

Rebuilding the Green Party of Utah
Despite a party split and loss of ballot access
Deanna Taylor, Co-Coordinator
Green Party of Utah

The Green Party of Utah (GPUT) experienced a tumultuous 2004 Election Season. Delegates to GPUS convention became convinced that the GPUT should not certify David Cobb on the Utah ballot as its presidential candidate and urged certification of Ralph Nader. After weeks of heated debate a split in the party between Nader and GPUS supporters, the state liaison, against the majority of GPUT member wishes, first certified Ralph Nader on the GPUT ballot, removed him, and certified no one on the Green ballot. This left the Green voters of Utah with no choice of candidates on the Green ticket. A court case against the Elections office for allowing this certification without consent of the membership ensued. The party lost. The ballot for the Greens remained empty.

GPUT members called an emergency convention and recalled officers and suspended four members as a result of grievances against them for violation of the key values. New officers were elected and the party proceeded forward.

The general election yielded less than the required percentage of votes for the GPUT to maintain ballot status. A petition drive is underway to gather the required 2,000 signatures to become reinstated as a party with the state.

The GPUT website was hijacked in December by the suspended faction of the party. As of February, the saboteurs still possess that website. The GPUT quickly reorganized a new website and was able to get all pages working within a matter of days.

As a result of the website hijacking, the GPUT has incorporated its non-profit arm, the Green Party of Utah, Inc., with the mission of supporting the GPUT and protecting its name.

Active members of the GPUT are looking forward to building the party and promoting the platform of the party in its outreach efforts.