



Green-Rainbow Party presidential primary choices

The Green-Rainbow Party is proud to announce a contested presidential primary on February 5th, with a fantastic lineup of candidates running for the Green Party's nomination.

There will be six candidates listed on the GRP ballot. Two candidates—Elaine Brown and Jared Ball—have withdrawn

from the race, and while Ralph Nader will appear on our ballot, as of this writing he has not announced his intentions to seek the Green Party nomination for president.

Please note these are candidate statements and do not constitute endorsements by the GRP. Also note that we have included information about “No

Preference.”

Below are the six candidates in the order they will appear on our ballot, along with No Preference.

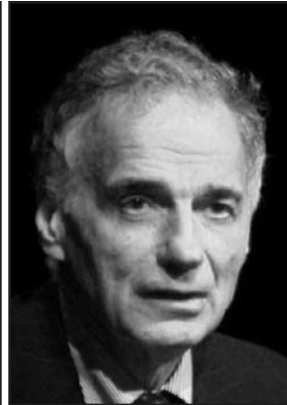
For background and statements by the candidates, see page 8.

VOTE GREEN-RAINBOW PARTY!

The OTHER Presidential Primary
 February 5, 2008
 7AM - 8PM



Jared Ball



Ralph Nader



Elaine Brown



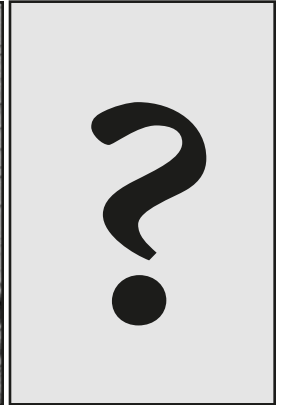
Kat Swift



Cynthia McKinney



Kent Mesplay



No Preference

Make a difference on February 5

By Nat Fortune and Merelice, Co-Chairs

Why do more Americans contribute to charities than show up to vote? Obviously we care about the world around us. And we believe one person can make a difference. Otherwise, we wouldn't bother with either charities or voting.

We suggest that one reason so many don't vote is that the candidates in the traditional parties don't need to listen to what we think. And the reason they don't need to listen is because when we do vote—unlike when we volunteer our time or money—too many of us fail to say what we mean and vote for what we really want.

Write all the letters you think of. Attend all the rallies you can. But if you don't change how you vote, candidates and elected officials can ignore your letters and your rallies. They don't need to offer a genuine alternative. Indeed, even before the first primary, the traditional parties allowed some of their own candidates to be excluded from their televised debates. Even before many voters have had a chance to weigh in, candidates who fail to raise enough corporate funding are dropping

continued on page 5, Make a difference

Voting Rights Help Lines Available Primary Day

In 2004 we received numerous complaints from our voters who encountered problems voting in our presidential primary. These problems included being told they were not able to vote or that they could only vote in either the Democratic or Republican primaries.

Unfortunately, we expect to see these problems again during this presidential primary.

If you encounter any problems while voting on February 5th, please contact us

continued on page 8, Help Lines

GRP members make solid bids for local office

Green-Rainbow Party members ran a number of inspiring campaigns for municipal office across Massachusetts.

Demonstrating party members' success at building locally were Boston City Councilor Chuck Turner's landslide re-election victory, and a higher placing by Cambridge School Committee member Luc Schuster. Their dedication to changing the status quo through a combination of local organizing and maintaining a strong voice for constituents via elected office represents the future of the Green-Rainbow Party in Massachusetts. “Turner's

bold leadership is showing the way, while Schuster's is clearly starting to blossom,” said Eli Beckerman, a volunteer on Luc Schuster's campaign.

On the heels of an impressive gubernatorial run in 2006, Grace Ross threw her hat into the Worcester political scene and came up just 532 votes shy of a seat on the city council in an attention-getting campaign. She received a significant increase in votes over her primary vote total, drawing many voters

continued on page 7, Local Elections

Choose your rep. to the GRP!

Please join in to choose who represents you, your community and your values in the statewide decision-making body of the Green-Rainbow Party. You share a commitment to grassroots democracy even as we fight to protect our right to vote in public elections—but it only works if we all participate locally on up!

Regional Conventions elect representatives to the state committee of the Green-Rainbow Party from each region. A gender-balanced delegation is required from each region. The state committee is the Party's policy-making body between annual State Conventions and meets at least four times a year as a whole. State committee representatives are required to participate on at least one of the Party's eight working committees which generally meet once a month, as

well as other duties as prescribed by the bylaws. (See related article “What's a state committee?”)

Your region has a number of Proportional Representation representatives to the state committee based on the number of registered Green-Rainbow voters in that region. Our Party members elect state committee representatives from within our ranks to be our voice on the state committee. To participate, you must be registered as Green-Rainbow (J); or pay dues and either be registered Unenrolled (independent) or not registered to vote.

This year, some regions are having their conventions together to allow more people to meet up from neighboring areas. Below

continued on page 2, Choose Your Rep

FOR YOUR REGIONAL CONVENTION INFORMATION, SEE PAGE 2

In our fragile world, it's all about sustainability

Help sustain our planet and people's well-being. Become a Party Sustainer and make your money talk. See how on page 7.

Green-Rainbow Party
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 Somerville, MA 02144-0004

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Date, Time and Location for your Regional Convention

BERKSHIRE

Saturday, March 1st, 2008 (snow date March 8, 2008), 10AM to 3PM, Unitarian Universalist Church, 175 Wendell Ave., Pittsfield, MA 01201, in the social room.

Contact: Wanda Boeke, 413-997-2108, <berkshire-info@green-rainbow.org>

There will be presentations, free food and beverages provided

BRISTOL, PLYMOUTH & CAPE AND ISLANDS

Saturday, February 23rd, 2008, 1PM to 5PM, Bristol Community College, Room L108, 777 Elsbree St., Fall River, MA 02720

Contact: David Dionne, 508-674-5194, <bristol-info@green-rainbow.org>, <plymouth-info@green-rainbow.org> or <capeislands-info@green-rainbow.org>

FRANKLIN, HAMPSHIRE & HAMDEN

Saturday, February 23rd, 2008, starting approximately at 11AM, Belchertown Town Hall, fully wheelchair accessible.

Contact: Nat Fortune, 413-665-6739, <franklin-info@green-rainbow.org>, <hamshire-info@green-rainbow.org> or <hamden-info@green-rainbow.org>

The start and end times are timed to coincide with the bus schedules.

MIDDLESEX & ESSEX

Saturday, March 22nd, 2008, 11:30AM to 4PM, Lawrence Heritage State Park, 1 Jackson St. Lawrence, MA 01840

Contact: Jamie O'Keefe, 617-447-0210, <middlesex-info@green-rainbow.org> or <essex-info@green-rainbow.org>

Potluck lunch, beverages provided.

NORFOLK & SUFFOLK

Saturday, March 1st, 2008, 1:30PM to 4:30PM, Martin Luther King room, Brookline High School, 115 Greenough St., Brookline, MA 02445

Contact: Lawrence Fine, 617-277-7503, <norfolk-info@green-rainbow.org> or <suffolk-info@green-rainbow.org>

On-street parking at location convenient to Rte 9, Near the Brookline Hills MBTA stop on the Riverside (D) Green Line. Enjoy food, music, learning, and a workshop discussion led by Mel King of Boston.

WORCESTER

Saturday, March 1st, 2008, 1:30PM at the Worcester Public Library Main Branch, 3 Salem Square, Worcester, in the Saxe Room.

Contact: David Spanagel, 978-368-0075, <worchester-info@green-rainbow.org>

Note: Regions are counties except for Cape and Islands which is 3 counties, Barnstable, Dukes and Nantucket.

Choose Your Rep, continued from page 1

is the list of the conventions, which regions are at that convention, along with contact information, and the location, date, and time of the conventions where available. It is your energy and participation that will

help make this party the vital force for change we all so much need and want!

Please join us at at your convention and consider running for state committee representative and support our commitment to achieving diversity on GRP governing bodies.

Rainbow Coalition Caucus Organizes Alliance to Confront "Mortgage-Gate"

FIGHT FOR JUSTICE FOR INNOCENT HOME OWNERS AND TENANTS

By Chuck Turner

Late in 2007, the Rainbow Coalition Caucus of the Green-Rainbow Party—having recognized that the mortgage scam crisis was going to grow much worse and hurt more innocent homeowners and tenants—decided to take action.

In the spring, we had focused on gathering support for State Secretary William Galvin's position that there be a moratorium on foreclosures and mandatory review of foreclosures by state courts. However, Galvin's attempt to attach the initiative to the State budget failed.

When Bruce Marks, head of NACA (Neighborhood Assistance Corporation of America), said at a Boston City Council hearing that there was no need for a moratorium, Eva Kerr, Merlice, Grace

Ross, and City Councilor Chuck Turner (the Rainbow subcommittee) arranged to meet with him. For a tenant perspective, we invited Steve Meacham and Cheryl Lawrence of City Life/Vida Urbana, a tenant advocacy group in Boston.

Bruce's position was that a moratorium wasn't needed because the State Banking Commission had persuaded the financial institutions to agree to three to four month moratoriums on a case-by-case basis. The problem was that when the moratorium periods ended, nothing would change because the institutions hadn't adjusted the loans to make them affordable.

Bruce acknowledged that state legislation, requiring judicial review of foreclosures with strong guidelines for the review, would provide homeowners

What is a state committee?

By Daniel Melnechuk

There are a couple of answers to that question based on perspective. From the Massachusetts General Laws (MGL), a state committee is the governing body of a political party when that political party has state party status, as the Green-Rainbow Party (GRP) does at the present time. From the perspective of the GRP bylaws, it is one of the two governing bodies of our party (the other is the state convention) that can create and modify policy and platform, and in general decide what the party should do, whether Massachusetts says we have party status or not.

Who gets to be on a state committee?

From a MGL perspective, there are two ways to get on the state committee of a political party, elected and appointed. To be elected, any person who is registered to vote in that party who gets 50 valid signatures from your state senatorial district on nomination papers will have their name placed on the presidential primary ballot. The woman and the man that get the most votes from that senatorial district on primary day are elected to the state committee. You can also do a write in campaign but must get at least 50 votes to be considered in the running or to be elected.

All in all, that means there can be 80 state committee representatives elected at the presidential primaries. These representatives are proportional to population in the state. Then these state



committee representatives by MGL rules can appoint whom ever they want to the state committee.

Who gets to be on the GRP state committee?

The GRP, in the name of proportional representation and democracy, takes the MGL rules and adapts them for our use. First we allow for the 80 representatives elected at the primaries every four years. These representatives have terms of four years. This year, M.K. Merlice (above) and Daniel Melnechuk (above next column) will be on the presidential primary ballots to be elected in this manner.

Second, we elect representatives from each of 12 regions that we have

defined to be 11 of the counties in the state (Berkshire, Bristol, Essex, Franklin, Hampden, Hampshire, Middlesex, Norfolk, Plymouth, Suffolk and Worcester) with the 12th region made up of the three remaining counties of Barnstable, Dukes and Nantucket (Cape Cod and the Islands). These representatives are elected at regional conventions every two years. The number of representatives from each region is proportional to the number of registered Green-Rainbow voters in that region which brings in proportional representation to our state committee.

Each region must reserve a gender balanced number of seats. For example if a region has 7 seats, that region could elect



up to 4 women and 3 men, or 3 women and 4 men. We also allow for alternates from a region that can participate at meetings when a regular representative is not available, which allows a region to maintain its voice even if life gets in the way. Important to note is that these representatives to the state committee while elected by our regional conventions, are actually appointed to the state committee by the existing representatives.

Third, after the two sets of representatives are elected as described above, our bylaws require us to look at the diversity of our state committee representatives. The state committee can then appoint more representatives to improve the goal of having a state committee at least as diverse as the number of persons of color in the population of Massachusetts. Our bylaws also allow to create or remove diversity seats to, "... represent other under-represented groups, such as but not limited to, on the basis of gender, geography, class, and sexual orientation."

The state committee is the Party's policy-making body between annual State Conventions and meets at least four times a year (once a season) as a whole. State committee representatives are required to participate on at least one of the Party's eight working committees, which generally meet once a month, as well as other duties as prescribed by the bylaws.

Please join us at your convention and consider running for state committee representative and support our commitment to achieving diversity on GRP governing bodies. (See related article "Choose your representative to the GRP!")

the Rainbow, City Life/Vida Urbana, and NACA felt the need to move quickly and decided to initiate an action as the Massachusetts Alliance to Stop Predatory Lenders (later changed to Massachusetts Alliance Against Predatory Lending or MAAPL). In October, we held a press conference at the NACA office in Jamaica Plain to announce a boycott of Countrywide unless it restructured its mortgages within the incomes of the mortgage holders. Our position was that the Countrywide sub-prime mortgages were scam mortgages—that is, designed to fail from the beginning. The press conference was followed by demonstrations at Countrywide offices in Boston and Brookline, with scores of Countrywide

continued on page 3, see Mortgage Gate

NE Green & GRP at Oct 27

MOBILIZATION TO END THE OCCUPATION OF IRAQ

The Green-Rainbow Party endorsed the October 27th New England mobilization against the war, and GRP members organized a visible contingent of New England Green Party members, as well as a social gathering after the march to meet, greet, eat, and talk.

Mystic River Green-Rainbow Action wanted to help people stand out as Greens/Green-Rainbows, and made a variety of green flags, some with rainbow tassels, and provided markers so New England Greens could write out where they were from.

The table and materials gave Greens from across New England a sense of

camaraderie, and 700 copies of the Green-Rainbow Statement on the war were distributed to help distinguish us from the War Parties, and to put the Iraq War in a bigger context. A number of GRP members walked the crowds and made a pitch to join our Party and make it a vehicle for change.

After the march, folks gathered at the Beacon Hill Friends House for the social, where folk singer Tom Neilson moved them with his music. While the visibility and attendance could have been more impressive, the organizing opportunity of October 27th was well utilized, and many lessons were learned.



Membership Director Report

Our membership committee is off to a good start. We have merged our database, removed duplicates and updated addresses and phone numbers. It should be available via the web to members who request access. Contact <membership.director@green-rainbow.org> or call 617-447-0210 to find out how you can be granted access for your local organizing.

We held our first meeting and have started scheduling regular meetings. The next one is Saturday, February 16th in Waltham. Contact me at the addresses above if you plan to attend.

We started work on a community web site that members can use to discuss ideas, and create a shared Green-Rainbow

blog. It is still in its infancy, but we have high hopes for it. You can sign up at community.green-rainbow.org. Only party members will be allowed blog access at this time.

Finally, we are planning some exciting things for 2008 including updated materials, creating better support networks for women, people of color and youth members, at least one candidate training, improving member supported media and Get Out The Vote (GOTV) efforts for the 2008 campaigns. Contact me if you want to help.

peace and solidarity,
Jamie O'Keefe
Membership Director



Mortgage Gate, continued from page 2

mortgage holders participating, many of whom had shared their heartrending stories at the press conference.

These actions led to apparent victory. Newspapers reported that Countrywide made a commitment to work with NACA in restructuring foreclosed and troubled mortgages. (Bruce Marks was named Bostonian of the Year in a year-end Globe Magazine cover feature.) However, without the knowledge of the other Alliance members, Bruce had initiated negotiations with Countrywide and had kept the results secret. This led to a split in the Alliance; consequently, City Life/Vida Urbana and the Rainbow Coalition Caucus decided to build a coalition without NACA's participation.

As the existing Alliance members were parting ways, Nadine Cohen of Greater Boston Legal Services (GBLS) asked us to consider legislation she had developed to duplicate the legislatively mandated foreclosure moratorium of 1991. Meetings with Nadine led to an agreement to work together to reestablish MAAPL, having state legislation and education about the issues as its focus. We developed a piece of legislation that includes the following provisions: a six-month foreclosure moratorium, a commission to develop a plan for court foreclosure review, and tenant and resident homeowner protection

against eviction after a foreclosure.

In December, we organized a meeting with some 30 representatives of legal organizations, mortgage counseling agencies, civic groups, and tenant organizing groups. Initially we thought there might be resistance to the idea of forming a network. After the first two speakers expressed their disgust with the financial industry and the fact that the loans they are reviewing were designed to fail, it became clear there was an overwhelming sentiment to come together.

We then brainstormed approximately 22 goals which we loosely categorized as pre-foreclosure, post-foreclosure, and education of the public, homeowners, and tenants. We also agreed to have presentations at our next summit (January 18th at 10:00 at GBLS) on organizing, legislative action, education, and property maintenance after foreclosure. Four participants volunteered to lead the discussions in each area.

While the Alliance is initially focusing in the Greater Boston area, this is obviously a critically important issue for the Green-Rainbow Party statewide. We urge those who are outside of Boston and are interested in working on this issue in your part of the state, to please contact Merelice <merelice AT gmail.com>. Merelice can guide and update you as well as put you in touch with the subcommittee.

End the war on the planet and its people

BUILD PEACEFUL AND JUST ALTERNATIVES FOR OUR FUTURE

GRP statement on October 27 New England Mobilization against Iraq War.

End the war on the planet and its people

What brings us here today is not an isolated war, but a long history of U.S. war-making — at home and abroad, on people and the planet. From the control of the earth's resources to the control of sovereign nations, U.S. militarism has been a bipartisan pursuit.

The Democrats who took back Congress by promising they'd end the Iraq War refuse to cut off its funding, to rule out years of U.S. occupation, and to rule out waging war on Iran. Congress wages a meaningless "war on terror" to justify endless war and criminal abuses of power, establishing the USA PATRIOT ACT and a total-surveillance society.

U.S. military dominance in the Middle East is driven by the thirst for oil — the lifeblood of the growth economy and of military power. Bipartisan commitment to unlimited economic growth means unlimited war for control over nature's resources, for endless production and endless consumption.

Bipartisan economic policies favor private interests over the public good, and higher concentrations of wealth in fewer and fewer hands. As a result, they have served to drive our youth into the "poverty draft" or the "prison pipeline." We must end the political system built on plunder and exploitation if we are to ever truly "bring our troops home."

Build new institutions for justice and peace

The Green-Rainbow Party is a values-based party, committed to ecological wisdom, non-violence, grassroots democracy, social justice and equal opportunity. With an ecological view of our place on the planet, we recognize that peace is inseparable from justice, just as there is no separation between U.S. foreign policy and what happens to us at home.

Congress commits two-thirds of its discretionary spending to expanding the military-industrial complex — raising the military budget to over \$600 billion not including the cost of the Iraq and Afghanistan wars — while Katrina victims wait for the nation to act responsibly and compassionately. Such actions clearly perpetuate a system of injustice.

With this understanding, we are working to replace the violence of greed and power with a society founded on real family values — caring for all people with programs for living wage jobs and guaranteed incomes, affordable housing, quality education and healthcare, and access to healthy foods. We are working to build new institutions that can provide real security — where people's basic needs are met.

We are working to create a "green" and "rainbow" society based on justice and peace, on love and respect — for each other and for the earth and all its creatures.

Please join us!

GREEN-RAINBOW PARTY TO SEEK REPRESENTATION IN MASSACHUSETTS ANTI-WAR COALITIONS

Proposal passed at 11/17 State Committee meeting

Adoption of this proposal creates a subcommittee of the External Relations Committee who will identify anti-war coalitions that are organizing in Massachusetts. This subcommittee would identify any appropriate coalitions to join, as well as GRP members who would be interested in representing the GRP within specific coalitions.

Upon finding a minimum of two GRP members who are willing to represent the GRP within a coalition, the committee will seek AdCom approval of the representatives as well as the coalition, based upon the recommendation of the External Relations Committee. Representatives must submit reports to the External Relations Committee and AdCom on any relevant developments.

The representatives would be charged to focus attention within the coalition on the connections between war, racism, and the war at home. The goal is to build a movement for peace that is linked with the struggles for justice, democracy, and sustainability—not just against war. As an ecological party, we have a critical role to play in furthering the understanding of the connectedness of war, militarism, injustice, racism, economic exploitation, and environmental destruction.

The GRP mobilizes for Health Care Reform

By Steve Randall

The GRP has always had a clear stance on the need for a single-payer health care system. We have supported it in one form or another since our inception, always fighting the good fight. When it comes to the obvious need for such a system in opposition to aggressive big money interests in our for-profit system (dominated by private health insurance and drug companies) we may well take a few lines from Winston Churchill: “we shall fight on the landing grounds, we shall fight in the fields and in the streets, we shall fight in the hills; we shall never surrender.” Sadly, our efforts and those of many others have not, thus far, prevailed. We need to use additional tactics and to expand our efforts. Please read the recent statement on goals and tactics from the last state committee discussion of single-payer health care reform—which you will find here.

Perhaps not too surprisingly to the jaded eye, despite continuing GRP support—and of the majority in the country, regardless of party affiliation—corporate, Republican Party and much Democratic Party opposition to fundamental change has worked successfully against health care reform for over 60 years. The resulting social ills have been devastating. The numbers of people adversely impacted by our for-profit health care system run into the millions—making it difficult to visualize the scale and quality of the negative consequence, or to imagine why the multitude has not got what it wants. The GRP is looking at new strategies in support of single payer health care reform which may help to mobilize the majority.

First visualize the scale of our national problem and then be mindful of the GRP’s call to combine forces with Mass Care, the Boston based statewide campaign in support of the Massachusetts Health Care Trust act (S 703, H 1137). GRP members are also urged to join, wherever they are able, other local organizations dedicated to support of this legislation (e.g., the Western Mass. Single Payer Network, Franklin/Hampshire Health Care Coalition, the League of Women Voters, and Cape Care).

The Scale

47 Million (give or take) is generally considered a big number. Such figures (with long strings of zeros) are, indeed, difficult to visualize concretely. It is helpful to imagine, if you can, something like what

Bill Gates makes in two or three days, or the number of McDonald hamburgers sold globally each day.

In demographic terms, it is equal to the number of people without health insurance in the United States today. That’s roughly equivalent to the combined population of 25 states: OR, NV, ID, UT, AK, OK, WY, MT, NM, NE, MS, KS, IA, AR, ND, SD, WV, CT, RI, VT, NH, ME, DE, and HI. It accounts for about 18,000 annual deaths due to such lack of health insurance and a growing number of potential future deaths, since one out of every six Americans “lives” without such insurance.

Economically, it also accounts for half of all personal bankruptcies, while paying for employee health insurance benefits accounts for such corporate woes as the Ford Motor Company’s failure to turn a profit in the U.S. of A—yet another reason to globalize rather than to re-localize. Cities and towns face growing budget short falls and cut social and educational programs in ever more desperate attempts to meet the health insurance needs of their teachers and employees. The burden on businesses and towns is even more devastating for households. According to Families USA, 61,586,000 people are living in families spending more than 10% of household income on health care, with an average budget shortfall of 3,000 to 12,000 dollars for this expense. Government strains to keep the whole moribund system afloat with a mishmash of programs. The Federal government now spends as much or more on health related budget items as it does on the military—what is left for priorities like global warming and environmental decline?

Politically, one would think that 47 million unhappy voters without health insurance at all and 61 million unhappy voters with strained household budgets would immediately translate into a flurry of single-payer legislation—but no! Just the 47 million unsatisfied demands for health care insurance would seem to signal the dreaded market failure, according to conventional economic theory, with legions of reinvigorated New Dealers from the 1930s rising up from their graves and calling for “effective demand”—but this has not been so. Health insurance premiums continue to rise at 6.7 percent, well in excess of inflation, while the burden on working families continues to create more suffering.

Despite the fact that the U.S. spends twice as much on health care than other

industrial countries with single-payer systems, while our many health care dollars have produced a disappointing world health ranking of 37th (just above Slovenia), the majority of elected leaders seek conventional “market” solutions based on tried and repeatedly failed “for-profit” fundamentals. Everyone in Europe and Japan now lives longer and healthier than most Americans and they pay much less than we do for this result. Actually, Japan spends the least on health care among the industrial nations, yet has the longest average life span in the world.

So why are we unable to move forward toward both a more effective and affordable health care system? Why do we have a Democratic governor who insists on doing everything in his power to support Chapter 58—the program to mandate private health insurance even as premiums rise by

much, if at all, by public health statistics as by dividends, profit levels, and CEO compensation. The number of claims denied is a good health statistic for private insurance corporations. Death is more profitable than expensive rehabilitation and therapy.

The Kaiser Family Foundation has parsimoniously indicated the basic flaw in Chapter 58 by pointing out, with a simple graphical projection, that tying public subsidies to families based on the Federal poverty index has a built in cost containment flaw. Since incomes are rising at half the rate of private health insurance premiums, the cost to the public purse will very rapidly become unsustainable.

Furthermore the low tax on businesses hiring more than 12 employees—but not offering health insurance benefits—may encourage businesses with such benefits



Cochair Nat Fortune checks off the Health Care proposal as passed on the white board at the November 17th, 2007, state committee meeting in Amherst MA.

10 percent during the coming year?

The Patrick administration has gutted the state free care system in order to find the funds to subsidize private health insurance companies now looking for other ways, in the midst of our deepening crisis, to continue their drain on working households. We are now being told that state employees must pay ever higher percentages of rising premiums and why: solely for the health and well being of insurance. This is a Raw Deal, not a New Deal

The Failures of the MA Plan

Chapter 58 mandates the purchase of expensive policies and uses public money to subsidize the corporate quest for ever higher profits. This is a law designed by insurance companies and executives hoping to preserve their billions from the growing crisis caused by the inherent flaws in a for-profit system. Moreover, now reps and senators throughout the country, and (most saliently) the Democratic presidential candidates (save Kucinich) can have their cake and eat it too. All can publicly announce their progressive support for “universal” health care reform, while continuing to receive campaign support from the private health insurance industry. Throughout the nation, so-called reformers can point to Massachusetts as a model, a win-win for the status quo.

Private health insurance has a primary corporate objective which is not underwriting the cost of preventative health maintenance and illness. Like all corporations, success is measured not so

to drop their health plans and shift more burden onto public funding and working people. If the Connector authority cannot find insurance companies willing to offer affordable premiums, the state may accept high co-payments/deductibles or stripped down, bare bones insurance benefits. The implications for public health are not good.

GRP Shows the Way

As the only political party committed to single-payer healthcare, we have an opportunity to reach the 60 to 70 percent of Americans who, regardless of party affiliation, want a national healthcare system. We can quietly assemble people at the grassroots, and capture the attention of state legislators with growing numbers of local names and grassroots organizations with many members – all calling for the same thing.

While we may not yet be able to assemble the requisite numbers of voters within the GRP, there already exists a majority that wants single-payer health care reform in the United States and Massachusetts. There already exists a working piece of state legislation, the Massachusetts Health Care Trust. Our party can help the existing majority mobilize as a coalition in support of single payer and impress the establishment with the threat of voting multitudes. Forming alliances in pursuit of common goals, and demonstrating our determination to be of public service in regard to such goals, the Green-Rainbow Party can help lead the way forward.

GRP SINGLE-PAYER HEALTHCARE PROPOSAL

Passed at 11/17/07 State Committee Meeting

The Green-Rainbow Party reaffirms our commitment to single-payer health care reform that provides universal, quality, affordable coverage. The single payer system envisioned for Massachusetts would be analogous to the current Medicare system, where insurance is provided by government, but health care itself is provided by independent practitioners. Single payer health care can be viewed as Medicare that is extended to cover people of all ages.

The Green-Rainbow Party urges continued support for the passage of the Mass. Health Care Trust, which would bring a single payer system into being in Massachusetts.

The Green-Rainbow Party affirms that reform of health care financing must also be accompanied by health care reforms that allow for a more comprehensive, integral approach to health. The current emphasis on pharmacologic and technologic treatments must be expanded to include needed public health and preventive medicine practices – including a focus on nutrition; exercise; social supports; substance abuse prevention and treatment; prevention of toxic exposures in air, water, food, and consumer products; violence prevention; occupational safety; home and community-based care; holistic health care, culturally sensitive health care practices and delivery, and more. The spectrum of coverage must also be broadened to include mental health, eye and dental care. This kind of comprehensive approach to health care can prevent disease from taking root in the first place – and is worth its weight in gold for the savings of health, lives and dollars.

The Green-Rainbow Party Administrative Committee is hereby authorized to recognize a volunteer representative to the MassCare Coordinating Committee, the state advocacy group for single payer health care in Massachusetts. The delegate will report to the Platform Committee.

Party Urges Action on Climate Change and Peak Oil

by John Andrews

By any measure, the problems of climate change and “peak oil” (the increasing prices and supply disruptions as global oil production passes its peak) are going to reshape our lives. One respected international think tank warns that we could be facing “the breakdown of the most basic economic and operating structures of our society.” A group with conservative credentials has called climate change “the single most significant challenge confronting the United States - and, indeed, human civilization.” So it should be no surprise that in November the Green-Rainbow Party adopted a proposal calling for immediate and decisive action to reduce the impacts of global warming and protect our communities from the threats of the “peak oil” phenomenon. With this action, the party made a commitment “to promoting a just and peaceful transition to a sustainable, and equitable post-carbon economy.”

Only a few years ago, environmentalists were debating establishment politicians who doubted that global warming was real. The environmentalists seem to have won that argument. We have now moved on to the question of what we are going to do about the problem. And here another major battle is shaping up. Scientists tell us that time is short, and that decisive actions are needed to avoid climate catastrophe. But in the halls of power, foot-dragging and lip service seem to be more common than serious action. The few energy initiatives that have been passed seem to be more focused on doing favors for well-connected industries than on making real changes in our energy future. One example of this is the recent national energy bill that provides massive subsidies

for turning corn into ethanol—a so-called renewable fuel. Yet so much energy is consumed to produce corn ethanol that the climate impacts of the new industry may actually be negative. And analyses show that the recent Congressional energy bill will not actually reduce our emissions of greenhouse gasses—it will at best slow the growth.

Similar questions surround the energy bill being assembled on Beacon Hill. While some elements are truly needed, the bill also promotes coal gasification and trash incineration - two things that should not be part of a sustainable energy policy. The Green-Rainbow Party has a unique role to play in blowing the whistle when energy legislation is burdened with such questionable favors for well-connected lobbyists.

A closely related issue is “peak oil” Powering down from the oil peak will have profound impacts on our economy, and will pose stark economic justice issues.

The GRP position statement (available online) suggests that acting locally is important in addressing the global problems, asserting “Sustainable development at the community level is essential to ensure the vitality of our communities in a post-carbon future. Of particular importance are enterprises that move us toward local self-sufficiency for energy and food production.”

A fossil fuels subcommittee is being formed to address the issues of climate change and peak oil. Through the work of this subcommittee, the Green-Rainbow Party is expected to add a new, much-needed voice to the public debate on climate change and energy. GRP members who might be interested in participating in this work are urged to send their names to <jandrews166@gmail.com>.

KEEP INFORMED BY EMAIL

Join the Announcements email list to receive notices and information every two weeks. Subscribe at: <www.green-rainbow.org/mailman/listinfo/announcements>

Make a difference, continued from page 1

out. Choices are already narrowed.

Do you see anyone you could choose from among the faces allowed to appear on TV, assuming you want a candidate committed to replacing:

- An impoverishing minimum wage with an honest living wage?
- Unaffordable health care plans with comprehensive and affordable publicly funded health insurance?
- Predatory loans and foreclosures with support for truly affordable housing?
- Tax breaks for the wealthy with property tax relief and fair tax laws?
- Oil company giveaways with support for community-based renewable energy?

Where are the calls to stop fighting a war on Iraq based on lies, a war on our planet based on profiteering, a war on our own U.S. residents based on poverty and privatization, and a war on Katrina victims based on racism and warped priorities—and to do it NOW?

To find not one but half a dozen presidential candidates who support all of these ideas, you have to look to those seeking the Green Party presidential nomination.

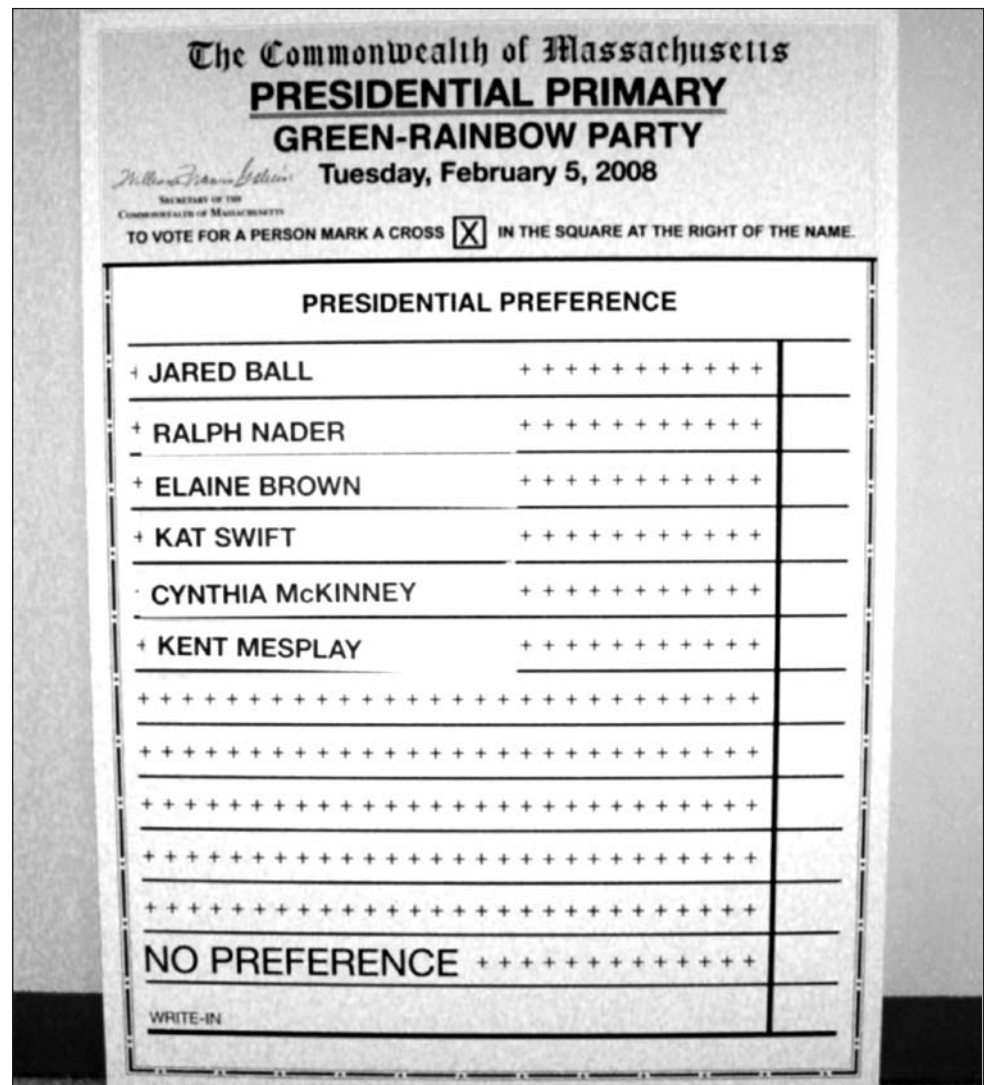
Appearing on the Green-Rainbow Party ballot for the Massachusetts presidential primary, in the order on the ballot, are Jared Ball, an African-American

professor and hip-hop scholar; consumer advocate Ralph Nader, the Green Party presidential nominee in 1996 and 2000, and an independent candidate in 2004; Elaine Brown, a former leader of the Black Panther Party; Kat Swift, an activist for publicly financed elections and open government, and former Campus Greens organizer; Cynthia McKinney, an African-American three-term former Democratic Party congresswoman; and Kent Mesplay, a Native-American environmental engineer, activist and 2004 candidate for the Green Party presidential nomination. (Since that deadline, Jared Ball has thrown his support to Cynthia McKinney, and Elaine Brown has withdrawn from the race, though both names remain on the ballot.)

You won't see, hear, or even read much about these candidates—the ones actually listening to what increasing numbers of us have to say. But if you want every candidate to take notice and listen to what is important to you, here is your chance to lift your voice and speak clearly by voting for what you really want.

You don't have to be registered Green-Rainbow to take a Green-Rainbow ballot. Every Massachusetts voter who is registered as Unenrolled (also known as “independent”) can vote in the Green-Rainbow Party presidential primary instead of the Democratic or Republican party primaries.

Make a difference this time around, and vote Green this February 5th.



Be a delegate to the 2008 National Convention

As the Massachusetts affiliate of the Green Party U.S., the Green-Rainbow Party will be sending thirty two delegates (and thirty two alternate delegates) to the 2008 Green Party National Nominating Convention (<www.greenconvention2008.com>) in Chicago, Illinois, July 10-13, 2008. Ours will be the fifth-largest delegation at the convention this year. We urge our members to apply to be delegates.

BECOMING A DELEGATE

There are two types of delegates:

- those pledged to a particular candidate,
- and those who are uncommitted to any candidate.

Anyone who desires to be a delegate for a particular candidate who is running in our state primary election should contact the candidate's campaign organization. Following the February primary, candidates are then required to present the Party with a list of the people they want as their delegates.

On behalf of the Party, the Candidate Development and Legal Committee (CDLC) is accepting the names of Party members who desire to serve as uncommitted delegates and alternate delegates. Those interested should state their interest in a letter to the CDLC by April 8. The letter must include the prospective delegate's name, address, phone number, email address if available, and a statement of up to 100 words describing his or her reasons for wanting to serve as a delegate. Letters may be emailed to <delegates@green-rainbow.org> or mailed to:

Green-Rainbow Party
Attn: CDLC
PO Box 440353
Somerville, MA 02144-0004

All delegates and alternate delegates must be registered to vote in the Green-Rainbow Party at the time of exiting the presidential primary or submitting the request to be a delegate, whichever is sooner. If not yet listed in the Party's copy of registered GRP voters, the prospective delegate must provide proof of Party enrollment.

The State Committee will select uncommitted delegates and alternate delegates by April 18 and notify delegates of their status promptly. Acceptance letters must then be returned by April 30.

A DIVERSE DELEGATION

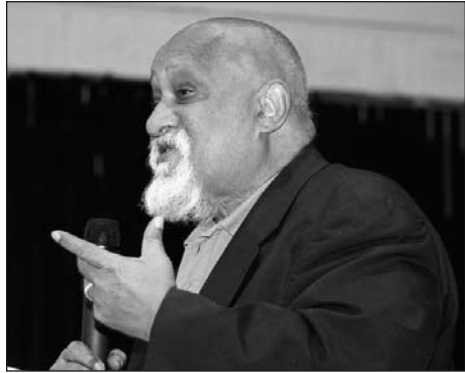
To promote a diversity of voices at the convention, the GRP has set the representation goals for its delegation. The goal is that our delegation consist of half women and half men. In addition to this goal, our further diversity goals are that the following groups represent the listed percentage:

- African American 11%;
- Latino 14%;
- Asian/Pacific/Native American 8%;
- and Gay/Lesbian/Bisexual/Transgender 14%.

Each goal is independent of the others and a delegate can count towards more than one diversity goal. Any registered GRP voter who belongs to one of these groups and wishes to be a delegate is encouraged to identify herself or himself as such.

Chuck Turner: Beyond electoral politics

While I am pleased to have won, I continue to be concerned about the fact that there is no city, state, or federal policy to address what I believe to be the underlying causes of our problem: 11,000 young people between 16 and 24 who are unemployed and out of work according to a survey by the US census. and the inability of the government to stop the flow of drugs into the community.



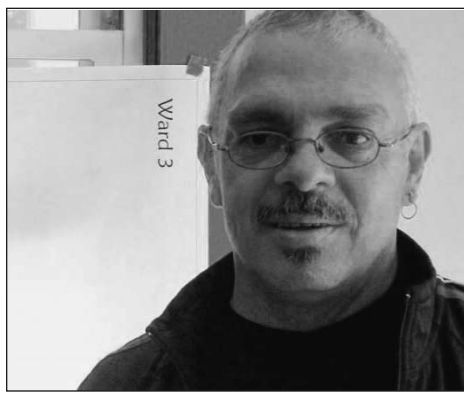
I am beginning a campaign to focus attention on the issue of our youth employment crisis. Had a hearing on the 1st of November where Neil Sullivan, the head of the Private Industry Council and Coty Doty, the Mayor's Jobs person, agreed that the only solution to our young unemployment problem is to have a massive federally financed public jobs program geared to the young unemployed.

It is clear to me that while we focus on the destruction of the earth through global warming; there is not an equal concern for the destruction of humanity through policies that promote unemployment. It is clear that the Republicrats are practicing a very subtle but very effective genocide strategy. To me this means that we need a strategy that goes far beyond electoral politics if we as a Party are to be relevant to people of color and working class whites in this country.

Rick Purcell: Future Green-Rainbow Candidate for Office

I had many good experiences during my 1st run for Public Office. People I met during my Campaign were very encouraging and thankful that I was running to represent them. I reached out to all of the constituents of Ward 3. People of Color, were very visible working on my Campaign. I learned so much about how to run a campaign, the do's and don'ts. It was one of the best learning experiences of my Life. I felt like the People of my Ward and of Holyoke are ignored far too often by the Elected Officials, so I felt it was obligation to be a True & Relentless Voice for all the Citizens of Ward 3. Even though I lost the election, I have had several Citizens ask me to run again. I also felt like I got nothing but heartfelt support from the Green Rainbow Party, both Financial and Moral, and I truly appreciate the Encouragement and Knowledge that was handed down to me from the Greens in Holyoke and in the

Commonwealth. Thanks a million times over. I will run again, and I will run to Win as a Green Rainbow Party Candidate. I



also feel obligated to share my experiences and encourage others to run locally. We all can be Activists (Citizens that are Active), but in order to really make a difference we need to be Elected to really and truthfully have the Peoples Voices Heard.

Local Candidates Needed

James O'Keefe, Candidate Development & Legal Committee

While it is important to run candidates in partisan elections such as those for president and state representative, our members are more likely to win when they run for local offices. It is in local offices that Green-Rainbows can start to implement our policies and make our government focus on economic justice and ecology.

The first half of every year is the time when towns hold their local elections. Unlike cities, which always hold their elections in November of odd numbered years, towns can choose any date to hold their elections. Most town elections are between March and May.

Towns elect a third of all possible positions every year. Town moderator, selectman, school committee member and treasurer are some of the high profile positions on the ballot. Most towns hold open meetings at which all voters in the town can participate. However, about thirty towns have elected town meetings which can be won by walking door to door and meeting your neighbors.

The following towns (most, not unexpectedly, in Western Mass.) gave 30% or more of the vote to our 2006 Secretary

of State candidate and may be receptive to local Green-Rainbow candidates:

- Wendell - 43.3%
- Lexington - 37.5% (elected town meeting)
- Monterey - 36.1%
- Leverett - 35.5%
- Shutesbury - 35.3%
- Amherst - 34.7% (elected town meeting)
- Pelham - 33.4%
- Williamsburg - 32.5%
- Conway - 31.4%
- Tolland - 31%
- Middlefield - 30.6%

If you live in a city, and are interested in running in 2009, now is the time to prepare! .

We urge all members who are considering running for town offices to contact us at <candidates@green-rainbow.org> or give us a call at 978-688-2068 so we can offer help. Help might include finding a mentor or providing supporter and voter lists. We hope to have a campaign training session early in the year.

Luc Schuster re-elected to Cambridge School Committee

Thanks to the hard work of friends, family, and neighbors we won a second term on the Cambridge School Committee, coming in fourth out of six elected candidates and moving up two spots from our first election. We actually came in third after #1 votes, just barely, but then moved down to fourth after the redistribution of some ballots.

In many ways this victory is even more satisfying than our first election two years ago. We had a record on which to run and we were no longer a fresh new face. We recognized this dynamic early on and ran just as hard this second time around. The fact that we moved up two spots is very satisfying.

While Green-Rainbow support for my campaign wouldn't have been sufficient for running a successful campaign, the weekly stand-outs by Mystic River Green-Rainbow Action (MRGRA) were a huge addition to everything else we did. It gave me piece of mind as a candidate that I had a regular event supporting me, and that was very important. Coverage in The Bridge and the distribution of that paper far and wide, along with being plugged in to key social networks in Cambridge, further helped spread the message of my campaign.

At the other end of the spectrum, the state party did not support my campaign, and I'm actually not sure what

the appropriate role of the state party should be. The Green-Rainbow Party could certainly help with platform design and policy expertise, and having party members from other cities and towns come over to Cambridge to volunteer would have been fantastic, as people power is the most important thing. Unfortunately, the time spent asking for volunteer support from outside the local sphere was not time well spent.



I look forward to a second term on the Cambridge School Committee, and toward building a stronger party that can help its local candidates for office in meaningful ways.

Luc Schuster, Cambridge School Committee

Low-voter turn-out and bad smear campaign scuttle Worcester city council seat

By Grace Ross

I want to thank everyone who supported the fabulous run we made for Worcester City Council in November.

While I did not make the City Council this time, we exemplified a different kind of campaign and a different kind of leadership. I learned a great deal about my home city that we are already putting to use and may enable some of us to play a key role in organizing and policy work for the betterment of municipalities across Massachusetts.

In the September preliminary, I placed sixth - high enough to make the City Council if it had been the final election. While impressive, it was a wake up call to establishment forces, setting in motion whispering campaigns and trumped up stories. It set me up as the target for sitting Councilors afraid for their seat. Worcester saw one of the most negative campaign seasons in decades, and those who campaigned negatively were not elected either.

The accusation never actually made in the news media but implied throughout was that I am anti-Jewish, which could not be further from the truth. Those who sought to hurt me kept a pro-active ally to the Jewish community and to Worcester out of office. Many behind the smear campaign are not Jewish and have never stood up for the Jewish community themselves.

The overarching problem, however, was the unpredicted low turn-out which made it an incumbents' race. Less privileged districts saw very low turn-out: a challenge for any of us who care about a better future for our communities. We must actively address the reasons for low turn

out including smear campaigns, which disproportionately depress the vote. Often much more progressive and populist, these lower-income, more people of color, more immigrant and more female constituencies are most negatively affected by the bad politicians that get elected in the absence of their votes. Their voices are more critical to creating the changes we all need. In the most disenfranchised segments of our communities, the experience in too many facets of people's lives is that no matter what they do they have no impact. Voting becomes another brick in the wall of false hopes and disempowerment. We need to change that.



Future work Worcester and Statewide Work

Worcester, like much of the Commonwealth, faces problems of increasing housing costs, increasing taxes in relation to income, loss of industry, and terrible budget problems since the state is the only political body that could tax less regressively. Worcester faces huge cuts in state and federal funding, and average people resent paying more in taxes (to

continued on page 7, Grace Ross

Local Elections, continued from page 1

who would have otherwise stayed home. Her run for Worcester city government and her numerous union endorsements demonstrated her commitment to grassroots democracy and digging in locally to build from the ground up.

Finally, in Holyoke's Ward 3, Rick Purcell's run for city council drew a strong base of support, earning 33 percent in his first attempt at local office. While Purcell was defeated by a 2-to-1 count, he attracted large numbers of volunteers to his campaign and secured an important union endorsement. His relentless advocacy for Holyoke gave voters a "true and relentless voice" in the election.

"Many members of the Green-Rainbow Party would like to focus more on local campaigns" noted party co-chair Merelice, of Brookline. "So we are particularly proud of the party members who were candidates in well-run grassroots campaigns for

municipal office last fall. The winners join a number of Green-Rainbow members who won office in Town elections in the spring."

"We are especially pleased by the ability of our candidates to reach across party lines and speak to the issues of every voter regardless of party affiliation," said party co-chair Nat Fortune, of Whately. "Most of the votes received by our candidates came from people who are not yet members of our party, and many of those were voting for Green-Rainbow candidates for the very first time."

Green-Rainbow co-chairs offered thanks and congratulations to all of last year's candidates. "We are proud of all our candidates: they offer deep insights, bold visions, and a tenacious dedication to their communities. The number of Green-Rainbows holding elected office will continue to grow. We are pleased by our success at the local level and are ready to govern at the state level as well."

Fundraise with ink cartridge recycling

Mid-December we received an inspiring email from GRP member Tom Flittie. He mentioned a little fundraising specialty he wanted to make available to GRP. It's nothing big, but it's steady and has the potential to be significant if enough people participate. Tom suggests we recycle inkjet cartridges to benefit the GRP.

An Amherst resident, Tom came up with the idea when he became fundraising chair of his daughter's elementary school eight years ago. "By organizing families and businesses to participate, we ultimately brought in over two thousand dollars annually."

Different recyclers offer different amounts depending on the cartridge, a few are worth nothing, but in general they will bring in \$1-\$3 each.


Although not intending to set up a full-fledged GRP recycling program, Tom is

offering his knowledge and connections to recycle whatever cartridges GRP members "get into his hands." The plan is for GRP members who wish to participate to save, collect, and pass on the empty cartridges to Tom, who will recycle them for cash, "100% of which will go into the GRP treasury."

How will the plan work? Collect as many cartridges as you can and deliver them to your state committee representative. At the first following meeting, your representative will pass the cartridges to a Hampshire or Franklin County colleague living near Amherst, who will get them to Tom. Tom prefers the cartridges not be mailed to him, to save overall costs. On hearing of the plan, GRP co-chair and Franklin County resident Nat Fortune agreed to be the initial go-between.

the green-rainbow's rainbow

the health of the rainbow is more than the parts
it's the whole of what's in our hearts
there is never an absence in one's mind
where there is love for all humankind
the task for all of us is to be true
to all in need in what we do
spreading the belief we can build a better way
we can make it happen with our actions each day
bringing out the best of me
can inspire others to want to be we



Mel King, August 2007

Grace Ross, continued from page 6

cover for the wealthy and corporations who continue to pay less) while receiving less services.

I rallied my supporters at our election night party, reminding them that even had I won, I still would have needed our team to work together to create the power on the ground to accomplish things. Without my elected leadership, that remains the case and I am working to continue to leverage my role to implement those wonderful plans and address the critical issues facing Worcester and Massachusetts, including:

- The sub-prime lending crisis,
- Municipal savings including \$3 million in savings for the school budget,
- Greening Worcester as a model and working to protect our riverways and improve our health

- Continuing to support local Latino and African American communities and leaders,
- Fighting for locally owned businesses and policies to assist them financially in the future,
- Working to continue to build labor power and decent job policies,
- More successfully networking, advertising and supporting Worcester's wonderful cultural diversity, events and activities,
- Working with others for CORI reform, protecting expiring use properties and working to institute universal design,
- Containing healthcare costs through covering everyone in one genuinely affordable system.

The work goes on. I am not going away and I hope you are not either. Change is ours if we grasp it!

Build the Green-Rainbow Party with your \$\$\$ and your time!

by Wanda Boeke, GRP Fundraising Director

According to the National Priorities Project, Massachusetts taxpayers paid \$12.9 billion in 2007 toward the Iraq occupation. The figure is staggering. Per capita, you and I spent \$2,015.63* last year to create inexcusable misery at gunpoint.

I'm sure we would agree that those \$12.9 billion would have gone a long way in reconstructing the ravaged Gulf Coast and bringing the Katrina diaspora home.

Our \$2,015.63 could also have been better spent here in Massachusetts providing over 20 thousand homes with renewable electricity, or building over 44 thousand affordable housing units, or providing 4.7 million children with health care or 1.5 million of them with Head Start places.

A typical Massachusetts CEO, reports Boston Magazine, makes 458 times more than the typical Bay State worker, 1.5 times the national average (a comforting 300 to 1). The state's minimum wage is now \$8 per hour, but you need to earn at least \$22.40 for a two-bedroom apartment. The cost of living in Boston is 240% the national average according to Rent.com.

These figures reflect the fact that from the White House and Congress down to our state legislature our political representatives are not inclined to improve the lives of the everyday people behind these figures.

Improving the lives of the people of Massachusetts is the explicit purpose of the Green-Rainbow Party. Our work is cut out for us on many fronts, and you can do a lot to help.

You can help especially during this presidential election year. The Green-Rainbow Party is working hard to increase awareness of our presidential candidates and their plans to end the Iraq occupation, cut military spending in half, dismantle bases and warheads, and ensure that our tax dollars are allocated in ways that reflect responsible priorities and bring tangible improvement to the lives of all, at home and abroad.

You can help beyond this election year to increase the profile of our statewide, regional, and municipal candidates so the public will start equating Green-Rainbow with genuine social, environmental, and fiscal responsibility, equitable spending, and new workable approaches to old problems.

You can help to stand beside low-

income residents in cities like Springfield, where the per capita income barely tops \$15,000 and where a shameful 23.1% of the population lives below the poverty line. And you can help to promote our support for small local farmers and sustainable practices. About 6,000 farmers and 5,000 farms remain in Massachusetts, with just 2% producing certified organic foods.

When, across the U.S., 30% of our natural resources have been squandered during the past 50 years, only 4% of our forests remain standing, 4 billion tons of toxic chemicals are dumped or burned with little accountability every year, 40% of our water is undrinkable, the Green-Rainbow Party and its sister parties across the country deserve your support as a timely and necessary political voice not just for everyday people, but for the earth that makes life possible at all.

Time is running out, while there are workable ideas in abundance to turn so much around.

Please take this opportunity to volunteer or donate now.

* Consider donating to the GRP the equivalent of 5% of the per capita Iraq occupation tax.

Sources: National Priorities Project, USDA, Boston Magazine, Rent.com, Western New England College, (Springfield Planning Department), GPUS 2004 platform, Tides Foundation & Funders Workgroup for Sustainable Production and Consumption.

DONATIONS (see form on Page 8)
Checks payable to:
Green-Rainbow Party Federal Fund

Mail checks to:
Attention: Treasurer
Green-Rainbow Party
P.O. Box 440353
Somerville, MA 02144-0004

Or online at:
<www.green-rainbow.org/contrib.html>

VOLUNTEERING
Membership, Diversity, and Volunteer Recruitment Committee, Jamie O'Keefe:
<Membership.Director@green-rainbow.org>. Or online at:
<www.green-rainbow.org/volunteer.html>

PLEASE BE A SUSTAINER OF THE GREEN-RAINBOW PARTY

Since you believe in the Party that works to

SUSTAIN...

Our planet...
People's health and economic well-being...
Fairness and equality...
And Peace in our world and our hearts...

...Please consider helping to sustain the Green-Rainbow Party.

Being a sustainer means giving a regular monthly donation. You can do that in one of three simple ways:

- go to <www.green-rainbow.org/contrib.html> to use your credit card
- use the form at the bottom of page 8 to sign up TODAY
- if you have online banking, set up a recurring payment there

JARED BALL

Withdrew his campaign in support of Cynthia McKinney

For more information: <www.jaredball.com>

RALPH NADER

Draft candidate for Green Party nomination

“Isn’t it interesting there’s a push to ban the desecration of the flag, but not the desecration of the Constitution?”

Background

Ralph Nader has been called one of America’s most effective social critics. He also has been called everything from Muckraker to Consumer Crusader to Public Defender. His documented criticism of government and industry has had widespread effect on public awareness and bureaucratic power. He is the “U.S.’s toughest customer” as Time magazine noted. His inspiration and example have galvanized a whole population of consumer advocates, citizen activists, and public interest lawyers who in turn have established their own organizations throughout the country.

In his career as consumer advocate he founded many organizations including the Center for Study of Responsive Law, the Public Interest Research Group (PIRG), the Center for Auto Safety, Public Citizen, Clean Water Action Project, the Disability Rights Center, the Pension Rights Center, the Project for Corporate Responsibility and The Multinational Monitor.

“Draft Nader” statement

Ralph Nader’s name recognition, media presence, organizational capacity, qualifications, and accomplishments nationally and locally make him the strongest Green candidate to retain ballot access for the Green-Rainbow Party with at least 3% of the statewide vote. Nader will spearhead an electoral insurgency against the Iraq war, global warming, and the corporate-sponsored assault on constitutional rights, unions, and job and pension security. Nader will push Medicare-style health care for all, affordable housing, efficient transportation, and renewable energy. In Massachusetts, Nader organized the Massachusetts PIRGs, Harvard Law Alumni Appleseed Foundation, and helped save Fenway Park and stop new nuclear power plants.

For more information: <www.draftnader.org>

ELAINE BROWN

Withdrew her campaign and resigned from Green Party

For more information: <www.elainebrown.org>

KAT SWIFT

“The youth will be our leaders one day.”

Background

Texas State Green Party co-chairman, progressive activist and former newspaper credit manager. Born in Louisiana on June 6, 1973, educated at Mount Holyoke College, she is just barely old enough to be eligible to serve as president if elected. swift ran for San Antonio City Council in 2007 (received 29.5 percent of the vote). She seeks to overhaul the U.S. voting system (advocates NOTA “none of the above” reform); would mandate a federal “living wage”; calls for International Criminal Court to try the current administration for war crimes; advocates social policies based on egalitarianism; and a moratorium on the use of the death penalty.

Statement

Yes, we youth will become your leaders, and may we do the job so all people will have what they need to be free and safe to pursue and have equal access to education, health care and democracy—dreams that began before my day. We need to create the educated populace that the owning class really would rather stay forever too busy or apathetic to bother trying to unseat their hold on power. My journey to find justice has led me to be a candidate to work towards creating such a world.

For more information: <www.bexargreens.org/katforprez>

CYNTHIA MCKINNEY

“I firmly believe that the crisis facing our country today is such that we now have to do some things we’ve never done before in order to have some things we’ve never had before.”

Background

Cynthia McKinney served 12 years in the United States Congress. She authored legislation that would have: eliminated federal subsidies for corporations taking jobs overseas; instituted a national livable

wage; repealed the Military Tribunals Act; eliminated the use of depleted uranium weapons; and impeached Bush, Cheney, and Rice. McKinney successfully extended Agent Orange benefits an additional 25 years and authorized the USDA disparity study that demonstrated government discrimination against minority farmers.

Statement

I am entering this process because I believe a successful Green Party campaign can do the following:

- Institutionalize the Green Party as a meaningful, effective, and permanent part of the United States’ political landscape;
- Popularize and grow the Green Party as an electoral/social vehicle to unite people across socio-economic lines that are often used to divide;
- Recognize and publicize the internationalization of problems facing average households across our nation;
- Inject radical common sense solutions into our national political debate; and
- Positively affect public policy to improve our quality of life with justice for all.

The Green Party has a platform that our country and our planet needs—from justice and peace at home and abroad, to bringing about universal access to health care; from enacting living wages and addressing climate change, to defending and expanding our civil rights, civil liberties, and more.

For more information: <www.runcynthiarun.org>

KENT MESPLAY

“I run to improve our political system, to help define, popularize and support the Green Party, to be an advocate for changes to our culture that will help us survive adversity”.

Background

Kent Mesplay has participated in the most Green Party presidential debates and forums (15), has been registered Green since 1995, is active at the national and local levels and is an advocate of emergency preparedness through sustainable design, ending the war in Iraq and reforming electoral politics in our country. He is also a “smog cop” enforcing air quality regulations and viewing global climate change as a public safety issue. Additionally, he is a trained emergency shelter manager for the county of San Diego.

Statement

I run to promote our basic security and independence through sustainable design. We must rapidly transform society for better use of water, food and energy. I want renewable energy, LEED building standards, local organic produce and improved health care.

Electoral reform is critical to inspire confidence in voting. I encourage Instant Runoff Voting (IRV) and other improvements to politics for fairer representation.

It’s important to end the war in Iraq and to take a leadership role in creating conditions that lead to diplomatic solutions. Through improved communication and verification, the younger generations of today can help end war.

For more information: <www.mesplay.org>

NO PREFERENCE

If you vote “No Preference,” you increase the number of uncommitted delegates the Green-Rainbow Party will send to the Green Party’s national convention. If you cannot decide which candidate you prefer, then vote “No Preference.” If you believe that February is too early to decide who our presidential candidate should be, then vote “No Preference.” If you believe in making allowance for other potential Green Party candidates, then vote “No Preference.” Delegates who are not committed to a candidate might increase the Party’s ability to find the best consensus decision at the convention.

PLEASE CONTRIBUTE TODAY

It takes \$3,000 to produce and mail this newsletter.

Help Lines, continued from page 1

immediately before you cast your ballot. Borrow someone’s mobile phone if you don’t have one. We will have volunteers available to help you with your voting rights problem.

We cannot help you after you have cast your ballot, so call our voting rights contact numbers when you encounter a problem voting:

- Western Mass: 413-997-2108 or 508-654-8020
- Worcester County: 508-654-8020
- Middlesex County: 781-883-7597
- Eastern Mass: 617-447-0210 or 508-654-8020

Check out <www.green-rainbow.org/votingrights> for an updated list of contact numbers.

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
 paying dues and am not registered to vote.

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.

First _____ Middle _____ Last _____

Address _____ Apt # _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____

CC#** _____ Exp _____

Signature _____ Date _____

Occupation*** _____ Employer*** _____

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.