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NOTE FOR THE RECORD

Strategic Dialogue on the Formation of a Major New Political Party

Washington, D.C.

Wednesday, 23 November 2011

Participants (in alphabetical order):

Rocky Anderson; Margaret Flowers; Nancy Marcus Newman (by phone);
Jerry
Peloquin, Linda Yahr; Kevin Zeese; Cletus Zeitz; Paul Zeitz

Discussion on Formation of Major New Political Party:

1. Group consensus that a major new political party is needed to address the challenges of our time;
2. The application of social media technologies has the potential to enable a broad-based mobilization; Outreach to purpose.com and other potential partners has already been initiated;
3. The new political party can be a voice for the grassroots and for people who stand for human rights;
4. Collective self confidence and wisdom of the American people can rule much better than our current political leaders; A large majority of the American people consistently support the following agenda:
 1. Tax the rich and corporations;
 2. End the wars, bring the troops home, cut military spending;
 3. Protect the social safety net, strengthen Social Security and improved Medicare for all;

4. End corporate welfare for oil companies and other big business interests;
5. Transition to a clean energy economy, reverse environmental degradation;
6. Protect worker rights including collective bargaining, create jobs and raise wages;
7. Get money out of politics;
8. Improved health access and quality for all.
5. Evidence-based solutions through collective action are urgently needed;
6. Polling data uniformly indicate that a majority US citizens are in favor of the formation of a major new alternative political party;

Discussion on Eliminating Corporate/Concentrated Wealth Money in Political System:

1. Group is aligned in the need to do whatever is necessary to eliminate corporate money and concentrated wealth in politics, including potentially amending the US Constitution;
2. Getting at the root of the problem corporate/concentrated wealth control of the political system can only be done through amending the U.S. Constitution;
3. Electoral reform, including elimination of the electoral college and advancing trustworthy balloting, is also supported by the US public and could also be advanced by the new party;
4. A Constitutional Advisory group can be formed with experts to advise the new party.

Discussion on Educating the American Public and a Community-Driven Political Party:

1. Group agreed that a major purpose of the new political party is to educate the public about the links between corporate money/concentrated wealth and the political system;
2. Group agreed that there is a major opportunity to build the party from the bottom up, with a focus on strengthening local communities to advance social, economic, and environmental justice;
3. Presidential candidate(s) for the new political party have a great opportunity to galvanize and build grassroots momentum;
4. Recognize the alignment of many concerns and principles of the Occupy Movement and the new party;
5. The new party will be a major leadership force to boldly and urgently address the climate crisis.

Discussion on Attitude and Timing of Action of the Major New Political Party:

1. This has to happen now! We have no choice but to create an alternative to the broken, corrupt two-party system;
2. We are seizing the opportunity to create the new political party in the context of this moment in time:
 1. Disenfranchisement of the American public with the political system;
 2. Economic and climate crises;
 3. Advent of the Occupy Movement;
 4. Other factors
3. We are standing for the possibility that the 2012 Election cycle has the potential to be political realignment election cycle. There will be four major options for the American public:

1. Democratic Ticket
2. Republican Ticket
3. Americans Elect will be centrist bipartisan ticket selected through a public polling process in June 2012. There are many concerns about lack of transparency regarding the organization and financing of Americans Elect, including undemocratic rules regarding party affiliation of candidates;
4. The major New Political Party that we are forming will seek governing authority at the local, state, and national levels, starting with the 2012 election cycle
4. Strong consensus that the formation is a long term endeavor. While we are initiating this effort for the 2012 election cycle, it will continue in 2014 and 2016 election cycles and beyond. The new political party must have a continuous presence, especially as it gains governing authority;
5. Critical for the major new political party to carefully select its candidates and its spokespersons;
6. Need to create a set of principles and to make sure that all participants and prospective candidates are aligned with the set of principles.

Action Priority: Ballot Access Initiative:

1. We need to get 700,000 signatures to get on the ballot in all fifty states;
2. Work in 3 early states must be initiated immediately as deadlines are pending in January and February 2012: Vermont, Mississippi, Hawaii;
3. New party will have to identify a leading expert to lead this effort around the country;

4. Ongoing dialogue with Richard Winger of the Ballot Access News: <http://www.ballot-access.org/> and others with ballot access experience including Christina Tobin of Free and Equal.

Action Priority: Outreach to Affinity Groups:

Outreach will be needed to intensify to a large number of key stakeholders:

1. Prominent Persons/Opinion Leaders;
2. Youth groups;
3. Women's rights groups;
4. Latinos, African Americans and other minority groups;
5. Faith groups;
6. Unions/Worker Groups;
7. State by State, District of Columbia, and U.S. Territories representation;
8. Veterans;
9. Inclusive of a broad range of political affiliations, including Republicans, Democrats, Independents, Greens, Libertarians, etc;
10. Others

*Action Priority: Presidential Exploratory Committee: *

1. Rocky Anderson was strongly encouraged to form a Presidential Exploratory Committee as soon as possible;
2. Other candidates will be encouraged to compete to be the Presidential nominee for the major new political party;
3. Donations are proposed to be \$100 per person per election cycle for each candidate running for office to ensure that corporate money and concentrated wealth is not driving the policymaking of candidates that run for office under the major new political party;

Action Priority: Create a Steering Committee for the Major New Political Party

1. The Steering Committee will have the initial responsibility for organizing the new party;

Action Priority: Founding Convention, February 16-20, 2011 in Salt Lake City, Utah

1. Group agreed that the Founding Convention should be held in Salt Lake City on February 16-20, 2012;
2. Group acknowledged the logistics and support team in Salt Lake City that has been active for the past month preparing for this event;
3. Need to implement a Call for Delegates and a Call for Candidates; anticipate approximately 1500 people will attend;
4. Proposed Schedule:
 - Thursday, February 16: Arrival of Steering Committee, Platform Issues Committees, and others;
 - Friday, February 17: Committee Meetings; Platform Issues Committee Presentations, prepare; Welcoming Reception for Delegates;
 - Saturday, February 18: Convention; Dinner with Keynote Address
 - Sunday, February 19: Convention
 - Monday, February 20: Convention ends: Departure of Delegates
5. Expected Outcomes of the Founding Convention, February 2012
 - a. Agree on rules, officers, structure, and governance of the new party;
 1. Agree and approve Bylaws;
 2. Agree and approve Fundraising policy;

3. Agree on Outreach Plan, including formation of State Committees and ballot initiatives;
4. Agree on Presidential and Vice-Presidential level candidates;
5. Consider convening a National Assembly/Platform Convention, July 2012
6. Form "Platform Issue Committees" and process to develop 2012 Platform to be adopted in July 2012;

1. It was proposed that we adopt the following 15 Platform Issue areas:

- *Corporatism* <<http://october2011.org/pages/corporatism>>— firmly establish that money is not speech, corporations are not people, only people have Constitutional rights, end corporate influence over the political process, protect people and the environment from damage by corporations.
- *Wars and Militarism* <<http://october2011.org/pages/wars-and-militarism>>— end wars and occupations, end private for-profit military contractors, reduce the national security state and end the weapons export industry. War crimes, crimes against humanity and crimes against peace must be addressed and those responsible held accountable under international law.
- *Human Rights* <<http://october2011.org/pages/human-rights>>— end exploitation of people in the US and abroad, end discrimination in all forms, equal civil rights and due process for all people.
- *Worker Rights and jobs* <<http://october2011.org/pages/workers-rights-and-jobs>>— all working-age people have the right to safe, just, non-discriminatory and dignified working conditions, a sustainable living wage, paid leave and economic protection.
- *Government* — all processes of the three branches of government should be accountable under domestic and international law,

should be

transparent, and promote the rights of people to participate in decisions

which affect them.

- *Elections* – all citizens 18 and older have the right to vote without barriers, all candidates have the right to be heard and to run and

all votes should be counted.

- *Criminal justice and prisons* –end private for-profit prisons,

adopt evidence-based drug policy, prisoners have the right to humane and

just conditions with a focus on rehabilitation and reintegration into

society, abolish the death penalty.

- *Healthcare* – create a national, universal and publicly financed

comprehensive health system.

- *Education* – all people have the right to a high quality, publicly-funded and broad education from pre-school through vocational

training or university.

- *Housing* <<http://october2011.org/pages/housing>> all people have

the right to affordable and safe housing.

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Environment <<http://october2011.org/blogs/kevin-zeese/proposed-statement-environmental-committee-october2011org>>–

adopt policies which effectively create a carbon-free and radio-active free energy economy and that respects the rights of nature.

- *Finance and the economy* – end policies which foster a wealth divide and move to a localized and democratic financial system, reform

taxes so that they are progressive and provide goods, monetary gain and

services for the people.

- *Media* – airwaves and the internet are public goods, require that

media be honest, accurate and accountable to the people.

- *Food and water* – create systems that protect the land and water,

create local and sustainable food networks and practices.

- *Transportation* – provide affordable, clean and convenient public

transportation and safe spaces for pedestrian and non-automobile travel.

8. Need to develop agenda for the Founding Convention.

Action Priority: Name and Moniker for the Major New Political Party:

1. Justice Party was discussed and affirmed by the group as a good direction;
2. Not clear what a member of the Justice Party would be called;
3. Agreed to reach out to messaging experts;
4. Need to develop logo and tagline.

NEXT STEPS:

This group will convene by skype and/or conference call on Wednesday, November 30, 2011 at 9:30 AM Eastern time; 7:30 AM Salt Lake City time.