

Indiana Green Party
CALL FOR A STATE GATHERING

March 3, 1992

Dear Fellow Activists,

After discussion with several Green activists around Indiana, the idea for a holding a statewide meeting for Greens was raised. While many of us are very busy organizing at the local level, Greens around the state lack coordination and organization. In fact, many of us have never met face-to-face. I am writing to you now to pursue further the planning of a statewide meeting to organize Greens in Indiana and to create an organizational structure which is reflective of Green values and serves our needs as activists.

Please consider what follows as a set of proposals. I would appreciate any feedback or ideas you may have. My intention is to coordinate agenda submissions and to send out a preliminary agenda two weeks before the meeting. I would also like to coordinate and disseminate action/organizational proposals to the greatest extent possible before the meeting so that we may complete some discussion beforehand, hopefully saving time at the actual conference.

The tentative date for this meeting is May 9, 1992. I feel that the timing of this date is good. We can use our Earth Day activities to advertise for the meeting, and it is far enough away to allow adequate planning. I was also hoping to have a social gathering after meeting -- music, merriment and maintenance!

Tentative Date: May 9, 1992

Two weeks before Memorial Day holiday; close enough to Earth Day to take advantage of momentum; provides time for incorporation of new locals for representation at the national Greens Gathering.

Tentative location: Indianapolis

Central location; allows access from both north and south sections of state.

Proposed theme: "Organizing for grassroots empowerment"

Suggests both electoral and movement-based strategies.

Tentative goals:

1. Establish statewide organizational structure with the intent of promoting grassroots empowerment through:

- electoral activism
- issue activism
- maintaining a balance between issue activism and electoral activism

2. Establish an interim coordinating committee to act as regional spokespeople and to act as regional contacts to promote the creation of new locals.
3. Establish a working group to solicit and field proposals for electoral activities and to legally obtain the "rights" to the name "Green Party" in the state of Indiana.
4. Coordinate issue activism across the state and establish an annual action plan or form a working group to solicit and field proposals for an action plan for the following year.
5. Promote affiliation of new locals with the Greens/Green Party USA to increase representation at the national Greens Gathering.
6. Finance and publish a quarterly newsletter.

Miscellaneous

There are several issues to work out in creating an organizational structure. These include:

- legal structure and how this relates to fundraising
- legal electoral structure and how this relates to fundraising
- ensuring grassroots democracy and internal accountability in organizational structure

It might be advisable to take some time in the year following the meeting to iron out organizational structure, but I feel that we need to take that important first step in creating a viable Green presence in Indiana. I also feel that meeting and socializing together may help give us renewed energies. This is important. I know it is hard to be active on top of commitments to work and family, but I think we all realize what's at stake.

For the Earth and its inhabitants,

Geoff Downie