

Illinois Green Party

Dear Friend --

Important Notice About the Upcoming Primary Election – And Bernie Sanders

The state-run Illinois Primary Election is coming up on March 15th – with early voting starting within days.

We recognize that some members and friends of the Green Party like democratic socialist candidate Bernie Sanders, who is seeking the nomination of the Democratic Party for president. It is not our purpose here to weigh in on the pros and cons of casting a primary ballot for Bernie – except to remind you that the corporate-funded Democratic Party, as an institution, is a part of the problem, not part of the solution, and that building a real party of the people, the Green Party, [remains imperative](#). Nonetheless, we acknowledge that reasoned arguments have been made on both sides of the “Bernie” question.

However:

If you are thinking about picking up a Democratic or Republican Party ballot in the primary election, there are a few things that you need to know first:

1) You cannot vote in the Democratic or Republican Party primary and then run as a Green Party candidate in the 2016 general election. **Therefore, if you are even thinking about running for office as a Green, you should not vote in another party’s primary, as that act will disqualify you from running as a Green.** It will not disqualify you forever, but it will disqualify you for 2016. However, please note that it will **not** disqualify you from signing a petition for Green Party candidates in the November general election, circulating petitions for Green Party candidates in the general election, or voting for Green Party candidates in the general election.

2) **If you reside in the 5th Congressional District (currently represented by Mike Quigley) or the 12th Congressional District (currently represented by Mike Bost) there is a Green Party primary ballot**, and there are good reasons to pick one up and vote Green instead of picking up the Democratic Party ballot. For

one thing, both of these primaries are contested, so you will have an opportunity to help select the candidate who appears on the ballot in November (more on that in a future newsletter). Second, in some wards or precincts, we are running candidates for precinct committeeman, so you can help ensure that they get seated as well.

3) Please remember: **The Green Party will very likely have an opportunity to get our own, even more pro-democracy, pro-environment, pro-economic-opportunity and pro-peace presidential candidate on the ballot for November** – as well as other candidates, from county level on up. (More on the presidential selection process below.) If you are pro-Bernie, you can still help these efforts. Then, if Bernie does not win the nomination, you will still have some good people to vote for in November. Please tell you friends in the Sanders campaign – **if Bernie doesn't win, you do not have to settle for pro-business, pro-war Hillary!** Come on over to the Green Party and continue the struggle for real social progress!

Regional Green Party Presidential Selection Caucuses Coming Soon to a Town Near You!

There will be a series of Green Party caucuses held across the state this month. These caucuses will be opportunities for people to learn more about our presidential candidates and to discuss the choices with other Greens. We plan to have computers available at these caucus sites, so members can vote right there for their choice of candidate.

If you are a member of the Illinois Green Party, you should have already received a notice about the caucuses, and the presidential process being used, in an e-mail bulletin sent on January 25th. If you did not receive that notice, this means that we do not have you listed as a member. However, that can easily be remedied! If you agree with our 10 Key Values and wish to join the party, you can join online [here](#), join and also vote your presidential preference by going [here](#) – or you can come to the caucus nearest you and join at that time.

Currently, the following caucuses are scheduled:

Saturday, February 6

COOK COUNTY – Roosevelt Branch, Chicago Public Library, 1 pm – 4 pm

Sunday, February 7

BELVIDERE – David Black residence, 107 W. 4th Street, 4 pm

Monday, February 8

WHEATON – Green Party office, 213 S. Wheaton Ave., 7 pm - 8:30 pm

Saturday, February 13

OAK PARK – Oak Park Library, 834 Lake St., 1 pm - 4 pm

PEORIA HEIGHTS – Peoria Pizza Works, 3921 N. Prospect Ave., 2 pm - 4 pm

Sunday, February 14

NASHVILLE – Girolamo's Pizza, 144 N East Court St., 12 pm – 2 pm

Illinois Green Party 2016 State Convention and Membership Meeting: Conference Chicago at University Center, Chicago

March 5, 2016

The Illinois Green Party 2016 State Convention will take place on Saturday, March 5, at Conference Chicago at University Center, 525 South State Street, in the South Loop. This year's convention will include the selection of delegates to the Green Party National Convention (Houston, August 6), panels, presentations, and planning for campaign 2016 and our presidential petition drive which begins on March 29. A before-dinner social will be followed by a fundraising dinner at the meeting venue.

Registration, Food & Fundraiser

There is no cost for convention registration. Members can join or renew in advance of the meeting by visiting the ILGP site at www.ilgp.org/join or can join or renew at the convention.

Lunch, Noon to 1 pm

Attendees will have the option to dine in the Conference Chicago Dining Center for lunch service or go out on State Street to one of the many fast food establishments. <http://conferencechicagouc.com/location/>. The Dining Center offers a rich variety of pastas, sandwiches, pizzas, and full dinners, with meat, vegetarian, vegan, and special menu/allergy sensitive options for one price (~\$11.00).

Before-Dinner Social, 5 to 6:30 pm

Buddy Guy's Legends, 700 S. Wabash, is on the south side of the parking lot next to the University Center. (See buddyguy.com.) It has a large open bar area, acoustic

music, and no cover charge before 8 p.m. (We must vacate the meeting rooms from 5 to 6:30 to allow for dinner set-up, and there will be no bar service at dinner.)

Saturday Night Fundraiser Dinner, 6:30 -9 pm

Conference Chicago at University Center

Price: \$40.00/\$20 low income.

Buffet Menu: Grilled lemon-oregano chicken, Lemon penne pasta & vegetables (vegan),

Greek salad with lemon dill vinaigrette (vegan, feta on side)

Bruschetta w basil & tomato (vegan), Yellow gazpacho (vegan)

Pita triangles (vegan), House-made baklava

If you plan on attending the Dinner, please RSVP to ilgp.2016.convention@gmail.com, so we can keep an accurate count. We will have more on the dinner program in a future newsletter.

Contact Information

For questions about the meeting, contact us at ilgp.2016.convention@gmail.com.

Travel

Public Transit:

Amtrak and many Metra trains run to Chicago Union Station, 225 South Canal Street, which is about 12 city blocks from the University Center. From Union Station, proceed East on Adams or Jackson Street, then turn right on State Street and continue south to 525 South State. All CTA trains have stops in the Loop within a short distance off University Center -- exit at Jackson (Red and Blue lines), Adams and Wabash (Green line) or Harold Washington Library (all others).

By Car:

From the Southwest (I-55 Stevenson Expressway): Proceed east to the end of I-55 to North Lake Shore Drive. Continue north (towards downtown) on Lake Shore Drive to Balbo Street. Turn left on Balbo to State Street; turn right on State Street. Continue one block. Conference Chicago will be on your right between Harrison Street and Congress Parkway.

From the South (I-57 to I-94 Dan Ryan Expressway) and From the North (I-90/94 Kennedy/Edens Expressway): Exit at Congress Parkway. Drive east towards downtown to State Street. Turn right on State Street. Conference Chicago will be on your left between Congress Parkway and Harrison Street.

From the West (I-290 Eisenhower Expressway): I-290 turns into Congress Parkway as it nears downtown. Continue driving east to State Street. Turn right on State Street. Conference Chicago will be on your left between Congress Parkway and Harrison Street.

Parking:

Conference Chicago does not have its own parking. However, there are a number of parking garages and lots all around the building. These parking locations are shown in the Chicago Loop map below.



Carpools from other parts of the state may be available – if you are interested in carpooling, contact your nearest ILGP chapter or ilgp.2016.convention@gmail.com.

Lodging

Lodging is available at reasonable rates nearby at the International Youth Hostel, 24 East Congress Parkway, at the corner of Congress Parkway and Wabash Avenue, 1 block east of State Street, next to the University Center. <http://hichicago.org/>. There are numerous other hotels nearby as well -- just search for hotels in the Loop.

Tentative Schedule/Proposed Agenda

More information about the schedule/proposed agenda will be available on ilgp.org in coming weeks. All times are subject to change.

9:00 – 9:30 am Registration

9:30 – 10:00 am Welcome, Introductions, Agenda Approval

10:00 – 10:30 am Internal Elections: ILGP Officers & GPUS Delegation

10:30 – 11:15 am 2016 Elections: Endorsement of Candidates for President, VP, Senator, & Comptroller

11:15 – 12:00 pm Social Justice Panel

12:00 – 12:45 pm Reports from Chapters

12:45 – 1:45 pm Lunch

1:45 – 2:30 pm Ecological Wisdom Panel

2:30 – 3:15 pm Presidential & Congressional Candidates

3:15 – 4:00 pm Presidential Delegate Overview & Selection

4:00 – 5:00 pm 2016 Elections: Petitioning

5:00 - 6:30 pm Before-dinner social hour at Legends

6:30 – 9:00 pm Fundraising Dinner at Conference Chicago at University Center

Building Bridges for Environmental Justice

Illinois Greens have a new opportunity to work with civil rights activists of the Illinois NAACP with a new NAACP initiative called environmental justice, a phrase that links environmental protection with civil rights, and recognizes that people of color often suffer the worst consequences of environmental degradation.

Nearly 300 delegates from the 32 NAACP Branches in Illinois, at their October

2015 annual convention, heard their national leadership on stage promote Environmental Justice. Delegates then discussed among themselves in several workshops the importance of a shared vision linking environment and civil rights. Peoria Area Greens placed a half page ad in the Conference booklet and the State NAACP announced the creation of a State Chairwoman for environmental justice.

Each Illinois NAACP Branch was encouraged to put time and effort into Environmental Justice. Illinois Greens who are willing to work across the cultural boundaries of their community now have another opportunity. For more information on how to connect with your local NAACP branch, please contact Dave Pittman at dvdpttmn@aol.com.

Illinois Green Party
<http://www.ilgp.org/>

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