would do likewise.

## 10. Future Focus and Sustainability

The Green Party is focused upon truth to guide us and sustain us in the future. The corporate world drives messages relentlessly at us and we must challenge that indoctrination. It's message of exclusive material gain that would lead to our collective destruction. We will speak the truth loudly and often, and challenge the corporate misperceptions. We will show the hope in the Green Revolution which will give us secure, non-polluting energy, sustainable community development with open spaces, healthy, organic food, clean air to breath, clean water to drink and unpolluted soil for our crops. Either we take control of our destiny or we will have no destiny to control.

In pursuing this objective, SLGP will:

- Advocate alternate views and opportunities for a healthy human environment, such as expanding green energy applications and reduced military investment and promulgate these views in Shoreline communities.
- Promote local communications media to reduce the dominance of our communities' residents' information. Refer to Noam Chomsky's *Requiem for the American Dream* for details.