

How GPUS convention voting takes place.

At the national convention the vote for president is a pretty formal occasion. State parties all come in with their votes allocated based on a process conducted in their home state, either a primary, convention, caucus, mail ballot, internet ballot, or some similar democratic means of determining preferences. Some may do a proportional vote, others a more elaborate STV votes so that votes can be allocated for voting in rounds to come if no candidate is chosen on the first ballot.

There will be a process, some sort of roll call and registration activity to determine how many votes each state will have. When it is time to vote the moderator will call the roll one state at a time. The speaker for the state delegation called will say the Green Party of Rhode Island, a state for sale, cheap, casts 3 votes for Cynthia McKinney, 2 for Jared Ball, one for Jesse Johnson, and one for Eugene Debs. The moderator will repeat the numbers asking if they are correctly recorded. The state party spokesperson will hopefully agree that they are properly recorded. The numbers will be written down on the official roll and typed into a computer spreadsheet, which will have a program recording each state's vote, and show the running totals for each candidate. Each state will be called in turn, stand up and report. Alphabetical order is the method we have used to determine the order of reporting.

If a candidate receives a majority of the vote on the first ballot, we all rejoice and start campaigning. If no one has a majority we do it again, and possibly again. At some point low ranking candidates are dropped off the list as in an STV vote, but we would be doing it with repeated rounds of voting. Complicating this all could be the choices of not nominating a candidate and choices about what to do under those circumstances.

The second round of voting, and subsequent rounds would look the same, each state standing in turn and reporting its votes. States that bind their delegation beyond the first round will have a relatively simple job of determining votes. Other states will leave it up to a vote of the delegation

or the choices of the individual delegates. States holding proxy votes will have to determine how those will be voted as well.

We go, making deals and dropping off low ranking candidates until someone has a majority. We go more than 3 rounds and we wonder if we can all pull together around the final nominee.

Each state Green party will be expected to choose and instruct its delegation to the GPUS National Nominating Convention using methods that meet standards of democracy and fairness, and further allow the Greens in each state to truly register their choices for who the Green Nominee for President should be. No one state party can control the process, the nominee will need the support of a majority of the delegates at the convention and no state party will have a delegation that large, so we are all in this together, and need to meet our internal expectations of fairness and democracy.