GPVA Information Technology (IT) Committee

IT SERVICES PROPOSAL

11/2/2016

Whereas:

a. The IT Committee, over the past few years, has heard from an increasing number of GPVA members regarding the shortcomings of our current IT management system, including but not limited to website design, inability to integrate advances in social networking, inability to allow or control secure, timely remote multi-user content management, and inability to natively and securely share membership data among locals and officers;

b. The GPVA IT Committee (formerly known as the "Green Web Committee"), upon formation of its Mission Statement in 2001, was specifically granted authorization by the GPVA to make such technical decisions on its own;

c. Nevertheless, as has been recorded in the minutes of the recent Charlottesville meeting, the IT Committee chair promised, as a courtesy, that "a proposal will be developed for presentation to the IC."

d. The IT Committee has met multiple times in October 2016 to discuss and formulate a plan to upgrade our IT services, including performing research and comparison of our IT needs vs. the capabilities of existing modern content/service management tools;

e. Via this research, the IT Committee has identified two major software/service packages which support the majority of our needs;

f. The first of these tools (Drupal) is self-hosted, free open-source software, with no recurring costs but a relatively long implementation time;

g. The second of these tools (NationBuilder) is an offsite-hosted service, which after one (1) year will incur an approximate recurring cost of $40 per month, but has a very short implementation time, and includes access to state voter lists.

It is hereby resolved that:

1. The IT Committee shall immediately implement the NationBuilder solution, in order to most quickly take advantage of the recent influx of Green Party support through social media and Jill Stein volunteers, and reserve our access to state voter lists.

2. The IT Committee shall meanwhile begin the longer-term implementation of a functional, scalable Drupal solution, which supports (among other things) the key data fields and capabilities of NationBuilder. The goal is to complete this implementation within one (1) year, to coincide with the institution of NationBuilder recurring fees.

3. The IT Committee shall, upon completion of the Drupal implementation, migrate the data

collected via NationBuilder into the Drupal solution, test the implementation, and retire all or most of the NationBuilder service, so as to leave the Drupal solution as the sole, ultimate data repository and service collection for the GPVA. NationBuilder may be retained for any services which the Drupal site cannot sufficiently duplicate, but only if it can be shown to pay for itself.

4. The Drupal solution will support, at minimum, an updated website design, membership/contact repositories with extensive tagging, secure remote access, file sharing, and content development/management for multiple site administrators (preferably segmented by committee), subdomain hosting and/or segmented site management for GPVA locals and committees, a remotely-editable statewide calendar of events, integrated fundraising, secure segmented membership & media contact data access (with customized tagging), and email services. This solution will also strive to support financial management, Wikis, member forums, surveys, project/task management, and blogging.

----------- END OF PROPOSAL --------