The keynote speaker on Saturday will be Madelyn Hoffman, New Jersey Green Party candidate for governor this fall, speaking on the weekend’s theme and on the issues of her campaign. On Saturday the group will alternate between small group and plenary sessions, taking up ‘Growing Green Parties’ in 50 States’, ‘Building Towards a National Green Party’, and ‘Organizational Affairs of ASPG.’ Dinner will be an old-fashioned Maine clam bake, followed by music and dancing.

On Sunday, after electing officers, the attendees will talk about ‘Making Green Waves in the Wide World’, focusing on cooperation with other ‘third’ parties, relations with organizations of people of color, the development of a national platform, and the presidential race in 2000.

The ASPG gathering comes on the heels of a recent national meeting of the Greens/GPUSA structure, bringing it closer to that of the ASPG, with the hope that this would accelerate the development of a single national Green Party. This reform did not materialize, as the Greens/GPUSA remained tied to a structure more fitted a confederation of local dues-based activist groups than to a national organization of state Green Parties. Now, Greens in these states and others are turning to ASPG as the likely vehicle through which a national Green Party, rooted in state Green Parties, will be achieved.

attended with the hope of reforming the G/GPUSA structure, bringing it closer to that of the ASPG, with the hope that this would accelerate the development of a single national Green Party. This reform did not materialize, as the Greens/GPUSA remained tied to a structure more fitted a confederation of local dues-based activist groups than to a national organization of state Green Parties. Now, Greens in these states and others are turning to ASPG as the likely vehicle through which a national Green Party, rooted in state Green Parties, will be achieved.

Carol Miller for Congress: New Mexico Greens play for keeps
by Rick Lass, Tammy Davis & Kris Moore, NM Green Party
On May 13th, New Mexico Green Carol Miller received 17% in a special election for the US House of Representatives. This was a record for a US Green in a federal race (surpassing Hawaii’s Green Party US Senate candidate Linda Martin’s 14% in 1992) and contributed to the movement’s strength of our vote. We are more than a swing vote - we have an increasing impact at all levels of government because of the strength of our vote. We are ignored only at the peril of the old parties.

A 30-year community health care advocate who began her activism in the 60’s as a paid organizer for the Berkeley (CA) Tenant’s Union, Miller has long been involved in rural health care in Northern New Mexico. She represented the Frontier Constituency Group on the Board of the National Rural Health Association, is immediate Past President of the New Mexico Public Health Association, and is a three term Governing Councilor to the American Public Health Association. On the federal level, Miller has had experience with legislation and the bureaucracy in Washington, D.C., including service as a single-payer advocate on the 1993 Presidential Health Care Reform Task Force.

This record of commitment and service gave the Miller campaign enormous credibility. Combined with the strength of the New Mexico Green Party, tone of the best organized and most successful Green parties in the country) and pointing out the weakness of both the Democrat and Republican leadership of changes in the NM election law to allow Democrat/Green fusion candidates, ‘Fusion is a law, widespread 100 years ago, where a candidate can be endorsed by two parties, and can collect votes on the ballot lines of both.’ This offering was remarkable given that only recently in January, the New Mexico Democratic 1990 Independent effort by the Greens, Libertarians, and Reform Party to make fusion legal.

Back in 1994, the NMGP had attempted to place Representative Max Coll, perhaps the second most powerful member of the NM House of Representatives, as Chair of the Legislative Finance Committee on the ballot as a Democrat/Green. This was stopped by Democratic Party leadership who pressured Coll to withdraw his Green nomination. The NMGP had been working with a team of attorneys to take this to the Supreme Court, but when Coll withdrew, the attorneys (who were lawyers from Minnesota to the Court, recently losing their fusion challenge.

Miller and most New Mexico Greens have now rejected fusion in favor of proportional representation. Fusion has been seen as a way of coopting the Greens by taking their candidates out of the race. “It could turn us into junior Democrats. We have a lot more potential than that,” said Miller. Electoral reforms like proportional representation (including preference voting and instant run-off) are seen by the Greens as giving them a chance to assume their rightful place at the table, “something”, according to Davis, “Miller’s remarkable 17% (in a winner-take-all system) suggests we deserve”. In mid-October, the Greens are hosting a forum on proportional representation with 1980 Independent presidential candidate John Anderson and

Go To Page 7
At least 72 Greens are running in '97. More than half of them - forty in all - are running for city, town or small county council, two for state Senate or state assembly, eight for small town/township council/constables/selectpersons, two for mayor, and four for county legislator in small county districts. Twenty-two more are running for school board, park board, planning board, library and sheriff.

Two states conduct state-level partisan races in '97 - New Jersey and Virginia. Rhode Island has six Greens candidates for State House, one for State Senate and one for governor. In Connecticut, Greens have already contested special election seats - in New Mexico, Carol Miller (see front page) for US House of Representatives and in New York, Craig Seeman (Brooklyn) for State Assembly.

Of the states with the most candidates, Connecticut (13) was formed during the Nader campaign, while New York (13), California (10), Minnesota (9) and Virginia (7) have been around a while (California is the oldest, founded in 1990).

How have Greens done in races held thus far? As of mid-September, twenty-two Greens had run in either primary and/or general elections since the Nader campaign. Six Greens for State House, one for State Senate and one for governor have been Gary Clauss for City Council in Silver City, NM (pop. 10,000) and David Diehl and Aaron Willett for the Planning Board in Ocean Beach, CA (the board is advisory only to the San Diego City Council).

Nancy Pearlman lost by only 249 votes out of 168,509 cast (49.92% - 50.07%) for Los Angeles Community College District Board of Trustees. Three additional Greens also finished second in their primary elections, and were lost in the June general elections.

Several other candidates, while not victorious numerically, significantly built the party with their candidacies. Topping them was Carol Miller, with her stunning 17% knocking out the Demo- crat for US Congress in New Mexico. Craig Seeman’s 15.6% for State Assembly in NY was also very impressive.

On the municipal level, Chris Patrouch, West Hollywood, CA; Rick Van Landingham, Toledo, OH; and Karen Hadden in Austin, TX all ran credible first-time 16-year state assembly person who came home to run for mayor. Herber finished second in the primary election as well as in the general, and ran a solid campaign that positions him well for future races.

By Mike Feinstein, Green Party of California

On the heels of the Green Party’s first-ever presidential campaign, 1997 will feature a record number of Greens running in an odd-numbered year (when most states don’t hold mid-term elections for Congress). This follows a general Green growth trend in the 90’s and specifically is a measure of the organ- ized growth the Nader/LaDuke campaign has helped bring about.

City Council campaigns, Austin and West Hollywood are tradition- ally progressive cities and were expected to field Green candidates some day. In Toledo, Greens are running in a traditionally industrial area that had not been considered a likely Green strong- hold.

In LaCrosse, WI 25-year old in- cumbent Green Dan Herber gave up his safe City Council seat to run for Mayor against a well-financed, in 1970. She lost by only 0.15% out of 19,685 votes and plans to run next time.

Craig Seeman State Legislature 52nd District, Brooklyn, NY Seeman received 15.6%, finish- ing just behind the Republican’s 21%. Seeman’s district is divided into 120 ‘Election Districts’. He won 10 of them and finished second in 60-70 other races.

Rick Van Landingham City Council, District # 4 Toledo, OH In the first candidacy ever for Ohio Greens, Rick Van Landingham finished third out of 11 winning 12% in the Septem- ber 16th primary, just missing the run-off.

Van Landingham is an environ- mental consultant and graduate of the University of Toledo with a Bachelor’s degree in Environ- mental Science. At 28, he was the youngest candidate. His main issues were stopping a proposed highway through Toledo’s Buck- eye Basin (a wetlands area in the heart of Toledo’s Central City) and opposing a proposed imminent domain Christian home sale (in which the family would receive $100,000 for their house). Nearby neighborhood is in order to build a new Chrysler jeep plant, when the current jeep plant was abandoned full of industrial pollution.

At one point during the campaign, a member of the Republican and Libertarian two-person council poll had Van Landingham run- ning a close second. But Toledo Mayor Carty Finkbeiner had Van Landingham arrested twice for trumped up charges. This resulted in negative media coverage which local Greens believe cost them the primary. The second time Van Landingham was arrested (which incidentally was for being at his ownhome) the police claimed there was a restraining order keeping him out when in fact there was none. Van Landingham was notified that all criminal charges brought against him were dropped the day after the primary.

Considering that Van Landingham ran in the first Green mayoral campaign by nine to one by both of the candidates finish- ing ahead of him, the Toledo Greens were very happy with the final result. The day after the elec- tion, 70 people gathered, 50 of them from Toledo, to talk about the im- portance of building the Green Party. Ralph Nader came to a pancake breakfast soon after the cam- paign as well.

Going into the November general election, both candidates finish- ing ahead of Van Landingham have asked for his endorsement.

Chris Patrouch City Council West Hollywood, CA Chris Patrouch and local Greens ran an impressive Green campaign for City Council, finishing a close fourth out of nine candi- dates for two seats (votes: 2400-1400) and featured door-to-door canvassing, tabling on Santa Monica Bl., lawn and street signs.

On the issues, Patrouch promoted a human scale, pedestrian-ori- ented urban environment, and successfully contrasted the Greens’ extensive gay/lesbian platform with the two sentences of the Democrat’s. Patrouch kept OB, OB”. The OB Greens date back to 1988.

At least 72 Greens are running in '97. More than half of them...are running for city, town or small county councils, in- cluding 26 for city council, eight for smaller town/township councils...two for mayor, and four for county legislator...22 more are running for school board, park board, planning board, library and sheriff.

Gary Clauss City Council Silver City, NM First time candidate Clauss wins when opponent pulls out of race, saying she can not win. Clauss runs on a platform of openness and accountability in local gov- ernment.

David Diehl and Aaron Willett Ocean Beach Planning Group San Diego, CA Diehl and Willett join Kip Krueger (electected 1995) to make up three Greens out of nine boardmembers. While the Planning Group is only advisory to the San Diego City Council, it is the recognized voice of the community on all impor- tant development issues. The Greens’ positions on development were influential in preserving the low- scale, funky nature of Ocean Beach.

Nancy Pearlman lost her City Council election Districts’. He won 10 of them and finished second in 60-70 other races.

Nancy Pearlman Community College District Board of Trustees Los Angeles, CA Pearlman, a long-time environ- mentalist who has hosted hun- dreds of tv and radio shows that are carried around the nation, was one of the primary organizers of the first Earth Day in Los Angeles.
A Movement Continues To Grow!

(Continued From Previous Page)

Races to Watch in November

Joyce Brown
City Council
Chapel Hill, NC

The list of races running in November is topped by two-term incumbent Joyce Brown. Brown is the top contender to open the seat held by incumbent Maria Tzysteyk, a position she still holds. Hoffman’s campaign challenges Republican Governor Whitman’s record of cutting welfare and health benefits; reducing state taxes by shifting the burden to cities; weakening environmental protections; and pitting business interests against those of the citizens of the state. Hoffman offers a single payer universal health program for New Jersey in response to growing public dissatisfaction with both HMO’s and insurance companies. With the Democratic candidate considered a lightweight, Hoffman hopes to establish the Greens as a real alternative in New Jersey.

If Louis does finish second, this would continue a recent pattern of second place finishes in the greater downtown Brooklyn area and arguably establish the Green party as the second party there. In April, Craig Seeman beat the Republican for State Legislature there and in ’96 Nader beat Doe. The League Conservation of Voters endorsed Louis, as has US Senator Daniel Patrick Moynihan. Louis has also been endorsed by Congressman Major Owens, Sierra Brown’s main achievements in her eight years include solid waste reduction, energy saving, and the use of renewable energy in Town-owned buildings, spearheading a county-wide regional visioning and community planning process, and developing indicators for sustainable development in Chapell Hill.

Six Greens
For Municipal Office
Minneapolis, MN

The Minneapolis Greens are building upon last year’s remarkable 24.6% by Cam Gordon for State Legislator. Two of nine Minneapolis Green Party-endorsed candidates making it through the September primary to the November general election. Two candidates in this non-partisan race are endorsed by the Green Party: newcomer David Luce, who received 29% in a 3-way primary district race for Park Board; and Park Board candidate George “We Can Build an Eco-City” Puzak, an incumbent, who came in third in city-wide. Three other incumbents with multi-party endorsements - Jim Niland, Annie Young and Dean Zimmerman - are likely to be re-elected. Green Party-endorsed Library Board candidate Deb Keever will also be on the ballot in November.

Madelyn Hoffman
Governor
New Jersey

Hoffman, Walker’s vice-presidential candidate in New Jersey in ’96 and a long-time activist who founded the Ironbound Committee to organize in immigrant and working class neighborhoods, she continued that work as Director of the New Jersey Grass Roots Environmental Organization, a position she still holds. Hoffman’s campaign challenges Republican Governor Whitman’s record of cutting welfare and health benefits; reducing state taxes by shifting the burden to cities; weakening environmental protections; and pitting business interests against those of the citizens of the state. Hoffman offers a single payer universal health program for New Jersey in response to growing public dissatisfaction with both HMO’s and insurance companies. With the Democratic candidate considered a lightweight, Hoffman hopes to establish the Greens as a real alternative in New Jersey.

Hoffman’s campaign challenges Republican Governor Whitman’s record of cutting welfare and health benefits; reducing state taxes by shifting the burden to cities; weakening environmental protections; and pitting business interests against those of the citizens of the state. Hoffman offers a single payer universal health program for New Jersey in response to growing public dissatisfaction with both HMO’s and insurance companies. With the Democratic candidate considered a lightweight, Hoffman hopes to establish the Greens as a real alternative in New Jersey.

Club, League of Conservation Voters, DC 1707, Sheet Metal Workers and several local elected officials as well as the Village Voice, Amsterdam News and the NY Times.

Abraham Gutmann
City Council
Third District
Albuquerque, NM

Gutmann received 41% in a two-way race for state legislature in the Taos area. From 1994-98 he served as the Taos County co-chair. In ’96 he ran for US Senate, receiving 4.5%.

Now, Gutmann is running for City Council in a predominantly Hispanic, working-class Albuquerque district, population 60,000. The election place October 7th. Gutmann’s district is 25,000, with nine candidates, including three incumbents, running for five seats. Menzies has a somewhat tougher time; his district is 10,000 people, with three candidates (two incumbents plus Menzies) for two seats. Menzies is trying to unseat the Republican incumbent.

Peter Healey
County Legislature
Seventh District

David Menzies
County Legislature
Second District
Ulster County, NY

These two races are considered among the better possibilities for Greens victory in ’97 in New York state. Ulster County is a traditionally liberal area, particularly with communities like Woodstock, New Paltz, and others. Both Menzies and Healey are Green Party members. Menzies will be on the ballot as a Democrat and a Green. Healey will be on as a ‘Democrat-Green’ and Independence. Healy’s district is 25,000, with nine candidates, including three incumbents, running for five seats. Menzies has a somewhat tougher time - his district is 10,000 people, with three candidates (two incumbents plus Menzies) for two seats. Menzies is trying to unseat the Republican incumbent.

Errol Louis
New York City Council
35th District
Brooklyn, NY

Louis is the first African-American Green candidate in New York City. The 35th District is mostly African-American, with approximately 20% Hasidic Jewish. The district of approximately 150,000 is overwhelmingly Democratic, but Louis given the chance to beat the Republican and finish second. Louis actually ran in the Democratic primary before coming forward. As a second finisher with 28%, against incumbent Mary Pinkett 52% and James Davis 26%. In the general election, the candidates are Pinkett, Louis, Davis (on the Liberal Party line), Voytecki (Republican) and an Independence candidate.

Elizabeth Norton Sheff
John Mozziatto
City Council
Hartford, CT

Connecticut election law reserves three of Hartford’s nine council seats for members of the working class minority party. The Greens are contesting these three seats with former mayoral candidate Elizabeth Norton Sheff; John Mozziatto, a municipal union leader; and David M. Ionnio, a city library employee.

These seats have belonged to the Republicans since 1993, when current mayor Michael Peters won office as an independent and forged a bipartisan coalition. In 1995, Peters ran for re-election as a Democrat, defeating Sheff, keeping his bipartisan coalition on the council intact. The Greens oppose privatization of city services and the takeover by the state of Hartford’s schools. They are backed by a coalition of 12 municipal unions, which have fought what they say is a takings city council. ‘We believe the average working person...’
Keiko Bonk's Run For Hawai'i Island Mayor: A Step Back or A Step Forward?

By Keiko Bonk, two-term County Councilmember, Island of Hawai'i

Keiko Bonk was elected in 1992 to the Hawai'i County Council, the first (and still only) US Green to be elected in a partisan race. In 1996, she was re-elected with 60% of the vote. In 1995, she became chair of the County Council, the first and only Green to chair such a council or board.

During her four years on the Council, Bonk championed the environment, local small business, cultural diversity, parks, diversified agriculture, long term planning, citizen involvement, and eco-tourism. Always fighting for the underdog, she became a local folk hero.

In a highly controversial move, Bonk stepped down in 1996 from her Chairship to run for Mayor of the entire island (Bonk was forced to give up her seat in order to run for the Mayor). Some of my closest supporters made a mistake, even though the Greens remained on the Council. These kind of support is being destroyed, sold, or boxed up in museums.

This would change in '96. Because the party in power often deprives the other Councilmembers of staff and resources, I would have been pushed back where I was during my first term, a spokesperson completely stripped of infrastructure and power.

Even so, some felt I should play it safe and run for my same seat, to insure someone of my views remained on the Council. These kind of people tend to think politics is simply about talking. It isn't. It's about solving problems and getting things done. Sometimes that means taking risks.

Ironically, after my losing the race, very few now think it was a mistake, even though the Greens are now without representation on the County Council. Being on the inside of county government, I was (and continue to be) gripped by a sense of urgency, a feeling that comes from watching first hand, the extent of destruction and corruption in my home.

I had to run for Mayor. The Green movement may be gaining around the country, but my island is running out of time. Myself and many of my closest supporters made great sacrifices to accelerate the rate of positive change on Hawai'i island. We took a chance and did what we needed to take the Hawaii Green Party to a new level. That is what a forward-moving 'movement' is all about.

On the other hand, I knew that if the incumbent got reelected, he would pull out all the stops during his last term to reward all of his 'associates.'

The worst has come true. The incumbent was reelected and has accelerated the destruction of our island at a terrifying pace. The only thing slowing the deal-making is a flat real-estate market, with a relative lack of outside capital driving land speculation.

But even in this market, we are running out of time in so many areas. Hawai'i is the endangered species capital of the US and the endangered endemic species capital of the world. Our local culture is being destroyed, sold, or boxed up in museums.

Having said this, I think my decision to run was the right one. We did not run a symbolic race. We ran a real race for the Mayor of Hawaii Island and almost won. I finished a close second (38%-38%-23%) despite the fact that I entered the race at the very last moment and was massively outspent by the incumbent Mayor. I spent $125,000 while she spent $550,000. This worked out to $5/vote for myself. I won 17 out of 56 precincts and finished second in most of the others.

Because of our race, three other highly-qualified Green women also decided to take the risk and run for council. Two of the three came within a handful of votes of winning. Julie Jacobson lost by only 152 votes in a three way race. Julie Leialoha lost by only 487 votes in a three way race. Donalynn Napua Johns also had a respectable showing.

When I decided to take the leap, only 15% of those polled said that they would definitely vote for me, while approximately 35% said they would vote for the incumbent mayor, and 15% for the Republican.

The final result showed that my campaign built the most support in the shortest time. At the rate I was gaining, I would have won if the campaign had been ten days longer. The race did at least part of what I hoped it would - put us in the game on a new level, bring in many new participants, and perhaps most importantly, bring in new kinds of supporters.

If we had not done as well as we did it, the decision would have been a mistake. But coming so close to something no Green has yet done (be elected to mayor on a scale this big), the decision is now widely seen as the beginning of something much bigger. Whether this actually happens will be determined by what do next.

Many people believe we will win at least one councilmember in 1998 and the mayor’s seat in 2000. If we do, it will go down as a major step in making the Green Party a real political player in the US. If we fail, the decision will be a mistake. The responsibility to prove us right is now the responsibility of many.

With a fraction of the money of our opponents and almost no advance time to plan a campaign, we built an island-wide organization and support base. The Greens are now considered major political players on our island.

Many people believe we will win at least one councilmember seat in 1998 and the mayor’s seat in 2000. If we do, it will go down as a major step in making the Green Party a real political player in the US. If we fail, the decision will be a mistake. The responsibility to prove us right is now the responsibility of many.

For myself, my finances and my family, being out of office has been a blessing. The sacrifices have been hard on all of us. We are using this time to recuperate and rebuild. Its also exciting because a whole new generation of Greens are stepping up to the plate and acting like real political players. Times are so sobering, but not as lonely on the front lines as it used to be. Pray for us, as we will pray for you.

The Green Party is a global movement, existing in at least 76 countries on six continents.
Steve Hill, a San Francisco Green and West Coast Director of the Center for Voting and Democracy.

According to many New Mexico Greens, Miller’s race served to prove that voting Green is a powerful strategy for political change. Not only did it identify the Greens as a clear alternative, but it puts enormous pressure on the Democrats to support proportional representation, lest the Greens knock them out again.

As Santa Fe Green Party City Councilor Cris Moore said in the August edition of The Progressive, “building a progressive third-party movement right now is a lot more powerful than the past limitedly successful, exceptional November ‘96 election. It maintained major party status (running Peggy Helgeson with the Democrats and Republican candidates, who chose their candidates with the Democrats and Republicans had to turn out to be fateful. At first, it was not clear the party would nominate Miller. The Bernalillo County (Albuquerque area) Green local had invited the Democratic and Republican nominees to speak at their county conventions. None of the Greens advocated ‘None of the Above’, arguing the energy required to run a candidate in the highly conservative third of NM would be better spent on internal organizing and local projects. They also warned of the marginalizing effect on the party of getting only 3-5%, which people were worried about because of the NMGP’s poor showing in the just-concluded US Senate race. Since Bernalillo and Santa Fe counties would comprise 33% of NM, warnings from corporations he was using of his office to taking contributions from progressive Democrats who felt ‘locked out’ began looking for another candidate.

But once the Democrats and Republicans chose their candidates, it was clear neither represented a positive choice. Redmond wasexceptions.

The decision to run - how the Miller campaign came about –

Most of Green lobbying went into convincing the seniors in the party. The NMGP had a decent, but not exceptional November ’96 election. It maintained major party status (running Peggy Helgeson against Serna for State Corporations Commissioner, receiving 11%), but the party’s efforts at a coordinated statewide campaign were only limitedly successful, particularly after a contested primary left considerable internal division in the party. Energy was low and splintered as a result.

At the same time discussion of the special election was taking place, the 60-day legislative session was about to begin. With a strong local in the capital city of Santa Fe, the NMGP prepared an aggressive legislative agenda. This was basically ignored by the ’97 NM Legislature which, according to the NMGP state co-chair Rick Lass, was preoccupied by Indian gaming compacts and prison privatization.

Greens advocated ‘None of the Above’, arguing the energy required to run a candidate in the highly conservative third of NM would be better spent on internal organizing and local projects. They also warned of the marginalizing effect on the party of getting only 3-5%, which people were worried about because of the NMGP’s poor showing in the just-concluded US Senate race. Since Bernalillo and Santa Fe counties would comprise 33% of NM, warnings from corporations he was using of his office to taking contributions from progressive Democrats who felt ‘locked out’ began looking for another candidate.

But once the Democrats and Republicans chose their candidates, it was clear neither represented a positive choice. Redmond was exceptional November ’96 election. It maintained major party status (running Peggy Helgeson against Serna for State Corporations Commissioner, receiving 11%), but the party’s efforts at a coordinated statewide campaign were only limitedly successful, particularly after a contested primary left considerable internal division in the party. Energy was low and splintered as a result.

At the same time discussion of the special election was taking place, the 60-day legislative session was about to begin. With a strong local in the capital city of Santa Fe, the NMGP prepared an aggressive legislative agenda. This was basically ignored by the ’97 NM Legislature which, according to the NMGP state co-chair Rick Lass, was preoccupied by Indian gaming compacts and prison privatization.

Most of Green lobbying went into convincing the seniors in the party. The NMGP had a decent, but not exceptional November ’96 election. It maintained major party status (running Peggy Helgeson against Serna for State Corporations Commissioner, receiving 11%), but the party’s efforts at a coordinated statewide campaign were only limitedly successful, particularly after a contested primary left considerable internal division in the party. Energy was low and splintered as a result.

At the same time discussion of the special election was taking place, the 60-day legislative session was about to begin. With a strong local in the capital city of Santa Fe, the NMGP prepared an aggressive legislative agenda. This was basically ignored by the ’97 NM Legislature which, according to the NMGP state co-chair Rick Lass, was preoccupied by Indian gaming compacts and prison privatization.

Most of Green lobbying went into convincing the seniors in the party. The NMGP had a decent, but not exceptional November ’96 election. It maintained major party status (running Peggy Helgeson against Serna for State Corporations Commissioner, receiving 11%), but the party’s efforts at a coordinated statewide campaign were only limitedly successful, particularly after a contested primary left considerable internal division in the party. Energy was low and splintered as a result.

At the same time discussion of the special election was taking place, the 60-day legislative session was about to begin. With a strong local in the capital city of Santa Fe, the NMGP prepared an aggressive legislative agenda. This was basically ignored by the ’97 NM Legislature which, according to the NMGP state co-chair Rick Lass, was preoccupied by Indian gaming compacts and prison privatization.

Most of Green lobbying went into convincing the seniors in the party. The NMGP had a decent, but not exceptional November ’96 election. It maintained major party status (running Peggy Helgeson against Serna for State Corporations Commissioner, receiving 11%), but the party’s efforts at a coordinated statewide campaign were only limitedly successful, particularly after a contested primary left considerable internal division in the party. Energy was low and splintered as a result.

At the same time discussion of the special election was taking place, the 60-day legislative session was about to begin. With a strong local in the capital city of Santa Fe, the NMGP prepared an aggressive legislative agenda. This was basically ignored by the ’97 NM Legislature which, according to the NMGP state co-chair Rick Lass, was preoccupied by Indian gaming compacts and prison privatization.
The Greens originally appealed both the gubernatorial and presidential ruling (a ‘bad interpretation according to Richard Winger, Ballot Access News). Because MEGP presidential candidate Ralph Nader received 2.5% of the vote, the court ruled the Greens would have to go off the ballot.

But Nancy Allen, co-chair of the MEGP, said the decision does not constitute a final ruling. “There is an injunction against this until the case is fully resolved. According to Allen, the MEGP’s ‘broad’ inclusion of the stateside election was intended to cause state courts to establish a uniform interpretation of the law. The requirement to 5% every four years to remain on the ballot is the case elsewhere, including California.”

The Secretary of State’s office however, let it be known that they would interpret the law to require a party to achieve 5% every two years to remain on the ballot – both in the gubernatorial and presidential elections. “If the Greens fail to achieve 5% in any two-year period, the Greens would be forced to go off the ballot,” Allen said. “In 1992 the US Supreme Court said the case very easily could win. In 1997, the MEGP received more money state tax donation money ($8,306.84) than the Republicans ($6,446.08) and almost as much as the Democrats ($10,468.14).

Hawai’i Greens

The Greens have drafted a ballot access bill that includes a provision allowing third-parties to become recognized by several sponsors for legislative purposes. Known as the Voter’s Choice Act, it would remove the signature requirement to one-tenth of 1 percent. If the legislation had been in place last year, the signature requirements would have plunged to 50,000 to 4,200. Republicans and Democrats are required to net only 2,000 signatures to get on the ballot.

Vertis of a Green on the Columbia, MO City Council

When I announced I’d run for the City Council, Ward 6 in 1991, one City Councilman called me a screwball kid, and the incumbent, pro-property rights advocate/social conservative Sharon Lynch would ‘eat me alive’.

I was 25 years old and looked 16. “I’d never been on a City board or commission. I’d worked as a field manager for the Missouri Public Interest Research Group, but never been active in electoral politics. Many wondered if local Greens could defeat the popular twice-elected Ms. Lynch. No one got to find out, because she chose not to run. Instead my opponent was 31 years old, a local law professor. After a strong door-to-door campaign, I was elected.

Columbia was in transition. Earlier that year Karl Kruse, a Green supporter, had been elected to the seat of a Councilman recalled for casting the deciding vote in favor of an unpopular development. Kruse was defeated in his re-election bid, the other Councilperson elected was a neighborhood advocate chosen by a local developer’s son, and Columbiaists also approved a sales tax increase that included money for a greenbelt/trail. It was perhaps the zenith of environmental support in the City.

In the six years I was on the Council (two terms) we enacted tree-preservation, greenbelt preservation, and more environmentally sensitive development legislation. We established a stormwater utility with fees based on the footprint of impervious surface on each property; began a program to use federal grant money (Community Development Block Grant money) to help low income families buy homes; adopted and began to implement a Master Bicycle Plan; and began talks with our board associations, I suggested (and the Council established) that we have access to state and federal grant money too. What’s worse, the strong presence of local Republicans ($6,446.08) than the Democrats ($10,468.14).
Fourth-three Greens in eleven states currently hold elected office as of September

Arkansas (1)  
Stephan Miller, City Council, Fayetteville

Arizona (2)  
Alva d'Orgeix, City Council, Bisbee  
Norm Wainel, City Council, Flagstaff

California (22)  
Alan Drusys, City Council, Yucaipa, San Bernardino County  
Mike Feinstein, City Council, Santa Monica, Los Angeles County  
Jennifer Hanan, City Council, Arcata, Humboldt County  
Jason Kirkpatrick, City Council, Arcata, Humboldt County  
Bruce Mast, City Council, Albany, Alameda County  
Bob Ornelas, City Council, Arcata, Humboldt County  
Julie Partansky, City Council, Davis, Yolo County  
Steven Schmidt, City Council, Menlo Park, San Mateo County  
Dona Spring, City Council, Berkeley, Alameda County  
Barbara Carr, La Mesa/Spring Valley School District Board, San Diego County  
Carol Skillian, Encinitas, Encinitas School Board; San Diego County  
Cynthia Strecker, Monte Río Union School District Board of Trustees, Sonoma County  
Scott Bugeault, Lompico Water Board, Santa Cruz County  
Lois Humphreys, Leucadia, Leucadia Water Board; San Diego County  
David Tarnas, Ramona, Ramona Water Board; San Diego County  
Glenn Bailey, Resource Conservation District of the Santa Monica Mountains, Los Angeles & Ventura Counties  
Todd Cooper, Evergreen Resource Cons. District, Santa Clara City  
William Bretz, Crest/Dehesa/Harmon Canyon/Grainne Hills Planning Group, San Diego County  
David Diehl, Ocean Beach Planning Group, San Diego County  
Kip Krueger, Ocean Beach Planning Group, San Diego County  
Aaron Willett, Ocean Beach Planning Group, San Diego County  
Timothy Moore, Ramona, Ramona Planning Group; SD City

Colorado (2)  
Krista Paradise, Town Council, Carbondale  
Jim Breasted, Town Council, Carbondale

Iowa (1)  
Karen Kubby, City Council, Iowa City

Maine - (3)  
Harold Hansen, School Board, Biddeford  
George Lehigh, Town Council, Eastport  
Karen Mayo, Selectperson, Bowdoinham

Minnesota (2)  
Debra Orton, City Council, Hermantown  
David Abazs, Crystal Bay Township Supervisor, Finland

Missouri (1)  
Terry Williams, Mayor, Webster Grove

New Mexico (4)  
Cris Moore, City Council, Santa Fe  
Fran Gallegos, Municipal Judge, Santa Fe  
Gary Claus, City Council, Silver City  
Alex Zaffron, Board of Alderman, Carbondale, Orange County

North Carolina (1)  
Joyce Brown, City Council, Chapel Hill, Orange County

Wisconsin (4)  
Bill Anderson, Board of Supervisors, Douglas County  
David Conley, Board of Supervisors, Douglas County  
Bob Browne, Board of Supervisors, Douglas County  
Linda Bruce, City Council, Superior

or non-working [person] is being shut out," said city union leader Clarke King Sr. “The city is being controlled by the corporations. Ralph Nader has come to Connecticut to stump for Sheff and other local Greens candidates, drawing big crowds in Hartford as well as Litchfield, Mansfield, New London, Hamden and Fairfield.

Russell Lovetinsky  
City Council District B

Iowa City, IA  
Lovetinsky was active in the Nader campaign and is a founding member of the Iowa City Green Party. His three main issues are: 1) expanding the Iowa City Public Library, the state’s busiest public library, in a practical, economic manner; 2) opposition to a local-option sales tax because sales taxes are regressive taxes and hitting working men and women the hardest; 3) openness, responsiveness and accountability on the City Council. Lovetinsky is a strong advocate for preference voting and also favors an elected strong mayor, a city manager-style of government.

Tennis Lilly  
City Council

Lawrence, MA  
Site of Green Gathering ’97, the Lawrence Greens are presenting their first candidate. There are six candidates, including two incumbents, for three open seats. Lilly is running on shutting down a solid waste incinerator, open space acquisition, no gentrification, and affordable housing.

Dania Vega  
Onondaga County Legislator

20th District, Syracuse, NY  
A street-savvy 18-year-old, Vega has survived a court challenge to her ballot line by her three-term entrenched Demo opponent, and will highlight cuts in inner-city programs for youth jobs, education and recreation.

Steve Schmidt, the NM Green Party candidate for Lt. Governor in 1994, and platform chair and principal draftee of the NM Green Platform, has been a member of the State Board of Education (SBE) since ’93 when he was confirmed by the State Senate after extensive hearings.

Schmidt has taken on the constitutional responsibility for educational policy and oversight of around 1/2 of NM’s students. He has been actively involved in setting the ‘state wide public education formula’ distribution of education funds since 1974 and was one of the first states to seek equitable educational spending via a statewide funding system. A relatively poor state, NM has consistently rated education as one of the most important public concerns.

The NM Green platform sets out education as its ‘foundation’ and begins its discussion of social justice and equal opportunity with a long, detailed set of education goals. I have often drawn from the platform in my work and regularly consulted with NM Greens on education issues.

During my term, I’ve developed and pushed an unprecedented number of education initiatives, with great success. I can now be said that an independent, Green educational perspective has been clearly heard within the state Capitol and Department of Education.

My most significant ‘green’ achievement is that for the first-time, NM students will have environmental studies in their science standards and curriculum, the result of language I added to newly adopted SBE curriculum standards and benchmarks. By memorializing good science and environmental ed requirements, NM’s students are assured a solid scientific, environmental curriculum and education. Other important initiatives I’ve pursued:

* as a member of the state educational plan committee, I’ve helped draft NM’s first-ever ‘Strategic Plan for NM Public Schools’;  
* I was instrumental in putting together the last two legislative packages for the SBE, which in 96 tripled educational spending over the amount proposed by the Governor and legislature;  
* I worked to put constitutional amendments on the ballot for enhanced revenues (they passed);  
* I initiated law suits against oil and gas companies that were under-reporting their royalties to the state trust funds (which are major sources of educational funding), and the subsequent settlements will add tens of millions of dollars into NM’s educational funding flow;  
* I successfully pushed to fund full NM scholarships for all high school students graduating in good standing;  
* I coordinated SBE technology initiatives, including state education telecommunications planning and budgeting; NetDay; the Western Governors (virtual) University start-up; distance learning efforts; the Department of Education’s Information and Instructional materials restructuring, and web page design;  
* I recently chaired the state Board’s Special Projects committee; and  
* I successfully negotiated with high risk students, dropouts, Native American needs, and teacher training;  
* I’ve been appointed to be Special Liaison to the Commission on Higher Education, to draft five- and ten-year plans for NM’s college and university system;  
* I am the SBE Representative to the Dept of Human Services, to assist in the development of education, jobs and welfare reform.

I hope the experiences of older Greens like myself will help us realize it is possible. We need to bring back ‘serious and credible’. The Green platform is our foundation and our platform flows from our key values. We must also practice what we preach. As we consider ‘critical thinking’ skills, I hope that it does not subtract from our state’s educational standards, we should look to improve our own ‘critical thinking skills’ and reasoned argument in our political debate, at whatever level we are involved. We must become a critical citizen and attempt to elevate the debate and improve the quality of public decision-making. This is our ongoing challenge...
Miller in comparison, would be endorsed as the best candidate by both of Albuquerque major dailies. She offered the party a chance to expand its voter base and reach out to new communities. She opposes old growth logging, but at the same time believes there is a responsibility to help local villages find a way to be ecologically sustainable. Miller also supported a weatherization program to reduce the need for firewood and the Claims Commission to deal with Land Grant issues.

The campaign moved quickly, with Miller and her constant companion Sheila Sullivan traveling around the district. The Rio Grande Valley is the area of strongest Green concentration, but Miller also got a strong reception in the more remote areas where the party was not yet organized. She did radio and newspaper spots in most of the small towns and had great public support in many of them.

In Santa Fe and Taos, house parties were held to raise money and enlist volunteers. The numbers of new faces grew rapidly, as was the crossover support from Democrats and Republicans. At the same time, there was a strong base from the successful prior campaigns electing Kris Moore and Fran Gallegos.

Soon after the Green convention, six members of Democratic Party central committees from Los Alamos and Santa Fe endorsed Miller. The Democrats forced most of them to resign, except Marilyn Rohn of Los Alamos, who boasted that if forced to resign she would take half the Central Committee members with her. In Taos, a group called ‘Republicans and Democrats for Carol Miller’ campaigned actively.

The campaign used traditional campaign methods - canvassing/distributing literature door to door, phone calls, radio and TV ads. As Miller was severely outspent by the other major party candidates, she was probably less visible in the mass media by 20-1.

A lot of the money came from national PACs. The Republican and Democratic parties to do intensive outreach into new communities. The newly re-formed Organizing Committee is leading road trips out of the Rio Grande Valley, holding local organizing meetings and organizer training workshops. Turnout was good but not high. So far 40 Greens have attended workshops (in Albuquerque), like ‘Clarifying an Issue’, ‘Talking About the Greens’, and ‘Meeting Facilitation’.

The positive results and contacts of the campaign also inspired the party to do intensive outreach into new communities. The newly re-formed Organizing Committee is leading road trips out of the Rio Grande Valley, holding local organizing meetings and organizer training workshops. Turnout was good but not high. So far 40 Greens have attended workshops (in Albuquerque), like ‘Clarifying an Issue’, ‘Talking About the Greens’, and ‘Meeting Facilitation’.

As to whether Miller will/should run again, right now Miller is running for office. If she wins, she will have a longer lead time (compared to the eight weeks of the special election), Miller feels she can double her 17% and win the Democratic primary election. She plans to outreach to those who don’t register (or vote) because they don’t believe their vote matters, independents (approximately 30% of registered voters) and the many ‘pragmatic’ voters who need stronger indications that their vote won’t be wasted before stepping outside the two-party system.

There are many NMGP members who support a Miller candidacy in ’98. Others prefer to know who the Democrat will be before deciding whether to contest the race. Unlike with the special election, in ’98 all parties will choose their candidates the same day of the primary election. The Greens will not be able to wait to see if a progressive Democrat will win the nomination. Indeed, they must file for the race a couple of months beforehand.

One thing is sure, the threat of a Miller candidacy will loom large going into New Mexico’s ‘98 elections. ‘If the Democrats respond? What will Miller and the NMGP do? The final result will be interesting. “But perhaps even more significant” muses co-chair Lass, “is that after only a few short years, the Greens are actually in a position where these kind of alternatives are real ones. The New Mexico Green Party and its candidates are for real.”