



# Peace and Freedom Party of California

## Legislative Committee

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Honorable Scott D. Wiener  
State Capitol, Room 5100  
Sacramento, CA 95814-4900

**Subject: SB 288 Democratic Party of California: county central committees – Support if amended**

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Dear Senator Wiener:

I am writing to you on behalf of the Peace and Freedom Party of California to support SB 288 if it is amended. The Peace and Freedom Party generally supports the participation of all Californians in the political process, whether or not they currently meet the requirements to register to vote. In its current form, as amended on July 9th, SB 288 applies only to the Democratic Party, allows non-citizens to be appointed to county central committees and states the intent to allow non-citizens to be elected to county central committees. If the bill is amended to make the intent language into effective language that also applies to elections to Peace and Freedom Party central committees, then the Peace and Freedom Party would support the bill.

In the 1990s, Peace and Freedom Party qualified 42 candidates for the Central Committees, including two non-citizens and a female under the age of 18 for the ballot. The San Diego County Registrar of Voters put them on the Peace and Freedom Party direct primary ballot and they were elected and served. However, the Secretary of State ruled that county election officials could not do that for future elections.

We note that the California Elections Code parts regarding the organization of the Peace and Freedom Party (in sections 7804 and 7852) and of the Green Party (in section 7905) already provide for appointment of non-citizens to party central committees and councils, and the Libertarian Party's use of the Peace and Freedom Party provisions means that they also can appoint non-citizens to their party central committees subject only to their own bylaws. We congratulate the Democratic Party on seeking to join these three parties by allowing non-citizen supporters to hold internal party office. The Peace and Freedom Party's bylaws already provide for the election of non-citizen supporters to our party's central committees, but county election officials have not generally allowed them to run because they are not registered voters.

When you come up with language that will provide for local election officials permitting non-citizens to run as candidates for Democratic county central committees, subject to party bylaws, language should also be included that would provide for local election officials permitting non-citizens to run as candidates for Peace and Freedom central committees. While we would prefer that such language would apply to all parties, subject to their bylaws, and to all California residents ineligible to register to vote, we would support the bill if it applies only to some parties, so long as the Peace and Freedom Party is one of them, and to Californians whose not being a U.S. citizen is the only reason they are ineligible to register to vote.

In conclusion, Peace and Freedom Party of California supports SB 288 if it is amended to actually provide for the election of non-citizens to party central committees including those of Peace and Freedom Party. If it is so amended, we will do what we can to help pass your bill.

To discuss our position on SB 288 further, please contact me at 916-422-5395 (message) or [ctwebevoters@att.net](mailto:ctwebevoters@att.net), or our State Chair, John Reiger, at (916) 456-4595 (land line) or [reigers@earthlink.com](mailto:reigers@earthlink.com).

Sincerely,

*CT Weber*

C. T. Weber  
Legislative Committee Chairperson  
Peace and Freedom Party of California

cc: coauthors

Honorable Benjamin Allen  
Honorable Anna M. Caballero  
Honorable David Chiu  
Honorable Maria Elena Durazo  
Honorable Lena A. Gonzalez  
Honorable Lorena Gonzalez  
Honorable Ben Hueso  
Honorable Richard Pan  
Honorable Philip Y. Ting

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