

# Amber Waves of Green

The Voice of the Green Party of Michigan Volume 6, No. 1 Winter 2004

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## **IN THIS ISSUE:**

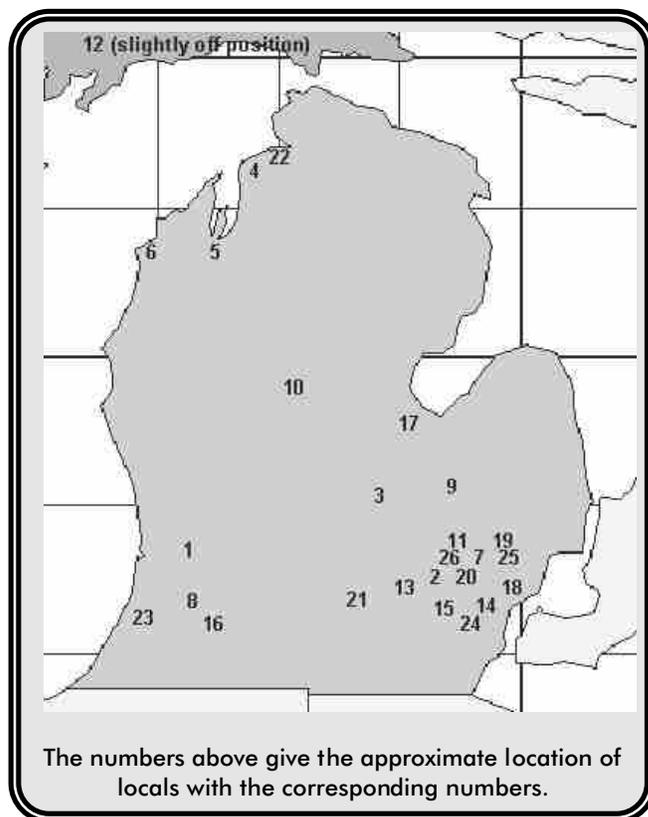
**Green Party presidential candidates – How to become a Michigan Green candidate – Environmental refugees – Water activists under investigation – Irish Greens make gains – and more ...**

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Treasurer	Ted Hentchel
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Meeting Manager	Lou Novak

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Elections Committee	John Anthony La Pietra

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# **Amber Waves of Green**

## **Volume 6, No. 1 – Winter 2004**

### **The Voice of the Green Party of Michigan**

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*Cover photo: People from across the state converged in Lansing to deliver a message in a bottle to governor Granholm on February 4. In addition to the bus load of people from Highland Park, groups from Detroit, Traverse City, Mt. Pleasant, Flint and Lansing went office to office in the capitol building with information packets describing the water crisis and the human rights violations occurring through out the state. The legislators were asked to support a moratorium on water shutoffs and to work together to establish water protections legislation that will ensure democratic control of our water for generations to come. The photo shows the opening rally in room 428. There were many Greens among the 80 or so people in attendance.*

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*Amber Waves of Green*, published quarterly, is the official publication of the Green Party of Michigan. It is written by members and friends of the party and assembled by Linda Manning Myatt. Aside from celebrating spacious skies, and purple mountain majesty, it serves to promote the Ten Key Values of the Greens: Ecological Wisdom, Grassroots Democracy, Social Justice, Nonviolence, Community Economics, Decentralization, Feminism, Respect for Diversity, Personal and Global Responsibility, and Future Focus. Submission of articles by E mail or disc is preferred: [newsletter@migreens.org](mailto:newsletter@migreens.org). Snail mail can be sent to 50 Woodward Heights, Pleasant Ridge, MI 48069. The Green Party of Michigan can be contacted at: Green Party of Michigan, 548 S. Main St., Ann Arbor, MI 48104, or phone (734) 663-3555. On the Web, visit <http://www.migreens.org>, where there is a feedback form, or send E mail to [migreens-subscribe@yahoo.com](mailto:migreens-subscribe@yahoo.com).

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## Green Party Presidential Hopefuls

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The six candidates for president listed on the GPUS Web site were each asked to supply a one page statement about themselves. They were asked to include the kind of campaign strategy they planned to use and the issues they considered most important.

We didn't receive anything from Paul Glover and Peter Camejo, so we've copied their bios from the Web site ([www.gpus.org](http://www.gpus.org)). They include sources for additional information. Statements from the other candidates follow.

### **Paul Glover**

State party affiliation: New York  
(biography provided by the candidate)  
Paul Glover is prime founder of Ithaca HOURS, <http://www.ithacahours.com>, a local currency, the Ithaca Health Fund, <http://www.ithacahealth.org>, Whole Ithaca Stock Exchange (WISE), <http://ithacanews.org/wise.html>, the Ithaca Trolley Authority, <http://ithacanews.com/9208.html>, Citizen Planners of Los Angeles, and other groups. He is author of Hometown Money, <http://www.ithacahours.com/hometown.html>, Ithaca Power (fuel system), <http://www.ithacahours.com/archive/ithacapower>. He is publisher of Ithaca Community News, <http://www.ithacanews.org>, and is employed by the Ithaca Health Fund. He was declared "Ithaca's Hero" by the Ithaca Times Readers' Polls of 1995 and 2000, and its "Best Mayoral Candidate" 2003.

He received an award from the Tompkins County Human Rights Commission in 1996 and received a Cornell Civic Leaders Fellowship in 2001. During 1978 he walked across the United States, entirely on foot, from Boston to San Diego. He is 56 years old. He holds degrees in Marketing and in City Management.

His resume can be found at  
<http://www.ithacanews.org/glover.resume.html>  
[www.ithacanews.org/greenpresident.html](http://www.ithacanews.org/greenpresident.html)  
<http://www.ithacanews.org/greenpresident.html>  
Box 365, Ithaca, NY 14851  
(607) 272-4330

### **Peter Camejo**

Peter Camejo, Green Party of California's candidate in the recent gubernatorial recall election, has announced his intention to participate in the national Green Party primaries. Camejo has stated that he would prefer to see Ralph Nader as the Green nominee in 2004. It is unclear at this point whether Camejo would accept the party's nomination if he were to win it himself.

A draft Camejo campaign, urging Camejo to seek the nomination for himself, is based at [www.DraftCamejo.org](http://www.DraftCamejo.org).

Liaison for purposes of primary: Rachel Odes  
Phone: 510-587-0800 (T,Th, F after 1pm PST)  
Address: 520 3rd Street, Suite 201, Oakland, CA 94607 □

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## Carol Miller

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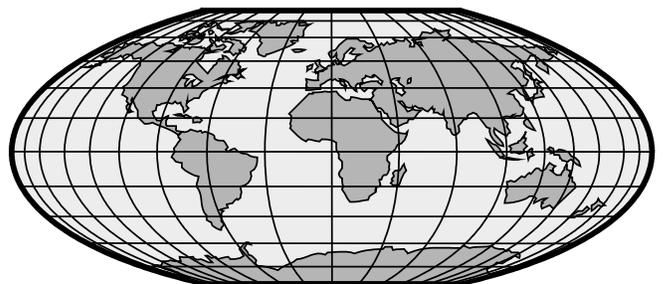
*By Carol Miller*

I am running for Presidential delegates to make sure that, at our convention in June, we commit to a strong campaign for President in 2004.

One of my key issues is fighting to end the U.S. addiction to a war and weapons of mass destruction economy. I am using the campaign to educate the public to what this addiction costs in human terms at home and around the world.

I have been a GP New Mexico candidate for Congress two times, in 1997 coming within 18% of winning an election to Congress. I have held and still hold local, state, and national GP offices. I joined the Green Party to be a part of a global movement for universal health care, economic justice, fair trade, human rights and all of the values of the Green movement.

In my work life, I am a nationally recognized expert on community health and economics. I have been honored by my peers with numerous state and national awards and held Presidential appointments in both the Reagan and Clinton administrations to work on health care issues, including working at the White House on Hillary Clinton's Health Care Task Force.



In 2002, in advance of the illegal invasion of Iraq, I founded a new organization PeaceEconomy to frame the issues of war and peace in terms of international and local economics. PeaceEconomy shows working people exactly how a war economy steals their health, their chances for good schools and a living wage by transferring the wealth they create into the pockets of corrupt defense contractors and their political cronies.

I am a Los Alamos down-winder and watchdog of the nuclear and biological weapons complex. My research links weapons of mass destruction to health

problems in communities surrounding US WMD facilities. I am an organic gardener who was chosen to be part of a long-term study of Los Alamos fallout on the food crops grown by the organic farmers of northern New Mexico. [Would you like your broccoli with or without plutonium?]

I am hoping to make your May membership meeting to meet you in person. □

*carolmiller@newmexico.com*

*Phone: (505) 660-5988 (day)*

*(505) 689-2361 (evening)*

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## Kent Mesplay

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*By Kent Mesplay, PhD.*

### **Campaign Goals:**

- ◆ Achieve the nomination of my party as the presidential candidate
- ◆ Obtain admission to the presidential debates in the Fall
- ◆ Press for: Instant Run-Off Voting (I.R.V.), Health Care Reform, Equitable payment for the Iraq War (by petroleum companies), Bring the troops home, Recognition of Global Climate Change as a serious problem, Promote National Energy Independence based upon Renewable Energy, Regional security (energy, food, water, transportation), Indigenous Rights

### **Long Term Goals:**

- ◆ Universal ballot access for the Green Party
- ◆ Remove personhood rights (and excuses) from corporations
- ◆ Blue collar time for white collar crime
- ◆ Development of community-based communities (jobs, agriculture, housing, energy)
- ◆ Promote simpler living and a slower pace of life as an overlooked option
- ◆ Separation of powers: remove the stranglehold of banking and business upon gov't
- ◆ Transform the military toward peace-keeping operations, to peacefully assist mass migrations of people driven by drought.
- ◆ Teach that economic desperation fuels anti-US sentiment and terrorism

**Biography:** Born at Madang, Papua New Guinea, July 19, 1962. Parents Lutheran Missionaries. Home schooled three years (Australian correspondence). Lived in Rain Forest. Boarding school two years, then Colorado for Middle School and Ninth Grade. San Diego for High School (father became Psychol-

ogist). Straight A's. Valedictorian.

Harvey Mudd College, Claremont, CA, B.S. Engineering

Northwestern University, Evanston and Chicago, IL, M.S., Ph.D. Biomedical Engineering

Unemployed for an eternity. Volunteered at Veterans Affairs Medical Ctr, Long Beach.

Various papers and articles, specialty in artificial limbs (prostheses), cybernetics

Taught High School Math, Grossmont Union H.S. District, 2 years.

Air Quality Inspector II, San Diego Air Pollution Control District, 3 years.

Currently employed by County of San Diego (APCD); member SEIU Local 2028.

**Politically:** Appointed Treasurer of Green Party County Council, San Diego, 1996

Co-chair of Communication Committee (SDGPCC): press conference for Nader, '96

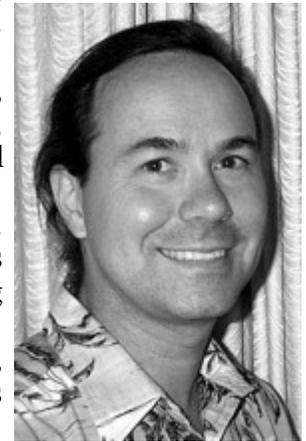
Founding member of San Diego Citizen's Action, 1996

Member of various environmental organizations and causes.

### **Statement of Principles:**

I uphold, in common with other Greens (registered or not), the following perspectives:

Recognition that intentional, conscious human behaviour with concern for long term consequences is essential to solving our problems of justice, employment, health and relationship to natural environments.



Awareness that, as consumers, we vote every day with our money. Personal choices matter, such as moving toward a meat-free diet and utilizing energy efficient transportation.

Optimism that there is yet room, even in this post-9/11 political climate of near-paranoia and excessive government intrusion, to organize and act politically for the advancement of humanity and the preservation of other earth inhabitants.

Insistence that the democratic process is not well served by institutionalized bribery and corruption. We need meaningful campaign finance reform and consistent access to debates.

Concern that security issues are not addressed by our naïve president: we are not more secure against

the threat of terrorism. Terrorism is more than a military problem. Our centralized control of water, food and energy renders us susceptible to disasters: natural or man-made.

A belief that the corporate bottom line is not the bottom line: our planetary life support system is. Globalization that strips families and governments of autonomy, despoils natural resources and landscapes and exploits and indebts the disenfranchised, including indigenous people, is not a form of advancement.

We are running out of time to mitigate the effects of global climate change. □

*kentmesplay@presidency.com*

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## Lorna Salzman

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*By Lorna Salzman*

The future of our planet lies in the hands of several hundred elected representatives in the US Congress, most beholden to corporate interests whose objectives clash with the preservation of our natural environment as well as with social and economic justice. The decisions and policies the American government regarding the environment have reverberations across the globe, not just the US. What happens in Washington DC will decide the fate of the earth. The Green Party must become the uncompromising voice for all of nature and the survival of the planet.

With few exceptions there is no consistent and persistent voice for the environment in Washington, DC. Nor has there ever been one commensurate with the need. While a handful of congressmen occasionally vote properly, the record of both major parties is overall a dismal one. The earth can no longer tolerate the abuse being heaped on it. A drastic change in environmental policies is needed, and soon. Only the election of Green Party

### **Campaign strategy**

Money willing, I would campaign in as many states as possible, carrying a strong environmental message focused on global warming. My intent would be to attract members of the environmental activist community to my campaign and to the Green Party.

candidates can initiate this change.

No leadership has been shown, for example, on global warming. The “progressive” voices on this simply support the Kyoto agreement which virtually all credible scientists say is totally inadequate; to mitigate the catastrophic impact of climate change a minimum of 50% reduction in fossil fuel burning is required over the next two to three decades. The Green Party must demand this, starting with the imposition of carbon taxes - taxes on fossil fuels based on their carbon content. Such taxes would drastically reduce gasoline consumption and get people out of their SUVs and into public transportation.

What our country does or does not do regarding the environment will have an enormous impact on other countries. What right do we have to implore less developed countries to preserve their wildlife when we are ready to sacrifice our own wildlife habitat for the benefit of unaccountable corporations? How can we ask them to support our anti-terrorist policies but refuse to accept responsibility for global environmental problems? How can we refuse to meet specific time and target goals for reducing fossil fuel emissions on grounds that poor and less developed countries have to do the same? And what gives us the right to export genetically modified corn to starving nations? Are we saying: Eat this or starve?



This country has the temerity to demand unswerving allegiance from its allies in its struggle against terrorism, yet refuses to fulfill its own responsibilities. It has not signed the Convention to End All Discrimination Against Women, has suspended aid to those countries who would not exempt American citizens from prosecution in the International Criminal Court, and refuses to sign the Kyoto, Biosafety and Biodiversity treaties. The US retreat from these global responsibilities has made it a rogue nation, one feared and hated, not respected and admired. This must be changed.

Here at home, our government has turned its back on the poor, the sick and the homeless without compassion; while it courts fundamentalist religions, hard-line military adventurists and neo-conservative so-called “free market” proponents to suck wealth upwards from the poor and middle class into the pockets of the wealthy and the investment community. This trend must be reversed. The first step must be adoption of a universal single payer health care system funded through the income tax. The second step is to drastically increase taxes on the wealthy and on corporations, who should be taxed at the rate prevalent in the 1950s, about 50%, while reducing the tax burden of the poor.

The fate of the earth lies in the hands of the rich and powerful in the US, whose citizens consume a quarter of the earth's resources, and which has devoted itself to supporting powerful unaccountable undemocratic agreements such as NAFTA and the GATT agreement being implemented by the WTO. These agreements were written at the behest of transnational corporations having allegiance to no one and nothing but their own profit. These policies and agreements can only be undone – and alternative policies and development models developed – if the US Congress wills it. I would devote my energy to reversing the policies and programs that are literally destroying not only the earth but our children's future. For starters we should dismantle the WTO and NAFTA, and drastically reform the structure and objectives of the World Bank and the IMF. My vision is an aggressive defense of the earth, its natural resources, its wildlife and its ecosystems, without compromise. I defy the major party candidates to make this commitment. □

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## David Cobb

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By David Cobb

As someone who is actively campaigning to earn the Green Party's nomination for President, I want to begin by acknowledging that the unelected and illegitimate current occupant of the White House is a problem. In fact, he is a big problem. But he is not THE problem. The real problem is the social, political, and economic system that is literally destroying the planet, driving the engine of empire on behalf of transnational corporations, and creating an unjust, oppressive and unsustainable world with the plunder.

The social, political, and economic system is the problem, and I am proud that the Green Party stands ready and willing to challenge it!

I propose that we run a strong, aggressive and smart presidential campaign that focuses on building the party. Such a campaign will be a genuine cooperative partnership between the campaign and local and state Green Parties. My specific goals:

- Increase Green Party registration/membership/participation
- Maintain existing Green ballot lines

- Help Greens get elected at the local level
- Create new local and state chapters
- Strengthen existing local and state chapters

Against that backdrop, I offer a few observations:

1) Greens don't just run in elections. We are citizen activists working on issues like a living wage, universal health care, a clean environment, publicly funded elections and ending the illegal and illegitimate war of occupation in Iraq (and Afghanistan and Columbia and .... it's a long and sordid list, isn't it?)

2) The Green Party is not going away. We are getting larger, stronger and better organized with every election cycle. The untold story is that there are 205 elected Greens across the nation.

3) Greens will continue to exercise our sacred right to participate in the electoral process. If the establishment political parties think our participation



is “spoiling” elections, then they should work to adopt Instant Runoff Voting. (Instant Runoff Voting allows voters to rank order all candidates.) This system is in use across the globe, and is used in this country to select Baseball’s Most Valuable Player, the Heisman Trophy winner, and the Academy Award winners. If this voting system is good enough for sports and movies, surely it is good enough to be used when electing politicians!

4) Green candidates are WINNERS. We've won approximately 25% of the elections we have participated in over the past few years, and we have an impressive re-election track record to boot, proving that we can govern once we attain office.

5) There are sharp and unavoidable distinctions between Green candidates and so-called “progressive” Democratic politicians. There are lots of Democrats who call themselves progressives because they support abortion rights, while they also receive their funding from corporations and kowtow to real estate interests. This is half-assed progressivism and Greens are willing say so. Gavin “I’m progressive too!” Newsom is a prime example.

There are countless examples of “progressive” Democratic officeholders who have supported a Walmart development, a publicly funded stadium or convention center, NAFTA, WTO and IMF policies, or eviction of tenants to make way for an upscale condo development. (Al Gore spouted rhetoric against sprawl while supporting funding for projects that he knew would make it worse.)

Democratic politicians, including “progressives” cannot and will not wean themselves from corporate money. They will never challenge the legal doctrine of “corporate personhood” (which is the illegitimate doctrine that allows corporations to claim constitutional rights in order to overturn democratically enacted laws).

6) Greens know that there is a fundamental distinction between Democratic politicians and Democratic Party voters. We regard progressive voters as our best friends, and as future Green Party voters, registrants and activists.

7) Virtually every significant progressive gain in American history was originally proposed by an alternative “third” party: the abolition of slavery, women's right to vote, the 40 hour work week, unemployment insurance, worker's compensation laws, the minimum wage, pure food and drug laws, the abolition of child labor. In fact, the very foundation of what we today would consider the bare minimum for a just and compassionate society was championed by third parties. And the reality is that it only takes 10-15% of the vote in any national

election to force the establishment parties to take new ideas seriously. So if we want universal health care, a living wage, and publicly funded elections, and an end to pre-emptive war as our foreign policy, we must be willing to vote for candidates who will fight for those issues.

**A**nd a closing thought on the Democratic Party’s presidential hopefuls:

Howard Dean has taken a few mildly good positions – and we know he’ll retreat from them if he gets nominated, just as Clinton did in 1992.

Dennis Kucinich, Al Sharpton, & Carol Moseley-Braun are much closer to the Green Party in their positions, but they cannot and will not win the nomination. Sadly, each one will ultimately endorse whoever receives the nomination, in effect abandoning their principles. (We can be sure that Kucinich, like Jerry Brown in 1992, won’t even get a chance to speak in prime-time at the Democratic Convention, and that he will have zero influence on the Democratic platform).

I know that some Greens have joined Kucinich's campaign. Some have even joined Dean's. I respect their decision, even though I disagree with it. As someone who worked hard on Jesse Jackson’s campaigns in 1984 and 1988 and Jerry Brown’s campaign in 1992, here is my conclusion: The Democratic Party primary is the place where genuine progressive politics goes to die. □

*David Cobb (707) 269-0984 is seeking the Green Party nomination for President in 2004 (votecobb.org). He served as the General Counsel for the Green Party of the United States until declaring his candidacy and was the Green Party of Texas (GPTX) candidate for Attorney General in 2002.*

## **Letter from Nader PEC**

**T**hank you very much for inviting Mr. Nader to attend your state meeting. As you know Mr. Nader is currently exploring whether to run for President. When someone is in the Presidential Exploratory Committee mode they are legally not allowed to campaign for president. Making a presentation at your State Membership Meeting with declared Green Party candidates would violate federal election law. Thus, Mr. Nader will not be able to participate in your meeting where delegates to the Green Convention will be selected and where candidates have been invited to make presentations.

As is noted on the National Green Party web site, Mr. Nader wrote the Steering Committee of GPUS



to let them know that he intends to run for president, if he runs, as an independent. He made this decision in large part because the Green Party was divided on whether to run a presidential candidate and how to run a candidate.

In addition, the late timing of the GPUS Convention would make it difficult to run a serious presidential campaign. As noted in the letter, Mr. Nader admires the Green Party, wants to see it succeed, encourages the Party to run lots of state and local candidates and wants to work with the Green Party in the future. Also, if he decides to run he would welcome involvement of Greens in his campaign.

Thank you once again for the invitation. We are sorry that Mr. Nader will not be able to attend your meeting.

*Kevin B. Zeese*

*Nader 2004 Presidential Exploratory Committee*

*tel: 202.265.4000 | fax: 202.265.0092*

*P.O. Box 18002, Washington, DC 20036*

*Paid for by the Nader 2004 Presidential Exploratory Committee, Inc.*

## Letter from McKinney

As a follow up to my meeting in Washington, DC with members of the Green Party of the United States Presidential Exploratory Committee, and the numerous exchanges I have had with many members of the Green Party from around the country, I write to let you know that I have made a decision with

respect to my relationship with the national ticket of the Green Party of the United States for 2004.

As you know, I subscribe to the principles of social justice and respect for our environment that Green Party activists hold so dear. I have supported Green Party candidates in the past and will undoubtedly do so in the future. In my political endeavors, I have enjoyed support from Green Party supporters who live in Georgia and around the country; and I hope to have their support in the future. I also strongly believe that the two party system, so firmly entrenched in this country, fails to serve the larger needs of many Americans who increasingly view neither party as speaking to or satisfying their political and representational needs. The electoral success of the Green Party around the globe was once pointed to as a source of legitimacy here in the United States. However, the increasing electoral success of Green Party candidates here in the United States speaks very vividly to this point. In addition, the Green Party brings more participants into our system and that is good for our country.

I have carefully weighed the opportunity set in motion by the interview with the Presidential Exploratory Committee. I have received words of encouragement from every corner of this country and from Green Party supporters beyond our shores. But in the end, a national campaign is not in the cards for me at this time. I hope that we can continue to work together on issues of mutual concern as we all endeavor to have a United States of America that lives up to its most noble ideals and respects life and liberty at home and around our globe.

*Sincerely,*

*Cynthia McKinney*

## AWOG Circulation

With this issue, we have begun an organized effort to increase the circulation of *Amber Waves of Green*. Previously, we have been printing 2000 copies of the magazine, using it primarily as an internal newsletter with occasional distribution to non-members.

Thanks to donations or pledges to purchase bundles from Matt Abel, Candace & Des Collins, George Corsetti, Ron Halstead, Chuck Jordan/Van Buren Greens, John Anthony La Pietra, Ken & Jan Mathenia, Lynn Meadows, Art & Linda Myatt, Lou Novak/Detroit Greens, Pete Schermerhorn/Huron Valley Greens, Karen Shelly, David Switzer, James Wilbur/Kalamazoo Greens, Hillard Williams, and Ray Ziarno; it has been possible to increase the print run to 5000 copies. Some of these additional copies will be mailed to Michigan media and political action committees. The rest should be distributed at political events, bookstores, brew pubs and coffee houses – wherever potential supporters might be found.

We're not trying to increase our advertising revenue here. We are building our own green media; websites, internet radio, and cable TV in addition to this print magazine. This is part of increasing public awareness of the Green Party and asking people to join us as members, as campaigners and as candidates.

Have questions? Want to help? Like to order a bundle of the next edition? Contact Art Myatt at (248)548-6175 or [almyatt@earthlink.net](mailto:almyatt@earthlink.net). Have an article? Contact Linda Myatt at the same phone # or [newsletter@migreens.org](mailto:newsletter@migreens.org).

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## Troubling New Flows of Environmental Refugees

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By Lester R. Brown  
Earth Policy Institute

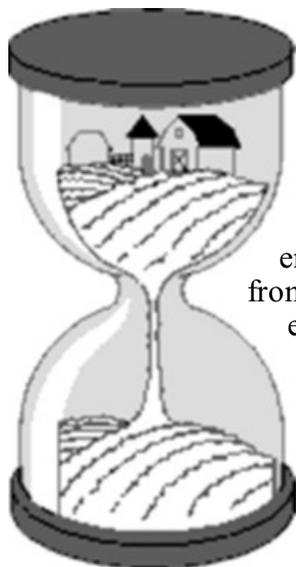
In mid-October 2003, Italian authorities discovered a boat carrying refugees from Africa bound for Italy. Adrift for more than two weeks and without fuel, food, and water, many of the passengers had died. At first the dead were tossed overboard. But after a point, the remaining survivors lacked the strength to hoist the bodies over the side. The dead and the living were sharing the boat in what a rescuer described as “a scene from Dante’s *Inferno*.”

The refugees were believed to be Somalis who had embarked from Libya. We do not know whether they were political, economic, or environmental refugees. Failed states like Somalia produce all three. We do know that Somalia is an ecological basket case, with overpopulation, overgrazing, and desertification destroying its pastoral economy.

Although the modern world has extensive experience with people migrating for political and economic reasons, we are now seeing a swelling flow of refugees driven from their homes by environmental pressures. Modern experience with this phenomenon in the United States began when nearly 3 million “Okies” from the southern Great Plains left during the Dust Bowl of the 1930s, many of them migrating to California.

Today, bodies washing ashore in Italy, France, and Spain are a daily occurrence, the result of desperate acts by desperate people in Africa. And each day hundreds of Mexicans risk their lives trying to cross the U.S. border. Some 400 to 600 Mexicans leave rural areas every day, abandoning plots of land too small or too eroded to make a living. They either head for Mexican cities or try to cross illegally into the United States. Many perish in the punishing heat of the Arizona desert.

Another flow of environmental refugees comes from Haiti, a widely recognized ecological disaster. In a rural economy where the land is denuded of vegetation and the soil is washing into the sea, the people are not far behind. Attempting to make the trip to Florida in small craft not designed for the



high seas, many drown.

The U.S. Dust Bowl refugees were early examples of environmental migration, but their numbers will pale compared with what lies ahead if we continue with business as usual. Among the new refugees are people being forced to move because of aquifer depletion and wells running dry. Thus far the evacuations have been of villages, but eventually whole cities might have to be relocated, such as Sana’a, the capital of Yemen, or Quetta, the capital of Pakistan’s Baluchistan province.

The World Bank expects Sana’a, where the water table is falling by 6 meters a year, to exhaust its remaining water supply by 2010. At that point, its leaders will either have to bring water in from a distant point or abandon the city.

Quetta, originally designed for 50,000 people, now has 1 million inhabitants, all of whom depend on 2,000 wells pumping water deep from underground, depleting what is believed to be a fossil or nonreplenishable aquifer. Like Sana’a, Quetta may have enough water for the rest of this decade, but then its future is in doubt. In the words of one study assessing the water prospect, Quetta will soon be “a dead city.”

With most of the nearly 3 billion people to be added to the world’s population by 2050 living in countries where water tables are already falling and where population growth swells the ranks of those sinking into hydrological poverty, water refugees are likely to become commonplace. They will be most common in arid and semiarid regions where populations are outgrowing the water supply. Villages in northwestern India have been abandoned because overpumping had depleted the local aquifers and villagers could no longer reach water. Millions of villagers in northern and western China and in parts of Mexico may have to move because of a lack of water.

Spreading deserts are also displacing people. In China, where the Gobi Desert is growing by 10,400 square kilometers (4,000 square miles) a year, the refugee stream is swelling. Chinese scientists report that there are now desert refugees in three provinces--Inner Mongolia, Ningxia, and Gansu. An Asian Development Bank preliminary assessment of desertification in Gansu province has identified 4,000 villages that face abandonment.

A photograph in *Desert Witness*, a book on desertification by Chinese photographer Lu Tongjing,

... Continued on page 14

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## Government Repression in the Fight for Water

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*By the Water Defense Committee*

The past few months have been busy and somewhat surreal for activists fighting water privatization throughout Michigan. More than 80,000 homes in Detroit have no water or other utility or are in the process of having these utilities shut-off. But neither Governor Jennifer M. Granholm nor any other public official will declare a state of emergency and stand up for these people's rights. It is in this climate that the push to privatize local water resources, and the ensuing conflict, intensifies.

Ice Mountain, a brand of water owned by Nestlé and drawn from Michigan's natural water systems, has been the target of attention from the Sweetwater Alliance since March 2002 (see EF!J January-February 2003). The Sweetwater Alliance is a coalition of Michigan residents and environmental activists dedicated to the liberation of essential resources from corporate control, and it has an active boycott campaign against Ice Mountain.

The Meijer grocery store chain has refused to stop carrying Ice Mountain, despite direct demands by the Sweetwater activists. At a protest on October 18, in Flint, Michigan, Marie Mason was arrested when she attempted to enter the store wearing a t-shirt that read: "Ask Me About Ice Mountain." The arresting officer later stated that Mason was "unpredictable" and "potentially harmful."

In September, the water issue garnered interest from a group that the FBI loves to hate. The Earth Liberation Front (ELF) attempted to burn down one of Ice Mountain's two pumping stations. The incendiary devices failed to ignite, no damage to the pumping station resulted. Soon thereafter, Massasauga Earth First! issued a statement supporting the attempted action, and the FBI decided to use the arson attempt as justification for harassing activists in the above-ground movement for water protection. Some of the people listed as regional contacts on the Sweetwater Alliance's website were contacted by the FBI, as was the owner of a private camp where the group had held a statewide planning

retreat. The FBI then issued a subpoena in late October to Mason and her husband, Frank Ambrose, to submit palm prints and DNA samples to a federal grand jury. They refused.

When the subpoenas were served, Mason and Ambrose were approached separately. Ambrose's subpoena was delivered to him at work. Immediately after the two FBI agents left, he called Mason. At that point, agents knocked on the door to their home and she answered. One agent was from the FBI while the other was from the Coast Guard. Thanks, Homeland Security, for providing this opportunity to be harassed by a new branch of the federal government.

People responded to an action alert asking for calls to the US Attorney Lloyd Meyers' office about the subpoenas. When the couple's attorney, Buck Davis, called to inform the US attorney that they were going to file a motion to quash, Meyers complained that his office could not get any work done due to the "scores of impolite and harassing" phone calls. Meyers said that he was contemplating filing contempt charges because of the "harassment." Davis reminded him that the subpoenas were also disrupting his clients' lives significantly. At this point, Davis also discovered that there was an alleged third subpoena issued to someone else for the same information.

Meyers reissued the subpoenas a month later, and a motion to quash was filed December 17th. The judge denied the motion. Even though he stated otherwise in his opinion, it was clear that the basis of the subpoenas was, in fact, Ambrose and Mason's political activity and past arrest records. But his ruling also reinforced that grand juries do not need any basis of evidence to issue a subpoena. Simply thinking that someone may have been involved in a crime is enough to justify a subpoena to produce evidence or testimony. When dealing with a grand jury, you are guilty until proven innocent. Ambrose and Mason were forced to comply and gave the government their hand prints and DNA samples.

Given the October memo that was leaked from the FBI detailing its efforts to marginalize and isolate radical members of the anti-war movement, the situation in Michigan is interesting. If you were to substitute "anti-water privatization" for "anti-war," then the actions of the local police and FBI seem



familiar. They are trying to marginalize and bad-jacket both the Sweetwater Alliance and Massasauga EF! as violent and extreme in the eyes of the more moderate organizations involved in the fight to protect water.

Meanwhile, activists had been awaiting a decision in a court case brought against Nestlé and the State of Michigan by another group, the Michigan Citizens for Water Conservation (MCWC). No matter what the decision, the FBI knew that conservative, moderate and radical groups would have to join together to stand up to a giant like Nestlé. To the FBI, a classic divide-and-conquer strategy was in order.

The court decision did finally come down in early December. In a stunning victory, Judge Lawrence Root ordered Nestlé to completely stop pumping water in 22 days. This decision effectively closed the 150-million-dollar plant that Nestlé had built with the hope of establishing itself in Michigan. But before activists could even begin to celebrate the victory, Granholm stepped in on Nestlé's behalf. She filed an amicus brief and helped to convince the appeals court to grant a stay to the order, allowing Nestlé to continue to drain Michigan. This was a tremendous shock, as Granholm has repeatedly stated her opposition to water diversion and Nestlé's operations at Ice Mountain.

In response, the more moderate environmental groups released a joint statement that complemented

the governor's actions and compromised their original demands. The Sweetwater Alliance and Massasauga EF! were left alone criticizing the governor for her duplicity. It seemed pretty obvious that mainstream environmentalists wanted to be sure to distinguish themselves from Sweetwater. It also seemed pretty obvious that they wanted to make this distinction because of the adverse attention that Sweetwater has been receiving as a result of the FBI harassment.

So, at the end of round one, the divide and conquer strategy worked. Fortunately, movements remain fluid, and MCWC and others who had previously been afraid to criticize the governor seem to have reconsidered. On February 4, in Lansing, Michigan, they came together with Sweetwater to present a "State of the People" address and their united demand for environmental justice and water protection.

If you would like to help, calls are needed to the assistant US attorney in Grand Rapids, Lloyd K. Meyer. He can be reached at (616) 456-2404. Tell Meyer to disband the grand jury immediately and cancel the subpoenas for the anti-water privatization activists. □

*For more information or to donate to Mason and Ambrose's legal defense fund, contact the Water Defense Committee, POB 44173, Detroit, MI 48244. Also visit [www.waterissweet.org](http://www.waterissweet.org).*

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## Green-Print for Ireland On-Track

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*By Candace Caveny-Collins  
Lapeer*

Actually on TWO tracks, as the island of Ireland has been divided by a border since 1922. At that time, 26 counties became the Republic of Ireland, independent from Britain, while the 6 Northeast counties have remained under British rule.

In the Republic, the June 2002 election advanced Greens from 2 seats to 6 in the Dail Eireann Parliament in Dublin. But a Parliamentary rule denies elected representatives access to speak on the floor until they can form a bloc of 7 reps, so Greens were still "speechless."

However, the Sinn Fein party which campaigns for re-unification of the entire island as a Republic, was also restricted, although it had increased from one rep to five! So the two parties successfully formed a bloc, with a total of eleven reps, who can all speak on the floor of the Dail.

Meantime, environmental issues have captured more attention in the Six Counties, particularly since the 2003 closure of England's Sellafield reactor, which had polluted the seawater which flowed to the northeast coast of Ireland. (On New Year's Day 1993, my husband Des and I had traveled just over the border north of Dundalk, to the village of Crossmaglen, to attend a rally against Sellafield's operation. The main speaker was Dr Mary Allen, a local physician who reported her tracking of the health threat to her patients there.)

Elections were scheduled in the North for May, 2003, and seven Green candidates prepared to campaign (almost exclusively in districts where Sinn Fein did not field a candidate). Sinn Fein was predicted to make major gains and to forge ahead of the other nationalist party, SDLP (Social Democratic Labor Party). It is widely believed that Tony Blair felt this possible electoral victory the nationalist

movement would threaten continued British rule of the Six Counties so he **cancelled** the May elections!

Greens remained upbeat, however, as the Republic of Ireland was scheduled to assume the rotating Presidency of the European Union on Jan 1, and they knew the pressure of Continental publicity of the cancellation would embarrass Blair and Britain as anti-democrats. So the elections were held in November and, although no Greens won in the North, Sinn Fein won additional seats there, as predicted, and Greens expect to do better whenever the next elections occur!

Now that the “Shinners” have won more seats, and the Greens have entered the campaigns, there is a move to **decrease** the total number of available seats in the Northern Ireland Assembly from 118 to only 84! These reactive strategies represent the methods that have been used over the past century to curb the will of the people in the Six Counties. □

*Candace Caveny-Collins lives in rural Lapeer County. She is retired from careers in teaching, health care, lab analysis for water pollutants, and tax preparation. She received an AB in Anthropology/Genetics from Berkeley.*

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### Refugees continued from page 11 ...

shows what looks like a perfectly normal village in the western reaches of Inner Mongolia – except for one thing. There are no people. Its 4,000 residents were forced to leave because the aquifer was depleted, leaving them with no water.

In Iran, villages abandoned because of spreading deserts and a lack of water already number in the thousands. In the eastern provinces of Baluchistan and Sistan alone, some 124 villages have been buried by drifting sand. In the vicinity of Damavand, a small town within an hour’s drive of Tehran, 88 villages have been abandoned.

In Nigeria 3,500 square kilometers (1,350 square miles) of land are converted to desert each year, making desertification the country’s leading environmental problem. As the desert takes over, farmers and herdsman are forced to move, squeezed into the shrinking area of habitable land or forced into cities.

Another source of refugees, potentially a huge one, is rising seas. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, in its early 2001 study, reported that sea level could rise by nearly one meter during this century. But research completed since then indicates that ice is melting much faster than reported earlier, suggesting that the possible rise may be much higher.

Even a one-meter rise in sea level would inundate half of Bangladesh’s riceland, forcing the relocation of easily 40 million people. In a densely populated country with 144 million people, internal relocation would not be easy. But where else can they go? How many countries would accept even 1 million of these 40 million? Other Asian countries with rice-growing river floodplains, including China, India, Indonesia, Pakistan, the Philippines, South Korea, Thailand, and Viet Nam, could boost the mass exodus from rising seas to the hundreds of millions.

The refugee flows from falling water tables and expanding deserts are just beginning. How large

these flows and those from rising seas will become remains to be seen. But the numbers could be huge.

The rising flow of environmental refugees is yet another indicator that our modern civilization is out of sync with the earth’s natural support systems. Among other things, it tells us that we need a worldwide effort to fill the family planning gap and to create the social conditions that will accelerate the shift to smaller families, a global full-court press to raise water productivity, and an energy strategy that will cut carbon dioxide emissions and stabilize the earth’s climate. □

*See also Chapter 6 in Plan B: Rescuing a Planet Under Stress and a Civilization in Trouble available online for free downloading. Additional data and information sources [www.earth-policy.org](http://www.earth-policy.org) or contact [jlarsen@earth-policy.org](mailto:jlarsen@earth-policy.org).*

*To receive Eco-Economy Updates by email, go to [www.earth-policy.org/Subscribe/index.htm](http://www.earth-policy.org/Subscribe/index.htm).*

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### GPNY Calls for All-Out Campaign

NEW YORK: The Green Party of New York State adopted two resolutions on January 31 that call on the Green Party of the United States to run a 2004 presidential campaign all-out in every state and on Ralph Nader to run for president as a Green. The party also approved a resolution supporting carbon taxes, which will go before the Platform Committee of the national party. Carbon taxes are imposed on fossil fuels proportionate to their carbon content; coal would be taxed the highest, followed by oil and then natural gas. The resolution favors using the revenues for carbon-reducing activities such as public transportation improvement, weatherization of low-income homes, and installation of renewable energy technologies. The NYS GP also endorsed the establishment of a national Ecology Committee. More: <http://www.gpnys.org/index.html>

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# How to Be(come) a Green Party Candidate

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By John Anthony La Pietra  
Elections Co-ordinator

So you're thinking of standing up for Green principles by running for elected office. Great! But you want to know how the process works. All you ever hear about candidates qualifying for the ballot involves collecting lots of signatures on petitions, or paying \$100 fees. What do you actually have to do to become a Green Party candidate?

**First, be a Green:** Contact the Green Party of Michigan ... the state party (especially the Elections Co-ordinator) and the local in your area – or, in places where there's no local yet, the County Co-ordinator. Find out who is in charge of nominating candidates for the office you want to run for, and when and where that will happen. If it's a local office (up to the county level, generally) nomination will probably be done at a county caucus; otherwise, a Congressional-district caucus, the statewide convention, or the State Central Committee will make the decision.

But what about the primary? What about those petitions? Well, as a "minor party" under state law, GPMI isn't allowed to take part in (or share in the publicity of) the primary. This makes it harder for Green candidates in some ways – sometimes we're not seen as being quite as *official*, somehow, as candidates for the Big Two parties – but there are a few advantages. One benefit to the caucus/convention method is that we don't have to accept as a nominee just anyone who collects enough signatures or pays \$100. If you want to run as a Green in Michigan, you have to convince other Greens you're worth nominating – worth more than **NOTA (None Of The Above)**, at least.

If you're not a member of the Green Party already, please join us! You can even be a member of another political party, as long as you agree to support Green values: the Four Pillars and/or the Ten Key Values. But the more involved you are in Green activities, the better chance you have of being accepted by other Greens as the party's nominee for your desired office.

Join your friendly neighborhood Greens at local meetings and actions, too. Local Greens may have some experience with campaigning under the Sign of the Sunflower – and some other resources you can also benefit from, not least of which is a bunch of supporters committed to the same principles you are. They may be able to help you plan ways to embody

and support those principles as a candidate. And, if they can't help with it themselves, they can get help from the state party. GPMI may not have lot of money to put where its mouth is on campaign-finance reform – we accept no corporate or PAC donations, we raise only small donations, and we're completely transparent about donors. But there are many benefits of running as a party ... such as a co-ordinated campaign with shared literature, teaming up to go door to door, and a consistent message founded on a common platform.

If you're running for an office nominated at the state level, you'll be asked to fill out a questionnaire, and probably to meet with a nominations committee. Local candidates may face the same steps in what amounts to an interview for the job of Green Party candidate – depending on what the local party decides; Greens are decentralized. A nominations committee will recommend to the appropriate caucus or the convention that the assembled members nominate you – or not.

**Contact your county and/or local clerk:** The party can make you its nominee, but it can't make you a candidate. For that, you go to City Hall – or the County Building – or the Bureau of Elections.

Unless you are running for an office serving constituents in two or more counties (including statewide offices), the county clerk is your "filing official" – the person who gets all your paperwork,

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## Should You Run?

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Questions to ask yourself:

- What are the specific changes you want to make in your community?
- Is running for this office the best way to make these changes? What powers does a person in this office have to create these changes? How else could you work toward your objective?
- Are you the best person for the job? Is yours the face you want on your local Green Party? Is it the face the local wants for itself?
- Do you really want the job?
- Are you absolutely healthy and sane? (You will be under tremendous pressure.)
- Does your partner think it's a FANTASTIC idea? (Don't even think about running if the answer to this is not "yes.")
- Do you have the support of a Green Party local?

— from "How to Run a Political Campaign,"  
Massachusetts Green Party, June 2001.

including all campaign-finance reports. So it is important to make contact, and get all the information you can to stay in contact: mailing address, phone, fax, e-mail, Web site, office hours, and the name of the particular person at the clerk's office who deals with elections.

Your county clerk should have all the forms and manuals you need to register as an official candidate. City, township, and village clerks may have them, too. And most of them are also available in Adobe Acrobat format on the Bureau of Elections Web site:

[http://www.michigan.gov/sos/  
0,1607,7-127-1633\\_11473---,00.html](http://www.michigan.gov/sos/0,1607,7-127-1633_11473---,00.html)

NOTE: When you get forms and manuals, make sure they're the latest versions; these documents get updated at irregular intervals.

The form you need to pay most attention to right away is the Statement of Organization. This one-page form is what you file to officially declare your campaign committee. More about it below.

Got the forms and manuals? Don't leave yet. The clerk's office has more information you want. Find out who else is running for your chosen office, and ask if anyone else is making noises as though they might run. Find out what offices are to be elected this year – there's the general election in November, the major-party primaries in August, school elections in June (most places), and village and city elections at various times, usually earlier in the year. Ask if there are any recall drives, efforts to put referendum or initiative questions on ballots, or special elections coming in your area. Get an election timetable with deadlines for filing as a candidate, registering to vote, voting absentee, and reporting campaign finances.

And, speaking of campaign-finance reporting, ask about copies of the state's reporting software. If you are running for US Senator or US Representative, you would use the Federal Election Commission's (FEC) program instead.

Other less-mandatory but more useful information you can often get at a clerk's office includes population, numbers of registered voters, and demographic data for the cities, villages, townships, and precincts in your county. Some of that is available from the Census Bureau's Web site as well, but it may be handier to ask the clerk – and it can be just as free. Maps showing the precincts in the area you want to be elected to serve will probably not be free, but will be very useful. Polling places may be shown and/or listed on the maps; if not, you need to get these, too.

And then there is the Qualified Voter File or QVF. That's the statewide database of everyone who

is or has been registered to vote, with a history of when they voted (in which elections) and when they voted absentee. It has some basic demographic information: gender and year (but not date) of birth. Each county, city, township, or village can offer you the QVF file for its own jurisdiction – at a price related to their costs ... but they may put their own figure on that cost, so it may not hurt to shop around a bit. The QVF can be a very valuable tool for a campaign; it can be turned into mailing labels, or a walking list for your door-to-door campaigning, or many other things.

NOTE: Some places may only offer the information on who voted, and who voted absentee, as a separate file for each election – and charge you separately. So be sure to check this ... and go with some idea of what voting-history information you want, how much you can afford, and how much time and effort you have available to crunch the data.

Your Green friends may well have some, perhaps even most, of this information. On the other hand, it can be very important to be on good terms with your filing official – going to the clerk's office and asking intelligent questions usually can't hurt.

**Create and register your campaign committee:** The step that officially registers you as a candidate is filling out and turning in the Statement of Organization form to your filing official. This should be done within ten days after you actually form the committee – and *that* must happen within ten days after the first time you announce your candidacy, or spend or accept money for it.

To complete the form, you need the following vital information:

- A name for the committee. Include your name and the office you're running for. That way, even the disclaimer (the "Paid for by" part) will promote your candidacy. The office – and the district number, if any – also go on the form.
- You also have to name the financial institution or "depository" where the committee's money will be deposited and list its address and phone number.
- The name, address, and phone number of the campaign's "depository" – the bank, savings and loan, or credit union where you'll deposit donations to the campaign. Contributions would go into (and expenditures would come out of) an account there, in the campaign's name, separate from any accounts you have.
- Most financial institutions will require an employer identification number (EIN) to open a campaign account. EINs come from the IRS –

## Should You Run?

### **Forming your exploratory committee:**

You're not going to run for office alone – so don't *decide* to run for office alone. Involve others in that decision – the people you'll be relying on to work on the campaign if you run. A good way to do this is to host a small gathering in your home, pitch the idea, and see what kind of support you get.

It's very important to get the right people at this meeting. Don't just invite friends. Invite people who will be critical of the idea. And make sure that someone present has managed a campaign before.

**What you're listening for:** If they want you to run, the people at this "exploratory committee" meeting should ask you very tough questions, be very impressed with your answers, and express their enthusiasm about your campaign without hesitation. As the prospective candidate, you will want to hear this. Be very careful not to convince yourself that you hear this if you don't. Ask someone you trust if they are hearing the same things you are.

**What you may hear:** The people in the room like you. If they come to the meeting, it's because they care enough about you to give a little of their time. They don't want to hurt your feelings. So when they voice concerns, assume their reservations are even bigger than they say. Listen for hesitation and doubt in people's voices. What they may want to say is that they don't think you should run.

Also be aware that people will feel flattered to have been invited to this kind of "inner circle" meeting. Some will advise you to run because it will make them feel important to be part of your campaign. The support you want is the kind that comes from a shared commitment to the goals of the campaign, not to glory – yours or anyone else's.

**Who comes to the meeting?:** If someone isn't at the meeting, it's probably safe to say they don't think your candidacy is worth their while. But don't assume that, if people come, they *do* support you.

A rule of organizing is that only about half of the people that commit to something will actually come through. Things happen in people's lives, and some people you are counting on *will* drop off the campaign. Make sure you aren't relying on too few people to get this big job done.

So, before people leave, *ask* them if they think you should run, yes or no. And ask if they're willing to make a sizeable commitment to your campaign.

— adapted from "How to Run a Political Campaign," *Massachusetts Green Party*, June 2001.

and you can get one on-line at:

<http://www.irs.gov/businesses/small/article/0,,id=102767,00.html>

or call 800-829-4933 between 7am and 10pm.

- A treasurer for the committee. It can be you, but if it's someone else you need to fill in their name, address, and phone number.
- A record-keeper ... if it's not the treasurer. (Even if it's you.)

You can change any or all of these details later – by filing another Statement of Organization with the changes marked on it.

**IMPORTANT:** Check the box on the form asking for a waiver of campaign-finance reporting requirements. That way, you won't have to file campaign-finance reports until and unless you reach \$1,000 in spending or funds raised. But you do still have to keep track of both contributions and expenses in case you cross the \$1,000 threshold. And even if you have a waiver, you need to report "late contributions" of \$200 or more within the last 15 days before an election.

**Prepare to be a nominee:** Think about who can and will and might help you, and who can and will and might vote for you. What groups (and constituencies) do you belong to? With whom do you share residency/hometown, interests, hobbies, etc.? Think also about who your opponents' likely supporters are.

This kind of thinking feeds into planning a campaign. With it, you can identify key issues in your race, plan campaign activities around schedules of events in the district, consider different ways to reach your voters – and how much each method may cost in money, materials, and volunteer time. Studies show that it can take up to seven contacts with a candidate's name to have it "stick" in the mind of voters; word of mouth, ads, literature, speaking engagements, personal contact, and door-to-door volunteers can all be crucial to your becoming known to the public.

But don't just plan – start campaigning ... if you haven't already. Talk with friends, and acquaintances, and community groups, and the folks at the coffee shop and the greasy spoon and the laundromat. Attend public meetings on issues related to your target office. Talk about the three most important issues in your race. Get them into your conversations and your stump speeches – early and often, as the saying goes. You don't need to mention *only* these issues, but you should focus on them ... so that you become identified with them.

And speaking of meetings, you need to meet with Greens – now that you're a candidate, they're the

ones to decide whether or not you're a nominee.

**Easy being Green – on the ballot:** Keep track of the nomination process for your desired office. If it's done at a local caucus, know when and where that is, what the rules and procedures are, and what you have to do or say or turn in by what date. If you need help with this, contact me, Elections Co-ordinator John Anthony La Pietra (info below).

If your race is for a multi-county office or there is no local caucus for your county or district, come to Traverse City the weekend of May 21-22-23 for the state nominating convention. It's easier for people to pick you over NOTA if they see you – and know you're somebody.

By the time you get to a convention or caucus, you should already have faced questions about you, your views, your campaign plans, and a lot more.

Prepare to answer questions again – your fellow Michigan Greens tend to want to know about their candidates.

If/when you are approved as a GPMI nominee (by consensus or a 2/3 majority), you need to sign another form – the Affidavit of Identity – to show you accept the nomination. The party has until the end of the next business day after the convention or caucus to file this and other documentation with your county clerk (or the Bureau of Elections). And the Affidavit must be notarized – so ask the people organizing the caucus to be sure there will be a notary there ... or, if that's impossible, find out if your bank has a notary. Better yet, pick up your own copy of the Affidavit ahead of time from your Clerk, and bring it to the convention all ready to be notarized. The chair and/or the secretary of the

## **GPMI Candidate Questionnaire as approved by the State Central Committee, Feb. 3, 2004**

The following is a set of questions for everyone seeking nomination by GPMI. We are looking for prepared and articulate candidates who share and understand the values of the Green Party.

A simple text reply, in the form of a text file if possible, should be provided to the GPMI nominations committee (the body organizing the nominating convention or caucus) a week or more before the meeting at which you will seek nomination. Your reply will be circulated within the Green Party and printed copies will be distributed to all voting members at the nominating meeting.

Please use the first line for your full legal name, the address at which you reside, your date of birth, and the office for which you wish to be nominated.

Please provide the names and contact information for three references who have known you for at least three years.

Are you a member of GPMI and, if so, when did you join and why?

What political activities and organizations (parties) have you been involved with recently?

Have you run for office before? If so, when and for what office?

Are you a qualified elector of the district in which you want to run?

When did you file to create a candidate committee with the Michigan Secretary of State or county clerk (as required by Michigan election

law)?

Please describe the campaign organization you already have, and how you hope to improve it.

Most candidates come up with some sort of "campaign biography," from a few sentences to a few paragraphs explaining briefly who the candidate is. What's your short bio?

Please say something about your understanding of the four pillars or the ten key values of the green movement, and how they will apply to the campaign issues in your area.

Will you pledge to run a financially clean campaign - no corporate donations, no PAC money, full compliance with laws about candidate committees and record-keeping?

Are you agreeable to having "Green Party of Michigan" and "www.migreens.org" appear prominently on all your campaign literature, lawn signs, buttons, etc.?

Will all your campaign literature, lawn signs, buttons, etc. be produced at a union print shop and have the union bug displayed or, if produced by donated labor, display the phrase "labor donated"? If not, please explain.

Will you include a GPMI membership form with your standard campaign literature?

Is there is any portion of the GPMI Platform with which you disagree, and if so, how will you handle questions about these issues during your campaign?

caucus needs to keep a copy of the Affidavit, too.

There. That's it. It's official. You're the Green Party of Michigan's candidate for Stormwater Board Commissioner, District 3. (In fact, it's so official that, once the paperwork is in, you can't withdraw.)

**Non-partisan races and special elections:** Maybe the Stormwater Board is elected on a non-partisan basis. In that case, some of the previous section can be ignored; you don't need official Green Party approval to run if you're not running as a Green (unless you're running for a seat on the Michigan Supreme Court). Of course, you can still ask for support from your fellow Michigan Greens – and you're likely to get it if your campaign promotes your Green values and positions. We do, after all, believe in grassroots democracy. (National-party rules may not count you as an elected Green for all purposes ... but we will.)

A different special case is the special election – usually used to fill a vacancy caused by death or resignation. If the office in question is partisan, the

special election will be, too; the big difference is the time frame – which state law generally keeps quite short once the election is called. Because of the compressed schedule for special elections, the power to nominate rests with the State Central Committee, which will probably interview you and decide whether to nominate you.

If, after reading all this, you're still interested in running for office as a Green, please contact me right away. I can be reached at 269-781-9478 (or e-mailed at [jalp@internet1.net](mailto:jalp@internet1.net)). If you read all this, understood a bunch of it, and are still interested – but *not* in being a candidate – GPMI still needs you ... to manage someone else's campaign, to help coordinate the statewide campaign, and for lots of other tasks. □

*Thanks to Pete Schermerhorn for his help in getting the facts straight.*

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## State of the State Response Video

*By Eric Borregard  
WOW Greens*

I have had a number of requests for video copies of The Green Party of MI's State of the State (SoS) response – including the newspaper at MSU, Lansing Community College Technology & Learning Center for their library and a new cable access channel in Flint. In addition to the SoS, Matt Abel and I have also produced a video with the National Wildlife Federation called “Mercury in Michigan” that I'm releasing in conjunction with the SoS response.

Governor Granholm's SoS address on January 27th made it clear she has a few false assumptions about early childhood development. The first and foremost factor in childhood brain development is having a healthy environment.

Raising early academic expectations will do little to reverse the wide spread neurological damage due to mercury poisoning in Michigan's children. According the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, eight percent of U.S. women of child-bearing age have mercury blood levels that exceed safe limits for protecting the fetus. That translates into 320,000 babies annually at risk for “neuro-developmental delays.”

How can she possibly expect to increase academic performance in a student body that suffers from chronic memory loss and life long fatigue?

I do not think waiting until 2018 to stop the perpetual cloud of mercury from coal fired power

plants is anything the state legislature should be clapping about. Perhaps cashing all those campaign checks from the DTE Energy PAC has made them all a little giddy. 13 years is simply too long to wait to reverse a 30 year decline in the median level of intelligence – a decline in part due to urban air and water pollution.

Nationally the Detroit area is the second most contaminated site for mercury pollution in the country. Mercury levels in the lakes of Oakland County are the highest in the state at 160 times that of the EPA standards and rising. Typically it's the smaller ponds and streams that have the highest levels of mercury, making the waters in my area of Farmington Hills near the top nationally in terms of mercury pollution.

The Michigan Department of Community Health has produced a 45 page “Fish Consumption Guide” on how often you can eat each kind of fish depending on which lake and kind of fish was caught. The booklet, however, is mostly ignored and is not made readily available to women of childbearing age.

Other sources for mercury include dental amalgam, (which for over a 150 years has contained 50% mercury), thermometers, thermostats, electrical switches, batteries and fluorescent lights.

*Eric Borregard is the producer of “In the Green.”*

*To get copies of “In the Green” videos, contact Eric at (734) 427-2250 or e-mail [eborregard@aol.com](mailto:eborregard@aol.com).*

## Counting the Votes

We know what happened in the last presidential election. Bush was elected President by a 5-4 vote of the Supreme Court. Before that, there was an election in which ordinary citizens were allowed to vote. We think we know what happened in that election; at least, there's some conventional wisdom based on the following numbers:

Candidate Voted for	Number voting	Percentage of votes
Al Gore	50,999,897	48.4%
George Bush	50,456,002	47.9%
Ralph Nader	2,882,955	2.7%
All others	1,066,246	1.0%
Total voting	105,405,100	100.0%

The conventional wisdom is that Gore won a plurality of the popular vote and would be President today if Nader had not “spoiled” his coronation. However, the point of this article is not to (again) slay the myth of the spoiler. That myth does not live on logic, and it will not stay slain. If we are stuck on that point we miss noticing the figures above are incomplete, and we miss the real story of the 2000 election. The significant figures are these:

<b>Voting age population (VAP) 205,815,000 – November 2000 – 100%</b>		
Candidate Voted for	Number voting	Percentage of VAP
Al Gore	50,999,897	24.8%
George Bush	50,456,002	24.5%
Ralph Nader	2,882,955	1.4%
All others	1,066,246	0.5%
Total voting	105,405,100	51.2%
Not voting	100,409,500	48.8%
For 2-party system	101,455,899	49.3%
Against 2-party system	104,358,701	50.7%

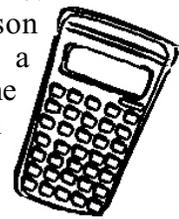
The fact is, in the last Presidential election, the 2-party system lost. Once you see the numbers, it's obvious. There's a spin the corporate media do not go out of their way to emphasize. The entire 2-party system lost the election, 49.3% voting YES and 50.7% voting NO.

Some of us voted NO by voting for an opposition (a. k. a. “third”) party candidate. Others voted “with their feet,” as the saying goes. Less than half support the 2-party system.

This is not the first time the two-party system lost an election. Think back to Ross Perot and the Reform Party in the previous election and the one before that; the elections that made Clinton the President with, both times, less than a majority of the popular vote. The 2-party system has been losing for a while. Lots of people have caught onto the fact that the 2-party system is a scam.

The 2-party system is morally and intellectually bankrupt, incapable of solving or even seriously addressing the problems of destruction of the environment, incapable of delivering any degree of social justice not absolutely forced by popular demand, incapable even of lessening the corruption of big-money lobbying and big-donor campaign financing. The 2-party system is dying. The tail, the support of most Americans, has already been lopped off. The message has not gotten to the brain of the beast yet.

The majority of Americans of voting age are the people Greens should be talking to. They already believe there is no reason to vote for a Republican or for a Democrat. Anyone who looks at the results of the last three elections can see that. The Green candidate for President should give this majority something to vote for, and Green Party candidates on the rest of the ballot should do exactly the same.



The 9 members of the Supreme Court represent ~ 0.0000044% of the voting age population; the 5 Bush supporters, ~ 0.0000024%. You personally are ~ 0.0000005%. Your vote for Greens can help carry the message. Your participation in Green campaigns does more. It helps finish off the beast. □

*By Art Myatt, Oakland County Greens.  
Art Myatt is an engineer in the solar cell industry  
and was a candidate for state representative in  
2002.*

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# GPMI Platform Summary

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The complete platform of the Green Party of Michigan takes up over 30 pages. It is available at the [migreens.org](http://migreens.org) web site. This summary necessarily leaves out some items and over-simplifies others. We urge you to look at the complete document. The platform not only includes the 10 Key Values of the Green Party, it's also based on them. It's our idea of how these values apply to specific issues.

**Grassroots Democracy** – We support citizen involvement in all levels of decision making. We urge broader access to the ballot and easier voter registration, with an election day holiday. We believe proportional representation and preferential or instant runoff voting would allow a greater variety of views to be effected in elections. Real campaign finance reform and public financing of elections is essential. Broadcast media should be required to provide free air time for all candidates. “Soft-money” contributions and advertising during election campaigns should be eliminated.

We support workplace democracy including the right of workers to unionize.

**Social Justice** – We are in favor of affordable housing and affordable child care. We support universal health care, including nursing home care where needed, and explicitly affirm a woman's right to have an abortion. Health insurance should not be connected to employment status.

Public money should be spent only on public education – no vouchers or other schemes to divert taxes to private schools. We should ensure that public schools educate students on the subjects of health and sex. School funding should not depend on property taxes. It should be equal state-wide.

We support civil and human rights and oppose discrimination on the basis of sex, age, race, sexual orientation, or other ways of separating a group from ordinary humanity. Courts and prisons should work for healing and rehabilitation.

Taxes should be simple (without loopholes), understandable and progressive, taxing profits and capital gains as ordinary income. Tax policy should support environmental protection.

The “War on Drugs,” because it has caused at least as much harm to the society as drug use, should be abandoned. Funds formerly spent on drug enforcement should be used for medical programs to treat addictions. Most drugs should be decriminalized – and taxed.

**Environmental sustainability** – We believe sustainability in the production of energy and goods is essential. Nuclear power should be

eliminated entirely. Sustainable energy sources such as solar, wind, and biomass should be developed to substitute for fossil fuels, while strategies to conserve energy are promoted.

Pollution should be eliminated wherever possible, without regard for short-term costs to polluting enterprises. We hope people will learn to consume less, recycle more, and enjoy the earth without damaging it. We are for preservation of biodiversity, environmental justice for poor communities, and specific animal rights. This complex subject takes many pages of the complete platform.

**Economic sustainability** – This is our goal for the whole economy, and we believe extending democracy into the workplace is the way to get there. The people employed in an industry should have some ability to control it. Corporations should be held accountable by every level of government. We are opposed to trade agreements (WTO, NAFTA, MAI and so on) which have the opposite effect. We support decentralized cooperative and community economics over corporate “globalization”; human rights over corporate rights; public utilities over privatization. On specific “hot-button” issues; we are for a living wage and for development of public transportation; against factory farming, antibiotics in animal feed, and genetic engineering of food crops.

**Peace and Non-violence** – The Bush regime is leading our nation on a path to permanent war. The suicide hijackings of September 11 were certainly crimes against humanity. The World Court - rejected by Bush and company - could have been used to punish the conspirators and to win the support of the world. Those crimes are no reason to support Israel's crimes against Palestinian humanity; no reason to fight a war for oil in the name of a war on terror; no reason to abandon our own civil rights and the protections of due process in the name of national security.

We are principled advocates of non-violence. This goes beyond simply not supporting violent solutions such as war or police brutality. It involves working to learn, use, and advocate nonviolent solutions domestically and internationally.

We do not advocate banning guns. We do call for responsible use and for licensing. We believe the oversight of police forces should go to an independent elected board in every community.

We support a nuclear-free Great Lakes Basin. We want to end manufacturing and research that supports chemical and biological warfare.

*(This summary approved by the Green Party of Michigan State Central Committee)*

# ARE YOU GREEN?

What is the point in joining the Green Party? Why not the Democrats or even the Republicans? Quite simply, we don't believe the big two parties represent us. They are controlled by their fat cat contributors, not their constituency. Greens' politics are based and centered on our values. We believe in the following ten Key Values, and we practice what we preach.

## Ecological Wisdom

More than recycling, this means living in harmony with our surroundings. Greens are not anti-technology, but we demand that the creators and users of technology take responsibility for its effects. We try to live lightly on the earth, and want to make it easier for others to do so as well.

## Social Justice

The rights in our constitution and promises of our society are meant for all people, regardless of our superficial differences. All deserve the chance to live a healthy, meaningful life.

## Grassroots Democracy

People have the right to, and capacity for, self-determination. In practice, Greens make decisions by voluntary consensus whenever possible.

## Non-violence

Violence is morally wrong and logist-ically ineffective, because it treats the symptoms of problems, not the root causes. Greens support self-defense, but only narrowly defined.

## Decentralization

Centralization has caused all manner of problems in modern society, because our elected officials are out of touch with those they supposedly represent. Greens believe that the closer decisions are made to those who will be affected by them, the better.

## Community-Based Economics

Economics was originally meant to maintain the household, but today, has largely taken on the opposite meaning. Greens believe that the economy should be about individuals and fami-lies, not corporations, which are a legal fiction. We value people over profits, when the two conflict.

## Feminism

Greens are feminists, which means that we believe in the equality of

women and men (regardless of sexual orientation). No one has the right to define or limit another person.

## Respect for Diversity

In ecosystems, diversity is not a pleasant goal to be aspired to, it's a bedrock requirement. Similarly, in human relationships, Greens believe that diversity is both the cause and effect of a healthy society.

## Personal & Global Responsibility

The more we learn about our planet, the more we learn that our actions have effects far away. We must be responsible, both socially and ecologically, to our neighbors next door and to our neighbors across the world. We believe in the slogan, "Think globally, act locally."

## Future Focus / Sustainability

Similarly, we must consider the lasting effects of our actions. We must be responsible to our descendants. We must use resources in ways that do not use them up.

See more at: <http://www.migreens.org>

## Welcome to the Green Movement! Memberships and donations

Please cut out this form, fill it in, and mail it with your check or money order to the address below.

Note: You do **NOT** need to give up membership in any other organization to be a member of the Green Party of Michigan.

- \$25 - Regular member  
 \$60 - Sustaining member  
 \$1000 - Lifetime member  
 \$10 - Student, low income member

Make checks payable to "Green Party of Michigan Committee."

Membership money goes for administrative costs, party building activities, like the ballot petition drive, as well as non-political educational efforts of the Green movement in Michigan.

I Don't want to join but I am sending a contribution of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Thank you very much!

I am claiming membership in the Green Party of Michigan and believe in the Ten Key Values and/or the Four Pillars of the Greens.

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

County \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (Fax?) \_\_\_\_\_

Email address \_\_\_\_\_

Green Party local (if applicable) \_\_\_\_\_

Send to: Green Party of Michigan  
548 S. Main St.  
Ann Arbor, MI 48104

The question is not whether or not you should become a Green. Rather, the question is whether or not you're already a Green. If you believe in the values above, you are. If you act on them, you're already a part of the Green movement. By working together, we can accomplish more than any of us can do alone. By voting together, we can elect officials who embody and promote our values. The Greens are both a movement and a political party. Through electoral politics, we seek to facilitate responsible lifestyles, and put an end to ecological destruction and social injustice.

## Other Organizations Supporting Green Goals

### **ACLU – Michigan**

60 W. Hancock  
Detroit, MI 48201-1324  
(313) 578-6800  
<http://www.aclumich.org>

### **Adamah/Detroit Summer**

The Boggs Center  
3061 Field St., Detroit, MI 48214  
313-923-0797, 313-282-6983  
[www.adamah.org](http://www.adamah.org)

### **Americans United for Separation of Church and State**

(734) 789-8790  
[www.au.org](http://www.au.org)  
[metrodetroitau@hotmail.com](mailto:metrodetroitau@hotmail.com)

### **American Friends Service Committee**

1420 Mill St., Ann Arbor, MI 48104

### **Amnesty International - Detroit**

(313) 531-7647  
**ADAPTT (animal rights)**  
P. O. Box 725, Royal Oak, MI 48068  
(810) 763-2715  
[www.adaptt.org](http://www.adaptt.org)

### **BlueJean ThinkTank**

dogmaday@aol.com  
Mike Madias  
(313) 657-6998  
[hardball@madias.org](mailto:hardball@madias.org)  
[www.madias.org](http://www.madias.org)

### **Clean Water Action of Michigan**

1200 Michigan Ave.  
East Lansing, MI 48823  
(517) 203-0754  
[http://www.cleanwateraction.org/mi/  
elansingcwa@cleanwater.org](http://www.cleanwateraction.org/mi/elansingcwa@cleanwater.org)

### **Coalition Against Police Brutality**

(313) 610-0418 or (313) 628-4932  
**Committee for the Political  
Resurrection of Detroit**  
P. O. Box 44474, Detroit, MI 48244  
(313) 896-1533

### **Earth Works Garden/Greening of Detroit**

1820 Mt. Eliot Ave, Detroit, MI 48207  
(313) 579-2100  
[rsamyn@capuchinministries.org](mailto:rsamyn@capuchinministries.org)

### **Earthwatch**

Claudia Seldon, Mi. Field Rep.  
1965 Pembridge Ct., Detroit, MI 48207  
(313) 393-9329

### **Friends Committee on National Legislation**

215 Exchange St., Marshall, MI 49068  
(800) 630-1330 (Washington, DC)

### **Gray Panthers of Metro Detroit**

P. O. Box 37033  
Oak Park, MI 48327  
(248) 549-5170, or (248) 669-6343

[www.graypanthers.homestead.com/](http://www.graypanthers.homestead.com/)

### **Green House – Detroit**

Tom & Sue Ness  
22757 Woodward, Suite 210  
P. O. Box 20076  
Ferndale, MI 48220  
(248) 336-9241  
[jamrag@glis.net](mailto:jamrag@glis.net)

### **Jobs with Justice**

600 W. Lafayette, Detroit, MI 48226  
(313) 961-0800 (313) 961-9776 (fax)  
[semichjwjl@aol.com](mailto:semichjwjl@aol.com)

### **Labor Notes**

7435 Michigan Ave, Detroit, MI 48210  
(313) 842-6262  
<http://www.labornotes.org>  
[labornotes@labornotes.org](mailto:labornotes@labornotes.org)

### **Labor Party – Detroit**

Margaret Gutshall  
P. O. Box 39192, Redford, MI 48239  
(248) 788-6528  
<http://www.igc.org/lpa>

### **Massasauga Earth First!**

PO Box 44173, Detroit, MI 48244  
[massasaugaef@yahoo.com](mailto:massasaugaef@yahoo.com)

### **Metro Detroit Against Sanctions**

c/o Peace Action  
195 W. Nine Mi. Rd., #208  
Ferndale, MI 48220  
(248) 548-3920

### **Michigan Campaign Finance Network**

1310 Turner St., Suite B  
Lansing, MI 48906  
(517) 482-7198  
[www.mcfn.org](http://www.mcfn.org) [mcfn@mcfn.org](mailto:mcfn@mcfn.org)

### **Michigan Citizens for Water Conservation (MCWC)**

Terry Swier, President  
[tswier@centurytel.net](mailto:tswier@centurytel.net)  
Box 1, Mecosta, MI 49332  
[www.savemiwater.org](http://www.savemiwater.org)

### **Michigan Coalition for Human Rights (MCHR)**

71 E. Edsel Ford, Detroit, MI 48202  
(313) 869-8835

### **Michigan Peace Team**

1516 Jerome St.  
Lansing, MI 48912-2220  
(517) 484-4219  
<http://www.michiganpeaceteam.org>

### **Michigan Welfare Rights Organization (MWRO)**

[michpeaceteam@igc.org](mailto:michpeaceteam@igc.org)  
313-832-0618, (fax 1409)  
[info@mwro.org](mailto:info@mwro.org)  
[www.mwro.org](http://www.mwro.org)

### **MichUHCAN (universal health care)**

8846 Robindale, Detroit, MI 48239

(248) 477-7911 or (248) 548-3019  
<http://michuhcan.tripod.com>  
**Motor City Blight Busters**  
17405 Lahser Rd., Detroit, MI 48219  
(313) 255-4355

### **National Lawyers Guild**

Dave Staiger (313) 963-0843  
<http://www.michiganng.org>  
[nlgdetroit@igc.org](mailto:nlgdetroit@igc.org)

### **NORML/PRA-YES 2001**

Schmidt Law Office  
255 N. Center Ave. Saginaw, MI 48603  
(517) 799-4641  
[www.mi4norml.org](http://www.mi4norml.org)

### **Peace Action**

195 W. Nine Mi. Rd., #208  
Ferndale, MI 48220  
(248) 548-3920  
[www.peace-action.org](http://www.peace-action.org)

### **Peace & National Priorities Center**

P. O. Box 240344  
Orchard Lake, MI 48324  
(248) 683-3363

### **Riverfront East Alliance (REAL)**

(313) 438-4143  
[www.members.aol.com/realriver2](http://www.members.aol.com/realriver2)

### **Sierra Club**

Linda Mallon  
(734) 427-1761  
[mallinl@netzero.net](mailto:mallinl@netzero.net)

### **Solidarity – Ann Arbor**

2649 Southlawn  
Ypsilanti, MI 48197  
(734) 572-2515  
[finnegan@voyager.net](mailto:finnegan@voyager.net)

### **Solidarity – Detroit**

7012 Michigan Avenue  
Detroit, MI 48210  
(313) 841-0160  
<http://www.igc.org/solidarity>  
[solidarity@igc.org](mailto:solidarity@igc.org)

### **Sweetwater Alliance**

2020S. Mission, #128  
Mt. Pleasant, MI 48858  
(989) 773-6874 [www.](http://www.waterissweet.org)  
<http://www.waterissweet.org>

### **Transportation Riders United**

(313) 885-7588

### **Triangle Foundation**

19641 W. Seven Mile Rd.  
Detroit, MI 48219  
(313) 537-3323  
[www.tri.org](http://www.tri.org)

### **US/Cuba Labor Exchange**

P. O. Box 39188, Redford, MI 48239  
(313) 836-3752

### **Vegans in Motion**

(248) 591-0543

# **Amber Waves of Green**

Green Party of Michigan

548 S. Main Street

Ann Arbor, MI 48104

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