



News & Election Guide 2006

Summer/Fall 2006

Introducing the four statewide GRP candidates:



Grace Ross for Governor



Martina Robinson for Lt. Governor



Jill Stein, M.D. for Secretary of the Commonwealth



James O'Keefe for Treasurer

READ ABOUT GRACE AND MARTINA AND HOW PEOPLE CAN MAKE CHANGES THEY NEED, STARTING ON PAGE 2.

READ ABOUT JILL AND A BETTER DEMOCRACY, STARTING ON PAGE 4

READ ABOUT JAMES AND HOW TO INVEST OUR MONEY RESPONSIBLY, STARTING ON PAGE 6

Green-Rainbow Party will welcome and extend rights to all immigrants

WHY WE NEED TO END "US VS. THEM" POLITICS AND START LIVING TOGETHER

By Bill Cunningham

Forced off their land by "globalization" trade policies and military repression, hundreds of millions of people around the world have left rural areas and either crowded into huge cities or crossed into other countries—not just in America and Europe but also in Asia and Africa.

Today, one in seven Massachusetts residents was born in another country. In Boston, that number is 1 in 4. In Chelsea, where the concentration of immigrants is

highest, 1 in 3 residents is foreign born.

Spring 2006 saw the largest immigrant rights demonstrations in the history of the United States.

Long submerged by fear of deportation and loss of their jobs, millions of Latinos, Asians, Arabs and others took to the streets with one unmistakable petition—for equality. The Green-Rainbow Party and the Green parties around the U.S. agree with that demand, while the Democrat and Republican parties do not.

The Democrat and Republican parties

continued on page 3, see EQUAL RIGHTS FOR IMMIGRANTS

Please donate to the Green-Rainbow Party...

...consider it a downpayment to a ecologically and socially just future in Massachusetts.

Donations from individuals pay for: fundraisers, web space, newsletters and publications, supporting political campaigns on issues and for public office, holding state conventions and gatherings, outreach programs, and much more

We in the Green-Rainbow Party do not have the resources to do aggressive everyday fundraising; our organizing power is focused squarely on winning our current grassroots electoral campaigns. But whether we like it or not, our work on these campaigns--including the creation and distribution of this newsletter--costs significant money. Therefore, we ask you to please give generously (see page 8 for a donation form). And in the future, whenever you receive a fundraising pitch or see an overproduced television ad for one of the corporate candidates, use it as a reminder to give generously to the Green-Rainbow Party, the party truly of, by, and for the people of Massachusetts!

Thank you very much in advance,
Luc Schuster and Wendy Van Horne, Co-Chairs

Real tax relief comes from tax equity

THE REPUBLICAN "NO NEW TAX" PLEDGE MEANS: DEFER, DISGUISE AND DENY

By Owen Broadhurst, candidate for State Representative in the 3rd Hampden District

No new tax pledge, you say? With a 42% average increase in property taxes (passed on to renters by landlords), a hike in excise taxes, a 47% increase in tuition and fees at state colleges? With the trend of increasing bonds to borrow money at the state level to cover needs? With the proposed "T" fare increases for the Boston area? With the cuts in state services across the board, and most particularly in the schools where parents now have to pay "fees" for programs and services that were once a given?

The Massachusetts Green-Rainbow candidates for state office will not sign any "No New Taxes" pledge because they understand that the pledge is merely a slogan to disguise taxes that have been shifted away from the wealthy and the corporations onto the backs of the middle and lower income residents who use public services and therefore must now pay for them. The Green-Rainbow slate of candidates understands that real tax relief results from tax equity- the key to which lies in the reduction of regressive taxes and abolishing corporate welfare. By adopting real tax relief, the Commonwealth can raise revenue by greater than 15% while reducing the tax burden for more than 80% of its citizens. Currently the total tax

continued on page 8 (back cover), see TAX EQUITY MEANS RELIEF

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Grace Ross for Governor, Martina Robinson for Lt. Governor: Making the change... NOW!

From the campaigns of Grace Ross and Martina Robinson

Every four years in Massachusetts we are faced with the duty of who our leaders should be, and every four years from the corporate parties we hear the same empty promises, the same band-aid solutions to problems that would require surgery, and the same hollow proposals that aren't followed-up on and don't speak to real people.

We are facing ecological, economic, and social dilemmas in our lifetimes that the world has never before seen, and we need a new kind of leadership that isn't interested in making the change later, but making the change NOW.

Grace Ross and Martina Robinson are those kind of leaders. Isn't it time that we elect leaders who respect and work to include ALL people, regardless of where, when, or how they were born? Isn't it time we elect leaders who admit that we are in a global environmental crisis and whom are already taking steps to reverse the damage humans have done? Isn't time we make the change right now? Help us make the change!

The campaign is focusing on urgent

Boston, Massachusetts is only one example – a Call to All!

A MESSAGE FROM GRACE ROSS, GREEN-RAINBOW CANDIDATE FOR GOVERNOR OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

www.graceandmartina.org

I have walked in silent candlelight processions. I have walked in ones where the young people were angry. I have listened to the amazing and powerful words of forgiveness from a mother who mostly wanted the violence to stop so no other mother would face what she has – the loss of two children to violence. I have sat with even fairly well to do white kids in a training on direct action and in going around and staring into each one's eyes, I had to remind them not to get injured in their actions because I need their passion for change for the decades to come – and many of them had tears in their eyes that someone considered them that important. It may be an unintended lesson, but our children have learned that mostly they do not matter to us, the adults that run or are supposed to run their world. They have learned not necessarily through our actions but our inaction. They have learned that our economy makes us too

issues facing Massachusetts, including:

- Abolish poverty: Create universal health care & real affordable housing
- Decrease global warming, increase environmental justice
- No one is expendable: End racial discrimination
- Support labor struggles, living wages & guaranteed income for all
- Take back the night, rekindle the fight for women's rights
- Equal rights for all residents, including marriage equality
- Bring Massachusetts troops home, stop contributing to perpetual war
- Stop taxing poverty, stop corporate welfare, make taxes progressive
- Our vote is our voice. Voting rights for all people not moneyed interests
- Free education centered on each one's greatest potential

But more important than anything else, this campaign is proving that regular people have the power to make change, and no matter how big or awesome we're told a problem is, we're the only ones that have ever made change in the world.

busy to be there for them personally. They have learned that the disintegration of our neighborhoods means that there is often not an adult around who will even take the responsibility for reporting to their parents when they get into trouble – as happened in my neighborhood growing up.

More importantly they have learned through our policies – their schools are defunded and understaffed and we don't seem to care. Their cultures are demonized or at least disrespected. For many of our lower income youth and youths of color the only opportunities seem to be the street and drugs, the prisons or being cannon-fodder for an unjust war. We even keep trying to deny the destruction of our environment – so what future may they have at all?

I joined wonderful youth workers and youth leaders to call on the City of Boston for more money for youth jobs - and even though 200 youth, mostly youth of

continued on page 3, see HELPING OUR YOUTH



Make your vote for Governor a stand for PEACE NOW!

How can a governor encourage peace and promote and build a responsible state military that works for Massachusetts residents?

As our lives and our economy continue to be diminished by war and violence and policies that actually invite retribution, we are reminded again that we cannot wait for our national leadership to act. We and our state can and must take action now.

It is important to have a pro-peace governor for two basic reasons.

1. The governor as a cultural leader can set an example through her commitment to peace and to affecting change in our culture. By modeling non-violent conflict resolution and respect for diversity in all its forms and by having a genuine focus towards abolishing poverty and racism here and worldwide, including insisting on equal rights for all residents of Palestine, the governor can help us shift from an assumption of war, danger, exploitation, and destruction, to a new assumption of peace, cooperation, equality and sustainability.

2. The governor as an institutional leader can use her power in conjunction with us as citizens to make concrete changes in the political institutions of Massachusetts and the world that will lead towards real safety and peace.

The governor can:

- Work to get military recruiters out of our schools and to curb aggressive behavior of military recruiters in our communities
- Work to provide opportunities and hope for youth of color and low-income youth
- Work to gain control of the national guard and bring them home so that they can be trained in peaceful and domestically critical protection activities such as rebuilding our weakening dams to withstand global warming.
- End tax breaks for weapons manufacturers. Encourage constructive rather than destructive industries and activities in our state: such as using the proposed bioweapons lab in Boston for anti-global warming research instead.
- Demilitarize on a local level by ending racial profiling, reforming CORI & decreasing imprisonment through such measures as treatment on

demand instead of criminalizing drug addiction.

- Support local and state initiatives that refuse to cooperate in implementing the USA PATRIOT Act or use Massachusetts resources against our own residents.
- Work to end discrimination against people of color, Muslims and immigrants
- Shut down military bases in Massachusetts. Transfer them to peaceful uses. US military presence in Massachusetts does not make us safer.
- File waivers of federal program cuts and pro-military demands to the national government and work with citizens and other elected officials to influence the federal government.
- Reduce dependence on oil as part of an overall shift to renewable energy and a sustainable economy that doesn't depend on exploitation of the rest of the world.

Essentially, our culture is violent. Enormous resources are dedicated towards war and ensuring continued political and economic domination by the very privileged over the great mass of people around the world and here at home too. This does not build mutually respectful communication and therefore safety at home or abroad. Greed and racism naturally lead to violence and war that elites need to maintain dominance in order to continue to appropriate resources for themselves.

A practical and yet visionary leader can help us bring about real peace and security. We are using our vote as a stand for peace – will you join us?

We are voting Grace Ross for Governor on November 7th, 2006

Signed: Pat O'Brien, Elizabeth Leonard, Gary Hicks, Gavin Sherman, Paul Shannon, Janet Ledger, Elisabeth Leonard, Pat Morris, Teddi Richmond, Suzanne Hudson, Claire Gosselin, Nancy Ramsden, Carol Laverty, Arianna Schlegel, Shelagh Forman

Grace Ross & Martina Robinson

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Who is Grace Ross?

Grace Ross has been a life-long activist working with diverse, low-income leaders to abolish poverty and on progressive causes from nonviolence, the environment, and international solidarity, to anti-racist struggles, women's rights, union organizing and gay/lesbian civil rights. She grew up in New York, came to Harvard for college and graduate work, and found her home in the streets' and primarily low-income communities' struggle for survival and justice. She is a white lesbian living in Worcester.

"In this time when so many of us have been made to feel despair and disempowered, our campaign is a call of renewal in the struggle for peace and justice, we cannot wait for leaders elected through our present corporate-driven system to fight for these ideals. We will fight for our dreams as we call on the people of this Commonwealth to fight for theirs. We must show our faith in ourselves and begin the process of building the road to a new beloved Commonwealth."



Grace Ross introduces her support for voting rights for all residents, regardless of visa or immigration status at the Massachusetts Immigrant and Refugee Advocacy (MIRA) Coalition forum earlier this year.

Photo by Colby Peterson

Equal rights for immigrants

continued from page 1

share the attitude that immigrants are second-class residents. The "conservatives" want to make being an undocumented worker in the United States a felony. The U.S. House of Representatives have already passed a bill to do this and making it illegal for anyone—including teachers, social workers, firefighters—to help such a person in any way.

President Bush and Senator Kennedy want to bring back and expand the "guest worker" program under which masses of Mexican workers used to come to the U.S. as indentured servants, legally bound to the will of the US government and private employers.

The California Green Party candidate for US Senate, Todd Chretien, says that these proposals "dismantles forty years of civil rights legislation and officially reintroduces Jim Crow into American law."

This summer most of the Democrats in the State legislature voted with the Republicans and Governor Romney not to cover even legal elderly and disabled immigrants under Medicaid. They also denied in-state college tuition rates to Massachusetts residents whose parents may have entered the U.S. illegally.

The Green-Rainbow Party rejects these discriminatory policies as a cruel manifestation of racism. They are a direct threat to the health and welfare of all citizens as well as fiscally irresponsible.

We believe that all the immigrants who live and work among us must be accepted as part of our communities. Differences

in legal status leave people open to exploitation by criminal elements and unscrupulous employers and landlords, undermining rather than strengthening community.

All of these people should be considered citizens of the Commonwealth. True citizenship is not a right bestowed by government, but a responsibility to the community of which we are a part.

Citizenship is the foundation of a democratic republic. The Green-Rainbow Party believes that all residents must be citizens who are willing to take on the rights and responsibilities of citizenship.

The status of immigrants has been further lowered by the incorporation of federal immigration services as ICE under the Department of Homeland Security.

Muslim immigrants face particular harassment because of the racial overtones of the so called "war on terrorism." Thousands of them have been rounded up and many deported.

Congressional approval of the Bush law removing habeas corpus protection from non-citizens also permits U.S. citizens to be held indefinitely for questioning, without charges. The Halliburton Corporation is building one or more detention centers at "an undisclosed location," supposedly meant for holding large numbers of immigrants in the event of an unnamed "national emergency."

Today, the struggle for immigrant rights has become the front line of defense for democracy.

Helping our youth

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color, packed the city council hearing, the council voted no. I have called on the Massachusetts legislature for the \$5 million that youth program leaders identified as needed - a down-payment on our future, a down-payment on our children's sense of self-worth. I was honored to receive 52% of the vote for governor at the youth summit held in Boston on July 28.

Yes, the legislature must act, but so must the rest of us. As adults, we need to get involved and change our tax structure so our schools have money. We need to get a living wage as a minimum wage so young people see that everyone's survival matters. We, each of us, need to start moving to greener energy, energy saving light bulbs, other conservation measures and insisting on state policies that subsidize renewable energies not production that continues to destroy us and our environment.

One of our long time legislators, a

wonderful African American woman from Boston, Representative Fox told me once how heart-breaking all the impromptu death-markers - the teddy bears, the flowers and candles - spread across some neighborhoods are. Walking with her in a recent procession to mark another death, I felt the blow to my gut that took my breath-away too, every time we turned a corner and there was another teddy bear strapped to a chain link fence. I wonder then as well of the empty beds in the homes where the young people are already in jail, run away or off on foreign soil protecting what looks more and more like the investments of just a few rich Americans.

Will we have to wait until all of our neighborhoods become impromptu graveyards before we act? I hope not...

EBOLA. ANTHRAX. Coming Soon To A Community Near You?

TENSIONS STILL HIGH AFTER COURT HALTS CONSTRUCTION OF BU BIOLAB

By Sharron Tetrault

The site has been cleared in the heart of the city: right off the expressway where suburban commuters travel (and breathe) to and from work; right in the middle of a neighborhood with thousands and thousands of Boston families. Construction vehicles await. A statewide court halted the biolab due to BU's refusal to submit usually-mandatory worse case scenario reports. BU appealed. Mayor Menino is salivating to get this thing going - his need for a legacy and 20 million dollars being more important to the city than the resident themselves. Is it because they have darker skin and lower incomes perhaps?

The organizing powerhouse *Alternatives for Community and Environment* (ACE) and its offshoot group *Safety Net* are educating and getting local residents together to focus on stopping the biolab from coming to their neighborhood. When someone finds out about it, would anyone say, "that's a good idea"?

What's going on? Boston University

(BU) intends to build a bioterrorism research laboratory in the South End/Roxbury area where research would be performed on organisms such as anthrax, plague, botulism, tularemia, and viral hemorrhagic fevers (e.g., Ebola) that cause deadly diseases for which there is no known cure, that can be transmitted through the air, and that can be used in biological warfare.

When I entered "BU BIOLAB" in the Google search engine the first thing that came up was "Three Boston University researchers became ill last year after being exposed in a laboratory to a potentially lethal bacterium called tularemia..." So we're supposed to trust BU to run a Level 4 (a lab that deals with the deadliest of airborne viruses) in the heart of Boston? And trust the government to protect us in case of emergency? Let's ask the citizens of New Orleans about that!

A *National Institute of Health* memo from December 2000 acknowledges the risk of releases from "Biosafety Level 4" (BSL4) laboratories... the memorandum reads that a reason to build a BSL4 laboratory in rural Montana, "well removed from major

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Who is Martina Robinson?

Martina Robinson is a 30-year-old disability and equal marriage rights activist, Green-Rainbow Party member, and community organizer who also happens to be a woman of color in an electric wheelchair. She lives in a rent-controlled apartment in Belchertown. She earns her living via freelance writing, teaching dance to other people with disabilities, and giving speeches on various topics such as disability rights and reproductive justice.

"I believe in this campaign. I've been its disability issues coordinator since its inception. I believe in democracy. I don't believe that the American Dream ideally should be limited to white, heterosexual, able-bodied, property-owning men although that's what it started out as in 1776. I believe I have experiences that people will find valuable. Mostly, though, I am running because I want to make a difference to society, disabled people, and democracy in Massachusetts. How many times does one really get a chance to do that? Not many- and I wasn't turning this one down."

Jill Stein returns to stand up for democracy-

IT'S JUST HER VS. GALVIN FOR SECRETARY OF THE COMMONWEALTH!

Who is Jill Stein, M.D.?

Jill Stein is a physician and health advocate who is nationally known for her work to protect children from toxic exposures.

Jill's involvement in politics grew out of her attempts to keep needed health-protection from being blocked by powerful corporate lobbying forces on Beacon Hill. She became involved in the movement for Clean Elections and other democracy reforms, which she understood as essential for improving health and the environment. This led her to run for political office for the first time as the 2002 candidate for Governor of Massachusetts under the Green Party label.

Jill's candidacy was praised by the Newton Tab as "the bolder, brighter and better choice." According to the Needham Times, "Based on her past public policy experience...Stein possesses the ability to work with the state legislature and the bureaucrats to galvanize a new era of policy activism and to inspire a new group of voters." Joan Venocchi of the Boston Globe described Jill's debate performance: "In the midst of the madness, the candidate who spoke the most clearly was Green Party candidate Jill Stein."

As a candidate for Secretary of the Commonwealth, Jill's goal is to end the influence-peddling on Beacon Hill that obstructs badly needed solutions - such as single-payer universal health care, living wages, affordable housing, a healthy environment, sustainable economy and fair tax reform. Jill stands unwaveringly for the open and revitalized democracy that is essential to secure the healthy, just, sustainable future we all deserve.

Real Democracy. Real Solutions.

JILL STEIN FOR SECRETARY OF THE COMMONWEALTH

Democracy in Massachusetts is in trouble. And we're in trouble too, since democracy is essential for solving the critical problems - from health, to jobs, to energy costs - confronting the families and communities of the Commonwealth. I am running for Secretary of the Commonwealth to help build the democracy we urgently need.

Government by influence-peddling has become the norm on Beacon Hill. Massachusetts spends more on lobbying than any other state, and the number of lobbyists has increased seven-fold in the last decade. And over 80% of the money funding political campaigns is coming from less than 1% of voters, with the leading contributing groups representing the powerful special interests - health insurance, pharmaceutical companies, financial services, real estate development and others. As a result, critical policies - from health care to the budget - are being written in the backroom by lobbyists and insiders. Bills are routinely kept secret until just before the vote so even legislators don't have time to understand what they are voting on. And unanimous votes commonly protect legislators from accountability for misguided policies that are literally driving people out of Massachusetts. Though there is widespread discontent, our money-driven system ensures that legislators are re-elected an astounding 98% of the time.

The lack of democracy has consequences that are real and painful:

- The health care system serves insurance and drug companies instead of our families, the sick and elderly.
- The costs of higher education sky-rocket, denying growing numbers of students the education that is essential for economic security.
- Overdevelopment consumes green space, pollutes our air and water, and causes flooding. Yet new bills waste hundreds of millions of taxpayer dollars for poorly-planned new development. And support for sustainable, community development has been slashed.



- Urgent affordable-housing needs are unmet, while more luxury housing is built.
- The gap between rich and poor is rising faster in Massachusetts than almost any other state.
- Taxes have been shifted from corporations and the wealthy to ordinary people. As a result, low income families now pay twice as much of their income in state and local taxes as the very rich. Meanwhile the things ordinary families need - education, health and safety, public transportation and the environment - are unraveling for lack of adequate funding.
- Corporate profits sky-rocket, while the lack of jobs and affordable housing forces families to leave Massachusetts. As Secretary of State, I will work to create the real democracy that can deliver for the families and communities of the Commonwealth. Since the Secretary oversees the critical framework of our democracy - elections, lobbying, public information, and corporate charters - it is a powerful position from which to open up Beacon Hill, get big money out of politics, and put people back in. Towards this end, several reforms are urgently needed:
 - Restore "Clean Elections" by providing

Elections and voting: We can do better and here's how:

GRP SUPPORTS REFORMS THAT EMPOWER VOTERS

By Bill Cunningham

The rules of voting are not a simple technical matter. They are the framework in which all campaigns and candidates must work.

If it's worth it for us to have elections, it should be worth it to hold elections well.

In poll after poll, the American public has expressed a preference for more than two choices at the ballot box. Recently, a national poll conducted for the Wall Street Journal found that three-quarters of the electorate believed there was a need for at least three parties.

But when there are three or more candidates for a single office, like governor or president, voters may be afraid to support their first choice candidate because they are afraid this will "spoil" the chances of their second choice.

The Green-Rainbow Party advocates a reform that would resolve the spoiler issue without restricting choice. This is called Instant Runoff Voting (IRV).

Under IRV, you can vote for more than one candidate, ranking your choices by number. If your first choice does not get enough votes to win, your vote is then transferred to your second choice. The transfer process continues until one candidate has a majority.

Variations of the IRV system have been

used successfully all over the world. IRV is used in Cambridge municipal elections, where it is known as PR (Proportional Representation). A similar system was introduced in San Francisco.

This year, IRV was passed in Burlington, Vermont and cities in Maryland and Michigan, and for military voters in the State of South Carolina.

Massachusetts could easily shift to IRV voting without a constitutional amendment.

But neither major party has shown any interest in IRV, here or anywhere else in the United States. Apparently they don't care that much about the "spoiler effect." We conclude that the Democrat Party is more interested in demonizing Nader than in replacing Bush.

There is a very different proposal to deal with the "spoiler effect" on the State ballot this November. This is Question 2, which calls for "fusion voting."

Fusion voting simply means that a candidate's name may appear on the same ballot two or more times, as the nominee of two or more different political parties.

The voter then has a choice of which party to support, but no choice of candidates. How can a candidate be accountable to voters for competing

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- public funding for candidates who follow fundraising and spending limits.
 - Prohibit campaign contributions from lobbyists and officers of corporations that hire lobbyists (who by definition are seeking to influence the legislative agenda). This would require lobbyists to persuade through information, not influence-peddling.
 - Open up Beacon Hill by requiring greater transparency.
 - Allow voters to have real choices through "instant runoff" voting. This lets voters rank their preferred candidates in a multi-candidate race. If their first choice is not elected, their vote is re-assigned to their second choice. This prevents any splitting of the vote that can occur whenever more than two candidates run under our current single-choice system. And it allows a greater range of choices to be presented to voters.
 - Create an independent commission
 - utilizing clear guidelines and a transparent process - for drawing fair, sensible voting districts.
 - Expand voting rights through election-day registration, election-day holidays, and protection of voting rights for cultural and language minorities.
 - Prohibit the adoption of any electronic voting machine that has not been proven tamper-free, reliable, accurate and cost effective relative to hand-counted paper ballots.
- Since there will be no Republican in the race there will be no "spoiler effect" to distract from the critical issues of the race. This race is an exciting opportunity to challenge business-as-usual on Beacon Hill, and advance break-through reforms to build real democracy, and the healthy, just future we all deserve.
- If you would like to learn more about our campaign to take back democracy and our future that depends on it, contact us at: www.jillstein.org, info@jillstein.org, 617-852-4727.

Chapter 40T creates towns governed by corporations, not residents

MCHC STALLS BACKROOM LAND USE BILLS

By Bill Cunningham

This year, opposition organized by the Massachusetts Coalition for Healthy Communities (MCHC) helped stall a series of harmful land use bills advanced through secretive, backroom Beacon Hill channels. Jill Stein, Green-Rainbow candidate for Secretary of State, is a co-founder of MCHC.

MCHC's most recent success was stopping passage of Chapter 40T.

The secrecy surrounding Chapter 40T prevented a full analysis or understanding of its complicated provisions. But several respected community leaders expressed concerns that it represented a power grab by the real estate development lobby.

Chapter 40T amounts to the privatization of local government. It allows real estate developers to, in effect, secede from the local municipality and to set up their own government with the goal

of making profits from the land within Special Development Districts. They can even include unwilling property owners within the district, depriving them of many protections and rights.

Such a basic attack upon democratic principles demands public clarification and debate before it is implemented, not after.

Chapter 40T was vetoed by Governor Romney based on a lack of due process, but that veto was narrowly overridden in the House.

Concerns raised about Chapter 40T:

- Chapter 40T allows real estate developers a way to form "Special Development Districts" which are essentially little private municipalities within a larger city or town. Powers normally reserved for local government would be put in the hands of a Prudential Committee composed of real estate developers.

- The Prudential Committee could

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Stop the BU biolab

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population centers," is that "the location of the laboratory reduces the possibility that an accidental release of a biosafety level-4 organism would lead to a major public health disaster."

Accidents are occurring. Remember the deadly SARS virus in Asia? Released from a biolab. And the stories in this country are just as scary (again I suggest Google or going to the ace-ej.org website – click on

Biolab).

In April 2004, 165 scientists, physicians, public health specialists, and academics, including Nobel prize winners, signed a letter called "No Place To Hide" and sent it to the Mayor of Boston, Boston City Council, and BU opposing locating the bioterrorism laboratory in the South End/Roxbury area of Boston. If we don't take action, a biolab will put all of us at risk.

TAKE ACTION: Do your own Internet search and make up your own mind.

There's not enough room here to share all the disturbing facts. See www.ace-ej.org. (all italicized sentences are pasted from the website) Join the e-mail list for updates on the bioterrorism laboratory: Send an email to Stopbioterrorlab@ace-ej.org if you would like to be on the list.

IF YOU LIVE IN BOSTON: Call your Boston City Councilor and have all your neighbors do the same. If your councilor is Felix Arroyo, Maura Hennigan, Chuck Turner, or Charles Yancey, THANK THEM and urge them to stand strong against this (the support of nine councilors is necessary to override Mayor Menino's expected veto of a city ordinance to ban Level 4 Biolabs)

IF YOU LIVE OUTSIDE BOSTON Call your state legislators. *Massachusetts has no regulatory program for BSL4 or other high containment biological laboratories. The federal government has only self-enforcing guidelines that have been proven unsuccessful. Massachusetts has standards for other inherently dangerous facilities, such as a landfills and power plants, on where they might be located, how the location decision would be made, operations and maintenance requirements, and other appropriate standards to protect the public health and environment. But it has no such standards for high containment biological labs*

Let your elected officials know what you think! Talk to your neighbors and get involved!

Green-Rainbow party supports harm-reduction and the legalization of natural drugs

NEW PLATFORM ADDITIONS CALL FOR REFORMS IN PRISONS, THE "WAR ON DRUGS," CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM, IMMIGRATION POLICY

By David Rolde

The Green-Rainbow Party State Committee at our August 6 meeting adopted a landmark platform proposal to extend our opposition to the so-called "War on Drugs" and to the unjust criminal justice system operating in Massachusetts which disproportionately targets people of color, low-income communities, and victims of drug addiction.

Our expansion and improvement of our position on these issues is inspired by the work of activists and activist groups in Massachusetts such as GRP-member Boston City Councilor Chuck Turner, the District 7 Roundtable (D7), the Boston Workers Alliance (BWA), and the Statewide Harm Reduction Coalition (SHARC).

The "War on Drugs" is a failure, drug addiction is a health issue, not a criminal one

The Green-Rainbow Party is clear that we want the "war on drugs" to be ended immediately. Our position now is that all natural drugs should be legalized so that the drug industry can be taxed and regulated for the public good just like any other industry. Previously the Green-Rainbow Party had been for legalizing marijuana and decriminalizing possession of other drugs. Extending our call for legalization to include all natural drugs, including heroin and cocaine, is a step forward. Chuck Turner has explained that the movement to liberalize drug laws by simply decriminalizing marijuana is a racist movement to allow white people in the suburbs to smoke

marijuana with impunity while continuing disproportionate police persecution against inner-city communities and communities of color. Chuck suggested that our position should be to legalize "all natural drugs". However Kim Milberg of SHARC has pointed out that this wording might keep some drugs (such as artificial methamphetamines), that are used as a pretext to imprison or otherwise oppress people, illegal. The Green-Rainbow Party may discuss this concern at a future date.

Despite our country's reputation as a nation where one can live free, the United States carries a disproportionately high portion of the total world prison population. Over 2.2 million Americans are in prison, including thousands in Massachusetts. Approximately 4.8 million more are on probation or parole. Residents of the USA, especially in communities of color, low-income communities, and immigrant communities, live in fear of racial or economic profiling and the threat of police terror and persecution, and unjust imprisonment. A lot of this terror and repression is perpetrated under the pretext of the "War on Drugs". An illustrative and local example of a community that was targeted this summer is the Somali community in Boston. In July police stormed an apartment building in Roxbury and detained 18 Somalis as part of a nationwide police operation that targeted the Somali community under the pretext of trying to stop the distribution of khat. Khat is a leaf that is commonly chewed as a stimulant in Somalia, Ethiopia, and Yemen, and that has recently been made illegal in the US. It is legal in other countries such as the UK. The Somali community in Boston was terrorized. Four

continued on page 7, see HARM-REDUCTION A BETTER MODEL

Green-Rainbow Party: Vote NO on Question 2

From the August 6th State Committee Meeting

The Green-Rainbow Party opposes the 2006 state ballot question to establish fusion voting, whereby candidates for public office may appear on the ballot under the endorsement of more than one political party.

The Green-Rainbow Party will communicate our position on election reform in writing to the endorsers of the fusion ballot initiative, to explain that fusion voting would not be in the interests of the people of Massachusetts and would not further the struggle for the implementation of our values.

Electoral reform

continued from page 4

platforms? The Green-Rainbow Party believes this is a meaningless choice.

In fact, the fusion proposal confers real choice only on the State Committees of the political parties. They alone have the power to decide on cross-endorsement.

The fusion proposal comes from New York, where it is already law. There, several minor parties exist which only endorse Democrats and Republicans.

The Massachusetts fusion proposal had both Democrat and Republican sponsors in the State Legislature. They hope, as the ballot sponsors put it, that this can "put an end to the spoiler problem once and for all."

But for voters, that would mean an end to the possibility of real choice.

Massachusetts voters already have few choices. One party, the Democrats, have 86 percent of all seats in the Legislature. Almost all of those seats will be uncontested in November.

Under fusion, it is possible to imagine a candidate running on four party lines. "Vote for the party of your choice," an ad might say, "Vote for Jeb Bush."

Some people may accept the argument that fusion voting is like a new offering which can only add to consumer choice. We don't have to buy or use a product if we don't want to.

Unfortunately, the products that other people choose do have an impact on our lives. Examples include SUVs, chemical fertilizers, and politicians.

Most voters know that corporate political campaigns and huge political contributions undermine democracy, and polls show they want something done about it.

Public campaign financing has been adopted in Arizona and Maine. It is the only effective reform to moderate the influence of corporate money on elections which has been accepted by the courts.

In 1998, Massachusetts voters overwhelmingly supported a ballot initiative for limited public financing of candidates. But the Democrat legislature sabotaged Clean Elections by stubbornly refusing to fund it. House Speaker Tom Finneran claimed that the voters didn't understand what they were voting on in 1998.

"Liberal" Democrat leaders were happy to point fingers at the "conservative" Finneran, but they were against Clean Elections too. Party chair Philip Johnston called it "an outrage. This will significantly damage our chances in November... marginal parties should not be part of this."

Finally, Robert Travaglini's "liberal" State Senate repealed the law on a voice vote—unanimously.

Electoral democracy surely entails maximizing the choices available to the voter. Polls show that American voters want more choices. IRV and public financing answer that demand—fusion voting doesn't.

James O'Keefe: Invest in our communities and peace

GRP JAMES O'KEEFE VS. DEMOCRAT TIM CAHILL: ROUND 2

James O'Keefe for Treasurer: Being An Independent Watchdog For You

From the James O'Keefe campaign

As the Green-Rainbow Party nominee, James O'Keefe is not beholden to entrenched political party interests and will be a watchdog over our government. He cannot be bought by special interests. He will clean up the state treasurer's office, end sweetheart deals at the lottery, fight corporate welfare and make the treasurer's office accountable only to the people of Massachusetts.

James O'Keefe is committed to making sure that the Treasurer's office is open for public scrutiny and accountable to the people of the Commonwealth. He opposes corporate welfare, such as State funding for a new Fenway Park stadium, and \$5 million each year for Greyhound racing. He will root out such subsidies that are wasting our tax dollars and destroying our environment and communities. The Commonwealth's money should go towards those in need, not corporations.

Additionally, he will work to clean up

corporate abuses. The days of Enron- and Worldcom-style abuses will be over if James O'Keefe is elected. He will work with responsible mutual funds and other state pension funds to use the power of our combined shares to get corporations to clean up their act. We can rein in excessive CEO salaries and perks. We can make corporations truly accountable to employees and shareholders. We can get corporations to pay workers a living wage and stop polluting our communities.

He is the only candidate for State Treasurer who opposes the introduction of casino and slot machine gambling in Massachusetts. As can clearly be seen in Atlantic City, NJ, casinos hurt small businesses for miles around them and do not promote economic development in the area around casinos. Instead of finding revenue streams through destructive and regressive means, O'Keefe is committed to investing the state's money in projects



James O'Keefe addresses the Green-Rainbow Nominating Convention in March. Photo by Colby Peterson.

that will preserve the quality of life in Massachusetts, create thousands of new jobs, and assure the required return to pension holders at the same time.

We must invest in our communities, in projects that meet our needs, not those of corporations. We can solve our housing crisis by turning abandoned properties into quality housing. We can build our economy by providing capital to start small businesses.

We can save our environment by investing in renewable energy, creating good local jobs and keeping us out of

imperialist wars over oil.

We can invest in local companies to help them get started or to expand. Furthermore, we can increase democratic participation in community investments, leading to more sound decisions and more sustainable neighborhoods. James O'Keefe is committed to setting up a system of town meetings where citizens can decide their community's investment needs and develop project guidelines, which would increase their control over their economy and their future.

James O'Keefe for Treasurer

Mailing Address:

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Who is James O'Keefe?

James O'Keefe, a lifelong Massachusetts resident, graduated from the University of Massachusetts, Amherst in 1990 and earned a masters degree in Economics from Boston University in 1998. At Boston University, he focused on environmental and labor economics while also working part-time.

He has worked in the computer software field for over ten years as both a Software Quality Assurance manager and engineer. He has worked for such companies as FTP Software, Athena Design, Thomson Financial and Oberon Software. He is currently working for the m-Qube Corporation.

He has been a member of the Green-Rainbow Party of Massachusetts since 1996, and was its co-chair in 1999-2000, and treasurer in 2000-2001. He helped found the Mystic River Greens in Cambridge and Somerville.

He has lived with Melanie, his wife, in Somerville since 1992 and together they have two children, Liam and Emma. Among the many responsibilities he juggles in his life, James has coached his son's soccer team for the last year and a half.

The best of both worlds: Green-Rainbow principles can both develop and sustain our environment and economy.

By Bill Cunningham

Whereas government now regulates people to serve the economy, the economy ought to be regulated to serve the people.

Whereas nature is now disrespected as a mere resource for the economy, the economy ought to be adapted to nature's ways.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts should be a community of communities living in harmony with one another, honoring our obligations to past and future generations, and respecting the communities of nature with whom we share this land.

A Green-Rainbow strategy for economic development will move us toward this Commonwealth.

The Democrat and Republican parties have a different strategy for economic development. They offer unlimited economic growth as the answer to all our problems.

Liberal or conservative, their strategy calls for constantly increasing population, production and consumption of goods, using more and more land and water for roads and buildings, and investing our hopes and our resources in the fastest possible development of technology, without regard for its ultimate use.

If there is inequality, they all prescribe economic growth because "a rising tide lifts all boats." Never mind that the tide is poisoned and most of us don't own a boat.

If the environment is being destroyed, they say that only growth will provide the technological resources to fix it up again.

In fact, unlimited economic growth increases inequality by squeezing working people to obtain more investment capital. It also breaks up any human communities that get in its way—and those are mostly low income and people of color.

In fact, no amount of economic growth is going to pay for the damage caused by imposing unlimited human growth on our

limited planet. The Green-Rainbow Party agrees with the Indian leader Vandana Shiva when she says, "Development in its real meaning, derived from biology, refers to self-organized evolution, not imposed change."

More and more resources and labor are devoted to maintaining economic inequality and paying lawyers, security and prison guards, tax and financial advisors and media hucksters to clean up the mess it leaves behind.

The Green-Rainbow Party has some ideas about how to develop an economy in which everyone will have a fair share and opportunity to participate in the building of a new, sustainable society.

Once we have decided to take a new direction, however, we are confident that from the energy and creativity of the people will come a thousand more ideas and initiatives.

A NEW COUNTRYSIDE

Farms have many social functions

besides food production—they provide jobs, beauty, and protection for watersheds and wildlife by setting limits to suburban sprawl.

Over the past forty years, the state has lost thousands of farms, and hundreds of thousands of acres of farmland to real estate development.

Since 1980, the State has spent nearly a hundred million dollars to preserve farmland from development. But this has barely stemmed the tide.

We will work to make agriculture a rewarding economic activity in Massachusetts.

We can require all government agencies, including schools, to buy locally grown food and agricultural products. The State can ban the sale of the genetically modified " Frankenfoods" produced by corporate farms.

Huge industrial farms lower unit costs by raising crops with huge amount of chemical inputs, and raising animals in conditions of incredible cruelty. Those are the very conditions that generate new diseases like mad cow and avian

continued on page 7, see SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

GRP, GPUS endorses Right of Return, Divestment Ballot Questions

By Ron Francis, Green-Rainbow Party, Somerville Divestment Project

On Tuesday Sept. 12th Somerville Residents and two Orthodox Rabbis of the Neturei Karta held a Press Conference at Somerville City Hall (see photo) to announce two Local Ballot Questions: Question #5 is to affirm the Right of Return of all Palestinian refugees. Question #6 is for divestment from Israel Bonds and Companies tied to Israeli Human Rights violations.

Guest Speakers Rabbi Dovid Weiss, and Rabbi Webbermen, scholars of Judaism from the Neturei Karta of New York, an Orthodox Jewish organization, spoke in front of Somerville City Hall in favor of Palestinian human rights along with Somerville residents; Rabbi Weiss noted that Judaism rejects Zionism- the project of colonial conquest of indigenous Palestinians to form a Jewish state.

Rabbi Weiss of the Neturei Karta is in favor of both ballot questions put forward by Somerville residents.

The Green-Rainbow Party of Massachusetts has endorsed both ballot questions, and the Green Party of the US supports both the Right of Return of Palestinian refugees, as well as divestment from companies tied to Israeli human rights violations. The Green Party of the US National Committee recently endorsed the ballot questions as well.

In 1948, 750,000 Palestinian civilians were ethnically cleansed from what is today called Israel [often referred to as 'historic Palestine']. Zionist leaders from as early as 1882 proposed a Jewish majority State that necessitated the removal of Palestinians. Today there are over 5 million Palestinian refugees registered with the United Nations.

The 1st ballot question for Somerville residents who live in the 27th district calls for the State Representative of the 27th Middlesex district to support the State of Massachusetts issuing a statement affirming the Right of Return of Palestinian Refugees.

For 6 decades Palestinian Refugees have called for the Right of Return. Under the

Declaration of Human Rights, civilians expelled or otherwise displaced from their homes as a result of a conflict have the right to return to their homes AND be compensated for any theft of their property.

The London Return Center, a research organization that advocates for Return, notes that return is not only morally correct but also entirely feasible. Since over 80 % of Jewish people are concentrated in metropolitan areas in historic Palestine, the return of Palestinian refugees does not require the displacement of large numbers of Jewish people. The London Return Centre has developed a detailed plan that allows for each of the 5 million Palestinian refugees to return with little or no significant effect on the Jewish population.

The people of the City of Somerville have never issued a statement in support of the Right of Return a universal human right of Palestinian refugees. Instead Somerville invests \$250,000 in Israel Bonds that are used to continue the ethnic cleansing by funding more Jewish settlements on Palestinian land.

Somerville also invests money in companies such as Caterpillar Tractor that sell equipment to Israel to commit human rights violations documented by even Amnesty International. Caterpillar, and Somerville, profit off of illegal attacks on Palestinian homes, schools, ambulances, and the destruction of millions of Palestinian olive trees an economic mainstay of the Palestinian population. Thousands of Palestinian people are detained and Palestinian civilians are subjected to targeted assassination, detentions without cause, and the use of disproportionate force on Palestinian civilian demonstrators. In fact, human rights workers from around the world have been targeted, like the American peace activist Rachel Corrie who was murdered with a Caterpillar bulldozer.

The 2nd ballot question calls for the State Representative from the 27th district to support Massachusetts divesting from



Somerville Palestinian human rights supporters with Orthodox Naturei Karta Rabbis from New York. Photo by PF Soto.

Israel bonds and military companies tied to Israel's occupation.

Polls in many Arab and Muslim countries indicate that the denial of Palestinian human rights is the prime reason for animosity toward the United States that provides military and political assistance to Israel to forcibly deny justice and human rights to Palestinian refugees. Somerville Divestment Project, like

many other groups, including numerous religious organizations such as the New England Conference of Methodist Churches, and the Congregational Church, support divestment from military companies that profit from Israel's attacks on Palestinian civilians. Divestment is a key step towards justice and thereby peace - not just in historic Palestine, but also throughout the Middle East.

Harm-reduction a better model

continued from page 5

Somali men were arrested in Boston. Two have been extradited to New York. Most Somalis in the US are here as refugees from US-instigated war in their country. Then they are attacked here as well.

The Green-Rainbow Party has long recognized that drug abuse and drug addiction are a health issue and should be recognized as such rather than as criminal offenses. We now have a clear position that voluntary non-coercive treatment for drug abuse and drug addiction should be made freely available to everyone including minors. The reasoning for specifying non-coercive treatment is to further separate this health issue from the criminal justice system. In addition, as long as treatment resources are limited, provision of mandatory treatment for someone who doesn't need nor want treatment could mean that someone who wants and needs treatment will not be able to have it. We haven't yet taken a position on exactly what sort of treatment should be provided for drug related health problems except to say that it should be non-coercive. There is room for the Green-Rainbow Party platform committee to work on further specifying that different sorts of treatment should be available possibly including treatment that works on a harm-reduction model rather than only on an Alcoholic Anonymous style abstinence model.

CORI can come back to haunt the innocent

The Green-Rainbow Party has now officially taken a position to call for the elimination or reform of Massachusetts' CORI (Criminal Offender Record Information) program and laws related to its use so that persons who have been caught up by the unjust criminal justice system will not be denied access to employment, housing, loans, insurance, admission to college, and other rights and privileges.

The State Committee reaffirmed the Green-Rainbow Party's commitment to the establishment of civilian police review boards that should have real power to review and regulate police conduct. This was already in our platform.

The Green-Rainbow Party now calls for the restoration of voting rights to currently incarcerated prisoners in Massachusetts.

Currently prisoners who are serving time as punishment for a felony conviction are not allowed to vote. Prisoners incarcerated in Massachusetts while awaiting trial, or for a misdemeanor conviction, are allowed to vote. Imprisoned felons in Massachusetts used to have the right to vote, but this right was taken away a few years ago. It should be restored.

The Green-Rainbow Party now officially opposes the practice of slave labor in jails and prisons in Massachusetts. Prisoners who work should be paid at least minimum wage.

And importantly, the Green-Rainbow Party has joined the Statewide Harm Reduction Coalition (SHaRC) in their demands for a moratorium on jail and prison construction in Massachusetts. The Green-Rainbow Party has joined in all SHaRC's demands. SHaRC, before becoming a statewide organization, formed as the Springfield Harm Reduction Coalition and focused a lot of their work on trying to stop the construction of the women's jail in Chicopee. Therefore the first demand is for the state to stop the \$27 million construction bond for the Chicopee Jail. David, see page 2 of this doc for the most up to date SHaRC demands. SHaRC and the GRP demand that no further dollars be spent on jail or prison expansion or construction nor additional prison beds. In addition, we demand that needle exchange programs be legalized, sentencing practices be re-evaluated, mandatory minimum sentences be repealed, and amnesty be given to all non-violent "Drug War" prisoners. We call on the State to document, expose and eliminate all inhumane, degrading treatment and torture in Massachusetts prison and jails. Stopping and reversing prison expansion will save a lot of money. The saved dollars and more should be approved in the state budget for programs that prevent crime and substance addiction, such as job training, drug treatment centers, healthcare for women and their children, more affordable housing for low-income families, and quality public education.

Andrea Hornbein and Kim Milberg from SHaRC visited the Green-Rainbow Party State Convention in September to lead a workshop about SHaRC's activities

continued on page 8, see HARM REDUCTION

Sustainable development

continued from page 6

flu, and lead to contamination of human food supplies. The State should ban such products and encourage the redevelopment of agricultural land by small organic farms.

A NEW INFRASTRUCTURE

The end of the automobile era is already in sight, and we should be using our precious energy resources to build a truly sustainable infrastructure for public transportation.

The State should stop building new highways and focus on maintaining the roads we already have, particularly those that serve the older cities and town centers.

The Big Dig should never have been built, period. We should decide that nothing like it will ever again be built in Massachusetts.

The energy infrastructure of the future must be diverse, clean, and decentralized. Massachusetts should plan to dismantle and disconnect from nuclear energy sources and actively prepare for a more modest use of oil and gas for heating,

industry and transportation. The State should require all new construction to use insulation, the sun, and the wind to minimize the flows of energy needed for heat, cooling and power.

We can build a whole new industry to develop, produce and install solar and wind power plants, as close as possible to the homes and workplaces that will use them. Subsidies and tax policy should be directed to training workers for the new jobs that this will require, in cooperation with the trade unions.

The State should stop all tax subsidies for the war, finance and high technology sectors that are already overrepresented in our economy.

The need to maximize property tax revenues is a powerful incentive for local governments to maximize commercial real estate development. The State should encourage the towns to abolish their property taxes and rely instead on an income tax, which could utilize State and Federal programs to minimize paperwork, and would fall on those more able to pay.

Tax equity means tax relief

continued from page 1

burden for the wealthiest 1% is but 4.6% of its income. Everyone else pays nearly 8% or more.

The income tax method in Massachusetts is allegedly "flat", but our total tax burden is anything but flat. Because of the rise in property and excise taxes and proliferating usage fees, ordinary folks are now subsidizing the wealthiest among us, even as our communities are strangled and starving. Moreover, the increasing bonds merely shift the tax burden to those who are not yet voters; our children and grandchildren.

Massachusetts voters pay more than their income taxes. In fact, the biggest drain on the wallets of middle and low-income citizens is the total accumulated cost of property tax, excise tax, the sales tax, and the many fees one needs to pay simply to live in this state. An example of just a few of these fees, which are really disguised taxes, are fees levied on: Driver's license renewal, vehicle registration, homestead protection, sewer service, kindergarten enrollment in many communities, participation in school sports, music, art or other "frills". Combine these "fees" with increases sales tax, excise tax, tangible property tax, and income tax, everyday folks are paying - as a portion of annual income - far more than the wealthiest among us for far less public services than were enjoyed by our parents.

Voters have been conditioned by the tax cut intellectuals who have monotonously repeated the refrain for years about the "tax-and-spend" Democrats and asserting that only income tax cuts can stimulate the economy. The Republican tax plan of defer, disguise and deny, has now become the norm in our political lives and has been so effective that most Democrats swear by it too. Both parties support this tax plan because their corporate and individual wealthy sponsors are the main beneficiaries of the disguise-and-defer tax plan, which directly subsidizes the corporate and individual fat cats. For instance, two Massachusetts corporate giants -- Raytheon and Fidelity -- barely pay any state income taxes at all. The likelihood is that a district voter pays a far more significant income tax than they have. The Massachusetts Democratic Party legislature gave huge tax breaks to Raytheon and Fidelity, created monstrous tax loopholes enabling the largest of corporations to avoid paying their fair share of the burden, and afforded monstrous tax breaks to their largest campaign contributors. Politicians and their fat cat contributors are having a rip-roaring party for themselves - and we're

the folks that are buying their meals and picking up their beer tab. For example, Raytheon paid only \$456 in state taxes in the year 2000. The Green-Rainbow candidates know that most individual Massachusetts voters probably paid more than that.

The Green-Rainbow party says that the time has come for Massachusetts voters to decline to foot the bill for the corporate party. For example: Repealing the Raytheon and Fidelity tax breaks alone would generate more than an additional \$220 million in revenue for the state. Closing corporate "combined reporting" loopholes would generate over \$97 million for the state. Applying a transfer tax to sales of higher end real estate would generate over \$500 million for the state. Repealing the sales tax exemption on services such as lobbying, legal and accounting services, engineering services, business consulting, public relations and financial management would generate over \$530 million for the state. Implement a 30 cent per pound tax on the top ten carcinogens, and over \$115 million in revenue would be raised. An intangible property tax on financial instruments of \$2 per \$1000 with a \$50,000 deductible would generate nearly \$500 million for the state. This yields nearly \$2 billion in revenue raised without raising your taxes.

Massachusetts voters have paid their fair share many times over. The time is now to shift the total tax burden, offer tax relief, and solve our state's manufactured and inexcusable fiscal crisis.

Green-Rainbows say: Restore the income tax to 5.95% and lower sales tax to 4% and - through that alone - a very large portion of the voters in this district would feel immediate tax relief while overall revenue would be raised. Earmark but 20% of revenue raised by the sales tax to cities and towns, and our communities would have incentive to offer tax relief as well. The Green-Rainbow Party knows that payoffs for layoffs are killing public education, health care, police and fire departments.

The GRP understands that real, tangible tax relief can only result from ending corporate welfare. GRP candidates urge implementing combined reporting and "throwback" rules for companies shifting profits out of state; repealing special sales tax breaks for lobbyists, mutual fund companies and defense contractors; and providing incentives for cities and towns to reduce tax rates on tangible properties. No trickle-down so-called "fiscal stimulus" package is worth what mayhem this legislature so relishes committing against

health and human services, schools and city services, municipal employees, people in poverty, nearly all taxpayers in general, and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts itself.

So the "no new tax" pledges? Voters of Massachusetts must understand that this pledge really means that we will indeed pay more taxes, lots more taxes, as the tax burden is shifted from wealthy individuals and corporations to the middle and lower income taxpayers. Those taxes will be disguised in property and excise tax increases, the proliferating of fees everywhere for public services and our children and grandchildren will continue to pay, not only in lost opportunities from the cut services but by paying back all the bond debt that will come due when they reach the workforce.

Don't be fooled. The "no new tax" pledge is code language for the target audience of the wealthy and corporations. **They** really won't be paying much in new taxes because the candidate is promising no increased income tax - the only tax they would have to pay more of because of their income. **They** aren't impacted by public school fees or cuts, or public library cuts, or most public services in general. The slate of Green Rainbow Party candidates across the state will not be signing the pledge and pledge instead to work for genuine tax relief that can only come from real tax equity.

40T meant privatized local gov't

continued from page 5

establish their own bylaws and initiate eminent domain proceedings against property owners within the district.

- The Prudential Committee could exact taxes and assessments against property owners within the district.
- The Prudential Committee could be controlled with as few as two votes (A quorum of only three members can conduct business, and all decisions are by majority vote.)
- Taxpayers in the surrounding municipality would still be responsible for paying for services demanded by property owners within the district. But there would be a separate system of taxation within the district that could not be tapped for municipal use, such as supporting schools.
- Members of the House quoted in today's State House News underscore these concerns: "It's never been given a number, heard, and sent through our process. It was a section written outside of this building by special interests and placed in the economic

Harm-reduction cont'd

continued from page 7

and the issues they, and we with them, are working on. Please check out SHaRC's website at stopchicopeejail.org, because there is not enough space here to completely explain harm reduction principles and everything that SHaRC works on.

Andrea and Kim explained that the modern anti-prison movement can be seen as a continuation of the 19th-century American movement to abolish slavery. When enslavement of people of African descent was officially abolished in the United States, the government acted to keep Africans, and other minorities, in chains in prisons instead. On a more immediate pragmatic level, Andrea and Kim stressed a couple issues that we can work on now. One is the CORI. Millions of people in Massachusetts have been arrested and have "CORIs," or a record of arrests as well as actual criminal convictions. These people are often denied employment and other opportunities. Presumably once a person has had charges against them dismissed or has served their sentence or paid their penalty for a conviction, they should be welcomed back into the community rather than being denied employment and housing and abandoned to a cycle of involvement with the criminal justice system. There are other mechanisms than CORI to keep track of people who are actually deemed to be dangerous. Andrea and Kim spoke for CORI to be eliminated. Another issue we can work on now is letting people know about their voting rights. Many people in Massachusetts falsely think that once have been convicted of a crime, they are never allowed to vote again. This is untrue. Only persons currently incarcerated for a felony conviction are not allowed to vote in Massachusetts. Once someone is released from prison there is no restriction on their voting, and people in jail who have not been convicted of a felony, for instance people who are awaiting trial, are allowed to vote.

For more on this and other platform additions, see the Green-Rainbow Party web site, with exclusive on-line articles: www.green-rainbow.org

stimulus bill."

- "There are too few checks for the town government over the power of these developers. I view this as the 40B for businesses. This is not the community who commences these districts; it's the developers." For more on the bill see www.masschc.org

FINANCIAL SUPPORTER AND MEMBERSHIP FORM

Yes! I want to be a dues-paying financial supporter of the Green-Rainbow Party. I am renewing my dues.

\$10 low income \$20 regular \$30 family \$50 supporting Other \$ _____

Monthly Sustainer: \$_____/month *

I am a member of the Green-Rainbow Party since I am

registered as a Green-Rainbow voter in Massachusetts, or

paying dues and am registered as Unenrolled in Massachusetts, or

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Save postage! Send my future newsletters via email. Keep me informed! Add my email address to the Announcements email list.

Please contact me. I am interested in volunteering with a local GRP chapter.

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Fill out form and mail to: Green-Rainbow Party,

PO Box 440353 Somerville MA 02144-0004.

Make checks payable to: Green-Rainbow Party Federal Fund.

All contributions go towards building the Green-Rainbow Party!



IMPORTANT NOTES

By giving this donation you acknowledge that as specified by US federal law you are a US citizen or a federally recognized permanent resident.

Donations over \$100 must be made by check or credit card.

* Due to credit card processing fees, the minimum monthly amount for sustainers is \$10.

** Credit card billing information must match name and address.

*** If your total contribution is more than \$200 in a year, federal law requires us to furnish this information.