Wisconsin Greens endorse local candidates in 2015 Spring elections
By Dave Schwab

Local chapters of the Wisconsin Green Party in Dane County, Portage County, and the Greater Milwaukee Area have endorsed candidates for the April 7th election, and are providing financial and volunteer support to get these Green candidates elected. In 30 years of history, Wisconsin Greens have won over 60% of the local races they’ve entered.

Dane County

The Four Lakes Green Party has endorsed seven candidates for local office in Madison and Fitchburg.

Ledell Zellers (Madison Alder District 2)

Ledell Zellers is seeking a second term on Madison’s City Council. In her first term, she has been a leader on issues such as sustainable development and historic preservation, protecting water quality, expanding public transit, and working to end homelessness.

Marsha Rummel (Madison Alder District 6)

Marsha Rummel has served on Madison’s City Council since 2007. She has been a progressive champion on many issues, and has been instrumental in ensuring that development of Madison’s East Side has been sustainable, affordable, and vibrant with lots of green space.

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Samba Baldeh (Madison Alder District 17)

Samba Baldeh is a software engineer and community activist in Northeast Madison. He is running on a platform that includes expanding community policing and addressing the shortage of affordable housing.

Rebecca Kemble (Madison Alder District 18)

Rebecca Kemble is a worker-owner at Union Cab and President of the United States Federation of Worker Cooperatives who lives on Madison's North side. Her platform includes neighborhood-oriented development, access to affordable healthy food, keeping neighborhood schools open, preserving green spaces, and more.

Steve Arnold (Fitchburg Mayor)

Steve Arnold has served Fitchburg as an Alder for 10 years, and is now challenging an incumbent mayor who works as a lobbyist for corporations like Wal-Mart. His platform includes more transparency in local government, sustainable development with walkable neighborhoods, and expanding public transit and bike lanes.

Michael Childers (Fitchburg Alder District 1, Seat 2)

Michael Childers is a professor at the University of Wisconsin School for Workers. He is running on a platform that includes expanding public transit, protecting environmentally sensitive areas from development, and working to reduce racial disparities through policies like “Ban the Box”.

Jake Johnson (Fitchburg Alder District 4, Seat 7)

Jake Johnson is a small business owner and member of the Fitchburg Parks Commission. His positions include support for sustainable development without corporate welfare, expanded public transit, and more bike trails.

Greater Milwaukee

Wendell Harris (Milwaukee Public Schools Board of Directors, District 2)

Wendell Harris is a community activist, retired union steel-worker, and vice-chair of the Wisconsin NAACP who lives on Milwaukee's Northwest side. He is running on a platform that includes opposing cuts to public education funding, obtaining a living wage for MPS employees, and reducing the use of high-stake testing.

Portage County

Mike Wiza (Stevens Point Mayor)

Mike Wiza is a public employee in Stevens Point who has served for many years on both the City Council and County Board. In forums and discussions with Greens and other grassroots groups, he has made a strong commitment to reviving the Eco-municipality initiative for Stevens Point.

Bob Gifford (Village of Park Ridge Trustee)

A retired machinist now market gardening, Bob worked on the Stevens Point Eco-municipality initiative in 2007-08. Running for Village Trustee in Park Ridge he’ll emphasize keeping Fire & Rescue team well staffed, fighting the Walker cuts to Aging and Disability Resource Centers, local community control over explosive crude oil rail shipments and other environmental issues, and keeping the Village informed on Eco-municipality progress.
POLICE BRUTALITY cont. from page 1

These deaths are preventable. Measures can be taken to solve this problem. Among them include:

- Truly independent investigations of police killings. Wisconsin law requires an independent investigation, but Dontre Hamilton’s killing was investigated by retired Milwaukee detectives – from the same department they were investigating. We call for a new, truly independent investigation of Hamilton’s killing, and for rules to ensure the independence of all future investigations.

- A massive overhaul of Wisconsin’s justice system to address problems including:
  - unrestrained police and prosecutorial power
  - racial profiling and policies like “stop and frisk”
  - “zero tolerance” policies and mandatory sentencing, which erode judicial discretion
  - privatization of prisons and the resulting economic incentive to lock up more people
  - Establish independent citizen review boards to monitor police behavior, with the power to press charges and issue subpoenas.

- Eliminate the sense of impunity that law enforcement officers and vigilantes enjoy when they commit harassment, assault, and extrajudicial killing of Blacks. We must put an end to a law enforcement culture where even routine traffic stops turn into incidents of abuse for which police are never investigated and held accountable.

- End militarization of local police. Stop training civilian police in military tactics and end provision of military equipment to police departments, resulting in actions like SWAT raids for minor violations.

- Stop the mass incarceration of people of color. Wisconsin has a higher percentage of Black men in prison and parole than any other state. At 12.8%, Wisconsin’s incarceration rate for Black men is almost double the national rate of 6.7%. Wisconsin also incarcerates a higher percentage of its Native American men than any other state.

- Every officer should wear a body video camera. While not a complete solution for these systemic problems, the use of body cameras would be a tangible first step to deter abusive behavior by officers.

- Legalize marijuana and end the “War on Drugs”. Criminalizing and incarcerating people for victimless crimes, like selling and using marijuana, has needlessly destroyed lives, wasted huge amounts of public money, and fueled organized crime. Systemic racism in the enforcement of “drug war” policies has been a key driver of mass incarceration and worsening relations between law enforcement and communities of color. We call for legalization and regulation of marijuana, and replacement of drug prohibition policies with a harm reduction approach.

Wisconsin Greens call for moratorium on tar sands expansion

By Bob Gifford

Enbridge Energy, the corporation responsible for the largest inland oil spill in American history (dumping an estimated 1 million gallons of tar sands sludge into the Kalamazoo River system), is attempting to expand its pipeline system in Wisconsin to carry more tar sands than the proposed Keystone XL pipeline.

The Dane County Zoning and Land Regulation Committee is currently in the process of deciding what conditions to place on the zoning permit for the proposed Line 61 pump station near Marshall.

The WI Green Party urges citizens of Wisconsin to call on our local governments to demand:

- An Environmental Impact Study (EIS) for each county where the pipeline expansion runs.
- Environmental impact liability insurance in place before any further expansion in pipeline capacity or any additional lines.
- A moratorium on this expansion until all the details are properly legally secured, and residents of the affected counties have been fully informed of the potential health and environmental impacts.

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More information on the Line 61 issue:

ON a hot July night in 2010, a little-known oil pipeline crossing southern Michigan split open, pouring roughly one million gallons of heavy Alberta tar sands crude oil into the Kalamazoo River system. By the time the leak was stopped over 17 hours later, the incident had become the largest inland oil spill on American soil in history. Although Enbridge Energy, the Canada-based oil corporation that owned and operated the pipeline, was ordered to clean up the spill, an estimated 181,000 gallons of tar sands remained in the river three years after the fact. The disaster was a wakeup call for Michigan residents, regulatory officials, lawmakers, and conservationists.

Devastating as it was, the Kalamazoo River oil spill was far from unprecedented. Enbridge Energy’s North American pipelines have logged more than 800 spills since 1999 and spilled nearly 7 million gallons of oil. Spills from pipelines in Enbridge’s Lakehead System have polluted the environment, forced evacuations that disrupted communities and, in one incident, killed two workers.

The Enbridge corporation already has a tar sands pipeline running through Wisconsin, known as Line 61. Enbridge is pressuring the state Department of Natural Resources and local authorities to allow expansion of its current 560,000-barrels a day transport of diluted bitumen from the Alberta tar sands region. The expanded line would carry 1.2 million barrels a day, or 50 million gallons a day – more than was planned for the Keystone XL pipeline. Diluted bitumen (aka “tar sands sludge”) is far more toxic and difficult to clean up than light sweet crude oil (like the oil that poured into the Gulf of Mexico after the BP Deepwater Horizon explosion of 2010).

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

Join the revolution - become a Wisconsin Green Party member!

As Greens, we pledge to refuse money from corporate interests. We only endorse candidates who make the same pledge. That means our ability to support great candidates depends entirely on the support we get from people like you. We depend on our grassroots members to keep us growing. And that means we appreciate every single contribution, and know how to make the most of it.

If you like the work the Wisconsin Green Party does, please consider going to www.WIGP.org and becoming a dues-paying Green Party member today!

Upcoming Green Party events:

April 7 - Election Day
April 13 - WI Conservation Congress elections
May 2-3 - The Future of Left/Independent Electoral Action conference - Chicago, IL
May 9 - Wisconsin Green Party Spring Gathering - Schmeeckle Reserve, Stevens Point, WI
June 19-21 - Wisconsin Green Party at the Midwest Renewable Energy Fair - Custer, WI
July 23-26 - Green Party of the United States Annual National Meeting - St. Louis, MO

Check www.WIGP.org for more information and an updated schedule of local meetings.