**Fair Taxation**

Nebraska Green Party, Co-Chairs
Charles Ostdiek- Iconofcharles@gmail.com; David Long – fraterdavid@cox.net
Approved 12/31/17 by email votes and messaging at by Consensus
Authors: Shane Fry – dasfry@gmail.com; Dr. Joseph Firestone – eisai@comcast.net

**PROPOSAL TO AMEND GPUS PLATFORM – Chapter IV – Section E – Fair Taxation**

The following changes are to reflect both the true purpose of taxationand to give low-income individuals a greater capacity to avoid tax burdens because they do not represent revenue for programs.

**GPUS Platform Chapter IV. Section E – Fair Taxation (with proposed changes)**

E. Fair Taxation

OUR POSITION
Federal and state taxes must be strongly progressive. [add paragraph-end here]

Our current tax system is outrageously unjust. It is riddled with loopholes, subsidies and dodges for corporations and the super-rich. [remove paragraph-end here] Most working people pay too much in taxes compared to corporations, multimillionaires and billionaires. Many of our biggest and most profitable corporations pay little or no tax. Much investment income is taxed at less than the rate workers’ [add apostrophy] pay.

We can ~~afford to~~ cut taxes for most people ~~if we make~~ while making corporations and the super-rich pay their fair share. ~~Then we can cut them even more when we halt our nation’s wasteful spending on wars, weaponry and militarism.~~ We call for progressive taxation, shifting tax from individuals to corporations, taxing “bads” not “goods,” taxing unearned income at ~~the same~~ a higher rate ~~as~~ than earned income, taxing speculation on Wall Street, and cutting corporate tax giveaways.

We will institute comprehensive tax reform to simplify the tax system. We will eliminate loopholes and other exemptions that favor corporate and wealthy interests over tax justice. [remove paragraph end here] Small business, in particular, should not be penalized by a tax system which benefits those who can “work” the legislative tax committees for breaks and subsidies. [add paragraph end here]

We support substantive and wide-ranging reform of the tax system that helps create jobs, economic efficiencies and innovation within the small business community. We will end “corporate welfare.” Smaller businesses are the U. S. A’s great strength. Greens believe government should have a tax policy which encourages small, ~~and~~ socially responsible, ~~business~~ and non-profit businesses serving public purpose. [add paragraph-end here]

 Political democracy remains a distant promise without economic democracy. A principal instrument for achieving economic democracy is our tax system. ~~Taxes are the means whereby we fund our public services.~~ [add paragraph-end here]

The Green Party knows that at the federal level, taxes do not fund spending. Congress, through its appropriations and the rules it sets for the Federal Reserve and the Treasury, does that. But, taxes drive the value of the currency. They can also help create price stability, equity, justice, health and sustainability, so the Green tax policies below are designed to achieve these goals.

GREEN SOLUTIONS
**Cut taxes for wage workers**

1. Exempt people earning less than $25,000 per year and families earning less than $50,000 per year (adjusted for inflation) from the federal and state income taxes.

2. Exempt food, clothing, prescription medications, other necessities and second-hand goods from sales taxes.

**Fair Taxes for Corporations and the Wealthy**

3. Levy fair taxes on corporations and the wealth, sufficient to contain inflation. End corporate welfare, such as the bailouts for Wall Street, the big banks and the automobile industry; subsidies for agribusiness, Export-Import Bank loan guarantees; tax abatements for big box stores; the tax loophole for “carried interest” from private equity and hedge fund managers; tax deductibility for advertising and business entertainment; offshore tax avoidance schemes; all corporate giveaways for new sports stadiums and casinos, and all corporate political activity (Using Article Three, Section Two of the Constitution, remove the Supreme Court’s appellate jurisdiction over this last provision).

4. Impose a financial transaction tax on trades of stocks, bonds, currency, derivatives, and other financial instruments.

5. To stop tax evasion, [moved from end of sentence to beginning] block financial transactions ~~with~~ using tax havens. (For clarity)

6. Decrease the $1 million home value cap on the mortgage interest tax deduction for federal income taxes, to reduce the tax subsidy provided to those living in the most expensive homes.

7. Restore the estate tax to post-World War II levels.

~~8. Apply the Federal Insurance Contributions Act (Social Security and Medicare) taxes to investment income and to all levels of income, not merely the first $106,800 earned~~8. Repeal Federal Insurance Contributions Act (Social Security and Medicare) taxes.

9. ~~Oppose the~~ Stop privatization of Social Security.

10. Enact a wealth tax of 0.5% per year on an individual’s assets over $5 million.

**Eco-taxes to help save the planet.**

11. Establish a system of carbon taxes on all fossil fuels, to begin to reflect the real environmental cost of their extraction and use. Carbon taxes should be applied as far upstream as possible, preferably when possession of the carbon-bearing fuel passes from extraction (for example, coal mine; oil wellhead or tanker; gas wellhead) to the next entity in the supply chain (for example, coal shipper or utility; oil refiner or importer; natural gas pipeline). Offset potential regressivity for lower income individuals via the Green Tax shift that lowers income taxes and/or other approaches.

12. Eliminate tax subsidies for the oil, gas, coal, nuclear and timber and mining industries.

13. Enact a Green Tax Shift that shifts from taxing people and work (via income and payroll taxes) to taxing natural resource extraction, use, waste and pollution.

14. Enact a system of Community Ground Rent/Land Value Taxation that distinguishes between the socially and privately created wealth of land, by increasing the taxes on the former to retain for society the value that it collectively creates and lowers them on the latter to reward individuals for their initiative and work.

15. To ensure that prices reflect their true environmental cost, enact a system of True Cost Pricing (TCP) for goods and services. TCP is an accounting and pricing system that includes all costs in the price of a product. TCP charges extractive and productive industries for the immediate or prolonged damage (pollution of air and water) and diminishment of natural resources caused by their acts.
16. Impose a carbon fee on goods imported from nations with lower carbon taxes than in the U.S., based upon the carbon spent in manufacturing and transporting them to the U.S.

**Other tax reforms**

17. Simplify the tax code. Make it transparent, understandable and resistant to the machinations of powerful corporate and wealthy interests.

18. Eliminate tax incentives to send jobs overseas.

19. Raise taxes on tobacco, alcohol, soda pop and other junk food.