



Green Wisconsin

Newsletter of the Wisconsin Green Party

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WI GREENS ENDORSE CANDIDATES FOR STATE TREASURER, CONGRESS, ASSEMBLY CAMPAIGNS CALL FOR PUBLIC BANKING, ELECTION REFORM, SUSTAINABLE MINING ALTERNATIVES

By Dave Schwab

At the Wisconsin Green Party's 2014 Spring Gathering in Madison, party members voted unanimously to endorse Ron Hardy for State Treasurer, Lawrence Dale for US House of Representatives District 7, and Michael LaForest for State Assembly District 47. Greens also celebrated wins for 3 of 3 Green-backed candidates in 4/1 Dane County elections.

Ron Hardy, a Winnebago County Supervisor who works as a librarian in Oshkosh, is running for State Treasurer to give voice to Green positions on economic justice. He is campaigning as an independent watchdog of public finances, promising to audit the treasury to ensure that public money is not being wasted, mismanaged or used for fraud. Hardy is also running as an advocate of a publicly-owned state Bank of Wisconsin, a \$15 per hour minimum wage, and legalization of marijuana.

Lawrence Dale of Eagle River is running for US House of Representatives in District 7, which covers northwestern Wisconsin, including the proposed Penokee Hills mine site. He is campaigning for sustainable economic alternatives to mining, such as promoting local agriculture and commercial cultivation of hemp. He also supports amending the U.S. Constitution to overturn the Citizens United ruling allowing unlimited amounts of corporate money in politics.

Michael LaForest, a Madison resident and member of the Town of Blooming Grove Plan Commission, is running for State Assembly in District 47, which includes areas south and east of Madison including McFarland and parts of Fitchburg, Monona and Blooming Grove. He is calling for comprehensive campaign finance reform, to level the field so that any citizen can run a viable campaign for public office without taking money from special interests.



Teddy Shibabaw of 15 Now (left) speaks on the campaign for a living wage at the WIGP Spring gathering

If the petition drive to put Ron Hardy on the ballot for State Treasurer is successful, it will be the first non-presidential election since 2006 in which every Wisconsin voter has the opportunity to vote Green. In order to get a candidate for statewide office on the ballot, the Wisconsin Green Party needs 2,000 valid signatures by June 2nd. (The number of valid signatures needed for a U.S. House candidate is 1,000; for a State Assembly candidate, 200).

After hearing a presentation about the campaign for a living wage in Seattle at the Spring Gathering, WIGP members voted unanimously to endorse the 15 Now campaign for a \$15 per hour minimum wage. Greens also decided to hold an informational session about the Green Party at the Midwest Renewable Energy Fair on Saturday June 21st.

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RON HARDY FOR STATE TREASURER

My name is Ron Hardy and I am running for Wisconsin State Treasurer. I am on the Winnebago County Board of Supervisors, I am a Librarian, I am a husband and a father of two children.



As State Treasurer, I will ensure that state government's finances are an open book. I will audit all aspects of the state budget to ensure that the public's money is being used as it was intended, and that there is no waste, fraud or corruption.

As State Treasurer, I will advocate for the adoption of a Living Wage as a Minimum Wage in Wisconsin. No one who works for a living should be living in poverty. Adopting a \$15/hour state minimum wage would address the growing income disparity in our society, reduce poverty in the state and expand economic activity generating increased tax revenues.

As State Treasurer, I will advocate for the creation of a Public State Bank of Wisconsin. Currently private banks control the creation of credit and keep all the interest generated for their own profits. A State Bank of Wisconsin would put control over the tax payer's money in the hands of the public, put the creation of credit into the hands of the public, with the interest generated going back to the public.

As State Treasurer, I will also advocate for Wisconsin to legalize, regulate and tax marijuana, as Colorado has done. Please help put me in office to see how Green values can impact state government!

The Green Party's Ten Key Values

• *Grassroots democracy* • *Social justice and equal opportunity* • *Ecological wisdom* • *Nonviolence* • *Decentralization* • *Community-based economics and economic justice* • *Feminism and gender equity* • *Respect for diversity* • *Personal and global responsibility* • *Future focus and sustainability*

LAWRENCE DALE FOR U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES DISTRICT 7

What is our legacy going to be - what is my legacy going to be - to the children of the future? Will they be convinced we did all we could do to ensure they inherit a livable world, one with a still-functioning democracy, or will it be a corporate-sponsored tyranny like China? Will those children believe we did our best to stop mining projects, as in the Penoke Hills? And will they wonder why we did (or didn't) care enough to seriously engage in the fight to pass the 28th Amendment of the Constitution to prevent corporate oligarchs from hijacking our democracy?

Will we be remembered as a generation that did (or didn't) fight hard enough to help the millions of our fellow citizens who are victims of the 53,000 U.S. manufacturing plants shuttered and outsourced to totalitarian China since 2001? These jobs have been outsourced to a so-called "People's Republic" that conducts state-sponsored reigns of terror over tens of millions of its own in order to maximize corporate profits.



Future generations may also ask: since hemp was legalized via the 2014 Farm bill, did our generation do all it could do to end restrictions on hemp cultivation? Did we mobilize public opinion to side with small farmers so they could access markets for new, environmentally-friendly alternatives to chemically-dependent cotton (for textiles) and corn (for ethanol)? Will the future's children believe we fought hard enough to enable small producer-farmers to tap these new textile and ethanol markets to both support their families and help extinguish demand for carcinogenic agricultural chemicals?

Will historians report to the future's children that we, their Green forebears back in the early 21st century, successfully fought to end cancer among their contemporaries? Did we make a strong enough

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case for the need to substitute hemp for chemically-dependent commodity crops, especially cotton and corn, in order to realize a significant reduction of our nation's cancer epidemic? Did we successfully argue and organize the people to understand that cancer is largely induced by massive, perennial applications of agricultural herbicides, fungicides and pesticides? (See my position paper: The Imperative for Legalizing Marijuana/Hemp at www.daleforcongress.org)

The future's children are sure to ask whether we really fought as hard as we might have to save every last tree that could filter CO2 from the atmosphere. Did we fight against more board feet being harvested from Wisconsin's national forests, as promised by the Democratic and Republican Wisconsin party leaders Baldwin and Duffy? Will the children of the future wonder how we successfully (or not) got the message out that hemp pulp is a commercially viable alternative to timber pulp, and that hemp pulp is stronger and has higher yields per acre than timber pulp?

Will we do enough in the 2014 election cycle to demand an accounting for the reported \$15 million in political "donations" from mine owners and wealthy mine supporters to pass a mining bill? Were these "donations" lawful contributions or, given their source and the timing of their targeted disbursement, were they legally actionable bribes? Thanks to *Citizens United*, perhaps these bribes are technically legal. However, in this case, these so-called "contributions" were disbursed to government officials, i.e., Wisconsin's Republican Governor and Senate and Assembly members, specifically in the context of their conducting the peoples business concerning the mining bill SB/AB 1.

In addition to the issues and concerns addressed above, my campaign features an alternative regional economic development plan to counter the mine project. By contrast, my economic plan for District 7 is agriculture-based. It's a plan that's environmentally friendly, sustainable, and commercially viable. It's been vetted by a third party agricultural economist with no vested interest. It takes a small farm approach conceived with one purpose: to grow our region's economy by creating scores of new family farm businesses, resulting in millions of dollars cycling through the economy. These businesses would all be

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MICHAEL LAFOREST FOR STATE ASSEMBLY DISTRICT 47

Campaigning for elected office this year will add another dimension of interest to my busy days as the President of our Condominium Association and as a member of the Town of Blooming Grove Plan Commission. I look forward to an uplifting campaign and speaking with people from all corners of the 47th Assembly district.



I have an avid interest in current political and social issues. I am also an avid gardener and share a garden plot with my friend, Barbara, along the bike path near the Goodman Center in Madison. Working as an organic farmer for 4 years taught me much about gardening as a way of life. Farming can be aptly

used as a metaphor for planting the seeds of a political campaign and encouraging positive discourse among the candidates and their various constituencies.

Just as I was raised to respect nature, the cycle of life, and all living creatures, on a small family farm in Northern Michigan, I pledge to be a competent and resourceful legislator and to be a steward of my constituency's tax dollars. Just as a healthy garden needs nutrients and weeding to produce healthy food, I pledge to work with my colleagues in the Assembly to produce sensible laws and to cull unnecessary and archaic laws that have no relevance for today's society. Just as gardening is hard work and requires patience and fortitude, I pledge to be a diligent legislator and to work to the best of my abilities to promote honesty and compromise in State Government.

Robert Pirsig wrote in *Zen and the Art of Motorcycle Maintenance*, "The place to improve the world is first in one's own heart and head and hands, and then work outward from there." To paraphrase another of the author's quotes in the same book, "The life

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spirit and energy which contribute to the mastery of the creative process, can never be fully realized without a commitment to compromise.” These two thoughts are the very essence of what my campaign represents.

I believe that the greatest domestic challenge Americans have today is reforming the way we elect our legislators. Until a level field is created upon which any eligible American citizen can run a viable campaign for any seat in any State legislature or the Federal legislature, we will continue to have a government that is saturated with excessive money that is donated from questionable sources and driven by special interests. There can be no honesty in politics if money is misconstrued as free speech.

If we want compromise in and between the three branches of our State and Federal governments, our job is to bridge the great chasm that has been created between and among them by the flow of money from Super PACs and billionaires. If we want to solve any problem, conquer any challenge or mitigate any dispute, out of necessity and respect for the contributing parties involved, a true commitment to compromise, equality and honesty must be nurtured if meaningful solutions are to be reaped.

I used to display a sign in my office while working with homeless veterans. It read, “There can be no peace while our every waking thought is preoccupied with the notion that we must live a profitable life.” The sign invariably piqued the interest of many of the veterans who visited my office. While I can not identify with the struggles of homelessness which are often coupled with mental and/or physical illness, I can empathize with the notion that placing profits before people only serves an inevitable and predictable deterioration of a civil society. We can not have it both ways – e.g. impartial governing *and* unabated special interest lobbying; profiteering *and* a stable economy; homelessness *and* peace; unmitigated economic expansion *and* an unpolluted earth; meeting basic human needs *and* uncontrolled population growth.

These are all choices that we all make on a daily basis. The challenges are great, but the solution is very simple – changing the way we elect our legislators, at the State and Federal levels. It is WE the people who

elect our legislators, and the blame for everything that is wrong with society today rests squarely on the shoulders of US, the people. We elect legislators and entrust them with making decisions that will benefit all of society, but it is clearly evident that many legislators will make decisions based solely on who gave them the most money, thus prostituting themselves to every special interest that will finance their next election.

Join me today and let's work together to get PAC and special interest money out of our electoral process. We can do this together. On November 4th, 2014, vote for me and other legislators who pledge an allegiance not only to our state and our country, but for common sense reforms to the way we elect the people who represent us and who make the decisions that affect every facet of our lives. Stand with me this November and rather than voting for people who just talk the talk, with one hand raised in an oath of stewardship and the other hand in your wallet, let's elect people who actually walk the walk of electoral change,

Learn more at www.MikeLaForest.wordpress.com

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engaged in supplying, processing and direct-marketing meat products for an extremely high demand and growing market.

The Dale plan is a commercially viable alternative to the Republican incumbent's corporate plan that demands we collectively engage in a corrupt, environmentally destructive mining project. See my position paper entitled “Bringing Profits Back to The Farm,” at www.daleforcongress.org.

Learn more at www.DaleForCongress.org

Upcoming Wisconsin Green Party Events:

June 2: End of petitioning for ballot access

We need your help to get our candidates on the ballot - go to www.WIGP.org and volunteer today!

June 21: Meet the Green Party at the Midwest Renewable Energy Fair, Custer, WI

July 24-27: Green Party US 2014 National Meeting

St. Paul, MN www.2014GreenPartyConvention.org