Bock by Popular Demand

Audie Bock first Green to win state legislative seat in US beats heavily-favored Democrat in one-on-one race

On March 30th, 1999, less than seven years after Greens first began to run for state legislative seats in the United States, Audie Bock became the first Green to be elected to one, defeating her Democratic opponent 50.6% to 49.4%, in a two-way, special election for California State Assembly District 49.4%, in a two-way, special election for California State Assembly District 49. For their own initiatives. Her support suggests a much larger potential base for the Green Party than many thought. It also suggests that many voters will prefer more progressive Greens to more centrist Democrats.

On the campaign trail, Bock spoke about six main issues - universal health care, public transportation, affordable housing, environment, education, and encouraging small business while closing corporate tax loopholes. Since taking office, Bock has become a focal point of attention. But she's remained calm and focused, while she faces the enormous task of entering the state legislature in mid-session, as a ‘caucus of one’ with few resources, and with Greens having little direct experience inside the state capitol.

Despite this, or perhaps because of it, Bock has risen to the moment. She's built an identity -from the cafeteria workers, custodians, and legislative analyst staff to the head of Republicaian caucus - as a ‘breath of fresh air’, in an otherwise mechanical, partisan machinery.

In her first two months, Bock has also shown suprising leverage. Democrats and Republicans come to her alike, seeking a Green ‘stamp of approval’ for their own initiatives. Her support will also be important this summer to pass the budget, which requires a 2/3 majority. For more on Audie Bock see pages four through seven inside.

ASGP Prepares for 2000 Election Season

by Dean Myerson, Secretary, ASGP

As this issue of GreenPages goes to press, we are preparing for the fifth meeting of the Association of State Green Parties (ASGP), this time in Connecticut. The Green Party of Connecticut formed as a result of the 1996 national campaign for Ralph Nader and Winona LaDuke, so this time we are celebrating the growth of new Green Parties. The ASGP also formed as a result of the 1996 campaign. Now we are focusing on the next round of national elections in 2000.

The ASGP’s Transition Committee distributed its formal recommendations in mid-April for repre- sentation at a national nominat- ing convention. Trying to fairly represent state parties, which are subject to different state laws and are at different stages of growth, is a challenge. ASGP delegates will be considering this recommendation, as well as one for proportionally representing members of Green parties on our Coordinat- ing Committee, as opposed to the two representatives per state format that is now in use.

We will also be looking at other issues regarding a 2000 campaign. There are proposals regarding the timing and location of an ASGP hosted Green Party National Nomi- nating Convention, and a commit- tee to plan such a convention has been proposed by our President- ional Exploratory Committee. Our Platform Committee has re- vamped its web page at www.greenparties.org. Please visit it and send us your comments. The Plat- form Committee is working to in- tegrate many of the suggestions it has received, and will continue this process, with adoption of the platform scheduled for a 2000 Nominating Convention.

Three state parties have joined the ASGP since our last meeting in Santa Fe, New Mexico. Green par- ties in Georgia and Minnesota were accepted last fall, and the Green Party of California was welcomed earlier this year. This brings our total membership to 25 state par- ties across the country, ten of which have legal ballot status. The ASGP has also been busy on the international front. We were well represented at the European Federation of Green Parties Con- gress in Paris last February, as well as at a conference on globalization (“From MAI to the Millenium Round”) put on by Green members of the European Parliament in Brussels. The EFGP has designated the ASGP as its of- ficial partner in the United States, and we are working on a joint Common Ground declaration with them.

There will be a global Greens co- operation meeting prior to the main meeting in Connecticut. Par- ticipation by Greens from the EFGP, Mexico, Peru and Ukraine has been confirmed. Canada and Benin, West Africa, are also possi- bilities. Work on a global Green Party statement is being coordi- nated by Australian Greens, in preparation for a global Greens meeting there in 2001. There will also be another follow-up meet- ing before then, scheduled this September 20th-25th in Oaxaca, Mexico.
Gary Novosielksi, WIN Board of Education
Rutherford (NJ)

On April 20 Gary Novosielksi, outgoing Chair of the Green Party of New Jersey, was elected to the Rutherford Board of Education. In a field of six candidates vying for three open seats, Novosielksi placed first, with 948 votes (53%). He served a full two-year term as GPNJ Chair from the establishment of the Party in March 1997 through March 1999. This was his fourth attempt to win a seat on the Board in the last six years. With each run he garnered more votes than the time before, demonstrating the virtue of persistence.

The campaign centered on whether the district should build a middle school. Students now either attend the borough’s smaller K-5 schools, typically closer to the children’s homes, or the larger K-8 schools, which have better resources. Novosielksi favored the current system of neighborhood schools, opposing encroachment of the proposed new school construction on a parcel of “Green Acres” dedicated open space. There were also issues of democracy and openness. His campaign struck a chord with many voters by advocating increased public awareness and involvement in decision making, including the televising of Board meetings on the local cable access channel, the posting of the minutes and agenda of meetings on the Internet, and strict adherence to Sunshine Law provisions dealing with closed meetings.

Campaigned primarily via one televisioned “candidates night” in which all candidates fielded questions from the public at a meeting in the borough’s public library. Letters to the editor figured heavily in the campaign, as did an endorsement by the local Taxpayer’s Association, which published and distributed a flyer supporting Novosielksi and two other candidates with him on a de facto “slate.” The slate self-financed a trifold brochure, and had 9,000 distributed via two local newspapers. Novosielksi did some door-to-door campaigning, some handshaking at a local Little League parade, and addressed the local teachers union (NJEA affiliate) to inform them about his views and past activism against school vouchers and privatization.

The joy on election night was overshadowed by the tragedy in Littleton, CO. Ironically, Novosielksi first addressed the Rutherford Board of Education on the issue of conflict resolution (and related it to the US policy of bombing Iraq) back in 1991.

Dorothy Wescott, WIN Village Trustee
Village of Perrysburg (NY)

Thirty-five miles south of Buffalo, in a 200-year-old village, came the Green Party’s first victory ever in far western New York state - Dorothy Wescott. Wescott won 38-4 for Village Trustee in Perrysburg (pop. 450). An incumbent academic standards, and stopping domination and mismanagement by long-time incumbents and their supporters.

Pearlman helped organized the first Earth Day in 1970 in Los Angeles, has been a social/peace/environmental activist in Southern California for over thirty years and is recognized internationally for her environmental work. She teaches community college anthropolgy, and produces weekly national environmental radio and television shows. The election is June 8th.

Chris Patrouch
City Council
West Hollywood (CA)

In a city where an incumbent has never lost, running against three incumbents for three seats, Chris Patrouch finished with 1591 votes, a painful 54 votes short (0.43%) of victory for West Hollywood City Council.

Patrouch promoted a ‘human-scale, pedestrian-oriented urban environment’ and sought to preserve neighborhood-serving business and affordable housing in the face of increasing gentrification. He contrasted the Greens’ extensive gay/lesbian rights platform with the paltry two sentences of the Democrats. In response, Patrouch was outspent 4:1 and 5:1 by his main opponents, and as a credible Green challenger, opposed by all three local Democrat clubs. There were also three specific attack pieces against him (two in the mail and one walked door-to-door).

But Patrouch had by far the best grassroots precinct-walking campaign in the race, and was recognized as such by political observers across the community, including the Los Angeles Times and LA Weekly. Just a few months earlier, Patrouch had led a pro-bicycle coalition of environmentalists, pedestrians, cyclists, the disabled, planners, architects, business owners and residents to overturn a city staff recommendation against a bike lane as part of the redesign of Santa Monica Boulevard, into a pro-bike plan that the city council ultimately approved.

In the end it was perhaps the fact that Patrouch lacked the finances for additional mailings that could’ve penetrated the many security buildings to which his people could not walk his literature, that probably cost him the race “I was hoping for the ‘Rocky moment’ but it wasn’t to be,” said Patrouch after the election. Nevertheless, he was pleased that he ran a campaign that was “built from the grassroots level and made up of small donations”. Patrouch was the most vocal critic of the contributions the three leading Democrats accepted from developers and billboard companies, and he took pride in bringing about a real debate about campaign finance reform.

Green Mayors in the United States

In December, 1998 Bob Ornelas was appointed as mayor of Arcata, California, becoming the eighth Green mayor so far in the United States. Who will be the first Green mayor in the next century?

Bob Ornelas, Arcata, California 1999-2000
Julie Partansky, Davis, California 1998-2000
Leslie Dahlhoff, Point Arena, California 1998-1999
Bruce Mast, Albany, California 1997-1998
Steven Schmidt of Menlo Park, California 1996-1997
Terri Williams, Webster Grove, Missouri 1994-1997
Kelly Weaverling, Cordova, Alaska 1991-1993

Sherry Tippett, WIN Board of Education
Santa Fe (NM)

On February 2nd, Sherry Tippett became the third Green to be elected in Santa Fe, winning an uncontested School Board seat in District 2. Earlier Cris Moore won for City Council in 1994 and 1998 and Fran Gallegos was elected as Municipal Judge in 1996.

Tippett, a water and utilities lawyer for the City of Santa Fe, campaigned against the school district administration’s attempts to close Santa Fe’s small neighborhood schools. Instead, she sought to preserve them, and make them available to all students. “Every child in this district deserves to be educated in a stimulating and nurturing environment.”

Nancy Pearlman, Community College District Office #1
Los Angeles (CA) advances to June run-off

In the April 13th Los Angeles elections, Nancy Pearlman finished second with 17% among ten candidates for one seat, advancing for the second time to a June run-off. In 1997, Pearlman also advanced to the run-off, where she lost by only 249 votes among approximately 100,000 cast. Pearlman’s District is an enormous at-large one which includes the entire City of Los Angeles and parts or all of 33 other surrounding cities.

Pearlman is the only candidate in the runoffs who vowed to “Save the Farm” (240 acres of open space) at Pierce College in the San Fernando Valley. She also supports turning the campuses into ecological facilities, raising approximately 160,000 cast. Pearlman’s District is an enormous at-large one which includes the entire City of Los Angeles and parts or all of 33 other surrounding cities.

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Few issues divide Green candidates apart from others more than 'appropri-ate development'. Nowhere was this more apparent than in Los Angeles’ Sixth City Council District in April, where Green Rex Frankel ran against a three-term incumbent Democrat.

The primary issue was the proposed Playa Vista mega-development (feat-ured as of the year 2000 with its 200,000 a day new car trips coming from new offices, hotels, shopping and over 20,000 residents. Playa Vista is proposed to be built on and next to the last remaining large coastal wetlands (the Ballona) in Southern California. Frankel opposes it. The incumbent has been working for it ever since she was first elected in 1987, although she claims she has signifi-cantly reduced the project’s size and impacts. Frankel says the project should not be built at all and that the land should be purchased and pre-erved as land trust for wetlands resto ration and park use.

Playa Vista has been a deining issue in Los Angeles for years, separating Greens from ‘developer-Democrats’. The grassroots group fighting the project - the Coalition to Save all of Ballona - has 80 groups as members, including the Green Party of Los An-gelas County. Many of the Coalition’s main organizers are Greens.

Frankel only decided to enter the race at the last minute, after another poten-tial Save Ballona Coalition candidate chose not to. Frankel ran an educa-tional campaign, using his candidacy to highlight the Ballona struggle. Called an ‘environmental whiz kid’ by New Times Los Angeles for his grasp of major regional quality-of-life battles, Frankel and over 30 supporters walked to over 20,000 homes in the district, which stretches from the beach at Playa del Rey and Venice eastward for sev-eral miles. They distributed literature and talked about both his campaign and about the Ballona.

Talking was easy. It was much harder for Frankel to generate coverage of the race in the mainstream media, which had already made up its mind about Playa Vista and about the city council race. The incumbent herself refused to debate Frankel on television. She also walked off the set of a tv show right before broadcast, when she learned her appearance there would mean Frankel would be entitled to equal time at a future date. Playa Vista Man-agement also played its part. Accord-ing to a leaked internal company memo, they intentionally delayed releasing new Playa Vista planning documents until after the election, so that the project would not a part of the city council race debate.

Just before election day, the conserva-tive editor of a local weekly even warned pro-incumbent voters that they better turn out, lest what happened with Green Audie Bock being elected would repeat itself locally with Frankel. On the election day, Frankel received 2,038 votes and 10.2%, spending $1,800. The incumbent, spending $200,000, was returned to ofice with 69%.

James Henderson 38th State Senate District New York

In a three-way special election in Rockland County and southern Or-ange County on May 25th, James Henderson received 1.5% for State Senate District 38. This was the first state legislative race contested by New York Greens since they received state-wide ballot status in 1998, and the first state level campaign waged ever by Rockland County Greens.

One of the Henderson for Senate campaign’s primary goals was to raise the Green Party profile. Henderson was invited to participate in the League of Women’s Voters debate and the reporting on that was favorable to the Greens. He was also invited to partici-pate in a local radio station debate, as well as a one hour call-in show where he was the only participant.

Henderson criticized his Democratic and Republican opponents for not pay-ing attention to local environmental problems, such as the pollution of the area’s aquifers by pesticide run-off, which also leads to the area being #1 in the state in incidents of breast cancer.

On land use, Henderson criticized the construction of the new Pyramid Mall, which his Republican and Democratic opponents supported. Henderson claimed the mall, which is owned by out-of-town corporations, was drawing money out of the community, and returning little for local reinvestment, while at the same time undermining existing, locally-owned small busi-nesses.

Henderson sought tax relief for busi-nesses ‘that are truly owned and oper-ated by members of the community’. He also promised to promote, through subsidies, the transformation of chemi-cal farming to organic farming, as well as to push for labeling of bioengineered food and food products so consumers have informed choices.

While his opponents each spent $350,000 to $400,000 on their cam-paigns, Henderson spoke of campaign finance reform. He advocated a law similar to the Clean Money Act passed in Maine, where legitimate candidates who pledge not to take money from private source get state funding and other state support.

He also spoke out against the proposed repeal of the commuter tax on non-New York City residents who work in the city - a move which he criticized at purely political. Rockland County, where most of the people in the 38th State Senate District live, is a com-muter county located west of the Hudson and north of the New Jersey/ New York border, consisting of many upper middle class professionals who work in New York City or Westchester County.

Both parties in the state legislature (the Republican-controlled Senate and the Democratic controlled House) sought to help their respective candidates in the 38th District Senate race by pro-posing to repeal the tax. Henderson observed that while the tax level per individual is small - 0.45% flat tax on income earned in NYC ($100 a year on someone making $45,000/year after federal tax deductions for local taxes) - it was important to support the needs of the larger community which the commuters use. He also observed that repeal of the commuter tax would cost New York City over $360 million a year, further aggravating what many New York Greens feel is already one of the most regressive tax structures (and income inequalities) of any state in the union.

Speaking of ‘other parties’, the special election was the first time that the Greens and the ‘left-of-center’ Work-ing Families Party (WFP) squared off head-to-head since they both achieved ballot status in November, 1998. The Greens ran Henderson.

Under New York’s fusion law, WFP did not run a candidate of its own, but instead endorsed the Democrat on the WFP ballot line. Despite Democrats outnumbering Republicans in the dis-trict 4-3, the WFP-endorsed Demo-crat lost 51.6% to 47%. The WFP is supported very strongly by the New Party, a national political formation which advocates ‘fusion’ as a primary electoral strategy. WFP also contains other forces such as various unions and Citizen Action, which also share a similar perspective on fusion.

Thus far, there is no indication that the WFP (nor the New Party nationally) has intention of ‘fusing’ with anyone except Democrats. However, that may change. Based upon the positive re-ception gained via Henderson’s can-didacy, Greens may contest some of the 17 seats up for Rockland County legislator this November. There also have been overtures from the local WFP about a possible alliance. It remains to be seen whether such ac-tion, if it occurs, is seen as ‘bucking’ state WFP leadership.
Look for Opportunities

Bock’s race was the last of a series of special elections triggered over the past two years by Berkeley residents’ collective resignation from the U.S. Congress. Our incumbent State Senator was elected in spring, 1998 to replace Dullums, and in November, 1998, our incumbent 16th Assemblyman, also a Green, won a special election for the state Senate seat. The Greens chose not to contest those special elections, given all the other elections in 1998 we were working on, and since we didn’t see any special opportunities in them.

But the 16th District special election would be different. We would not be competing with other 1998 elections for publicity and media. That alone would make it worth our while, and we were confident, to be able to significantly publicize the Greens. We also wouldn’t be competing with other campaigns for voter attention. Of all the many special elections we were inclined to take a break after a long and grueling 1998 election year.

Discussions came to a head at our mid-October holiday party. Audie has a 2 term record (for a special election) - we were aware of two Democratic candi- dates, party activist and lawyer Frank Russo, and outgoing Oakland Mayor (and former 6-term state Assemblyman) Elihu Harris. From newspaper articles and other sources, it seemed the that two of them would be waging a tough, expensive battle. We would “stay away from the fray”, publicize the Greens, and hope neither of them would win more than 50%, in which case there would be a run-off between the leading Democrat and ourselves. This way, we reasoned, we would be able to publishly and perhaps even slightly help Audie’s winning. We would give her two more months to be well prepared to take advantage of whatever advantage she would have a “fringe” party candidate would have. But, rather, we might to do us - the electorate everywhere in, and win more than 50%, in which case there would be a run-off between the leading Democrat and ourselves. This way, we reasoned, we would be able to publishly and perhaps even slightly help Audie’s winning. We would give her two more months to be well prepared to take advantage of whatever advantage she would have a “fringe” party candidate would have.

Although no one that night volunteered to run, several of us agreed to ask others. 1 asked Audie. Shortly afterwards, we learned no Republican had filed, which would be to our advantage, especially if a run-off. Many Republican- cans normally contest the regular elections, but it didn’t surprise us that they didn’t this time. Typically they receive 20-30% of the vote. Republicans are 14% of the district. We learned the Greens would be in the top tier of candidates, with about 7-10 thousand, with additional thousands distributed at public locations in area.

By Greg Jan

Because of our contacts over the years, we were able to tap up a number of im- portant endorsements, including Dan Hamburg, environmentalist David Brower, Ralph Nader, musician Bonnie Raitt, Medea Benjamin of Global Ex- press, Dona Spring, and Berkeley’s local activists and community leaders. We then used the money we raised to print a “professional-quality” campaign piece, with the above endorse- ments, new text, and three photos.

...How we established sufficient credibility for Audie and the Greens is the untold story of this election.

Audie had first gotten involved with us when she volunteered for the Nader/La Duke campaign. From that experi- ence, and from other volunteer work with community action at local and state meetings, it was clear she would make a good candidate. She was bright, articulate and committed to the cause. We were especially interested in how dedicated a campaigner she would be. By the last month of the campaign, she was putting in over 50 hours a week! Also, she had a Master’s degree from Harvard and is a published writer (with at least two published books to her credit) – qualities which turned out to be helpful as well during the campaign. It helps to run the best-qualified candidate you can – in this case, we got more than we were initially even aware of.

Audie’s exceptional skills and dedica- tion revealed themselves early, when she spoke at several candidate forums during the first month of the campaign. She prepared thoroughly, rapidly learn- ing of a new set of issues, and then, in- terwoven with that story are a number of “lessons” we can learn from this experience which can benefit Greens across the country.

Lay the Groundwork

“What’s a Green? Who are the Greens?” We couldn’t expect to do well in partisan elections (let alone win) unless people had positive familiarity with us. Hearing about Green success in Germany and elsewhere is helpful, but insufficient. Fortunately, the Green Party of California qualified for ballot status back in 1992, and over the years, through careful and mea- sured steps (as well as a couple of lucky breaks), we’ve made beneficial use of it. The first time a Green Party candidate appeared on the ballots of 16th Assembly district voters was in 1994, when we ran statewide candid- dates for U.S. Senator (against incumbent Dianne Feinstein), Lieutenant Governor, and Secretary of State. We ran to publicize ourselves broadly, and to give the electorate everywhere in the state a chance to vote Green.

In 1996, Ralph Nader (for President) and Kevin McKeown (for a special Presidential) were our statewide Green Party candidates. Nader, already well-known, especially helped raise the positive reputation of the Green Party — includ- ing in the 16th Assembly district. Our most recent statewide candidates were former U.S. Congressman Dan Ham- burg (Governor) and California Environ- mental Protection Agency scientist Sarar Ambar (Lieutenant Governor) in 1998 - again furthering our publicity and electoral opportunity goals.

In addition to Green candidates on every 16th Assembly district voter’s ballot for each of 3 consecutively major elections (along with related public- ity), we also had been steadily de- veloping a positive local reputation and infrastructure. Alameda County had been the headquarters for our state- wide ballot qualification drive in the final key eight months of 1991, and into 1992. What this was for, recognition from the state. Addition- ally, Green Party member Dona Spring, who was „fringe” party candidate, Dona Spring won election to the Berkeley City Coun- cil in 1992, with several Greens gain- ing electoral experience by volunteer- ing on her campaign.

We continued to grow, with Greens volunteering on an increasing number of campaigns, including three Greens running for local office in 1996, and five in 1998. Although the majority of our work was next door to the 16th District, up in Berkeley and North Oak- land, we gained substantial campaign experience, plus an ongoing pool of volunteers, both of which we put to good use during Audie’s campaign. We also built our presence and con- tacts by publishing an 8 to 16 page voter guide with our analysis and rec- ommendations for every major elec- tion since 1992. This was mailed to all Greens in the county (varying from 7 to 10 thousand), with additional thou- sands distributed at public locations in area.

Elect Elected Greens Mike Feinstein (City Council, Santa Monica), Julie Partansky (Mayor, Davis, Audie Bock and Kevin McKeown (City Council, Santa Monica) following Bock’s swearing in
Run to Win

Looking to the March 30 "run-off" Harris at first glance seemed unbeatable. He had almost won the election outright. He had polled over five times as many votes as Audie (49% to 9%) and the Democrats had a 66/1 advantage in voter registrations. Harris also raised far more money - it was not much money - if need be, he could overwhelm any amount we might raise.

However, there were other factors, the most obvious was the fact we had prepared a few days before the election. About 50,000 voters in low-income, low-turnout areas - voter whom were likely to favor Harris - received letters from the state Democratic Party. What should a "free chicken dinner", if they presented the audience well, boosting us to a relative respectably showing.

The final decision, of course, was up to Audie. She would have to cancel an upcoming part-time teaching job so she could be a full-time candidate. Her attitude and public presence had been there that she was running to win. Now that it looked like we might actually be able to pull it off, would she maintain that? Could she do it all, even if it meant a huge personal sacrifice? For Harris' supporters, it was an agonizing decision. Yes, we had an incredible opportunity. But what would this mean to their career, let alone the lost income? Harris would have to make a decision - he can be reached up at the state capitol arranging committee assignments, putting on fund raisers, making connections, and preparing to take office. Apparently, to him, the election was a foregone conclusion - no need to campaign.

We responding by sending out press releases about Harris's refusal to debate, gaining additional media coverage. We started weekly phone banking (first to get volunteers and donations, then to "get the vote"), and shifted our weekend operations from "talking" to door-to-door precinct walking. We printed window and yard signs, and found people to display them. Having managed to raise sufficient funds, we sent our mailer, "Audie Can Win", to everyone who had voted in February, and we ran ads in the local papers.

We had a real campaign underway - certainly not on the scale of Harris's or Russo's in the February election, but we had enough to establish Audie's credibility. And so far, Harris was still "asleep at the wheel".

Run a "Professional" Campaign

With less than two weeks remaining, the first Harris mailer appeared in voters' mailboxes. Soon, different mailers were appearing almost daily.

Several local organizations, particularly the League of Women Voters, tried to arrange candidate forums. Harris turned down all of the proposed dates, saying that he was already busy. Part of the rationale was not to give his "unknown" opponent any further exposure. He also sought to prevent "chickengate" from coming up again. Effectively, his campaign closed up shop. So effectively, Harris was busy up at the state capitol arranging committee assignments, putting on fund raisers, making connections, and preparing to take office. Apparently, to him, the election was a foregone conclusion - no need to campaign.

The press reported that Harris's consultant had taken a poll showing Harris was in trouble. They took a second one that told them the same thing. We told our volunteers that the race was essentially tied with their extra help we could win. In the end, Harris's campaign sent out a dozen different mailers, some targeted to Republicans, some to women, etc. - but it was too late. They spent well over $100,000, maybe even $200,000, on their last minute blitz. We spent $33,000, the largest portion for a district-wide mailing to everyone who voted in February.

Our plan to establish Audie's credibility and to provide an outlet for the majority 'anti-Harris' voters had worked. We managed to tailor the basic components of running a "professional" campaign, as described in a typical "How to run a campaign" training manual, to the unique circumstances of the Greens and Audie's race. We made broad use of our available skills and resources. We were fortunate in having a superb and dedicated candidate. Our opposition was not in touch with the voters, and made several major mistakes (which we took advantage of). The groundwork we'd laid for the past seven years paid off.

Our historic win was not a mere fluke coincidence. Rather, it was a reflection of the seriousness and commitment with which we have been building the Green Party over the years.

- Greg Jan is a founding member of the Green Party of California and a current member of the party's state Coordinating Committee. He served as Audie Bock's Campaign Manager (for the first and last thirds of the campaign). He can be reached at P. O. Box 3727, Oakland, CA 94609.

Back to the future?

Help re-elect Audie Bock in 2000

send your contributions to

Bock by Popular Demand
1714 Franklin ST #222, Oakland, CA 94612
(510) 655-6620 www.bockbypopulardemand.org

The two “leading” Democrats meanwhile, were busy spending money. Both spent out expensive absentee voter mailers. Russo also spent out “hit pieces”, criticizing Harris’s long record. Harris concentrated on publishing his list of endorsements, from Governor Gray Davis and both of California’s U.S. Senators, through the majority of Democratic state legislators, to a host of local elected officials. Harris was clearly the Democratic Party establishment candidate. But Russo managed just enough endorsements to be seen as a credible challenger. He also had recruited some 400 volunteers, perhaps a couple hundred less than Harris. Palacios had maybe 100 and we had 40.

By election day, Russo spent $300,000, Harris and the state Democratic Party $600,000, and Palacios $40,000. Wespent $1,500. What did the candidates spend the money? Harris received 49%, Russo 36%, Bock 9%, and Palacios 6%. In dollars per vote, it was Harris $30, Russo $20, Palacios $16, and Bock 40 cents.

Although Audie was an excellent candidate, our lack of resources meant the majority who voted for her did so without having received any direct communications from our campaign. We believe it was our prior years of having good Green candidates on the ballot, our generally positive reputation in the district that we were able to present the alternative to the Democrats, that served us well, boosting us to a relatively respectable showing.

We did a quick analysis on the numbers. It was unlikely the Democrats would pull the “chicken offer” stunt again, so we assumed few of those voters would be returning to the polls. If this were true, then Harris’s 49% dropped to 43% -- with the balance, 57%, casting their votes “against” Harris. The formula for success looked clear - we had to demonstrate to that 57% that Audie was credible and could be a good (or at least ‘acceptable’) representative. Then, we would expect the bulk of the 57% to cast their ballots against Harris again - although this time, voting for Audie. We also explored economical ways of swaying and turning out some of those voters who had not voted in February.

To reach all of the targeted voters, we needed to reach the maximum campaign we were capable of. Fortunately, this a special election, we needed to reach fewer than half the voters who would normally vote in a regular election.

Still, we needed to raise enough money for mailings, ads, press, literature, and resources. We needed to hire a full-time, paid campaign manager to coordinate the whole operation. We felt we could raise between $25,000 and $55,000 -- just enough. Were we ready to mount an all-out effort? The “energy” felt like we should go for it. Every day another article appeared criticizing Harris and the Democrats over “chickengate”. We knew the media always responded by sending out press releases about the seriousness and commitment. Harris turned down all of the proposed dates, saying that he was already busy. Part of the rationale was not to give his “unknown” opponent any further exposure. He also sought to prevent “chickengate” from coming up again. Effectively, his campaign closed up shop. So effectively, Harris was busy up at the state capitol arranging committee assignments, putting on fund raisers, making connections, and preparing to take office. Apparently, to him, the election was a foregone conclusion -- no need to campaign.

We responding by sending out press releases about Harris’s refusal to debate, gaining additional media coverage. We started weekly phone banking (first to get volunteers and donations, then to “get the vote”), and shifted our weekend operations from “talking” to door-to-door precinct walking. We printed window and yard signs, and found people to display them. Having managed to raise sufficient funds, we sent our mailer, “Audie Can Win”, to everyone who had voted in February, and we ran ads in the local papers.

We had a real campaign underway - certainly not on the scale of Harris’s or Russo’s in the February election, but we had enough to establish Audie’s credibility. And so far, Harris was still “asleep at the wheel”.

Run a “Professional” Campaign

With less than two weeks remaining, the first Harris mailer appeared in voters’ mailboxes. Soon, different mailers were appearing almost daily.

The press reported that Harris’s consultant had taken a poll showing Harris was in trouble. They took a second one that told them the same thing. We told our volunteers that the race was essentially tied with their extra help we could win. In the end, Harris’s campaign sent out a dozen different mailers, some targeted to Republicans, some to women, etc. - but it was too late. They spent well over $100,000, maybe even $200,000, on their last minute blitz. We spent $33,000, the largest portion for a district-wide mailing to everyone who voted in February.

Our plan to establish Audie’s credibility and to provide an outlet for the majority ‘anti-Harris’ voters had worked. We managed to tailor the basic components of running a “professional” campaign, as described in a typical “How to run a campaign” training manual, to the unique circumstances of the Greens and Audie’s race. We made broad use of our available skills and resources. We were fortunate in having a superb and dedicated candidate. Our opposition was not in touch with the voters, and made several major mistakes (which we took advantage of). The groundwork we’d laid for the past seven years paid off.

Our historic win was not a mere fluke coincidence. Rather, it was a reflection of the seriousness and commitment with which we have been building the Green Party over the years.

- Greg Jan is a founding member of the Green Party of California and a current member of the party’s state Coordinating Committee. He served as Audie Bock’s Campaign Manager (for the first and last thirds of the campaign). He can be reached at P. O. Box 3727, Oakland, CA 94609.
Why did Oakland choose the first Green Party legislator in the United States?

Because from California, and especially the Bay Area, have come the major influences in political progress and new forms of political activity over the second half of this century. From the Beats to the Free Speech Movement, from anti-war protests to the Summer of Love, from Black Panthers to feminists, from Gay rights to the anti-nuclear and environmental movements, the Bay area has given birth to new forms of political expression which have connected with progressive forces around the world.

What transpired in the recent elections in Oakland and the 16th Assembly District is the birth of a hopeful politics. That hope is expressed in the Ten Key Values of the Green Party.

My District is a mirror of the New California. Its cultural and racial diversity is complex and exciting. Its urban heart is alive with activists and its university is complex and exciting. Its politics. That hope is expressed in the Third Party and its cultural and racial diversity will affect the quality of life for future generations. I want these future generations to know that I dürfen nicht meinen hand to make public policy. Members of the Legislature find it difficult to apply such values when confronted with the enormous pressures of special interests in Sacramento. I want to remain a member of the Democratic Caucus, providing me with materials which their staff develop on each bill. But what I look forward to is being able to rely on research which comes from the “third” dimension of the political perspective, and that will only come when more Greens are elected to state office.

For now, and for the rest of the session, I am learning the business of being a legislator, and the learning curve is very steep coming in mid-year. As the only Green in an otherwise bi-partisan Assembly, I have to do without the support staff, the perks, the comfort that comes with being part of a group.

On the other hand, I am free to go against both Parties at any time, to vote my conscience regardless of consequences, and to propose bills which no Democrat or Republican might ever introduce. As an example, I am running legislation to introduce the death penalty, one bill to abolish capital punishment (which I expect to fail) and a second bill to provide counties with new violence prevention funding equal to the amount the state would save on appeals when a county seeks "life without parole" instead of the death penalty for capital cases.

I can advocate for universal health care without being concerned about the contributions of the insurance industry or medical association.

Above all, my goal in office is to bring the philosophy of "sustainability" to public policy. Every decision we make as legislators will affect the quality of life for future generations. I want these future generations included as key interests in the decisions we make about how we manage our resources and our environment, and how we prioritize our expenditures each year.
Ms. Bock Goes to Sacramento - What they're saying:

“We have a new system. It’s tripartisan.” - Audie Bock (G-Oakland), San Francisco Chronicle, April 1st

“Weck starts with a reputation for fairness, openness and intelligence, qualities that will serve her well when she has to face hard-playing maneuvering legislators from both the Republican and Democratic Parties...We say this to her: Go forward with the confidence of this community behind you. There is much to do in Sacramento, and your fresh approach is welcome.” - The Oakland Tribune Editorial Board, April 6th

“Third parties received a surprise boost last week when Audie Bock of the Green Party won the special election for the 16th Assembly district. And she’s not even a big-time wrestler” - Orange County Register Editorial ‘Green thumbs up’, April 6

“It was not unlike marching into Paris following the occupation. It was truly exhilarating and there were tears in the eyes of many of us. 4 or 5 standing ovations, whoops, hollers, bravos and ole! We waved sunflowers and olive branches and overall were treated with respect, as was Audie. Everyone in that building knew the gravity of the moment.” - John Strawn, Green Party of California co-spokesperson, reflecting upon Bock swearing-in

"It was unheard of; too far-fetched to be believable if offered as fiction. It’s like the L.A. Lakers losing to a church team.” - George Skelton, writer, Los Angeles Times, April 12th

“With the Greens, you could get some wacky person with a tie-dyed T-shirt who hasn’t had a haircut in 10 years. But Audie is a grounded, sensible, mature woman who has thrown into a swirling vortex and is trying to make this life work.” - Assemblywoman Carole Migden (D-San Francisco), LA Times, May 11th

"If I was this Green candidate, I wouldn’t be signing any long-term leases in Sacramento.” - Bob Mulholland, Contra Costa Times, April 1st. “Greens are like mosquitoes. They’re still around, but they’re not taking over.” - Bob Mulholland, Sacramento Bee, April 2nd. And more Mulholland - “Democrats failed on Tuesday, but they won’t fail in that district in November of 2000. We’re not here getting ready for the next chess tournament.”

"The chicken dinners were reportedly the brainchild of Bob Mulholland, the Democratic Party consultant who is best described as the troll under the bridge of California politics. Smart Democrats keep Mulholland away from their campaigns, allowing him do the partisan dirty work they would prefer to avoid. His presence in Oakland is sufficient proof of the low priority the state Democratic hierarchy put on the race. And his decision not to promise safe streets, better schools or lower taxes, but free chicken is both condescending and patronizing to voters who deserve better.” - Dan Schnur, consultant to Republican candidates, Sacramento Bee

"She deserves kudos for her phenomenal win. She ran a tough campaign. She was a fresh face and clearly a tough competitor. We’re looking forward to working with her, since members of the Democratic and Green parties share many core values and philosophies, including concern for the environment, health care reform and education.” - Assembly Speaker Antonio Villaraigosa (D-Los Angeles), San Francisco Examiner, April 1st

"Anybody with that kind of character is someone I can always work with.” - Assembly Republican leader Rod Pacheco (R-Riverside), San Francisco Examiner, April 1st

"She’s a nice person, but she’s in the wrong party,” says one top Assembly Democrat. “This isn’t personal, it’s professional. That’s a Democratic seat. We’re gonna take her out.” - Los Angeles Times, April 12th

“Vote Green, Not Machine” - Bock campaign slogan

“She’s not beholden to anyone, so she’ll have the luxury of proposing some pretty dramatic ideas.” - Michael Twombly, Green, and Audie Bock’s chief of staff

“We want to cut straight to the chase and go for universal health care. The people are ready and the HMOs are not. They have been gradually reducing the amount of care and pleading that they can’t afford to give the care. And they need to stop talking about saving money and start talking about saving lives.” - Audie Bock, Oakland Tribune, April 6th

“As a progressive, I see Audie as an ally.” - Assemblymember and former speaker Sheila Kuehl (D-Santa Monica), San Francisco Examiner, April 27th

“There are Greens working in the building,” Bock said almost conspiratorially, “and they’re not working in my office.” She laughed. “They come over and whisper, ‘I’m a Green. We’ve got a lot of closet Greens here.’” - Audie Bock, San Francisco Examiner, April 27th
The Green Party - A Growing Movement Across the Globe

In only 25 years, the Green Party has grown from humble beginnings in three countries, to a global movement spanning 80 countries on every continent.

The first Green Parties were formed in 1972-73, in Tasmania (Australia), New Zealand and Great Britain. Today there are Green Parties in Western and Eastern Europe, North and South America, Russia, Africa, Asia and Oceana. Many thousands of Greens are elected on municipal and state levels.

On the national level, over 210 Greens are elected to the national parliaments in 18 Western and European countries, as well as the Australian Senate, the Brazilian Congress, the Mexican House of Deputies and the Taiwanese Congress. There are also 28 Greens are elected to the European Parliament as of May, 1999.

In terms of ruling coalitions, Greens have been the junior partners in state governments in Germany and Tasmania since the late 1980’s.

Today, Greens are coalition government partners on the national level in Finland, France, Germany, Georgia and Italy. In each of these countries, Greens hold the position of Environmental Minister. In Italy, the Greens also hold the Minister for Equal Opportunities and in Germany, Greens also hold the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Health.

Green Parties also have formal cooperation internationally. In Europe, such coordination began in 1984 and today, the European Federation of Green Parties has 30 national parties as members, from Western and Eastern Europe. In North America, the CANAMEX (Canada, United States, Mexico) process began in 1991. Hemispher-wide, the Federation of the Green Parties of the Americas was founded in Brazil in early 1998. In Africa, the Federation of African Green Parties was also founded in 1998.

On a global level, the first planetary meeting of Green Parties was held in Brazil in 1992, in conjunction with the historic United Nations Conference on Environment and Development.

The second planetary meeting will be held in Australia in 2001. In 1996, a global Green Party statement was released against the French testing of nuclear weapons in the Pacific Ocean, and in 1997 a global Green Party statement was issued regarding the global climate negotiations being held in Kyoto, Japan.

On May 7th, Scottish Green Party Principal Speaker Robin Harper was elected to the Scottish Parliament, the first Green in the United Kingdom to be elected on the national level.

After winning more than 22,000 votes in the Lothians, Harper said: I have the voters to thank from the bottom of my heart, who understood the Green campaign. This is a wonderful day for the Green movement and for all of the tens of thousands of people who have put their faith in a better future for Scotland’s children. People who care about Scotland’s environment will now have a vigorous campaigning voice right in the heart of Holyrood. As Britain’s first Green Parliamentarian I committed to making the Scottish Parliament think green and act green at every turn. The polluters, the wasters and the destroyers in our society should take heed now!

Weeping with joy, Harper looked forward to the long-term effect his election could have, Keir Hardie was elected at the end of the last century and the color of his century was socialist. For the next century, the color for the future of the world has to be green.

Scottish Green Co-Spokesperson Marian Coyne concurred, the Greens are the party with Scotland’s future at heart. The four gray parties may have green-speak in their manifestos, but we need Greens in parliament to ensure our environment, on which we all depend, is really at the heart of Scotland.

The Scottish Green Party was established in 1979 and until 1990 was part of a British-wide Green Party. Eight years ago it formed an independent party from the rest of Britain in line with its policy of devolution for Scotland. The Scottish Party works alongside its sister parties in Britain, Ireland and throughout Europe but is constitutionally separate.

Harper has been member of Center for Nuclear Disarmament for over 40 years and an active trade unionist for over 20. Robin joined the Scottish Green Party (then the Ecology Party) in 1985. He has stood for the party at numerous elections, including the 1989 European election when he polled 10.5%. In 1995 he was elected Convener of Scottish Green Party Council, and in 1998 was elected Principal Speaker.

After University in Aberdeen, Harper taught in Scotland and Kenya before returning to Boroughmuir High School, Edinburgh, where he now teaches Modern Studies.

For more information about the Scottish Green Party, go to www.clan.com/environment/scotgreenparty

Historic Victory as Scottish Greens Enter Parliament

Green Party of England & Wales Greatest Success

At the same time their Green neighbors to the north were entering the Scottish Parliament, the Greens in England had record success, winning 14 new seats - the most ever in a single election, and 39 local seats on 18 different Councils, increasing their number of councillors to the highest number ever. Overall, Green Party candidates ran in in 551 Wards across England and Wales. The Greens are now represented on all levels of local Principal Authority in England: District, Unitary, Metropolitan Borough, County and London Borough Councils.

The impressive Green showing in both England and Scotland continues a recent upward trend in United Kingdom since May 1998, and strengthens the view that the Greens can win European Parliament seats for the first time, particularly since proportional representation will be used for the first time. In particular, the introduction of since proportional representation in Scotland clearly shifted public perception of the Greens prospects of winning and changed their voting behavior accordingly. In particular, English Greens hope to pick up one and possibly two European Parliament seats in London, and possibly another seat outside of it.

The British Green Party was founded as in 1973. Originally called The Peoples Party it soon changed its name to Ecology Party. In the general election of 1979, despite having only 500 members, the party fielded 50 candidates, thus securing a television broadcast. This led to the first big expansion of the party, to 5,000 members.

In 1985, the party changed its name to Green Party. In the 1989 European election, the party achieved the then highest ever percentage vote for a Green Party in Europe, with 15%. The British winner-take-all system however, similar to that in the United States, prevented Greens from winning any seats.

For more information about the Green Party of England & Wales, go to www.greenparty.org.uk.

Upcoming Global Green Party meetings:

Green Millennium Reunion
Oaxaca, Mexico
host: Partido Verde Ecologista de Mexico
September 20th - 25th, 1999
pve@infosel.net.mx

Global Greens Conference 2001
Canberra, Australia
host: The Australian Greens
April 14th - 16th, 2001
jo.desilva@aph.gov.au
www.global.greens.org.au

www.global.greens.org.au
Proportional Representation: Electoral System for a True Democracy

By Betty Traynor, Green Party of California

With the election of Audie Bock to the California State Assembly, the Green Party has broken through the two-party barrier on the state legislative level. This was a momentous and joyous occasion. Do we still need to reform our electoral system? You bet!

Bock was the first third party candidate since 1914 to reach Sacramento. The overwhelming attention her election generation attests to its rarity. The majority political parties receive the popular vote. It is fairer. It is more democratic. The minority political opinion still has majority representation in the legislative arena. But the minority view is represented too.

Currently, the members of our legislatures are elected one at a time in single seat districts, with the winner being the one who receives the most votes. This is heavily stacked against minority party candidates. There can be only one winner per district. This is almost always a Democrat or Republican.

The U.S. voting system is an insult to the voters. It says that up to 49.9% of your vote does not count. The majority of eligible voters are not voting because they feel disconnected from their government. Decisions are made which affect their lives on a daily basis, but they are not part of the decision-making. They feel powerless. They are not represented and see no chance they will be. But with proportional representation, they can be.

Proportional representation (PR) embodies the principle that any group of like-minded voters should win legislative seats in proportion to its share of the popular vote. It is fairer. It is more democratic. The minority participation in the legislative arena. But the minority view is represented too.

How Does Proportional Representation Work?

First, multi-member districts are established, with each having several representatives, not just one. After an election, seats are allocated in proportion to the number of votes won: in a 10 seat district, 20% of the vote wins 2 seats, 30% wins 3 seats. It assures that all political parties (or other voting blocs) get their fair share of seats. Another way of looking at it is, that PR assures that almost all voters end up by being represented by someone they support (usually a threshold of 4% or 5% has to be cleared for representation).

For local, non-partisan elections like city councils, Choice Voting or Single Transferable Vote is the PR system most commonly used.

In this system voters rank all the candidates in order of their choice (1,2,3,4, etc.). Votes are tabulated in such a way that, in addition to their first choice, a voter secures second and third sub

sequent choices may be used to achieve proportional results in the selection of the winning candidates. Very few votes are wasted and most voters have a greater chance of their votes actually electing a winner that they can support.

Choice Voting is not new to the U.S. This PR system was used by many U.S. cities during the first half of this century, including Boulder, Cleveland, Cincinnati, New York, and Sacramento. It was successful in achieving its reformers primary goal: undercutting the power of one party political machines and promoting more racial diversity. Predictably, these political machines did not like the diversity Choice Voting provided and were successful repealing it. Nevertheless, it remains in use today for City Council in Cambridge, MA and for New York City school elections.

Civil rights lawyer and scholar Lani Guinier is a vocal advocate of PR in general, and in particular, a semi-proportional election system called Cumulative Voting. In this system, voters can cast more than one vote for the same candidate. In a three-seat district, voters could cast one vote each for three candidates, two votes for one and one for another, or all three votes for one candidate. If an under-represented group can get behind one candidate and cast most of their votes for her, they stand a chance of gaining representation using this system. Cumulative Voting has been used in Alabama, Texas, and Illinois to elect groups that previously had not been represented - blacks, Latinos, and women.

Proportional representation embodies the principle that any group of like-minded voters should win legislative seats in proportion to its share of the popular vote. It is fairer. It is more democratic. The majority political opinion still has majority representation in the legislative arena. But the minority view is represented too...

How Can Proportional Representation be Enacted Where I Live?

A crucial requirement to implement PR is the presence of multi-member districts. Most state and local elections can be changed to PR, simply by changing local or state laws, without amending state constitutions. In some states, it can also be brought about through the initiative process. For use for the House of Representatives, the U.S. constitution does not have to be changed, but a federal law passed in 1967 that mandates one-seat districts for U.S. House elections does. Fortunately, there is a bill in the House now, HR 1173, introduced by Representative Mel Watt of North Carolina, which will repeal this law. It needs additional sponsors to move forward. Green Party members should contact their congresspersons immediately to ask them to support HR 1173.

Betty Traynor is an activist with the Green Party in San Francisco and a board member of Northern California Citizens for Proportional Representation (NCCPR). She can be reached at btraynor@energy-net.org.

How Can I Learn More About Proportional Representation?


Reflecting All of Us, The Case for Proportional Representation, by Robert Richie and Steven Hill (Beacon Press, 1999)

Lift Every Voice, by Lani Guinier (Simon & Schuster, 1998)

Real Choices New Voices, by Douglas Amy (Columbia University Press, 1993)

also contact

The Center for Voting and Democracy

www.fairvote.org (301) 270-4616

...
Sloane Haywood and Carolyn dent candidates. Green Party plaintiffs ing nominating petitions for indepen-
publicans and Libertarians -- from sign-
gnized parties -- then Democrats, Re-
ruling by Judge William Browning.

garding the effort to place Ralph Nader
After almost three years in federal court
release, April 8th, 1999
from an Arizona Green Party press

Arizona Green Party P.O Box 60173, Phoenix, AZ 85082-0173 (602) 417-0213 azgp@sprynet.com http://www.azgreenparty.org

Colorado Green Party P.O. Box 329, 6376 South Broadway Boulder, CO 80303 deangr@plinet.com http://www.greensparties.org

Green Party of Alaska P.O Box 1, Anchorage, AK 99524-0001 (907) 278-7037 greenak@alaska.net http://www.greenparty.org/alaska/index.html

Green Party of Arizona P.O. Box 95, South Bend, IN 46624 (219) 289-9220 mandenik@ic.org http://www.michiana.org/greens/

Chicago Greens (Illinois) 716 W. Maxwell St. Chicago, IL 60607 (312) 243-5619 brunden@anciologic.org http://www.chicagogreens.org

Iowa Greens 411 N. Dubuque St, #2, Iowa City, IA 52245 (319) 337-7341 iowagreens@iowagreens.org http://www.iowagreens.org

Kansas Greens modal1@rocketmail.com

Louisiana Greens (Kentucky) 1326 Barret Ave. Apt. 4, Louisville, KY 40204 (502) 479-3064

Green Party of Louisiana 7225 Cohn St, New Orleans, LA 70118 (504) 861-8832 lagrenier@linknet.net http://www.greens.org/louisiana

Maine Green Independent Party P.O Box 2046, Augusta, ME 04338 (207) 623-1919 greenerpower@link.net http://www.mainegreens.org

Maryland Green Party (301) 474-1998 Bauercraft@aol.com, http://www.wam.umd.edu/~milkmen/dyngreens.html

Massachusetts Green Party P.O Box 1311 , Lawrence, MA 01842 (978) 688-2068 massgreens@igs.org http://www.envirolink.org/greens/massachusetts/

Michigan Green Party P.O. Box 582931, Minneapolis, MN 55458 (612) 871-4585 holide@aol.com http://www.jimn.org/gpm/gpm.html

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Oklahoma Greens (405) 685-2963 todoc的是@utulsa.edu http://members.tripod.com/Mateius/

Pacific Green Party (Oregon) P.O Box 1223 University Station Portland, OR 97207 (503) 293-5888 b2@poak.org http://www.pacificgp.org

Green Party of Pennsylvania Box 7413, Lancaster, PA 17604 (717) 394-9110 apgoexa@igc.org http://www.greenpa.org

Green Party of Rhode Island P.O. Box 1151, Providence, RI 02901 (401) 521-6454 afflign@providence.edu http://www.greenpawr.org

Green Party of Tennessee 121 McMboro St., Woodbury TN 37190 (615) 563-8253 gwre@mtsu.edu http://members.tripod.com/~GPTN/index.html

Green Party of Texas 818 W, 31st St., Houston, TX 77018 (713) 880-3219 cobweb@onramp.net http://www.greenparty.org/texas

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

Green Party of Seattle P.O Box 95515, Seattle, WA 98145-2515 (206)264-5110 sgreens@boulet.com http://www.sreg.org

Green Party of Wisconsin P.O. Box 1701, Madison, WI 53707-1701 hbank@btl.com http://www.excel.net/~pdrewry/email.htm

Wyoming Green Party P.O Box 1833, Laramie, WY 82073 (307) 721-8289 wygreen@usa.net http://wygreen.hypermart.net/
Greens Party Members Holding Elected Office

Sixty-eight Greens in seventeen states held elected office as of May, 1999

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

California (32)
Audie Bock, State Assembly, District 16, Alameda County
Kerry Arnett, City Council, Nevada City, Nevada County
Colby Crotzer, City Council, Morro Bay, San Luis Obispo County
Leslie Dahnhoff, City Council, Point Arena, Mendocino County
Alan Drurys, City Council, Santa Cruz, Santa Cruz County
Suzette Francina, Vice-Mayor, Ojai, Ventura County
Jennifer Hanan, City Council, Arcata, Humboldt County
Debra Keipp, City Council, Point Arena, Mendocino County
Kevin McKeown, City Council, Santa Monica, Los Angeles County
Bob Ornelas, Board of Supervisors, Washburn County
Suza Francina, City Council, Arcata, Humboldt County
Bob Ornelas, Board of Supervisors, Washburn County
Jennifer Hanan, City Council, Arcata, Humboldt County

Dona Spring, City Council, Berkeley, Alameda County
Larry Robinson, Vice-Mayor, Sebastopol, Sonoma County
Jennifer Hanan, City Council, Arcata, Humboldt County
Steven Schmidt, City Council, Menlo Park, San Mateo County
Ryan Titchenell, City Council, Trinidad, Humboldt County
Ted Bertsch, Board of Education, Mendocino County
Bill Anderson, Echnaton Vedde, Natural Bridge Soil & Water Conservation District Board, Buena Vista

Colorado (2)
Art Goodtimes, Echnaton Vedde, Natural Bridge Soil & Water Conservation District Board, Buena Vista

Connecticut (2)
Karim Horton, Town Constable, Mansfield
Amy van Nunes, Town Constable, Mansfield

Hawaii’i (1)
Julie Jacobsen, County Council, District 6, Island/County of Hawaii

Illinois (1)
Marc Loveless, Local School Council, Alfred Sabin Magnet Middle School, Chicago

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

Maine (2)
Harold Hansen, School Board, Biddeford
George Leigh, Town Council, Eastport

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

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

New Jersey (1)
Gary Novoselski, School Board, Rutherford

New Mexico (4)
Cris Moore, City Council, Santa Fe
Fran Gallegos, Municipal Judge, Santa Fe
Gary Claus, City Council, Silver City
Sherry Tippett, School Board, District 2, Santa Fe

New York (3)
Liz Simonson, Town Board, Woodstock
James Corrigan, Board of Trustees, Northport Village
Dorothy Wescott, Village Trustee, Village of Perryvdsrg

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

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

Wisconsin (7)
Thomas Powell, Board of Supervisors, District 5, Dane County
Echonaton Vedde, Board of Supervisors, District 8, Dane County
Bill Anderson, Board of Supervisors, Douglas County
David Conley, Board of Supervisors, Douglas County
Bob Browne, Board of Supervisors, Dunn County
Bob Ornelas, Board of Supervisors, Washburn County
Scott Tice, School Board, Cumberland

What do elected Greens do in office?

My first six months on the city council by Kevin McKeown, City Councilmember Santa Monica, California

Serving on the Santa Monica City Council exercises my intellect, engages my heart, expresses my exults, and exhausts me. I’m working harder than I ever have in my life.

The transition from activist to legislator has brought me exploded access to information and resources, along with sobering new responsibilities. I still advocate with my familiar enthusiasm, but I must also extend an added evenhandedness. My role is to fairly represent everyone in our community, including some with decidedly un-Green perspectives. This has challenged my Green consensus-building skills.

One of the joys of my first six months has been seeing residents and city staff work so quickly and enthusiastically to help effect change. Below are some of the policies I have initiated with support from my colleagues on the city council:

Individually:
• Moved a revision process for city noise ordinances, to give residents greater protection from commercial intrusions into neighborhoods.
• Co-wrote the ballot argument for a tenant protection ballot initiative I helped craft. (It was passed by the voters 71% - 29%)
• Established an issue-based ‘Councilmember McKeown website’ giving residents resources on issues I’m championing and the opportunity to share (or criticize) confidentially - www.mckeown.net.
• Moved a community-based planning process for a “neighborhood commercial” street that has grown into a regional draw with attendant traffic, pedestrian safety and parking problems.

Along with fellow Green Councilmember Mike Feinstein:
• Secured a resolution of City support for low power FM licensing by the FCC, paving the way for a Santa Monica micro radio station carrying community meetings and cultural events.
• Revived the concept of a one percent advantage for Santa Monica vendors on City bidding, both encouraging local business and saving taxpayers money (part of the sales tax goes to the city).
• Opposed the double-charging of ATM fees by banks on both ends of ATM network transactions.
• Pursued the use of email listservs to create immediate interactive consultations with residents on issues, building on Santa Monica’s previous successes with electronic democracy.

With the new progressive Council majority, elected by a coalition of local renters’ rights, worker, Green, and neighborhood activists:
• Put a City-wide moratorium on run away development to stop loss of affordable housing and neighborhood character in multi-family neighborhoods, while we revise our Housing Element.
• Scheduled the country’s first-ever two day weekend election to fill a vacant Council seat. Turnout was significantly above comparable Tuesday spring elections in surrounding cities.
• Saved our city’s single-family neighborhoods from demolitions replacing homes of charm and character with “monster mansions.”
• Laid groundwork to oppose Phase Two of the huge nearby Playa Vista development that would threaten our region’s last remaining wetlands and choke the region with traffic and pollution.
• Converted City Hall and all other City facilities to 100% renewable energy sources. Santa Monica is the first city in California to do so. Created a Santa Monica Energy Authority to encourage and perhaps aggregate green electricity use for our entire community.
By David Cobb, Green Party of Texas
In 1996, the Green Party ran its first Presidential campaign ever - Ralph Nader for President and Winona LaDuke for Vice-President. That campaign helped to build the Green Party in numerous ways - from gaining new members and building state Green parties, to gaining higher visibility and credibility with both the public and the press.

Looking towards 2000, the Association of State Green Parties (ASGP) Presidential Exploratory Committee was created in December, 1998, and charged with facilitating the dialogue between the ASGP and potential Green Party presidential candidates. An introductory letter/questionnaire was sent to over 20 people suggested by Greens from around the country.

Answers to Green Presidential Exploratory Committee Questionnaire:

Lester Brown
Founder/President World Watch Institute
"Building an environmentally sustainable economy within the short time that is available is perhaps the greatest challenge that our generation or, indeed, any generation has faced. If the Green Party can accelerate this effort, future generations will be forever indebted...At the personal level, I cannot begin to tell you how much it means to me to be asked to consider being the Green Party candidate. Were I less constrained by circumstances, I might well respond positively. I wish you the best in your effort to build an environmentally sustainable future.

Bill McKibben
Environmental Author
"I just got your letter. It was nice of you to write, though I'm not really presidential material. I've read the green platform before, and agree with nearly all of it. I think you have a crucial role to play—maybe more in the 2000 election than ever, what with the need to keep Gore's feet to the fire."

Noam Chomsky
Professor of Linguistics, MIT
"I was most interested to learn about the prospective candidate project, and appreciate the invitation to enter into the dialogue on the matter. I'd be interested in doing so, if I can help, but not as a candidate-not my cup of tea, and far removed from whatever useful talents I might have."

Lani Guinier
Professor of Law, Harvard
"I have no interest in running as a candidate in the political system as it is now constituted. I am, however, honored by the interest and would be happy to engage in a dialogue on the issues."

Paul Hawken
Ecological Economist and Author
Founder "The Natural Step"
"I was surprised (and flattered of course) to receive your request. Having written speeches for Presidential candidates and been on the road, I actually have a smidgen of a sense of what this would entail. I am actually a more behind the scenes person, and have never loved politics, or I should say the meanness of politics. If I thought I could make a difference, I would consider it. But I do not believe I have the public profile or position to lend much credibility or 'gravitas' to the Green Party. I am very supportive of the idea, the effort, the initiative. I am very grateful and honored you would ask."

Carol Miller
New Mexico Green Party
Congressional Candidate 1997 & 1998
"I am deeply honored and flattered to receive your invitation to consider seeking the Green Party Presidential nomination. I must respectfully decline. I will enthusiastically support any serious, credible candidate who emerges from this process, and offer to campaign for such a candidate. I also offer to serve as an advisor to such a candidate on rural community and health care issues (my areas of expertise) as well as other national policy issues as needed."

Ralph Nader
consumer advocate and Green Party Presidential Candidate 1996
"Thank you for inviting my response regarding the seeking of the Green Party’s Presidential nomination in the year 2000. If I seek the nomination - a decision that will not be made until next year- and receive that designation, I will pursue a dedicated and thorough campaign that meets the Federal Election Commission requirements."

Such an active campaign will have the objective of strengthening our nation’s democracy by strengthening the Green Party movement at the local, state and national levels; by emphasizing the problems of, and remedies for, the excessive concentration of corporate power and wealth in our country, by highlighting the important tools of democracy needed for the American people as voters/citizens, workers, consumers, taxpayers, and small savers/investors."

"If there are Greens who support my seeking the nomination, I encourage them to expand the number of volunteers and increase the time spent working to build the Green Party this year in order to advance the Party’s ‘Key Values’ and to increase the likelihood of ballot access in all fifty states."