



Wisconsin Green Party Newsletter

Spring 2022

WI Green Party 2022 Spring Gathering with Matthew Hoh to be held 4/9

The Wisconsin Green Party 2022 Spring Gathering state membership meeting will be held on Saturday April 9, 2022.

The theme of the gathering will be "No to War, Yes to Peace" and we're excited to welcome special guest speaker Matt Hoh, former Marine turned antiwar leader and 2022 Green Party candidate for US Senate in North Carolina.

We will also hear from candidates seeking WI Green Party endorsement in 2022 elections.



Due to the ongoing pandemic this gathering will be held virtually via Zoom. Members will be sent information about how to join the gathering online after they RSVP. Go to our website WisconsinGreenParty.org to RSVP to the WIGP 2022 Spring Gathering on Zoom.

This gathering will serve as the WIGP's biannual state membership meeting. All dues-paying WIGP members in good standing will be eligible to participate in decision-making and voting.

You can become a dues-paying member of the WIGP or renew your membership at <https://www.wisconsingreenparty.org/contribute>

Come with your ideas about how to grow the Green Party and support allied movements for peace, justice, democracy, and ecology!

Check our website for agenda updates and other news, and please join us for the 2022 WIGP Spring Gathering to help build the movement for people, planet, and peace over profit!

Wisconsin Greens seek 2022 candidates

The Wisconsin Green Party is currently seeking candidates for 2022 elections. The time is right to build a party for the people - but we need candidates to make it happen.

Recent polls show over 60% of US voters believe the Democratic and Republican parties are doing such a terrible job that a new major party is needed. The corporate parties have only made things worse: from the rising cost of living to persistent social injustice, endless war, and the worsening climate crisis.



The root of our problems is the monopoly on power by two parties that serve big money, not the people. The solution is to build our own party, a truly democratic party that refuses to take corporate money: the Green Party.

But political movements don't build themselves. We need candidates who are willing to stand up and carry the Green banner. Win or lose, every Green campaign plants the seeds of future victory, by bringing Green values into the mainstream, challenging establishment politicians to answer for their failures, and recruiting new members into the movement - including future candidates.

We also have the opportunity this year to win back our ballot status, after a 2020 cycle where the so-called Democratic Party launched an anti-democratic campaign to remove Green candidates from the ballot. That shows the establishment is scared of us - but we can't let it happen again.

Running more candidates at all levels will not only make a difference in our communities, it will also help build the critical mass we need to win higher office and turn our values of peace, justice, democracy and ecology into reality. It will also strengthen the growing movement to fix our broken electoral system with reforms like ranked-choice voting, proportional representation, and publicly financed elections.

If you're willing to consider running for office to build the movement for people, planet, and peace, the Wisconsin Greens want to talk with you! Contact us at info@wisconsingreenparty.org and we'll get in touch about the next steps.

Then mark your calendar for the WI Green Party 2022 Spring Gathering on Saturday April 9, where we'll have space for prospective candidates to introduce themselves. We look forward to hearing from you!

Green Party calls for ceasefire and diplomatic solution in Ukraine

The WI Green Party endorses the Green Party US statement on Ukraine and adds our voices to the call for diplomacy and an immediate cessation to military actions.

The United States and its political leadership should be striving to set a global example of a nation that embraces peace. Instead, political leadership seems content to serve the military-industrial complex and corporations who profit from a foreign policy that promotes endless warfare.

Massive amounts of our public money get funneled to the military largely without question, while critical needs such as climate action, student loan debt forgiveness, universal health care, and basic social safety net programs are denied in the name of fiscal conservatism. The question of “who’s going to pay for it?” routinely asked about any program that might help working class people in America seems to disappear whenever the Pentagon asks Congress for a blank check to export death and destruction across the globe.

Wisconsin Greens stand in solidarity with peace activists around the world who oppose military imperialism, calling for diplomacy rather than war.

Read the national party statement below. You may also find it online at https://www.gp.org/green_party_calls_for_ceasefire_and_diplomatic_solution_to_ukraine_crisis.

Greens stand in solidarity with the people of Ukraine and Russia who oppose the invasion

The Green Party is calling on the leaders of the United States, NATO and Russia to immediately initiate diplomatic talks together with Ukrainian leadership to resolve the crisis in Ukraine. On February 24, Russian President Vladimir Putin launched a ground-and-air invasion throughout Ukraine, including the capital city of Kyiv.

The Green Party condemns Russia’s military incursion, which is in violation of international law, regardless of real or perceived provocations. We also recognize the US government and Western powers are responsible for 30 years of provocations by failing to respect the promise to not expand NATO after the fall of the Berlin Wall in 1989. This reckless antagonism between world powers has led to war with the potential for massive destruction, environmental damage and loss of life.

“The threat of all-out nuclear war is hanging over everyone. The US and other countries should be working together to combat climate change instead of fighting over resources that gain profits for the multinational corporations,” said Rita Jacobs, member of the Green Party’s Peace Action Committee (GPAX). We call on the parties involved to pursue a diplomatic solution through the United Nations, in accordance with international law. A serious solution that prioritizes the lives of Ukrainian civilians will require an immediate ceasefire, withdrawal of Russian troops, a promise of no US troops or arms in Ukraine, and a commitment to diplomacy.”

“We reject the insipid demands of US and European politicians and media to pick one side or another,” said Matthew Hoh, Green Party candidate for US Senate in North Carolina. “Rather we choose another side—the people—and condemn the decades-long policies of US, NATO, Russian, and Ukrainian leaders that have led to this point.”

“Let’s not fool ourselves, this is also about control of resources and riches among world powers,” said Margaret Elisabeth, Green Party US National Co-Chair. “Putin wants to preserve Russia’s natural gas exports while the US wants control over Europe’s spigots, and Europe teeters between desire for cheap and available gas and the need to move away from fossil fuel energy sources. Fossil-fuel addiction is so intense that superpowers are still willing to go to war over it instead of kicking the habit to save the planet. We need a global Green New Deal to move away as quickly as possible from fossil-fuel addiction.”

Green Party US declares solidarity with Russians who oppose the invasion, often at great personal cost, and joins peace activists in Russia, Ukraine and around the world in demanding a negotiated solution.

WIGP IT Committee report

Your Green Party IT Committee has some exciting changes in the works this year!

The IT Committee performs a wide range of tasks, including:

- managing the party’s website, member database and other technological assets
- providing training and tech support for various programs, software, and technology
- Maintain and manage shared documents, login information, and regular backups of data

To achieve these goals, we coordinate with other committees, the national party, and other entities as needed.

In January 2022, the IT Committee selected Sam Chance and Melissa Minkoff as its co-chairs. In addition to continuing our usual maintenance work, the committee has been helping to plan the WIGP Spring Gathering coming up in April.

We are also working on freshening up our website with a new look and updated content. We hope to launch the new design later this year.

We are excited for the new updates and to continue our work to maintain our party’s technological resources and cultivate a robust digital presence for our members and friends who wish to learn more about the WI Green Party. Thank you for your support!

Four Lakes Green Party Chapter Report

The Four Lakes Green Party Chapter has been working to address and advocate for several issues that are important to Dane County residents.

PFAS: Clean water is an essential right for both humans and animals. In the Four Lakes Chapter, we have been working to advocate for higher standards to protect this essential resource. This includes calling for increased regulations in regards to the amounts of perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substance (PFAS) contamination in our waterways, groundwater, soil, and municipal wells. Introduced in the 1950s, PFAS consist of a wide range of human-made chemicals that have been used in industry and consumer products. Often dubbed “forever chemicals,” PFAS have become more widespread in our environment in recent decades. They are responsible for a variety of serious environmental and health issues, even in trace amounts.

Learn more about PFAS at: <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/chemical/pfas.htm>.

F-35s: The Four Lakes Green Party continues to advocate against the current plan’s to house 18 F-35 fighter jets at Madison’s Truax Field. These weapons of war create a host of issues that reduce the quality of life for humans and animals who live in the area. In addition to water and soil contamination and air pollutants, F-35s produce unhealthy levels of noise that have numerous physical and mental health consequences for people who live around or near the airport and flight paths. The Four Lakes chapter continues to oppose the presence of F-35s in Madison.

You may learn more at: <https://www.safeskiescleanwaterwi.org/>

Dane County Jail expansion: Four Lakes chapter members have also been advocating against the Dane County Jail expansion project. This project was already a gigantic investment in mass incarceration. Dane County officials recently voted to expand that spending by an additional \$16 million, bringing the total cost of the project to \$164 million. Four Lakes Greens worked with the Decarcerate Dane coalition to send messages to the Dane County Board, requesting that officials seek meaningful alternatives to mass incarceration. We continue to call for an approach that utilizes restorative justice measures. Care not cages!

Anti-War

The Four Lakes Greens joined with CODEPINK, Veterans for Peace, Progressive Dane, Madison Democratic Socialists of America, Safe Skies Clean Water Wisconsin, No F-35 Action Faction, International Marxist Tendency Madison, and other antiwar allies to call for peace in Ukraine. Rallies at the capitol on February 5th and March 6th called for diplomacy and demonstrated solidarity for the people of Ukraine. We continue to call for an end to military imperialism and stand in solidarity with working class people.

Wanted: Your Opinion!

We are seeking your input! The Wisconsin Green Party is currently crafting an online issues survey in order to get an idea of which issues are most important to Wisconsin Greens. With your input, the party can more effectively coordinate our actions to advocate for the issues that matter most to you.

The survey will be sent via email later this spring.

Help us set our party's agenda as we move forward! Keep in touch for more information. We appreciate your continued support.

Help grow the WI Greens: volunteer for a WIGP Committee!

In addition to the Coordinating Council, the WI Green Party has 7 standing committees where we do the work of the party: Communications, Dispute Resolution, Elections, Finance, Information Technology, Membership Outreach, and Platform and Policy. If you want to help grow the Green Party and feel you can help with any of these areas, we want to hear from you! Go to <https://www.wisconsingreenparty.org/committees> to learn more about our committees and submit a statement of interest. Dues-paying WIGP members in good standing can apply to join our state committees (as well as Green Party US committees), and applications will be considered by the Coordinating Council.

Thank you for all you do to help grow the party for people, planet, and peace over profit!

