

**GREEN****PAGES**

## '97-'98 Victories Advance Green Party

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, garnered 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 Clauss** 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: **Abraham Guttman**, 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.

Go To Pages 2 & 3 For  
A Race-By-Race Analysis

## Greens set sights high for 1998

US Greens have an ambitious strategy for 1998: Continue winning municipal and county election; 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.

Go To Page 5

Go To Page 5

## From Topsham to Santa Fe

### ASGP Builds The Green Party Across The Country

by Dean Myerson, Secretary, ASGP  
The Association of State Green Parties (ASGP) is an organization of state Green Parties from across the United States. Currently there are affiliates in 21 states.

Nineteen of those 21 were in Topsham, Maine, last October, for the last meeting of the ASGP Coordinating Committee (CC). The CC consists of two delegates from each state party. The next CC meeting will be in Santa Fe, New Mexico, April 24th-26th.

The ASGP's goals are to assist in the development of state Green Parties and to create a national Green Party based on state parties. ASGP committees have laid steady groundwork for future national Green politics, while state parties are building the base.

In Maine a new ASGP Steering Committee (SC) was selected using preference voting, a type of proportional representation. Elected were three co-chairs: Nancy Allen (ME), Patrick Mazza (OR) and Tom Sevigny (CT); treasurer Tammy Davis (NM), and secretary Dean Myerson (CO). Allen, Davis and Myerson are new to the SC.

The New York State Green Party was admitted into the ASGP on a provisional basis until the next CC meeting. This provisional status was due to the existence of two Green parties in New York. In December, the Green Party of New York State was admitted under similar terms. The two parties are negotiating, and their provisional affiliation status will be reviewed in Santa Fe.

As directed by the CC, the SC has kept in contact with unaffiliated state Green parties. In addition, many Greens from these states are full, active members on many ASGP committees.

The CC uses email extensively for communication, and sometimes for decision-making between face-to-face meetings. Since Maine, there

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PO Box 5631  
Santa Monica, CA 90409

# Green Victories in 1997-98: An Analysis

## Joyce Brown Town Council Chapel Hill, NC

It took Joyce Brown just \$1525 to finish first out of ten candidates running 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 Ordinance, 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 \$10,000 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 that does 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 Carrboro Board of Alderman in 1995. The OC Greens are active and effective on the local policy level, and are perceived locally as expanding what is politically possible. One of the most electorally successful Green locals 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/business 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, "It never supports Jesse Helms and it's easy to get a resolution passed supporting a symbolic gun or smoking ban or support for freedom fighters 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. We are actually more liberal than progressive."

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## 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 championed controlling regional growth, promoting affordable housing, and reforming property taxes to allow lower-income families to keep their homes.

Known among Santa Fe residents as hard-working, fair and intelligent, Moore was elected 'best City Councilor' two years in a row by the readers of the Santa Fe Reporter. He was 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 3395 votes overall - almost twice the 1833 he received when he won in 1994.

This strong finish suggests that in District 2, the Greens are arguably are the leading political party. In addition to Moore's strong finish there, Green Congressional candidate Carol Miller finished ahead of both 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 margin of 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 controlling regional growth a big priority. He favors a Regional Planning Commission 'to stop sprawl and focus growth into infill and dense, mixed-use, pe-

destrian-oriented neighborhoods where people can use buses, bikes and feet instead of their cars. Development should pay for all public facilities, and impact fees should increase with the distance from the urban core to promote a compact urban form (as well as reflecting the true cost of extending services to outlying areas).

Moore has worked to expand the bus system, increase City funding for sidewalks and bike lanes, and preserve and increase open space. He has also worked for recycling and composting, 'green' purchasing policies, and aggressive water conservation policies

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

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. In addition, he seeks to replace corporate chains with locally-owned businesses (which he calls 'import replacement'), or at least slow down the replacement of local stores by chains.

Moore created a Small Business Ombudsperson position in City Hall to help small business owners navigate through city codes and regulations. Moore also helped write and pass the Home Based Business Ordinance, which allows people to work out of their homes so they can avoid high commercial rents and spend more time with their children

The makeup of the new Council presents some challenges for Moore. Progressives split the vote in District 1, leading to a surprise conservative win. As a result, the balance of power has shifted somewhat towards a more moderate to conservative bent. Yet Moore remains optimistic in the power of grassroots organizing - 'this Council may work as well as the old one -- if community organizers do their job!'

### Krista Paradise Board of Trustees Carbondale, CO

Incumbent Trustee Krista Paradise was re-elected in March, her race made easier when two other candidates dropped out, leaving only three candidates to fill three open seats. Paradise joined the Board in December, 1996, when she was appointed to fill an unscheduled vacancy. At election time, she was organized to defend her spot and confident about her chances had the election been held.

In office, Paradise focused on affordable housing, particularly for lower-income workers. According to a study by the non-profit Healthy Mountain Communities, local wages are so low that buying a house in Carbondale, 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 center, utilizing an old trailer 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 to buy used cross-country skis and back packs for teens, to take advantage of the long winter months. This would reach more youths for less money, and fit with the region's climate. Paradise is also seeking 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 corporation has a contract for it, likely anchored by a Safeway-like market. Paradise feels this would have a negative impact for a town of 5,000. Even though the project fits the area's zoning, she is researching how other communities have stopped them.

The next few years promise to be uphill for Paradise. The two other new trustees are a pro-growth conservative, 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 putting hope in the town's new master plan process, which she believes will show residents prefer a more controlled-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 character and health of the community. Tourism, 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 argued, not sold off like a short-term commodity.

# Green Victories in 1997-98: An Analysis

[Continued From Previous Page]

Simonson called for more open space and recreational opportunities, including hiking, biking and rollerblading trails, and a new pool, as well as support for the arts, including an arts endowment and preserving the town hall as a performance space for the public.

Simonson ran on her experience of government from the inside, gained from her time as Deputy Town Clerk, as well as her community organizing base, including the Woodstock Tree Committee, Woodstock Zoning Evaluation Committee, Woodstock Community Garden and Woodstock Land Conservancy. She spent \$1200, mostly on literature, as well as spending many hours visiting homes and standing in front of the local Grand Union and Post Office passing out her literature.

In New York, unlike most states in the country, it is possible to run as a 'fusion' candidate. This means one can be on the ballot as the endorsed candidate of more than one party. Simonson chose to run as a Green and a Democrat, and received the nomination of both parties. This option was discussed at great length early on by the Woodstock Greens, and the conclusion was that this was the only way Simonson would have a chance at winning. Simonson herself saw similarities between the local programs of the Greens and Democrats, and thus felt comfortable with the fusion candidacy.

Once elected, however, Simonson has been frustrated by the positions of some of the Democrats. Technically there are four Democrats (including Simonson) and one Republican. It has become apparent after a couple of initial commission appointments, however, that there is a 3-2 pro-conservative split, with two of the Democrats aligning themselves with the Republican. Within this context, it will be a challenge for Simonson to move forward with parts of her agenda.

## **James Corrigan Board of Trustees Northport Village, NY**

James Corrigan won a seat on the Northport Village Board of Trustees, finishing second out of seven candidates for two seats. He received 997 votes, only 38 less than the first-place finisher, and more than 200 ahead of the third-place finisher.

Corrigan ran on the local 'Good Neighbors' party slate, supporting an environment and open government platform. He joined candidates for trustee and mayor. Three won, breaking a 20-year merchant control of the Broad. Corrigan will be part of a new 4-1 majority, which also will feature the village's first woman mayor in its 104-year history and the first time two trustees would be women.

The issue that prompted Corrigan to run was the decision by the previous Trustees to exempt downtown businesses from a 30-year old law requiring garbage to be placed in closed containers. Because of topography, plastic garbage bags were being washed down Main St. and into the harbor.

Northport Village is one of only 17

designated Historic Maritime Centers in all of New York State. Corrigan campaigned on a plan to implement a Local Waterfront Revitalization Plan, upgrade the city's sewerage treatment plant to tertiary treatment, undertake a comprehensive stormwater runoff mitigation effort, replace the use of fertilizers and pesticides with organic composted materials and Integrated Pest Management, and ensure public open space along the harbor.

In the year prior to the election, Northport Village had also been rocked by scandal, when it was disclosed that the mayor had instructed the police chief to illegally use the New York State Police Information Network to

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find information on political adversaries. A civic activist sued the Village, mayor and police chief for \$250 million, claiming they tried to discredit him. Corrigan's slate signed a campaign pledge promising 'an ethical campaign and objective, accountable, democratic governance in the public interest.'

The slate also put together a program called "Great Streets", to reduce local impact on global warming, through the implementation of a) traffic-calming, b) improved pedestrian and cyclist environment, and c) tree planting. Corrigan, a solar-power activist, also called for the creation of a municipal electric utility, to obtain power from cleaner sources and to foster more widespread use of renewable energy, particularly solar photovoltaics.

Corrigan and supporters spread their message in a variety of ways. Taking advantage of unseasonably good weather, they visited every home in the Village at least once, sometimes twice, dropping literature and answering questions. Campaign volunteers held coffees with the candidate meeting with 8 to 12 votes at a time.

Corrigan did five mass mailings to the roughly 5,000 registered voters in the village. He also ran ads for six weeks in one of the local weeklies. Ads and mail both focused on the issues, staying true to Corrigan's pledge to run a clean, issues-oriented campaign.

## **Annie Young Parks & Recreation Board At-Large Minneapolis, MN**

In 1989, Annie Young was elected to the Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board for the first time. Minneapolis Board has one of a handful of elected, independent park & recreation boards in the country. It stewards 6,500 acres of land, urban forest and recreational activities, including 54 community centers.

In November, 1997. Young was re-elected to her third four-year term. Young ran as a Democrat her first-two terms, but in '97 it was as a Green. Her seat was city-wide, and she finished first overall, ahead of the candidate endorsed by Democrat-Farmer-Labor (DFL) and five others..

In Young's first two terms, she focused on raising consciousness within the Park & Recreation system on the need to balance the economics of operating and maintaining the park system, with the values of stewardship of the environment and building-community. In addition to recreation and nature, Young sees parks as catalysts for community-building.

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 wildlife 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 was remarkable given 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/centrist direction of the DFL, Young accepted the nomination of the Minneapolis 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, her tulip-shaped 'Re-elect Annie Young for Parks' signs sprung up on lawns throughout the city, featuring 'labor' and 'green' endorsements in the corners.

Young had over 20 endorsements including most Labor organizations; AFSCME Council 14, AFL-CIO Central Labor Union, Minneapolis Building & Trades, IBEW, CWA, Minnesota Womens Political Caucus, Minnesota NOW, Minneapolis-DFL Green Caucus, Minneapolis-DFL Coyle Gay/Lesbian Caucus, Progressive Minnesota, Green Party, Minneapolis Employee 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. In 1993, voters elected three new commissioners. Then, in 1997 five new commissioners were added. This has created some gaps in the 115-year history of the Park system. 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 considering 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 economic development activity in Minneapolis. Young's political career began by volunteering for the 1968 presidential campaign of Robert Kennedy. Later she worked for the Jesse Jackson for President campaign in 1988 and Paul Wellstone's successful US Senate bid in 1990.

## **Dean Zimmerman Parks & Recreation Board District 3 Minneapolis**

A lifetime advocate for social and economic justice, environment and progressive politics, Dean Zimmerman was elected to the Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board in 1997 for the second time (his first time as a Green), winning his district 67%-33%.

In office since 1994, Zimmerman has worked to drastically reduce the use of herbicides and pesticides in the parks, and to restore wetlands around Minneapolis lakes to improve their water quality. He advocates increasing recreation programs for inner city youth, converting the Park fleet to clean burning fuels, expanding the riverfront parks and other green corridors, and establishing dog exercise areas.

"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 often government bodies do not look after the interests of working people, the poor and 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 nomination, he also enthusiastically accepted 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.

## Campaign for Instant Runoff Voting in New Mexico

by Tabitha Hall, Albuquerque Greens, New Mexico

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 institute '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, 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 simulta-

neously, 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? Citizen 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

date Marty Chavez; former Governors Toney Anaya (D) and David Cargo (R); state Democratic Party Chair Ray Sena; several chairs of Democratic county committees; state Reform Party chair; and the New Mexico Green Party. Other states are looking at IRV legislation. One of the nation's few third party representatives, Terry

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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 candi-

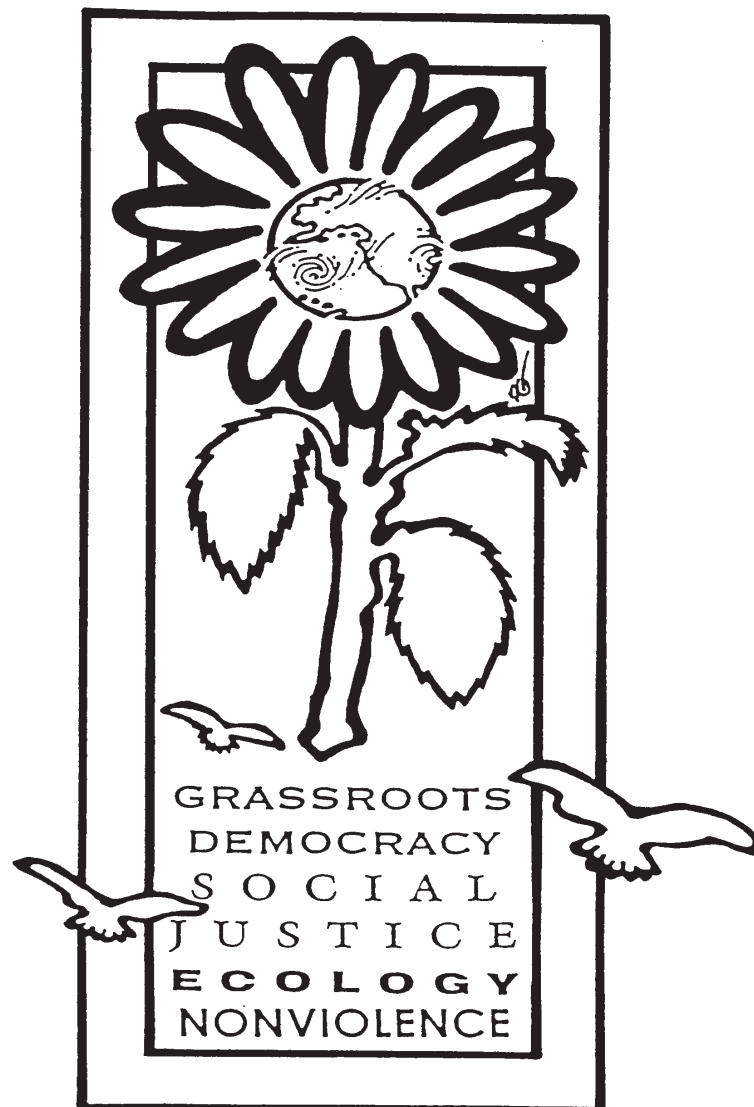
Bouricius, is making progress in Vermont, where a task force of legislators and civic leaders has been created to study IRV. In California, the Green Party plans to begin gathering signatures to qualify an IRV ballot initiative for the November, 2000 statewide ballot.

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.

Prospects for IRV in New Mexico remain hopeful, with organizing likely for next legislative session. For more info on IRV and proportional representation, go to [www.igc.org/cvd](http://www.igc.org/cvd). +



**The Green Party  
is a global movement,  
existing in at least  
76 countries on six continents**

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

by Annie Goeke, Green Party of Pennsylvania

From March 26th-29th Green Party delegates from across the Americas 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 around 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 out of control 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 y Pacifista* (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, Ecuador, 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, as well as an Executive Committee to carry out 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 Portuguese, 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. Follow-up meetings were

held in Alberta, Canada (1992) and , Sonora, Mexico (1993).

• Greens from Brazil joined the CANAMEX country Greens at international 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.

Go To Next Page

## GREEN PARTY STATE CONTACTS

### Green Party of Alabama

306 West Rose Ave., Foley, AL 36535-2046  
(334) 943-2900  
bdglwg@juno.com

### Green Party of Alaska

PO Box 1, Anchorage, AK 99524-0001  
(907) 278-7637  
greenak@alaska.net  
http://www.greens.org/alaska/index.html

### Arizona Green Party

P.O. Box 60173, Phoenix, AZ 85082-0173  
(602) 417-0213  
azgp@sprynet.com  
http://home.sprynet.com/sprynet/azgp

### Green Party of Arkansas

HCR 67 Box 50, Waldron, AR 72958  
(501) 637-4471  
fightbk@igc.org/ fightab@igc.org  
http://www.geocities.com/CapitolHill/4295

### Green Party of California

1008 10th St., #482, Sacramento, CA 95814  
(916) 448-3437  
gpca@greens.org  
http://www.greens.org/california/

### Green Party of Colorado

1085 14th Street #1287, Boulder, CO 80302  
(303) 575-1631  
mruzzin@greens.org  
http://www.greens.org/colorado/

### Green Party of Connecticut

P. O. Box 874, Storrs, CT 06268  
(860) 693-8344  
capeconn@snet.net  
http://www.ntplx.net/~droberts/ctgreens.html  
http://www.greens.org/connecticut/

### Green Party of the District of Columbia

641 Maryland Avenue, NE, Washington, DC 20002  
(202) 546-0940  
smclarty@ereyarmouth.com  
http://www.greenparties.org/dc/

### Green Party of Florida

P.O. Box 10294, Pensacola, FL 32524-0294  
(850) 474-1495  
jdardis@earthlink.net  
http://www.greens.org/florida/

### Georgia Green Party

P.O. Box 5455; Atlanta, GA 31107-5455  
(770) 368-7137  
ggp@greens.org  
http://www.envirolink.org/greens/georgia/

### Hawai'i Green Party

PO Box 3220, Kailua-Kona, HI 96745  
(808) 324-7336  
bbell@aloha.net  
http://www.greenhawaii.org

### Indiana Greens

PO Box 95, South Bend, IN 46624  
(219) 289-9220/ fax (219) 289-9223  
manderlik@igc.org  
http://www.michiana.org/greens/

### Chicago Greens (Illinois)

716 W. Maxwell St. Chicago, IL 60607  
312-243-5619  
brudner@pg.net  
http://www.pg.net/users/g/greens/

### Iowa City Green Party (Iowa)

411 N. Dubuque St, #2, Iowa City, IA 52245  
(319) 337-7341  
holly-hart@uiowa.edu

### Louisville Green Party (Kentucky)

1326 Barret Ave. Apt. 4, Louisville, KY 40204  
(502) 479-3064  
sjharr01@homer.louisville.edu

### Delta Greens (Louisiana)

(504) 861-8832  
clark@beta.loyno.edu  
http://www.geocities.com/RainForest/1387/

### Maine Green Party

283 Water St., Suite 16, Augusta, ME 04338  
(207) 623-1919  
greens@powerlink.net  
http://www.mainegreens.org

### Maryland Green Party

P.O. Box 461, College Park, MD 20740  
(301) 277-3720  
dmoore@crosslink.net  
http://www.cpcug.org/user/kopp/bob/mdgreens/contact.html#montgomery

### Massachusetts Green Party

PO Box 43, Lawrence, MA 01842  
(978) 688-2068  
massgreens@igc.apc.org  
http://www.envirolink.org/greens/massachusetts/

### Green Party of Minnesota

P.O. Box 582931, Minneapolis, MN 55458  
(612) 871-4585  
gpm@freenet.msp.mn.us  
http://www.jimn.org/gpm

### Green Party of Michigan

548 S Main St, Ann Arbor, MI 48104  
(734) 663-3555  
harvey@ic.net  
http://ic.net/~harvey/greens

### Missouri Green Party

P.O. Box 1958, Columbia, MO 65205  
(573) 874-0769  
mharline@mail.coin.missouri.edu  
http://www.envirolink.org/greens/missouri/

### Green Party of Nevada

PO Box 9127, Reno, NV 89507  
(702) 849-3887  
hadder@chem.unr.edu  
http://www.rahul.net/cameron/nader/States/nev-pre.html/

### Green Party of New Jersey

PO Box 9802, Trenton, NJ 08650-9802  
(609) 278-4467/ fax (609) 393-5343  
gpn@techie.com  
http://www.gpnj.org

### New Mexico Green Party

P.O. Box 22485, Santa Fe, NM 87502  
(505) 473-3621  
nmgp@nmgp.org  
http://nmgp.org

### New York State Greens/ Green Party of New York State

63-36 98th Place #5J, Rego Park, NY 11374  
(888)-NY4-GREENS  
(718)-459-1778  
levner@panix.com  
http://www.greens.org/ny

### New York State Green Party

29 Middagh St., Brooklyn, NY 11201  
(718) 522-6138  
esalzman@aba.org

### Orange County Greens (North Carolina)

33 Mt. Bolus Road, Chapel Hill, NC 27514  
(919) 933-4254  
http://www.jwp.bc.ca/rbueker/nc-greens/greennc.html

### Ohio Greens/Green Party of Ohio

2233 Parkwood, Toledo, OH 43620.  
(419) 836-8331.  
bkrompak@aol.com  
http://www.envirolink.org/greens/ohio/

### Pacific Party (Oregon)

PO Box 1223 University Stationm Portland, OR 97207  
(503) 293-5888  
b2@peak.org  
http://www.pacificparty.org

### Green Party of Pennsylvania

Box 7413, Lancaster, PA 17604  
(717) 394-9110  
ajgoeke@igc.org  
http://www.greens.org/pennsylvania/

### Green Party of Rhode Island

P.O. Box 1151, Providence, RI 02901  
(401) 521-6454  
affigne@providence.edu  
http://www.greens.org/rhode/

### Green Party of Tennessee

1517 Ferguson Ave. Nashville, TN 37212  
(615) 298-2025  
alcon@usit.net

### Texas Greens

715 Valley Vista #2022, Arlington, TX. 76006  
(817) 261-0474  
kyle@waonline.com

### Green Party of Utah

P.O. Box 661, Farmington, UT 84025  
(801) 451-5785  
airmet.m@amstr.com

### Green Party of Virginia

1 South River R, Buena Vista, VA 24416  
(540) 261-4306  
eric@rockbridge.net  
http://rockbridge.net/greens

### Seattle Greens Network (WA State)

(206) 789-4135  
seagreens@boutell.com  
http://boutell.com/seagreens

### Green Party of Wisconsin

1001 E. Keefe, Milwaukee, WI 53212.  
(715) 472-2728  
peterson@win.bright.net  
http://www.excel.net/~pdrewry/email.htm

### Laramie Green Party (Wyoming)

2087 Van Buren St., Laramie, WY 82070  
(307) 705-3266  
wsmith@uwyo.edu

# Green Ballot Status Update

Correspondents include Richard Winger (CA), Dean Myerson & Gary Swing (CO), Michael Christopher (HI), Nancy Allen & John Rensenbrink (ME)

## Hawai'i Green Party Gains Ballot Status For Ten Years

Hawai'i, state law says that if a party qualifies for the ballot three election cycles in a row, it is entitled to 10 years automatic ballot status. But even though the Hawai'i Green Party qualified three times in a row, they were denied status after the '96 elections.

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 race in the preceding election (14% for US Senate).

But Hawai'i state law said 'a party must successfully petition three times in a row in order to receive guaranteed ballot status for 10 years', instead of 'a party can simply qualify three times in a row', without specifying utilizing only the petition process route.

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. But then 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 legisla-

ture. Then the issue became whether the law should apply retroactively to the Greens. 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 the right to run candidates, 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 Boulder legislator 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 'spoiling' 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 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 west-

ern US. No political organization other than the Democrats and Republicans have achieved ballot status in Colorado 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 disqualify 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 per-

cent of the vote, every two years, for each gubernatorial and presidential election. In 1996, Green Party presidential candidate Ralph Nader received 2.5% of the statewide vote.

Maine Greens unsuccessfully argued that the political viability of a party should be measured during a four-year cycle, rather than every two years, and that a state party should not be penalized for the relative lack of strength of their national party. They also argued that the relevant state statute is ambiguous on the issue. The language says "governor 'or' president", but the Greens say the courts are ruling as if it said "governor *and* president".

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'll argue 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 'unenrolled voter's' by local registrars and municipal clerks across the state. Unresolved is what the Greens will be allowed to do with contributions they've received through the state income tax form check-forms. In 1996, the Greens collected \$8,000; more than did the Maine Republican Party. It is unlikely anything would be done this, but money from 1997 forms could be held up. The issue is still to be decided upon by the Attorney General's office and the state tax assessor.

Maine Greens hope to regain their ballot status this fall, with Green gubernatorial candidate Pat LaMarche needing to receive at least 5% of the vote.

## 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 candidacies. +

## Green Mayors Rule

In October 92, **Raven Earlygrow** of tiny Point Arena become California's first Green mayor, as he was appointed by fellow town councilmembers, and re-appointed ever since. In December '96, **Steven Schmidt** of Menlo Park became the second and in December '97, **Bruce Mast** became the second. Both became mayor by rotating in for one-year terms as part of their normal City Council duties. In June '98, **Julie Partansky** becomes mayor of Davis, by virtue of having received the most votes in 1996, when she was re-elected to her second City Council term.

The first Green mayor in the US was **Kelly Weaverling** in Cordova, AK, 1991-93. The second was **Terri Williams**, Webster Grove, MO, 1994-97. Both were directly elected to the post.

## ASGP: From Topsham To Sante Fe

[ continued from page 1 )

have been two email votes by the CC - one on the Green Party of NY State affiliation and one appointing Anne Goeke as ASGP representative to the founding meeting of the Federation of the Green Parties of the Americas, in Ihla Bela, Brazil. (see page 6).

The SC also endorsed a number of positions since Maine. The first was on the International Landmine Treaty that the Clinton Administration has refused to sign. Second was a global Green Party statement on Global Warming, endorsed by more than 50 Green Parties world wide, prepared for the Kyoto global climate conference. This was the second time Greens coordinated globally on a position, the first being in 1996 against French nuclear testing in the Pacific.

The ASGP also signed onto the People's Global Action statement about the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland, and Public Citizen's statement on the Multilateral Agreement on Investment. Finally, the Green Party of Rhode Island submitted a statement against US military action in Iraq

which was also adopted. Some of these actions involved full votes of the CC. Others were time critical and were submitted to the CC for objections only. This process continues to be clarified.

Since Maine, other ASGP committees have also been hard at work. The Transition Committee was formed in Maine to devise internal representation for the ASGP and for a year 2000 presidential nominating convention. It sent questionnaires to hundreds of Greens around the country and compiled a report with to consider in Santa Fe. Similarly, the Accreditation Committee drafted criteria regarding accrediting new state parties into the ASGP.

In Santa Fe, the Platform Committee will present a timeline and ratification process for arriving at a national platform in the year 2000. The committee has reformatted the draft *Platform 2000* submitted by the New Mexico Green Party, and is soliciting position papers from Greens around the country. They have also drafted an 'interim positions document' to build a foundation of agreement towards 2000.

The Clearinghouse Committee opened a Green Ballot Clearinghouse, available to Greens and progressive or environmental candidates nationwide (whether or not their states are affiliated with the ASGP). The clearinghouse will offer advice to state parties about how to set up their organizations, and to candidates about ballot access, financial reporting and other issues.

In Santa Fe, these and other matters will be on the agenda, with further direction expected on internal representation, outreach to unaffiliated state Green Parties, platform development, and plans for 2000. Approximately, 75 delegates and observers are expected. The meeting will be preceded by an international working group meeting regarding global Green Party cooperation. Initially, the focus will be on global warming and globalization. Representatives from the Federation of European Green Parties and *El Partido Verde Ecologista de México* have confirmed attendance. Representatives from the Green Party of Canada and *El Partido Verde Do Brasil* may also attend. +

## Green Party Members Holding Elected Office

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

Arkansas (1)	<b>Stephan Miller</b> , City Council, Fayetteville
Arizona (2)	<b>Alva d'Orgeix</b> , City Council, Bisbee <b>Norm Wallen</b> , City Council, Flagstaff
California (26)	<b>Alan Drusys</b> , City Council, Yucaipa, San Bernadino County <b>Raven Earlygrow</b> , Mayor, Point. Arena, Mendocino County <b>Mike Feinstein</b> , City Council, Santa Monica, Los Angeles County <b>Suza Francina</b> , City Council, Ojai, Ventura County <b>Jennifer Hanan</b> , City Council, Arcata, Humboldt County <b>Jason Kirkpatrick</b> , City Council, Arcata, Humboldt County <b>Bruce Mast</b> , Mayor, Albany, Alameda County <b>Bob Ornelas</b> , City Council, Arcata, Humboldt County <b>Julie Partansky</b> , Mayor, Davis, Yolo County <b>Steven Schmidt</b> , City Council, Menlo Park, San Mateo County <b>Dona Spring</b> , City Council, Berkeley, Alameda County <b>Barbara Carr</b> , La Mesa/Spring Valley School Dist. Board, San Diego County <b>Ted Bertsch</b> , Board of Education, Mendocino County <b>Carol Skiljan</b> , Encinitas, Encinitas School Board, San Diego County <b>Cynthia Strecker</b> , Monte Rio Union School District Board of Trustees, Sonoma County <b>Scott Bugental</b> , Lompico Water Board, Santa Cruz County <b>Lois Humphreys</b> , Leucadia, Leucadia Water Board; San Diego County <b>David Tarr</b> , Ramona, Ramona Water Board; San Diego County <b>Glenn Bailey</b> , Resource Conservation District of the Santa Monica Mountains, Los Angeles & Ventura Counties <b>Todd Cooper</b> , Evergreen Resource Conserv. District, Santa Clara Cty <b>William Bretz</b> , Crest/Dehesa/Harrison Canyon/Granite Hills Planning Group, San Diego County <b>David Diehl</b> , Ocean Beach Planning Group, San Diego County <b>Kip Krueger</b> , Ocean Beach Planning Group, San Diego County <b>Barrie Smith</b> , Ocean Beach Planning Group, San Diego County <b>Aaron Willett</b> , Ocean Beach Planning Group, San Diego County <b>Timothy Moore</b> , Ramona Planning Group; San Diego County
Colorado (1)	<b>Krista Paradise</b> , Board of Trustees, Carbondale
Iowa (1)	<b>Karen Kubby</b> , City Council, Iowa City
Maine (3)	<b>Harold Hansen</b> , School Board, Biddeford <b>George Lehigh</b> , Town Council, Eastport <b>Karen Mayo</b> , Selectperson, Bowdoinham
Massachusetts (1)	<b>Bill Shay</b> , Martha's Vineyard Commission, Oak Bluffs
Minnesota (4)	<b>Debra Ortman</b> , City Council, Hermantown <b>David Abazs</b> , Crystal Bay Township Supervisor, Finland <b>Annie Young</b> , Parks & Recreation Board, Minneapolis <b>Dean Zimmerman</b> , Parks & Recreation Board, Minneapolis
New Mexico (3)	<b>Cris Moore</b> , City Council, Santa Fe <b>Fran Gallegos</b> , Municipal Judge, Santa Fe <b>Gary Claus</b> , City Council, Silver City
New York (2)	<b>Liz Simonson</b> , Town Board, Woodstock <b>James Corrigan</b> , Board of Trustees, Northport Village
North Carolina (2)	<b>Joyce Brown</b> , City Council, Chapel Hill, Orange County <b>Alex Zaffron</b> , Board of Alderman, Carrboro, Orange County
Virginia (2)	<b>Stephanie Porras</b> , Natural Bridge Soil & Water Conservation District Board, Lexington <b>Phil Welch</b> , Natural Bridge Soil & Water Conservation District Board, Buena Vista
Wisconsin (4)	<b>Bill Anderson</b> , Board of Supervisors, Douglas County <b>David Conley</b> , Board of Supervisors, Douglas County <b>Bob Browne</b> , Board of Supervisors, Douglas County <b>Bob Olsgard</b> , Board of Supervisors, Washburn County

## Green Parties of the Americas

[ Continued From Page 6 )

• In February, 1998 a follow-up meeting was held in Quito, Ecuador in 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 'seminar style' 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 conference format also allowed for long meal and break times, 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 from '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. Susan McCarthy, Santa Monica's Assistant City Manager, spent time discussing the challenges of her job, which provided conference attendees with a great deal of insight about the functions of city staff.

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 Drusys, City Council, Yucaipa, CA  
Mike Feinstein, City Council, Santa Monica, CA  
Fran Gallegos, Municipal Judge, Santa Fe, NM  
Jennifer Hanan, City Council, Arcata, CA  
Matt Harline, (former) City Council, Columbia, MO  
Jason Kirkpatrick, City Council, Arcata, CA  
Karen Kubby, City Council, Iowa City, IA  
Bob Ornelas, City Council, Arcata, CA  
Annie Young, Parks & Recreation Board, Minneapolis, MN

The appointed officials included:

Steven Schmidt, State Board of Education, New Mexico  
Kevin McKeown, Telecommunications Working Group, Santa Monica, CA  
Dean Myerson, Environmental Advisory Board, Boulder, CO  
Mark Ruzzin, Planning Group, Boulder, CO

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, 1998. Several Greens from around the country are expected to attend.

The organizers of the Green Officeholders Conference were Lynne Serpe and Mike Feinstein. They were the same team that co-coordinated the 1996 national Green Gathering and Presidential Nomination Convention.

# Greens Set Sights High for 1998 (cont)

(Continued From Page 1)

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 GreenPages, 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 Earlygrow**, Point Arena, CA and **Dona 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 Green City Councilmember. Other local races to watch are likely first-timers **Annie Goeke**, 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 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 remain 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 state-

wide candidates on the ballot, with two of them headlining - **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: long-time 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

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Editor: Mike Feinstein

Contributing Writers and Correspondents: Richard Winger (CA); Dean Myerson (CO); Mike Christopher (HI); Nancy Allen, John Rensenbrink (ME); Holle Brian, Cam Gordon, Annie Young (MN); Tabitha Hall (NM); David Levner, (NY); Ben Kromak (OH), Annie Goeke & Thomas Linzey (PA);

Layout: Westside Greens, Santa Monica/Los Angeles

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