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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 triangulation. 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. — Dan Liebling

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Utah Greens
Reboot, Make Ballot

See story page 4

SIGN THE MEDICAL CANNABIS PETITION

Brendan Phillips, with Gabrielle Saunders
Caught in the hurricane
Texas and Florida Greens tell their stories

Compiled by Deanna Dee Taylor, Green Party of Utah

Hurricane Harvey in Texas

Joy Davis, a Green from Houston, re-
calls the buildup to the hurricane. “Housto-
nians began to prepare for Hurricane Har-
vey. Our Governor, Greg Abbott, told people to evacuate. Our Mayor, Sylvester Turner, told people not to evacuate and to shelter in place. We went out and purchased sup-
plies to carry us over through the storm. The shelves had already begun to look bare. We were able to purchase our essentials. Water went from $3–5 per case to $17–42 per case. Luckily, I had stocked up on water days be-
fore. The prices went up as well in the event you did not stock up before the storm, you were pretty much unable to get anything unless your neighbor had what you needed. In some cities, residents were told to write their names and social security numbers on themselves in case they needed to be iden-
tified after the storm.”

“The worst was not over, according to Davis, after the hurricane passed. In the cities of Houston and Katy, for example, one of the reservoirs began over flowing into the neighborhoods. “The decision was then made to release the waters from the reser-
voir. People were sending the homes that were nearby, to prevent the dams from fail-
ing. So, if you survived without any damage due to Hurricane, your home was now going to be intentionally flooded with water.”

People have lost everything here. They have lost their jobs, cars, homes, family members, and their lives. Our death toll keeps rising.

The ground helping communities with dis-
aster clean up in Columbus, Texas and the sur-
rounding area. She stated how some res-
idents thought that she was with FEMA com-
ing to help them.”

As of September 15th Leviness reported
methods to be Green, “I was trying to think how I could pay it forward so I set up a sign where I’ve been free cycling for the past two plus years… Hurricane Irma cleared away more of the debris from the diseased and decay-
ing systems that need to go. The old systems that are resource extractive and predatory, are shown for what they are. Each crisis high-
lights the gaping holes which are leaving peo-
ple to die, like the extremely vulnerable in
nursing homes, and in their own homes with
their clean food, water, air and connectivity needs. They were going to send
their former identities to get assistance.”

When asked about what the future may hold for Houston, as rebuilding efforts com-
cence, Davis said, “Houston will recover, re-
build, and become even more resilient than before. I believe there were lessons learned that will help our city be better prepared for when these events happen again in the fu-
ture.” As of November many still had no gov-
ernment assistance.

Hurricane Irma in Florida

Joni Leviness, a Green from Ohio who has been caring for her mother in Hol-\nlwood, Florida since March 2015, weath-

ered Hurricane Irma by staying in place, since her mother refused to evacuate.

“Listening to the local public radio WLRN on the internet radio made me realize just how deep the need for connection is espe-
cially in times of turmoil. … What I heard mostly was all the systems that were so touted as being prepared were not, and the Woodlake Dam depth waters were ready to
break free.”

On September 15th Leviness reported
that the community came together to sup-
port each other. “I met more neighbors. We were six days without electricity and keeping mom cool became so much better since a neighbor with electricity and a cord let us plug in an AC. Another neighbor with a gener-
ator let us plug in our fridge and a fan. I hate to think where we’d have been without them. We may have been without electricity, but we were far from powerless.”

Leviness reflected on how to move for-
ward from this experience and what it means to be Green. “I was trying to think how I could pay it forward so I set up a sign where I’ve been free cycling for the past two plus years… Hurricane Irma cleared away more of the debris from the diseased and decay-
ing systems that need to go. The old systems that are resource extractive and predatory, are shown for what they are. Each crisis high-
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nursing homes, and in their own homes with

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GREEN PAGES • Summer 2017
Que Viva Puerto Rico Libre!
By David McCorquodale, Green Party of Delaware

In the late spring of 2017, the Latinx caucus of the Green Party of the United States (GPUS) released a statement by co-chair Darlene Elias, in support of the actions of the New York Puerto Rican Day parade, which noted that “it is now to the point that if Puerto Rican communities no longer stand up against a humanitarian crisis now exists ...” That statement was prescient as the situation has become exponentially worse after the devastating destruction from Hurricane Irma and Maria.

The Greens have long opposed the inhumane treatment of the island and the win-win, both for saving residents and the city money, as well as finally working on the terrible waste problem that is destroying the planet.

A Pay-As-You-Throw program would be a win-win, both for saving residents and the city money, as well as finally working on the terrible waste problem that is destroying the planet.

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The Greens have long opposed the inhuman...
The nation's second-largest state is also one of its reddest. In 2012 and 2014, Republican candidates for president, governor, and U.S. Senate all topped 57 percent of the vote in Texas, and the state has not had a non-Republican governor or senator in more than 20 years. But even in such seemingly inhospitable terrain, the Green Party is making inroads.

This past June, 2017, Alexandra Annello won a seat on the El Paso city council in a run-off election. She garnered more than 60 percent of the vote against an incumbent. In 2012, two Green candidates for statewide office (state Supreme Court and railroad commissioner) received nearly 500,000 votes each, and the GP national ticket received more than 24,000 votes after receiving fewer than one thousand statewide in 2008. Two years later, Green U.S. Senate nominee Emily Marie Sanchez took 12 percent of the vote, and U.S. House candidate Antonio Diaz finished second in a three-way race with 15 percent of the vote. In 2016, Green George Algeth was elected to the city council in Laredo, a city of 250,000.

Texas is a red state, so there is no 'lesser evil' risk in voting Green.

GPTX already set a new record in 2016, with more than 50 candidates running for offices across the state. There are candidates for the U.S. House in 19 of the state’s 36 districts. This was the first time the Green Party fielded candidates in a majority of the state’s races. GPTX has held workshops to prepare for a petition drive for ballot access. Five people have already declared to run for specific offices in 2018, with others intending to run for an undecided office.

“Texas is a red state, so there is no ‘lesser evil’ risk in voting Green,” said Aaron Renaud of GPTX. “Besides, the Democrats do not have the energy or motivation to fix the campaign finance system, in that regard they are just as culpable. In the end, I would say to vote for the only party that doesn’t accept corporate donations. I would say to put real people into office, not politicians.”

But there are challenges in organizing in a state that covers more than a quarter-million square miles and that has more than 250 counties. Co-chair Laura Palmer says, “Because the state is so large, party cohesion is one of our biggest challenges. Getting to know party members in other areas, keeping track of the status of local parties, and having the ability to screen volunteers for key roles are all enormous concerns.” Palmer says the GPTX has started to implement an “intentionally regional approach,” urging organizers to work on the same parts of the state to work together.

Beyond the physical and logistical challenges, some aspects of the Green agenda are a challenge to sell in the Lone Star State. “Obviously Texas is deeply invested in oil and gas, so the complete transition to renewable energy is received with some anxiety and skepticism,” says Palmer. “But even so, people seem willing to concede that it is a transition that must eventually happen. There is also resistance to the idea of a basic income, as if people can’t believe that we could actually provide for everyone. … Still, I think the assurance of basic income could be a comfort to those who have anxiety about systemic transition, so that people need not fear losing their job in the oil and gas sector, because everyone will be allowed a basic living.”

Renaud sees a similar challenge. “While people can easily identify with rooting out corruption, fair campaigns, environmental protections, and other common-sense ideas, the myth of the American Dream is still very powerful, especially in Texas,” he says. “There are many that do not acknowledge the relationship between economic and social oppression.”

Still, as America is changing, so is Texas. As of 2010, nearly 38 percent of the state’s population was Latinx, with 45 percent of residents non-Latinx whites. Only one out of three students in the state’s schools today are non-Latinx whites.

“Our humane perspective on immigration is certainly welcoming to the Hispanic community,” Palmer says. “Poverty, social justice, and the need for single-payer healthcare all resonate here, as does ending the drug war.”

Poverty, social justice, and the need for single-payer healthcare all resonate here, as does ending the drug war.

Renaud says Greens in Texas are reaching out to the state’s Latinx community by working with the new GPUS Latinx Caucus and producing campaign literature in Spanish. He adds, “Many of our members, candidates, and officers are Latinx or speak Spanish much like Texas as a whole.”

“For years, we have watched as the establishment agenda grinds on,” says Palmer. Regardless of which party is in power, we continue our imperialist wars and policies that benefit big business.” But Texas “is very liberty-loving. … To the degree that GPTX can project itself as non-statist and respectful of the rights of individuals while also recognizing the need for government to function for the common good, we emerge as a viable alternative.”

Palmer sees opportunities for the party as voters become disenchanted and turn-out declines.

“With all the billions of dollars that are poured into elections each cycle, the establishment parties can’t even motivate more than one-third of voters to participate,” she notes. “As soon as Greens build enough awareness in the general public, we are poised to emerge as a major factor in U.S. elections by giving the disenfranchised two-thirds something to vote for.”

Politics and music stay in the family

Portraits of a Utah Green – Brendan Phillips

By Deanna Dee Taylor, Green Party of Utah

Brendan Phillips can be described in many ways. He is a stay-at-home dad of two boys, musician and DJ activist and grandson of musician/dissenter, Utah Phillips. The 34-year-old was also Green Party write-in candidate for Utah’s Congressional District 3 special election this fall.

“I began organizing at the young age of 17 years old.” Phillips said he never channelled all of those experiences into politics until 2016, when I was inspired by the Bernie Sanders campaign. “Prior to that, I was largely non-participatory. I felt elections were a sham. I felt my vote was a wasted effort. The Sanders campaign showed me a grass-roots, participatory and can indeed have an impact at the ballot box.”

Much of Phillips’ passion for politics is not coincidental and can be attributed to his grandfather, legendary folk singer and labor organizer Bruce (Utah) Phillips. “My grandfather ran for U.S. Senate in 1968 on the Peace and Freedom Party ticket. He was an anti-war activist and champion for the working class.” Also like his grandfather, Phillips has a deep love for music. “My dream would be to one day own a record store which would serve as a social hub for local musicians, producers, and DJs. I got my first guitar at ten years old, and played my first gig in a bar at eleven.”

Nothing inspires more than seeing different folks, from different walks of life, coming together in solidarity to fight for the common good.

Though Phillips is an active Green Party member, he had to run as an Independent candidate in the special election for Utah’s Congressional District 3 in November. The Green Party of Utah had not yet achieved ballot access at the time of the filing date.
Phillips became attracted to and joined the Green Party because of its platform. “It is the ONLY party whose platform aligns almost perfectly with my ideals. The Green Party rejects war, oppression, and capitalist exploitation. The party supports grassroots democracy, social justice, environmental stewardship, and non-violence. The party offers a perspective and platform that complement my other party.”

Phillips was the driving force behind the petition to get 2016 Green Party presidential candidate Jeffery D. Stein on Utah’s ballot. At the time of the presidential election, Utah did not have an active Green Party, however, Phillips was instrumental in reviving the Green Party of Utah after 2004 and helping to get new members and heading up the petition drive to achieve ballot access, the party reached favorable ballot access laws and became an official party with the state. The first annual convention was held in June where Phillips was elected to serve as one of two national delegates to the GPUS National Committee and government liaison for the Green Party of Utah. He also serves as secretary of the Young Greens of Utah and is a co-chair of the National GPUS Ballot Access Committee. Phillips serves on the Board of Directors of The Long Memory Project, an effort to restore the “barn”, which was an old caboose that served as his grandfather’s recording studio. Phillips is also the secretary of the Tooele County Historic Preservation Commission.

Phillips identified seeing grassroots democracy in action as the most positive thing about working in the Green Party. “To see solidarity and direct action unite the people is an inspiring experience, and it is this experience that oftentimes keeps me going. When you can work with those fighting for the same things, stand together in solidarity, and collectively organize your energy, it can be very powerful, a force in making change. There is nothing more inspiring than seeing collective direct action directly influence change.”

“Most un-American thing you can do is to stifl e dissent.” – Utah Phillips

The greatest difficulty as a Green for Phillips is dealing with his own fear and self-doubt. “Politics are dog eat dog. They are designed to keep the average guy out, and the status quo in place. People like me are mocked and intimidated, and encouraged to simply butt out. I often feel like I fish out of water, which is exactly how the establishment wants me to feel. They want me to return to non-participation. Sometimes I think there is no way I can do the right thing.”

Bruce "Utah" Phillips, labor activist and folk singer

### Fair Taxation

**The national platform on fair taxation**

Fair taxes for corporations and the wealthy.

End corporate welfare, such as the bailout for Wall Street, the big banks and the automobile industry; subsidies for for-profit health care, an end to tax abatements for big box stores; the tax loophole for “carried interest” from private equity investments; tax loopholes for advertising and business entertainment; offshore tax avoidance schemes; giveaways for new sports stadiums and casinos.

Impose a financial transaction tax on trades of stocks, bonds, currency, derivatives and other bank loan guarantees.

Block financial transactions with tax havens, to stop tax evasion.

Decrease the home value home mortgage interest tax deduction for federal income taxes, to reduce the tax subsidy to those living in the most expensive homes.

Restore the estate tax.

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

Oppose the privatization of Social Security.

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

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

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

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

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

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

To ensure that prices reflect their true environmental-cost, enact a system of True Cost Pricing (TCP) for goods and services. TCP is an accounting and pricing system that includes all costs in the price of a product or service, not just those costs that can be immediately or prolonged damage (pollution of air and water) and diminishment of natural resources caused by their acts.

Impose a carbon fee on goods imported from nations with lower carbon taxes than in the U.S., based upon the carbon spent in manufacturing and transporting them to the U.S.

**Other tax reform issues**

- Simplify the tax code. Make it transparent, understandable and resistant to the machinations of powerful corporate and wealthy interests.
- Eliminate tax incentives to send jobs overseas.
- Raise taxes on tobacco, alcohol, soda pop and other junk food.
- Impose a carbon fee on goods imported from nations with lower carbon taxes than in the U.S., based upon the carbon spent in manufacturing and transporting them to the U.S.
- Other tax reform issues...

### Tax bill another reason to vote Green

**By Joy Davis, Green Party of Texas**

As one of the Green Party’s National Outreach Committee co-chairs as well as a co-chair of the National Women’s Caucus, I want to let you about the senate and house versions of the GOP Tax Reform bill and what it could mean for you.

Tuition waivers, for example: currently, grad students who work as research assistants are exempt from paying taxes on the tuition waivers they receive in exchange for work. Under the House bill, the exemption for tuition waivers would be eliminated. This means graduate students would have to count the waivers as income, even though they did not receive the money directly. Under the Senate bill, the exemption for tuition waivers would remain in place.

The Senate amendment to the House bill also includes a provision to allow for drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. We continuously see the damage that occurs when these pipelines leak. It is an environmental disaster.

Under the Senate bill, the exemption for tuition waivers would remain in place.

The upcoming 2018 elections are so important because 33 Senate seats and all 435 House seats are up for election next November.

We want you to not only vote Green. We want you to join the Green Party and get involved at the local level as well as at the national level. We also encourage you to run for office. We want to continue seeing Green candidates getting elected, so let’s send a message to Congress. Every Representative that voted in favor of this tax reform bill, we will vote against them in November and vote Green in 2018.

**The most un-American thing you can do is to stifl e dissent.” – Utah Phillips**

The greatest difficulty as a Green for Phillips is dealing with his own fear and self-doubt. “Politics are dog eat dog. They are designed to keep the average guy out, and the status quo in place. People like me are mocked and intimidated, and encouraged to simply butt out. I often feel like I fish out of water, which is exactly how the establishment wants me to feel. They want me to return to non-participation. Sometimes I think there is no way I can do the right thing.”
Maine legislators join Green Party

By Deyva Arthur, Green Party of New York State

The Party’s commitment to clean money politics and real democracy has been a significant cause of two Maine State Representatives in office to defect to the Green Party. Henry John Bear and Ralph Chapman both joined the Maine Green Independent Party this fall, making them the highest-ranking elected Green officeholders in the country.

“I have joined the Maine Green Independent Party in order to highlight the democracy-diminishing effects of corporate funding influence on the statehouse party leadership of Maine’s two largest political parties,” Chapman said of his reason for leaving the Democratic Party. “I saw more clearly that even our state legislature is largely controlled by accountability to funding sources, not people. The Maine Green Independent Party offers an alternative. In essence, the Maine Green Independent Party is demonstrating, by its actions, how to behave as though the Citizens United Supreme Court decision were overturned.”

The Green Party does not accept corporate donations, in contrast to the Democrats and Republicans. In his fourth term serving District 133, which comprises Blue Hill, Brooklin, Brooksville, Castine, Sedgwick and Sumy, Chapman decided to change affiliation after lawmakers overturned citizen-initiated legislation particularly in regard to ranked voting and minimum wage increases. A month after Chapman defected, Bear also decided to join the Maine Greens. “I have found that our issues are very similar,” said Bear on why he joined the party, “especially on the issues of the environment and civil rights and sustainable economic development and income equity. I believe in health care for everyone who can’t afford it and I believe in ensuring that one person’s hard day’s work results in a living wage, enough for a house and a car payment, and food for her family.”

Bear has held office since 2013 and was the first elected member of the Maine House of Representatives on behalf of the Maliseet people of the Houlton Band. Like Chapman, he left the Democratic Party to join the Greens. Party co-chair, Jon Olsen said, “We Greens have long understood that our values of ecological wisdom, stewardship, and social justice are congruent with those of the traditions of First Peoples in this land.”

Chapman also has a dedication to the environment and ecological sustainability. A scientist for more than 25 years, he has worked at Massachusetts Institute of Technology’s Lincoln Lab and Tufts University’s Electro-Optics Technology Center. More recently, Chapman has worked with United Technologies Center. His research concentrates on renewable energy and energy efficiency. He currently sits on the state Joint Standing Committee on Agriculture, Conservation, and Forestry.

“The Maine Green Independent Party is demonstrating, by its actions, how to behave as though the Citizens United Supreme Court decision were overturned.” — Ralph Chapman

Olsen thinks this may be the start of a trend for politicians to choose the Green Party. “We hope that other legislators of either major party will consider following [their] lead and that new aspiring candidates will do so as well. Toxic political environments, like physical toxic environments must be detoxificationed.”

Maine has been a high point for the Green Party. Chapman and Bear follow John Eder in highest office holding Greens. Eder served two terms from 2002 – 2006 in the Maine House of Representatives.

California candidate arrested at DACA protest

On December 5, Green congressional candidate Angelica Dueñas was detained by police, after demonstrating in Senator Diane Feinstein’s Los Angeles office in support of permanent protection for DACA (Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals) recipients. Dueñas made a statement about DACA and her detention:

The current presidential administration is on the path of destroying millions of people’s lives — including by taking away DACA protection from over 800,000 Dreamers, putting them at risk to lose everything that they are working for. Breaking up families and destroying homes. And robbing us all of the rich contributions Dreamers have to offer. And I, and several others went to Senator Feinstein’s office today to exercise our First Amendment rights, in order to highlight the importance of protecting our DACA recipients and brothers’ right to stay in the country they call home.

We condemn President Trump’s refusal of Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA), and we call for Congress to immediately pass legislation to permanently protect young immigrants who have come here as children without legal status. We also call for Congress to immediately begin the process for comprehensive immigration reform towards a legal path to citizenship for all NOW.

We chose Senator Feinstein’s office to highlight her role and responsibility as a senior Senator from California, a state with the most Dreamers in the country.

While we were prepared to be arrested if necessary to promote this issue, we were shocked when we were detained and escorted off the property in handcuffs by police officers within seconds! This suggests insufficient interest in the Senator’s office in hearing our concerns.

We believe that our elected officials are public servants. Their role is to make their constituents’ voices heard and fight for our issues. We also believe that it is our responsibility as community members that our representatives hear our demands. With the 2018 elections approaching, it is time to identify who stands with the People — and vote accordingly.

That’s why we took the step of getting arrested in order to highlight the inactivity of our elected officials. We hope our message gets through to Senator Feinstein and that she supports a Clean Dream Act to give permanent protection to the Dreamers.

“I know that this is what our constituents want in CA 29.”

In solidarity,

For the Green Party of Los Angeles County Statement on DACA go to: In English: losangeles.cagreens.org/issues/daca-nov-2017.
In Spanish: losangeles.cagreens.org/issues/daca-nov-2017-esp

Greens of the Americas meet in Cancun

The Federación de Partidos Verdes de las Americas (FPVA) held its annual meeting November 26-29 in Cancun, Quintana Roo, Mexico, with Greens from eleven countries in attendance. — Argentina, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Dominican Republic, Guatemala, Mexico, Peru, Venezuela and the United States. The Green Party of Mexico was represented by three delegates, picture here from left to right: Bahram Zandi (first on left), Mike Feinstein (four from left) and Ahmed Al-Touny (last on right). They are pictured here with members of the Young Greens of the Americas, that also met in Cancun over the same dates. Also pictured is Maria Isabel Moreno Salazar (fourth from right), who at 23 years old is the youngest member of Colombia’s national legislature. In addition to general business meetings of the FPVA, delegates and young Greens met with Green Mayors in Cancun and Puerto Morelos, and attended a debate among three candidates seeking to be elected next president of the Green Party of Mexico (Partido Verde Ecologista de Mexico). The FPVA has been meeting annual since 1998, working on international Green issues and promoting the growth of Green Parties throughout the hemisphere. Prior to the FPVA, Greens in Mexico, Canada and the U.S. formed CANAMEX in 1991, to bring Greens together from the three countries to work to oppose the North American Free Trade agreement being negotiated at that time. Eventually CANAMEX led to the founding of the FPVA.

On December 5, Green congressional candidate Angelica Dueñas was detained by police, after demonstrating in Senator Diane Feinstein’s Los Angeles office in support of permanent protection for DACA (Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals) recipients. Dueñas made a statement about DACA and her detention:

The current presidential administration is on the path of destroying millions of people’s lives — including by taking away DACA protection from over 800,000 Dreamers, putting them at risk to lose everything that they are working for. Breaking up families and destroying homes. And robbing us all of the rich contributions Dreamers have to offer. And I, and several others went to Senator Feinstein’s office today to exercise our First Amendment rights, in order to highlight the importance of protecting our DACA recipients and brothers’ right to stay in the country they call home.

We condemn President Trump’s refusal of Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA), and we call for Congress to immediately pass legislation to permanently protect young immigrants who have come here as children without legal status. We also call for Congress to immediately begin the process for comprehensive immigration reform towards a legal path to citizenship for all NOW.

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In solidarity,
The proposed Back 40 Mine will poison Menominee County waters, members agreed at a recent meeting of the Green Party of Michigan (GPMI). They continue to support and promote a moratorium of metallic sulfide mining similar to a moratorium in Wisconsin.

Also known as the ‘Prove It First’ law, the mining law in Wisconsin has helped protect their North Woods for nearly 20 years.

The Back 40 Mine would involve sulfide ore mining only 60 to 100 feet from the Menominee River and would create an 83-acre open pit mine over 750 feet deep as well as 152 acres of tailings. It will impact not only the land and waters of the Upper Peninsula, but also those of bordering Wisconsin.

Metallic sulfide mining creates acid mine drainage that can persist for thousands of years, destroying entire aquatic ecosystems and leaving a lasting heavy burden for taxpayers. And the fact is, there’s never been such a mine that didn’t seriously pollute its surrounding waters. This kind of mining threatens our traditional lifestyle of hunting, fishing, and gathering from a healthy land. It threatens a sustainable heritage that goes back centuries.

Menominee County resident and mother Regina Chaltry said “The local communities around the Menominee River and Green Bay are joining together to stop this mine from happening, which is evident by the number of surrounding counties, cities, towns and Tribal governments who have passed resolutions against the Back 40.”

“Wisconsin passed a moratorium on metallic sulfide ore mining in the state in 1998 after enormous pressure from people all across Wisconsin on the pro-mining administration of Tommy Thompson,” GPMI member Linda Cree adds. “Unfortunately, efforts to repeal the moratorium have been launched recently by those hoping to develop a new mining district extending from northern Wisconsin and across the western Upper Peninsula of Michigan.”

Chaltry points out that the moratorium doesn’t ban mining. “All mining corporations really must do is prove that sulfide mining can be done without polluting ground and surface water. If this advanced technology existed, then that law would not even be an issue.”

“For example, the Back 40 Mine would involve sulfide ore mining only 60 to 100 feet from the Menominee River and would create an 83-acre open pit mine over 750 feet deep as well as 152 acres of tailings. It will impact not only the land and waters of the Upper Peninsula, but also those of bordering Wisconsin.”

“Also known as the ‘Prove It First’ law, the mining law in Wisconsin has helped protect their North Woods for nearly 20 years,” Cree said. “In 2006, GPMI passed a resolution calling for a similar sulfide mining moratorium in Michigan. Like Wisconsin, we’re a water-rich state that could be devastated by metallic sulfide mining and the inevitable pollution it entails."

GPMI’s call for a Wisconsin-style moratorium says: “No metallic sulfide mining will occur in Michigan until it can be proven that one metallic sulfide mine in the United States or Canada has operated for 10 years and been closed for 10 years without contaminating the groundwater or surface water.”

For more information visit the GPMI website at www.MIGreenParty.org.
In 2017, Greens across the nation have been politically active and involved with the most candidates running in an off-year election. Here is a summary of some of what they have been getting up to.

Nationally, 44 Greens were elected, bringing the total number of Green office-holders to 137. In addition, despite 2016 having the lowest number of enrolled Greens in 15 years, 2017 experienced a 19 percent increase of registered Greens with a total of 257,389. This makes the Green Party of the United States the fourth-largest party in the country, and the largest that doesn’t accept corporate money.

Green Party of Utah gains ballot access: On September 18, the Green Party of Utah received notification from the Lieutenant Governor’s office that it had met the 2,200 signature threshold to gain ballot access as a political party in Utah. This allows for Green Party candidates to appear on ballots in 2018/2020, and voters will be able to register to vote as Green beginning November 30.

On June 10 in El Paso, Texas, Alexander Anello won a City Council seat in District 2. Although it was a non-partisan election, Anello was endorsed by the El Paso County Green Party. On June 30 in Minneapolis city council voted to accelerate the phase-in of the $15/hour minimum wage. While council member Cam Gordon (G) argued for a faster phase-in for large companies, he reluctantly supported the five-year phase-in that the majority of council supported.

The Georgia Green Party has posted an online interview with Dr. Margaret Flowers on single payer healthcare, which can be found at georgiagreensparty.org.

In New York, Jabari Brisport ran an independent campaign for City Council in Brooklyn, receiving 29 percent of the vote and demonstrating a Red-Green Alliance for Greens and Socialists around the US! In Glens Falls, Robin Barkenhagen received 35 percent of the vote for Councilor-At-Large, riding a swell of community support that we know will only grow with him in the fights ahead. In Syracuse, first-time candidates Eric Graf and Serena Seals broke into double-digits, representing movements for Socialism and Black Lives Matter (see article below).

New York gets attention in local elections

By Peter LaVenia, Green Party of New York State

2017 was a banner year for Greens in New York: we put forward 47 candidates and per- haps the most significant number of serious local campaigns in our party’s history. As Greens, we find our greatest success in local elections, where we reach the electorate door-to-door and do our best work countering the influence of big money by educating voters about our platform and putting forth a determined volunteer effort. Local election years tend to be ignored by the media, and often by the voters, too; yet this year was quite different: the amount of press and ex- citement generated by our local campaigns was unprecedented.

A quick rundown of some of our campaign shows why this is so. Jabari Brisport, running as a Green and a Socialist for New York City Council District 15, was profiled in New York Magazine, The Intercept, and the Huffington Post. Jabari’s race energized the local party and brought dozens of activists into his campaign and donations to reach New York City’s level for matching funds. Jabari received 29 percent of the vote, which represents a new and hopeful sign that the Greens and the resurgent party mention in the press: Cassandra Lems, running for Nassau County Executive on Long Island, was invited to participate in a candidate debate for the office, a major step forward for candidates in Nassau. Howie Hawkins, running for mayor of Syracuse, participated in multiple mayoral debates and received prolific local media coverage, and he placed third in the race, ahead of the Republican Party’s candidate. Eric Graf and Serena Seals ran for 2nd and 4th District Councilor in Syracuse, and represented platforms for socialism and Black Lives Matter.

New Green candidates enter races in 2017

In 2017, Greens across New York City and brother of Kalief Browder, is the founder of Shut Down Rikers and a social justice advocate; his fierce criticism of the criminal justice system won him and the Greens across the state were taken seriously this year as candidates, from Albany to Buffalo, upstate to downtown, due to

Akenee Browder, Green candidate for NYC mayor marches to shut down Rikers Island Jail. (Photo by Tomas Mantilla)
Connecticut Greens successful this election
Small, local campaigns make it possible

By David McCorquodale, Green Party of Delaware

The Green Party of Connecticut ran 30 candidates in the elections held this past November and saw 12 endorsed candidates win office. Although an off year for statewide elections, the state had many municipal positions open. If Greens start to make serious inroads in getting candidates elected to political office, it will probably begin in a state like Connecticut, where in a relatively small city there can be many offices available for which to run.

GPCT currently has eight chapters with more in formation. Each chapter controls its endorsements in its local town or county chapter, with five chapters putting forward candidates. The GPCT website lists dozens of Greens serving in positions in municipalities. Many are voluntary, but before this election GPCT also had eight people in elected offices.

In this author’s state of Delaware, with exceptions for non-partisan elections of boards of education or small, non-partisan town councils, or the totally Democratic-party-controlled city of Wilmington, everything is run at the county or state level, making it all too expensive to run a serious campaign. Political appointees make many decisions with little public participation.

But in Connecticut, citizens can not only run for partisan election on school boards or small city councils, but for boards of finance, zoning and planning, assessment, fire department commission, or constable. Such a situation allows Greens to run small campaigns that can reach most constituents without great expense.

In Waterford, the town committee endorsed nine candidates. A couple of these candidates were registered Democrats with the rest being Greens. The Democratic Party also endorsed all of these candidates. The GPCT does not allow cross-endorsement on the state level, but chapters may do so. Ronna Stuller, Secretary of GPCT and Chair of the New London Town Committee opines, “To me, it’s an absurdity that we ever feel the need to engage in this sort of game playing, but for now it’s one of the very few ways we can level the field.” It appears that Connecticut Greens choose these alliances with the party that is out of power as Republicans control Waterford.

On the other hand, in New London Miriam Martinez won a seat on the board of education two times with an endorsement from the Republicans. Martinez is running strictly as a Green this time.

Serena Seals, Green candidate for city council in Syracuse, NY

Connecticut Greens ran an unprecedented number of candidates for an off-election year.

“Windham Greens won four out of six races, and we were the second highest vote getting party. We’re damned proud of ourselves!” – Jean de Smet

Here are the highlights of the elections for each chapter:

- The nine Waterford Town Committee endorsed candidates, seven were elected. Waterford has four Town Meeting Districts, but each district elects five or six people. Greens elected one person in each district: Andrew Frascarelli (1st district), Baird Welch Collins (2nd), Joshua S. Kelley (3rd), and Carl D’Amato (4th). Darcy Van Ness was elected to the Zoning Board of Assessment. All of these candidates received endorsements from the Democratic Party. Two Democrats, endorsed by the Green Party, were elected: Deborah Roselli Kelly to the Board of Education and Michael Buscetto to the Board of Assessment Appeals. Two Green candidates for the Board of Finance, Kevin Kelly and Bill Collins, were not elected.

- In Windham, the most prominent of its Town Committee’s six candidates was Jean de Smet, who ran for Mayor. De Smet, who was the running mate of Cliff Thornton’s gubernatorial bid in 2006, won the seat of First Selectman, now re-titled Mayor, in Windham in 2007. This time, in a four-candidate race for Mayor, de Smet lost with 37 percent of the vote, with 41 percent going to the Democrat, who was also on the Working Families ballot line. Other Green Party candidates in Windham were elected in multi-position races: Douglas Lary (Board of Finance, 20 percent), Cassandra Marineau (Board of Education, 11 percent, and Mike Westerfield (Board of Assessment Appeals, 17 percent), Corey Krohn (Town Committee, 13 percent) was not elected.

- In Willimantic, another town in Windham County, Dagmar Noll won a seat on the town council in a six-person multi-position race, with 26 percent (771 votes) to 25 percent of the vote, compared to the highest vote getter receiving 9.3 percent.

- In Stonington, another town in Windham County, Hector Lopez was seeking re-election as Constable in New Canaan. Lopez was another Constable, and the Shoreline Chapter, newly formed this past spring fielded four candidates. In the town of Madison Charles Owen got 12 percent running for the Board of Finance, while Michael Abbondandolo received five percent for a Board of Election seat. In the town of Clinton Hugh Birdsell ran for Board of Education, while James Connolly ran for the Planning and Zoning Commission. None were elected.

Overall the Green Party of Connecticut is gaining ground for local political offices. In this election it added a total of nine newly elected candidates, plus Mirna Martinez’s re-election and the cross-endorsement of two elected Democrats, while losing two positions for Constable.
We need green voices in this nation!  
We need Green legislators in Congress!  
We need you to keep the Green Party Strong! 

What can I do?  
Donate what you can to strengthen our voice so that we can make our vision a reality. If you have given recently, please consider giving more. And, if you haven't given in some time, please consider making today the day you give.

If you can only afford a little each month, you can be a valuable part in revitalizing the Green Party, and now serves as a Co-chair of the Wisconsin Green Party.

We need green voices in this nation! 
We need Green legislators in Congress! 
We need you to keep the Green Party Strong!

Make a commitment:  
I would like to give the following to keep our party strong:  
$100 $250 $50 $25 $25 Other Amount:

I would like to give an ongoing monthly gift of:  
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Elections/Opinion  
Stein/Baraka build the Green Party 
A review of the effects of the 2016 presidential campaign  
By Dave Schwab, Wisconsin Green Party

Jill Stein and Ajamu Baraka’s 2016 Presidential campaign was the Green Party’s most highly visible campaign since Ross Perot’s 1996 run. New state parties have come online in 27 states where the party hadn’t been active before 2016, including Utah, Montana and Nevada. Greens in Mississippi, previously split between the Progressive Party and a St. Louis chapter affiliated with Green Party USA, have reunited as the Mississippi Green Party. Many established state parties have experienced an influx of both new members and reactivated veteran members.

The 2016 campaign was particularly successful at using social media to bypass the gatekeepers of corporate media and reach the public directly.

On the national level, the Green Party of the United States now employs 5 state members: an office manager, web manager, media director, fundraiser and national political organizer. Although several state parties still have sizeable dues-paying members, shares many goals with the Greens and supported a number of Ohio, Alabama, and New Hampshire which otherwise low activity or even no affiliated state party.

The party has not yet managed to harness the fundraising potential tapped by the presidential campaign. A November 2016 ballot access email acknowledges: “We are entering a key election year, yet we have remarkably low financial reserves and are facing cuts to our party’s proposed budget across the board.” This raises critical questions about what steps the party must take in order to sustainably fund a national organization.

The Green Party’s media presence grew thanks to the 2016 campaign, which saw landmarks such as the first hour-long CNN town hall devoted to the Green presidential ticket. While much of the coverage was anti-agnostic and focused on how Greens threaten the lesser evilism of the two-party system, it nevertheless opened channels for independent thinkers to learn more about the party.

The 2016 campaign was particularly successful at using social media to bypass the gatekeepers of corporate media and reach the public directly. This insurgent presence on social media demonstrated enough support for the campaign that the corporate media had to at least a small amount of coverage, if only to maintain the illusion of an objective free press. In April 2016 Jill joined the top trending topics on both Facebook and Twitter, and when interviewed live on Facebook by ABC News she shattered their previous record for viewership ten times over. Twitter has verified the accounts of the national party as well as 23 state parties and 2 caucuses; a new recognition of legitimacy, thanks to the Greens and supported a number of the Greens and supported a number of Green campaigns in 2017. Our Revolution, the organization founded by Senator Bernie Sanders after his Democratic primary run, ended several Greens. Many Sanders supporters gravitated to the Green Party af- 

and now serves as a Co-chair of the Wisconsin Green Party.

The 2016 campaign played an unsa-

The historic unpopularity of the estab-

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DISCOVER $250 $100 $50 $25 $10 Other Amount:

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A peace dividend: end war, get paid!

Commentary by Daniel Martin, Green Party of Pennsylvania

Ajamu Baraka, Green Party running mate in the 2016 presidential election recently wrote “Urgent: we need an anti-war movement to curtail the U.S. rogue state which continues to be a danger to the whole world.” Nothing could be more true. Before we can solve any of our domestic problems, it makes sense to work towards the single most effective way to simultaneously save lives, free up money to invest in a greener economy, and directly take care of people: ending wars. Shouldn’t this be the number one focus of the Green Party, and that which most sets us apart from the parties in power?

But perhaps the prospect of ending war may not be enough incentive alone for the majority of Americans to take action. As a seasoned activist in the antiwar movement, I’ve observed various strategies fail over the years. Some of us try to explain the imprac- ticability of our wars to people, others try to appeal to conscience. Some fail their idealism and share their utopian visions of world peace. None of these things seem to have moved any wider public appeal to connect with the masses. War has become so ingrained in our culture, and our oligarchs have so effectively sold the threat of terrorism and “evil” dictators, that almost everyone turn a blind eye. And because it is waged far across the globe and with minimal American casualties, the war becomes an abstraction to the majority of the populace.

Now imagine passing by an antiwar rally and seeing a sign that said “Peace Dividend: End War, Get Paid!” Would this get your at- tention? What if a candidate for U.S. House, Senate, or President promised to introduce a bill or action that would not only end wars, but give people money... a share of the money we’d be saving by not going to war, and that the government would give people money to invest in a greener economy, and our oligarchs would have to share their utopian visions of world peace?

Many will be skeptical of this idea. Jill Stein ran on a platform which included canceling student debt. Many of us had high hopes for the popularity this might gain for Greens, but were profoundly disappointed on election night. But there is a huge differ- ence between promising to eliminate debt for a small subset of the population, and promising, say, $14,000 to every American household. Without getting too much into the de- tails of how we would pay for it, consider the following:

1. In a report by the Department of De- fense (DOD), it estimates that the wars in Afghanistan, Iraq and Syria cost each U.S. tax payer $7,500.
2. According to the War Resisters League, 28 percent of our multi-trillion income tax revenue goes towards current military ex- penditures, with another 20 percent for past military costs, including veterans’ ben-

This spring the Green Party of Delaware de- clared support for a bill introduced in the Delaware legislature pertaining to the end- of-life options a terminally ill person may or may not decide to choose. Under current law, a terminal patient is left with only two choices: either decide to suffer a slow, lingering death or struggle for a little bit of control, where now they have none. Why do I find this issue so important? I am a terminal patient.

I’ve been diagnosed with a rare disease called Spinocerebellar Ataxia (SCA). SCA is a hereditary, degenerative, neurologic con- dition; I will eventually die from complications such as aspiration pneumonia. I will be completely aware of my body’s inability to perform the most basic functions, like bathing and eating. Ultimately, even talking will be impossible. I fear these final months the most, when I will watch my loved ones cry and listen to hushed conversations about me from a tomb-like body.

There is no cure for what have. No mir- acle will save me. My only hope of not having to endure months of distress and being a constant burden to my family is the possi- bility of having a doctor help me to safely and painlessly go to meet my creator.

This summer, GPDE collected 280 sig- natures on a petition explaining how terminally patients’ rights are being infringed. GPDE supports HB 160, and agrees that terminal patients’ inalienable civil rights need to be recognized by allowing them the freedom to choose their end-of-life options with the aid of their physician.

In summation, GPDE is committed to supporting effective medical interventions that of- ten increase suffering and prolonging the dying process, is fundamentally in opposition to all, and so believe that citizens have the right to choose their end-of-life op- tions. Medical aid in dying enables a terminally competent, terminally ill adult other options in the face of unbearable, inevitable suffering. We recognize that the choices a person makes at the end of life are inalienably grounded in that individual’s life experience and values.

In conclusion, GPDE is committed to supporting effective medical interventions that of- ten increase suffering and prolonging the dying process, is fundamentally in opposition to all, and so believe that citizens have the right to choose their end-of-life options. Medical aid in dying enables a terminally competent, terminally ill adult other options in the face of unbearable, inevitable suffering. We recognize that the choices a person makes at the end of life are inalienably grounded in that individual’s life experience and values.
By Ursula Rozum, Green Party of New York State

How to get Universal Health Care

Universal health care is a political idea which is finally getting the attention it deserves. There are now single-payer healthcare bills in several state legislatures. In the national level, the Improved and Expanded Medicare for All Bill (HR 676) has more Congressional cooperation than any previous year. The 2018 campaign season is well underway and the future of healthcare will be a primary election issue across the country in state and federal level races.

A commitment to establishing a universal, public health care program runs deep within our Green Party DNA. The Green Party has always had the right position in support of universal health care but how can we move beyond being merely holding the right position and building the power necessary to transform the healthcare system into one that is humane and democratic? That this is a problem in our culture should be clear enough from the fact that children being born today will be liberating for the vast majority of us. Everyone is included and can meet their healthcare needs and there are no out-of-pocket costs (also known user fees).

Comprehensive: Full benefits, choice of doctor and covering all medically necessary care as determined by the patient’s health care professionals.

Accountability and Transparency: The people running the plan will be accountable to the public and health program laws and policies.

Equity: Funded fairly, based on ability to pay, with access to high quality care assured for all and everyone, regardless of income or wealth, is covered by the same health plan.

Participation: Everyone has a meaningful voice in decisions that impact us all.

By adulthood I mean treating children and young people as though they have full respect for their humanity. That this is a problem in our culture should be clear enough from the fact that children being born today will be liberating for the vast majority of us. It is necessary to take on adulthood in the culture, not only because of the harm being done in an ongoing way to children, but also because the dysfunctional aspects of our culture which we have internalized attitudes about ourselves and the world as a consequence of the hurtful treatment we had to accept of mostly well-intentioned adults) as children. We need to take responsibility for the mistreatment of children make progressive politics nearly impossible. The tendencies to see things in terms of good and bad, others as enemies, and to punish those we hold to be ‘bad’, are regarded as unquestionable and righteous when applied to children. These attitudes have become internalized in adults for whom growing up being punished for being ‘bad’ was a way of life.

We should suggest that progressive politics needs to be based on the assumption that we will lead to conflict are there as the result of growing up in an oppressive culture. That cultures internalize through misinformaton and mistreatment at an early age. The mis treatment has systemic aspects that serve to reinforce racism, sexism and deference to the upper classes, the latter through the destruction of our inherent sense of self-worth, by representing an endless possibility to be ‘good enough’ if we are to end these “isms” in the culture, we will have to stand against adulthood, the means by which they are installed, if we intervene now, the children born today will be far more able to create a world out of their lives, and witness the coming of a new world and authorith. In the short term, let us stand for making corporal punishment of children illegal, (as it is in 51 other countries). Beyond that, we need to stand, and be seen stand ing, for the welfare and full humanity of children, in every issue with which we are involved.

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If we intervene now, the children being born today will be far more able to create a world out of their love for it, rather than their fear of others and authority.

There is also work we need to do on ourselves. We do not usually realize to which we have internalized attitudes about ourselves and the world as a consequence of the hurtful treatment we had to accept of mostly well-intentioned adults) as children. These attitudes and patterns of behavior limit our ability to think and coop erate with others. We must lave for the first time resentment, sadness, embarrassment and fear from times when we felt powerless in relation to the adults around us. These past experiences lie in wait. The emotions and the coping mechanisms we put in place when we were children take over when something in the present triggers a hurtful experience of the past. When triggered, we fight with each other over perceived slight that aren’t intended, see people as antagonists to be dominated by better arguments, by outvot ing them, by outmaneuvering them, rather than reaching for them to see what they are needing from us and their world.

We are not always that way. As chil dren, before we got too hurt, we were willing to love and be loved by anyone we met. This is our inherent nature, covered over by the painful inflicted by a culture that didn’t know who we were. We need to take responsibility for our past hurts, not act on the feelings they evoke when triggered, and let the feel ings surface to be released when it seems safe enough to do so. Healing is possible, and it will only happen when we allow the childish love and the childlike fear to be released.

George Reiter is co-chair Harris County Green Party in Houston, Texas.