

ILLINOIS GREEN PARTY - 2017 CANDIDATE GUIDE

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In early 2017, local offices across the state will be up for reelection. These offices offer Greens in every community the opportunity to shape policy, make a positive impact on their community, and gain experience for higher office.

The Illinois Green Party is looking to support passionate, caring individuals to run for office in their local communities. If you are interested in running, please contact ILGP Chair Vito Mastrangelo, at chair@ilgp.org.

Why run for local office?

If you want to make a difference, there is no better place to start than in your own community. Local boards typically comprise 5 to 7 people, and in such a small body, one person can have a tremendous amount of influence. While you won't always get everything you want, you can make sure that sustainability, social justice, peace, and equality are part of the conversation.

What are some Green issues relevant to local office?

There are so many issues covered by the Green Party platform that pertain to local governments. Here are a few Green perspectives on local issues:

Living wage: Does your local government pay its workers minimum wage? Does it rely on contractors who underpay employees? While the GP officially advocates a living wage, many Greens are getting behind the movement for a \$15 minimum wage for all workers (not just those over 18 years old and not just fulltime employees).

Privatization/Corporate Sponsorship: Is your local government too dependent on corporate donations? Are corporate logos popping up in parks, naming rights to buildings being sold off? Is there discussion of laying off public employees with good paying jobs and hiring private third party firms? Greens stand for protecting the commons, retaining public ownership of infrastructure, and preserving good middle class jobs.

Ecological Protection: As part of a local government, Greens can raise the issues of energy efficiency, decreasing pesticide use, and banning plastic bags or other harmful waste products, and can help step up pressure on local polluters.

Economic Development for Local Businesses: You can make sure tax dollars go to help foster local businesses, not to bait deep-pocketed corporations looking for tax breaks and freebies.

It's most important that your platform resonate with your community. Please talk to other Greens and non-Greens in your community to get a feedback on your platform. For more platform ideas, see <http://www.greenpolicy360.net/w/Category:Topic>.

What's it like to run for office?

The level of activity required to win will vary by office to office, race to race. It's important to decide what level of activity is required for your race:

Unopposed/Low Activity: Each odd-year election, numerous offices will have NO candidates file. In those cases, you will not have to do much to win, but you should still make an effort to let people know what you're all about and find out what voters' concerns are. Typically, library boards require the lowest amount of campaign activity.

Moderate: Most races will require a moderate amount of campaigning. Your odds will greatly improve with a little campaigning a few weekends of going door to door, showing up at candidate forums, and greeting voters as they enter the polls on election day. Most offices for boards and commissions will require moderate campaigning.

High Activity: Some offices, especially higher profile offices where a single person is elected (such as mayor), will require a higher level of campaign organization, including a campaign manager, and may require fundraising, brochures, campaign signs, etc.

Very High Activity: In rare cases, local campaigns can take on a larger regional or symbolic importance. Chicago Mayor and City Council would fall into this category; however, races in small towns can become a big focus, depending on the people and issues involved.

Regardless of how much effort is required to win a campaign, serving in a public office is going to require ongoing time and effort. Please factor that in when making your decision.

What assistance is available?

If you are interested in running for office, please contact the Illinois Green Party, and we will determine what assistance is available to you. Below is a chart that outlines our candidate assistance program for 2017.

PLEASE NOTE: All grants (including amount granted and timing of disbursement) are made at the sole discretion of the ILGP Executive Committee.

Type of Assistance	Unopposed/ Low Activity	Moderate Activity	High Activity	Very High Activity
Campaign Assessment	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Recognition	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Contact Lists	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Petition	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Ballot Access Legal Referrals	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Publicity	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Start-up Grant	up to \$50	up to \$100	up to \$250	up to \$500
Materials Grant	up to \$50	up to \$100	up to \$250	up to \$500
Matching Grant	NA	up to \$200	up to \$500	up to \$500

Campaign Assessment: The ILGP will analyze your race and make suggestions for running a successful campaign. The ILGP may also determine what additional elected offices might be available to you if you're not sure what office you'd like to run for.

Recognition: Though many offices are nonpartisan, the ILGP offers candidates the opportunity to receive formal recognition as a "Green Party candidate". Candidates must complete a questionnaire and an interview, and recognition will be voted on either by a local or statewide committee. Recognition is required for material assistance from the ILGP, such as contact lists and grants.

Contact List: Upon recognition, you are eligible to receive a contact list of Green Party members in and/or nearby your district.

Petition: Recognized candidates are eligible to receive a customized petition that will be reviewed by ballot access experts. The ILGP uses a standard petition that has withstood numerous legal challenges.

Publicity: All recognized candidates are listed on the ILGP website, and may be promoted in other channels (Facebook, newsletters, press releases).

Ballot Access Legal Referrals: The ILGP has relied on a number of ballot access attorneys over the years. If you are challenged and need legal assistance, the ILGP may be able to make a referral.

Startup Grant: Startup grants of varying amounts are available to recognized candidates, with the approval of the ILGP Executive Committee. The amount of the grant depends on the level of campaign activity required to win your race, and the effort you plan to expend in your campaign. Startup grants can be used to setup a website, to hire a consultant, to pay petitioners anything you need to get your campaign off the ground.

Materials Grant: These funds can be used for flyers, brochures, website, yard signs, buttons, banners, or other campaign materials.

Matching Grant: The ILGP may match grants for campaigns that actively raise money.

Timeline

First day to circulate (for Consolidated Primary Election):	August 30, 2016
First day to circulate (for Consolidated General Election):	September 20, 2016
First day to file (for Consolidated Primary Election):	November 21, 2016
Last day to file (for Consolidated Primary Election):	November 28, 2016
Deadline to apply for Startup Grant:	December 7, 2016**
First day to file (for Consolidated General Election):	December 12, 2016
Last day to file (for Consolidated General Election):	December 19, 2016
Deadline to apply for Materials and Matching Grants:	January 15, 2017
Consolidated Primary Election:	February 28, 2017
Consolidated General Election:	April 4, 2017

*** Tentative

RESOURCES

Illinois Board of Elections

<http://www.elections.il.gov/>

Illinois Board of Elections 2017 Candidates Guide

<http://www.elections.il.gov/Downloads/ElectionInformation/PDF/2017CanGuide.pdf>

Cook County Clerk (for offices outside Chicago)

<http://www.cookcountyclerk.com/ELECTIONS/Pages/default.aspx>

<http://www.cookcountyclerk.com/elections/candidatefiling/Pages/RunningForOffice.aspx>

(The Running-For-Office page includes a three-minute video.)

<http://www.cookcountyclerk.com/elections/2016elections/Pages/InfoforCandidates.aspx>

Chicago Board of Election Commissioners

<http://www.chicagoelections.com/en/running-for-office.html>

Chicago 2017 Candidates Guide (4th Ward Alderman)

<http://app.chicagoelections.com/documents/general/S2017-Election-Calendar.pdf>

Green Policy 360 (Issues)

<http://www.greenpolicy360.net/w/Category:Topic>