

EMERGENCY APPEAL



Green Party of California

Office of the Treasurer

Post Office Box 485 San Francisco, CA 94104 www.cagreens.org

March, 2010

Dear Green Party supporter,

The Green Party of California has been targeted for extinction.

This June, we face perhaps the biggest threat ever to our very existence. It's billed as the "Top Two Primaries Act." And, if voters approve it, the Green Party will be barred from being a player in state elections for Governor, and other state offices and legislative seats.

Prop. 14 requires all candidates run in a single primary open to all voters, with only the top two vote-getters moving on to the General Election in November. Only those with the most money would prevail, silencing Green Party candidates forever.

Once eliminated, six months of campaigning remain, but Green Party candidates would not be heard from again.

We need your help to inform voters about this bad idea.

Look at who is sponsoring Prop. 14, and we know why it would not benefit voters. Insurance companies, large land developers and mega-corporations like Hewlett-Packard are the biggest funders of the ballot measure.

Who's opposed? The ACLU and citizen electoral reform organizations. And us. Not a very even playing field. That's why we need Green Party members like you to support our efforts.

If approved (a similar measure was narrowly defeated in 2004), Prop. 14 would result in fewer choices for voters at a time when voters are dissatisfied more now than ever before with incumbent politicians. Voters need more choices, not fewer.

Financially-strapped California requires more innovative ideas, like those that Greens generate. But this initiative would slap a muzzle on us by limiting voter choices in general elections.

Although the Republicans and Democrats say they are opposed, it's only token opposition. The truth is a similar system in Louisiana benefitted those parties. "Only one

-over please-

incumbent member of Congress was ever defeated for re-election,” according to Richard Winger of Ballot Access News.

And, of course – no surprise – Prop. 14 will increase the cost of campaigns because it requires major party candidates to run TWO separate election campaigns to reach voters. This is just exactly what corporations want: to be able to “contribute” more money to influence (buy and sell) candidates.

We don't play that game, so we're targeted for extinction.

The Green Party of California – with your help – continues to do very well on a local level. We have several mayors, including in Richmond and Fairfax (where we hold a Green majority on the Town Council), and dozens of Greens hold elected office on city councils, school boards, rent boards, among other posts.

This fact - electing people without corporate dollars - is not lost on the moneyed interests who want to maintain their stranglehold on California's political system, and prevent progressive change such as universal, single party healthcare.

We need your help to stop this power-grab by the corporations.

The GPCA will launch a powerful, grassroots effort to educate voters about Prop. 14 in the news media, and with a voter registration drive this Spring leading up to the June elections.

This campaign – perhaps the first-such effort since the Green Party of California was formed 20 years ago in a similar grassroots fashion – needs a financial “shot-in-the-arm.”

That's where YOU come in.

Please support this campaign to stop Prop. 14, preserve our Green Party of California presence on the ballot. And, most of all, guarantee that voters have a real choice when they go to the polls.

Thank you,



Jeanne-Marie Rosenmeier, Treasurer
Green Party of California

P.S. This is an emergency alert. We wouldn't be contacting you like this if it was not urgent. Thanks again for your help. For more information about Prop. 14 and what you can do about it, please see: www.cagreens.org.