

September  
2015



## Green Party of PA Candidate Information



OppositionNews.org  
By: Mark Wachtler

August 11, 2015

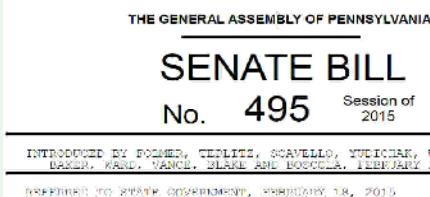
St. Louis, MO. (ONN) Green Party members may have noticed some excitement in the air. The Greens are firing on all cylinders after their national convention in St. Louis last month. Donations are up. The establishment media is giving the Party tons of free coverage. Five candidates have launched a campaign for the Party's 2016 Presidential nomination. The Greens are suing the Commission on Presidential Debates. And five-dollar-Fridays are providing the resources to do it all. Cont. Page 5

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Ruling Concerning  
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CALL TO  
ACTION



Pennsylvania has some of the most egregious ballot access laws in the Country. Cited by the United Nations as the most "anti-democratic "state" on the planet. This included countries not in the US. The Senate State Government Committee will hold a public hearing on the Voter's Choice Act Senate Bill 495.

If at all possible, please attend this hearing to demonstrate support for the Voter's Choice Act

Tuesday, September 22, 9 AM;  
Hearing Room 1 of the North Office Building, Harrisburg

Greens Slam Hillary while Donations Spike



## Partying for a Green Future

By: Paul Glover

Author, Social Advocate & Green

[paulglover.org](http://paulglover.org)

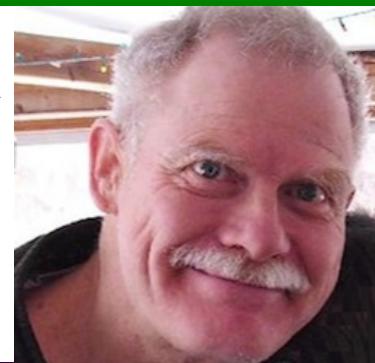
As the 2014 Green Party candidate for Pennsylvania governor I had a front row seat at the corruption of the ballot. Media ignored my candidacy and its detailed proposals for fixing Pennsylvania's chronic problems. I was excluded from the debates. And, of course, Greens needed four times more nominating signatures than did Corbett and Wolf combined.

Therefore, I've long regarded the Green Party as an electoral arm of grassroots organizing. Principally we use elections as theater for celebrating exemplary social innovations. Occasionally we elect an innovator to office. There, they can hold the door open while insurgents push through.

Ironically, many grassroots organizations waste their votes on Democrats who have already sold them out. As one of my campaign posters said, "The Republican Party is no longer the party of Lincoln; the Democratic Party is no longer the party of FDR."

The effective core of Green progress, instead, are the fearless pioneers who prove there are better ways to feed, fuel, house, heal, employ, and finance America. Their novel projects rebuild civilization toward balance with nature. Without such practical alternatives our angry marching, chanting, petitioning and vigils are mere righteous gestures. But partnered with the boldest programs we can move the world, starting where we live.

*Glover is currently organizing the Logan Orchard and Market (LOAM), a 35 acre permaculture village within Philadelphia. He is writing a book titled "From the Middle Class to the Mutual Class."*



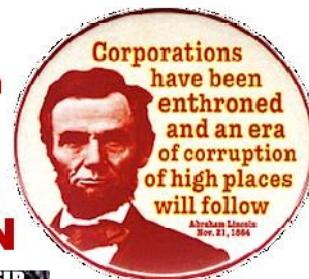
## Don't Waste Your Vote.

**The  
Republican  
Party is  
no longer  
the Party of  
LINCOLN**



**The GREEN Party  
is the only party that does not  
accept corporate contributions.**

Glover for Governor of Pennsylvania • 2014



**The  
Democratic  
Party is  
no longer  
the party of  
FDR**



# Green Party Hails Federal Court Ruling Concerning Pennsylvania's Restrictive Ballot Access

The Green Party of Pennsylvania applauds Friday's Federal Court ruling which has declared Pennsylvania's restrictive ballot access procedures as unconstitutional.

The July 24, Order by US District Judge, Lawrence Stengel takes aim at the restrictive, two-tiered scheme of forcing a disproportionate number of voter signatures, compared to the requirement for major parties; and the threat or imposition of litigation costs and fees on candidates whose nominating petitions are challenged successfully. In cases where independent candidates prevail in a petition challenge, the legal costs can be as high as \$50,000.00, Judge Stengel properly notes.

"The restrictions placed on third party candidates is equivalent to a modern day poll tax. Judge Stengel's decision has made it clear that limiting access to the ballot is an unacceptable infringement on the citizen's rights to self-determination and their ability to elect candidates that truly represent the citizen's views and desire for change," said Hillary Kane, Secretary, Green Party of Pennsylvania.

The initiating suit was filed in 2012 on behalf of Green, Libertarian and Constitution Parties of Pennsylvania, as well as various individuals from the three parties. All three parties have long held the notion that Pennsylvania's treatment of third party and independent candidates blatantly violates not only the US Constitution, but also the Pennsylvania Constitution, which states that "elections must be free and equal." The Greens have been plaintiffs in several actions during the past 15 years, and have won some minor victories, but see Judge Stengel's Order as the most resounding, by far.

Since the Pennsylvania Courts imposed over \$80,000.00 in costs and penalties on Ralph Nader (2004) and Carl Romanelli (2006), many candidates from third parties have simply withdrawn from the ballot due to the concern over life ruining fees being imposed on them. That has led to a conspicuous absence of third party candidates on Pennsylvania ballots in subsequent years.



Photo Doug Kurr

In July of 2008, following the “bonusgate” indictments, it was learned that in both the Nader and Romanelli cases the original challenge was only possible through the unlawful use of taxpayer resources and Democratic personnel of the Pennsylvania House of Representatives.

Carl Romanelli offered, “We have seen that the excessive number of signatures independent candidates must obtain is so obscene that even the very wealthy Democratic Party cannot bring a challenge without employing vast criminality. Even worse is the total disinterest on the part of the Pennsylvania Courts in correcting the situation. Thankfully the Federal Court gets it, and has responded appropriately.”

Jay Sweeney, Chairperson of the Greens in Pennsylvania expressed his appreciation for the representation the party has in Attorney Oliver Hall, “First of all, the Green Party of Pennsylvania would like to thank Oliver Hall, from the Center for Competitive Democracy, for his superlative effort in presenting this case.” He also is calling on the General Assembly to act at once in amending Pennsylvania law at once, as there is legislation pending in the Pennsylvania Senate which would bring Pennsylvania into Constitutional compliance.

“This decision proves what the Green party of Pennsylvania has known all along, elections in Pennsylvania are not open, free and fair. It means that it is now time to move Senator Mike Folmer's Voter's Choice Act, SB 495, through the General Assembly in order to correct this situation,” he suggested.

The Green Party of Pennsylvania is an independent political party that stands in opposition to the two corporate parties. The Green Party of Pennsylvania stands for grassroots democracy, social justice, non violence and ecology.

[http://www.gpofpa.org/green\\_party\\_hails\\_federal\\_court\\_ruling\\_concerning\\_pennsylvania\\_s\\_restrictive\\_ballot\\_access](http://www.gpofpa.org/green_party_hails_federal_court_ruling_concerning_pennsylvania_s_restrictive_ballot_access)  
For More Information: PA Voter's Choice Act <http://goo.gl/2lXb3L>  
Judge Stengel decision: <http://goo.gl/4yRy9k>



## Greens Slam Hillary while Donations Spike *Continued*

By Mark Weber

<http://www.oppositionnews.org/articles/2015/q3/greens-slam-hillary-while-donations-spike/>



### \$5 Fridays

If it's the first Friday of the month, Green Party supporters can count on receiving a reminder from the Green Party national office. Five Dollar Fridays is the result of an effort to harness the widespread grassroots support the Greens have across the country. Party leaders simply ask members to contribute \$5 on the first Friday of every month.

"In May, we started a new Green fundraising initiative called First Friday/\$5 Friday," announced Green Party fundraisers Managers Starlene Rankin and Lea Pierce, "This month, we're asking you with extra energy and joy, because we just got back from the 2015 Annual National Meeting in St. Louis. Without a doubt, everyone there - from brand-new members to long-term activists who have been with the party since the beginning - felt a new surge of energy and focus. There is no doubt that this Presidential cycle is a game changer for the Green Party of the United States."

### Standing with Ferguson, MO - literally

The Green Party national convention last month was held in a very timely place - St. Louis, Missouri. With the war-torn suburb of Ferguson only minutes away, the topic was on the minds of all attendees. A convention recap reported, 'GPUS activists braved the 110+ heat index to join local activists in front of the Ferguson Police Department. Activist and newly-elected Steering Committee Co-Chair Andrea Mérida of Denver was one of the speakers, and she reminded all that Ferguson - right where we stood - was where the Dred Scott decision went down. Dred Scott v. Sandford was a landmark 1857 decision in which the US Supreme Court held that African Americans, whether enslaved or free, could not be American citizens and therefore had no standing to sue in federal court.'

The Green Party's Pierce and Rankin go on to describe the scene, "Our goal for the rally was to stand in solidarity with local activists to demand an end to the militarization of our police forces and the harassment and murder of black people and people of color. Several GPUS leaders, including two Green Presidential Candidates - Jill Stein and Darryl Cherney - spoke, along with Bruce Dixon, Editor of Black Agenda Report and co-chair of the Georgia Green Party, and keynote speaker James Lane."

### Greens sue the Commission on Presidential Debates

A separate announcement from the Green Party reminded supporters of the Greens' dedication to breaking the Republicans' and Democrats' hijacking of the nation's Presidential debate system. The statement read, 'Earlier this year we told you about two lawsuits we have

joined to open up the national debates sponsored by the Commission on Presidential Debates. For years the Commission has hosted Presidential and Vice Presidential debates featuring only Democratic and Republican candidates. Now the Commission has indicated that changes may be coming to the debates and is looking for public input regarding the rules for participation, among other reforms.'

The announcement from the GPUS goes on to present a handful of facts in support of their effort:

'The Constitution contains no mention of political parties, and there is no legal requirement that the President be a member of one of the parties that exclusively participate in CPD-sponsored debates.

According to independent polling data, interest in independent minor party identification and candidates are at an all-time high.

The Commission's requirement that candidates poll at least 15% in national polls in order to participate is absurdly high. The requirement also assumes that all candidates are included in polls, which they are not. Minor party candidates like the Green Party are rarely listed as options in national polls.

There is an easy standard for limiting who should be allowed in national debates - only candidates who qualify for enough state ballots to theoretically win the Electoral College should be invited. In 2012 only four candidates would have met this requirement. This is an easy way to set a clear standard and prevent overcrowding the debate stage.'

### **Hillary Clinton on Education**

While the Republican Party sets its sites on Democratic Party heir apparent Hillary Clinton to get an early start on the General Election battle, the Green Party is exposing Hillary Clinton because much of her disgruntled fan base shares more of the same positions with the Greens than they do with the Democratic half of America's oligarchy and their leader Hillary Clinton.

'Something sneaky (and kinda smelly) is afoot,' another Green Party announcement warned, 'The American Federation of Teachers (AFT) recently announced that its executive council "overwhelmingly" endorsed Hillary Clinton for the Democratic nomination for President last week. No members were consulted. The endorsement was made based on a poll, and secret interviews that were not released to the rank and file. No choice. No debate. Just another palace coup in what Hillary hopes is her inevitable coronation as the Democratic standard bearer.'

The statement goes on to explain, 'The inside-the-beltway good old girls network is

working overtime for Hillary. Hillary's gal pal and AFT President Randi Weingarten has spent decades kissing up to Hillary. Now it's time to deliver the goods, isn't it? Interesting, in light of the fact that Hillary has had nothing to say about education in this campaign. We won't speculate as to the spoils of war Hillary has promised Randi, but you just know they're there. Will she end up as Hillary's Secretary of Education? Or Czarina in another corner of Hillary's realm. Green voters should be outraged by this endorsement if for no other reason than the fact that Clinton has supported the very policies that have put teachers under attack and made public education a profit center and growth industry for transnational corporations.'

## **Hillary Clinton on the environment**

A separate critique of Hillary Clinton by the Green Party just four days ago details the former First Lady and Secretary of State's non-existent position on the environment, 'The presumptive Democratic nominee, Hillary Clinton, is schizophrenic when it comes to climate change. While she certainly understands the science and the threat, consider this:

- She promoted fracking abroad while Secretary of State. Clinton encouraged developing countries to sign deals with American fossil fuel companies to extract their shale gas through fracking.
- The Clinton family charitable foundation takes LOTS of oil money. Big oil companies like ExxonMobil and ConocoPhillips have given millions of dollars to the Clinton Foundation, as have Saudi Arabia and other oil-rich nations in the Middle East. A recent exposé in the International Business Times, revealed that the foundation accepts donations from Pacific Rubiales, a Canadian oil company accused of human rights violations in Colombia. Not only that--Pacific Rubiales' founder, Frank Giustra, now sits on the Clinton Foundation's board.
- With the Republicans, Hillary has supported offshore oil drilling. In 2006, Clinton sided with Republicans and against climate hawks like Sen. Barbara Boxer (D-Calif.) by voting in favor of a bill opening new Gulf Coast areas to offshore oil drilling.
- She won't touch the Keystone XL issue with a 10-foot pole. Even when asked directly about it, Clinton just refuse to answer. In January she told a Canadian audience, "You won't get me to talk about Keystone because I have steadily made clear that I'm not going to express an opinion."

<http://www.oppositionnews.org/articles/2015/q3/greens-slam-hillary-while-donations-spike/>



**Cheri Honkala** has created a blog Cheri hopes to convey how much you all are needed in this movement as she shows the reality of the inhumane horrors low-income families have to endure daily through her words, videos, and pictures. Subscribe & share today at <http://www.cherihonkala.net>

All proceeds will go towards the Poor People's Economic Human Rights Campaign

# Huge Win in Court for Third Parties, Yet Much Work Remains

By: Carl Romanelli GPPA Legal & Media Committee



Over the past several years Greens have been getting updates at meetings of the Pennsylvania party, as well as at local meetings, regarding the many legal cases the Green Party and its members have brought against the Commonwealth's treatment of independent and third party candidates. Currently the Green Party is a plaintiff in two federal cases. There have been a few small victories achieved in just the past year. It is now lawful for out-of-state petitioners to do their work, and sign affidavits, without having to be attached to a Pennsylvania resident. There is also no longer a requirement to have nomination papers notarized, which will be significant in saving dollars during the petition period, which has become a costly endeavor for independent candidates. Those changes come about as a result of the ongoing case filed by Attorney Paul Rossi on behalf of the Greens and Libertarians. Many other individual issues still remain to be litigated, so this suit remains fluid and evolving. The BIG news over summer, however, comes in the lawsuit filed by Attorney Oliver Hall. The Constitution Party joins the Greens and Libertarians as a plaintiff in this action, which was filed in 2012.

In the latter mentioned case the parties have challenged the constitutionality of Pennsylvania's two-tiered scheme of requiring an absurdly disproportionate number of signatures for third party candidates to qualify for the ballot, then subjecting those parties to outrageous legal costs, and often the assessment of unfair sanctions and fees when a challenge review is complete. The approximately \$85,000 each in the Nader, 2004 and Romanelli, 2006 campaigns are the most glaring and blatant examples of the abuse Pennsylvania has heaped on the independent minded. Many may remember that in 2013 Federal District Judge, Lawrence Stengel attempted to dismiss this action citing a "lack of standing" as his reason. On appeal the US Third Circuit Court of Appeals ruled that we, and the other parties involved, did in fact have standing on the issues brought in the case. That victory, in 2014, paved the way for this year's ruling, issued on July 24, in which Judge Stengel decreed that Pennsylvania's practices against third parties is unconstitutional. The judgment essentially does away with the system of private party challenges are out, and any costs for reviewing bucket loads of signatures must be on the state, and not on candidates and parties.

The decision has already had impact on various fronts, in particular the General Assembly. On September 22, there will finally be a Committee Hearing regarding the Voter Choice Act. Despite its being introduced in three previous sessions of the legislature, the September hearing will be the first ever scheduled on this very helpful and important legislation.

There has also been much media coverage of Stengel decree, which has allowed more citizens to understand just how restrictive and unfair Pennsylvania ballot access policy actually is, and that such policy needs to be changed. So it is understandable third party candidates feel buoyed and much like celebrating, but let us not yet pop the champagne corks or fire up celebratory bongs, because there is a long way to go, and the Pennsylvania State Judges continue to be committed to their disdainful and partisan efforts against candidates outside of the duopoly. This is abundantly clear in the case of Green Party candidate for City Commissioner of Philadelphia, Glenn Davis. Despite the Federal Court decision, Davis found he was challenged by Republicans in the usual manner.

In defense of the Glenn Davis' right to appear on the ballot his attorney asked that the challenge be dismissed, based on the Stengel ruling. However, the Philadelphia County judge hearing the case decided Judge Stengel's Order does not apply in the Davis matter. He reasoned that since no fees are requested, Glenn Davis can be challenged. A clearly transparent act of favoritism toward the Republican challengers, and against the unambiguous decree of the federal courts, which should be followed until such time as legislature amends the Pennsylvania Election Code, or an administrative fix is employed. Worse is the fact that Glenn Davis and his attorney requested the judge certify the question regarding the constitutionality to the Commonwealth Court for clarification, but the judge refused. He instead required an immediate review of Green Party signatures and determined that Davis will be removed from the Philadelphia ballot. The Philadelphia judge then left all in attendance in a speechless sense of shock at the end of the proceeding by announcing he is retiring at the end of the work day, August 17, which is the day the Davis challenge was heard. His last order of business was to bump a candidate off the ballot, then ride off into the proverbial sunset. As of September 7, no one has seen a written order of removal, which is a separate area concern, for any person with the slightest understanding of ethics and jurisprudence. So anyone can see that official oppression against any alternative to Republicans and Democrats remains standard practice in Pennsylvania.

Now, getting back to the "victory" decision by Judge Stengel, that plot also thickens. Governor Wolf has announced that the Commonwealth will appeal the ruling. Not a surprise considering that Wolf, the candidate, made clear his opposition to any reform of third party ballot access. Until such time as an appellate court overturns Judge Stengel, his Final Order and Judgment are the law of the land, but apparently such authority means nothing to "official" Pennsylvania. It continues to engage in partisan mistreatment of its citizen's right to free speech and free association. So our struggle continues and our work is far from over, but please take heart in the fact that we are having much success in chipping away at a massive stone. The story of our struggle is not over, but rather an evolving drama, which will continue to play out. Such a claim would not be possible without the continued dedication of our party and our candidates in standing up and fighting back.

# The Call is Out!

2016

The  
**Green Party**  
of PENNSYLVANIA

## Green Party Candidates and Petitioning Volunteers

If you or someone you know may be interested in running for office

Contact the Green Party of PA today

Sign up to volunteer at [GPofPA.org](http://GPofPA.org)

### 2016 Election Roster

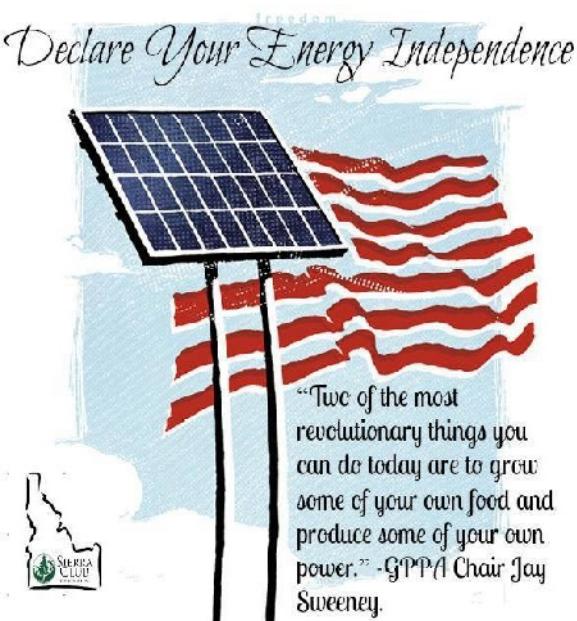
- GPUS President, Vice President
- 18 United States House of Representative Seats
- Pennsylvania Attorney General
- Auditor General
- State Treasurer
- 25 Odd Numbered Senate Seats
- 203 House of Representative Seats



**#WeAreGreen**



## Jay Sweeney Falls Township Auditor



Elected to a six year term that expires at the end of the year, Jay Sweeney is seeking reelection to Falls Township Auditor. Jay has served as a delegate to the Green Party of Pennsylvania from Wyoming County for over 10 years and is currently the Chair of GPPA.

Jay has also served as party Treasurer.



To get more information or volunteer:

Jay Sweeney  
303 How Kola Rd, Falls Township  
570-587-3603 jnln@epix.net

# Kristin Combs Philadelphia City Council



## Kristin Combs Will Appear on the November Ballot

Green Party Candidate for Council at-Large Successfully Passes Challenge Window

PHILADELPHIA- After filing for ballot access on August 3, Green party candidate for city council at-large, Kristin Combs, a Philadelphia public school teacher at Penn Treaty School, remained unchallenged when the window for such challenges closed. She will appear on the ballot for the general election November 3rd.



Kristin Combs

Kristin Combs has gained momentum and endorsements from a broad coalition of groups including the prominent AFSCME District Council 33, the blue-collar union for Philadelphia's city employees. Kate Goodman, a member of endorsing organization Socialist Alternative, says "Working class people need independent politicians who represent us, not the Chamber of Commerce. The fight for the \$15 minimum wage has been led by independent workers' organizations, like Socialist Alternative City Councilmember Kshama Sawant in Seattle. We need a champion like Kristin Combs in Philly on City Council to fight unapologetically for the \$15 minimum wage."

There are seven at-large council seats available with a maximum of five seats going to the majority party – the Democrats. Kristin is vying for one of the two minority seats, which go to the individuals with the next highest votes; traditionally, this has meant republicans. However, it also could mean a third party candidate, and she has a chance to win. "If liberal voters do not vote party line but instead allot one vote to Kristin, they assure a more progressive voice within the City Council and do not risk losing a seat for Democrats," says Green Party treasurer Hillary Kane. "Progressives are excited to use one of their five at-large votes on November 3 to support a candidate whose primary agenda is social and economic justice."

For more information or to make a contribution, visit [www.combs4citycouncil.com](http://www.combs4citycouncil.com).

Endorsements: AFSCME District Council 33 (mentioned in the article),  
APWU Bulk Mail Center Local  
Socialist Alternative  
Socialist Party-USA

For interviews please contact Kristin Combs, 215-613-4223

To get more information, volunteer or contribute:

Friends of Kristin Combs, PO Box 26747, Philadelphia, PA 19134

Combs4CityCouncil.com  
**Facebook:** Combs4CityCouncil

The  
**Green Party**  
of PENNSYLVANIA

**Kristin  
Combs**  
City Council at-Large

# Michael Bagdes-Canning

## *Butler County Commissioner*

Michael Bagdes-Canning has been married to Karen Bagdes-Canning for almost 37 years. They have four children and 4 grandchildren. They have lived on a small farm in Cherry Valley Borough in Butler County since 1982 and Bagdes-Canning has served on the Cherry Valley Borough Council since 1989; he is currently Vice President. He retired in 2012 after spending 36 years in the classroom, 29 years teaching reading to adjudicated boys at the George Junior Republic in Grove City.

Most of his time now is devoted to social and climate justice work. He's a member of the Planning Group (the board of directors) and also a community organizer with Marcellus Outreach Butler.

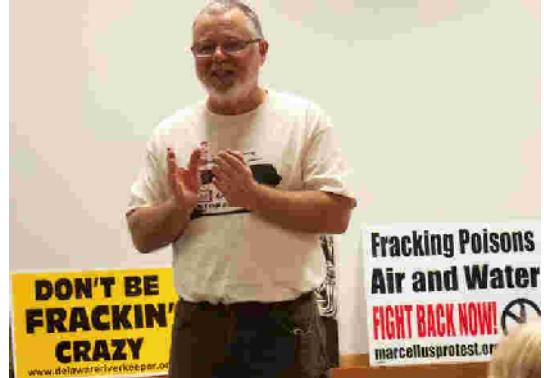
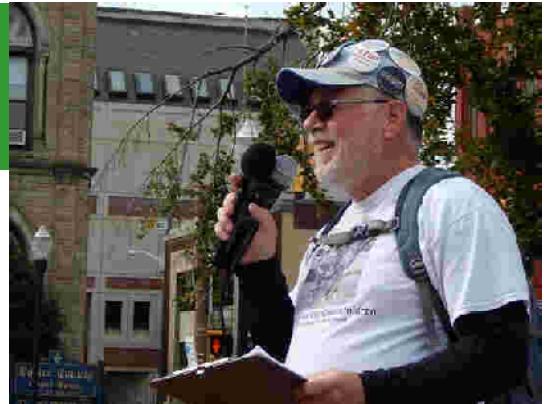
He has been involved in a number of direct action Campaigns:

- the March on Blair Mountain
- Tour de FRACK
- the Battle for Maggie's Farm
- 2013 Walk For Our Grandchildren
- Beyond Extreme Energy
- the occupation of Rep. Brian Ellis' office
- anti-fracking demonstration at Governor Wolf's Inauguration

He does victim outreach and arranges tours of the shale-fields of Butler County. He also documents the devastation of shale extraction through photography, stream study, and file review. He is currently working to establish PEPA - the People's Environmental Protection Agency - a grassroots group dedicated to protecting our communities from extractive industry through documentation, oversight, and research.

To get more information, volunteer or contribute:

[mbagdes@gmail.com](mailto:mbagdes@gmail.com)  
724-431-8560



## Ten Key Values

Grassroots Democracy

Social Justice & Equal Opportunity

Ecological Wisdom

Non-Violence

Decentralization

Community-Based Economics & Economic Justice

Feminism & Gender Equity

Respect for Diversity

Personal & Global Responsibility

Future Focus & Sustainability

#WeAreGreen GP.org



## Jon Jones *Fayette County Commissioner* *(Write In)*

My vision is to re-empower the individual municipalities within the county. As your next Commissioner, I will endeavor to provide the people with transparency and accountability. By engaging with members of each community across Fayette, I would hope to help stimulate the growth of all communities by returning the focus to the needs of the people. Together, we can identify the issues most pressing across the county and develop measures to try to reverse the negative trends.



Rebuilding our historic county will take a collective effort, and I firmly believe that together, we hold the power, to once again, create a Fayette County we can be proud of.

### Platform Priorities

- **Education Reform**

We're failing to provide our youth with an education truly preparatory for life after high school.



- **Prison System Reform**

An honest attempt at a renovation/construction plan for either the historic prison building or a viable new facility, housing conditions, addressing mismanagement.



- **Environment/Sustainability**

Zero tolerance for environmental damages caused by hydraulic fracturing.



- **Transparency**

Don't you want to know what your government does for you?



To get more information, volunteer or contribute:

Jon Jones [jej@JonJones2015.com](mailto:jej@JonJones2015.com) 724-434-4896

**JonJones2015.com**

## Green Party Ideas for the Next Mayor of Philadelphia



“The Green Party of Philadelphia (GPOP) recognizes that less than thirty percent of the members of the Democratic and Republican Parties voted in the recent Primary Election and have now chosen two candidates for mayor,” said GPOP Chair Glenn Davis following the Green’s membership meeting on May 27 at Dream House Asian Bistro in Roxborough.

“Those two candidates will now be observed and questioned by the great majority of voters, who did not participate in the primary election,” continued Davis. “The Green Party has many good ideas, which should be considered by the next mayor. Therefore, our membership has voted to offer some Green Party policies for consideration by the two candidates Melissa Murray Bailey and James Francis Kenney. We hope that Philadelphia’s voters will evaluate the responses of Bailey and Kenney before deciding between them.”

“I believe a Green Party mayor should take a serious look at racial disparities in Philadelphia,” said GPOP Treasurer Hillary Kane. “Those disparities are economic, educational, and healthcare oriented. Our next mayor should understand that Philadelphia is just one incident away from becoming the next Baltimore. In the past, mass incarceration has been the standard response of mayors elected from either of the two corporate parties. Philadelphia deserves something better from our next mayor.”

Julian Robinson, a Philadelphia Community College student who is a member of the GPOP City Committee, said, “I am against stop-and-frisk. It should be ended by our next mayor because police do not have the right to stop an innocent person and check them without a warrant.” The Green Party has a history of opposition to stop-and-frisk. The Green Party national platform says, “We condemn the practice of racial profiling by law enforcement agencies, which are guilty of stopping motorists, harassing individuals, or using unwarranted violence against suspects with no other justification than race or ethnic background.”

“The charge of an excellent mayor would be to make Philadelphia free from hunger and homelessness,” said Bernadette Cronin-Geller, a Green Party member from Roxborough. “There are 400,000 of our neighbors living in poverty in Philadelphia. That means three out of ten adults and four out of ten children are below the poverty line. The Green Party says that this must change.”

Chris Robinson, a Green Party organizer from Germantown, said, “The most important thing for our next mayor will be to improve public education. I hope that our next mayor will enact the Green Party’s four-point plan for improving public education: a

democratically elected school board, an end of attempts to privatize education, an equalization of educational resources, and an end of the school-to-prison pipeline.” Robinson continued, “The Green Party has also proposed three ways to pay for improvements in public education which would fall on large businesses and mega non-profit organizations. We have proposed to cut the ten-year free pass on luxury developments, institute good neighbor payments (aka Payments In Lieu of Taxes) on mega-nonprofits, and increase the use and occupancy tax on major corporations.”

“I believe that our next mayor should emphasize the purchase of new voting machines which have a verified paper-audit trail,” said GPOP Chair Glenn Davis. “The Green Party has a six-point platform for improving elections, and now is the time for Philadelphia to comply with this commonsense demand. City Council has already authorized \$22 million for the new voting machines. We should certainly elect a mayor who will assure that our new voting machines will allow audits of contested elections, a capability which Philadelphia has not had for the last 20 years.”

“I expect the next mayor will declare Workers Day or May Day, May 1, to be a public holiday,” said Vivek Ananthan, a founder of GPOP. “May Day is an official holiday in 66 countries and unofficially celebrated in many more. It is a shame that May Day was born in the U.S., but we no longer recognize it as a workers holiday.”

The Green Party is an independent political party founded on the four pillars of nonviolence, grassroots democracy, ecological wisdom and social justice. For more information about the Green Party of Philadelphia, please call 215-243-7103 or email [gpop@gpop.org](mailto:gpop@gpop.org).

<http://www.gpop.org/news/?p=1677>



Catch up on all of the National Green Party News in the Green Pages

As the official publication of record of the Green Party of the United States, it highlights and addresses the needs of the Green Party, its members and its organizations on the national, state and local levels.



<http://gp.org/greenpages-blog/>

# A Green Response to the Mariner East 2 pipelines

By: Jocolyn Bowser-Bostick

Co-chair, Delaware County Green Party

Originally composed in response to:

[http://www.delcotimes.com/opinion/20150701/editorial-piping-the-future-into-marcus-hook#disqus\\_thread](http://www.delcotimes.com/opinion/20150701/editorial-piping-the-future-into-marcus-hook#disqus_thread)

There are many reasons why I and anyone who is genuinely concerned about preventing damage and toxic contamination to their property and protecting the health and safety of people living near the current Sunoco Mariner East 1 pipeline and along the route for the 2 proposed pipelines of Sunoco Mariner East 2 should want both of these projects discontinued. I will briefly describe here some of the most alarming problems with Sunoco's operation of its pipelines that constitute some of the reasons I think operation of Mariner East 1 should be stopped and Mariner East 2 pipelines should not be built.

The use and expansion of pipelines and other infrastructure in support of the development and increased use of fracked natural gas products must be stopped if we do not want the health of the people and the ecosystems in our communities to continue to deteriorate. Operating Mariner East 1 pipeline and the proposed Mariner East 2 pipelines will encourage and support expanded drilling for natural gas in the Marcellus Shale region. This fossil fuel is a greater contributor to greenhouse gases than CO<sub>2</sub> and our expanded use of it will hasten and intensify the worst effects of catastrophic climate change (droughts, harsher storms, etc.) that we have already begun to see here in the U.S. and around the world.

Many people who have worked or lived near the gas drilling and fracking operations in the Marcellus Shale region and other U.S. areas have experienced noise pollution, smog, poisoned drinking water wells, skin rashes, constant headaches and body aches, respiratory problems, cancers, other health problems, physical injuries and deaths. Wildlife, livestock, and domesticated animals have also been seriously sickened or killed by these fracking and drilling operations. Profits and wages for a few do not justify this torment and it seems more ridiculous when you know we can satisfy all our energy needs through much safer alternatives such as improved efficiency and clean, renewable energy sources.

At least 239 accidents and safety regulation violations have originated from U.S. based Sunoco pipelines and been documented by the U.S. Department of Transportation's Pipeline & Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) from January 2005 through April 2015. Over the same time period Pennsylvania suffered out of the total cited above 24 accidents and violations from Sunoco pipelines. Fourteen of these accidents/violations were in Delaware County, PA. Considering the severity of many of these accidents Sunoco Logistics should not be allowed to build and operate new pipelines or oversee their current pipelines.

From January 2005 through April 2015 Sunoco pipeline accidents across the U.S. have caused about \$44,000,000 in property damage (PHMSA). In PA during the same time frame \$6,729,329 in property damage was caused by gasoline leaking from Sunoco pipelines. Despite what Sunoco managers have said at their Mariner East pipeline presentations Sunoco's safety record and pipeline inspection procedures seem quite inadequate when looking at the facts. From PHMSA records one can calculate Sunoco's pipeline ruptures as being due to corrosion or Material/Weld/Equipment Failure 77% of the time.

Examples of Sunoco's incompetence include: A rupture of a pipeline near Cygnet, Ohio, owned by Philadelphia-based Sunoco, resulted in one of the largest oil spills in Wood County history with a release of 1250 barrels of crude oil onto farmland and a local creek on February 18 & 19, 2009. It took 18 hours to stop the oil that was gushing from this damaged pipeline.

As reported by the online TribLIVE News on 3/5/2014 Sunoco Logistics Partners and Sunoco Pipeline may never completely clean up the pollutants from the 11/25/08 gasoline spill in Murrysville, PA. The pipeline failed because of an improperly installed ball valve and 12,000 gallons of fuel saturated the soil, homes and businesses and polluted a 3-mile section of Turtle Creek, according to the Department of Environmental Protection. The PA DEP is seeking more than \$2.3 million in civil penalties from the companies for allegedly violating the Clean Streams Law. Some businesses were closed for a month in order to de-contaminate and the damage was estimated at \$1.1 million.

The fact that Sunoco wants to continue to use the Mariner East 1 to transport hazardous natural gas liquids of propane, ethane and butane is another sign of its incompetence. This pipeline is 84 years old and was built long before federal pipeline regulations took effect. For a long period it just transported gasoline and it had a history of leaks. Now the pipeline's flow has been reversed and it's pumping propane and eventually other highly volatile liquids at increased pressures. The age, number of leaks, and these types of changes in how the pipeline is used are considered ill-advised for safe operation by the federal regulating authority of PHMSA.

And the last reasons I'll mention as to why Sunoco Logistics should not be allowed to go forward with its Mariner East pipeline project is the fact that the two managers who spoke supported two clear lies during the Q & A portion after their 1<sup>st</sup> presentation on 7/1/15: they stated Sunoco Logistics is a public utility and that it has the ability to use eminent domain which it would use as a last resort to get the proposed pipelines built. Sunoco's status can be verified with the Public Utility Commission. Furthermore, on March 25, 2014 York County landowners won a court battle blocking Sunoco Logistics from condemning their land in order to build a section of the Mariner East 2 pipeline. Judge Stephen Linebaugh, of the York County Common Pleas Court, for the 2<sup>nd</sup> time ruled that Sunoco was a pipeline carrier and not a public utility, and therefore, had no eminent domain powers.

# Green Party Presidential Candidate Forum



Bill Kreml, Kent Mesplay, Sedinam Kinamo Christin Moyowasifza-Curry, Darryl Cherney, Jill Stein

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Next Green Party of PA State Meeting

**When:** September 19, 2015 11am-4pm

**Where:** Harrisburg Friends Meetinghouse  
1100 N 6th St, Harrisburg, PA 17102

**Who:** This meeting of the GPPA State Committee is open to all Greens from PA. County Delegates and Alternates are encouraged to attend.

All are welcome. Check [www.gpofpa.org](http://www.gpofpa.org) for more details

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