by Mike Feinstein, Green Party of California

The Green Party has grown steadily in the 1990s, winning more races with each electoral cycle.

US Greens won 10 races in 1997-high for an odd-numbered year when fewer elections are held. Meanwhile, 1998 is shaping up as well, with three early victories in March. These results follow a record 17 victories in 1996.

As of April, 1998 50 Greens currently hold elected office nationwide. Thirteen out of 16 (80%) of Green incumbents have been re-elected since 1994. (The three that lost, did by a combined 50 votes).

This upward trend demonstrates the growing strength of Green candidates. This was particularly evident with two city council incumbents—Joyce Brown (Chapel Hill, North Carolina) and Cris Moore (Santa Fe, New Mexico).

Brown finished first out of 10 candidates vying for four seats. Consistently popular with voters, she is entering her third consecutive four-year term—the longest stretch in elected office for any US Green. Moore won his single-seat district with 59% of the vote, a wide margin over the runner-up with 26%.

An easy victory came about for Krista Paradise, an incumbent on the Board of Trustees in Carbondale, Colorado. Prepared to defend her seat, Paradise won by default when two candidates dropped out, leaving only three candidates for three open seats. With no competition, the town held a candidate’s forum, but cancelled the election to save money.

Last year’s election left Minneapolis boasting two Greens on its Parks & Recreation Board: Annie Young and Dean Zimmerman. Running on a sustainability and social justice platform, Young finished first for a citywide-at-large seat, garnering more votes than any other candidate running for office in Minneapolis, other than the mayor. Zimmerman meanwhile, won his single-seat district with 67%.

In New York, a state growing in Green strength, the Greens picked up two seats: Liz Simonson, Woodstock Town Board and James Corrigan, Board of Trustees, Northport Village. Both ran on platforms vowing to control local growth and make government more accessible. Echoing similar sentiments, Gary Claus became New Mexico’s second Green city councilmember, with a win in Silver City in early ’97.

Five other Greens were elected to advisory positions: David Diehl & Aaron Willett, Ocean Beach Planning Group (CA), Timothy Moore, Ramona Planning Board, San Diego County (CA); and Kathy O’Hara & Darrell Crosson, Soil and Water Conservation Board, Rockbridge County (VA).

Last year’s election also highlighted Greens in a number of races which they did not win, but finished strong, boding well for the future:

Greens in a number of races which they did not win, but finished strong, boding well for the future: Abraham Gutman, City Council, Albuquerque, NM; Dan Herber, Mayor, LaCrosse, WI; Chris Patrouch, City Council, West Hollywood, CA; Lew Tremaine, Town Council, Fairfax, CA (Marin County); Nancy Pearlman, Los Angeles Community College District Board of Trustees; Elizabeth Horton Sheff, City Council, Hartford, CT; Craig Seeman, New York State Assembly; Sherry Stanley, Virginia House of Delegates; and Carol Miller, US House of Representatives, New Mexico.

Overall, 76 Greens in 14 states ran in 1997. New York ran 14 candidates, Connecticut 13, California 12, Minnesota 10 and Virginia seven. Forty-one candidates were for city or town councils, with six victories. Seven candidates were for state legislature, topped by Craig Seeman’s 15.6% in New York and Sherry Stanley’s 10% in Virginia. Carol Miller received a US Green record 17% for Congress. Madelaine Hoffman received 1% in the first-ever Green gubernatorial campaign in New Jersey.

Greens set sights high for 1998

US Greens have an ambitious strategy for 1998: Continue winning municipal and county elections; gain (and retain) ballot status; win a state legislative seat for the first time; and build the Green Party and spread its message.

Three Greens already have been elected this year—Cris Moore, City Council, Santa Fe, NM; James Corrigan, Trustee, Northrop Village, Suffolk County and Krista Paradise, Trustee, Carbondale, CO.
Joyce Brown Town Council Chapel Hill, NC

It took Joyce Brown just $1525 to fight her way to victory in a town council election for four seats, for the Chapel Hill Town Council. Brown’s victory was to her third 4-year term, a record for US Greens.

Brown ran on a platform of promoting sustainable development, premised upon strong environmental and neighborhood protection. During her eight years in office, she has developed a strong reputation for addressing the affects of unsustainable development - traffic, unsafe streets, overcrowded schools, increasing stormwater runoff and flooding, loss of affordable housing (with most new local developments out of the price range for low and middle income), loss of trees, stresses on public infrastructure, and increasing taxes.

Brown’s main accomplishments in office included reducing solid wastes, increasing energy efficiency and the use of renewable energy in town-owned buildings. She spearheaded a county-wide regional visioning and community building planning process, and developing indicators for sustainable development for Chapel Hill. Brown was a frequent defender of the Resource Conservation District’s Preserved Stream Nance, which protects streams and aids in stormwater management.

Grassroots environmental and neighborhood activists were a large part of what swept Brown back into office. She received 4401 votes (6751 voters) without doing any direct mailings to voters. Rather, she appeared in all the candidate forums, and along with her supporters, walked all neighborhoods and passed out brochures. The fourth-place finisher, by contrast (four seats were up for election) spent $8000 and received 3656 votes. In her previous two campaigns, Brown spent $500 each time, coming in third then second.

Brown’s bid for re-election was bolstered by endorsements from the Chapel Hill News - the only major local newspaper and the local endorsements - and The Daily Tar Heel (University of North Carolina student paper), as well as an alternative paper called The Independent. Brown also received the endorsement of the Sierra Club, the Alliance of Neighborhoods, the Black Public Workers Association and the Orange County (OC) Greens.

For the OC Greens, Brown’s victory was the group’s fourth out of six attempts. In addition to Brown’s three victories, Green Alex Zaffron was elected to the Carborro Board of Aldermen in 1995. The OC Greens are active and effective on the local policy level, and are perceived locally as ex- changing what is politically possible. One of the most electorally successful local groups in the country, it is also one of the oldest, founded in 1985. Brown openly identified herself as an active member of the OC Greens, which helped her win with Chapel Hill’s progressive community, but hurt her chances with the pro-growth/busi- ness elements.

Although she’s had success in office, Brown often she finds herself in the minority regarding growth. “Chapel Hill is a strange mixture politically” she says, “Inever supports Jesse Helms and it’s easy to get a resolution passed supporting a symbolic gun or smoking can or support for freedom fighting in Central America. But we can’t get ‘pay as you throw’ garbage collection or deal with affordable housing in any meaningful way, though we talk a lot about it... actuallly more liberal than progressive.”

Moore’s economic vision calls for a ‘pro-labor’ approach of pressuring employers with large profit margins to pay better wages, and a ‘pro-small-business’ approach of helping people start and expand their own businesses.

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Cris Moore City Council Santa Fe, New Mexico

A physicist at the Santa Fe Institute and a long-time Green organizer, Cris Moore was elected to the Santa Fe City Council, District Two in ‘94 when he was only 25. In office, he’s champions controlled regional growth, promoting affordable housing, and reforming property taxes to allow lower-in- come families to keep their homes.

Known among Santa Fe residents as hard-working, fair and intelligent, Moore was elected ‘best City Counci- lor’ two years in a row by the readers of The Santa Fe New Mexican. He also elected ‘best next mayor’ in a reader’s poll in the Santa Fe New Mexican.

In March ‘98, Moore was re-elected 59%-26%. In what was a four-way race, he won a majority in all 12 of the district’s precincts, receiving between 51% and 68% in each. Moore also received 395 votes overall - almost twice the 1833 he received when he won in 1994.

This strong finish suggests that in Dis- trict Two, Democrats are the leading political party. In addition to Moore’s strong finish there, Green Congressional candidate Carol Miller finished ahead of the Democrat and Republican, winning a majority in this district (and District 1) in the May, 1997 special Congressional election. The Greens also contributed significantly to the mayoral victory of Larry Delgado, this year’s new Mayor, as well as Debbie Jaramillo, the last mayor. Some speculate that Santa Fe could be the first area to elect a Green to a state legislature.

In his campaign, Moore made control- ling regional growth a high priority. He favors a Regional Planning Commis- sion to stop sprawl and focus growth into infill and dense, mixed-use, pe-

gressive water conservation policies that give breaks for water conservation while charging extra for high water use.

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In office, Paradise focused on afford- able housing, particularly for lower-income workers. According to a study by the non-profit Healthy Mountain Communities, local wages are so low that anyone making $13,000 a year requires the wages of four full time jobs in the area.

Many Carbondale families have both parents working two or more jobs, so youngsters are often left alone. To help, Paradise helped establish a wildly successful, racially diverse teen cen- ter, utilizing a building that used to be the town’s police station.

When it comes to parks and recreation, Paradise argues that building one or two more soccer fields is enough. More money could then be spent on cross-country skis and back packs for teens, to take advantage of the long winter. This would provide more youth for less money, and fit with the region’s climate. Paradise is also seek- ing funds to open a senior center.

On the outskirts of town, a large piece of land is being sold by a private high school. A ‘big-box’ commercial cor- poration has a contract for it, likely to build a huge retail market. Paradise feels this would have a nega- tive impact for a town of 5,000. Even though the project fits the area’s zon- ing, she is researching how other com- munities have stopped them.

The next few years promise to be up- hill for Paradise. The two other new trustees are a pro-growth market- istic, and the town’s former police chief, who is in charge of security of a huge gated community just outside of town. This puts Paradise into a 1-4 or 2-3 minority on development issues. Given this disparity, Paradise is put- ting hope in the town’s new master plan process, which she believes will show residents prefer a more con- trolled growth approach. This, she hopes, will give her more leverage on the Council.

Liz Simonson Town Board Woodstock, NY

In November 1997, Liz Simonson was elected to the Woodstock Town Board. A community activist, small-business owner and a former Deputy Town Clerk, Simonson finished second out of five candidates for two seats, with 22.4% of the vote.

Simonson ran on what she called a ‘populist, pro-community, pro-quality of life’ platform, focusing on controlling growth and promoting inclusive government. She opposed a large scale hotel/conference center proposed for the middle of town, arguing that it would be an assault on the town’s character and health of the community. Tour- ism, Simonson said, should respect the town’s scale and surrounding natural beauty and draw upon the town’s many creative, talented craftspeople, tradespeople and artists. Woodstock’s sense of place should be preserved, she ar- gued, not sold off like a short-term commodity.

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Young was re-elected to her third four-year term...she finished first overall, ahead of the candidate endorsed by Democrat-Farmer-Labor (DFL) and five others.

Some of Young’s main policy initiatives focused on improving water quality in the park system’s many lakes, higher energy efficiency systems in park construction projects, reduction of the use of harmful chemicals in the park system by converting to Integrated Pest Management, improved parking management, opening dog parks, providing sustainability education and training, and paying living wages for recreation workers.

Nevertheless, the DFL denied Young its endorsement in 1997. Young believed the DFL engaged in blatant manipulation by, for example, changing the convention rules on the floor. The DFL’s failure to give Young their endorsement allowed Zimmerman to claim that Young was also the top vote-getter in 1993, and that she had risen high within the DFL’s internal power structure, eventually joining the state executive committee platform committee and elected officials committee.

Disillusioned by the Clintonesque/cen- trist direction of the DFL, Young accepted the nomination of the Minneapo- lis Green Party, as well as that of Progressive Minnesota (the New Party local chapter). Young spent $5,300 and received 39,624 votes. During the campaign, younger, meshed-up to be with the values of stewardship of the earth, and c) tree plant- ing.

Young had over 20 endorsements in- cluding most labor organizations; AFSCME Council 14, AFL-CIO Cent- ral Labor Union, Minneapolis Com- munity Organization, Minneapolis Ameri- cans for Quality, Betsie Valley Em- ployees Association, and Clean Water Action Alliance.

When Young was first elected to the Park & Recreation Board in 1989, she and another woman elected at the same time were the first new people elected in 12 years, to sit on a Board where most members had served 20-25 years. 99 voters elected three new commis- sioners. Then, in 1997 five new commissioners were added. This has created some gaps in the 115-year his- tory of the Board. But it also has brought new thinking, greater energy and more diversity to the Board. For the first time, four people of color are now members of the Board.

Young is considering a run for City Council in four years. She is consider- ing whether to run as a Green/DFL fusion candidate or only as a Green.

Currently, Young works for the non- profit GREEN Institute, which is in the forefront of community-based eco- nomic development activity in Min- neapolis. Young’s political career be- gan by volunteering for the 1968 presi- dential campaign of Robert Kennedy. Later she worked for the Jesse Jackson for President campaign in 1988 and Paul Wellstone’s successful US Sen- ate bid in 1990.

In office since 1994, Zimmerman has worked to drastically reduce the use of herbicides and pesticides in the parks, the poor and other forgotten segments of society. "We live in a social-economic system that is largely the creation of government. The relevant question is, ‘how well is the system working?’ Too of- ten government bodies do not look after the interests of working people, the poor and or other forgotten segments of the population. Elected officials need to make sure that the system works well for all, including the vulnerable segments of society.

Zimmerman’s organizing goes back to the 1960’s as a staff member for the Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party and the Non-Partisan League in North Dakota. More recently, he was an active volunteer with the 1988 Jackson for President campaign and the 1990 Wellstone for Senate campaign.

Though Zimmerman accepted the Democrat-Farmer Labor Party nomi- nation, he wholeheartedly ac- cepted the nomination of the Greens and of Progressive Minnesota. He did this because he has been consistently disappointed by the Democrats, and hopes a new, progressive party will succeed.
Spurred on by their recent successes at the polls, New Mexico Greens took the lead in 1997-98 to push for meaningful electoral reform. Their legislative committee set the stage for a statewide, multi-partisan effort to implement Instant Runoff Voting (IRV) for municipal and all state executive offices.

IRV is a system in which the voter ranks the candidates in a particular race according to the voter’s preference. Each voter ranks the candidates, 1, 2, and 3, and so on. In a multi-candidate field where no majority winner — defined as at least 50 percent plus one — has appeared, the bottom vote getter is dropped and the people who ranked them first will have their second choice votes tabulated. The same process repeats until a majority winner appears.

In this system, few votes are wasted, and the voter is not held hostage to considerations of ‘throwing away’ their vote. By making it easier to vote for a ‘third party’ candidate, it also gives a clearer indication of the voter’s real preferences.

In light of recent Green Party gains, interest in electoral change has been high on all sides. Greens were accused of ‘throwing elections to the Republicans by siphoning off progressive votes from the Democrats, particularly in the case of Carol Miller’s 17% for US Congress in 1997. In addition, state courts ruled that Albuquerque’s traditional runoff system was unconstitutional, which resulted in the state’s largest city electing a mayor with only 29% of the vote.

New Mexico has a part-time legislature. The Green Party spun off a legislative lobbying group called New Mexicans for Instant Runoff Voting (NMIRV) in time for the thirty day legislative session in January 1998. Headed up by Green male and female co-chairs, this energetic group lobbied the legislators daily, and learned the ropes of lobbying “on the job.” Senate Bill 8, an amendment to the state constitution, was introduced on the floor and went to two committees before it died in a tied 4-4 vote.

Although it was clear that support for IRV fell along Democrat and Republican party lines, in the first committee hearing, an idiosyncratic Republican ensured the resolution’s passage out of committee by his behavior and personal attacks on NMIRV representatives. In the second committee the Republican had done his homework and his fellow Republicans were set to vote with him and against the bill.

In New Mexico, the legislative committees are scheduled simultaneously, so aides and advocates must work hard to help legislators to be there for important votes. This system places the onus on lobbyists to educate legislators in advance because the odds are that any particular legislator will miss key testimony. In the second committee there were many times when IRV might have passed because of missing committee members on the Republican side. However, when it came down to the vote, the ninth (Democrat) legislator was missing despite all efforts to find him, so it fell to a 4 to 4 tie.

What lessons can be learned? Citizens lobbyists in New Mexico are rare and legislators can be polite and accessible to them. Electoral reform is a hot topic. Even those who opposed IRV were eager to talk and listen. Even the most powerful and curmudgeonly legislator was gracious and wanted to discuss substantive issues in regard to the bill. This was a tremendous opportunity to educate legislators and show them that the Greens are more credible than they had imagined.

NMIRV held a demonstration of instant runoff voting in the rotunda of the capitol building, which was well-attended by legislators, the Secretary of State’s office (that willingly printed up sample ballots and loaned us the voting machines for the demonstration), and the press. This raised the “product awareness.” We gave them candy and had them vote on the machines.

IRV also gathered an impressive group of endorsers, including New Mexico Common Cause; New Mexico Public Interest Research Group; US Senator Jeff Bingaman; former Albuquerque mayor and Democratic gubernatorial candidate Marty Chavez; former Governors Toney Anaya (D) and David Cargo (R); state Democratic Party Chair Ray Serna; several chairs of Democratic county committees; state Reform Party chair; and the New Mexico Green Party. Other other states are looking at IRV legislation. One of the nation’s few third party representatives, Terry Bouricius, is making progress in Vermont, where a task force of legislators and civic leaders has been created to study IRV.

In California, the Green Party plans to begin gathering signatures to qualify an IRV ballot initiative for the November, 2000 statewide ballot.

How can you pursue IRV in your own state? Select your bill’s sponsor carefully. The amount of interest your sponsor has, and his or her work habits will greatly influence the outcome of the bill. Rely on the bill sponsor’s staff people for help. They will often do extra things such as make copies, send e-mail or faxes, track the bill and nudge the sponsor into being more responsive.

Clearly the Greens around the nation belong in the halls of their state legislatures not simply running for office. In a period of two months, a group of three or four Greens were able to become proficient in the ideas behind instant runoff voting, design and implement a campaign including literature, and do daily lobbying. Grassroots efforts to lobby and bring about progressive legislation are golden opportunities for Greens to participate in the political discourse with an eye to education and a firm grasp on their principles.

The other major lesson from New Mexico is that strong third-party candidacies bring out the defects in the present winner-take-all electoral system. Charges of “spoiler” can be used to focus attention on proposals for PR and IRV.

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The Federation of the Green Parties of the Americas (www.fpva.org.mx)

by Annie Gooke, Green Party of Pennsylvania

From March 26th-29th Green Party delegates from across the American nations gathered in the state of Sao Paulo, Brazil, to officially form the Federation of Green Parties of the Americas. The Federation’s purpose is to promote cooperation between Green Parties in the Americas - around issues and areas promoting the growth of new Green Parties in the region. The Federation proceedings began with a nationally-televised press conference in the city of Sao Paulo, the third-largest city in the world. Featured were delegates from Brazil, Canada, Mexico, Venezuela, the United States and Uruguay, all who spoke of the urgent need for Green Parties to come together across the hemisphere. During the years since the 1992 UNCED Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro, the global situation has worsened. They cited the fires burning in the Amazon in northeast Brazil that very day.

The next day delegates traveled to the island of Ilha Bela, where deliberations took place. Over the ensuing three days, with six countries represented as founding members, and with three languages spoken, delegates finalized a founding document by consensus, including a preamble, a mission statement, statutes, and policies.

The Ilha Bella agenda also included presentations by indigenous peoples from several American countries, issues of trade and globalization, including NAFTA, ALCA and MERCOSUL, and an exchange of experiences of Green organizing from each country.

The founding members of the Federation of Green Parties of the Americas are: Partido Verde (Brazil); Partido Verde Ecologista de Mexico; The Green Party of Canada; Partido del Sol Ecologista Federal and Pacifica (Uruguay); Movimiento de Integridad Nacional (Venezuela); The Association of State Green Parties (USA) and The Greens/Green Party USA. Observers were also in attendance from Bolivia, and Panama.

The statutes created a General Assembly every two years, with two delegates from each country. A Council was created to implement General Assembly decisions, and as well an Executive Committee to do the day-to-day work. The first Federation office will be in Mexico City. Jorge Torres Gonzalez, president of the Partido Verde Ecologista de Mexico, was elected president of the executive committee. All Federation documents will be written in Spanish, English and Portuiguese, and later in French.

The events leading up to the founding of the Federation go back to:

• September, 1991 when the first CANAMEX meeting was held in San Francisco, bringing together Greens from Canada, Mexico and the US. Support-follow-up meetings were held in Alberta, Canada (1992) and Sonora, Mexico (1993).
• Greens from Brazil joined the CANAMEX country Greens at inaugural Green Meetings in Rio de Janeiro (June, 1992) and Mexico City (January, 1993). Relations grew between Greens from these nations in the ensuing years.
• By November 1996, support came together for a Mexican Green proposal to have a preparatory meeting in order to create a Federation.
• In March 1997 in Mexico City, an international meeting was hosted by the Mexican Greens, entitled “Horizonte Verde.” The meeting sought input and a mandate to organize the founding of the Federation. Countries participating were Chile, Guatemala, Uruguay, Mexico, USA, Brazil, Ecuador, Bolivia, and Canada. Also represented was the Federation of European Green Parties and the Green Group in the European Parliament.
In 1992 and 1996 the Greens successfully petitioned for ballot status. In 1994, the party qualified because Linda Martin received over 10% in a statewide election. Even though the Hawaii ‘Green Party’ qualified three times in a row they were denied status after the 96 elections.

Since the 1996 elections, the Hawai’i Green Party sought statewide legislation to make this word change in the law. Originally, the bill went successfully through state House and Senate Committees. In March 1997, Representative Terrance Tom, Chair of the House Judiciary Committee (the committee that has jurisdiction over bills changing the election code) wouldn’t let the bill come to the floor for a vote. Not coincidentally, Tom had twice been strongly challenged for State House by Green Party candidate Karen Archibald (41% and 38%).

In 1997, the bill went forward when someone else became Judiciary Committee chair, and it passed the legislature. Then the issue became whether the law should apply retroactively to past elections. This was ironic because the purpose of the bill was to recognize the Green Party. Eventually the new elections officer ruled that it did apply retroactively to the Green Party.

Hawai’i Green officials feel that without the additional burden of petitioning for local elections, the party will be more successful getting candidates elected.

Change In Law Will Give Colorado Greens Ballot Status

Because of a change in state law, the Green Party of Colorado will become the first progressive party to gain ballot status in Colorado in more than 80 years if they simply increase their state voter registration from 962 (as of April 15th) to at least 1000 by July 1st.

This is possible because of legislation sponsored by progressive representative Ron Tupa. Democratic Governor (and Democratic National Committee chair) Roy Romer signed it, but was rumored to be reluctant, as he has criticized New Mexico Green Congressional candidate Carol Miller for “spoilng” when she received 17% and her Democratic opponent lost by 2%.

The new law is a major improvement over the old law, which defines a political party as “any political organization which shall have received at least ten percent of the vote for governor in the last general election”. According to Richard Winger of Ballot Access News, the old law was the most restrictive definition of party status of any state in the western US. No political organization other than the Democrats and Republicans have ever received 10% of Colorado’s vote since 1914. Colorado has been one of only six states with no recognized political parties other than the Democrats and Republicans, despite the existence of several active “third parties” in the state.

Tupa’s bill will now permit third parties to nominate candidates for all partisan offices in the state (except president) by convention, if the party met any of three criteria: 1) gathering ten thousand signatures on a party qualification petition by May 1st of the election year; 2) receiving at least five percent of the vote for any statewide office in the previous general election; 3) having at least 1,000 registered voters affiliated with the party as of July 1st of the election year.

(As of March 17th, 1998, there were also 2,916 registered Libertarians, and 10 Natural Law Party).


court decision throws Maine greens off ballot

In February, the US District Court affirmed a ruling issued in December by a Federal magistrate, upholding the decision of the Maine Secretary of State (both are Democrats) to disallow the Maine Green Party from the ballot.

In 1994, Green gubernatorial candidate Jonathan Carter received 6.5%, more than the 5% needed to qualify the Greens for ballot status. To retain their status, the courts have ruled that parties in Maine must win at least 5 percent of the vote in the election for governor, and the state courts have held that this includes gubernatorial and presidential candidates.

The Maine Greens plan to appeal to the 1st US Circuit Court of Appeals in Boston, where they feel the case will get a fairer hearing than in Maine. They argued that the constitutional rights of citizens to form a political party under the First and Fourteenth amendments are being violated.

For the present, approximately 3,600 registered Green Party members in Maine will be redesignated as “independent” for the state and federal elections and even more people could run for office.

The Greens say the courts are ruling as if it said “governor ‘or’ president”, but the Greens say the courts are ruling as if it said “governor and president”.

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New Jersey Law Change Could Help Greens

In April, a federal judge in Newark, New Jersey declared unconstitutional a state law that had required all parties to file their list of candidates for all races by 54 days before the primary. Parties that do not hold primaries in June, now have until the end of July to register candidates. This will give the Greens (and other small parties) more time to organize themselves and their candidates.

Green Mayors Rule

In October 92, Rayon Earlygrow of tiny Point Arena became California’s first Green mayor, as he was appointed by fellow town council members, and not via an election. In December ’96, Steven Schmidt of Menlo Park became the second and in December ’97, Steven Goldman of Healdsburg became the third. Both became mayor by rotating in for one-year terms as part of their normal full-time jobs. The most notable of these is that Steve Blackard, who holds the Partansky is mayor of Davis, by virtue of having received the most votes in 1996, where he was reelected to a 4-year term in 1998.

The first Green mayor in the US was Kelly Weaver in Cornell, NY, 1991-93. The second was Terri Williams, Webster Grove, MO, 1994-97. Both were directly elected to the post.
Green Party Members Holding Elected Office

Fifty-two Greens in thirteen states hold elected office as of April, 1998

Arkansas
(1) Stephan Miller, City Council, Fayetteville

Arizona
(2) Alva d’Orgeix, City Council, Bisbee
Norm Wallen, City Council, Flagstaff

California
(28) Alan Drusy, City Council, Yucaipa, San Bernardino County
Raven Earlygray, Mayor, Point, Arena, Mendocino County
Mike Feinstein, City Council, Santa Monica, Los Angeles County
Susana Francia, City Council, Gladi, Ventura County
Jennifer Hanan, City Council, Arcata, Humboldt County
Jason Kirkpatrick, City Council, Arcata, Humboldt County
Bruce Mast, Mayor, Albany, Alameda County
Bob Ornelas, City Council, Arcata, Humboldt County
Julie Partnsky, Mayor, Davis, Yolo County
Lori Schmitt, City Council, Menlo Park, San Mateo County
Donna Spring, City Council, Berkeley, Alameda County
Barbara Carr, La Mesa/Spring Valley School Dist. Board, San Diego County
Ted Bertsch, Board of Education, Mendocino County
Carol Skjelken, Enclines, Enclines School Board, San Diego County
Cynthia Strecsor, Monte Rio Union School District Board of Trustees, Mendocino County
Scott Buggental, Lompoc Water Board, Santa Cruz County
Lois Humphrey, Laucudia, Laucudia Water Board, San Diego County
Darr Tarr, 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 Conserv. District, Santa Clara City
William Bretz, GreatDeserta/Har/HarrisonCounty/GraniteHills Planning Group, San Diego County
David Diehl, Ocean Beach Planning Group, San Diego County
Kip Krueger, Ocean Beach Planning Group, San Diego County
Barrie Smith, Ocean Beach Planning Group, San Diego County
Anna Miller, Ocean Beach Planning Group, San Diego County
Timothy Moore, Ramona Planning Group; San Diego County

Colorado
(1) Krista Paradise, Board of Trustees, 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

Massachusetts
(1) Bill Shay, Martha’s Vineyard Commission, Oak Bluffs

Minnesota
(4) Debra Ortnan, City Council, Hermantown
David Abazas, Crystal Bay Township Supervisor, Finland
Annie Young, Parks & Recreation Board, Minneapolis
Dean Zimmerman, Parks & Recreation Board, Minneapolis

New Mexico
(3) Cris Moore, City Council, Santa Fe
Fran Gallegos, Municipal Judge, Santa Fe
Gary Claus, City Council, Silver City

New York
(2) Liz Simonson, Town Board, Woodstock
James Corrigan, Board of Trustees, Northport Village

North Carolina
(2) Joyce Brown, City Council, Chapel Hill, Orange County
Alex Zaffiro, Board of Alderman, Carrboro, Orange County

Virginia
(2) Stephanie Porras, Natural Bridge Soil & Water Conservation District Board, Lexington
Phil Weich, Natural Bridge Soil & Water Conservation District Board, Buena Vista

Wisconsin
(4) Bill Anderson, Board of Supervisors, Douglas County
David Anderson, Board of Supervisors, Douglas County
Bob Browne, Board of Supervisors, Douglas County
Bob Glagard, Board of Supervisors, Wausham County

Green Parties of the Americas
(Continued From Page 6)

- In February, 1998 a follow-up meeting was held in Quito, Ecuador, which Canada, Ecuador, Mexico, Uruguay, the United States and Venezuela participated.

In Europe, similar coordination began in 1984. Today, the European Federation of Green Parties has 29 national parties as members, from Western and Eastern Europe. The Federation of African Green Parties in contrast, was founded just this year. On the global level, the first planetary meeting of Green Parties was held in Brazil in 1992. The second will be held in Australia in 2001.

Internationally, the first Green Parties were formed in 1972-73, in Tasmania, New Zealand and Great Britain. Today, there are at least 76 Green parties in Western and Eastern Europe, North and South America, the former Soviet Union and in Africa, Asia and Oceania.

Thousands of Greens have been elected on municipal and state levels. Greens are also elected to the national parliaments in 14 European countries, as well as the Australian Senate, the Brazilian Congress, the Mexican House of Deputies and the Taiwanese Congress. Almost 30 Greens are elected to the European Parliament. Greens have been the junior coalition government partners in state governments in Germany and Tasmania since the late 1980’s. Today, Greens are coalition partners on the national level in Finland, France, Georgia and Italy. +

First-ever Conference of US Green Officeholders
by Mike Feinstein, Green Party of California & Annie Young, Green Party of Minnesota

Santa Monica College was the site of the first-ever conference of US Green officeholders in February, a landmark event that brought together nearly 40 elected and appointed officials, along with future candidates, campaign managers and party activists. Attendees gathered to ‘whine and gripe’ and discussed the challenges of being an effective Green in government.

The weekend, which ran from February 20th-22nd, was divided into workshops focused on “Sustainable Communities”, “How to Govern Effectively and Green”, “Social and Economic Justice” and “Democratizing our Communities.”

In each workshop, three or four Greens presented information about their areas of expertise. Each workshop highlighted initiatives and ordinances on which Green Party officeholders were taking the lead. The four day format also allowed for the long weekend with an airy, comfortable indoor/outdoor space as a backdrop for conference attendees to share thoughts.

Officeholders quickly found they shared many values and principles, despite living in different parts of the country and, for the most part, having never met. This understanding allowed the process to proceed quickly where ‘everyone was at’ to a discussion of direct ways Green officeholders can make change. The presentations filled two full days with clear, focused, and practical information and discussion.

Just hours before the conference began five of the Green officeholders filmed a one-half hour cable TV special called “Campaign 98: Greens in Government” in Century Communications’ Santa Monica-based studio. The program was hosted by renown Los Angeles’ public affairs host Bill Rosendahl and will be rebroadcast dozens of times before the November election and aired in more than a million Los Angeles-area homes. The show will also air on major cable systems throughout California.

On Saturday evening, about 75 people braved some of El Niño’s worst weather to attend a public panel discussion at Santa Monica College. Five of the officeholders highlighted their accomplishments in office.

Overall, the Green Officeholders Conference marked a milestone for US Greens. First, there are now enough elected Greens to make such a gathering possible and relevant. Second, Greens are taking themselves seriously enough to improve the quality of their officeholders. Third, the conference helped elected and appointed officials define what it means to be Green in office in the US. Conferenc attendees included the following elected officials:

- Alan Drusy, City Council, Yucaipa, CA
- Mike Feinstein, City Council, Santa Monica, CA
- Franco Gallegos, Municipal Judge, Santa Fe, NM
- Jennifer Hanan, City Council, Arcata, CA
- Barbara Carr, City Council, Berkeley, Alameda County
- Dean Myerson, Environmental Advisory Board, Boulder, CO
- Mike Feinstein, Green Party of California & Annie Young, Green Party of Minnesota
- Jennifer Hanan, City Council, Arcata, Humboldt County
- Mike Feinstein, Green Party of California & Annie Young, Green Party of Minnesota

Other attendees of the conference included representatives from both the Partido Verde Ecologista de Mexico and the Green Party of Canada, as well as organizers from the United Farm Workers.

At the end of the Conference, officeholders agreed to organize a second conference of Green officeholders next year, most likely in the San Francisco area. They also made plans to organize education and outreach efforts about the Greens during League of Cities meetings and at other gatherings of elected public officials. The first of these will be the National League of Cities meeting in Kansas City, MO, in December. Several Greens from around the country are expected to attend.

The organizers of the Green Officeholders Conference were Lynne Spero & Mike Feinstein. They were the same team that break-grounded the 1996 national Green Gathering and Presidential Nomination Convention.
Greens Set Sights High for 1998  (cont)

Looking forward to the fall, more than 50 Greens have stepped forward as likely candidates, and probably another 20 or 30 will come forward as filing dates approach. The states with the most candidates will likely be California, New Mexico and New York. (For a complete run-down of all ‘98 candidates, see the fall edition of Green Pages, out in September.)

In addition to Moore and Paradise, at least three more Green incumbent city councilmembers will seek re-election in November: Alan Drusys, Yucaipa, CA, Raven Earlylynow, Point Arena, CA and Donna Spring, Berkeley, CA. For Spring, a win would give her a fourth term in office representing Berkeley’s 4th District, a record among US Greens. Spring’s first three terms have been two years long each, but a change in Berkeley’s election laws shifts the city’s terms in office to four years.

In Arcata, either incumbent Vice-Mayor Jason Kirkpatrick will run again, or another Arcata Green will take his place, as Greens defend their first-ever Green City Council majority in the US. In Menlo Park, Steven Schmidt has yet to decide whether he will run again. Two additional incumbents have already decided not to run - Terri Williams, Mayor, Webster Grove, MO, and Bruce Mast, City Council, Albany, CA.

There are also several others who are expected to have a good chance at winning, among the 30 or so already declared candidates for municipal and county office. In Mendocino County, California SEIU organizer Joe Louis Hoffman is attempting to become California’s first Green elected to a county board of supervisors. Hoffman faces a primary election in June. If he finishes as one of the two top vote-getters (which is a strong possibility) and neither wins a majority, then a run-off will be held in November. If Hoffman’s opponent in the run-off is a Republican, as expected, there is a further strong possibility that Hoffman will win in the overwhelmingly liberal Mendocino County - where Green presidential candidate Ralph Nader ended up with 11% of the vote, his best county result in the nation.

On the island of Hawai’i, Julie Jacobson will make her second run for a seat on the County Council, District 6. In 1996, she finished second out of three candidates there (37%-33%-25%). County races are partisan in Hawai’i and, last time, Jacobson beat the Democrat. In Berkeley, Cris Kavanaugh will seek to build on his own 1996 second-place finish in District 8, when he lost by only 91 votes out of 4600 cast. A win would make him Berkeley’s second second Green City Councilmember. Other local races to watch are likely first-timers Annie Gooke, for City Council in Lancaster, PA; and Kevin McKeown, who seeks to become the second Green on the Santa Monica, CA, City Council, joining Mike Feinstein, who was elected in 1996.

Another test of Green strength will be when the party wins its first state legislative seat. Since 1992, Green candidates have finished second or a close third in several three-way races for state legislatures. This is remarkable for a young party, especially within the US winner-take-all system.

Greens hope to break through and win a seat in 1998. Two strong candidates stand out, both of them longtime, well-known community members. In Maine, there is social justice activist Betsy Marsano, who is running for the State House in Portland’s mostly low-income District 30. In Connecticut, Elizabeth Horton Scheff is running for a State Assembly seat in one of the Hartford districts. Unlike in some of the bigger states, these two districts are small enough that a grassroots campaign can win with volunteers walking door to door. In Marsano’s race, the task is potentially made even easier because there is no incumbent running.

On a statewide wide level, Green gubernatorial hopefuls will be running in at least five states - California, Maine, Minnesota, New York and Wisconsin. They share a common campaign goal: gaining/retaining ballot status for their state party.

In California, former Congressman Dan Hamburg, who left the Democrats in 1996 to join the Greens, will be the state’s first Green candidate for Governor. He will be joined by Lt. Governor candidate Sara Amir, a California Environmental Protection Agency scientist. If either receives 2% of the vote, or if the party maintains its current level of Green voter registration (which is highly likely) the Greens will be on the California ballot for another four years.

In Minnesota, Ken Pentel is seeking the party’s nomination for Governor. To retain ballot status in Minnesota, Greens need at least 1% of the vote. Meanwhile, there will be Greens running in Maine, New York and Wisconsin, but the candidates have not been finalized. In Maine the candidate will need 5% of the vote to regain ballot status. In Wisconsin, it will take 1%, and in New York, the party will need 50,000 votes.

In Wisconsin, Greens also plan to run candidates for Lt. Governor, Congress, state senate and state assembly. Alaska Greens have not yet decided whether they will run a gubernatorial candidate to retain the party’s ballot status (they need 3%) or whether they will work on increasing voter registration to reach the amount required by the state.

In Oregon, the Greens will be headed by US Senate candidate Karyn Moskowitz, an environmental economics analyst. Achieving the 1% of the vote the party needs will be difficult because at least six parties will contest the Senate race. In Colorado, if the Greens run a statewide candidate, it will likely be for either the US Senate or the University of Colorado Regent.

New Mexico will have four statewide candidates on the ballot, with two of them heading - Steve Cabiedes for Secretary of State and Sam Hitt, State Land Commissioner. Hitt advocates a sustainable approach to land use and development, grazing, and water quality. Cabiedes, perhaps the best-versed Secretary of State candidate in the area of election law, will focus on electoral reforms like IRV (see page 4) and proportional representation. The Greens need 5% in a state race to retain ballot status. Hitt’s race is a two-way race, with no Republican entered. In 1994, Green Party candidate Pat Wolff received 12% in three-way race for the same office.

Georgia will see its first statewide Green candidates in 1998: longtime Green organizer Hugh Esco for Lt. Governor and local social justice activist Leonard Tate for Labor Commission.

For Congress, there will be at least ten Greens running, including six in California. But the most significant race well could be the return of Carol Miller, who is running for the 3rd Congressional District in New Mexico. Miller’s surprise 17% in 1995 was an all-time high for US Greens in a federal race. Whether she and other New Mexico Greens can match that success will be watched by Greens and other nationwide. +

GREEN PAGES
Volume 2, Issue 1
GREEN PAGES is a publication of the Association of State Green Parties (ASGP), a national organization of Green Parties from across the United States.

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Layout: Westside Greens, Santa Monica/Los Angeles

Logo Design: Daman Goldstein, Venice