GREEN POLITICS ADVANCE IN '96

Nineteen ninety-six was a year that found more and more Americans dissatisfied with the political status quo. It also was the most successful year ever for the Green Party. A record sixteen Greens were elected on the local level, including the first-ever Green City Council majority in the US (in Arcata, California). On the national level, the presidential campaign of Ralph Nader and Winona LaDuke accelerated the growth of the Green Party as an organization, as well as in the consciousness of the general public. What led to this success and how did the Greens take advantage of the historical moment that '96 presented?

To start with, there was an increased general receptivity for a new party in '96, with polls suggesting at least 62% of voters wanted one. In addition, the rightward shift of the Democrats created a specific room for a progressive party like the Greens. But in addition to these contextual factors, there also needed to be a strategy to take advantage of these opportunities, particularly given the strong two-party bias of the US winner-take-all electoral system.

The Greens' strategy has always been a long-term one: first, build a foundation through local electoral work, growing out of community-based, issue-oriented activism. Second, contest only selected state and national offices, preferably where the Greens already have a base of support. Third, while running to win within the current electoral system, work to change it to proportional representation. Fourth, as an integral part of all of the above, stress the Green Party's 'ten key values': ecology, social justice, grassroots democracy, non-violence, community-based economics, decentralization, respect for diversity, feminism/post-patriarchy, personal & global responsibility and sustainability/future focus.

Yet even this was not all the story. Despite the enormous difficulties 'third party' candidates face within the US 'winner-take-all' electoral system, in several partisan county and state legislative races, as well as in a US Senate race, Greens actually finished second ahead of either the Democrats or Republicans. And, in terms of electoral reform, Greens in San Francisco succeeded in getting proportional representation (PR) on the ballot for a public vote (for use by the San Francisco Board of Supervisors). While the measure did not pass, the Greens were able to do enough education in only a three month campaign in one of the country's major cities to receive 44% the first time out, providing valuable experience with which to apply to future PR campaigns in other cities across the country.

Taken as a whole, '96 suggests the Greens have advanced a long way as a political force. There appears to be a genuinely significant base among the general electorate for Green ideas, and the Greens have demonstrated that they not only have good ideas, but also a viable strategy to win elections and build a movement.

1996: LOCAL GREENS TAKE POLITICAL ROOT

One of the great untold stories of the 1996 political season was the success of the Green Party's local electoral strategy. While most of the media's attention on third parties focused on their presidential candidates and campaigns (including the Greens' own Ralph Nader and Winona LaDuke), a record sixteen Greens won office nationwide, and in Arcata, CA, voters elected the first-ever Green City Council majority in the US. These victories follow a pattern where Greens have organized around local issues, built a base of experience and credibility, and successfully ran candidates from that base.

In addition to the historic victory in Arcata, where Jennifer Hanan and Bob Ornelas joined sitting Green councilmember Jason Kirkpatrick to form the Green majority on the city council, Greens include in Berkeley, CA, Donna Spring became the first Green to be re-elected for a third term to a City Council seat, and four others from around the country were elected to their second. In Santa Monica, CA, Mike Feinstein won a City Council seat in the biggest city thus far for any US Green, and the first one in a national/global media market (Los Angeles). In both Arizona and Maine, Greens won all three municipal races they contested. Aylin Santa Fe, NM Fran Gallegos broke ground as the first-ever Green municipal judge. Overall, 1996 saw the Greens elect 10 city Councilmembers, a board of supervisor, a municipal judge, two school board members and two planning group members.

The '96 results bring to 42 the number of Greens currently holding elected office, including 13 city Councilmembers, three board of supervisors, four school board members and a municipal judge. Where are Greens winning? Many are small-to-medium sized towns and cities with strong liberal and/or progressive constituencies like Arcata, Berkeley, Davis and Santa Monica, CA; Flagstaff, AZ; Santa Fe, NM; Columbia, MO; LaCrosse, WI; Fayetteville, AR and Chapel Hill, NC. Although it may seem natural for Greens to win in these places, these places have also been traditionally liberal Democratic strongholds, and some pundits have suggested liberal voters will choose Democrats over Greens. Experience has shown otherwise, and suggests future Green growth in these places and others, like Austin, TX; Boulder, CO; Santa Cruz and West Hollywood, CA; Madison, WI and elsewhere.

Greens have also won outside of such communities. Perhaps the most impressive has been in the Twin Ports area of Duluth, MN/ Superior, WI. Greens have organized in this mostly working-class area since the mid-to-late 80's. Currently five Greens hold office there - two City Council and three Board of Supervisors. In rural, GreenPage 7

NADER LaDuke

1996 PRESIDENTIAL CAMPAIGN REPORT

Before 1996, the Greens had never run for the presidency. If they were to enter the race in '96, most Greens felt it should not be to wage a traditional candidate-centered campaign. Rather, it should be to build the Green Party and advance a bottom-up politics. As it turned out, the candidacy of Ralph Nader and Winona LaDuke did just that.

In November, 1995 Nader officially announced that he’d entered the Green Party of California’s 1996 presidential primary... This set in motion a grassroots process where Greens eventually put Nader on the ballot in 21 states and the District of Columbia, and made him a write-in candidate in another 23 states. This campaign accelerated the growth of the Green Party, and complimented the Greens' local strategy - which, by nature, is slow-building. In many states,
In February, Ralph Nader and Winona LaDuke appeared within a few days of each other at public forums in Flagstaff. LaDuke filled a 900-seat auditorium; and Nader filled it as well as a 300-seat hall next door with a TV screen. During these events, the Pima County Greens registered large numbers of people as Greens. In AZ, ballot status must be attained at each level of government individually. For example, if the Greens attain state-wide status, then they can only run for state and national office, but not county, unless enough signatures were gathered in the individual county itself (the same petitions can be used if it is the same election year). City elections (Tucson has the only partisan races) must be petitioned for separately, and ballot status maintained separately, with the same rules applied...In 1992, the Arizona Green Party and the Pima County Greens both achieved ballot status, but failed to maintain it in 1994 when more stringent requirements were required. Tucson Green Carolyn Campbell currently has a bill in the State House to reduce the number of signatures needed for various types of ballot status and independent candidates, and to push back (closer to the general election) the deadline for handing in signatures. Phoenix Green Sloane Haywood has also filed a lawsuit against the state along the same lines. Based upon the results, AZ Greens will decide upon which levels to seek ballot status in 1997 and 1998. Most likely will be Tucson, where several City Council seats are up, and where the Greens have had a strong local presence.

Since becoming the first Green City Council majority in US history last November, the Arcata Greens have been garnering a great deal of national press, including feature articles in the Washington Post, Los Angeles Times, Christian Science Monitor, US Today, People magazine, and many international publications...As a result of the Nader campaign, the Green Party of California voter registrations went up almost 20% to 95,000...In West Hollywood, Chris Patrouch and local Greens ran an impressive grassroots campaign for City Council, finishing a close 4th/9 candidates for two seats on March 4th. Patrouch promoted a human scale, pedestrian-oriented urban environment, and successfully contrasted the Greens' extensive gay/lesbian platform with the two sentences of the Democrat's. His strong finish positions him well for a potential win in '99...On April 8th, Dennis Kortheur is running for Los Angeles City Council District 15, which includes Watts, Wilmington and the San Pedro/ Harbor areas. This is a product of Coalition LA, a long-running multi-cultural organization boasting some of LA County's top progressive activists. Kortheur, a San Pedro Green, is running with Diana Contreras (Wilmington) and Mujahid Abdul-Karim (Watts). The Coalition's strategy is to split the vote and deny an April 8th primary victory to incumbent, ultra-conservative Republican Rudy Svorinich. If successful, they'll force a two-person primary and the top Coalition candidate. In run-off, the Coalition actually has a chance, because the 15th District actually has a substantial majority of Democratic over Republican registered voters, but Svorinich won last time when several Democrats split their vote among the liberals and the only two Republicans survived to the run-off. Win or lose, the Kortheuer campaign is significant for the Greens because they are part of a coalition of widely separated working class communities, and an organization of the nature of Coalition LA is supporting a Green...In early April, Greens in the San Jose/Santa Clara area are hosting a statewide conference entitled Spring Forward: Moving Toward Social and Environmental Justice. The keynote speaker will be United Farm Worker vice-president Dolores Huerta, whose speech will include a focus on the UFW's efforts to organize California's strawberry workers. Other conference topics include health care, toxins, welfare reform, affirmative action, socially-responsible investing in the putative public and jobs of organizing...In '98, look for a Westside Greens campaign for proportional representation in Santa Monica, with the goal of getting the City Council to put it on the ballot for a public vote.

In December, Krista Paradise became the first Colorado Green to hold legislative office, after being appointed to a vacancy on the Carbondale Town Council. Other Council members appointed Paradise after they learned of the Green majority in Arcata, CA, and felt that they too should have a Green. Earlier in '96, Paradise had run unsuccessfully for a seat on the Council. In '94, she was the Greens first state Lt. Governor candidate, running with Phil Huffer for Governor. Since Paradise has arrived on the council, she says she has helped 'shift paradigms'...As part of that shift, the Sopris Greens, her local, have set up a Local Exchange Trading System (LETS) called SPUDS. SPUDS stands for promoting our community's skills, Prosperity, Uniqueness, and Diversity...Last fall, the Boulder Green Alliance (BGA) wrote and lobbied the City Council to put a charter amendment on the ballot to change the process used to fill council vacancies, from appointment to election. The bill passed in early April, the campaign of education and outreach, and won 61% - 29%. Less than a month later, a city councilmember resigned, and the vacancy was filled by an election. Impressed with the Greens' charter amendment campaign, the Boulder Green Alliance, local Green Mark Ruzzin to the city's Planning Board. The BGA also helped lobby the council to pass an ordinance prohibiting the city from doing business with companies with operations in Burma. In 1997 the BGA has developed a Green TV community access show, presented on Boulder Community Cable...The Boulder Green Alliance wrote a ballot initiative for ballot status. For 1994, the HIGP successfully petitioned for ballot status. For 1994, the HIGP qualified because Linda Martin received over 10% in a statewide election in '92 (she received 14% for US Senate). The bill has gone through both state House and Senate Committees and is likely to pass. But the state Chief Elections officer is trying to stop it. If he is successful, then Hawai'i Greens will once again have to gather signatures to qualify their party.

From the energy generated from the Iowa Nader for President campaign, the beginnings of a Green Party in Iowa are underway. Currently there are locals in Ames and Iowa City, and in November, 1997 Iowa Greens will have their first candidate - 27 year-old Russell Lovelinsky, for Iowa City Council, District B.

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...MORE GREEN NEWS

MAINE
In the 1996 elections, neither the Maine Green Party’s presidential candidate Ralph Nader nor its US Senate candidate John Rensenbrink, cracked the 5% vote barrier. That means the Maine Green Party will lose its ballot status as the legislative magic draft bill drafted by outgoing Secretary of State Bill Diamond, changing the threshold from being applied every two years, to simply being applied every four. The bill is currently being pushed by the chair of the legislature’s Legal/Veterans committee, seeking expanded public support, including the League of Women Voters and the Bangor Daily News. If the legislation is not passed, Maine Greens plan to challenge the law in the courts. Without ballot status, current Green registrations would be dropped every two years could be accrued...Maine Greens continue to operate a successful office state in the state capital of Augusta, keeping up with legislation and testifying at hearings. Recently they testified against the state’s only nuclear power plant, and in favor of preserving the right of initiative/referenda. The party’s statewide Green Council meets monthly, and is composed of two delegates from each of Maine’s 16 counties, plus the two co-chairs: Nancy Allen and Tom Fusco, and the Secretary, Gail Vorbeck. The state newsletter is published two times/year. Fundraising relies on people contributing a dime a day, paid quarterly or annually. In 1998, plans include doubling Green voter registration and contesting several state legislative seats. As a result of the strong showing of the New Mexico Green Party, the Green Party of Minnesota continues to grow...in the land of 10,000 lakes and 10,001 excuses for not leaving the Democratic Party, the Green Party of Minnesota continues to grow...MASSACHUSETTS...The Massachusetts Green Party is currently discussing standards and qualifications for people who want to run as Greens. No decisions have been made for 1997, but in 1998 it is likely that the MAGP will run a statewide candidate to achieve full party status. Currently the MAGP is registering people to vote as Greens, which is allowed under Massachusetts law because the party has already granted official ballot designation. Party members are also working on the state platform, which will be discussed at the MAGP second annual gathering in May.

MINNESOTA
According to long-time Green organizer Lowell Nelson “here in the land of 10,000 lakes and 10,001 excuses for not leaving the Democratic Party, the Green Party of Minnesota continues to grow in size and confidence. We’ll run against the phony status quo progressivism of the Democrat Party and promote the insurrectionary spirit of the Green Party as an alternative”. In Minneapolis, the Twin Cities Greens are part of a coalition for proportional representation, and may contest City Council and Park Board races later this year...Up north, David Abatz won for Crystal Bay Township Supervisor in March, with 79.3% in a two-way race. He ran on sustainable forestry, organic farming, and small family-owned business over corporate chains...The Duluth Area Greens are following last year’s partially successful efforts to stop mall sprawl with a living-wage campaign...On the state level, Greens are active in the Welfare Rights Committee, a coalition to convince the state legislature to address the damage done by Federal welfare reform...On the electoral front, the CPMN is petitioning for minor party status (2,000 signatures required). This would enable the party to become eligible for state funding through a process where small contributions to the party are refunded to the contributor by the state. In ‘98 a Green gubernatorial candidacy is possible as well as state legislative contests.

NEVADA
In the summer of 1996, the Green Party of Nevada gained ballot status by gathering over 3,700 valid petition signatures. It then retained that status through the ‘98 elections by virtue of Nader/LaDuke receiving 1% of the vote, For ‘98, discussions are underway for potential candidates...Nevada Greens are also focusing on nuclear issues, including fighting the resumption of nuclear testing and the transportation of nuclear waste to Yucca Mountain. They also hope to shut down the Nevada nuclear test site in Easter ‘98.

NEW JERSEY
Having organized on a local, non-electoral level for many years, New Jersey Greens came together on a statewide basis for the first time in ‘96 to coordinate the Nader campaign. Now, they plan to run Madelyn Hoffman for Governor in ‘97. Hoffman was Nader’s vice-presidential candidate in New Jersey, and is a long-time activist who founded the Ironbound Committee Against Toxic Wastes to help organize in immigrant and working class neighborhoods. In subsequent years, she’s continued that work as Director of the New Jersey Grass Roots Environmental Organization, a position she still holds. Hoffman plans to attack Republican Governor Whitman’s record of cutting welfare and health benefits; weakening environmental protections; and pitting business interests against those of the citizens of the state. Hoffman will offer a single-payer universal health program for New Jersey, in response to growing public dissatisfaction with HMO’s and insurance companies. With the Democrats in disarray (they have a multitude of regional gubernatorial candidates and a message little different than Whitman’s), the Greens hope to establish their identity in ‘97 as New Jersey’s true progressive alternative.

NEW MEXICO
As a result of the strong showing of the New Mexico Green Party (NMGP) in 1994, then-Green Lt. Governor candidate Steven Schmidt was appointed to five-member State Board of Education. In New Mexico, the Board is a constitutional office, overseeing policy and management of public education, with a budget making up 48% of the state’s total. Schmidt’s priorities have been to focus on strategic long-term planning, to make education a higher priority and to secure the funding it needs. This past January, in part due to Schmidt’s efforts, the Board established its first-ever strategic plan. Schmidt also helped convince the Board to make environmental education a part of the basic curriculum taught in 89 school districts for the first time ever...With Democrat Bill Richardson vacating his Congressional seat to become UN Ambassadress, the NMGP has put forward Carol Miller as its nominee in the special election to replace him. The open seat is in the northern portion of the state that includes Santa Fe, where the Greens have received by far the strongest support in their bids for elective office...The NMGP won its first Congressional race in 1994, and the district is normally considered safe for the Democrats, with a 2-1 Demo- crat-Republican ratio, but a strong Green contender may alter the dynamics. Miller is a lifelong health care activist who was a single-payer advocate as part of Hillary Clinton’s 1993 health care task force. Miller is also immediate Past President of the New Mexico Public Health Association, represented the Frontier Constituency Group on the Board of the National Rural Health Association for six years, and is a three-term Governing Councilor of the New Mexico Public Health Association. In ‘96, she ran for the State Senate as a Democrat and unsuccessfully tried in court to be a Democrat/Green fusion candidate, as the NMGP had nominated her as well. Her Democratic opponent, Senator Alums, was considered vulnerable because he has been enshrouded by ethics violation charges throughout his 16-year tenure as a state corporation commissioner, and because of the widespread perception that his choice as nominee was pushed through the NMGP’s Governing Council without grassroots participation...NMGP Greens registrations continue to climb, now the second highest in the nation with 6,500+...In ‘98, the NMGP is expected to field some statewide candidates, but not necessarily a gubernatorial candidate. Whether they do so depends in part upon how progressive a candidate the Democrats would put up in exchange for the Greens not contesting the office. In 1994, the NMGP received 10.4% for governor and the Democrats lost by 9%. Hence there is potential for leverage.

NEW YORK
The first New York Green electoral campaign in 1997 came in Brooklyn: Craig Seeman’s candidacy in a special election for State Assemblyperson in Assembly District 52. Seeman campaigned for the same seat last November, losing with 68.5% to Democrat Ellen C. Dugan, who held the seat for 16 years prior. Three days after the election, Dugan died unexpectedly. In the special election, Seeman won 15.6% of the vote, finishing 3rd/4. He spent $3,000, and in the several GO TO PAGE 6
districts where the Greens were best organized, received between 30%-50%. Seeman’s platform included jobs/sustainable economy, universal health care, intensive recycling, campaign finance reform and public transportation. Seeman was officially endorsed by the Sierra Club and Commercial Workers of America locals 1180 and 1182, both of which provided material support. These alliances are expected to continue into the fall, when local Greens consider mayoral and city council campaigns.

NORTH CAROLINA

The Orange County Greens started in 1985, organizing around issues of quality of life/sustainable development, including public transportation, alternative/renewable energy, and green economics. In 1989 they elected Joyce Brown to the Chapel Hill City Council and reelected her in 1993. This fall she’ll run again. In 1995, local Greens also elected Alex Zaffron to the Board of Alderman in neighboring Carrboro. By virtue of these campaigns, the Greens not only have elected two of their own, but have succeeded in moving the spectrum of local elective candidates in the progressive direction. 1995 also saw Greens organizing a successful initiative for voluntary campaign spending limits. Half the candidates in the ensuing election accepted the limits. As a result, the mayors of Chapel Hill and Carrboro will hold a public forum on campaign spending, likely leading to a stronger initiative in the fall. In 1997, the Greens also will support a local living wage campaign based on requiring contractors who receive contracts with the county to pay at least $7/hr, with the final rate linked to bringing a family of four out of poverty.

OREGON

As a result of organizing in ’96, Pacific Party registration is now approaching 1500, up from about 500 before the campaigns. The party is considering a 1998 initiative for proportional representation in the Oregon House of Representatives. It is also examining re-submitting a statewide initiative to ban clear-cutting and chemical spraying in National forests.

WISCONSIN

LaCrosse Green co-founder Dan Herber was elected to the LaCrosse City Council in 93 at age 21. This year, instead of running for reelection, he’s running for Mayor. In the primary he finished 2nd/7. Now he’s in a run-off with the first place finisher whom he trailed 52.9% to 18%. To close the gap, Herber and local Greens have an impressive precinct organization underway, including campaigning signs all over the city. A primary issue is Herber’s 8-year long opposition, on environmental and fiscal grounds, to a state Department of Transportation $70 million limited access highway through LaCrosse’s neighborhoods and wetlands. In 1991, Herber voluntarily turned in his driver’s license and has not driven since.

Once elected, Herber’s served on several transit-related committees, and authored a report on alternatives to road building, including redensification, infill, mixed-use developments, mass transit expansion, human-powered vehicle promotion, and other strategies to limit urban sprawl and promote alternative travel modes...With Herber leaving his District seat, long time local Green Bill Norman is running for it and has a very good shot at winning...In Eau Claire, Amanda Cook ran in the February City Council primary, but did not advance to the run-off. She campaigned on fighting urban sprawl, particularly with Eau Claire’s downtown in decay. She also advocated a city living wage policy...

The Madison Greens are part of a coalition of groups including the New Party and the Farmer-Labor Party that make up Progressive Dane (PD). The PD candidate for mayor John Hendrick did not make it past the primary, finishing close 4th/8 with 17% (first was 21%). Hendrick may run for State Assembly in ’98, particularly because during his mayoral campaign for he won every ward that was also located in his Assembly district by large margins...In Madison, the University of Wisconsin Greens recently won seven seats out of 30 on the student government board, making up the largest single bloc...In Northwest Wisconsin, the Lake Superior Greens are working on Outstanding National Resource Water designation for Lake Superior and a host of related wetland/land use issues and pesticides issues...As a result of the Nader campaign, the Wisconsin Greens regained gallant state status in 1996. In 1998, there is a strong possibility they’ll run their first statewide candidate, likely a well-known Wisconsin progressive figure for Governor.

HAVE ANY STATE GREEN NEWS? SEND IT TO: mfeinstein@pen.ci. santa-monica.ca.us
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THE ASSOCIATION OF
STATE GREEN PARTIES

A Short History & By-laws

The Association of State Green Parties (ASGP) is a national organization of Green Parties from across the United States. Currently, Green Parties in the following 15 states have affiliated with the ASGP: Arizona, Arkansas, District of Columbia, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Indiana, Maine, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, New Mexico, Ohio, Oregon, Rhode Island, Tennessee, Utah, Virginia, Wyoming. Several other states are considering affiliation and are expected to join in the next several months.

The initial by-laws of the ASGP were adopted on November 17, 1996, at a meeting in Middleburg, Virginia that was called to form the ASGP. At that meeting, 11 state Green Parties publicly stated their intention to be a part of the ASGP. The initial by-laws are:

Article I. Purpose

The purpose of the Association of State Green Parties is to:
1. Assist in the development of State Green Parties,
2. Create a legally structured national Green Party.

Article II. Membership

The Association of State Green Parties if made up of state Green Parties choosing to join the Association. State Parties must send a written resolution stating that they are joining the Association and that they accept the Association’s organizational documents. State Parties are encouraged to send suggested modifications to these by-laws. Each member State Green Party will initially have two representatives on the Coordinating Body of the Association, with the understanding that the representation formula may change in the future. Meetings of the Association may also be attended by Greens who are not representatives from their State Party.

Article III. Committees, Officers

The Association may form committees to further its work. The Committees shall report to the General Body/Coordinating Body of the Association (The General Body shall be named at a later date). The Association shall elect a Treasurer and a Secretary. The Association may elect other officers and form a Steering Committee to carry on work between general meetings.

Rules may be adopted modified by a 60% vote of the appropriate body.

1996 ELECTION RESULTS (CONT)

(Continued From Page 3)
came in 3rd/5 with 4% in the 3rd District, and Allan Opus finished 6th/6 with 0.6% in the 4th District. For US Senate, Gary Katcher finished 4th/7 with 1.1%. His best results came in the three counties where the Pacific Party is strongest: Lane (Eugene, University of Oregon), Multnomah (Portland area, where Nader received about 8%), and Benton (Corvallis, Oregon State University). Katcher candidacy was also aided by his appearance at the recent Portland crowd of 2000 days before the election. On a vote/dollar measurement: Katcher spent $.13/ vote and his Democratic and Republican opponents spent $5 and $3/vote respectively.

Green Party of Rhode Island (2)
For State Representative District 48, Jeff Johnson finished 3rd of 3 with 8.6%. In the 1st Congres-
In terms of the public’s perception of Green leadership, Terry Williams (Webster Grove, MO) has also been elected as Mayor (in ’94), and Bob Anderson of Davis, CA, is currently serving a second term of office. In Orange County, CA, the Greens elected Alex Zaffron to the Board of Aldermen in Carbondale ’93, after that community had experienced watching Brown serve two terms in neighboring Chapel Hill. In Santa Fe, New Mexico, Gallegos was re-elected two years after Cris Moore was elected to the City Council. In Berkeley, with an almost 70-30 popular majority for the Greens in the District 4, Cris Kavanaugh ran in District 8 and finished 2nd by only 91 votes (out of 4600) against a long-time incumbent. And in California, with voters having experience with a variety of Green officeholders, 35 Greens have won local races statewide since 1996.

A second and somewhat surprising category where many Greens finished strong came in several partisan county, state and US Senate races. Because the US winner-take-all electoral system is inherently hostile to third party candidates, few normally even enter the race. In several cases, not only did Greens finish higher, but some actually finished second ahead of either the Democrat or Republican.

On the state legislative level, Cam Gordon of Minneapolis, MN finished second with 24.6%, ahead of the Republican. In Albuquerque, NM, Bob Anderson finished 2nd with 28%, behind a Democrat and ahead of an Independent. In Oahu, HI, Karen Archibald, finished 3rd with (20.3%), just behind the Republican (2.3%). Results like these have come both in ’96 and previously, in states like AK, HI, MN, NM, where the population of the state legislative districts is low enough that the campaign is doable in a grassroots manner.

On the county level, two-term County Councilmember Bonk’s mayoral attempt on Hawaii’s Big Island saw her finish 2nd (39-3%) to the Democrat and beat in the Republic. In Bonk’s old County Council District 6, Julie Jacobson also ran for a seat and (57%-33%), beating the Democrat. In County Council District 5, Julie Lealoha finished a close 3rd at 25%. In New Mexico, Andres Vargas finished 2nd with 25%, ahead of the Republican for the Taos/Clovis/ Union Counties District Attorney office. For US Senate, Jed Whittaker of the Green Party of Alabama finished second with 12.5%, ahead of the Democrat, the first time since 1970 that a ‘third party’ candidate has finished 2nd in a US Senate anywhere in the US.

In sum, what the experience of ’96 demonstrates is that Greens are organized and able to at grassroots level, people will vote Green. Electing Greens to local office is in turn building credibility, for the Green Party in general and for these officeholders in particular, making it more likely for them and/or other Greens to be considered should they choose to run for higher office. This bottom-up strategy of the Greens is working successfully, and if the results of ’96 are any indication, more success lies ahead.
Alabama Greens (1 candidate)

Larry Wayne Grantham ran for Mayor of Foley, finishing 3rd out of 3 with 1.6%. It was his third run for Mayor, after finishing with 28% in 1992 and 17% in 1988.

Arizona Green Party (3)

Arizona Greens won all 3 local races they contested. In Flagstaff, Norm Wallen won for City Council, finishing 3rd/6 (19.5%) for 3 seats. Responding to local development pressures, Wallen advocated affordable housing, open space, locally-owned business, and public votes on major developments. In Bisbee (located in SE AZ near the Mexican border), Alva d’Orgeix won a City Council seat in her second try with 54.9% in a dead heat overall in 30/56 precincts. In Pima County, in her second try with 54.9% in a closely done direct mail pieces.

Jennifer Hanan (2nd/6, 14.8%, 1st/12 for three seats). Before the old Democrat/Republican in 1996 for a 2-year term.

Go To Page 3
Island are now dividing along Green/sustainable/old boy's network/un可持续线...On Cape in State House District 47. Karen Archibald finished a strong 3rd with 21.8%, just behind the Republican's 23%. Her campaign focused the need for campaign finance reform to curb the same corrupting influence on politics of well-financed developers who seek to rape Hawaii's environment and natural resources. Archibald also strongly criticized her Democratic incumbent opponent who had sponsored a state constitutional amendment to ban same sex marriages. In other races, Donnalyn Johns finished 3rd with 10% in Big Island County Council District 4 and Jason Schwartz finished 3rd with 9% for the Maui County Council District 4. The paper companies spent over $4 to defeat the Greens initiative. Needing a majority to pass, none of the three did. King's received 48%, the Greens 30% and the right-wing's 22%. King continued to deforest as fast as they can in anticipation of the next round of attempted reform.

Green Party of Minnesota (3)

In the first-ever state legislative race contested by Minnesota Greens, Cam Gordon received 24.6%, finishing 2nd ahead of the Republican in SE Minneapolis District 62A. The campaign coordinated more than 100 volunteers, a successful petition drive to gain ballot access, effective phone banks, two district-wide literature drops, door knocking, 230 lawn signs posted, and an advertising presence in neighborhood newspapers from April to November. Gordon raised over $10,000 without any PAC money or contributions of over $200. Over 95% were from individuals contributing $50 or less, making full use of Minnesota's Political Contribution Refund program. Key issues included campaign finance reform, increased citizen participation, proportional representation and fewer Governor appointed boards; community justice centers by securing making local government more efficient and securing additional state and federal funding for local projects. David Abaz finished 3rd/4 in the primary for Lake County Board of Commissioners, missing the run-off by 2 votes. Most of his support came from his local area around Crystal Bay, so in 1997 he chose to run for Crystal Bay Township supervisor, which he won with 79.3% in a walk-over.

New Mexico Green Party (12)

New Mexico Greens continued to receive high percentages in most races they contested. In local races, Fran Gallegos was elected as Municipal Judge in Santa Fe, finishing 1st/6 with 44%, beating three-term incumbent Tom Fiorina by 256 votes. A Persian Gulf War veteran and holder of both a real estate license and degree in business administration, Gallegos campaigned as 'a people's voice' in the court, stressing a redirection of human resources towards 'service-based sentencing' and community service. In 1992, Gallegos ran for Santa Fe County Magistrate judge and finished a close second with 43%. Miguel Chavez received 33% for Santa Fe City Council District 3, finishing 2nd/3 against powerful incumbent Tom Fiorina by 256 votes. A Persian Gulf War veteran and holder of both a real estate license and degree in business administration, Gallegos campaigned as 'a people's voice' in the court, stressing a redirection of human resources towards 'service-based sentencing' and community service. In 1992, Gallegos ran for Santa Fe County Magistrate judge and finished a close second with 43%. Miguel Chavez received 33% for Santa Fe City Council District 3, finishing 2nd/3 against powerful incumbent Tom Fiorina by 256 votes. A Persian Gulf War veteran and holder of both a real estate license and degree in business administration, Gallegos campaigned as 'a people's voice' in the court, stressing a redirection of human resources towards 'service-based sentencing' and community service. In 1992, Gallegos ran for Santa Fe County Magistrate judge and finished a close second with 43%. Miguel Chavez received 33% for Santa Fe City Council District 3, finishing 2nd/3 against powerful incumbent Tom Fiorina by 256 votes.

New York Green Party (10)

The New York Green's strongest showing was Craig Seeman of Brooklyn, receiving 6.8% for State Assembly in the 52nd District (3rd/3). For State Senate, former NMGP state chair Abraham Gutmann received 4.5%, finishing 3rd/4 running against 24-year incumbent Pete Domenici. Gutmann's platform included proportional representation, campaign finance reform, renewable energy and efficiency, and tax reform to aid small business, while opposing corporate welfare, NAFTA/GATT and immigration negotiations. In 1992, Gutmann received 40% in a two-way race for State Representative.

Pacific Party of Oregon (7)

On the local level, John Walsh finished 3rd/3 for the Eugene City Council with 13.0%, and Richard Bower finished 3rd for the Yamhill County Commission with 14.0%. In state legislative races, Andy Davis finished 3rd/5 in the 14th District with 8.9% and Cecilia Story finished 4th with 4.5% in the 44th District. For Congress, Joe Kerating...
...the Greens grew roots where they had not even existed (or had been dormant), like Arkansas, Connecticut, Massachusetts, Michigan, Nevada, Tennessee, and Washington. Greens also grew in many of the party’s core states, like Arizona, California, Colorado, Maine, Minnesota, Ohio, Oregon, Pennsylvania, and Rhode Island. This growth has been both quantitative and qualitative. Not only did the Greens expand their numbers, but talented new activists joined those single- and multi-issue low-profit groups. Many have been ‘green’ in outlook, but hadn’t focused on electoral politics. Others, but only through lobbying the Democrats and/or Republicans. Nader/LaDuke drew many of them to redirect their energy into independent, third-party politics, the Green Party in particular.

Nader/LaDuke also helped many voters to see the ‘lesser of two evils’ as the ‘evil of two lessers’. In some past, such a debate was mostly theoretical. But in ’96, the similarities between Clinton and Dole, and the clear superiority on issues of Green Party/LaDuke, set millions on the path to voting Green. Some did it this time. Others likely will do so in future, having considered it now for the first time in real terms.

Nader attacked corporate America, challenged its dominance over politics and government, and the lack of democracy that results. With the top 1% controlling over 90% of the country’s wealth, and with Clinton and the Congress scaring poor with war fare ‘deform’, Nader called attention to the nation’s $200 billion expenditure on corporate welfare. LaDuke suggested a Seventeenth Amendment to the Constitution, that not only private property but common environmental resources could be defended.

The Greens offered the most progressive alternative among the seven visible national candidacies: Green, Democrat, Republican, Reform, Libertarian, Natural Law, and US Taxpayer. They also offered the best grassroots model of grassroots activism as one of the candidates’ goals. In contrast, Clinton spent $1.36, Dole $1.63, Perot $3.67, Libertarian $6.57, US Taxpayer $11.17 and Natural Law $18.18.

It is instructive to look at the campaign in districts where Green activism is strongest. In Sante Fe County, where the Greens have voted for officials, 15.57% of registered voters received 7.1%. In Boulder, CO, they received more than 20% in several precincts. In Madison, WI Nader received 20% and 18% (and beat Dole) in two different districts and received 10% in each of three more. In Park Slope, Brooklyn (where Craig Seeman’s state assembly campaign was strong), Nader received 11.6% and Dole 11.1% with 15,384 votes cast. Three precincts in Iowa City, IA that were leafleted by the Iowa City Draft Nader Committee received more than 10%, Russell Lovettyski was run this fall in that same district for City Council.

In California, Greens have been organizing as locals since 1985, and as a state party since 1990. With the vote split over what was essentially an eight-way race in CA, and with all the third parties relatively well-organized, Nader/LaDuke finished third (11.27% state wide). They did best in counties where Greens are strongest - Mendocino County 13.04% (bust it the nation), Humboldt 8.7%, Santa Cruz 7.8%, Marin 6.4% as well as in some of the larger cities, such as San Francisco 5.95%, Oakland 5.8%. In Arcata, where more Nader yard signs were seen than Clinton and Dole combined, Nader beat Dole 22.0% to 16.5%. During a massive voter registration drive there, the progressive HOPE coalition registered more than 1,000 people in support of the Arcata Co-op, and estimated that half were Green and the rest from other parties...