



## WISCONSIN GREEN PARTY NEWSLETTER

*“People, Planet, and Peace over  
Profit”  
Spring 2021*

### **WI GREEN PARTY 2021 SPRING GATHERING TO BE HELD SATURDAY APRIL 17**

The Wisconsin Green Party (WIGP) 2020 Fall Gathering was a spirited The WI Green Party 2021 Spring Gathering statewide membership meeting will be held on Saturday, April 17. The theme for the gathering will be “A Party for Working People”. We’ll be joined by special guest speaker Howie Hawkins, union worker, longtime activist, Green Party US co-founder, and 2020 Green Presidential candidate.

We’ll also hear from Green-endorsed local candidates in the 2021 Spring elections, give updates on what WI Greens are working on, hold discussions on critical issues facing working people, have a Green Party 101 presentation, and vote on important proposed changes to our party’s bylaws (see more on that in this newsletter).

Due to safety measures surrounding the Covid-19 pandemic, we are planning to hold the gathering virtually as a video/phone conference. Check our website at [wignp.org](http://wignp.org) for more info. WIGP state gatherings are a great opportunity to participate in grassroots democracy, make your voice heard, and get involved in your party. Save the date: Saturday April 17!



**THE WI GREEN  
PARTY NOW HAS  
DUES-PAYING  
MEMBERS IN ALL  
8  
CONGRESSIONAL  
DISTRICTS  
ACROSS THE  
STATE.**

### **WISCONSIN GREENS ENDORSE LOCAL CANDIDATES IN APRIL 6 ELECTIONS**

The Wisconsin Green Party has a decades-long track record of helping elect some of the most progressive local officials in the country, which continues in 2021 with Green-endorsed local candidates in Baraboo, Madison, and Milwaukee.



The Four Lakes Green Party announced a slate of candidate endorsements for Madison Common Council in April 2021 elections, choosing Patrick Heck and Benji Ramirez in District 2 (dual endorsement), Charly Rowe (D3), Brian Benford (D6), Juliana Bennett and Ayomi Obuseh (D8, dual endorsement), Nikki Conklin (D9), Tessa Echeverria (D12), Brandi Grayson (D14), Grant Foster (D15), and Rebecca Kemble (D18) as the best candidates to advance Green values of grassroots democracy, social justice, nonviolence, and ecological sustainability on the Madison Common Council. Meanwhile the

Greater Milwaukee Green Party endorsed Alex Brower for Milwaukee School Board, and the Wisconsin Green Party endorsed James O’Neill for Baraboo School Board.

Patrick Heck, Brian Benford, Juliana Bennett, Nikki Conklin, and Grant Foster won their elections to Madison Common Council, while several other candidates came close. Congratulations and thanks to all our candidates for running and bringing critical issues to the table!





## **PROPOSED CHANGES TO WIGP BYLAWS TO BE DECIDED AT SPRING GATHERING**

The following changes to Wisconsin Green Party bylaws have been proposed by Dave Schwab. According to the usual process, the proposals were brought for discussion at the Fall 2020 Gathering, and will be up for decision at the Spring 2021 Gathering.

### *Proposal 1: Add Article 2, Section 8: Removal*

Any member of the Wisconsin Green Party may be removed from Membership in the organization for gross misconduct or violation of the adopted Key Values, Platform, or code of conduct adopted by the Party, by decision of the Membership or the Coordinating Council. Notice of such a proposed removal must be sent out prior to the meeting where it is proposed. The member in question shall receive a notice before the meeting at which the decision is to be made, and a hearing if requested.

**WIGP BYLAWS WILL BE UP FOR  
DECISION AT THE SPRING 2021  
GATHERING APRIL 17. MEMBERS IN  
GOOD STANDING, PAID UP IN DUES, CAN  
VOTE.**

Background: This is copied from the language on removing a candidate or elected official from the party, and creates a similar mechanism for holding rank-and-file members accountable for gross misconduct. While we have fortunately not felt the necessity for this type of mechanism in past years, it's important as our party grows that we create mechanisms for accountability and to protect our party from bad actors.

### *Proposal 2: Amend Article 10: Discrimination, Section 1: Conduct*

from:

Discrimination on the basis of sex, race, age, religion, economic status, sexual orientation, ethnic identity, national origin, handicap, parenthood or color in the conduct of the affairs of the Wisconsin Green Party is prohibited

to:

Discrimination on the basis of sex, race, age, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, ethnicity, culture, national origin, social and economic class, educational level, color, immigration status, size, family status, or mental or physical ability in the conduct of the affairs of the Wisconsin Green Party is prohibited.

Background: This updates the language on discrimination in WIGP bylaws in accordance with the WIGP code of conduct, as well as the proposed GPUS code of conduct.





## HELP ORGANIZE A GREEN PARTY CHAPTER IN YOUR CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT!

The WI Green Party now has dues-paying members in all 8 congressional districts across the state, and we are looking to organize and activate chapters in every district. Congressional district chapters can help the WIGP to get plugged into issues in your district, and they can also help bring people together to organize more local chapters as the party grows. All that it takes to start a chapter is 5 dues-paying members who are willing to have regular online organizing meetings. If you're interested in getting involved, or even in helping to organize a chapter in your district, contact us at [info@wisconsinngreenparty.org](mailto:info@wisconsinngreenparty.org) and let us know!



## GREEN PARTY US 2021 NATIONAL MEETING JULY 15-18

Save The Date For The Green Party Annual National Meeting! The 2021 Green Party Annual National Meeting (ANM) "Dismantling Oppression, Building Solidarity: A Green Party For Everyone" will be held online July 15th-18th, as the world's recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic is too precarious to count on being able to safely meet in-person. We will miss the opportunity to share space with Greens from across the country but we can take this online gathering as an opportunity for truly national work on some of the most pressing challenges for this party. We hope you will save the date to join us from July 15-July 18 in the spirit of the working title for this year's theme, "Dismantling Oppression, Building Solidarity: A Green Party For Everyone." Keep

an eye on [gp.org](http://gp.org) for registration links, programs, and workshops and more in the weeks ahead!



## GREEN PARTY PLANS EARTH DAY TO MAY DAY NATIONAL WEEK OF ACTION

The WIGP is planning to take part in an Earth Day to May Day national week of action organized by the Green Party US. From the Green Party Eco-Action Committee:

The Green Party Eco-Action Committee is calling on all Green Party state parties, locals and supporters to participate in a National Week of Action on climate, environmental, social justice and labor issues from April 22 through May 1. Our theme for the week will be "Giving the Power to the People: Stop Climate Chaos and End the War on Workers and the Poor". This theme encompasses dire environmental topics, and celebrates worker resistance to corporate power.

We will be calling on greater public and local control of energy and polluter industries. We will also support cross sectional issues such as living wages for essential workers and a comprehensive economic plan that addresses unemployment, enacts a national healthcare service, and puts people to work in jobs that will combat both climate catastrophe and living standard insecurity.

Watch [wignp.org](http://wignp.org) for updates on the national week of action and how you can participate!





## WI Greens oppose Point Beach Nuclear Plant license extension

The Wisconsin Green Party stands with Physicians for Social Responsibility in opposing the proposed license extension for Point Beach Nuclear Plant in Two Rivers, Wisconsin on the shores of Lake Michigan.

The aging Point Beach Nuclear Plant already has the single worst embrittled reactor pressure vessel of any nuclear plant in the country. In addition to the dangers and costs, including fossil fuels used for resource extraction and social damage of environmental injustice and racism, extended license would extend the threat of nuclear catastrophe in Wisconsin for 80 years more of active use as well as the 60 years allotted for decommissioning.

With new threats of extreme weather due to human-caused climate change, and associated changes to Lake Michigan directly, we simply can not risk nuclear disaster in an increasingly uncertain and risky environmental future. In the event of a nuclear disaster, millions of people would be at risk of losing their lives, homes, and clean drinking water to radioactive fallout. Even the Nuclear Regulatory Commission has previously found Next Era Energy (Point Beach Nuclear Plant owners) to have insufficiently implemented adequate safety procedures.

There is still no solution to the problem of safely storing nuclear waste that remains highly toxic for thousands of years. Clean renewable energy sources such as wind and solar are already more economical and sustainable than nuclear power, without nuclear's unacceptable health and safety concerns.

Given these concerns and more, we urge concerned citizens to join Physicians for Social Responsibility in opposing a license extension for the Point Beach Nuclear Plant.



## F-35s face continued opposition in Wisconsin

The plan to bring F-35 fighter jets to Madison, which the WIGP has opposed, is facing continued opposition from community groups. Safe Skies Clean Water Wisconsin has filed a second lawsuit challenging the military's environmental review, saying that the military didn't adequately consider the impact of noise, air and groundwater pollution in its review. The suit asks the court to block any additional permitting or construction activity until the military completes a supplemental environmental review.

Meanwhile the Dane County Board is considering a resolution (Dane County Resolution 548) that would officially state Dane County's opposition to siting the F-35 jets at Truax Field, and would commit the county's legal team to advise the county board of all potential legal strategies within the County's authority for preventing the move and mitigating its impact. The Four Lakes Green Party and Wisconsin Greens are among the organizations listed in Resolution 548 as having formally stated their opposition to bringing F-35s to Madison. See <https://www.safeskiescleanwaterwi.org/> for more information about the fight against F-35s in Wisconsin.



## WISCONSIN GREEN PARTY UPDATED MEMBERSHIP DUES POLICY

The Wisconsin Green Party is a dues-based membership organization. The party and its operations are funded by members paying annual (or monthly) dues. To be a member in good standing, and therefore be entitled to participate in decision-making and voting, a WIGP member

must be current on their dues. Suggested minimum dues can be found at <https://www.wisconsinngreenparty.org/contribute> and begin with a minimum of \$12.00 for the student/low-income level.

Being current on membership dues means a member has paid a minimum of \$12.00 in dues to the WIGP within the past year. Any donation to the WIGP counts toward this, whether specified as dues or not. In addition, there shall be a 1-month grace period for members whose dues have lapsed. For example, if a member paid dues in March 2020 and their dues lapsed in March 2021, they will still be considered a member in good standing in April 2021. This grace period shall be in effect as long as the member paid dues anytime within the preceding month of the preceding year.

Members are encouraged to pay their dues regularly to support the WIGP. Setting up an automatic monthly sustainer contribution is an excellent way to do so. The WIGP will make every effort to contact members whose dues have lapsed in order to remind them to renew their membership, especially in the run-up to state membership meetings. If any member has questions about the status of their dues, they can contact the WIGP treasurers Bill Breihan at [wcbreihan@aol.com](mailto:wcbreihan@aol.com) or Patti Ashby at [wigpmembership@gmail.com](mailto:wigpmembership@gmail.com)



## CALLING ALL ARTISTS: JOIN THE WI GREEN PARTY 2021 TURTLE MASCOT CONTEST!

The Wisconsin Green Party decided that it would like to have a mascot, and that the mascot ought to be a turtle. However, we don't have a particular turtle to fit the bill quite yet. That's why we opened up a contest for our supporters to submit their turtle mascot ideas. Artists young and old are invited to take part in a contest to design a turtle mascot for the Wisconsin Green Party! Send us your idea for what our turtle mascot could look like - it can be as realistic or fantastic as you want. WIGP members will choose the winner using Ranked Choice Voting at our 2021 Fall Gathering in November. If your turtle wins, you get a prize of \$100! Send your submissions to [info@wisconsinngreenparty.org](mailto:info@wisconsinngreenparty.org) along with your name, phone number, and address. We will periodically utilize turtle submissions in our social media and materials in order to highlight the wonderful talent of so many Greens.



**THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION HAS PREVIOUSLY FOUND THE POINT BEACH NUCLEAR PLANT OWNERS TO HAVE INSUFFICIENTLY IMPLEMENTED ADEQUATE SAFETY PROCEDURES.**

## WISCONSIN CONSERVATION CONGRESS VOTE THIS MONDAY, APRIL 12TH



The Wisconsin Conservation Congress is a unique body of elected delegates publicly funded by the State to give Wisconsinites more input on issues significant to the Natural Resources Board and DNR. Each Spring, there is a public hearing including elections and citizen input on questions posed by the DNR, advisory committees, and from citizens. This year, there will be no hearing in person, but from April 12 at 7PM the citizen input will be open for your votes online for 72 hours from that time. Greens have supported two such advisory questions appearing in Milwaukee, Dane, and Ashland Counties for the Conservation Congress to support a Green New Deal, and to improve the democratic organization of the WCC through additional District Leadership Council membership based on population. A variety of anti-mining and other questions of environmental concern will also be on the ballot in all counties. In order to see the questions, and participate in the online public hearing questions, please follow the link: <https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/about/wcc/springhearing>



## DISPUTE RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE REPORT

The dispute resolution committee (or DRC) is the newest WIGP committee. For a time, it was more of an ad-hoc committee called only for sensitive interpersonal and political disputes, which is its main purpose. The DRC can provide support for mediation of these kinds of disputes, and can address ethical concerns. However, the DRC, is also concerned with ethical issues that arise, and create suggestions for the Coordinating Council for implementation to create fairer and smoother processes within the

mostly informal structure of everyday Green Party interaction. Barbara Dahlgren, Dave Schwab, Jo’Nathan Kingfisher, Thomas Ward, Sam Chance, and Bruce Hinkforth have been active participants of the committee.

## ELECTIONS COMMITTEE REPORT



The Elections Committee is responsible for vetting all candidates, facilitating internal elections, and working closely with ongoing candidates and their campaigns. This spring, we ran several local candidates around Wisconsin: The Four Lakes Greens endorsed Patrick Heck, Benji Ramirez (D2), Carly Rowe (D3), Brian Benford (D6), Juliana Bennett and Ayomi Obuseh (D8), Nikki Conklin (D9), Tessa Echeverria (D12), Brandi Grayson (D14), Grant Foster (D15), and Rebecca Kemble (D18) for Madison Common Council. We are proud to say Patrick Heck, Brian Benford, Juliana Bennett, Nikki Conklin, and Grant Foster won their elections. Milwaukee had a fantastic candidate in Alex Brower for Milwaukee School Board District 5 running on an openly socialist platform including a Green New Deal for MPS. While he didn’t win, he made it through the primary and garnered over 45% of the vote despite vicious attacks from establishment figures. We don’t yet have results for Jim O’Neill’s race for Baraboo School Board. The Elections Committee is currently seeking candidates for the local and statewide races in 2022, and will be gearing up for the election excitement beginning with local candidate petitioning in December 2021. We have an ongoing candidates fund posted on our website if you would like to support future Green candidates: [https://www.wisconsinngreenparty.org/local\\_candidates\\_fund](https://www.wisconsinngreenparty.org/local_candidates_fund). You can also volunteer for our committee events or to serve on the committee by following this link: <https://www.wisconsinngreenparty.org/committees>.