Gerrymandering is one of the anti-democratic features of the exclusionary single-member district, winner-take-all plurality elections that are predominant in the United States. Gerrymandering is when politicians draw election districts on the grounds of racial or sexual demographics. In 2021, Supreme Court ruled that partisan gerrymandering was unconstitutional. In 2013, have made the legal remedies against racial gerrymandering enacted under the Voting Rights Act of 1965 impossible to enforce.

Gerrymandering only makes the problem of non-competitive elections worse. Over 90% of House districts and over 60% of state legislative districts are non-competitive one-party districts. As a result, tens of millions of us are perpetually represented by politicians we oppose with no hope of changing our representation by voting.

Redistricting can easily game single-member district lines for partisan gain, but not in multi-member districts using proportional ranked-choice voting (RCV). In fact, the only way to end partisan bias and non-competitive one-party districts is to have proportional representation from multi-member districts. RCV in multi-member districts produces proportional representation of all political viewpoints no matter where the districts are drawn.

Proportional representation would not only create an inclusive democracy in which all political viewpoints get their proportional share of representation in legislative bodies, it would also render gerrymandering impossible. Greens should be promoting proportional RCV to end partisan and racial gerrymandering at the federal levels. If there is not a bill in your state legislature, demand that your representatives introduce one. We have to make a bill to pass in Congress, the Fair Representation Act (H.R.3863), which would require proportional RCV for House elections and single-seat RCV for Senate elections. Greens have to be co-sponsors. Most progressive Democratic leaders like Pramila Jayapal and “The Squad” are not supportive of RCV. No Senate has introduced companion legislation.

Every Green running in a House or Senate race that is not winning must run a campaign in support of this act. Your campaign’s suxue and demand that their opponents pledge to support the Fair Representation Act. Make it a fact of your campaign. If they refuse to support it, raise hell.

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Section 2 of the Voting Rights Act for racial discrimination is far more difficult. Democrats have been actively working to deprive citizens of the right to vote. In 2013, in Shelby v. Holder, the Supreme Court gutted the preclearance provision in Section 5 of the Voting Rights Act that had required pre-approval by the Department of Justice of changes in voting procedures in jurisdictions with a history of voting discrimination. Section 4, which defined those jurisdictions, was ruled unconstitutional. Within hours of the decision, states previously covered by the preclearance provision started enacting laws—some of which had previously failed to pass pre-clearance—that are designed to suppress the vote of racial minorities, such as photo ID requirements and voterpurge laws.

In 2019, in Rucho v. Common Cause, the Supreme Court ruled that partisan gerrymandering was constitutional. In 2021, Broun, a<TextView...gerrymandering the Supreme Court ruled that in order to strike down a voting procedure on the grounds of racial discrimination, it must be a clear intent, not only effect, rendering relief under Section 2 of the Voting Rights Act for racial discrimination far more difficult. This January I concluded a 16-year run as the sole Green Party City Member in Minneapolis. As I did so, I also ended my participation in the Conversation on Green Party Governance in the early 2000s, I was convinced that Green values provided a solid foundation for governing. As a founding member of the Green Party of Minnesota, I was already familiar with the Green Party. In 2005 in my campaign for City Council I told the voters, “Our values of social and economic justice, grassroots democracy, nonviolence and ecological wisdom offer a path to help strengthen our work in our city and lead us to creative solutions for the future.” That November, once elected, I had the opportunity to test my theory.

For the next four terms I relied on the 10 key values to my work. While it was often an uphill journey with mixed results, using them, and working with others, met with some success. Our work on Grassroots Democracy led to Minneapolis being the first city in Minnesota to successfully pass and implement Ranked Choice Voting.

The value of Nonviolence helped the City take a public health approach to violence reduction, the development of a Youth Violence Prevention Plan, the creation of an Office of Violence Prevention, and the use of mobile behavioral crisis teams as an alternative response to 911 calls.

Green values influenced the well-publicized passage of the Minneapolis 2040 climate plan which passed with 100% of city council support. Minneapolis declared a climate emergency, adopted a 100% renewable energy by 2050, and passed the nation’s first policy to eliminate police stations.

Our focus on Social and Economic Justice helped pass the state’s first minimum wage law, the wage theft ordi- nance, and requirements for safe and sick time off. It helped repeal New Jim Crow laws like “Lukin,” and pass a resolution calling out institutional racism and committing to end it. It resulted in a Racial Equity Action Plan, a new Office of Race and Equity and a required Racial Equity Assessment for all Council Actions. To prioritize Ecological Wisdom, we declared a climate emergency, adopted a Say’s Law and prioritized environmental justice Green Zones. We invested in clean energy, green roofs, trees, and pollinator-friendly landscaping practices. We expanded recycling and composting and approved a Zero Waste Plan. We passed a Complete Streets policy and transportation plan resulting in a network of protected bikeways, dedicated bus lanes and an array of pedestrian safety improvements.

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initiate a study session, then a pilot program and ultimately (sometimes years later as in the case of Rent Stabilization) a new city law.

To do that I had to place my faith in grassroots democracy. I worked to be accessible, and share my views and reasons for supporting and opposing things. I listened, talked, and sometimes argued my points. I brought people together and was open to delaying action to get more input and address concerns. Increasing public participation and working to be accountable was key to winning acceptance and support.

A challenging value to put into practice was Respect for Diversity. As an elected official I often faced political diversity. The diversity of views and approaches in community, among staff and among elected colleagues can be significant. There is both diversity of style and substance, and as you try to appreciate each person’s priorities and perspectives it becomes easier to adjust one’s own approach to working with them. By respecting the diversity of con- cerns, a policy proposal may be improved as much as possible instead of being implemented in the end. Sometimes respect for diversity meant just accepting the difference, respecting the individual and the relationship. The value of nonviolence helped me stay calm and rational even when being passionate. I reminded myself to separate the issue or the policy from the person, and be willing to cooperate and be compassionate even with adversaries. The value of Femi-

Green Youth Organization Goes Global

gency law. At that meeting a state law was adopted that mandated a new city law.

If there is a Green way of governing, for me, it was based on fully and publicly owning, using, relying on our knowledge and power and boldly and open on the campaign and at work when I was in office. It was based on using them to guide not only what I did and why I did it, but also, mindfully, to guide how I did it.

Greens think globally, run locally

2021 election year-in-review

by Mike Feinstein, CAGP

At least 113 Greens in 18 states ran for public office in 2021. Among them, seven ran for state and federal office—four in regular elec-

A Green Mayor

The highest office a U.S. Green was elected to in 2021 came in Illinois—Peter Schwartzman joins Bruce Del-gado, six-time elected Mayor of Marina in Central California, as one of two current sit-

Hijack of Montana Ballot Line

by David Schwab, WiGP

In 2018, members of the Montana Green Party were surprised by news that people they didn’t know were petitioning to put Green Party candidates on the state ballot. Then it happened again in 2020, and although the real Montana Green Party publicly disapproved of the effort, it was powerless to stop it.

As it turned out, the bogus Green campaign and petition drives were organized by Republican-linked operatives, leading to a lengthy scandal and court battle in 2020 detailed by the independent Montana Free Press in an article titled “How Montana’s Green Party found itself at the center of a political circus.”

The Montana Green Party made a public statement via Facebook on Febru-

On the campaign trail: Anna Treverow (right) won a seat on the Portland, Maine City Council.