



# In Chicago and Illinois, the **GREEN PARTY** is growing thanks to progressive activists like you!

What do we want? **Progressive Candidates For Change!**  
When do we want it? **Now!**

THE GOOD NEWS is that the Illinois Green Party is growing because **progressive voters seek a better option** and are fed up with the weak choice of picking the “lesser-evil” candidate between the Democrats and Republicans. **In 2017, Illinois Greens won elections** in nearly two-thirds of the races we entered. We serve on city councils, park and library boards, school and community college boards, mass transit district boards, and more. This year we celebrate **increased membership** and the launch of our **new Chicago Greens south side chapter** along with 17 new local chapters across Illinois.



More than an alternative to the status quo, the **Green Party is the best option** for organizing around and advancing the **progressive values at the core of our beliefs** - beginning with our four pillars of (1) Social Justice, (2) Ecological Wisdom, (3) Nonviolence, and (4) Grassroots Democracy.

Since we refuse corporate money, our candidates won't sell us out or offer lip service followed by betrayal of our principles. We are **democratically run by our members** who support and help elect political candidates to serve the needs of us all. Our *Green Party Platform* outlines our fight to:

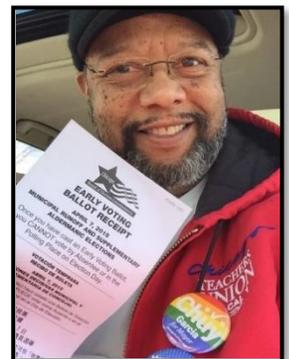
- End poverty with **full employment at a living wage!**
- Deliver **publicly-funded, quality health care** for all, as a human right!
- Provide free, equal, and quality **education for all**, from pre-K through college!
- End police oppression, an unjust criminal justice system, and **protect human rights!**
- Take decisive action to **restore our climate**, and protect our water, air and soil!
- Target government resources **to meet human needs, not to spend billions on the military** and destroy human lives in illegal attacks on other nations!

We invite you to join us in the fight for progress on these goals with the growing movement of activists and voters in the Green Party. Together we can win progressive goals and get more **accountability from people we elect to office in Chicago, Springfield, and Washington, DC!**

When we vote for what we really want, we win! Join us in the fight for justice.



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Peace and we hope to meet you soon,  
Illinois Green Party Chair Zerlina Smith and Chicago Green Party Chair Michael Harrington

## The 1% has two parties. The Green Party is the party of the 99%!

- **The Green Party not only supports better government policies, we want to use government to expand political, and economic, democracy.** Most social problems today – including the corruption of our political system – are rooted in a system of production that centralizes most wealth in the hands of a very few, the top owners of capital. The Green Party seeks to build an economic system based on ecology and decentralization of power, an alternative that rejects both the capitalist system of private ownership over almost all production as well as the state-socialist system that assumes control over industries without democratic, local decision making. Our goal is to establish a system in which the major facilities of production are democratically owned and operated by those who do the work and are affected by production decisions. We have a vision of a better world. The Democratic Party will never seek to transform the economic foundation of society. It has no vision beyond getting its candidates elected.
- **The Green Party is rooted in the people’s struggles for peace, social justice, environmental health and social progress.** We don’t just run candidates for office. Greens are involved in real movement work, day in and day out. We are in the fights against fracking, the fights to protect and improve our schools, the struggles against police violence and repression, the fight for a People and Planet First Budget, the protests against militarism and war, the struggles for social equality – and many more. Our platform is drawn from the many good solutions put forward by organizations struggling to build a better society. That’s another reason why, when Green Party candidates run for office, you can be sure they are running to represent **you**.
- **As an institution, the Democratic Party is thoroughly under the domination of the Military-Industrial Complex, Big Finance, Big Oil, Big Pharma, Big Agribusiness and other corporate interests. The Green Party is a democratic party of working-class people.** Sure, you might be able to find support for progressive causes at a local Democratic Party meeting. You may find “good Democrats” in office on some issues. But the higher up the food chain you go, the more decision-making is made by the high-end donors and their enforcers, the party “machine” and the Democratic National Committee. And they have a different agenda.
- **What happened to the Sanders campaign in 2016 revealed the undemocratic nature of the Democratic Party.** The DNC collaborated with the Clinton campaign to ensure that the candidate of neoliberalism, Wall Street and the War Machine would win the nomination. Their manipulation wasn’t limited to suppression of Sanders supporters, packing their national convention with “super delegates” and influence peddling. Election Justice USA has documented thousands of reports of voter registration tampering, purging or obstruction, all aimed at disenfranchising Sanders voters, as well as possible hacking of the primary elections themselves.
- **Democratic Party officeholders and leaders sometimes pay lip service to progressive causes but most support the policies of neoliberalism most of the time.** They say they are pro-labor but passed NAFTA and other anti-labor measures. They say they support education but they gave us Arne Duncan, Rahm Emanuel, “school choice,” and teaching to the test. Here in Illinois, they gave us public school closures, obscenely unequal school funding, and devastating cuts to higher education – all of which began when they controlled the entire government. Most Americans want publicly-funded single-payer health care, but the Democrats gave us cuts to Medicare, massive health insurance company subsidies, increasingly unaffordable premiums and spotty coverage under Obamacare. They say they “get” the climate crisis, but they have supported fracking, more drilling on public lands and offshore, more pipelines and bomb trains, and billions of dollars in fossil fuel subsidies, while cutting funds for rail and public transit. Their actions reflect the priorities of their corporate paymasters – not the priorities of the people.
- **Most Democratic Party officeholders and leaders support the War Machine and an imperialist policy that has killed or devastated millions of people in the Middle East and Africa.** Bush invaded Iraq and Afghanistan, but Obama added Pakistan, Somalia, Libya, Yemen and Syria to the list of countries drone-bombed, in violation of our Constitution and international law. Greens are devoted to peace, demilitarization, international law, international worker solidarity and respect for national self-determination.
- **The world can’t afford more “lesser evil” politics.** As the Republican Party has moved further to the right, the Democratic Party has trailed right after it. Voting for Democrats ensures that our nation continues to slide off the cliff, just a little slower. “Lesser evil” politics can’t save the climate. It won’t save millions of human beings from being bombed, maimed, and sent fleeing from their homelands all over the Middle East and Africa. It won’t help save millions of our own children from a future of poverty, ignorance, crime, addiction, prison and hopelessness. The world can’t wait; the climate won’t wait. We need to build a party for real progress, not “less” disastrous policies – now.