



Green Party of California

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The Green Party of California has been targeted for extinction.

This June, the party faces perhaps the biggest threat ever to its 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 and third party candidates.

Once eliminated, 6 months of campaigning remain. But Greens would not be heard from again.

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 electoral reform organizations. Not a very even playing field.

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 the Green Party 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 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 exactly what corporations want: to be able to "contribute" more money to buy and sell candidates.

Greens don't play that game, so they're targeted for extinction.

The Green Party of California continues to do very well on a local level. Greens have mayors, including in Richmond and Fairfax (where Greens hold a 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.

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 is perhaps the first-such effort since the Green Party of California was formed 20 years ago in a similar grassroots fashion. It's designed to give voters a REAL choice when they go to the polls.
