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The Green Party is unique because we reject corporate money. We believe that our values — your values — of peace, ecological wisdom, democracy and social justice should be guiding public policy. We are fully funded by real people (not corporations) like you.

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. — Dani Liebling

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The last spikes of democracy and sover- eignty 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 being negotiated in secret by the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative (USTR), Representative Alan Grayson of Florida describes it as “not a free Trade Agreement as 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 ac-

cess, 600 corporations have been advising President Obama and suggesting amend-
ments through a “black book” of proposed changes. These changes include allowing corpo-

rations to challenge the laws, regulations and even court decisions of any member coun-

country—including local, county and state laws—if they are deemed to adversely im-

 pact 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 give the dairy industry the power to challenge munici-

palities that have passed fracking legis-

lation or enacted consumer protection laws. Currently, 180 New York municipalities have 

been advising against hydraulic fracturing, not counting the statewide disaster ban on frack-

ing announced on December 17, 2014.

If ratified, the TPP would establish a system of international tribunals. If it is not 

satisfactory, that’s because it is allowing corpo-

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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 a member of the Popular Resistance.org, a resource website for activists which also organizes several campaigns, including “Flush the TPP.”

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 a political strategy session that will be packed, 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 (includes in the cost of registration).

The point is: 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 shared campaigns, begin new projects, and build alliances with local activists.

We have a great opportunity to help M ove 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 is in our area and we will be targeting them to work on in the state. There are several regional issues that will affect our communities, because the TPP will affect our communities, because the TPP will affect our communities, because the TPP will affect our communities. Congress returns from their recess, they will move to introduce fast-track legislation in late February or early March. And we believe that the TPP will be approved and the TPP passes.

If we can push them back to May without fast-track is approved and the TPP passes? It’s key to stopping this, because that’s when the election comes.

Margaret Flowers

Mobilizing to Stop Fast Track and TransPacific Partnership Free Trade Agreement

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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 prosecutorial 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 review 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

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

Photo by Mike McCallister

Welcome to America!

Shahid Buttar, Green Shadow Cabinet Director of Civil Rights Enforcement

“Why is your agency above the law, sir? ... Why 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 tactfully rewarded. Welcome to America!”

Christina Gonzalez and Matthew Swaye are suing the New York Police Department for wrongly arresting them four different times. As activists who witnessed 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 offices at the national level? Do women serve in equal numbers to men? They do not. Women are a minority in all levels of government, with only 14 of the 100 members of the U.S. Senate being women, compared to 37 of the 100 members in the U.S. House of Representatives. The Green Party of the United States has a long way to go toward 50 percent women. As of 2018, the U.S. ranked 68th out of 134 nations worldwide in representation by women (according to The Nation that ranks countries from 1 to 180). New York City and New York State both rank extremely low in terms of any candidate running in 2015 or 2016, and the Green Party is working to train candidates to use best practices and tools to successfully engage with voters.

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 ballot 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. We’ve found it useful to prompt the 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 by 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 worst 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 senatorial candidates who were polling well and getting a lot of media attention. We decided to divide it 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 out 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 to 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 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 headshots of women and men, which to build if they decide to run for office. The Green Party Women’s Caucus invites women to participate.

Run, women, run!
Success building for Greens across the country

Result summary of 2014 elections

By David McCrorquodale, 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.

Selective State Results

California: At least 38 Greens ran and 23 were elected in 2014: California Greens held elected office statewide. The largest offices won were Bruce Delgado, incumbent, re-elected Mayor of Marina and four Greens elected to city council.

Gayle McLaughlin, two-time term-ed out Mayor of Richmond, was elected to its city council.

Wisconsin: In 2014 Greens won four of seven races for county supervisor. The Greens did incredibly well in Milwaukee County, winning every seat. They also won a total of four Greens in elected offices in Wisconsin, including the four county supervisors in Dane County, where the University of Wisconsin

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 97 local races (34 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. Part of the problem is the (Marin County, CA) Gayle McLaughlin was elected to the city council despite indirect attacks from the Chevron Corporation, who supported her opponents. McLaughlin was a target of Chevron Corporation who injected three million dollars in support of her opponents. McLaughlin was a target of Chevron Corporation who injected three million dollars in support of her opponents. McLaughlin was a target of Chevron Corporation who injected three million dollars in support of her opponents. McLaughlin was a target of Chevron Corporation who injected three million dollars in support of her opponents.

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 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 and 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 Braman 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, water conservation and protecting rate-payers. Braman was first elected to 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 Shriver, Marin County 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 statewide to seven: appointed incumbent, Deborah Heatherson was re-elected (Point Arena, Mendocino County), as well as Paul Pisano (Arcata, Humboldt County) who previously served on the city council (2004-2008) and first-timer John Koener (Paciﬁc, San Mateo County).

Long time Napa Green Amy Martenson also won her first run for elected of ﬁce, defeating a long-term incumbent to win a seat on the Napa Valley College Board of
calls for improving retention rates by having
election. Portland is the stronghold of Green
Trustees. Her platform advocated increased
seats and six for state senate. Results in the
up increasing struggles within the board as
Greens are on city council and two others
ed in two counties—to the Alameda-Contra
Party activism in the state, where two
By David McCorquodale, Green Party Delaware
Maine Green Independent Party continues to grow
continues 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. Interest-
tingly, Eder’s legislative aide, Ben Chipman, has now been elected for a third time to the
state house, but as an Independent.
Secondly, Maine election districts are
154 house districts and 35 senate districts,
the average population constituency is
levels of funding.
3.96 percent, of registered voters. It also
ungreen 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.

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.

Secondly, Maine election districts are 154 house districts and 35 senate districts, the average population constituency is 8,500 and 28,000 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 referendums, 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

#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 in Oregon 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 the primary regardless of political affiliation. Any candidate 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 of Top Two’s 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. Green activists Wendy 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, savegreensdemocracy.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 35th 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 Hader’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 failed 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.

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 mil- lion 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 of these billionaires spent won 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 existed and there would be only two candidates on the general election ballot. Oregon elaborated by emphasizing the lack of choice under Top Two, while Arizona added that the measure would “add new 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, Libertarian, 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 32 in 2010. The 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 either 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 freedom of choice 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 status, could vote for the candidate they believe is best qualified. The Oregon Secretary of State will set the date for the primary election. The two candidates who advance to the general election would be determined by a vote among all candidates regardless of party or status. The top two candidates for each office shall be those who received the highest number of votes in the primary election. The top two candidates would advance to the general election.”

Washington (November 2014): “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 M. 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.”

Elections
Our statewide Green campaigns in New York did not end with the election. The campaign was about changing the policies and politics 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:

1. Retain the Green Party ballot line in New York for another four years. This first goal required receiving at least 50,000 votes in the election, and a lot from 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. Our Green New Deal has eight ballot lines, but only three real parties—Democratic, Republican, and Green. The Green vote line 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 turn-out from 2010 to 2014. The future of the Green vote is with those million disaffected voters, plus the other 6 million or so 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 statistics suggest that the Green vote in 2014 enabled us to reach our second goal.

2. Win five percent to establish the Green Party as a viable party 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 (6.7 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 option in the eyes of the public and the media. Having received 181,419 votes, basically achieved our percentage goal (5%), but with voter turnout the lowest since the war of 1942, we were short on the vote total.

The dynamics were a perfect storm for a progressive third party insurgency like our Green New Deal. Governor Andrew Cuomo had campaigned in 2010 to clean up the notoriously corrupt state government in Albany. But the indictment of corrupt legislators kept coming. He abruptly shut down his commission on public corruption 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 burn 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 leaving 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 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 in 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.

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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 problem, not the solution. 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 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 pri-
mendation of his health and environmental issues we raised in the campaign, which are
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10
By Jon Flanders of New York State
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, busi-
nessman or scion of a wealthy family. Yet as a line worker for the United Par-
cel Service (UPS), he has managed to run for office numerous times from local to statewide, in the process help-
inng 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 independ-
ence and chosen the path of least resist-
ance, 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 who want more than the status quo 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, con-
sultancies, lobbying firms, politicians back offices” to quote an article in the Economist on how countries create a party. Even given that acknowledgement by the Green Party to what was needed in the office - Democracy, Social Justice, Peace, Tolerance, 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.

I thought, this would take some organization and Green inspiration. Being a Green Party leader means to create a movement, to be not just myself but to be better than myself because I would repre-
sent the Green Party. I was flattered of course but wondered if I could be an asset on the ticket. In my career in state govern-
ment I was the manager, work-horse, mod-
erate - “bleat” - that allowed me to become a Comptroller race? I applied the

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, that we shared the challenges and successes in running for NYS Comptroller on the Green Party ballot. During the campaign, whenever discour-
gaged I would look at the various Board of Election’s lists of the ballot and see my name included with the others 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 eth-
ics and cultures had a choice and 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 support-

ters kept me going.

I was completely surprised and hon-
ored 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 many Mayor Albany City School Board races, I knew that running for office means giving up a lot of time for several months. It means crafting policy papers, picking on debating, writing speeches, issuing press releases, meeting with media, and most important of all going door to door in an aggressively promoting myself, the ballot, and party. It means confronting and con-
quer, and all the sacrificed shyness or nerves. It requires focus, determination, curiosity and a thick skin.

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ble, relatable issues that were unique to our
campaign. The Greens can change the con-
versation 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, candi-
dates - 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 jus-
tice reform, fossil fuel divestment, banning fracking and ending mass incarceration. If we are a progressed society then why do we invest in companies that cre-
ate fossil fuel energies? Why as a society do we insist on imprisoning private prisons when we could be treating real public health issue rather than a criminal justice issue? Why do we continue to incar-
cerate young people, overwhelmingly people of color, without options and with no advocate and with-held their talents and contribu-

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

The campaign was a success on many levels but most particularly in having sensi-
ble, relatable issues that were unique to our
campaign. 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.

conservative Democrat and Republican replies yielded just five percent of the vote. In this time of unprecedented economic inequal-
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surge of the anti-austerity politics in the Tour-

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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 of 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. One of my friends had 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 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 chosen to get 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 who 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. 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 even 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 I 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.

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 nine categories of offices contested, saw Green Jay Chou (周江杰) of Hsinchu County’s Chutung (中壢) and WuYiFeng (吳乙豐) of Tainan City’s Chiahsing (赤崁樓) districts on the GPT’s ticket winning the sign in sheets for their respective areas. 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 of 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.

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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 for all intents and purposes it is an 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/hip activist friends will ask me things like “You’re in a political party, really? In, nasty, evil electoral politics? Where there are campaigns and bickering and unsexy, lame sounding canvassing and petition signing? Where people are washed out, lacking in any zest for life because all they do is mail 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 both a 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. My gubernatorial candidate, Howie Hawkins, was going to be on TV debating against his competitors (who also happen to be corporate sponsored media Mic’/ah Sheehy, 7 percent) Rob Astorino and Andrew Cuomo.

As an independent, grassroots third party organization, getting any mass media coverage is maddeningly rare. Being the Green Party activist that I am, I was overjoyed to see an appearance by our candidate to promote it to Cueva to speak. The expression to represent the working class. To support the 99%. I had read of fellow Green Party activist Josh Feintheucl was having a viewing party, and I was seeing it and could not wait. I’m riding through that downpour at Josh’s house. I’m pumped.

“No ambulance! I can’t! I have to stop the Fracking! Howie needs me! Grassroots! 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. I fell down we, my bike out from under me, my body slaming onto the cold, wet pavement. I ripped off my glove to look at my bicycle. All 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 fingers off to fix the broken bones, 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 were desperate for comfort, completely frustrated, and infuriated with myself that I’d missed this historical moment on public television. I cried. Michael O’Neill, 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 moments, he said, “I see your problem, Michael.” He moved my rain boots, draped his coat over me to keep me warm, kissed my hand and held my hand all the while assuring me, “Yes, Siobhan. Howie didn’t give up on me. I’m here. 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 turned me away, because they wouldn’t accept my health care. And Michael O’Neill, 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 took my health care. She booked me an appointment at the hand clinic, assuring me that they’d build me a better split, give me surgery, and a cast. When I thanked her 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, 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 side people devoted to ending corporate greed, raising minimum wage, uplifting unorganized workers, creating a 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.

When the votes were in, 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 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

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 colonists’ 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 states’ own pocketbooks: created $200 million in Continental.

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 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 issuing 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 auctoritarian government, which we now suffer under. It remained a major political issue for 140 years. Public education on the subject is nonexistent. It confuses and suppresses 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 Anstonite noted, “Money exists by law, not by nature.” Anstonite had identified a critical foundation of democracy realizing that issuing money had to be a public function because in a private hand the problems, we see today, are huge.

Now nearly ALL money is created by the privately owned banking system with the structure of a monopolized corporate banking system. Once we issue to repay when an individual, business or government borrows money from the banking system. Since the principle involved, 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 Zerling and the American Monetary Institute, with the help of long time Greens Dee Berry and Kenjius. It was further developed as policy, going through the three of congressional legislative leadership, moving as the 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 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 bank creation of 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, addressing 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 our economy.

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. It 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 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 “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.

Siobhan O’Loughlin is at an emergency room in New York City. Photo by Kim Fraczek