

# Peace and Freedom Party of California

## Candidate Guide

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### **Why Become a Peace and Freedom Party Candidate for Public Office in 2006?**

There are many reasons for running for office on the Peace and Freedom Party ticket. The rightward surge of the Democratic Party leaves virtually no other electoral alternative to Republican policies. Candidates of the Peace and Freedom Party can offer voters fresh perspectives on the political realities of 2006. Our candidates inject issues into campaigns which professional politicians would prefer not to address but which are vital to the well-being of people. Nobody else will do it, so it is up to us.

Unlike mavericks within the Democratic and Republican parties who will be eliminated in the June 6, 2006 primary election, Peace and Freedom nominees will be using the electoral arena to confront the powers-that-be in the November 7, 2006 general election. Beyond November, a campaign can leave behind an active local chapter of the Peace and Freedom Party to continue to struggle for the day-to-day needs of your community.

Being a candidate for public office does require a certain level of personal commitment, and perhaps sacrifice. However, it affords great opportunities. It is not necessary that a candidate run a full-scale campaign, or always be available for personal appearances. It is expected that each candidate (or a spokesperson) will answer questionnaires, speaking requests, etc. Our candidates are ordinary working people, and we recognize the need to prevent burnout. Some of our candidates will be running intensive full-time campaigns, and tie-ins between campaigns can strengthen all of them.

Time commitments should be planned for gathering signatures (December 30, 2005 – February 23, 2006) and for campaigning between Labor Day and the General Election (September 4, 2006 – November 7, 2006). If possible, you should also plan to attend the State Convention in August 2006.

You are not expected to have political experience, nor to raise and spend a large amount of money. If you have a willingness to learn about the issues, to speak up for the rights of the people, and to help organize the Peace and Freedom Party in your area, you will have political experience soon enough. As a party we are more committed to the next generation than the next election.

Meeting people who share your political ideals for global peace and social and economic justice is a worthy reward for all candidates who campaign on behalf of the Peace and Freedom Party. The possibility of creating an ongoing independent political alternative in your community or on your campus is a major reason why activists become candidates. This is your opportunity to connect with a network of Peace and Freedom Party supporters throughout California.

Becoming a candidate for public office is not as simple as deciding to do so. Valid signatures of Peace and Freedom Party registrants (ranging from at least 40 to not over 60) for district partisan offices must be gathered for nomination, and to eliminate or reduce filing fees candidates may gather signatures in lieu of the filing fee. The nomination signatures will also be counted as

signatures in lieu of the filing fee. Petitions will be available from your County Registrar of Voters or County Clerk on December 30, 2005, and must be turned in between February 13, and February 23, 2006.

If some of your in-lieu-of-filing-fee signatures are invalid, makeup signatures may be gathered and turned in up to March 10, 2006. If a candidate is willing to pay the exorbitant filing fee the nomination deadline is March 10, 2006. Exception: in offices where the incumbent does not file, the absolute deadline is extended to March 15, 2006. Now is the time to act to secure your place on the ballot in this crucial election year.



## **Why Become a Candidate for Central Committees?**

The Peace and Freedom Party encourages members to run for Central Committees (State and County). The Central Committees are the decision-making bodies of the Party. Those elected in each county become members of both the State Central Committee and the County Central Committee. The newly-elected members of the County Central Committees will be sworn in at their July 2006 CCC meetings, and elect new officers. Then in August 2006 the new State Central Committee members will be seated at the State Convention meeting of the State Central Committee. Convention rules, party by-laws, and party platform will be adopted, and new state officers will be elected. (Note: During presidential election years, the next being 2008, the State Convention meeting of the State Central Committee will also certify the presidential and vice-presidential nominees.)

The membership of the county and state central committees should represent progressive organizations. In fact, party members should ask specialized movement organizations to write resolutions, platform planks, and action proposals covering their issues and have them submitted to the Convention for adoption. Some of their members may be willing to run for Peace and Freedom Party Central Committees in order to have their issues presented in the best light. It only takes a maximum of 20 valid signatures to qualify as a candidate for Central Committees. (In some counties or districts the signature requirements are lower.) Signatures must be obtained between February 13 and March 10, 2006, from voters registered in the Peace and Freedom Party in the district in which the candidate is running. Those who are unable to obtain ballot status may run as qualified write-in candidates by collecting and filing 20 valid signatures (lower in some districts) between April 10, and May 23, 2006. But first, a petition bearing 25 signatures must have been circulated and submitted by March 10, 2006 stating that there will be a write-in candidate in that district. Our write-in candidates only need the votes of 2% of the Party members voting in their districts, and most are elected each year.

It is a rewarding experience to sit, debate and decide collectively with your peers the future direction of our party. The Peace and Freedom Party needs the energy and input of all of us.

**Let's organize and build the Party!**



## Helpful Hints for Gathering Signatures

### Peace and Freedom Party Campaign 2006

In California, no person can appear on the ballot as a candidate for partisan public office without gathering signatures of registered voters of their own political party within their district. The State Legislature sets the time period for gathering signatures so early that many people who might want to run for office fail to meet the deadlines. Detailed information for those interested in becoming candidates may be obtained from the County Registrar of Voters or County Clerk of the county in which their districts are located. For the next general election to be held on November 7, 2006 the period for circulating petitions to gather signatures in-lieu of filing fees begins December 30, 2005 and ends February 23, 2006. (Note: Candidates for State Assembly and State Senate **no longer** are required to file a Declaration of Intention.) If a candidate intends to pay the filing fee, the nomination signatures may be gathered between February 13, 2006 and March 10, 2006. Signatures in-lieu of filing fees submitted between February 13, 2006 and February 23, 2006 may also be used as nomination signatures. If some of your in-lieu-of-filing-fee signatures are invalid, makeup signatures may be gathered and turned in up to March 10, 2006.

The person who gathers signatures for a candidate in a particular county must be a registered voter in that district and county. If the circulator is in a county other than the county where the candidate took out papers, she or he must have a letter of authorization from the candidate, stating that the circulator is authorized to circulate the petitions in that county.

It is important to obtain the petitions as soon as possible, so that they may be circulated at holiday gatherings such as New Year, Martin Luther King Day, and Valentine's Day. Depending on the county, it may be necessary to have a map available to be sure which congressional, state senate and assembly district a voter's home address is in – be sure to go by the home address, not the mailing address. Even if no one has yet been identified as a write-in candidate for Central Committees, a petition to keep a write-in line open on the ballot for Central Committees should be circulated at the same time, to keep that option open. 25 valid signatures will be required on this petition.

In 1972, the Peace and Freedom Party sued the Los Angeles County Registrar of Voters (Lubin v. Panish) contending that filing fees discriminated against poor people who wanted to run for public office. The suit went to the U.S. Supreme Court, whose members struck down the filing fee as the only method of showing that a candidate was serious. California has since required that in-lieu signatures may be gathered in place of paying filing fees. The exact number of signatures required varies according to the number of Peace and Freedom Party voters registered in a given district. Because Peace and Freedom Party has grown so much in the last few years, candidates for all the statewide offices and Board of Equalization races, and most congressional and state senate districts, will require 150 valid signatures in-lieu of filing fees. Even candidates for state assembly will probably need over 100, and in many cases the maximum of 150 valid signatures on the in-lieu of filing fees petitions.

The California Elections Code spells out how many nomination signatures are needed. All statewide candidates need 65 valid nominating signatures, and may not submit more than 100. Candidates for U.S. House of Representatives and State Senate and State Assembly need 40 valid signatures, and may submit no more than 60. Candidates for Central Committees need 20 valid signatures, and may submit no more than 40. (In smaller counties and districts the number may be smaller, depending on Peace and Freedom Party registration.)

Signers of your petitions need not necessarily endorse your candidacy, they must merely support your right to be placed on the ballot in the Peace and Freedom Party direct primary election of June 6, 2006. Each signer must be registered in the Peace and Freedom Party for the signature to count. One signature that you can depend on is your own. Yes, you may sign your own nomination papers.

At this point, we should mention the importance of pacing. We do not want our candidates to burn out or to suddenly realize that the deadline is next week and they need over 100 signatures. There are over 50 days between December 30, 2005 and February 23, 2006, and candidates should set a goal of 2 to 3 signatures every day on weekdays, and 10 to 20 every Saturday and Sunday. This helps spread the work over time and avoid frustrating situations. When enough help is available, you may be able to obtain the signatures much more quickly, but the important thing is to avoid falling behind.

Peace and Freedom registrants may be found in two ways. The easiest way is to register new members into the Party. Your friends, neighbors and workmates who live in your district may be willing to register and sign your petition. You may want to invite them to a signature party to save footwork. You may want to set up a table at a college campus or shopping center in your district to register people and let them sign your petition, but be sure that they live within your district. I personally like to go door-to-door within my district, introduce myself, register new people into the Party and have them sign my petition. Of course follow-up contact must be made with these new registrants if you want to educate them to the platform and program of the Peace and Freedom Party and possibly recruit new activists. The other way to find our members is to get a list of Peace and Freedom Party registrants from the County Registrar of Voters or County Clerk and call them and arrange to meet them to sign your petition. This is more difficult and time-consuming, and can be discouraging when you have trouble finding registrants who have moved or are away from home. However, this can be rewarding for you and for our registrants because it helps establish a link between ourselves and our constituents.

Remember to make two copies of all the voter registration forms. Keep one copy for your files, and attach the other copy to the petition. Then, using a red pen, copy the affidavit number above the address or name of the signer but keep it in the same space. The affidavit number is located in the lower right-hand corner of the affidavit of registration. When you submit the original affidavits to the County Registrar of Voters or County Clerk be sure they understand that the affidavits represent people who registered in order to sign your petition and must receive special processing.

This period, at the beginning of the election year, is considered by many to be the toughest part of the campaign. Once past it, you are assured of your place in the Peace and Freedom Party direct primary, and if you are successful (and if unopposed you will certainly be successful), you will have a place on the November general election ballot.

All candidates for partisan office in the Peace and Freedom Party are also automatically placed on the list of candidates for Central Committees. Explain to those who may be reluctant to register in a new party that they may re-register in another party up to the close of registration on May 22, 2006 and participate in the primary of the other party. But also explain why we need an alternative to the old Republican-Democrat monologue. With our candidates in the race, Democrats will not feel that they can take for granted every voter to the left of the Republicans. We are not out to steal votes from Democrats, only to offer fresh progressive alternatives for the poor and working class people who, without the candidates of the Peace and Freedom Party,

would probably find no one to vote for. Peace and Freedom Party candidates improve the choices available in the election, motivate more people to vote, and build toward positive changes no matter how many votes our candidates receive.

Once you have ballot status, you may begin to campaign whenever it appears best to do so. Some will campaign vigorously from the start, some will concentrate their efforts on the ten weeks before the election when public attention focuses on the election, and some will split the difference. But there are some early campaign opportunities you should not pass up that are offered by the Peace and Freedom Party State Central Committee. We have set up websites on which each candidate can post a photograph, contact information, statements on campaign issues, and a list of your most important platform planks. This is available even as signature-gathering begins.

While there are still campaign forums put on by non-partisan organizations in some areas, the number has been reduced sharply in recent years. At the same time, the number of questionnaires sent to candidates by various organizations has increased. Some newspapers and other news organizations have also taken to using questionnaires. If you need help with the questionnaires (some of which are intentionally quite tricky) we have experienced people who can help you. We will also have copies available of some other Peace and Freedom Party candidates' responses, which can help you formulate your own answers.

This year, the 2006 Election Preparation Committee of the State Central Committee is determined to make the campaigns of all our Peace and Freedom Party candidates less difficult and more effective. We look forward to working with you.



# Legal Requirements and Deadlines

(tentative schedule)

**Party Registration:** A candidate must be registered to vote as a Peace and Freedom Party member for at least three months prior to filing, and must NOT have been registered in another ballot qualified party for at least one year prior thereto or, if not previously registered, then for as long as registered to vote.

**Other Requirements:** Each candidate must reside and register to vote in her or his district, except that candidates for US House of Representatives (Congress) may reside anywhere in the state. Candidates for US Senate must be at least 30 years old, and a citizen for nine years; for US House of Representatives, 25 years old with seven years of citizenship; for Governor or Lieutenant Governor must be a resident of California and have been a citizen for five years; and for Attorney General, a member of the California Bar for five years. State Senate and Assembly candidates must be a citizen for three years and a California resident with one year residency in their districts.

**Nomination Papers:** Each candidate must file a sworn statement saying she or he is a candidate for office and meets qualifications. "Nomination Papers" with signatures of 65 to 100 registrants for statewide office, or 40 to 60 registrants for Board of Equalization, US House of Representatives, State Senate or State Assembly must be submitted between February 13, and February 23, 2006. In-lieu signatures, including those counted toward nomination, must amount to 10% of the Party registrants, up to a maximum of 150. This will eliminate the need to pay a filing fee for the 2006 elections. If the full 10% or 150 signatures, whichever is less, are not gathered, those which are validated will be pro-rated to diminish the balance of payment. (Makeup signatures to replace those found not to be valid may be gathered and turned in after February 23 up to March 10, 2006. Makeup signatures count toward the filing fee, but are not valid as nomination signatures.)

**Voter Registration:** Unless you are absolutely sure that someone who signs your petitions is registered in the Peace and Freedom Party, you should register them to vote in the Peace and Freedom Party. Make photocopies of the registration form of each new Peace and Freedom Party member who signs your petition. (One photocopy for each petition the registrant signs, stapled to the petition, and one copy for your files.) As it often takes longer to process new registrations than the signature validation deadline will allow, this is needed to assure that signatures of new registrants will be counted. Be sure to copy the affidavit of registration number in red ink by the signature to alert the county officials that this signature is from a new Peace and Freedom Party registrant. When you submit the original affidavit of registration to the election officials, it is **important** to tell the officials that the affidavits need special processing because they have been filled out by people who have signed nomination papers that you will be submitting shortly.

**Occupation Listing:** You may, or may not if you choose, list an occupation on the ballot, of three words or less. As well as typical listings ("College Student," "Refinery Worker," "Attorney at Law") some listings like "Union Officer" or "Community Organizer" have been permitted, but only with proof, as for example a pay stub. (Place names count as one word. For example, "San Luis Obispo County Employee" counts as three words.) Those currently holding an office may use the word "incumbent," or "appointed incumbent" if appointed. This presently would apply only to central committee members running for re-election to the central committees.

**December 30, 2005:** Signature gathering starts for nomination and “in-lieu of filing fee” petitions. (Note that many Registrars offices close early this day before the holiday weekend. You should pick up your papers, or have a person you designate in writing pick up your papers, in the morning.)

February 13-23, 2006: Period of time that nomination and “in-lieu of filing fees” petitions may be filed with the Registrar.

February 13 – March 10, 2006: Nomination period (all candidates). Candidates who pay their own filing fees have until 5 pm on March 10, 2006 to qualify for the June 6, 2006 direct primary election. Note that this is also the period during which candidates for Central Committees must obtain their nominating signatures. (There is no filing fee for Central Committees.)

**February 23, 2006:** Deadline for filing “in-lieu of filing fees” signatures. (Most, if not all, of the Peace and Freedom candidates will be using in-lieu signatures and must meet this deadline.)

February 24 – March 10: Makeup signature period. Makeup signatures may be gathered and filed to replace any in-lieu signatures that have been ruled not valid. These signatures only count for in-lieu of filing fee, and cannot be used for nomination signatures.

March 11-15, 2006: If the incumbent fails to file nomination papers, the nomination period is extended for those willing to pay the filing fee.

April 10 – May 23, 2006: Signature gathering for nomination petitions for write-in candidates which must be filed with the County Registrar of Voters or County Clerk in order for the write-in votes to be counted. There are no filing fees for write-in candidates. (Note: for a Central Committee candidate to receive write-in votes, a petition must have been filed with the Registrar or County Clerk back in March to place the write-in blanks on the ballot.)

May 22, 2006: Last day to register to vote for the June 6, 2006 direct primary.

