



State Of The State

By WIGP Co-Chair Dace Zepps

A lot has occurred since our Fall Gathering in Kenosha just after the presidential election. Many old and several new WI Green Party members began the year with great energy. That energy carried through the Wisconsin Recount. We found some disturbing things. Machine insecurity, inconsistent practices, and the large number of votes changed all pointed to a system that is broken. That didn't even take into account all the ballots were not hand counted, making impossible to verify the vote in those counties. In March, we hosted the Voter Justice & Democratizing Elections Conference, and we continue to do the work of voter justice in coalition through Wisconsin Count My Vote. We have made a difference.

That energy is also being focused on issue advocacy, candidate development, and party building. We've been active and present on issues that matter to Wisconsin like clean water, safe communities, public service, and a peace economy. We have initiated a ballot question in Racine to decriminalize marijuana. We are talking about sustainable transportation. We will be hosting an upcoming campaign school to support individuals who have stepped up to run for local, statewide, and national office. We will be able to make this available to candidates and their teams throughout the state via the internet. We are working on building up our party's infrastructure to support the several new chapters that have formed and connect members across the state.

These are exciting times to be Green. Come, put your politics where your activism is, and renew your commitment to the Wisconsin Green Party. Attend meetings, volunteer, speak up for people and planet over profit, and we'll see you at the next Fall Gathering the second weekend of November in Waukesha.

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Wisconsin Green Party Fall Meeting

The Wisconsin Green Party's Fall Gathering will be hosted by the Waukesha Greens on Saturday November 11th. This is an especially important membership meeting, as we are coming up on local, state and federal elections. All members will have the opportunity to participate in decisions affecting our party and discussions aimed at growing the WI Greens into the transformational political force that we need.

We'll be discussing plans to grow our membership, recruit candidates, and build dynamic and effective local chapters. We'll consider changes to our state party constitution (see pages 6-7) including a proposal to increase representation of local chapters in the state coordinating council. We'll also be electing officers, members of the coordinating council and delegates to the national party, as well as members of our caucuses (diversity, LGBTQIA, women's, youth) and committees (membership, communications, elections, finance). If you are interested in any of these roles, make sure to submit a self-nomination on wignp.org. For members elected to the coordinating council, we will hold a strategy session on Sunday November 12th.

Join us! To RSVP to the WIGP Fall Gathering and see details, including agenda updates, go to wignp.org. Email info@wisconsingreenparty.org with questions.

WHEN: Saturday November 11th, 10 AM - 5 PM

WHERE: The Suburban Bourbon, S76W17745 Janesville Rd, Muskego, WI 53150



Wisconsin Green Party at the Renewable Energy Fair (photo by Dave Schwab)

Green and Growing!



Count My Vote volunteers in Waukesha, WI

Count My Vote WI Update

After a successful recount in November and December of 2016, the move towards election integrity continued with the formation of the Count My Vote website (countmyvotewi.com). This group has created a few quick successes while the Jill Stein campaign continues to work on completing some of the work through legal fronts in holding our officials accountable.

In March, we co-sponsored with the Jill Stein campaign a conference in Milwaukee to review the results of the recount, and explore the many issues around election integrity and voter integrity.

Moving forward we will be co-sponsoring the Democracy Convention in August (see elsewhere in newsletter) and sponsoring other events while working with others in the election integrity field across the nation.

Milwaukee's George Martin Elected to Green Party US Steering Committee

At the Green Party's 2017 national meeting in Newark, George Paz Martin of Milwaukee was elected to the Steering Committee of the Green Party of the United States. A longtime Milwaukee Green, George has tirelessly served the movement for years as a co-chair and spokesperson for the Greater Milwaukee and Wisconsin Green Parties, as well as national co-chair and spokesperson for United For Peace and Justice, an anti-war coalition of 1,400 local, state and national organizations, for 8 years during the Iraq War. He has also served on the boards of the Liberty Tree Foundation, Peace Action and the US Social Forum.

George has spoken truth to power for peace and justice on television on every US network, CNN, C-SPAN, Democracy Now, BBC, Al Jazeera and television in more than 150 countries. An original Black Panther, George convened the Green Party US Black Caucus in 2001 as a founding member and served as co-chair for 4 years.

George is a familiar face to Greens from across the country, having attended the last 16 annual national meetings, where he has led the "Green Party Call to Action" opening ceremony and helped with meeting facilitation since 2002. At past national meetings, he has successfully presented a platform amendment for reparations

on behalf of the Black Caucus, as well as resolutions to bring our troops home, to impeach Bush and Cheney, and to divest from Israel and free Palestine. In 2015, he led a Black Lives Matter rally at the Ferguson, Missouri police station that brought together community members and Greens from across the country.

Internationally, George worked with Nobel Peace Prize winner and Kenyan Green Party leader Wangari Maathai in a 2008 Global Green Youth Conference in Nairobi. He has traveled internationally more than three dozen times working for peace, justice and climate action in Africa, the Middle East, Europe, South America and Asia.

George was active in the 2016 election, and wrote a piece for the Progressive Magazine titled "Why We're Stuck Voting Fears Instead of Values." He helped initiate the 2016 Wisconsin Presidential Vote Recount, and helped lead the WIGP in our Wisconsin Recount, Recount Report, and Voting Justice and Democratizing Elections Conf.

In his nomination to the Steering Committee, George wrote: I look forward to helping lead our national party in:

1. Growing Membership by increasing our public visibility in social movements at local and national events to fulfill our Ten Key Values, and support our Platform.
2. Providing Training in leadership development, media and social media, and candidate schools along with other resources to support local, state and national candidates.
3. Challenging Electoral Barriers through national campaigns of education and action against exclusion from media and debates, the Electoral College, voter suppression laws and practices, etc.

We're not just tree huggers. We run candidates and will get more elected. I will work toward our Green Party's full participation in the US political process. Government has been in a quagmire at all levels. We look to compete, get elected and be a mediator... a catalyst... a coalition builder... to help move our government forward in serving "We The People."

America needs the Green Party and we will grow it! Green and Growing!



George Martin at the Annual National Meeting in Houston, TX

WIGP Report from the GP 2017 National Meeting

by Dave Schwab

A number of Wisconsin Greens made it to the Green Party's 2017 national meeting, held in Newark, New Jersey. New Jersey Greens are experiencing a surge of growth led by activist pastor Seth Kaper-Dale's campaign for Governor together with African American media commentator and former professor Lisa Durden.

While attendance was not as high as 2016 (not surprising at all given that was a presidential election year) it was encouraging to see one of the most diverse national meetings in memory. As someone who helped initiate the Green Party Youth Caucus in 2008, it was exciting to see a large room filled with passionate Young Greens. Our 2016 presidential candidates, Jill Stein and Ajamu Baraka, were taking an active part in the proceedings, showing us all what true grassroots politics looks like. People of color were front and center in many of the sessions, including the new Indigenous Caucus that is forming to join the Black Caucus, Latinx Caucus, and others providing a voice for historically marginalized groups.

As this meeting showed, the growing diversity of the party also comes with some growing pains. In the election for four open steering committee seats, none of three African American candidates were elected in the first count (although the top vote-getters included three women, two Latinas and one queer youth). Delegates also reported problems with the website used for voting in the final hours, a problem Greens should take seriously given our commitment to election integrity and voting rights. Led by the Black Caucus, a significant fraction of attendees demanded a revote, and a proposal was drafted for the national committee to consider that course of action. As of this writing, Anita Rios had voluntarily stepped down from the steering committee, meaning that the open seats will be taken by Andrea Merida Cuellar, Gloria Mattered, Mike Dennis, and Wisconsin's George Martin.

Despite the controversy, the national meeting was an invigorating experience. Our Wisconsin delegation was able to learn, to get inspired, and to connect with people from across the country who share our deep sense of purpose. As George would say, we are Green and growing!

What's Going on in Racine? Greens Work to Elect Mayor, Decriminalize Marijuana

By Zack Gwin, Racine Green Party

Racine was once a city that hung its hat on the many successful manufacturing companies that called it home. That time, unfortunately, has come, gone, and has long since rusted through. Amidst the slow decline of the industry the city was built on, our citizens borne the brunt of the consequences. Over the last four decades, our people here have voted Democrats into office with hopes that their promises of implementing progressive change would be acted upon.

All that was, sadly, to no avail. Over the last forty years, Racine's population has continued to decline. We've become part of the region in the United States that arrests more young African Americans than any other place in the entire country. We've led the state in highest unemployment rate for decades. The situation has been bad for so long that it's in our county where the environmental disaster known as Foxconn will quite possibly end up, as the long-term high unemployment rates will likely make for a less resistant public.



Volunteers sign up for the WIGP!

The Racine Green Party was founded earlier this year. We are comprised of a coalition of individuals who quite simply aren't willing to wait for change or "support" something without backing it up with action. On June 2nd, we began our petition for direct legislation to decriminalize marijuana. It was one way in which we felt we could address the unjustifiable fact that in Racine a person with black or brown skin is as many as 12 times more likely to be arrested for possession than a person with white skin. In 32 days we accomplished what the party in power hadn't enforced or implemented in 32 years. We collected the required 3800 signatures to put our initiative on the ballot but didn't stop there and collected more than 5200 signatures!

The very next day our common council voted to replace our resigning mayor via special election to be held this October. This was no surprise to us; we have been planning and preparing for this for some time now. Our candidate Fabi Maldonado, the founder of our chapter and one of our co-chairs has spent much of his adult life fighting for progressive change. Months ago, we began assembling a team of people to brainstorm, debate, and develop a platform fitting with our ideals of social justice, environmentalism, democracy, and peace, and at the same time specifically designed to address the unique local issues here. We've been meeting with a wide range of groups and established working relationships with many of them, and we are proud to possibly soon boast endorsements from groups with national renown.

We have a real opportunity in this special election for mayor but we won't be done here. The Racine Green Party and the campaign for Fabi Maldonado are focused on winning today and winning tomorrow. We are growing a movement. We have multiple candidates we are running for alderman in the upcoming spring. We will be running for mayor again in the next regularly scheduled election in 2019 as well as more aldermen on that same ballot. The people here in the city have an ever eager and energized reaction to our message. They, like us, are done with just "supporting" progressivism. It's time to lead the charge.

Four Lakes Green Party

The Four Lakes Green Party endorsed 6 candidates in April's election: incumbent Madison City Councilors Ledell Zellers, Marsha Rummel, Samba Baldeh and Rebecca Kemble, incumbent Fitchburg Mayor Steve Arnold, and Madison School Board candidate Ali Muldrow. Zellers, Rummel, Baldeh and Kemble were all re-elected to the city council. Four Lakes Greens would like to congratulate all our endorsed candidates on races well run. We look forward to continuing work with them all to make Dane County a national leader in social, economic and racial justice, sustainable development, and the other causes the WI Green Party stands for.

We had a Green Party Potluck on September 10th in Madison, to which we invited everyone in South Central Wisconsin to get together and find out more about the Greens and what we're working on. We have started meeting twice monthly, on the 2nd and 4th Mondays of each month at the Social Justice Center.

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Waukesha County Green Party

There are many exciting things happening with the Waukesha County Green Party. We are continuing to work on growing our membership in this bastion of conservatism, however, our focus has been with creating partnerships. We have teamed with several local organizations, as well other local Green Parties within the state to magnify our progressive voice. Our presence has been noticed and greeted with both warmth and approval. Our goal is to play a positive role in the county and in the state, to demonstrate a difference between our compassionate and caring party and the corporate controlled establishment parties.

We tabled and participated in the Climate March in Milwaukee and the Water Panel in Waukesha. We volunteered at the Fox River cleanup with Waukesha County Green Team and Fox River Conservation Partnership on Earth Day. These events allowed us to make our presence known within the community, particularly with those who care about environmental issues. We have made several contacts within the Kenosha area, that we plan to collaborate with in the future. One instance was that together with other environmentally focused groups, we held a successful Sustainability Fair in August at Lapham Peak in Kettle Moraine State Park.

To help us further engage with our community we have decided to restructure our meetings. We have gone from a monthly short meeting format, to a quarterly gathering. Again, our focus is on engaging the community and being an organization that can collaborate with other like-minded groups and individuals in the area. We also look forward to continuing our work together with other local chapters. Working together we can amplify our voices and our successes will blossom.



Incumbent Madison City Councilor Rebecca Kemble



College Greens Chapter at UW-Steven's Point

The College Green Party of UW-Stevens Point was formed in March of this year. At that time we had about 6 members. We have held steady around there with a couple of students dropping off and others coming in. We are going to be doing a lot of outreach in the fall semester to grow our numbers. Additionally, we would like to start working on local issues that we can address affecting the college students such as housing and transportation. We've applied to be recognized as an official chapter of the Young Greens caucus with the national party and reached out to a faculty member at UW-Madison about ways that students down there could get involved in the Green Party and to act as a resource for students interested in forming their own college chapter. It is our hope to grow our numbers and become well known on campus.

Contact:
Justin Seis, UW-SP College Greens President
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Facebook: UWSP College Green Party



Central Wisconsin Green Party

Central Wisconsin Greens stayed active on critical water issues, NO DAPL activism, the fight against Enbridge tar sands pipelines, and social-economic justice problems.

During the months after the election, our Central Wisconsin Green chapter decided to stay focused on the critical water issues facing our region because of the political pressure being applied to the people's water sources by agricultural corporations. In February, five of us traveled to the State Capitol to join a state-wide Citizens Water Lobby Day, where we joined approximately 500 other water protectors trying to make an impact on the State Legislature. Issues of water contamination from CAFOs (animal factory production facilities); extreme water drawing from the groundwater by industrial-scale vegetable growers in the Central Sands region; the threat of a severe water system contamination event by the Enbridge Energy Partners' tar sands pipelines, were among the critical issues that people were asking their legislators to act upon. The fact that the Legislature chose to ignore the people and to instead pass a bill permitting unlimited, lifetime groundwater draws from high-capacity agricultural corporations just shows the severe need for our Wisconsin Green Party to begin to displace the corporate puppet legislators now "occupying" the People's House in Madison.

Look for ongoing activism on the water protection front from your Central Wisconsin chapter. What our members learned from fighting the DAPL pipeline in North Dakota can be put to use right here in Wisconsin's heartland.

Bobby Gifford, CWGP co-chair
wisgreensenator@gmail.com 715-630-4207
Facebook: Central Wisconsin Greens



Don't see a chapter nearby?
Contact Dave at
info@wisconsinngreenparty.org
for help starting a group in your area!

Greater Milwaukee Green Party

The GMGP began the year with the election of co-chairs who led the group in supporting various actions by Voces de la Frontera, The March for Science, and the Anti-Trump Coalition. The GMGP also successfully led several efforts for Count My Vote WI. Members approved a new set of bylaws by the ad-hoc by-laws committee. We are also very proud that two of our members, Maraya Robinson and Barbara Maniotis, were elected to serve on the WI Conservation Congress for three and two year terms respectively, and we just had a lovely picnic to celebrate all Green elected candidates in WI. We are working on structural updates like a new website and membership database. Other goals this year are the formation of a UWM student group and 2018 election plan.

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Racine Green Party

The Racine Green Party is a newer Green Party chapter in WI. It crystallized around the passion for moving away from the corruption that has plagued Racine for years, as insiders try to address the shift from manufacturing that has left the city with an unemployment rate well above the national average. We had an inspiring leap forward towards action when Green presidential candidate Jill Stein's visit in March brought together over 70 participants and a ton of energy. After encouragement from David Cobb on GNN when Fabi was a guest, we decided to move from 'talk' to 'action'.

While we have many initiatives underway, we are focused on a WI statute 9.20 direct action ballot initiative for the decriminalization of marijuana in Racine. This ballot initiative will change the fine for possession from a life-destroying criminal sentence to the equivalent of a parking ticket. We believe change can only come from the ground up. We believe in economic justice: people should be given a fair shot in life, no matter if they were born rich or poor. We also believe in social justice: everyone and everything should be treated with respect.

Another initiative we are focused on is winning seats on the city council in the next election. We are developing candidates to be community leaders that change Racine for good, setting them up to win in February and April 2018.

This commitment led us to raise the funding for a headquarters (GSD-HQ or Getting Solutions DONE Headquarters). We already found a location in partnership with a landlord that is very supportive and launching community events around our city's "1st Friday Celebrations". We look forward to working with other chapters and hosting a Candidate Training Weekend in the near future. So reach out to Fabi to join our movement or ask how we can help yours.

Finally, we believe in green sustainability; we believe we need to use renewable resources instead of harmful energy such as fossil fuels.

Fabi Maldonado, RGP co-chair
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Facebook: Racine Green Party



We the People

Proposed Constitutional Amendments

Proposed Amendments to the Wisconsin Green Party Constitution

The WIGP Constitution may be amended at any Membership meeting by consensus of the members present. Notice of proposed amendments must be provided in the notice of the meeting, and in the 2 newsletters prior to the meeting. The following are 3 proposed amendments to the WIGP Constitution.

Proposed Amendment #1

Article 3. Coordinating Council
Section 1. Coordinating Council.

The WI Green Party Coordinating Council shall consist of up to 25 members. All members must be members of the WI Green Party, and all efforts will be made to maintain gender-balanced, and ethnic-balanced representation. Five (5) members are the officers of the WI Green Party (two Co-Chairs, Elections Treasurer, Operations Treasurer, Recording Secretary, and Corresponding Secretary). The responsibilities of officers are outlined in Article 4 of the Constitution. Up to 16 members are nominated and elected from the eight WI congressional districts. Up to two members are from each of the eight congressional districts. Each member serves a 2-year term. (Members will serve 1-year and 2-year staggered terms in first year). These 8 (16 in first year) members will be nominated in their district meetings at the Fall Gathering. The election will take place at the full membership meeting. Notification will be sent out three times (in the newsletter, via email, and with Fall Gathering information) that nominations for the congressional district representation will take place at the WI Green Party Fall Gathering. If someone would like to be nominated but cannot attend the gathering, they should send a brief written statement with another member, who will speak on behalf of the member. Up to four (4) members are nominated and elected from caucuses. One each from the following caucuses: Women, Diversity, LGBT and Youth. These are 1-year terms. These 4 members will be nominated in their caucus meetings at the Fall Gathering. The election will take place at the full membership meeting.

Article 3. Coordinating Council
Section 1. Coordinating Council.

The WI Green Party Coordinating Council shall consist of up to 30 members. All members must be members of the WI Green Party, and all efforts will be made to maintain gender- and ethnic-balanced representation.

Six (6) members will be nominated and elected to serve on the Coordinating Council as officers of the WI Green Party (two Co-Chairs, Elections Treasurer, Operations Treasurer, Recording Secretary, and Corresponding Secretary). The responsibilities of officers are outlined in Article 4 of the Constitution.

Three (3) members will be nominated and elected to serve as delegates to the National Committee and will serve on the WI Green Party Coordinating Council.

One (1) member is nominated and elected from each of the WI Congressional Districts. These members will be nominated in their district meetings at the Fall Gathering.

One (1) member is nominated and elected from each of the Local Chapters in the state of WI. These members will be nominated in their Local Chapter meetings prior to the Fall Gathering.

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One (1) member is nominated and elected from each caucus. One (1) each from the following caucuses: Disability, Diversity, LGBTQ, Women's, and Youth. These members will be nominated in their caucus meetings at the Fall Gathering.

Each member serves a 2-year term. The election will take place at the full membership meeting at the Fall Gathering. Notification that nominations and elections for Officers, Delegates, as well as Congressional District, Local Chapter, and Caucus representation will take place at the WI Green Party Fall Gathering will be sent out three times (in the newsletter, via email, and with Fall Gathering information). If someone would like to be nominated but cannot attend the gathering, they should send a brief written statement with another member, who will speak on behalf of the member.

From the Coordinating Council, two (2) each will act as liaisons to each of the following WI Green Party operational committees: Budget & Finance, Communications, Elections, Membership Outreach, and Platform. These will be assigned at the Coordinating Council meeting immediately following the Fall Gathering.

Proposed Amendment #2

Article 3. Coordinating Council
Section 4. Notice of Meetings.

Notice of all Coordinating Council meetings shall be published in the organization's newsletter at least ten (10) days prior to the meeting, except in emergency situations where such notice is impossible. Notice of Council Meetings shall be made to all current members of the Council by regular mail at least ten (10) days prior to the meeting, except in emergency situations where such notice is impossible. For emergency meetings, telephone notice to all current Council Members at least twenty-four (24) hours prior to the meeting shall be given.

Article 3. Coordinating Council
Section 4. Notice of Meetings.

Notice of Council Meetings shall be made to all current members of the Council by regular mail telephone or email at least ten (10) days prior to the meeting, except in emergency situations where such notice is impossible. For emergency meetings, telephone or email notice to all current Council Members at least twenty-four (24) hours prior to the meeting shall be given. The Coordinating Council may establish a schedule of Council meetings after either of the biannual membership meetings.

Proposed Amendment #3

Article 2. Membership Meetings
Section 4. Notice.

Notice of the date, place, time, and agenda of all Membership meetings convened by the Coordinating Council shall be provided to all members in good standing by regular mail at least twenty (20) days prior to the meeting and shall be published in the newsletter.

Article 2. Membership Meetings
Section 4. Notice.

Notice of the date, place, time and agenda of all Membership meetings convened by the Coordinating Council shall be provided to all members in good standing by regular mail or email at least twenty (20) days prior to the meeting and shall be published in the newsletter.

Pease review the above proposed amendments to our Wisconsin Green Party Constitution and come to the Fall Meeting prepared to discuss and vote on them. Thank you!

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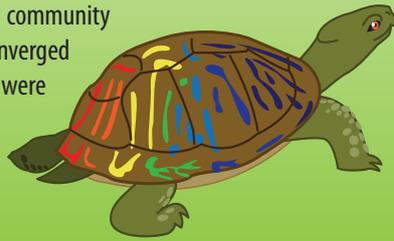
Moving Forward!

Democracy Convention

By WIGP Co-Chair Dace Zeps

Now, more than ever, we must focus on building the movement, institutions, culture we want and deserve so that We The People have the power to decide our future together. The Democracy Convention showcased vital work on voting rights and accountable government, democratizing global governance, building a democratic peace, media democracy, democratizing education, ecological democracy, democratizing the Constitution, and economic democracy. It brought these separate democracy struggles together in order to unite them in a common, deeply rooted, broad based movement for democracy.

Several Wisconsinites, including many Greens, traveled across the river to Minneapolis, to present or attend the 2017 Democracy Convention - where democracy activists, organizers, and community members from across the country converged under one roof. Many of the sessions were livestreamed, many by our own David Schwab! Visit democracyconvention.org where you will soon see the videos, hand outs, and the People's Movement Assembly statements.



Call for Volunteers

As with any member run and funded organization, the Wisconsin Green Party relies on its members to do the work. If you have social media skills, love to talk with people, or follow what our local or state government are doing, we have work for you. Please consider taking some time to do just a little bit to keep the work load light for everyone. Below are some ways you can help!

- Event and other announcements on website, email, and Facebook.
- Outreach via calls, tabling, and festivals.
- Fundraise via special appeals and membership renewal reminders.
- Help us plan events, do outreach, and staff our statewide Fall and Spring Gatherings and maybe even a social or two.
- Issue advocacy, monitor and respond to calls to action and legislative activity.

Letter from the Editor

Greetings Green Partiers! We want to hear from you! Tell us about upcoming events in your area, review events you attended, report about a topic, and share your opinion on an issue. Reach out and connect with other members in our great state. Please send any submissions to wigpnewsletter@gmail.com. (We reserve the right to edit any submission for length and language.) Thank you and we look forward to hearing from you!

Molly Katzfey