



Wisconsin Green Party Newsletter

Spring 2023

WI Green Party 2023 Spring Gathering May 20: Housing is a Human Right

The Wisconsin Green Party will hold our 2023 Spring Gathering state membership meeting on Saturday May 20, 2023.

The theme of this gathering will be "Housing is a human right" and we will have discussions on the critical issue of housing and its many dimensions, including affordability, sustainability, homelessness, and more.



This gathering will be held virtually via Zoom. Members will be sent information about how to join the gathering online after they RSVP on the WIGP website at <https://www.wisconsinsegreenparty.org/springgathering2023>.

As a WIGP membership meeting, all dues-paying WIGP members in good standing will be eligible to participate. You can become a dues-paying member of the WIGP or renew your membership at <https://www.wisconsinsegreenparty.org/contribute>

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

Check the event page for agenda updates and other news.

We will be sending emails to members with updates, and making announcements on our [Facebook page](#) and [Twitter account](#).

Please join us for the 2023 WIGP Spring Gathering and help build the movement for people, planet, and peace over profit!

Green Candidates, Electeds to Join Discussion on Housing as a Human Right at WIGP Spring Gathering

The Wisconsin Green Party Spring Gathering will feature a special discussion on Housing as a Human Right with a number of Green-endorsed candidates and elected officials.

Housing is a basic human need, but concerns about housing have risen to the top of many people's minds as converging economic, ecological and social crises have exposed the failures of capitalism to provide good, affordable and sustainable housing for all. Housing prices have been skyrocketing for both renters and homebuyers. Homelessness and housing insecurity have risen with hard economic times. Historically oppressed and marginalized communities, who have always faced additional obstacles to housing access, have been hardest hit. Meanwhile, the accelerating climate crisis has made it necessary that we create systems of housing and transportation that are more sustainable.

What can we do to realize a Green vision of housing as a human right, especially at the local and state levels?

Madison Common Council members John W. Duncan, Marsha Rummel, and Juliana Bennett will be joining the discussion, as well as Shorewood Trustee candidate Sam Harshner. Other Green-endorsed candidates and elected officials will be added to the event page on wiggp.org as they confirm.

Please join us at the WI Green Party Spring Gathering for what's sure to be a stimulating conversation on a critical issue!

CELEBRATING MAY DAY: STANDING WITH WORKERS AND STRIVING FOR A GREENER WISCONSIN

This International Workers' Day, we at the Wisconsin Green Party join hands with workers all over our state, our country, and the world. May Day is a time to remember the incredible struggles and victories of the labor movement, and it's also a reminder of how important it is to

keep fighting for workers' rights and economic justice. As we honor the courage and perseverance of workers, we're also reminded of the pressing need to move towards a sustainable, fair, and environmentally conscious economy that benefits everyone.

The Wisconsin Green Party is dedicated to supporting workers' rights and pushing for policies that guarantee fair wages, safe working conditions, and the right to unionize. We believe that a fair and sustainable economy should focus on the well-being of people and the planet, not on corporate profits.

In the spirit of May Day, we're calling for a fair transition to a green economy that creates new opportunities for workers while tackling the urgent environmental issues we face today. We imagine a future in which green jobs and renewable energy projects promote economic stability while protecting nature; the source of all life which forms the foundation for human existence.

Our plan for a fair transition includes:

1. Investing in Green Infrastructure: Let's back the development of renewable energy, public transportation, and energy-efficient housing projects that create well-paying jobs and help us reduce our dependence on fossil fuels.
2. Promoting Worker-Owned Cooperatives: We want to encourage worker-owned cooperatives, giving workers more control over their work, fair wages, and an equal share of profits.
3. Supporting Unions and Workers' Rights: We're committed to protecting the right to unionize and collectively bargain, ensuring that workers have a voice in their workplace and the power to negotiate fair wages, benefits, and working conditions.
4. Re-skilling and Education: We'll invest in re-skilling and education programs to help workers gain the skills and training they need to transition to green jobs and thrive in a sustainable economy.
5. Rethinking Work and its Purpose: It's time to think about redefining work and what it really means. We need to question the need for unfulfilling and non-essential jobs. Let's focus on reducing working hours and creating meaningful, fulfilling work that contributes to the well-being of society and the environment, instead of just keeping people busy.
6. Prioritizing Environmental Justice: We must address the unequal impact of environmental damage and climate change on marginalized communities, making sure that the benefits of a green economy are shared fairly among all Wisconsinites.

As we celebrate May Day, let's renew our commitment to the ongoing struggle for workers' rights, economic justice, and a sustainable future. We invite you to join the Wisconsin Green Party as we work together to support workers and protect our planet, building a better tomorrow for everyone.

WI Greens Call Upon Elected Officials to Act and Stop Line 5

By Jo' Nathan Z.B. Kingfisher - originally published April 11, 2023

A record snow flood melt season has begun this week in northern Wisconsin. With this flooding comes the possibility of damage to Enbridge's Line 5 petro-pipeline. Already exposed and damaged, Line 5 is extra dangerous and threatens catastrophic failure with this record snow melt flood.

Owned by Enbridge, a Canadian energy company, Line 5 carries millions of gallons of crude oil and natural gas liquids through northern Wisconsin. Originally constructed in 1953, the Line 5 pipeline has already aged years past its designed lifespan while fueling a human-caused climate crisis. The deterioration of Line 5 poses a continuous threat to vast stretches of Wisconsin's natural areas, freshwater sources (rivers, lakes, streams, and wetlands), farmlands, and tribal lands along the pipeline's route.

We are asking Wisconsin Greens to draw attention to this urgent threat to our environment and petition our legislators to take swift and decisive action before disaster occurs. Please contact the Wisconsin governor to make a citizen complaint against Enbridge, Line 5 and put the emergency brakes on the fossil fuel flow before flooding and age break the pipeline wide open.

To contact Governor Evers, you may call (608) 266-1212 (Madison office) or (414) 227-4344 (Milwaukee office). For other ways to contact Governor Evers, visit <https://evers.wi.gov/pages/connect.aspx>.

We also ask that you contact your local elected officials and ask them to take action as well. To find information about your elected officials, including contact information, please visit <https://myvote.wi.gov/en-us/My-Elected-Officials> and enter your address.

Wisconsinites and other living beings in our state depend upon and deserve access to safe, clean, drinkable water. Our friends, loved ones, and neighbors in northern Wisconsin don't want to drink pollutants, poison, and cancer. Oil pipeline failures cause immense harm to waterways, local ecologies, plants, and wildlife. Please contact your elected representatives and ask them to act now to stop the environmental devastation caused and threatened by Line 5 and Enbridge.

Four Lakes Green Party Spring 2023 Report

By Melissa Minkoff

On March 19, Four Lakes Chapter members participated in a demonstration at the State Capitol with members of Veterans for Peace, World Beyond War, and the Party of Socialism and Liberation (PSL) - Madison to rally for peace. This demonstration was part of the ANSWER coalition's weekend of action to observe the 20th anniversary of the U.S.'s invasion of Iraq. The demonstration called for an end to the war in Ukraine, the abolition of the U.S. and NATO war machines, and a demand to reverse the decision to house F-35 jets at Madison's Truax Field.

On April 8, Four Lakes Chapter members joined the Madison Chapter of World Beyond War in a demonstration at Garver Feed Mill to protest the arrival of the F-35 fighter jets to be housed at Truax Field. These weapons of war threaten our city with deafening noise, cancer-causing pollution, and increased CO2 emissions. The Four Lakes Chapter continues to resist this disastrous top-down decision and insists that our community should not be turned into a sacrifice zone for the military-industrial complex.

This spring, five candidates endorsed by the Four Lakes chapter were successfully elected to the Madison City Council. The Four Lakes Greens extend their congratulations to John W. Duncan (District 1), Juliana Bennett (District 2), Marsha Rummel (District 6), MGR Govindarajan (District 8), and Nikki Conklin (District 9). These candidates share a common background of community engagement and activism. They also align with Green Party values on vital issues such as affordable housing, environmental stewardship, social equity, and more. The Four Lakes Chapter also extends our congratulations to Michelle Ellinger Linley, Green-endorsed candidate for District 18. Though she did not win her election, Michelle ran an energetic and ambitious campaign, knocking on doors throughout her district.

The Wisconsin Green Party has a decades-long track record of helping elect some of the most progressive local officials in the country. Local elections in Madison are among the few elections in the United States where community organizers running grassroots campaigns can compete with candidates backed by big money corporate interests and political bosses. Together we've shown that people-powered campaigns can take on big money and win.

You can get involved in actions like these, and more! The Four Lakes Chapter meets on the first Wednesday of each month at 7:00 PM. Meetings are currently conducted online (over Zoom).

MILWAUKEE GREENS BACK CANDIDATES, FIGHT FOR JUSTICE

By Mike McCallister

This spring, Greater Milwaukee Greens endorsed two strong candidates for local office.

Missy Zombor was elected to the Milwaukee School Board's only citywide seat. Missy is on staff with the educational activist journal Rethinking Schools, after a stint with the Milwaukee Teachers union.

Sam Harshner fell short in his run for Shorewood Village Trustee in the northeast corner of Milwaukee County. He teaches at Marquette University and is a leader in union fights for faculty and grad students there.

Activist struggles

Protest movements are springing back to life in Milwaukee! Recently,

Greens have participated in:

- * Multiple antiwar actions, including events marking the 20th anniversary of the US invasion of Iraq and 20 years of the weekly Stand for Peace actions on street corners around Milwaukee County.
- * A commemoration of the March 1854 rescue of Joshua Glover by Milwaukee abolitionists. Glover had escaped his enslavement, but was arrested under the terms of the Fugitive Slave Act of 1850. Placed in the the Milwaukee County Jail, some 5000 Milwaukeeans broke Glover out of jail and got him back on the Underground Railroad. The commemoration was co-sponsored by the Abolition working group of Milwaukee Democratic Socialists of America and GMGP.
- * The launch of the Power to the People campaign to demand that the City of Milwaukee buy WE Energies and set up a municipal or co-operative power company. The campaign has so far collected nearly 2000 signatures in support of the plan. See www.powertothepeoplemke.org for more information.

We need your help!

There's more to be done in building movements, finding candidates, and making GMGP a more vital force in the politics of southeastern Wisconsin. We meet monthly, both in-person and online: Upcoming meetings are:

May 6 Tippecanoe Library
June 3 Bay View Library
July 8 TBA

Subscribe to the GMGP-Discuss Google Group to keep up with us!
send an email to gmgp-discussion+subscribe@googlegroups.com.

WIGP Committee Reports

Communications Committee:

The Communications Committee is working on a number of projects, including publishing more frequent statements from the WIGP on current events, updating the look and content of our digital presence, using our various digital tools and channels to more effectively promote our local and state meetings, and collaborating with the Membership Outreach Committee to update our promotional and informational materials for recruitment and member engagement.

IT Committee:

The Wisconsin Green Party IT Committee performed maintenance of the party's NationBuilder membership database prior to the annual subscription renewal. This process involved the removal of user profiles which had no recorded account activity, and/or had no usable user information. The Membership database size was decreased from 18234 to 5654 profiles, which decreased the annual renewal cost by \$672.00. That's a savings of roughly 50%!

Membership Outreach Committee:

The Membership Outreach Committee has started work on a number of projects, including updating our membership tracking system to improve recruitment and retention of members, initiating regular outreach to lapsing members to renew their dues, and updating materials for membership outreach including brochures, membership forms, outreach letters, organizing resources, and other materials for recruitment and engagement.

Proposed bylaws changes - Spring 2023

The Wisconsin Green Party is proposing changes to its bylaws to ensure that all members can participate in decision-making processes, even if they cannot attend meetings due to work, family, or health reasons. By allowing online voting, the party hopes to make decision-making more inclusive and diverse, ensuring that all members' voices and perspectives are heard and valued. These changes aim to create a more democratic and accessible culture within the party, aligning with its core values of social justice and grassroots democracy.

These proposed bylaws changes will be up for discussion at the 2023 Spring Gathering on May 20, after which all members in good standing will be able to vote on them.

WIGP Bylaws 2.7 currently reads:

Section 7. Decision Making.

Decisions made at Membership meetings and Coordinating Council meetings shall be reached by a facilitated consensus process. The group will attempt in all cases to achieve consensus. In the case that consensus cannot be reached in the group, any member in good standing may request a vote. The group then decides with a simple majority of members present whether or not to go to a 60% majority in decision-making. In order to pass, a proposal must receive a 60% majority, not counting abstaining votes.

Elections at Membership meetings shall be conducted using Ranked Choice Voting, with members allowed to choose a “none of the above” option which is binding if it receives a majority.

Update to read:

Section 7. Decision Making.

Decisions made at Membership meetings shall be considered advisory, and subject to ratification by online voting by the full membership of the party. Any matter that was presented for a vote at the meeting may be subject to a vote by the full membership of the party, and the results shall be binding if at least twenty percent of the voting members participate in the vote. In order to pass, a proposal must receive a 60% majority, not counting abstaining votes. The online voting period shall be open for at least seven days after the meeting, and shall be conducted in a manner that ensures the security and integrity of the voting process.

Elections shall be conducted using Ranked Choice Voting, with members allowed to choose a “none of the above” option which is binding if it receives a majority.

WIGP Bylaws 2.8 currently reads:

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

Update to read:

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

In addition, any member of the Wisconsin Green Party may be removed by online vote by the full membership of the party. Notice of such a proposed removal must be sent out at least seven days prior to the online voting period, and the vote shall be conducted in a manner that ensures the security and integrity of the voting process. The results shall be binding if at least twenty percent of the voting members participate in the vote. In order to pass, a proposal must receive a 60% majority, not counting abstaining votes. The online voting period shall be open for at least seven days, and the Member in question shall receive a notice of the vote and an opportunity to respond before the voting period begins. The process shall be initiated when requests have been received from at least fifteen percent of members in good standing.

WIGP Bylaws 3.8 Currently reads:

Section 8. Removal.

Any Officer or Member of the Coordinating Council may be removed, by decision of other Members of the Council, for gross misconduct or violation of the adopted Key Values or code of conduct adopted by the Party. Officers or Members will be considered resigned from office by giving notice to other Coordinating Council Members of their resignation or after failing to perform their clearly defined duties for a period of three months. The Officer or Member in question shall receive a notice, and a hearing if requested. In addition, any Officer or Member of the Coordinating Council may be removed at a Membership meeting by decision of the Members present. Notice of such a proposed removal must be sent out prior to the meeting where the removal is to be proposed.

Update to read:

Section 8. Removal.

Any officer or member of the Coordinating Council may be removed, by decision of other Members of the Council, for gross misconduct or violation of the adopted Key Values or code of conduct adopted by the Party. Officers or Members will be considered resigned from office by giving notice to other Coordinating Council Members of their resignation or after failing to perform their clearly defined duties for a period of three months. The Officer or Member in question shall receive a notice, and a hearing if requested.

In addition, any Officer or Member of the Coordinating Council may be removed by online vote by the full membership of the party. Notice of such a proposed removal must be sent out at least seven days prior to the online voting period, and the vote shall be conducted in a manner that ensures the security and integrity of the voting process. The results shall be binding if at least twenty percent of the voting members participate in the vote. In order to pass, a proposal must receive a 60% majority, not counting abstaining votes. The online voting period shall be open for at least seven days, and the member in question shall receive a notice of the vote and an opportunity to respond before the voting period begins. The process shall be initiated when requests have been received from at least fifteen percent of members in good standing.

WIGP Bylaws 9.3 reads:

Section 3. Removal of Candidates and Elected Officials.

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

Update to read:

Section 3. Removal of Candidates and Elected Officials.

Any elected official who has run for office as a candidate with the endorsement of the Wisconsin Green Party may be removed from Membership in the organization, and any endorsement of a candidate may be revoked, for gross misconduct or violation of the adopted Key Values, Platform, or code of conduct adopted by the Party, by decision of the full membership of the party. Notice of such a proposed removal or revocation must be sent out at least seven days prior to the online voting period, and the vote shall be conducted in a manner that ensures the security and integrity of the voting process. The results shall be binding if at least twenty percent of the voting members participate in the vote. In order to pass, a proposal must receive a 60% majority, not counting abstaining votes. The candidate or elected official in question shall receive a notice of the vote and an opportunity to respond before the voting period begins, and a hearing if requested. The process shall be initiated when requests have been received from at least fifteen percent of members in good standing.

WIGP Bylaws 10.2 currently reads:

Section 2. Removal.

Any Member of the Wisconsin Green Party who violates Article 10, Section 1, above, may be removed from Membership by decision of the Membership at a Membership meeting. Prior notice of such a proposed removal must be sent out prior to the meeting where the removal is to be proposed.

Update to read:

Section 2. Removal.

Any Member of the Wisconsin Green Party who violates Article 10, Section 1, above, may be removed from Membership by decision of the full membership of the party. Prior notice of such a proposed removal must be sent out at least seven days prior to the online voting period, and the vote shall be conducted in a manner that ensures the security and integrity of the voting process. The results shall be binding if at least twenty percent of the voting members participate in the vote. In order to pass, a proposal must receive a 60% majority, not counting abstaining votes. The Member in question shall receive a notice of the vote and an opportunity to respond before the voting period begins, and a hearing if requested. The process shall be initiated when requests have been received from at least fifteen percent of members in good standing.

Wanted: Your Opinion!

We are seeking your input! The Wisconsin Green Party recently sent an online issues survey to members 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.

Help us set our party's agenda as we move forward! If you are having trouble finding your survey and would like it to be resent, please let us know. We appreciate your continued support.

Help grow the WI Green Party: 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.wisconsinngreenparty.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!