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*The Green Party's success also serves the larger cause of multi-party democracy and independent politics in the United States. I strongly believe in citizen lobbying and activism, but it must be coupled with electoral strategies and strong candidates. Compared to other organizations, the Green Party is relatively small, and so I know that every dollar I contribute has an enormous impact. I always give to the Green Party first and then to other worthy causes. — John Andrews*



*I can't sit by and see wrongs and not do anything. I couldn't justify having a kid if I wasn't going to try and fix the world. When I'm around my Green friends, I feel like there's hope. Green values encompass everything that's important, and give us an avenue to fix the problems in our society. — Danti Liebling*

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## Fast Track Trade Deal? No Way!





# One more way corporations can take over

## Why we must stop ratification of the Trans-Pacific Partnership

Editorial by Ursula Rozum, Green Party of New York State

The last specks of democracy and sovereignty we the people have left in the U.S. are under attack.

The Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) is an international trade pact crafted by multinational corporations and currently being negotiated in secret by the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative (USTR). Representative Alan Grayson of Florida describes the agreement as “an attack on democratic governance” and “a punch in the face to the middle class of America.” Green Party activists played a critical role in stopping “free” trade deals of the past. It is critical that we step up our game, join with our social movement allies, and help stop the TPP.

The TPP began as trade talks among a few Pacific Rim countries, but has been expanded to include Australia, Brunei, Canada, Chile, Japan, Malaysia, Mexico, New Zealand, Peru, Singapore, and Vietnam. While the public and media are not allowed to see the text, and members of Congress only receive limited, heavily restricted access, 600 corporations have been advising President Obama and suggesting amendments as they have full access to the documents. These include Monsanto, Walmart, Bank of America, JP Morgan, Pfizer, Cargill, Exxon-Mobil, and Chevron—some of the worst corporate citizens in the U.S.

If ratified, the TPP would establish a system of international tribunals (if it sounds creepy, that’s because it is) allowing corporations to challenge the laws, regulations and even court decisions of any member country—including local, county and state laws—if they are deemed to adversely impact the corporation’s expected future profits. Under the TPP’s “investor-state” provision, corporations would even be allowed to file preemptive lawsuits against proposed government actions before they are undertaken. In New York, for example, this could bring harsh challenges to municipalities that have passed anti-fracking legislation or enacted consumer protection laws. Currently, 180 New York municipalities have local ban on hydraulic fracturing, not counting the statewide defacto ban on fracking announcement on December 17, 2014.

If the TPP includes “investor-state” provisions similar to those in the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), gas companies could sue the U.S. for loss of profits resulting from local bans, similar-



*Green Party activist Mark Dunlea addressing the March 27th, 2014 rally, organized by 350 NYC and allies in front of Comptroller DiNapoli’s office to demand that New York State divest from fossil fuels.*

©Adam S. Welz 2014

ly to what they are doing in Quebec and El Salvador. Quebec has a moratorium on fracking and U.S. based firm, Lone Pine Resources Inc., is suing the government of Canada for \$250 million for lost profits. Similarly, the Canadian based Pacific Rim gold mining company is suing El Salvador for more than US\$300m in compensation, after the tiny Central American country refused to allow it to dig for gold which would endanger the Lempa River, the water source for half of El Salvador’s population. These types of direct assaults on democracy must be stopped.

Provisions in the TPP threaten our local economy and the growing Buy Local movement of which many Greens are a part. Back in 2010, New York Senator Gillibrand expressed concern about the TPP’s impact on New York’s dairy farmers if local markets were to be flooded by imported dairy products from New Zealand. In a press release, Gillibrand stated, “I am especially concerned about the long-term national security implications of losing our ability to produce food here at home. We cannot outsource our dairy production to the lowest global bidder without risking the safety of our health and our local economies.” Gillibrand might as well be talking about NAFTA and it’s impact on Mexico’s corn growers. Millions of Mexican farmers who could no longer compete with heavily subsidized U.S. crops were displaced from their land, setting off a wave of migration northward.

The TPP is being negotiated under unprecedented secrecy because previous attempts to pass similar “free trade” pacts have been met with widespread public opposition. What’s particularly glaring is the consensus among U.S. political elites pushing these trade deals, from Clinton to Bush to Obama.

Currently, President Obama is looking for Congress to pass “fast track” trade promotion legislation. We can’t let this happen. “Fast Track” gives the White House authority to negotiate and sign the trade agreement without Congressional oversight. Lawmakers won’t be able to analyze or amend treaty provisions; they would only be able to vote “yes” or “no” to ratify the entire treaty. In order to stop the TPP, we must first stop Fast Track. Thus, the task at hand is to unite with our allies in labor, environmental, human rights, and democracy movements and lobby our congressional representatives as hard as possible to stop “Fast Track.” This is a time to be more than activists—we must be organizers. Activist

organizations are already on alert that the TPP and Fast Track are bad news—all we need to do is activate our networks. In New York, Greens will be promoting TPP Tuesdays, weekly call-ins to Congress urging representatives to vote “No” on Fast Track. While this might seem like a small action, it’s important to have doable actions for activists of all experience levels to participate in – and the goal is to recruit more and more people to make calls every week, to be organizers. We the people need to make sure that Congress does not abrogate its Constitutional responsibility to regulate trade and protect our national sovereignty.

***TPP would establish a system of international tribunals allowing corporations to challenge the laws, regulations and even court decisions of any member country if they are deemed to adversely impact the corporation’s expected future profits.***

Expansion of unregulated, free trade isn’t inevitable. Grassroots movements in the past have successfully stopped the Multilateral Agreement on Investment, the Free Trade Area of the Americas, the expansion of the World Trade Organization, and others. Greens played an important role in stopping these undemocratic foreign policy initiatives.

The global justice movement broke into the American public consciousness with the November 1999 protest against the World Trade Organization (WTO) meeting in Seattle. According to observations by Alexander Cockburn and Jeffery St. Clair of Counterpunch, “The mostly young people pouring up Interstate 5 from Oregon and California and other states were the green street warriors who had managed by November 30 to paralyze downtown Seattle and shut down the opening ceremonies of the WTO conference. And these same young people made up the core organizers of Ralph Nader’s Green Party candidacy...”

Activists who had been very active in the grassroots global justice movement of

the 1990s already were or became Green Party leaders. Ralph Nader was treated like a rock star at the Seattle WTO protests because of his early opposition to NAFTA and the Multi-lateral Agreement on Investment (MAI). Medea Benjamin, co-founder of Global Exchange, one of the most prominent global justice organizations in the U.S., went on to run for U.S. Senate in California as a Green candidate. Ben Manski, who had been active in national campus organizing in the lead up to the Seattle protest, eventually became the national staff person for the Campus Greens and is known to many today as campaign manager of the 2012 Jill Stein for President campaign. David Cobb, active in Texas mobilizing for the Seattle WTO protests and against the MAI, was the Green Party’s candidate for President in 2004.

In the Spring of 2001, the Campus Greens’ Green Heat campaign mobilized hundreds of students on American campuses to attend the Free Trade Agreement of the Americas protests at the Summit of the Americas in Quebec City. Greens organized teach-ins on campuses, in community centers and living rooms and participated in solidarity demonstrations across the U.S. One such demonstration on April 21, 2001 temporarily closed the Detroit-Windsor border. This campaign raised the visibility of the Campus Greens and drove the student effort to mobilize around the issue of international trade.

Green Party activists from all over the U.S. joined their allies in the global justice movement on November 17, 2003, in Miami to protest the Free Trade Area of the Americas, a trade pact modeled after NAFTA. It’s estimated that 22,000 people marched in Miami’s streets against the FTA: unionists, civil rights groups, community organizations, farmers, students, Mexicans, and Canadians. The united message was “No to closed-door trade meetings. No to corporate-made law. No to the race to the bottom. No to the FTAA.” Over 300 Green flags were on display at the protest in Miami and Greens were warmly welcomed by other protesters.

The fight against the TPP is a continuation of these struggles against the neoliberal trade regime that is propelling a global race to the bottom. This is a fight about how society will be organized, and who has the authority to make those decisions. It’s corporate capital against people’s movements. If we want to create a democratic economic system and stop today’s ruling elite from dictating the terms of how we live, we must stop the TPP and all free trade schemes that will follow. As a party committed to grassroots democracy and a just, peaceful future, the Green Party must take seriously our obligation to fight against global corporate rule, wherever that fight manifests itself: in the streets, at public hearings (which can be used as educational and organizing opportunities), in the courts and at the ballot box. Stopping the TPP is within our reach—we must use this historic opportunity, like Green Party activists have in the past, to work alongside social movements wherever we are. We must resist everywhere. We must offer alternatives everywhere. And our objective must be to win.

To learn more about efforts to stop the TPP, get online and check out the Green Shadow Cabinet, Flush the TPP, Public Citizen...there are endless resources available. Don’t wait...participate!

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featuring New York’s Green Party  
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HOWIE HAWKINS  
and Green National Committee  
Delegate from Tennessee  
HOWARD SWITZER

see related article on page 12:  
“Money Power for the  
Green Economy”

**ON THE COVER:** A man holds a placard as he takes part in a protest against Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) trade talks outside the prime minister’s official residence in Tokyo, Japan in April 2014. Photo: Bloomberg



# Mobilizing to Stop Fast Track and TransPacific Partnership Free Trade Agreement

An Interview of Margaret Flowers  
Green Shadow Cabinet Secretary of Health

*Margaret Flowers, a Maryland physician who has spoken out on national media, was interviewed in March 2015 on Between the Lines, an independent weekly radio program. Radio host Melinda Tuhus spoke with Flowers who is co-director of Popular Resistance.org, a resource website for activists which also organizes several campaigns, including “Flush the TPP.”*

*President Obama is pushing hard for congressional approval of trade promotion, or fast track authority, that many believe is essential for passage of the Trans-Pacific Partnership free trade agreement, or TPP. Congressional leaders from both parties support the trade proposal, while progressive Democrats and tea party Republicans mostly oppose it. Congressional approval of the TPP would give corporations even more power than they acquired under earlier trade deals like NAFTA to set the trade agenda and override environmental, health and labor protections. Here, she talks about the pressure now being exerted on Democrats who favor the TPP and the consequences if the controversial trade deal wins passage.*

**MARGARET FLOWERS:** The members of Congress were home this week for President’s week and so this was a perfect time for people around the country make their member of Congress know that they’re opposed to fast track. So there were actions across the country; in Oregon they had a bus touring the whole country. Oregon is really a critical state because Sen. Ron Wyden is the ranking member of the Senate Finance Committee, and that’s the committee where they will introduce fast-track legislation. The Republican chair of that committee is really pushing Sen. Wyden to join him in sponsoring that legislation, and if he does that, that will allow cover for the other Senate Democrats to go ahead and support it as well. So he’s really crucial. And we’re glad to see that Oregon voters have spoken out loudly, as well. There was a poll just released this past week showing that 73 percent of Oregon

voters oppose fast-track, which is great. Sixty-two percent oppose TPP. So we gotta put him in the hot seat.

**BETWEEN THE LINES:** I know you kind of said this, but just to be clear, he is a Democrat.

**MARGARET FLOWERS:** Yes, he’s a Democrat. And other exciting thing that happened this past week – and this is something that people can do all over the country – is that Richmond, California, voted to be a TPP-free zone, as well as Vermont introduced legislation making their whole state TPP-free. What communities are doing is they’re making resolutions to say, “If you negotiate this agreement in secret and then you rush it through Congress without us knowing what’s in it and how it will affect our communities, we’re not going to obey that.” That’s not constitutional. It’s undemocratic.

And so we’re gonna stand up and protect our communities, because the TPP will affect people in their local communities. Part of it requires that local laws be harmonized with rules inside the TPP, as well as it gives corporations greater power to challenge us if we pass laws to protect our health, safety, workers, our environment.

**BETWEEN THE LINES:** So, can you be specific at all...like, what could be different if fast-track is approved and the TPP passes?

**MARGARET FLOWERS:** Right, so fast-track is really key to stopping this, because that would allow to put it through Congress without debates or amendments. If this passes, we see this as a real game-changer. Among other things, as I mentioned having to harmonize our laws, it does give corporations the right to sue if any laws interfere with their expected profits. Now, this is new. Under NAFTA, we had corporations suing if something interfered with money they had invested, but this allows them to sue for much more money because they can say, “We wanted to frack in your community,

but you banned it. We would have made billions of dollars, so if you want to get away with banning fracking, you’re going to have to pay us billions of dollars.” And communities just don’t have that kind of money, so it will force them to repeal those laws.

This is really scary, because it happens outside of our judicial system. It’s in a court that is staffed by corporate lawyers, and we have no right of appeal. Their decision is binding.

**BETWEEN THE LINES:** Actually, my congresswoman in Connecticut, Rosa DeLauro, is one of the leaders of the Democrats fighting fast-track. It’s interesting to see the coming together of some of the more progressive Democrats with some of the tea party Republicans, because, for different reasons, both are opposed. So, after this past week of activities, what do you have up your sleeve? What’s next?

**MARGARET FLOWERS:** And Congresswoman DeLauro’s been fantastic, and held an excellent press conference, which really broke through the media blackout that’s been going on, so we congratulate her and thank her for that. We expect that when Congress returns from their recess, they will move to introduce fast-track legislation in late February or early March. And we think we have about two months to stop it. If we can push them back to May without passing it, then we start getting into the presidential election and the next election cycle, and nobody really wants to touch this in an election cycle. So this is really a critical time, and we’re going to be urging people to use a tool we have called Stop-FastTrack.com, to contact their members of Congress, to also join our rapid response team where we’ll identify people and places that we need to be in order to put pressure on them and we’ll need people to be ready to mobilize for that. But everybody, wherever you are, can contact your member of Congress. Thank them if they are opposed to fast-track and urge them to stay strong, and if they’re not opposed to

fast-track, you need to push them.

**BETWEEN THE LINES:** And is there an easy way to find out where your congressperson or senator stands on this, or do you just have to call the office?

**MARGARET FLOWERS:** You know, it’s an interesting moment because, for reasons, people are not really willing to list who is for or against. They don’t want the other side to have this information. So really, it means that people individually need to contact their member of Congress to find out where they stand.

**BETWEEN THE LINES:** Just one thing; you mentioned that when the elections come closer, elected officials don’t want to touch this. Why?

**MARGARET FLOWERS:** Because they know that we have a more than 20-year history with these types of agreements, that people in this country are aware of the detriment they do to us, so it is actually politically toxic and can be used against them in an election cycle.



Margaret Flowers



Why should you come to the 2015 Green Party Annual Meeting in St. Louis in July? We’ve all invested time getting to gatherings that end up being great chances to hang out for a couple days ... but not much else. This year’s meeting will feature much more than just a gathering. We are planning a shorter but more productive National Committee Meeting on Friday and Sunday morning. We’re working with local activists to provide workshops and possibly events on racial justice in the wake of Ferguson. There will be several days of issue and skill-building workshops, electoral strategy sessions, and panel discussions. This year we are planning a special keynote or panel for Saturday during lunch

## 2015 Annual Meeting July 23-26 in St. Louis, Missouri

(included in the cost of registration). The point is this: our Annual Meeting is not just a place to talk about the issues and see old friends (although it is that too). It’s also a place where we continue to work on our strategic plan, begin new projects, and build alliances with local activists.

We have a great opportunity to help Missouri get on the ballot in 2016. Missouri is one of the key states for ballot access. We will be setting up petitioning times at key locations, including a Sunday afternoon session for those that want to stay over Sunday night.

St. Louis in July is where our work will get stronger. We need you there. We have a special price for early-bird registrations. The first 50 people to register before April 15 will pay \$90. After April 15 or 50 paid registrations the price will be \$125. We also have a “Friends and Family” discount - \$75 per person for non-delegates after one registration is purchased at \$90. States that wish to purchase registrations may do so at the \$90 rate and assign names to those registrations later.

This year’s venue is the most affordable we have had in many years. If cost considerations have prevented you from attending in the past, this is the year to join us. You can have a private room in a suite with a shared in-suite bathroom and 3 meals for less than \$50 a day.

St. Louis is a focus city for Southwest Airlines and is served by American, Delta, Frontier, United, and US Airways. Amtrak trains run daily from Chicago and Kansas City. Megabus runs from Dallas, Memphis, Chicago, Little Rock and other Missouri locations. There is a MetroLink stop right on campus less than two blocks from the meeting space and residence hall. It is a few steps from the airport to the campus.

We are putting together a program filled with events and workshops, but there will still be time to see some of the attractions St. Louis has to offer. See the Gateway Arch, the St. Louis Art Museum, the Citygarden, and much more.

Please register as soon as possible. States that wish to purchase registrations may do so and assign names to those reg-

istrations later. All registrations are non-refundable but they are transferable. Register online at [signups-gpus.nationbuilder.com/2015\\_anm](http://signups-gpus.nationbuilder.com/2015_anm).





# Stopping racist police brutality

## Wisconsin Greens call for measures for change in their state

By Mike McCallister, Wisconsin Green Party

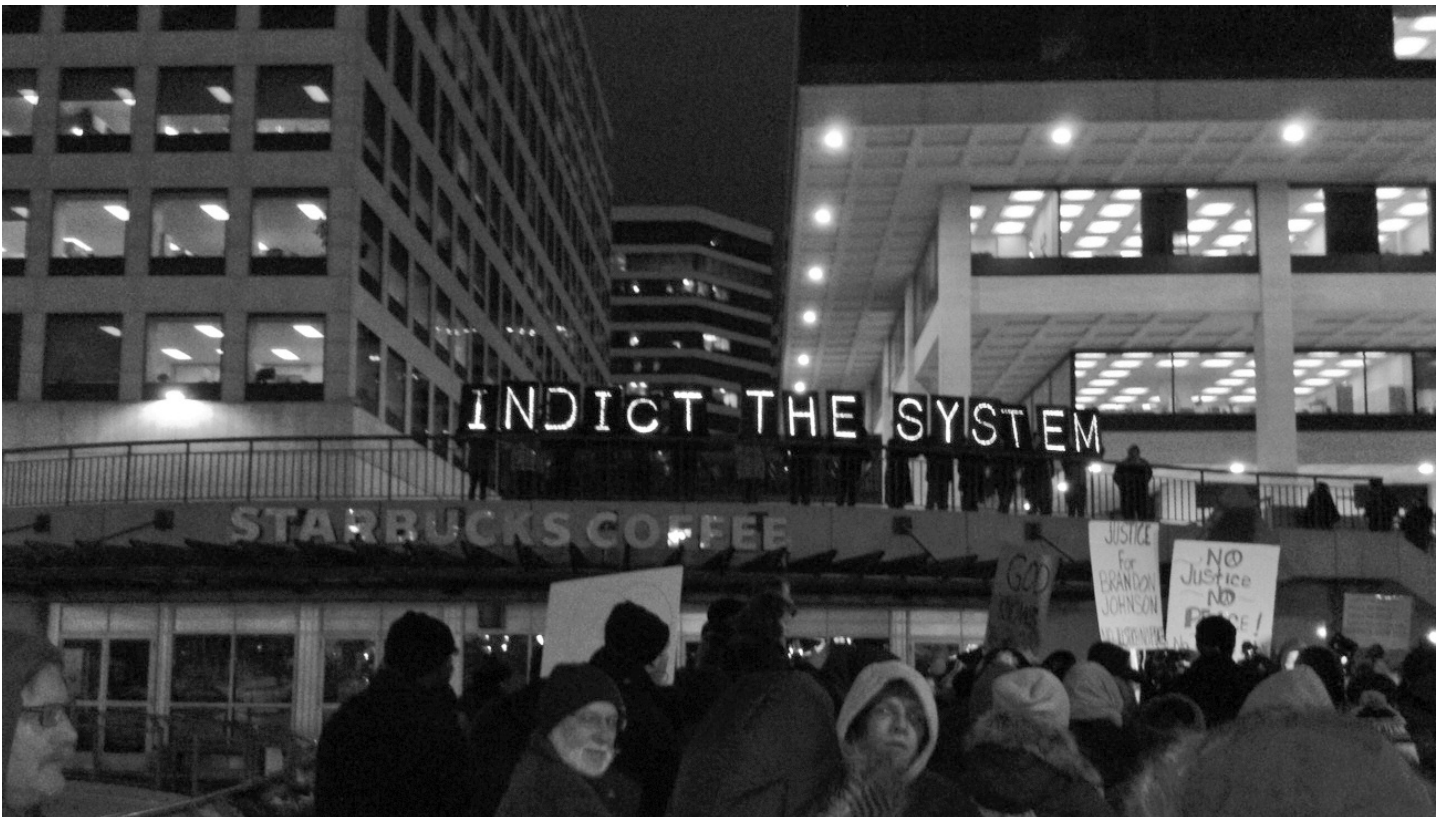
From Michael Brown in Ferguson to Eric Garner in New York City to Dontre Hamilton in Milwaukee, there is an epidemic of police violence against unarmed black men in the United States. In Wisconsin in recent years, we’ve also seen white men like Michael Bell killed by police, and white vigilantes kill Corey Stingley for shoplifting in suburban Milwaukee.

This systemic pattern of excessive force has caused a sense of fear among blacks even in routine encounters with officers, eroding the trust in law enforcement that is essential to keeping our communities safe. The problem of police brutality is inextricably connected to Wisconsin’s runaway mass incarceration of people of color, showing an urgent need to reform our criminal justice system.

These deaths are preventable. Measures can be taken to solve this problem. Among them include:

**Hold truly independent investigations of police killings.** Wisconsin law requires independent investigations, but Dontre Hamilton’s killing was investigated by retired Milwaukee detectives—from the same department they were investigating. We call for a new, truly independent investigation of Hamilton’s killing, and for rules to ensure the independence of all future investigations.

**A massive overhaul of Wisconsin’s justice system** to address problems including: unrestrained police and prosecu-



Wisconsin Green Party was a part of protests objecting to the killing of unarmed Dontre Hamilton in Milwaukee. Photo by Mike McCallister

torial power, privatization of prisons resulting in economic incentive to lock up more people, racial profiling and policies like “stop and frisk,” “zero tolerance,” as well as mandatory sentencing, which erode judicial discretion.

**Establish independent citizen re-**

**view boards** to monitor police behavior, with the power to press charges and issue subpoenas.

**Eliminate the sense of impunity** that law enforcement officers and vigilantes enjoy when they commit harassment, assault, and extrajudicial killing of blacks. We must put an end to a law enforcement culture where even routine traffic stops turn into incidents of abuse for which police are never investigated and held accountable.

**End militarization of local police.** Stop training civilian police in military tactics and end provision of military equipment to police departments, which results in actions like SWAT raids for minor violations.

**Stop the mass incarceration of people of color.** Wisconsin has a higher percentage of black men in prison and parole than any other state. At 12.8 percent, Wisconsin’s incarceration rate for black

men is almost double the national rate of 6.7 percent. Wisconsin also incarcerates a higher percentage of its Native American men than any other state.

**Every officer should wear a body video camera.** While not a complete solution for these systemic problems, the use of body cameras would be a tangible first step to deter abusive behavior by officers.

**Legalize marijuana and end the “War on Drugs.”** Criminalizing and incarcerating people for victimless crimes, like selling and using marijuana, has needlessly destroyed lives, wasted huge amounts of public money, and fueled organized crime. Systemic racism in the enforcement of “drug war” policies has been a key driver of mass incarceration and worsening relations between law enforcement and communities of color. We call for legalization and regulation of marijuana, and replacement of drug prohibition policies with a harm reduction approach.

# Green Shadow Cabinet member arrested for confronting director of National Intelligence



Shahid Buttar, Green Shadow Cabinet Director of Civil Rights Enforcement

Shahid Buttar, Green Shadow Cabinet Director of Civil Rights Enforcement and a constitutional lawyer was arrested this March by Capitol police in Washington D.C. at the end of a Senate Armed Services Committee hearing in which Director of National Intelligence James Clapper testified. Buttar was arrested for asking these questions of Clapper as Clapper was leaving the court room:

“In March 2013, you misled the Senate Intelligence Committee about the scope of NSA surveillance. What do you have to say to communities of color that are so hyper-policed that we’re subjected to extrajudicial assassination for selling loose cigarettes, when you can get away with perjury before the Senate?”

“Why is your agency above the law, sir? ...Why can you lie to the Senate about mass surveillance presuming the entire globe to

be subject to pervasive collection, twisting the meaning of the terms in violations of the statutes in the Constitution restraining your agency?”

“Why are you above the law for perjury and why is the NSA above the law for mass surveillance, even violating the contours that the authors of the Patriot Act intended to authorize in 2001? ... And Senators, why won’t you do your job? You’re charged with oversight of these officials.”

Buttar later said, “I asked a simple question of a public official in a public setting that no elected member of Congress has had the independence to ask: how can you lie to Congress and get away with it? It’s a disturbing sign of our draconian times that posing that question is an alleged crime while Clapper’s lies to Congress remain unpunished and tacitly rewarded. Welcome to America!”



Christina Gonzalez and Matthew Swaye are suing the New York Police Department for wrongfully arresting them four different times. As activists who videoed protests and police actions, in 2012 police made posters of Gonzalez and Swaye, calling them top-list “professional agitators.” Gonzalez was able to document on video her being attacked and pushed to

the ground by police at a 2011 Occupy Wall Street Rally. She has been active towards ending the Stop and Frisk policy. She ran for New York City Council on the Green Party ticket in 2013. Her campaign focused on many issues including police brutality reparation and prevention, as well as education reform.



# Run, women, run!

## Encouraging more women to run for office as Greens

By Ann Link, Green Party of New York State

From a speech given by Ann Link, a long-time Green and feminist at the 2011 New Jersey Green Party convention.

What’s the current situation for women in office in the United States and in the Green Party? As of 2008, the U.S. ranked 68th out of 134 nations worldwide in representation by women (according to *The Nation* that ranking has now dropped to 98th out of 185 countries). Only 17.2 percent of the members of the U.S. House of Representatives are women, and only 17 of the 100 members of the U.S. Senate are women, 13 of whom were appointed (in 2013 women only represented 20 percent of U.S. congressional seats). In 2010, 79 women ran for office on the Green Party line out of a total of 355, which is 22.3 percent (for 2013 that only increased to 33 percent). Clearly, the Green Party has a long way to go toward 50 percent equity.

Numerous studies have shown that countries with a high proportion of women in office have better economic opportunities and protections for women and children. How can we encourage more women to run for office?

First, women must organize themselves inside and outside of the Green Party. Being organized provides valuable experience for women and gives them a power base on which to build if they decide to run for office. The national Green Party Women’s Caucus invites women to participate.

Second, Green Parties at all levels must seek anti-oppression training. This training is designed to make people aware of the systems of privilege and oppression whereby a privileged group benefits at the expense of people without such privileges. Without an awareness of these systems, Green Party candidates will remain predominantly white and male.

Third, the Green Party must make a sustained effort to recruit women to run for office—for internal party positions as well as government office. Women come to the electoral table with additional hardships: lack of political experience, less socialization for public speaking and self-promotion, and less time to devote to campaigning because of family, work and party obligations. I’ve found as I recruit for the [National Green Party] Speakers Bureau that men on average are more likely to make the initial approach and are more confident in their ability to fulfill the requirements. Women on average require more contacts before considering it and more encouragement regarding their potential for success. This does not relate to ability, however, because once in the position, women do as well or better than men.

Fourth, the Green Party must set clear and equitable rules for candidate selection, and then follow those rules. When the rules of the game are clear, it’s possible for women to develop strategies to improve their representation. When the process is dominated by patronage, rules can be vague and shifting and decisions made by a limited number of persons. Some of the unequal treatment that the Green Party candidates for the 2008 presidential nomination experienced during the period leading up to the national convention related to this issue. Rules were put into place but were not followed consistently with every candidate.

Fifth, the Green Party must support electoral systems that support women. Here are several examples: a) by supporting proportional representation systems for elections—of the 10 highest-ranking countries in terms of women’s representation, all utilize proportional representation electoral systems; b) by reserving a certain number of party offices and candidate



positions for women—my state Green Party in New York requires a certain percentage of party officers to be women; and c) by utilizing instant runoff voting for internal Green Party elections—instant runoff voting levels the playing field for women because it favors candidates who run positive campaigns, and allows voters to make better choices without fearing the worse candidate will win.

Sixth and finally, Green Parties must give equal financial support and access to party resources to the campaigns of women, regardless of their chance for winning. The resource issue came up during our decision-making process for allocating funds raised by the Green Senatorial Campaign Committee. We debated over whether to give all the money to a few male senate candidates who were polling well and get-

ting a lot of media attention. We decided to divide it up equally among all the senate candidates, including three female candidates, who demonstrated viability by having a website, treasurer, and making visible efforts to campaign. It’s vital that women are at the table when these decisions are made.

In closing, the Green Party offers a unique opportunity for women to make a meaningful difference in how our world is managed. I hope all women in the Green Party will seriously consider running for office, and that they will get full support from the Green Party in doing so. Women have the strength, the life experience, the integrity, the leadership, and the vision to make the political changes necessary for our country and the world.

## What’s happening at the Green Party of the United States

By Brian Bittner, GPUS Office Manager

It’s time for spring cleaning and the Green Party is freshening up its look as we work to prepare for local races in 2015 and state and federal races in 2016. Maybe you’ve seen our new logo and great new graphics on social media—if you’re not following us on Facebook and Twitter, make sure to follow us at facebook.com/greenpartyus and twitter.com/greenpartyus.

Our new t-shirts are in stock in a green unisex style and black men’s and women’s style! Visit gp.org to check out our online store, and stock up for summer fairs and festivals!

When you’re on gp.org, visit our candidate’s page to see who is running for office in 2015. Some Green candidates have already won elections this year! If you know of any candidates running in 2015 or 2016, please let us know at office@gp.org.

Here in the national office we’re also cleaning up our contact lists so we can be in quick communication when election news breaks. Contact office@gp.org with updates on your state and local party activities, upcoming meetings or conventions, and new local campaigns.

As part of its ongoing strategic plan to reach out new voters and grow the party’s visibility through a positive brand identity, the Green Party of the United States has developed a new logo. A number of party leaders worked with graphic designers to create a custom logo intended to portray

**GPUS messaging example**

These are not fully realized, so should not be taken as official artwork or used to guide GPUS layouts too closely. They were conceived as alternatives if you do not want to feature members as centrally for certain issues. The structure is the same as before, but featuring the pillar graphic and hashtag instead of GPUS versions.

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**GREEN PARTY US**

**#PeacelsGreen**

Feel the love at GP.org

**GREEN PARTY US**

the party’s values professionally at a glance.

The new logo was introduced at last year’s Annual National Meeting and was quickly introduced on the party’s social media sites. Both the party’s Facebook and Twitter page now feature large, bright headers with the party’s new logo and the identify marker #WeAreGreen. The party has begun utilizing its new brand in its quarterly postal mailings to supporters, and has introduced t-shirts and tote bags featuring the new identity.

The party is working to roll out its new brand identity completely during 2015. The party is also taking the opportunity to do a complete overhaul of its website—gp.org—utilizing Nationbuilder, a cutting-edge organizing platform. Nationbuilder will allow the party to use new professional e-mail outreach tools and powerful new access to social media outreach.

Expect the new gp.org to be online in late spring or early summer of 2015.

Thank you for your support and Go Green!

### Committee News

The Green Party’s Ballot Access Committee and Coordinated Campaign Committee are helping Green candidates and state parties build throughout 2015 for the 2016 national election.

Coming out of the 2014 mid-term elections, the Green Party is in excellent position to build a strong ballot access base. The party has ballot access secured for the 2016 election in 21 states - compared to only 14 after the 2010 mid-term elections.

The Ballot Access Committee is helping state parties coordinate ballot drives in ten states in 2015—Arkansas, Alaska, Iowa, Kentucky, Missouri, Nebraska, Nevada, Utah, Vermont, and Wyoming. If you can help petition or coordinate activities in any of these states, please contact the Ballot Access Committee co-chairs at greenyager@gmail.com or jodytgrage@gmail.com.

The Coordinated Campaign Committee is working to train candidates to use best practices as they build campaigns for fall 2015 and 2016. The committee is holding monthly phone conferences to discuss issues such as volunteer deployment, media and messaging, fundraising and campaign finance, and special constituency outreach to labor, women’s, LGBT, minority, student and movement groups.

You can sign up for future training sessions or see archives of previous sessions at gp.org/coordinated-campaign-committee.



# Success building for Greens across the country

## Result summary of 2014 elections

By David McCorquodale, Green Party of Delaware

The most significant electoral achievements recently for the Green Party of the United States were four state parties gained or retained qualified ballot status. In Massachusetts, several Green-Rainbow Party nominees polled in excess of four percent with only three percent needed for ballot status. In New York, Green Party candidate for governor Howie Hawkins received more than triple the needed 50,000 votes and the party moved from line “F” to line “D.” In Ohio, Green Party gubernatorial candidate Anita Rios gained over three percent in her race, well over the required two percent, with the party retaining ballot status through 2018. In Wisconsin, Greens have regained ballot status after losing it in 2010.



*Leland Pan addresses the Annual Meeting in Baltimore. He won a seat as county supervisor in Wisconsin in 2014.*



*Erika Martinez addresses local media after the Webb County Green Party selected her as its candidate for Precinct 1 commissioner.*  
Photo by Aldo Amato/Laredo Morning Times



*Anita Rios retained ballot status for the Ohio Green Party in her campaign for governor.*  
Photo courtesy of WBNS-10TV

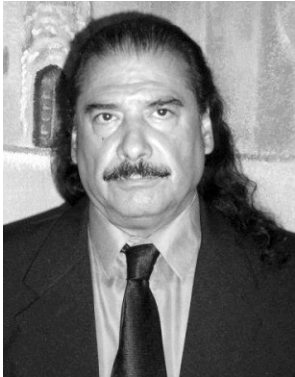
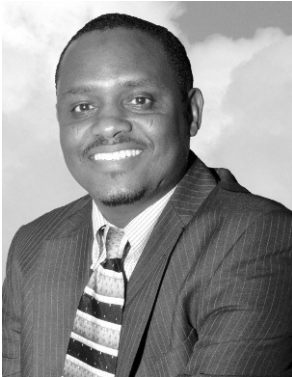
### Selective State Results

**California:** At least 38 Greens ran and 23 were elected in November 2014 elections. At least 29 Greens ran in spring 2014 elections, including five for statewide office. Ten Greens were elected. Currently 64 California Greens hold elective office statewide. The largest offices won were Bruce Delgado, incumbent, re-elected Mayor of Marina and four Greens elected to city councils.

Gayle McLaughlin, two-time termed-out Mayor of Richmond, was elected to its city council.  
**Wisconsin:** In 2014 Greens won four of seven races for county supervisor. They are David Conley, Heidi Wegletner, Leland Pan, and Ron Hardy. There are now a total of ten Greens in elected offices in Wisconsin, including the four county supervisors in Dane County, where the University of Wisconsin

is located.  
In the New England region Colleen Reidy was elected to a Fire District in Hartford, CN and David Spanagel was elected Town Moderator of Lancaster, Mass.  
In Texas, the best result was Erika Martinez’ race for Webb County Commissioner Pct 1 coming in at 42.78 percent. All six Webb County (Laredo) Green candidates polled over 10 percent. Frank Cortez for Webb County Judge, 12.5 percent; Jesus Quiroz for Treasurer, 14.69 percent; Luis Decker for Webb Co. Commissioner Pct. 4, 15.49 percent; Willie Koehn for Webb County Justice of the Peace Pct. 2 Pl. 1, 19.57 percent; and Lakshmana “Vish” Viswanath for Webb County Justice of the Peace Pct. 4, 25.48 percent.  
Also in Texas, the candidate for Harris County Judge, David B. Collins got 16.62 percent In the Comal County race for County Clerk, Matthew Hanson pulled 10.4 percent, and in the race for Denton County Clerk, Schyler Butler received 17.36 percent. All across the state 15 candidates were in the double digits. More highlights

include: In the race for US House of Representatives District 3, Paul Blair, 18 percent; Antonio Diaz for US House of Representatives District 21, 14.71 percent; US House #28, Michael Cary, 4.56 percent. In the Texas House of Representatives: District 146, Morgan Bradford, 8.12 percent; District 130, Art Browning, 9.23 percent; District 123, Paul Ingmundson, 13.72 percent; District 80, Marco Buentello, 10.4 percent, and District 42, Nicholas Serna III, 11.55 percent. Martina Salinas for Railroad Commissioner became the first Green to earn 2 percent in a statewide race with candidates from all four parties competing.  
Colorado—This was the first time since 2002 that the Green Party of Colorado has run a candidate for statewide office. Running for governor, Harry Hempy gained over 23,000 votes (1.2 percent) in his race against much better funded opponents. Gary Swing earned almost 5,000 votes in a hotly contested race in his district. Martin Wirth garnered over 12,000 votes (25 percent) in a very conservative district where his only opposition was a Republican.



*Rebecca Kemble, left, and Samba Beldeh, right, are running for common council in Madison, Wisconsin.*  
Kemble photo by Lisa Wells

*Antonio Diaz ran for U.S. House and received over 14 percent of the vote.*

# California Greens keep winning

## Green candidates take 23 seats in fall 2014 elections

By Mike Feinstein, Green Party of California

Voters in California voiced their strong approval of Green leadership by re-electing the majority of Green office holders. Led by three present/former Green mayors, 23 candidates were elected across California in November elections. This brings the number of Greens holding elected office statewide to 64, up from 60 in June 2014. Eleven of 13 Green incumbents were returned to office in 2014 overall.  
Combined with spring results, 33 of 67 Greens (49.3 percent) were elected in 2014. Subtracting state/federal office, where ten Greens ran in the June primary, California Greens won 33 of 57 local races (57.9 percent). This voter support for Green candidates betrays the negative logic of the Top Two system. Since Top Two came into existence, it has blocked Green state and federal candidates from being on the general election ballot in either 2012 or 2014.  
In Richmond (Contra Costa County), Gayle McLaughlin was elected to the city council despite indirect attacks from the Chevron Corporation who injected three million dollars in support of her opponents. McLaughlin was a target of Chevron because she has led efforts as Richmond’s mayor to hold Chevron accountable for its negative local environmental impacts and to pay its fair share in taxes to the community. She

has also led efforts for Richmond to use eminent domain to prevent homeowner foreclosures. McLaughlin was elected in 2014 as part of Team Richmond a slate of three successful city council candidates, with support by the Richmond Progressive Alliance. From 2006-2014, McLaughlin served as mayor and then had to step down because of term limits. She previously served on the city council before becoming Mayor.  
In Marina (Monterey County), Green mayor Bruce Delgado was elected to his fourth consecutive two-year term with 64 percent of the vote, running on a platform of a safe and healthy environment, more parks and greenways, public safety, and a balanced, fiscally conservative budget. Delgado also served a four-year term on the city council from 2000-2004, as well as on the Transportation Agency of Monterey County the Monterey Regional Waste Management District, the Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board.  
In Marin County, Fairfax town council member and former mayor Larry Bragman won a seat on Marin Municipal Water District Board of Directors, highlighting the stewardship of the Mt. Tam watershed and preservation of its near-pristine water, as well as, water conservation and protecting rate-payers. Bragman was first elected to



*Bruce Delgado re-elected as mayor of Marina, California, with his wife Natalie.*

the town council in 2003 and has been part of a Green town council majority in Fairfax since 2009. He and re-elected incumbent Jan Shriner, Marina Coast Water District Board of Directors (Monterey County), are two of five Greens currently serving on water district boards statewide—an increasingly critical post in time of drought.  
Three other Greens were elected to city council seats, increasing the number of sitting Green city council members state-

wide to seven: appointed incumbent Deborah Heathersone was re-elected (Point Arena, Mendocino County); as well as Paul Pitino (Arcata, Humboldt County) who previously served on the city council (2004-2008); and first-timer John Keener (Pacifica, San Mateo County).  
Long time Napa Green Amy Martenson also won her first run for elected office, defeating a long-term incumbent to win a seat on the Napa Valley College Board of



Trustees. Her platform advocated increased funding at the state level through an oil severance tax and closing corporate tax loopholes in proposition 13, expanding vocational training options for students to include the two-year programs that lead to the highest paying jobs, and increasing community participation in board meetings and decision-making. Martenson joins already elected Green Student Trustee April Clary on the board. On the local school board level, eight Greens were elected, growing to 20 the number statewide. Winning very competitive races were Heather Bass (Gilroy Unified School District, Santa Clara County), Adriana Griffin, Red Bluff Union School District, Tehama County) and Kathy Rallings (Carlsbad Unified School District, San Diego County).

Counties with the most elected Greens were Contra Costa (4), Alameda (3), San Diego (3), Monterey (2), Napa (2), and Santa Cruz (2). One Green, Jeff Davis, was elected in two counties—to the Alameda-Contra Costa Transit District Board of Directors.

The Green Party of California awards campaign support funds to candidates endorsed by their county Green Party based upon this criteria.



An anti-McLaughlin billboard, funded by Chevron, looms over San Pablo Avenue, criticizing her travel history. photo by Brett Murphy

# Maine Green Independent Party continues to grow

By David McCorquodale, Green Party Delaware

With the results from the 2014 elections the Maine Green Independent Party (MGIP) is continuing its tradition of becoming one of the strongest Green state parties in the country.

Maine was the first state in the country to have a Green Party develop and the party has now surpassed 30 years of activity. During that time it has had close to 20 people elected to various offices, some for more than one term. The highest office attained so far is John Eder for state representative, who served two terms. Interestingly, Eder’s legislative aide, Ben Chipman, has now been elected for a third time to the state house, but as an Independent.

John Eder became the third member of the Portland school board in the 2014 election. Portland is the stronghold of Green Party activism in the state, where two Greens are on city council and two others are already on the school board. This sets up increasing struggles within the board as Eder feels that it does not currently have enough clout within city government. He calls for improving retention rates by having local college students mentor high school students. Eder also considers the standardized testing demanded by Common Core and calls for more charter schools to be threats to public education, and to actually be stealth moves toward privatization. “That’s going to be a watchword for me: privatization,” he said.

In other election victories, Jonathan Alt, an organic farmer and former steering committee member for MGIP, won a city council seat in Gardiner. Nickie Sekera, a water conservation activist, won a seat on the Fryeburg Water District Board.

In addition to its victories, MGIP fielded eight candidates for state representative seats and six for state senate. Results in the Senate races varied from 10.6 percent to 23 percent (in a two person race); results in the House races were from 5.6 percent to 23 percent (the highest in a two-person race).

Several factors help MGIP maintain its growth and show respectable election results. First, Mainers have a political independent streak as well as long-standing concern for the environment. Green Party views are a natural fit for many in Maine.

Secondly, Maine election districts are small compared to many other states. With



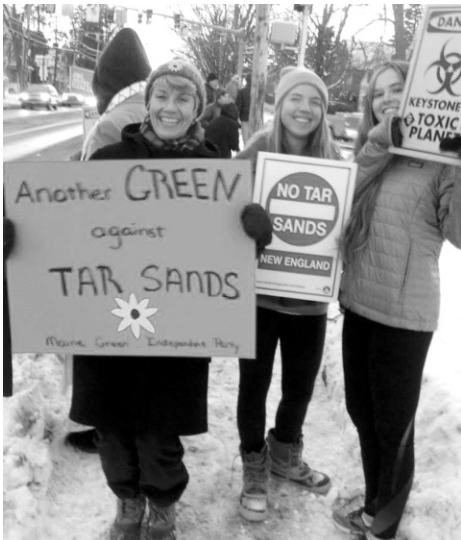
Maine Green activist Nickie Sekera won on a seat on the Fryeburg Water District Board.

154 house districts and 35 senate districts, the average population constituency is 8,300 and 38,000 respectively. That makes grassroots campaigns, using the ability to knock on doors and to talk to constituents, a real possibility.

**Portland is the stronghold of Green Party activism in the state, where two Greens are on city council and now three members are on the school board.**

Finally, Maine has a clean elections campaign law, which will funnel state funds to campaigns that collect a certain number of small individual contributions. That has allowed Greens to start campaigns with low levels of funding.

Greens have helped their cause by successfully pushing popular initiatives for referendum, specifically in Portland. One referendum to legalize marijuana in the city passed with 67 percent of the vote. Another passed referendum prevented the sale of underused, under funded parkland to real estate developers. In addition Greens led the push to get Portland to adopt



State Committee member Trish Jackson at the Waterville #NoKXL rally

Ranked Choice Voting, which allows voters to rank their choices when there are more than two candidates for the mayoral election. Greens believe instilling this type of voting will eliminate the fear of the spoiler effect and will help show the true strength of the Green Party. Now that the procedure is in place, a local progressive Democrat is introducing similar legislation to have statewide elections conducted using choice voting.

The Maine Independent Green Party

continues to grow, both in absolute terms with 38,180 and in percentage, now up to 3.96 percent, of registered voters. It also has the chance to develop alliances with a couple of other state legislators who are unaligned with any party and a number of unaligned candidates who were not elected. Mostly the unaligned candidates are in areas MGIP has not reached, but the candidates tend to emphasize issues supported by Greens, such as single payer healthcare.

In the past Ben Chipman has maintained that MGIP tends to rely too much on the clean elections fund and it has not developed a base of fundraising. He also feels it has not reached out enough to all parts of the state to develop local parties.

Perhaps MGIP has taken that past criticism to heart. It has recently announced the goal of raising \$2,000/month in sustaining donations in order to pay a living wage to a field organizer, who would direct voter registration drives, candidate recruitment, and door-to-door sustainer drives.

Despite its growing pains, the Maine Green Independent Party has developed to a point that a number of other state Green Parties can only dream of attaining. But by its very example, it is showing that reaching lofty heights, attaining electoral success, is possible. It is also shows how supporting popular issues and election reforms can help fuel that growth.



#NOXL rally in Portland Maine photo by Robert Critchfield



# Greens help defeat “Top Two” in Oregon, again

By Blair Bobier, co-founder Pacific Green Party

The “Top Two” election system, with its potentially devastating effects for Greens and other independent political parties, has been defeated at the statewide level for the second time in six years in Oregon.

### What is ‘Top Two’?

In a Top Two or “Jungle Primary” system, party primaries are eliminated, and all candidates from all parties run against each other in a single “jungle” primary. All voters regardless of political affiliation may vote for any candidate. But only the top two vote-getters advance to the November general election, regardless of party—and both candidates can even be from the same political party. Voters in those races then have the “choice” of choosing between two Democrats or two Republicans. Top Two has a devastating effect on smaller parties. In California and Washington, since Top Two has been in place, Greens have never been on the General Election ballot for a statewide office.

### Oregon’s Measure 90

In November 2014, Oregon voters soundly defeated Ballot Measure 90, a Top Two proposal backed by billionaires Michael Bloomberg and John Arnold (an Enron energy profiteer) by a margin of 68 percent–32 percent. The “no” vote for this measure received more votes than any other ballot measure or candidate in the 2014 general election in Oregon and—in a rarity in this somewhat ideologically polarized state—lost in each of Oregon’s 36 counties, whether urban or rural, ‘red’ or ‘blue’.

To some extent, the election was a repeat Top Two defeat in Oregon. In 2008, as Measure 65, it also lost by a 2-1 margin. This time however, supporters had significantly more financial backing, as well as the support of most of the state’s major newspapers.

The Pacific Green Party of Oregon, one of the country’s oldest Green parties, took an active role in opposing Top Two. Seth Woolley, a Portland activist and two-time candidate for Secretary of State, and Blair



Bobier, one of the founders of the party, spearheaded the Greens’ efforts. Woolley created and maintained a website, saveoregondemocracy.org, while Bobier penned op-eds for *The Oregonian*, the most widely circulated newspaper in the Northwest, and the *Eugene Weekly*, which serves Oregon’s second largest city.

**Oregonians value the contributions Greens and other independent political parties have made in Oregon politics and they didn’t want to see independent voices eliminated from the ballot**

Greens argued that Top Two would have severely restricted voters’ choices by eliminating independent candidates from the November election; and would greatly restrict the scope and nature of the political debate, once the primary was over and the only remaining candidates (Democrats and Republicans) were from a narrow portion of the political spectrum. Greens also pointed out the anti-democratic flaws inherent in Top Two, and how it could frustrate the will of the voters, such as in 2012 in California’s 31st Congressional District when four Democratic candidates in this heavily Democratic district “split the vote,” sending two Republicans to the General Election and

ultimately one to Congress.

Woolley and Bobier also worked in cooperation with a coalition, Protect Our Vote, which was organized by Democratic Party front groups, and the Progressive Party, a Green-like political party that had been organized in 2008 solely to support Ralph Nader’s presidential run. Bobier and Woolley, along with their Progressive Party colleagues, gave numerous media interviews in a variety of formats, used social media, and drafted and distributed press releases to get the word out.

### Analysis

Despite all efforts, it is still a bit of a mystery as to why Top Two has fared so poorly in Oregon. Although both of the establishment parties and most of the state’s smaller parties opposed it each time, that alone would not explain its resounding defeat—twice.

Part of the explanation could lie in the fact that Oregonians tend to vote “no” on Measures they’re unsure about—as in, “if ain’t broke, don’t fix it.”

It could also be that Oregonians not only responded to the grassroots efforts of the Pacific Green Party and other activists working to defeat Top Two, but that Oregonians value the contributions Greens and other independent political parties have made in Oregon politics and they didn’t want to see independent voices eliminated from the ballot—something that the Official Ballot Summary made clear was very possible under Top Two. Oregonians have elected a Green judge as well as numerous Green city councilors; and Greens in Oregon are active and visible on issues including climate change, health care, living wages and—key to this campaign—election reform.

It could also be that Oregonians really, really don’t like Top Two, nor out-of-state billionaires trying to manipulate the democratic process. The Greens and their Progressive Party colleagues issued a number of joint press releases specifically focused on the shadowy funding of Top Two in Oregon. Billionaires Michael Bloomberg and

John Arnold dumped \$4.63 million into Top Two coffers; astronomical amounts for an Oregon ballot measure election. Arnold, the Enron energy profiteer, took an \$8 million bonus from Enron in 2001; the day before it went bankrupt. Although the Koch Brothers did not contribute directly to Top Two, they contributed \$25,000 to a PAC run by Associated Oregon Industries, which in turn, contributed to Top Two. The millions that these billionaires spent went for naught. For the second time in six years, Oregonians decisively defeated Top Two.

### Where Do We Go From Here?

Top Two is detrimental to the democratic process, but there’s no question that existing winner-take-all elections are also far from ideal—and Oregon Greens are hard at work trying to change them. At the request of the Greens, Democratic legislators will introduce an Instant Runoff Voting bill in the upcoming session of the Oregon legislature, on which Greens will take the lead. Independently, Greens are likely to file a ballot initiative to establish IRV elections in at least one county in Oregon, which would set the stage for further use of this innovative reform.



Blair Bobier

# Why has Top Two passed in two states and failed in two others?

By Mike Feinstein, Green Party of California, and Richard Winger, Ballot Access News

*A prime determinant in whether a Top Two ballot measure has passed is how the measure is described in the official summary provided by the state to all voters.*

*In both Arizona and Oregon, where Top Two was defeated, the official summary made it clear that the party primary system would be eliminated and there would be only two candidates on the general election ballot. Oregon elaborated by emphasizing the lack of choice under Top Two compared to multiple and diverse choices under the current system. In California by contrast, the emphasis was on voter empowerment by allowing voters more choices in the primary. Nothing was said about eliminating smaller parties and having less choice in the general election.*

*In fact, Top Two has devastated the smaller parties in California, by making it extremely difficult in the primary for candidates from smaller parties and virtually impossible for them to be on the general election ballot.*

*From 1992 to 2010, the Green, Liber-*

*tarian, Peace and Freedom, and American Independent parties in California averaged 127 primary ballot candidates among them in each election cycle. In 2012, in Top Two’s first year, they were able to qualify only 17 for state legislative and congressional races, the fewest since 1966, when only the Democrats and Republicans were on the ballot. This dropped to 13 in 2014, with 10 others running for quadrennial statewide offices, down from 33 in 2010. These same parties are currently challenging California’s Top Two in Ruben vs. Padilla.*

*Washington State used a blanket primary 1934 through 2002, and voters liked it. Voters could vote in any party’s primary and the top vote getter from each party would advance to the general election. The U.S. Supreme Court overturned the blanket primary in 2000. The Washington State Top Two sponsors told voters that the only way for voters to continue to enjoy the same type of freedom in the primary was to pass Top Two. This was a difficult argument to counter, especially since very*

*few minor party members ran for office in Washington State in 2002.*

### Excerpts from ballot measures in each state

*Oregon (November 2014): “Measure 90 would provide for a single primary among all candidates regardless of party or non-affiliated status, in which all voters, regardless of party or non-affiliated status, may vote; the top two vote-getting candidates from the primary would advance to the general election. The two candidates who advance to the November general election could be from different political parties, the same party, or no party at all. Currently, voters choose from among any eligible candidates at the November general election, who are chosen as a result of primary election by major political parties, nomination by minor political parties, nominating petition, convention, or write-in.”*

*Arizona (November 2012): “Proposition 121 Relating to Direct Primary Law. A ‘yes’ vote shall have the effect of replacing the*

*current party primary election with a ‘top-two’ primary election in which all voters, regardless of party affiliation, vote in a single, combined primary, and the top two vote-getters for each seat advance to the general election ballot. This ‘top-two’ primary will not apply to the election of the U.S. President or to elections in which no party affiliation appears on the ballot.”*

*California (June 2010): “Proposition 14. Elections. Increases Right to Participate in Primary Elections. Changes the primary process for congressional, statewide and legislative races. Allows all voters to choose any candidate regardless of the candidate’s or voter’s political party preference.”*

*Washington (November 2004): “This measure would allow voters to select among all candidates in a primary. Ballots would indicate candidates’ party preference. The two candidates receiving most votes advance to the general election, regardless of party.”*



# Our campaign doesn't end with the election

## Reflections on the 2014 Governor's race

By Howie Hawkins, Green Party of New York State

Our statewide Green campaigns in New York did not end with the election. The campaign was about changing the politics and policies of New York State. The election was just one event in a process and we continue to pursue our campaign goals after the election.

We set out four goals in our campaign plan early in 2014.

**1. Retain the Green Party ballot line in New York for another four years.** This first goal required receiving at least 50,000 votes. We were confident from the outset that we would achieve this. The first poll in June confirmed our confidence when it reported we had four percent support, which would be about 200,000 votes (assuming a turnout of 5 million). We rose steadily over the summer to 6 percent and peaked at 9 percent in October. On Election Day we received 184,419 votes and have the ballot line for the next four years.

The Green vote moved us up the ballot from the sixth to the fourth line, jumping over the Working Families (WFP) and Independence parties. The Democrats, Republicans, and Conservatives retained the first, second, and third lines respectively. New York now has eight ballot lines, but only three real parties—Democratic, Republican, and Green. The Green Party in New York does not cross-endorse the candidates of the other ballot line parties in New York, which are all either one of the corporate-sponsored parties or one of their satellites who don't run any candidates of their own.

The Green vote was the only vote to grow substantially in 2014, tripling in number and quadrupling in percentage over the Green vote in 2010. The Republican, Conservative, Independence and Working Families Parties all pretty much maintained their voter base. But Cuomo and the Democrats lost nearly a million votes from 2010, accounting for basically all of the reduction in turnout from 4.8 million to 3.8 million. The future of the Green vote is with those million disaffected voters, plus the other 6 million alienated voters who stayed home in both 2010 and 2014. These are primarily working class people who felt neither party cares about them, so they don't vote. The significant growth in the Green vote in 2014 enabled us to reach our second goal.

**2. Win five percent to establish the Green Party as the independent left in New York politics.** We set a high vote goal of five percent and 250,000 votes (assuming a turnout of 5 million) as within our reach if we ran a strong campaign. That would make our campaign as successful as any independent progressive gubernatorial run in New York history, just short of the percentages the Socialists won in 1918 (5.7 percent) and 1920 (5.6 percent) and surpassing the biggest vote total (221,996 for the American Labor Party candidate in 1950). We hoped that a vote on that scale would change New York politics by making the Green Party a viable left alternative in the eyes of the public and the media.

Having received 185,419 votes, we basically achieved our percentage goal (5%), but with voter turnout the lowest since the war year of 1942, we were short on the vote total.

The dynamics were a perfect storm for a progressive third party insurgency like our Green Party campaign. Governor Andrew Cuomo had campaigned in 2010 to clean up the notoriously corrupt state government in Albany. But the indictments of corrupt legislators kept coming. Then he abruptly shut down his commission on public cor-



Howie Hawkins running for governor of New York 2014 interviews local television prior to his attendance at the Governor's debate in Buffalo. Photo by David Doonan

ruption when it began asking questions about his big donors. Also Cuomo waffled on the big environmental question: a fracking ban. Cuomo's Republican opponent, Rob Astorino, ran on even harsher public austerity and opening New York to fracking.

***We received 50 percent more votes than Working Families Party. We are the independent voice of the left, not, like WFP, another voice for liberal Democrats.***

Enormous space existed on the left for a Green Party ticket that campaigned on the policies that polling showed majorities of New Yorkers support. We called for a Green New Deal, basically an Economic Bill of Rights plus 100 percent Clean Energy by 2030. We wanted to ban fracking and build a 100 percent green system to fight climate change, create millions of jobs, and cut energy costs by more than half by the 2020s. We called for public jobs for the unemployed, a \$15 minimum wage, single-payer health care, stronger rent control, more public housing, fully-funded public schools, an end to high-stakes testing linked to Common Core education, and more progressive tax and revenue sharing to pay for state mandates on fiscally distressed local governments and for the Green New Deal.

The Green statewide ticket was a rainbow ticket that could help us reach these potential Green voters. Brian Jones for Lieutenant Governor is an African American schoolteacher and socialist well known in the fights against the public school privatization and closings. Theresa Portelli for Comptroller is a 40-year civil servant in juvenile justice and child welfare (receiving 97,706 votes). Ramon Jimenez is a Harvard-educated Puerto Rican lawyer with 40 years experience litigating labor, tenant, and criminal justice cases for people in his South Bronx neighborhood (receiving 80,813 votes).

As our poll numbers hit nine percent in three late statewide polls and double digits in many polls conducted in particular congressional and state senate districts, we were hoping for double digits statewide on Election Day. But many of the voters leaning toward us went back to one of the major

party candidates, deciding to cast a strategic vote for the lesser evil rather than for their most preferred ticket. Polling data suggested about two-thirds of these lesser evil voters voted for Cuomo and one-third for Astorino.

I heard in the closing days of the campaign apologies from voters who preferred the Green ticket but had decided to vote for a lesser evil to stop the greater evil. Some were afraid the Republican Astorino would be worse than even Cuomo had been on the economy, education, and environment. Others thought that only Astorino had a chance of beating Cuomo and they just wanted to throw the bum out. When I pointed out that Cuomo was 20 to 30 points ahead in the polls, most of these voters said they would vote Green. But most of the voters leaning Green were not informed about the polls. As the election got closer, they began to take counsel from their fears rather than their hopes.

**3. Move the debate on key issues.** This third goal included giving voice to movements and advancing the debate in the media and public consciousness to a range of policy goals, including the fracking ban, green energy, public jobs for the unemployed, \$15 minimum wage, single-payer health care, public campaign finance, fully-funded schools, an end to high-stakes testing, an end to the war on drugs and mass incarceration, and a progressive fiscal policy of tax reforms and revenue sharing.

***Due to our strong stance and concrete proposals to address the real needs of the state, we had unprecedented support for a third party from local teachers unions and Democratic clubs.***

During the campaign, we were able to get included in well over a thousand media stories. We did well in responding to the 24-hour news cycle with hundreds of media releases, statements, Tweets, Facebook posts, and email blasts. These often got us mention in daily news stories. It kept supporters we had in our database up to date about the campaign. Our timely responses

probably would have been ignored if our poll numbers were as not high and growing for a third party.

While we were able to establish a foothold in the media narrative, we were not able to drive it. Progressive tax reform and revenue sharing was central to our progressive populist alternative to Cuomo's austerity measures. But fiscal issues received little attention in media coverage and our proposals virtually none. Another issue we wanted to put front and center was remedies for the most segregated housing and schools by race and class of any state in the nation. The major parties won't touch this issue because they are responsible for the housing, education, economic, and civil rights policies that led to hyper-segregation in New York State. On these and other issues, we failed to take the time to plan and execute events—such as demonstrations, civil disobedience, public forums—that would attract both the media and the movement activists concerned with these issues. We got too caught up in the grind of daily media responses and retail campaigning.

Due to our strong stance and concrete proposals to address the real needs of the state, we had unprecedented support for a third party from local teachers unions and Democratic clubs. Six local teachers unions, spanning the state from Buffalo to two locals on Long Island, endorsed our ticket in defiance of the statewide New York State United Teachers Federation, which endorsed no candidate. Six Democratic clubs in New York City endorsed the Green ticket over the Democrats. Endorsing outside the Democratic Party was a first for them.

In the fall, Cuomo focused on terrorism and Ebola; Astorino on fracking and tax cutting. We called for a Green New Deal. But it was terrorism, Ebola, and fracking that dominated the daily news cycle. Fracking is the issue where we had the most impact. In 2010, we had campaigned for a fracking ban at a time when the environmental movement was, at best, calling for a moratorium while the issue was studied, or, at worst, calling for fracking so natural gas could replace coal and be the bridge to the renewable energy future. Our 2010 demand for a fracking ban now resonated with the grassroots anti-fracking movement. In December after the election, surprisingly

*Continued on the following page*



Howie Hawkins's second campaign for Governor of New York in 2014 received nearly 185,000 votes, giving the Greens ballot status for the second time. His successful campaign attracted unprecedented media attention, gained a spot in the governor's debate, and received widespread endorsement from groups that had never before supported the Green Party. Hawkins is a founding member of the Green Party, has run for office dozens of times, including for U.S. senate, been active in shaping Green policy, and worked as an activist for Green values for most of his life.



*Continued from the preceding page*

Governor Cuomo accepted the recommendation of his health and environmental conservation departments to ban fracking. Our Green gubernatorial campaigns deserve some of the credit for this victory.

Meanwhile, we are using the five percent of the vote we received to get in the news and public affairs broadcasts on the issues we raised in the campaign, which are now subject to the budget and state legislative session. We are focusing on stopping fossil fuel infrastructure projects and scaling up green energy, a \$15 minimum wage, single-payer health care, fully-funded schools, beating back Cuomo's school privatization agenda, and public campaign finance.

Our pitch to the media is that we, not the WFP, are the legitimate voice of the left

in New York State. We received 50 percent more votes than WFP. We are the independent voice of the left, not, like WFP, another voice for liberal Democrats. Since the election, we have had better access to the media than ever, but WFP is still generally presented as "the left" in New York.

**4. Build the Green Party membership and organization.** What the WFP has that the Greens do not is financial resources and staffing, which enables them to respond quickly to the media and legislative developments. WFP has millions. The NY Greens have thousands. Our fourth campaign goal was to build the Green Party membership and organization so that we have the resources and organizational capacity to give effective voice and support for progressive movements in New York and to win more races for local, state,

and federal office.

We quantified this goal with 1000 dues-paying members and 15 county organizations. We started the campaign with less than 100 dues-paying members and six county organizations. We understood that while we were asking supporters for campaign donations and to organize local campaign activities, the dues-paying member recruitment and county organizing would take place after the election. 1000 dues-paying members at \$10 a month would support office, equipment, travel, materials and two-full time staff at \$15 an hour plus health care.

Our campaign achieved a big jump in support over all the four previous gubernatorial runs since 1998. Yet it is sobering to consider that the perfect storm of being the only progressive alternative to both a

conservative Democrat and Republican yielded just five percent of the vote. In this time of unprecedented economic inequalities and insecurities and pending climate catastrophe, we can take hope from the upsurge of the anti-austerity politics in the Turn to the Left in Latin America and this year's meteoric rise of Syriza in Greece, Podemos in Spain, and the Green Party in the UK.

Sooner or later, the upsurge will come here as well. The seven million mostly working class non-voters who are now alienated from politics in New York and America will come back. They are the Green Party's future base if the Greens are going win the power needed to make the changes we want. The corporate center cannot hold. Sooner or later, the working class majority will be heard. The time to get organized, educated, and prepared for it is now.

## The call to run Green My bid for New York Comptroller

By Theresa Portelli, New York State Green Party

Since it is now 2015, I can take a deep breath and reflect on the 2014 New York State Green Campaign with amazement, pride and gratitude. I can share the challenges and successes in running for NYS Comptroller on the Green Party ballot. During the campaign, whenever discouraged I would look at the various Board of Election's lists of the ballot and see my name included with the other Greens. The most interesting list was from NYC where my name was translated into Chinese and Korean. This represented democracy in action for me. Registered voters of all ethnicities and cultures had a choice and I was one of those choices. Looking back, the depth of the privilege and mandate to vote for all of us was enormously meaningful. That knowledge and the sincere thanks for running I received from so many supporters kept me going.

I was completely surprised and honored when I was asked to join the Green state slate for comptroller, with Howie Hawkins running for governor. But from my local experience in the Albany Mayor and Albany City School Board races, I knew that running for office means giving up a lot of time for several months. It means crafting position papers, participating in debates, writing speeches, issuing press releases, meeting with media, and most important of all going door to door. It also involves aggressively promoting myself, the ballot, and party. It means confronting and conquering any and all vestiges of shyness or nerves. It requires focus, determination, curiosity and a thick skin.

This, I thought, would take some organization and Green inspiration. Being a Green already means being brave. It was a challenge to be not just myself but to be better than myself because I would represent the Green Party. I was flattered of course but wondered if I could be an asset on the ticket. In my career in state government I was the manager, work-horse, moderator, idealist - how would that translate into the Comptroller race? I applied the values of the Green Party to what was needed in the office - Democracy, Social Justice, Peace/Non-Violence and Ecological Wisdom. I spoke over and over about these issues and how they are applied to our every day life and to the Office of State Comptroller.

So I said YES. And I encourage more people to please step up and say Yes too. Say yes to being a citizen and participate in democracy, raise the difficult questions and also say yes to taking an extra walk in a

Green t-shirt, or pick up the phone and call your friends and relatives. Ask them to be brave and join the Greens in changing the conversation, the process, the government. The Greens can change the conversation and bring the government back to the people.

The campaign was a huge success based on many factors. The Green Party moved up a ballot line and we got tons of votes. I received 98,000 plus. If anyone needs an affirmation in life, 98,000 votes say I did ok. Also being on the ticket with three very formidable, interesting, candidates - Howie, Brian and Ramon - it was a blast.

Throughout my campaign I was able to raise issues that were important to me and to the Green platform - that of criminal justice reform, fossil fuel divestment, banning fracking and ending mass incarceration. If we are a progressed society then why do we invest our funds in companies that create fossil fuel energies? Why as a society do we insist on investing in private prisons when we should be treating drug use as a public health issue rather than a criminal justice issue? Why do we continue to incarcerate young people, overwhelmingly minority or economically disadvantaged and withhold their talents and contributions from our communities?

**Say yes to being a citizen and participate in democracy, raise the difficult questions.**

The campaign was a success on many levels but most particularly in having sensible, relatable issues that were unique to our party. Even given that acknowledgement by the media, it was still very difficult to get the coverage we deserved. What I learned in the campaign? I learned we are part of a larger movement that has a legitimate voice. And hearing and using that voice is an invitation to be part of a Green future.



Howie Hawkins marches with Jon Flanders (right) at a Labor Day Parade in Albany, New York, 2014. photo by David Doonan

## Why Labor supported the Hawkins campaign for governor of New York

By Jon Flanders of New York State

*Howie Hawkins is not a lawyer, businessman or scion of a wealthy family. Yet as a line worker for the United Parcel Service (UPS), he has managed to run for office numerous times from local to statewide, in the process helping to make the Green Party of New York State the real left opposition here. He has done this despite the default of the labor movement of which he is active as a Teamster. New York unions by and large have rejected political independence and chosen the path of least resistance, endorsing "winners" like Andrew Cuomo for governor, in the hopes of picking up a few fallen crumbs off the bargaining table.*

*Howie Hawkins appealed to me and many other increasingly frustrated union members in the state, because as working conditions every year, he stands with us and for us. He is not a product of "a penumbra of quasi-political institutions—think-tanks, consultancies, lobbying firms, politicians back offices" to quote an article in the Economist on how countries create a political class.*

*Hawkins argues from the point of view of his class, the working class, and we know when we support him, that when the election is over, win or lose, he is one of us. He has worked the mid-night shift (still works it in fact), in the cold and dark, shared coffee with co-workers commiserating about a bad boss, poor safety conditions and low pay and benefits.*

*Hawkins first came to my notice in his 2010 campaign for governor, which I enthusiastically supported among my co-workers on the railroad. I found a positive response from many of them, enough to have me encourage Hawkins to campaign outside the rail yard, which he did successfully. I then joined him at other work sites, always with a good response from workers. In 2013, I took a ride out to Syracuse to support his second run for city council there. Campaigning door to door in his district, I saw first hand the support and respect he has earned in his base in that city.*

*In 2014, Hawkins went from getting individual supporters like myself, to actual endorsements from labor bodies. This reflects the growing understanding among workers that they need their own political representation and political party. His campaign got nearly five percent of the vote, leap-frogging the labor backed Working Families Party for fourth spot on the ballot. In my county he received ten percent of the vote. Hawkins' campaign in 2014 has dramatically confirmed, in a big statewide race, increased support for an independent party for workers, and all of us in labor, owe him a debt of gratitude.*

Jon Flanders spent 25 years as a Railroad Machinist, member and past President of IAM 1145. Steering committee member of Railroad Workers United. Retired.



# A First Run at Political Office: Some Lessons

By David McCorquodale, Green Party Delaware

Early in 2014, I decided to run for state representative in Delaware, in a newly redistricted area. The incumbent, a small-business, moderate type Republican ran unopposed in the last two elections. **LESSON #1: The Green Party should always run a candidate against an unopposed incumbent if it can find one.** Even if there is little chance at winning, it would at least be fulfilling the goal of providing a democratic choice to the voters, the candidate's name will get known, and the candidate will receive a better percentage of the vote.

At first I decided not to spend any money on the campaign, which would have made my reporting to the State Department of Elections very simple. In late August, I started knocking on doors in my own neighborhood. **LESSON #2: Speaking to people by knocking on doors yields few results.** Most of the time few people are home and near the dinner hour they not do care to discuss political issues.

I decided I would spend some money. A Green Party friend designed a Facebook page for a no-cost website and also designed a door hanger. Another friend took a professional looking picture. I found a company that would produce union-made door hangers for a very reasonable price. Being a runner, I figured I could walk the district and put out the hangers on all the doors I targeted. **LESSON #3: In order for the voters to get to know who you are, you have to get**

**something in their hands.** Mass mailing brochures would be another option, requiring less physical labor.

By early October, the door hangers came and I spent the next four weeks walking several hours every day, sometimes up to eight hours, putting out door hangers. I had used the database of voters from the Department of Elections and originally chose to get to the homes of non-Republican voters who had voted in the last two election cycles. I assumed they would be the most likely to vote and possibly vote for me. But I found that walking around, looking at the numbers of houses I wanted to target and avoiding those I didn't, was time consuming. Eventually I realized that I had more door hangers than I had ordered and had to go through some areas again, going to some of the houses I had avoided the first time. **LESSON #4: When putting out literature, a candidate may as well target every home in the voting district.** It's a lot simpler and less time consuming that way.

So here's my quick analysis of the results in my district race. I got 965 votes, which represents 19.3% of the total votes cast of 5,012. That percentage is a historic high for a Green candidate in Delaware. But with 17,000 plus registered voters, the turnout was around 30 percent, indicating that overall the voters were not excited by any particular race to go to the polls.

There were more than 1,200 voters, who

cast votes in the statewide office races, but who did not vote for either of us. Those people were not yet willing to cast a vote for a third party candidate. This was illustrated to me when one couple said they couldn't vote for me because they were Roosevelt Democrats and voted straight party line. They weren't willing to engage with me otherwise they would have found out that the idea of a Green New Deal is a lot closer to what Roosevelt accomplished than anything Democrats stand for nowadays. **LESSON #5: Greens have a long way to go to convince voters we are viable candidates for a seat in the state legislature.**

We need to start even smaller than that office, with younger people who are committed to building the party long term. Only a record of success will overcome the inertia of party line voting. While there is a significant segment which is willing to split their tickets, not enough are yet willing to cast a vote for a Green candidate.

While I built some name recognition in this race, I am hesitant to think it could lead to success in a race this large. With a Democrat in the field, the odds would be even lower. Part of what disappoints me about the experience was the lack of voter involvement. There was only one "debate" in which we participated and I had a total of less than ten minutes over a number of questions to make any points. The general public did not attend the debate and there

were no forums in which just the two candidates could debate on their own. The "democratic process" is no longer about an exchange of ideas, but mostly about spending money on advertising. The Green Party Delaware also lacks the ability at this point to put together a campaign team for Get Out the Vote efforts or fielding a presence at the polls.



David McCorquodale was a candidate for the 21st State Representative District in Delaware in 2014.

# Green Party Taiwan Wins in Local Elections

By Robin Winkler, Green Party Taiwan

On November 29, 2014, for the first time Green Party Taiwan (GPT) candidates won their first electoral victories since the party was founded in 1996. The GPT now has two out of 906 seats in local assemblies and is now actively preparing for the national parliamentary (Legislative Yuan) elections that will likely be held January 16, 2016.

Taiwan's 2014 elections, referred to as "nine-in-one" elections for the nine categories of offices contested, saw Green Jay Chou Chiang-chieh (周江杰) elected county councilor in Hsinchu County's Chutung (竹東) and Wufeng (五峰) districts on the GPT's ticket after a campaign bolstered by volunteers who canvassed hilly terrain on bicycles.

In Taoyuan's Chungli District (中壢) GPT candidate Xavier Wang Hao-yu (王浩宇) finished a surprising second in the contest for ten council seats. As the founder and moderator of a popular Facebook page titled: "I am from Chungli," which features local news and entertainment, Wang channeled traffic generated by the page into support for his campaign, garnering 16,269 votes.

The Greens fielded nine candidates in the counsel elections with a common platform of: a nuclear free homeland (stopping construction on the fourth nuclear power plant and decommissioning the existing three), land justice, elder care reform, labor rights, animal welfare, increased transparency in government, rooting out corruption and lowering the voting age to 16.

Xavier Wang's constituency is being subjected to one of the largest land expropriation/development projects in Taiwan's history involving thousands of hectares of farmland in order to build an "aeropolis," while Jay Chou's is working to create better local economies to attract more of the younger generation to return or stay in their villages.

The candidates are neither from political families nor members of the political and business elite, they used a tiny fraction

of campaign funds compared to the other candidates, using small fundraisers that brought environment and social reform advocacy groups to jointly develop policy.

The successful candidates took office on December 25th (Constitution Day) and immediately caused controversy by publishing the sign in sheets for their respective assemblies, as well as for refusing the bribes that were being passed around for supporting candidates from the two major parties for the council speaker and co speaker.

In Taiwan's 2012 legislative elections,



the GPT won nearly 230,000 or 1.7 percent of the nation's party (list) votes. While it was somewhat lower than the five percent threshold for a seat in the national parliament, it was nearly a fourfold increase from 2008 and with this vote the GPT became Taiwan's fifth largest political party. With the next election less than a year away, preparations are in place to nominate candidates to run throughout the country in the district (first past the post) elections, while setting its sights on taking at least three of the list candidate seats.



Anti-nuclear rally in Taiwan

photo by David Lai



# Kindness and community

## A personal tale

Editorial by Siobhan O’Loughlin, Green Party of New York State

When I describe myself to other people, I always say “writer, performer, and activist.” Those are my three identifiers. I write my own plays, I perform them internationally, and I’m involved in several groups here in the Big Apple, one of which is very dear to my heart, the Green Party.

Unfortunately, activism is third tier in my priorities (because of income, of course), so to call myself a prominent or even active member is a stretch. But, I love it. When I get to do it, I’m so happy. I love the people in it.

Some of my more artsy/non activist friends will ask me things like, “You’re in a political party, really? In, nasty, evil electoral politics? Where there are campaigns and boring, unsexy, lame sounding canvassing and petition signing? Where people are washed out, lacking in any zest for life because all they do is mailing list entry, and then they compete for political office that most folks don’t even pay any attention to?” I would say yes, but I can’t, because third party politics are completely different to me. They’re about something else. Like, kindness and community and, I don’t know, fun, even.

Even when it seems like the world is falling on you on a both personal and political level. The personal is political, after all. For me, too. Regularly. On October 22nd, I was riding my bike in the rain on my way to a Green Party event. Our gubernatorial candidate, Howie Hawkins, was going to be on TV debating against his competitors (who also happen to be corporate sponsored members of the one percent) Rob Astorino and Andrew Cuomo.

As an independent, grassroots third party organization, getting any mass media

coverage is maddeningly rare. Being the total Green Party enthusiast that I am, I was over-the-moon excited to watch Howie serve it to Cuomo. To speak the speech. To represent the working class. To support the 99 percent. My friend and fellow Green Party activist Josh Feintuch was having a viewing party, and I was geeking out and could not wait. I’m riding through that downpour to Josh’s house. I’m pumped.

**“No ambulance! I can’t! I have to stop the Fracking! Howie needs me! Green Party! Grassroots! I don’t have time. I have to... no!”**

And then, I had a head-on-collision with another cyclist in the bike lane beside me. We never saw each other until it was too late. And down we went, my bike out from under me, my body slamming onto the cold, wet pavement. I ripped my glove off to look at my hand, and saw my bones bent in ways I’d never seen before.

I became hysterical. I cried. Not because of the pain. Because of... Howie Hawkins.

“No! No ambulance! I can’t! Please, I don’t have time! I have to stop the Fracking! Howie needs me! Green Party! Grassroots! I have to... no!” As the paramedics peeled my flailing, pathetic body off of the cement, the woman who was helping me, Emily, asked me where she could bring my bike. I tearfully told her Josh’s address. She brought

my bicycle to the debate party and the Greens.

I was desperate for comfort, completely frightened, and infuriated with myself that I’d missed this historical moment on public television. I cried. Michael O’Neil, New York State Green Party co-chair, was the first person to arrive in the E.R. Michael is tall, sturdy, and collected. In just a few movements, it seemed, Michael had removed my rain boots, draped his coat over me to keep me warm, kissed my head and held my hand all the while assuring me, “Yes, Siobhan, Howie did great. You’ll be proud of him. We have a recording. Nope, don’t look at your hand. It’s going to be okay.”

I left the hospital with a board taped on my fingers and a list of hand surgeons. I called them all. They all turned me away, because they wouldn’t accept my health care. And then Gloria Mattera, the other co-chair of the New York Greens, called. She works at Bellevue Hospital, it turns out, and it also turns out that they blessedly take my health care. She booked me an appointment at the hand clinic, assuring me that they’d build me a better splint, give me surgery, and a cast. When I thanked Gloria for literally rescuing me, she said “Kindness and community. That’s my ideal world.”

That night, Josh came over to provide company, comfort, a variety of beer, and support. When I asked if I should get the bike out of his apartment, he said it could stay there as long as I liked it to; he’d take care of it. Kindness and Community.

I struggled, but when I could, I made my way out to the last few weeks of events, actions, and electioneering. I worked along-



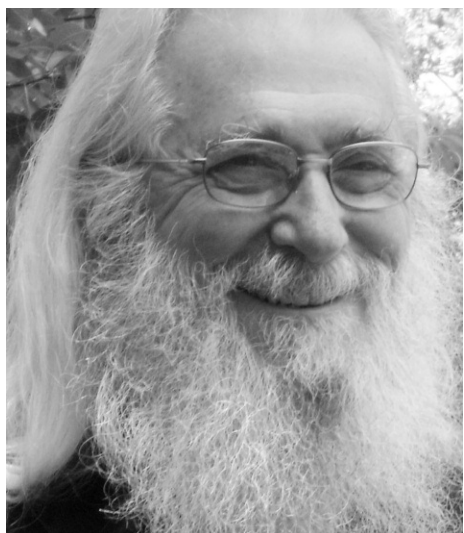
Siobhan O’Loughlin at an emergency room in New York City photo by Kim Fraczek

side people devoted to ending corporate greed, raising minimum wage, uplifting unions, banning Fracking and using only clean safe energy, supporting public schools and prioritizing people over profit.

My activist community, the Green Party of New York City, supported me immediately, right from the start. I never had to ask. Kindness and Community.

Howie’s campaign got five percent of the vote. Which, of course, seems like almost nothing, but it’s huge for us. It also means, obviously, that we didn’t win. My friends and I spent quite a bit of time, energy, and emotional effort on this campaign that we didn’t win. I broke my hand on a bike ride to watch the debate. But at the election night party, Brian Jones (our candidate for Lieutenant Governor) signed my cast. He wrote “You Rock, Siobhan!” and he hugged me. And I can say, quite sincerely, that none of it was wasted. Nor was my vote. This political party and these candidates represent my values to the core. I’d break a bone for Howie Hawkins and Brian Jones. I did break a bone for them. I’d do it again. The Green Party would be there.

Kindness and community.



## Money Power for the Green Economy

Editorial by Howard Switzer, GPUS National Committee delegate from Tennessee

Separation of Powers and the Bill of Rights seemed to do that but actually failed because the private financial interests of the day lobbied hard to prevent the new nation from being able to issue its own paper money. In the end a back door was created in the Constitution that allowed the private financial interests to enter and establish the authoritarian government, which we now suffer under. It remained a major political issue for 140 years. Public education on this is vital, after decades of misdirection, confusion and suppression of the science and history of money.

One of the misconceptions about money is that it must be a commodity or be backed by one. This view of money has always favored the bankers but, as Aristotle noted, “Money exists by law, not by nature.” Aristotle had identified a critical foundation of democracy realizing that issuing money had to be a public function because in private hands the problems, as we see today, are huge.

Now nearly ALL money is created by the privately owned banking system with the stroke of a computer key, based on a promise to repay when an individual, business or government borrows money from the banking system. While the principle is created, the money needed to pay the interest is not, that money must come from money created when someone else, an individual, business or government, borrowed money. This system drives predatory competition, the economic growth imperative, short term thinking, a devastating concentration of wealth into the hands of a few who fund bubbles, fraud, wars and cause a lot of very

bad behavior. It is important to understand that this system is global as every nation, including Russia and China, are beholden to the private central banking authority.

The Green Party plank on monetary reform was based on the work of Stephen Zarlenga and the American Monetary Institute, with the help of long time Greens Dee Berry and Ben Kjelsus. It was further developed as policy, going through the three year rigorous non-partisan legislative legal review, and emerged as The National Emergency Employment Defense Act, the NEED Act, and HR2990. Dennis Kucinich courageously introduced this policy to Congress in 2010 and 2011. It is the first plank of the Green Party Platform to have been made into an actual bill in U.S. Congress!

The key elements of Green monetary reform are:

**1) Dismantle the Federal Reserve** transferring its functions to the U.S. Treasury where a Monetary Authority would be created to monitor prices to avoid inflationary or deflationary trends.

**2) Change accounting rules to prohibit banks from creating debt for money** and ending what’s known as fractional reserve banking.

**3) Empower Congress to create new U.S. money** spending it into circulation to fund the Green New Deal. This would include funding for new food, fuel, energy and transportation infrastructure to address climate change, as well as, health care and education. Funding the Green New Deal would create millions of new jobs moving us toward full employment within months. These steps would eliminate the largest

creator of economic hardship and inequity the world has ever known.

The Green Party is dedicated to reclaiming economic sovereignty for the people of the United States and for the world. We have an opportunity to revive our national politics, by uniting honest people from all political persuasions to reclaim our Money Power. It is an issue that can help people rise above the shallow issues and petty divisions to see the real culprit behind our nation’s troubles, the wizards behind the curtain, those with their hands on the levers of Money Power.

There are those who say the government can’t be trusted who seem to believe it is an entity with its own will. However, our government has a good record on Money Power, when they used it. Government is a tool that can build or tear down. It is a dangerous tool in the wrong hands and should be run by free citizens, not by a few large financial corporations. This issue is about returning the Money Power to the people of the United States, a key leverage point for building democracy. It is said that such a bill is not “politically feasible” but for over 200 years we have been doing only what is politically feasible instead of what is economically sound. The world situation will get worse if we continue to let expediency determine our actions.

The Green Party is uniquely poised to make Money Power a primary issue again as Howie Hawkins is scheduled to speak at the 11th Annual International Monetary Reform conference in Chicago this September. Greens are being given a special low rate to attend, see you there.

Money Power is what eighth president, Martin van Buren, called the power to issue money. It is a privilege, which bestows great wealth and political power. It is the issue that sparked the American Revolutionary War, when the colonist’s paper money systems were outlawed by the British government, which in turn was controlled by the Bank of England. Throughout most of U.S. history private financial interests have controlled the Money Power to the detriment of the American people. The Green Party of the United States is working to reclaim the Money Power, our economic sovereignty, in order to put it under democratic governance.

Looking back historically, it started when the Revolutionary War needed funding. The first Continental Congress, instead of borrowing it, exercised its sovereign right and issued interest-free money to be spent in the economy. Congress created \$200 million in Continentals.

Money Power remained an issue at the Constitutional Convention. The Constitution was an attempt to avoid authoritarian rule, having just fought a war to defeat it. The