

Vignette from the March to Abolish Poverty

A homeless man, who never spoke publicly before, stood shaking from fear at the public speak-out in Brockton last year and said, “I have made a lot of bad choices in my life, but in this moment I realize that there were only bad choices to choose from.” With this insight, he shifted from self-blaming hopelessness to a systemic understanding because of the opening the March created.

Green-Rainbow co-initiates March to Abolish Poverty

March to be held June 17 – July 4, 2005



By Lisa Richards

Join us in our second anti-poverty march across low-income Massachusetts. With the recession, budget cuts and the unwillingness of most elected officials to vote for progressive taxes, poverty in Massachusetts continues to worsen beyond our imagination. This is a moral issue; we all need to take a stand. This is a critical time for public education on issues the major

parties refuse to address. The voices and struggles of the families and individuals attempting to survive are not being heard.

Our historic March to Abolish Poverty this past spring challenged low-income people and the public to actually embrace the idea of abolishing poverty completely in our life

time. We who participated remembered that it was once said to be impossible to abolish slavery.

In 14 days, the 2004 March reached hundreds in 25 of the lowest income Massachusetts communities. We lit fires where hopelessness had become a way of life for many. We held speak outs, marches, vigils, meals, hearings, rallies—33 events

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News

Spring 2005

Green-Rainbow Convention June 4th and 5th at Camp Middlesex in Ashby

Registration form due May 20th to reserve day care and food (see page 8)

By Anne Donahue

On Saturday and Sunday, June 4th and 5th, the Green-Rainbow Party is holding its annual Convention at Camp Middlesex, 1031 Erickson Road, Ashby, MA. Camp Middlesex is a 4-H camp with lots of open space, lovely setting and a short distance from Willard Brook State Park. The website is [www.campmiddlesex.com](http://www.campmiddlesex.com).

The 2005 convention committee is proposing something new and unique this year. In keeping with our party’s pledge to Abolish Poverty, we are planning to have this convention be as inexpensive as possible for those attending. The committee chose the “camping convention” venue this year to bring new people in and to showcase our party and its values.

The more we charge, or make people feel obligated to pay, the more we fail in our main goal of inclusion. We will, of course, ask for donations at the convention from any who are able to do so, and if we did our job correctly, we believe that

folks will be willing to financially help the Green-Rainbow Party. We encourage committee chairs to bring this message to members and to others who attend their meetings. We want new faces from all walks of life. If you know friends, relatives, other activists please invite them.

We will offer free food and free childcare. We will be serving a continental breakfast, lunch and dinner on Saturday and a continental breakfast and lunch on Sunday. Vegetarian meals will be offered also. **Please complete the registration form so we will know how much food to prepare and how many childcare providers we will need. Please return the form by May 20, 2005.**

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Dan Kontoff in Special Election



David Rolde

Dan The Bagelman Kontoff  
“feeding the poor in Boston since 1989”

Dan Kontoff ran in early April as the Green-Rainbow Party candidate for State Representative in the gerrymandered 19th Suffolk (Allston-Brighton-Brookline). His platform advocated the creation of affordable housing, making health care free for all, investigating Big Dig corruption, local control of schools and withdrawal of US troops from Iraq and Afghanistan. Kontoff’s campaign motif: “Take back your government and give it to the people.”



Democracy in danger?

Voter Fraud in the 2004 Election and our response

By Grace Ross

The 2005 election will go down in history as a huge victory for the democratic impulse and a huge defeat for actual democracy.

Bush and Kerry each got more votes than any previous presidential candidate. This election saw the largest turnout and the biggest get-out-the-vote efforts. Unprecedented forces came together to turn out those most disenfranchised.

At the same time, more voters were actively disenfranchised than ever before.

Early exit polls put Kerry clearly in the lead; yet by the end of the day, the Bush campaign was “confident” of the outcome. Analysis shows that the difference between the last reported exit polls and both the final “official”

exit polls and the vote outcomes were a statistical impossibility—with significant shifts happening only in “swing” states.

Bush won Florida by 380,000 votes. Yet the result was “called” when over 1.6 million absentee ballots were still uncounted in that state. Democrat-leaning forces had been telling folks to vote by absentee ballot for months because they distrusted the electronic machines. Some 60,000 absentee ballots never got to Florida voters. Tens of thousands purged from Florida’s lists in the 2000 election had never been allowed to re-register.

There were smaller purge lists in Ohio, New Mexico and in Colorado, where thousands of names were illegally removed less than six weeks before the election. Totals removed are estimated at almost one million voters, *almost all*

people of color.

In Ohio, with 175,000 plus uncounted ballots and the additional undervotes and overvotes—mostly people of color who overwhelmingly voted Democrat—Bush “won” by only 140,000 votes.

Nevada police found hundreds of democratic registrations in the trash.

Florida police were sent out to “interview” elderly black voters before the election. A road block appeared on a main route to a primarily African-American voting place.

South Dakota police visited new Native American voters shortly after a massive voter registration drive. Native Americans report being followed by police in New Mexico.

Latino voters in particular were illegally asked to show multiple IDs or,

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Maine Greens Grounded in the Past, Look to the Future

An Interview with Betsy Garrold, co-chair of the Maine Green Independent Party

By Julie Saad

“I worked on Nixon’s reelection campaign,” admits Maine Green Party co-chair Betsy Garrold, narrating her development as a Green. Born into a solidly-Republican family, Garrold developed a strong interest in environmental issues and found that the Greens provided the best outlet for both her interest and her activist spirit. She registered as a Maine Green in 1999 and hasn’t looked back since, becoming State co-chair two years ago, and is currently planning to run for reelection in June.

“The Maine Greens are one of the oldest Green parties in the country,” says Garrold, noting that they were founded in 1984 in Augusta by a group including John Rensenbrink who had traveled in Europe where he had been exposed to the Green movement. Since then, registered Greens in Maine have reached 20,000 members and, says Garrold, their ranks are increasing yearly. Because of the party’s environmental focus, Greens have a natural potential constituency among Mainers who she thinks tend to have

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# Fundraising mid-term report

By Merelice

As a fledgling political party, the GRP has not yet set many precedents or guidelines to hand over to newly elected party officers. The Fundraising Committee's goal this year is to correct that by building a foundation of basic fundraising activities. We've got some traction, thanks in part to Liz Monnin, our former fundraiser, who has moved on to a fulltime position with the Children's Defense Fund.

Your voice is amplified by the GRP. To succeed in this important work, we need your regular contributions, and we also need volunteers to carry out the following:

- Write, produce, and mail twice-yearly fundraising letters.
- Do monthly membership renewal mailings.
- Make phone calls to establish contact with members and solicit contributions.

- Generate thank-you letters to all types of contributors.
- Help update and maintain the database of members and contributors.
- Coordinate with the Membership Committee and local chapters to gather names from tabling, election campaigns, events, etc. as potential volunteers and contributors.
- Plan a series of fundraising events and/or house parties throughout the state.
- Plan and produce a major annual event: need cochaIRS and volunteers for a subcommittee to recruit talent, select site, carry out publicity, arrange caterer as needed, etc.
- Identify possible large contributors and ongoing sustainers.

## Money – and volunteer time – make the world go round

An hour a month can work wonders! Don't hold back. Lend a hand.

Contact fundraising.director@green-rainbow.org or call Merelice at 617-277-1757.



James O'Keefe

David Barkley speaks at 2004 election rally

## Alliance of Black Union Workers News

By David Barkley

At stand-outs with Black union workers during my campaign for state representative in the Finneran-gerrymandered 11th Suffolk, we made real connections—not only with the community that we live in but also among ourselves.

Established organized labor unions did not support my campaign, though I am a long-time union activist. Nor did they support the campaign of Andrea Cabral, Suffolk County's first black woman sheriff. Labor officialdom did all it could to deter its members from participating in the Million Worker March.

These experiences made it painfully clear that for too long we have allowed

our unions to dictate our agenda. However, we did have one thing: each other. We began meeting outside the union halls in public places in our community. We connected with other community labor organizations such as The Greater Roxbury Worker Association.

Most importantly, we now produce and distribute a newsletter—*The Alliance of Black Union Workers*—that speaks truth to power and truly connects to our community.

For more information on this important work we are doing, please contact me: blackindian\_art@verizon.net.

## How to nominate candidates for GRP positions

By Jim Bosman

This is general information about how to nominate candidates for the GRP Administrative Committee or as representatives to other organizations. The full, detailed procedure may be viewed at [www.green-rainbow.org](http://www.green-rainbow.org).

To uphold the Green-Rainbow Party's diversity requirements, members of under-represented groups delineated by race, gender, geography, class, and sexual orientation are strongly encouraged to run for leadership roles in the Party.

Members of the Party's Administrative Committee and representatives to other organizations are elected at the Party's State Convention. Deadline for nominations is April 21. However, if needed to achieve a diverse pool of

candidates, nominations may be held open past the deadline.

Candidates must be nominated in writing by at least 10 party members. Nomination forms may be downloaded from our website or may be requested from the GRP office. No other means of nominating is acceptable. Candidates may not be self-nominated, but they must sign at least one of the nomination forms submitted on their behalf, stating they accept the nomination.

Nomination forms should be mailed to the GRP office, attention Secretary, postmarked no later than April 21, 2005. Candidates may also submit advance statements, which will be reproduced in the convention packet.

## Communications committee report

Communications Committee volunteers are sorely needed! Please contact Communications Director, Owen Broadhurst, 413-786-1508 or <[owen.broadhurst@gmail.com](mailto:owen.broadhurst@gmail.com)> detailing any relevant skills and interests, and availability for face-to-

face and telephone conference meetings. Future projects shall include the compiling of a media/ news outlet database, and working with the Tech Committee for continued improvements to the party website.

# Running for Office Somebody's Gotta Do It

By Dave England

Spring, 2005, may seem early to be thinking about the elections of 2006, but news is already building of Democrats and Republicans who are lining up support for their runs for office. Green-Rainbows should be doing this, too.

If we are to get our message to voters, that neither of the two major political parties represents our view of what this country should be, then volunteers need to step forward and deliver that message. At issue will be whether we let the Republican Governor, with the acquiescence of anemic Democrats, proclaim a surplus that can be used for tax cuts. Cities and towns haven't recovered from the cuts he has already instituted. We need to restore funding to provide quality schooling and essential local services.

Gay marriage may also be on the ballot as a constitutional amendment question, so there will be plenty to campaign on.

Next year, there will be statewide races for Governor, Lt. Governor, Attorney General, Secretary of the Commonwealth, Treasurer, Auditor, and U.S. Senate (Kennedy's seat). There will be ten U.S. Congressional races and two hundred State Legislative races.

Meanwhile, City Council races are scheduled for this fall in 39 cities. Some 38 towns with representative town meetings will hold elections in the spring.

Advance planning and recruiting of volunteers, as always, will be the key to the most successful campaigns.

The Campaign Development and Legal Committee (CDLC) is available to all GRs contemplating a candidacy for an

elected position. CDLC has a number of resources, including:

- An outline of the questions you need to ask yourself before you take the plunge
- Two campaign manuals that outline the steps you need to take to manage a successful campaign
- An issues book that was prepared for 2004 legislative candidates
- Individual and ongoing consultations with prospective candidates, to help them evaluate their campaigns

CDLC's goals include encouraging at least one GR to run for Town Meeting Member or City Council in each city or town that has representative elections. Local elections in Massachusetts are officially non-partisan.

We are continuing our efforts to win a seat in the state Legislature. Finally, the Party needs solid candidates to run for Massachusetts statewide offices. Achieving three percent of the vote in one or more of those statewide races will enable us to regain ballot status in time to have a presidential primary again in 2008.

If you are interested in running, or working in someone else's campaign, contact:

- Eastern Mass: Dave England, 617-277-2827, [DvEngland@aol.com](mailto:DvEngland@aol.com)
- Central Mass: Jim Hendersen, 781-267-2333, [jdh87@alumni.princeton.edu](mailto:jdh87@alumni.princeton.edu)
- Western Mass: Nat Fortune, 413-665-6740 (leave message), [nfortune@mac.com](mailto:nfortune@mac.com)
- Western Mass: Vince O'Connor, 413-549-0810

## How to submit a proposal to the GRP state convention

By Jim Bosman

This is general information. The full, detailed procedure may be viewed at [www.green-rainbow.org](http://www.green-rainbow.org).

To be accepted for consideration by the Party's State Convention, proposals must be sponsored by at least seven members. Name and contact information must be provided for each sponsor. At least two of the sponsors must be present at the convention.

Proposals must be emailed to [office@green-rainbow.org](mailto:office@green-rainbow.org) AND posted to the proposals section of the Party's website. Deadline is Monday, April 25,

2005. Proposals will be reviewed by the appropriate working committees and will be printed in the convention packet.

Sponsors who do not meet the April 25th deadline may submit their proposal(s) as floor proposals at the convention. Floor proposals will be accepted for consideration by the state convention only if they are co-sponsored by 14 members or 25 percent of the official attendance of the State Convention, whichever is lower. The sponsors of a floor proposal must provide copies (handouts) of the proposal text to all present.

## Green-Rainbow Party News

PO Box 440353 Somerville, MA 02144-0004, [office@green-rainbow.org](mailto:office@green-rainbow.org)

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# Making elections better, and stopping divisiveness, too

By Jesse L. Jackson Jr. and James D. Henderson

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OVER THE PAST couple of months there have been complaints and critiques of how the United States conducts elections. Fortunately, not all such news is bad, and the voters of Massachusetts should take note.

This fall, something remarkable happened during the campaign for the San Francisco board of supervisors. Instead of engaging in the mudslinging and finger-pointing that typifies national and local campaigns, some board candidates were campaigning together and holding joint fund-raisers. Instead of appealing to a narrow band of voters focused on

divisive single issues, these candidates presented a broad range of ideas, which everyone could discuss and analyze. These candidates were not delirious -- they were acting strategically. How can this be? The reason is that San Francisco has adopted ranked-choice, or instant runoff, voting.

Instant runoff voting (IRV) fixes the shortcomings of elections. Currently, voters feel they have unpleasant options: Either settle for a “lesser evil” or “waste” their vote. Meanwhile, third party and independent candidates are tagged as spoilers and denied access to debates, depriving voters of their viewpoints. Likewise, major party candidates can avoid responding to the positions of alternative candidates, and a victor can take office with the support of fewer than half of constituents.

With IRV, voters simply rank the candidates in order of preference. If one candidate receives an outright majority of first choice votes, that candidate wins. If there is no majority winner, the rankings are used to conduct a series of instant runoffs until one candidate obtains that majority. In each runoff, the candidate with the lowest vote count is eliminated.

If the eliminated candidate is your first choice, your vote is then allocated to your next choice. Voters mark only one ballot, and the final result is a winner supported by a majority of voters

Our current winner-take-all voting system influences voters to cast their ballots in fear of the candidate they dislike, fostering vitriol from the stump and campaign tactics aimed at personalities not public policy. In contrast, IRV encourages candidates to seek top-choice votes from their supporters and still appeal to their opponents’ supporters for second- and third-choice votes. In San Francisco, board of supervisor candidates determined that receiving a majority on the first ballot was unlikely -- one district had 22 candidates -- so they began to build coalitions with other candidates in an effort to become at least a voter’s second choice. This led to substantive discussions of the issues, a feature missing from many campaigns.

In many states, including Massachusetts, the growth and participation of alternative parties will continue to fuel the need for electoral reforms such as IRV. In one legislative campaign this year, a local newspaper praised the proposals offered by the Green-Rainbow party candidate, but simultaneously worried that that candidate would hurt the reelection chances of the Democrat incumbent against his Republican challenger. Even in local elections, the fear factor is etched into our existing voting system.

In 2006, Massachusetts will again elect its governor from a field likely to include candidates from parties whose platforms offer viable alternatives to those defended by the establishment parties.

Yet, unless something changes, the larger parties will marginalize and exclude these alternatives, limiting the choices available to the voters.

Adopting IRV, as proposed in bills filed with the Legislature, could eradicate concerns in both major parties that alternative party candidates might peel off votes somehow destined for their candidate. Voters could then express their true preferences and no longer be subjected to misleading arguments about “spoilers” and “wasted” votes.

Given the opportunity, voters across the country embrace IRV. Illustrating the breadth of support, IRV proposals were approved this year by over 65 percent of the voters in a western Massachusetts district, in Burlington, Vt., and in the Detroit suburb of Ferndale, where the voters were equally split between Republicans and Democrats.

Our current voting procedures have numerous problems, from paperless voting machines to gerrymandering, many of which engender skepticism about how fair and honest our elections and political representatives are. IRV is one solution that could be easily adopted in time for our next state elections. The experiences of the candidates in San Francisco suggest that voters in Massachusetts and elsewhere would warmly embrace the practical and refreshing results of this reform.

*Jesse L. Jackson Jr. is a Democratic member of Congress, representing the second district of Illinois. James D. Henderson is a Boston attorney and a member of the Green-Rainbow Party, the Massachusetts affiliate of the Green Party.*

## Electoral reform aids organizing in Brookline

By Dave England

Two Brookline Green-Rainbow activists are using the clean elections issue to obtain visibility for the party and to help promote the reestablishment of public funding for electoral candidates. The 1998 Clean Elections law, passed 2-1 by voters, was repealed by the State Legislature in 2000.

At a town-wide forum January 30, some 40 activists from various organizations met to learn the specifics of a new proposal from Mass Voters for Fair Elections, which is linked to the Commonwealth Coalition. The event was co-sponsored by the Green-Rainbow Party, Brookline PAX, the Brookline League of Women Voters, and the Brookline Committee/Progressive Democrats of Massachusetts, among others.

The proposal calls for matching every two dollars raised by candidates with one dollar of public funding. Candidates who accept the money agree to spending limits in both their primary and electoral campaigns. If the proposal isn’t adopted by the Legislature by 2007, the intention is to make it a ballot initiative during the 2008 Presidential campaign.

Brookline GRs Dave England and Merelice have been using the state party’s sponsorship of the event to energize and organize Brookline GRs into a local chapter. Future forums are planned on this and other electoral reform issues, so the effort is ongoing.

To help form a GRP chapter in Brookline, please contact Dave England at 617-277-2827 or dvengland@aol.com.

### What’s that above my name?

If the code above your name starts with a letter, it signifies the party you are registered with: J is Green-Rainbow, G is G/GPUSA, and F is Rainbow. If there is a date, your membership dues expire on that date. Please consider renewing today.

## New England Greens Forge Regional Cooperation

By Jim Henderson

On February 5, members of the Green Parties of Massachusetts, Maine, Vermont and Connecticut met in Leominster to explore ways in which the parties could begin supporting each other on a regional basis. The meeting grew out of initial discussions between Betsy Garrold, co-chair of the Maine Green Independent Party, and Jim Henderson and Tony Lorenzen at the Green Party National Convention in Milwaukee in June, 2004. Jim and Tony attended an initial gathering in November, hosted by the Maine Greens in Portland, which lead to the Leominster meeting.

Seventeen representatives from nearly all the New England Green parties attended the initial meeting, including: Julie Saad, Jim Henderson, Tony Lorenzen, Rich Zitola, Mike Benedetti, Mark LaSerte, Paul Mushrush and Dave England (Massachusetts); Mike DeRosa (co-chair), Liz Brancato (co-chair), Tim McKee, Monica Griffin and Barbara Barry DeRosa Connecticut); from Maine, Betsy Garrold (co-chair), Jacqui Deveneau and John Flagler (Maine); Craig Chevrier (chair) (Vermont).

The February discussion was wide-ranging, from a review of the

organizational difficulties and successes encountered by each of the parties, to the possibility of holding a regional convention in 2006.

Participants expressed a great deal of interest in Maine’s “triad” organizational structure, which permits party members to focus in on one of three areas: electoral politics, activism and Green education. The participants further felt that cooperation among the six New England parties would permit the sharing of resources, which could lead to both greater fiscal efficiency and more political success. The possibility of holding a single-day workshop gathering this summer was also discussed.

A second regional meeting will be held in Leominster on May 14.. Details of the meeting will be posted on the new NewEnglandGreens yahoo group. Any Green-Rainbows who are interested in taking part in building Green regional cooperative efforts and would like to attend the meeting, email Jim Henderson at [jdh87@alumni.princeton.edu](mailto:jdh87@alumni.princeton.edu).

## Worcester conference on instant runoff voting (IRV) in June

There will be a conference for activists on instant runoff voting (IRV) at Clark University in Worcester, MA on Saturday, June 11th. The conference will be held in Higgins University Center from 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM. Online registration will open the week of April 1st at the website: [www.fairvotemass.com](http://www.fairvotemass.com)

The conference coordinators include Peter Vickery of FairVote Mass, Emily Lewis (Amherst GRP), and Nat Fortune (former GRP legislative candidate). For more information, contact Peter Vickery at [peter@fairvotemass.com](mailto:peter@fairvotemass.com) or (413) 549-9933.

*More than 4000 took part in the March 20 Boston antiwar demonstration, which the Green-Rainbow Party co-sponsored. Chuck Turner, Boston City Councillor, speaking at the rally.*



Crystal Evans

# Keep anthrax and ebola out of Boston

By Merelice

Boston University plans to build a \$200 million federally funded bioterrorism laboratory close to the BU Medical Center, where the South End and Roxbury come together. Residents of these communities have also come together in opposition. Their coalition includes community groups, elected officials, business owners, scientists—and the Green-Rainbow Party (GRP).

The facility is ranked as a BioSafety Level 4 (BSL4) laboratory, the highest level of security needed to handle live strains of diseases for which there is no known cure and that can be transmitted through the air. Such dangerous biological agents can be used in biowarfare and bioterrorism. The effects of an accident would rapidly spread over a ten-mile radius.

- Opposition continues to grow because:
- The health and safety risks far outweigh potential benefits.
  - The lab threatens the quality of life and affordability of nearby neighborhoods.
  - It will provide few jobs and no economic benefits for the nearby community.
  - There is no effective local government or community oversight.

Although the few such labs that exist in the U.S. have so far been in remote areas, two are currently targeted for densely populated communities of color, this one and one in Harlem.

Ten residents have filed a law suit that challenges the environmental justifications for placing the lab in the

South End/Roxbury. The residents are members of Safety Net, public housing residents and others in Roxbury who came together to develop a voice and vision for a sustainable Roxbury and equitable metropolitan development.

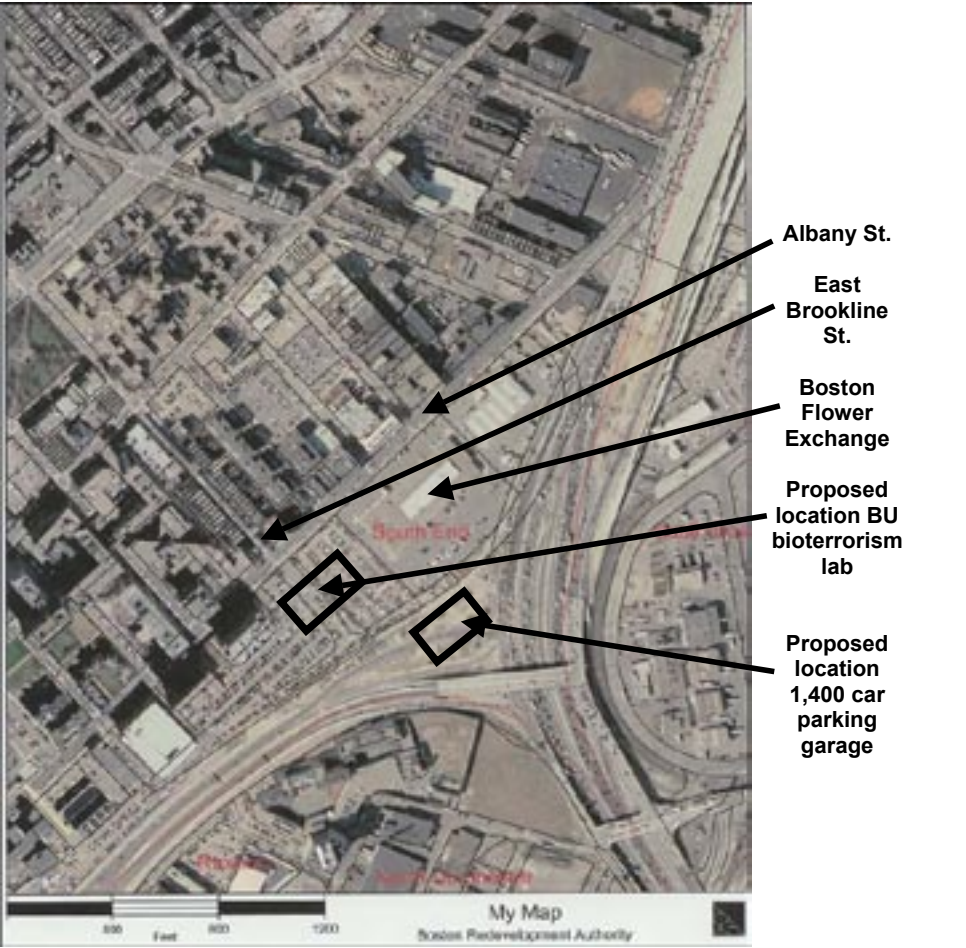
Plaintiff Rose Arruda says, “BU has not been open or honest with the community. At the same time that BU was saying the lab is safe, it was not telling the public that three of its researchers had been infected in one of its labs. What else is BU hiding?”

Plaintiff Dolly Battle says, “It is time to stop deals made behind closed doors that violate state laws designed to protect community residents.”

With support from ACE (Alternatives for Community & Environment), this growing grass-roots-led effort reflects many of the goals and values of the GRP. Boston City Councilor Chuck Turner (GRP) is lead sponsor of an ordinance to ban BSL4 research in Boston. Boston and Boston-area residents are especially encouraged to contact all the Boston City Councilors to urge support of the ordinance.

In the State Legislature, “An Act to Protect the Public Health and Environment from Toxic Biological Agents” has been filed. More information about the campaign’s current activities and participants is available at [www.ace-ej.org](http://www.ace-ej.org), from Councilor Turner’s office 617-635-3510, and from ACE community organizer Claire Allen 617-442-7822

B.U. bioterror lab: Boston Redevelopment map



## Cape Greens Advance Municipal Wind Energy

By Peter White

Green-Rainbow Party activists in Yarmouth and Harwich have submitted Town Meeting articles to establish municipal utilities that will develop community-controlled wind, solar, and ocean energy to benefit the people, businesses, towns, and schools.

We also presented a proposal for the “Cape and Islands Municipal Utility” that was voted down 8-5 by the Board of the Cape Light Compact. We will resubmit the proposal again after spending some time organizing community forums

to spread information and build the movement. The Cape Cod Green-Rainbow Party is also working to pressure Representative Delahunt to oppose the Iraq War for Oil, to support legislation for the withdrawal of our troops, and to impeach Bush/Cheney for conspiracy with oil companies and war crimes in the invasions of Iraq and Afghanistan. We’re not waiting for miracles, we’re trying to BE THE MIRACLE!

# Somerville activists create grass-roots base for justice in Palestine

By Ron Francis

*Note: Parts of this article were adapted from an article written by Tom Wallace*

The Somerville Divestment Project (SDP) in 2004 raised public awareness of the plight of the Palestinian people and, Somerville’s role in that plight.

Like many other cities, towns, states and labor unions, Somerville unwittingly contributes to the oppression and dispossession of the Palestinian people by owning Israel Bonds. Now that many Somerville residents know this, the issue will not go away. They are claiming the right to determine how their money is spent and invested.

### History made on Oct. 28th, 2004: 8 of 11 aldermen co-sponsor divestment

For months, the SDP canvassed door-to-door, organized film nights and education events, and met with Aldermen individually in residents’ homes. They tabled in the town center and spoke to anyone who would listen while collecting signatures for the petition

On October 28<sup>th</sup>, eight Aldermen co-sponsored the SDP resolution supporting Palestinian human rights. No other US city had ever seen such a resolution introduced and co-sponsored by a two-thirds majority of its elected officials. With over 150 SDP supporters present—and none from the opposition—the Aldermen made statements based on human rights, international law and requests from Somerville residents. However, one stated opposition and demanded that the other side should be heard in committee.

At the next committee meeting, the opposition displayed its power, including the Israeli Consul General, the Mayor of Somerville, a State Senator, and labor

representatives. They argued that Israel was being singled out and that therefore the resolution was anti-Israel. They said Israel was a democracy and our friend. They argued that the issue was too big for the Aldermen, who should not be involved in foreign affairs.

SDP supporters spoke passionately about witnessing and experiencing the occupation of Palestine. They talked about how Israel continually violates 29 of 30 articles from the International Declaration of Human Rights. Israel was the only foreign country in which Somerville directly invested, by owning Israel Bonds. Somerville was already involved in foreign affairs—taking Israel’s side.

Supporters continued to hand out flyers and collect signatures for the petition. They called, sent letters, emails, books and other information to the Aldermen. The Divestment Project was endorsed by the **Green Rainbow Party of Massachusetts**. The Jewish Community Relations Council (JCRC) led the opposition, using resources provided by ADL, AIPAC, Harvard Hillel, the Israeli Consulate as well as Jewish and Israeli media.

### Aldermen respond to institutional pressures and vote against divestment

Under pressure from the opposition, the Aldermen voted the resolution down at the third meeting on Dec. 9th. Ron Francis and Christina Bolton stepped up to the podium and began singing the anthem of the African National Congress. Other supporters placed a statement from Desmond Tutu and poet Mahmoud Darwish in front of the Aldermen.

Police officers carefully escorted Ron and Christina out of the hall. Roughly 30 others walked out with them. They

spontaneously began chanting “Free, Free Palestine”.

This defiant action established the link between the apartheid policies of South Africa and the policies of apartheid Israel, and also connected the dots between the grassroots activism of old and the activism of today. The action also signaled that citizens would eventually take matters into their own hands.

Though the vote went against us, the SDP demonstrated that there is grassroots support for divestment and that it can be harnessed with good organizing. The success of the campaign was rooted in its effective grassroots organizing model.

### Moving Forward: Ballot Question for Residents Nov. 2005

The SDP regrouped and decided in January of 2005 to initiate the process for a ballot question on the matter of divestment. According to divestment project leaders the support for justice for Palestinians needs to avoid institutional political players who tend to be lock-step in support of Israel and the corporations that benefit from Israel. The project has dedicated itself to demonstrating its grassroots power by having voters directly decide on this matter. The ballot question is non-binding but will show the will of the people.

The ballot question focuses on three main areas: forced displacement of 780,000 Palestinians; discrimination faced by Palestinians inside of Israel; and human rights violations outside of Israel.

The text of the ballot question follows:

**Whereas** in 1948 Israel forcibly displaced over 780,000 Palestinians from their homes and has since denied

these refugees the right of return, a fundamental right guaranteed by Article 13 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights; and

**Whereas** in 1967 Israel invaded the remainder of Palestine and continues to hold these territories under military occupation in which Israel commits extensive human rights violations that run contrary to the Geneva Conventions, such as

- Confiscation of land, water, and property for Jewish settlement;
- Collective punishment and torture;
- Destruction of homes, schools, hospitals, farms and other life-sustaining infrastructure; and

**Whereas** Palestinians inside Israel face institutionalized racism in the form of

- Confiscation of land, water, and property for Jewish settlement;
- Confinement into ghettos;
- Denial of land, housing, and water;
- Residential and school segregation;
- Denial of civil liberties;

and other discriminatory practices that meet the definition of Apartheid as given in the International Convention on the Crime of Apartheid; and

**Whereas** the Somerville Retirement Board currently invests \$250,000 in Israel Bonds and over \$1.2 million in companies that supply arms and military equipment to Israel;

**Shall** the city of Somerville divest these publicly administered financial holdings?

For more information on the Somerville Divestment Project, visit [www.divestmentproject.org](http://www.divestmentproject.org), call 1-800-571-6175, or write SDP, P.O. Box 441259, Somerville MA 02144

# Do you want to abolish poverty?

By Sharron Tetrault

In July 2004, the Green Rainbow Party state committee adopted a proposal sponsored by the party’s Rainbow Caucus establishing an Abolish Poverty Committee. The Rainbow Caucus felt it essential that the party continue to take leadership in addressing poverty in Massachusetts as well as to develop strategies designed to abolish poverty. The state committee further strengthened this action by adopting

a proposal in February 2005 adopting the theme of “Abolish Poverty” as the organizing touchstone for the upcoming year. The second annual Abolish Poverty March will be held in July, 2005, to bring attention to this important issue. By joining the Abolish Poverty Committee of the GRP and by helping to organize this March across the state you can have a voice in setting the direction. The Rainbow Caucus’s original proposal stated that:

- In order to institutionalize the objective of abolishing poverty within the Green-Rainbow Party:
1. The GRP State Committee established a permanent New Abolitionists or Abolish Poverty Committee (name to be determined at initial meeting)
  2. The GRP State Committee will join campaigns that deal with economic security issues from a systemic point of view and ensure that leadership in said campaigns is representative of the impacted constituency. (The decision-making process to determine which campaigns we take an active role in has yet to be determined)
  3. The GRP State Committee will request that the Green Party USA sign on as a member of national campaigns that meet our objectives.
- The Abolish Poverty Committee of the Green-Rainbow Party is considering

- taking part in the following campaigns and actions as part of their work:
- The National Fund the Dream Campaign, founded by Boston City Councilor Chuck Turner and GRP member Ebony Barkley
  - The New Abolitionist Pledge founded by GRP member Grace Ross
  - The Economic Human Rights Campaign
  - Second Annual Statewide Abolish Poverty March in 2005.
- You do not have to be a State Committee member to join this committee or help put this year’s March together. Sign-up for the e-mail planning group and have a voice. To get involved in the GRP State Committee or any of its sub-committees, please contact [office@green-rainbow.org](mailto:office@green-rainbow.org). To find out more about the Abolish Poverty March contact Lisa and Chicago at [AbolishPoverty@aol.com](mailto:AbolishPoverty@aol.com).



**March to Abolish Poverty from page 1** ending in a full day of activities in Boston, with anti-poverty, peace, labor, housing, women’s issues, universal health care, homeless, religious, hip-hop, Latino, and civil rights activists. More than 30 stories in the press reached thousands more. As low-income leaders we reached out to other anti-poverty activists in other states with materials and support. In national gatherings in Detroit and in New York, we spread this more fundamental focus for our movement and encouraged other states to organize marches to abolish poverty. George Friday spoke out about economic human rights abuses in the US at the huge protests outside the G-8 meeting in Georgia, despite the temporary police state there. This year’s March will again provide local groups with the forum to highlight two or three major concerns of those living in poverty in the 29 communities with the highest state childhood poverty rates. This March will bring people, press, visibility via the March website and resources to support local struggles. We already have a national documentary film organization committed, international political music performers, national activists and more to come! One fundraising plan includes a “pledge-walk.” Each walker will gather a number of pledges (see website to pledge). Half of the

**Left: scenes from last year’s March to Abolish Poverty: in Amherst (top), Greenfield (middle), and Orange (bottom).**

money raised will go to a local initiative that is empowering low-income folks in their work to change public policy. Our proposed march route and dates for this summer is:

Hyannis (6/17)  
Falmouth/ New Bedford (6/18)  
Fall River/ Taunton (6/19),  
Brockton/ Worcester (6/20),  
Southbridge/ Ware (6/21),  
Springfield/ Holyoke (6/22),  
S. Berkshires/ Pittsfield (6/23)  
N. Adams/ Greenfield (6/24)  
Northampton/ Amherst (6/25)  
Montague/ Orange (6/26)  
Gardner/ Fitchburg (6/27),  
Lowell/ Lawrence (6/28),  
Salem/ Lynn (6/29)  
Chelsea (6/30)  
Somerville (7/1)  
Cambridge (7/2)  
Boston (7/3)  
Final Protest (7/4)

We want you to get involved! Do you live in or near one of these communities? We are excited that local coalitions have already formed in most of these 29 communities. Join your local March planning coalition, check-out the website where there are many materials available for distribution: Brochures, endorsement forms, March schedule, etc. For more information: Lisa Richards @ Abolish Poverty March c/o EHRP 49 Francesca Avenue Somerville, MA 02144, 617-776-3895 ext. 3 email: [information@abolishpoverty.net](mailto:information@abolishpoverty.net) website: [www.abolishpoverty.net](http://www.abolishpoverty.net)

## 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.

# Repeal the fast-track auction law!

By John Andrews, Green Rainbow Party and Massachusetts Coalition for Healthy Communities

Under a new law passed in 2003, state-owned lands are being rushed to the auction block for sale to the highest bidder. This law - known as Outside Section 548 - was passed without public input or recorded votes. The bill takes control over the use of surplus state land away from community representatives, and transfers it to a state agency with no accountability to the communities affected by the agency decisions.

The new auction process promotes sprawl, high-end housing and traffic congestion. The law is up for extension this year, but a groundswell of opposition has arisen across the state. A recent attempt to extend the bill by attaching a rider to the state's supplementary budget fell short and was withdrawn. Now continued citizen action is needed to prevent further attempts to extend the fast-track process, and to repeal the existing legislation that continues to put public lands at risk.

## STEIN'S LEADING ROLE

GRP 2002 gubernatorial candidate Jill Stein, has been at the center of the repeal effort. Last October she brought the Outside Section to the attention of local community activists who had been fighting the land sales without being aware of the new enabling legislation responsible for these sales.

Stein is president of the Massachusetts Coalition for Healthy Communities which has been circulating a petition calling for a moratorium on the auctions, repeal of the fast-track law, and public hearings on new legislation to ensure the disposition of public land in the public interest. She says, "This law is part of a troubling trend that's taking decision-making power away from local communities and investing it in state agencies favorable to major real estate interests."

"The people who are affected most by land use decisions are being excluded from the process. It is an undemocratic law that could only have been passed by using an undemocratic end-run around the legislative process. It deserves to be repealed."



Citizens met in Waltham to discuss their community's response to the proposed auction of 56 acres of local open space.

Adam Sacks

Concerned citizens are helping by asking public interest organizations (including neighborhood, affordable housing, and environmental advocacy groups) to sign on to the petition for the repeal of the auction law. Copies of the petition are available at [www.masschc.org](http://www.masschc.org). More than 20 organizations have signed so far.

Concerned citizens can also ask their city councils or boards of selectmen to adopt repeal resolutions, samples of which can also be found at the same website.

Prior to fast-tracking, each sale of state land required the passage of specific enabling legislation. Developing such legislation provided a process for achieving consensus on the use of the land with local legislators—who were accountable as sponsors of any transfer legislation. And legislation allowed safeguards to be written into law to protect the public interest. In addition, communities had the right of first refusal, which meant that before public land could be sold to a private developer, the community could purchase the land at a fair market value.

The fast-track auction law changed all this. The new auction law now allows the state Division of Capital

Asset Management (DCAM) to bypass legislative approval, foreclosing opportunities for communities to guide the reuse of the properties. Instead, the Commissioner of DCAM can simply declare property to be surplus and offer it for auction with only 30 days notice. No legislation is required, and there is no process for restricting the future use of the property to comply with community needs or plans.

One rationale for the bill was to expedite the sale of surplus land in order to help balance the state budget. But the fast-track opponents answer that selling off irreplaceable public land assets for a one time-infusion of cash is an indefensible approach to solving a structural budget shortfall.

In recent years, the Governor and the Legislature have proclaimed their support for "smart growth" – that is, planned development that provides for affordable housing, environmental protection, accessible transportation, and protection of natural resources. The fast-track auction law, however, is the opposite of smart growth. It results in sensitive parcels being turned over to the highest bidder for unplanned development without consideration of local needs.

Grassroots citizen action continues to be the key to restoring the public-interest use of public land. By supporting the repeal petition, sponsoring repeal resolutions, and calling their legislators, local advocates are convincing many legislators to back away from the law.

Jill Stein sounds a warning. "Attempts to extend the auction law are continuing, and we need to keep up the citizen pressure. This misguided law should be repealed and replaced with a new measure created—unlike the fast track auction law—with public input and through a democratic process. A new law is needed to restore local influence in a disposition process that preserves public lands for the public good, and helps build the sustainable, just communities we all deserve."

**Green-Rainbow member elected to Lexington Town Meeting**

Congratulations to Jill Stein, former GRP gubernatorial candidate, who was elected to Lexington Town Meeting on March 7, 2005. Jill was the top vote getter among seven people elected from her district.

## Co-chair report

By Ron Francis

With the rush of the elections behind us we now must look forward to build the strongest possible Green-Rainbow Party. Our foundation of fundraising capability, electoral acumen, grassroots actions and adoption of a party theme are keys to moving ahead in 2005.

The CDLC report indicates that we are becoming more sophisticated at understanding campaigns are run, learning from positive results as well as unexpected results

Our future campaigns for State offices can only improve from here on. The tight race for president probably steered some folks away from Green-Rainbow involvement although it is hard to measure this at the local level.

Our hiring of a part-time fundraiser has helped us put into place the structure of a regularized fundraising mechanism. It's up to each of us to make the mechanism work by contributing to fundraising efforts as well as contributing oneself as one is able to. The part-time staff person helped regularize

our fundraising (thank you cards, organization of lists, schedule for fundraising etc...) as well as point out areas where she thought we needed to improve. We will probably need to set aside dedicated times where everyone in the party works on fundraising if it is really going to get done. Perhaps a Fundraising Week for GRP?

Grassroots actions: Here we do face a challenge. Many of us are dedicated to campaigns on particular local issues, or state and national issues that manifest as local campaigns, or electoral efforts. But it is still not clear how these actions grow the party or lead to more active involvement of existing party members. The Membership Committee has begun to analyze the different ways that we grow. Preliminary analysis suggests that our organizing efforts need to be grounded in some conscious plan to grow local membership and active involvement.

The Statecom chose to adopt the theme of "Abolishing Poverty" as the GRP focus for the upcoming year. I support this, as I believe that it is critical to ally ourselves with those that the economic system is oppressing, and in particular

people of color who are disproportionately represented among those under economic attack. We hope that the adoption of the theme will help the public attach certain clear politics to the GRP while not subsuming each of the other areas where we do good work.

Will people be attracted to GRP because it is the party that wants to Abolish Poverty? Let's hope so. That said, we need to remember that there is no substitute for good organizing, which involves the following six essential elements:

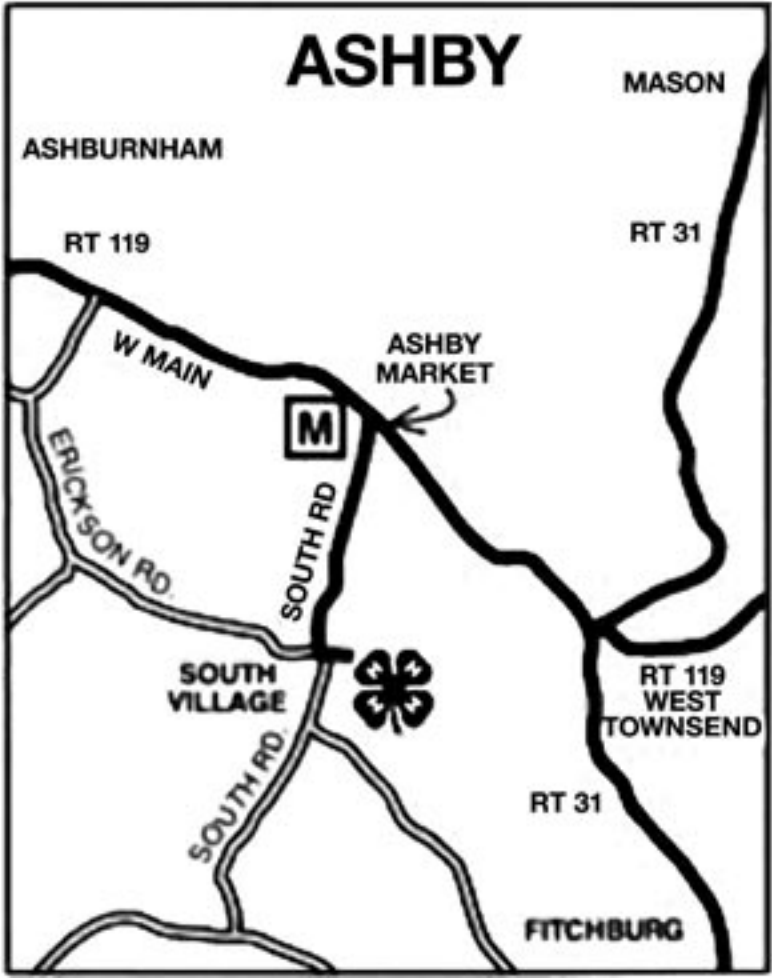
- a. Ways to involve new people and follow-through
- b. Creation of compelling outreach materials
- c. Local focus first
- d. Achievable objectives and goals
- e. Timetables
- f. Evaluation

Our party processes have benefited from the regular quarterly Statecom meetings. The trial run of a newer more dynamic Statecom meeting format may turn out to be an improvement. It has been noted that we do best when we

actually follow our consensus decision-making process. We need to make better efforts at filling vacant posts.

Addressing racism and classism within our party ranks must always be priority. We need to continue efforts to make our events accessible in terms of activities and locations, and to focus on issues that directly affect people of color and lower income folks. The choice of Abolishing Poverty as a party theme should help with this. A firm stance on the liberation of Palestine would indicate to Arab-Americans our commitment to anti-racism. Perhaps we should take clear stands on other issues that specifically relate to people of color and immigrants, in order to make it clear that we are committed to anti-racism. Failure to do this makes our party somewhat inaccessible politically to a certain fraction of people of color.

In summary, we are almost at the point of getting our foot in the door. With a few breaks here and there we could see a firmer foundation lead to the development of a stronger, more decisive, more vibrant and more relevant GRP. Let's do the work to get there.



# Getting to Camp Middlesex

4-H Camp Middlesex, 1031 Erickson Rd., P.O. Box 185, Ashby, MA 01431  
Tel: (978) 386-7704 Fax: (978) 386-7046

Boston - Fitchburg Commuter Rail (One-way fare : \$5.75). Scheduling information can be found at [www.mbta.com](http://www.mbta.com)

## From points East/West/North

Route 2 towards Fitchburg to exit 32 for Leominster/Lunenburg, Rte 13 north  
Bear left under train track bridge then right at Walmart Plaza and direct left to continue on 13 North for approximately 10-12 miles  
At Townsend Center take a left onto Route 119 West towards Ashby.  
Turn left at the intersection of Route 119 & 31, stay on 119 West.  
In Ashby center look for the sign for Camp Middlesex at Ashby Market.  
Turn left on South Street before Ashby market.  
Bear left at the fork in the road, then left on Ericson Road at the top of hill, watch for the sign for Camp Middlesex  
Follow the signs to parking, and welcome to 4-H Camp!

## From points South

Take the Mass Pike (90) to Exit 10 (I-395/I-290 Worcester)  
Take I-290 north for approximately 9 miles to Exit 19-20 (towards I-190)  
Take I-190 North for approximately 19 miles to Route 2 West  
Exit Route 2 at first exit for Route 32/13 North  
Follow the directions “From points East/West/North” directions above

## Democracy in Danger from page 1

in states that require no ID, voters were required to show one and then turned away if they could not.

Machines were down in ten of Florida’s Broward County precincts. Ditto for three primarily African American communities in Wisconsin. Fliers purporting to be from the “Milwaukee Black Voters League” threatened penalties of “up to 10 years of prison and removal of children” if a person went to vote and had already voted in an election in 2004; had a relative with a conviction; or had even so much as a parking violation on their record.

Twenty percent of new electronic voting machines tested by observers prior to the election had problems. During testing, hackers had been able to quickly alter results both in particular machines and in the data transfer process. Some 30 percent of U.S. voters used such machines.

Audits, Freedom of Information Act requests, and the recount effort in Ohio all indicate that machines and/or data streams to tabulating computers were tampered with. Early analysis of Florida’s computerized votes suggested very strategic hacking. The voting machines in Maryland have been locked down since the election because of irregularities. Only one state, Nevada, had a consistent paper trail for electronic votes.

The litany continues: intimidation through authorized “challengers;” improperly administered provisional ballots; not enough voting machines in primarily lower income, people of color districts; prohibitively long lines meaning some people voted at 3 am or were turned out at midnight; touchscreens that defaulted to Bush; voters who found someone had already voted under their name. Check out the [www.caef.us](http://www.caef.us) website and read the research subpage or the [www.voteCobb.org](http://www.voteCobb.org) website for the stories coming out of the Ohio recount.

At first it seems hard to believe that this was enough to have skewed the election. The abuses appear scattered, locally-initiated and uncoordinated.

However, these things are reminiscent of strategies used in the South against African-American voters. A review suggests that these techniques may have been used in 2002 to defeat key Democratic congressional candidates. Many Republicans, including Secretaries of State, and election officials, have been explicit about working to suppress votes.

If we are willing to really face what

the loss of democratic choice means, we can see patterns emerge from incidents of suppression and fraud.

The Ohio recount never actually took place, because Secretary of State Blackwell halted the initial random 3 percent check that triggers the total recount. But the Cobb campaign’s filing of the recount helped create a vehicle to harness tremendous grassroots voter rights energy on the ground.

Ohio recount observers were sometimes denied access. Sometimes machines were recalibrated before the recount. One tech assistant even instructed election workers how to guarantee that the initial and recount results would match.

In one Ohio community, volunteers scanning voter lists were peremptorily sent away. A few hours later, their lawyer drove past the elections office and was surprised to see the lights off. She found the door unlocked and the voting machines in plain view.

In another county little white oval stickers were pasted over the “Kerry” oval on ballots. Recount volunteers lifted the stickers on several and found Kerry’s oval clearly darkened. An official said to just ignore these because they were so “few in number.” They were then stopped from counting and not allowed to keep a sample of these ballots. Unused ballots were also found with Bush’s oval already marked.

Even if the votes we do know about had been counted, the outcome of the election would have likely been different. Imagine if eligible, willing voters had been able to vote, their vote escaped tampering and then been accurately counted?

### Why the rush to resolution by the Kerry campaign?

The Democratic Party was not interested in airing this story even though their candidates would have been the beneficiaries. Why was the appearance of propriety valued over real democracy, not only by Republicans but Democrats? And whose voices got silenced— again?

Green Party presidential candidate David Cobb used his presence on the Ohio ballot to force a recount. Greens and other third party activists moved to stand with all people of color, low-income and younger voters, traditionally the most disenfranchised.

So who is the big loser? As with any systemic, intentionally-enforced racism, i.e. apartheid, all of us are losers.

## 2005 Convention from page 1

Even if you don’t get your registration form in on time, you are still encouraged to come to the convention. If you can’t come, please send a donation to help offset the cost for all our sisters and brothers who can’t afford to pay.

If anyone needs a ride from the train station in Fitchburg to the camp, we have folks ready to pick you up. If wheelchair assistance is required, we have access to a wheelchair accessible van with certified drivers. Overnight accommodations at the campsite are \$10 per person and you need to bring your own linens.

The entertainment for Saturday’s dinner will be music, the spoken word, and a guest speaker yet to be named, so stay tuned. To help raise funds for the party, we are planning to have a silent auction. If you have items that you are willing donate, please let us know.

Caucus meetings and workshops will

provide folks to network, gain information and share their ideas. We are planning a number of workshops, including diversity, environment, and poverty.

We will conduct party business by nominating and electing officers, including a female and male co-chairs, treasurer, secretary and diversity seats. A plenary session will review the need for any by-law changes. Committee chairs will give reports; proposals will be presented and voted on.

The convention is still in its planning stage, so please go to our website [www.green-rainbow.org](http://www.green-rainbow.org) for continuous updates. If you can devote some time during the convention to help make this convention a success, please e-mail the office at [office@green-rainbow.org](mailto:office@green-rainbow.org) or call us at 978-688-6068.

I was asked by a reporter from the *Final Call*, if we shouldn’t say that all Americans were disenfranchised? My answer is no, we should say primarily Americans of color. If we cannot properly identify a problem, we cannot properly fix it. Of course, the fact that votes of people of color and low-income people were disproportionately suppressed *does* devalue *all* of our votes.

If we as a party and the many of us who are white Americans cannot recognize that it is our democracy, our spiritual integrity, our community, the hope for our future that is one and the same as the democracy, spiritual integrity, community and hope for the future for all our sister and brother Americans, we are all in deep trouble together.

The Ohio recount brought actual non-derogatory press coverage from major media. We organized electors in five states to make history by using the usually formulaic, theatrical Electoral College process to bring visibility to voting violations and call on Congress for political action.

With allies across the US, we documented widespread, egregious voting rights violations, created petitions, and teamed up with last-minute support from the big internet organizing outfits calling for call-ins. We made history again by securing the filing of an objection in Congress to certifying the vote, breaking the media white-out with televised hours

of debate in both houses of Congress. Our work has just begun to document what happened and get the word out!

The week before the election saw an attempt to actually function democratically. It put the largest number of progressive forces on the ground in my lifetime. Cobb’s efforts built critical bridges at a national level with key African-American activists and younger voting rights organizers. African-American media and opinion leaders are talking about the need for third parties, especially led by people of color.

Younger voters, women and low-income people, who tend to vote progressively, turned out in large numbers. We must organize together to overcome their disenfranchisement. Building on the role that Cobb/LaMarche played in Ohio, what if we run candidates for Secretary of State across the U.S. and model real integrity in those positions? Institute paper trails, end racist purge lists, support the pro-democracy side of lawsuits, work to extend the franchise, fight intimidation?

We have whole constituencies hungering for voting rights and others calling for third party organizing. We could be that party. We could help bring together and unleash progressive voices across the U.S., working with and fighting for those constituencies that are most progressive and should be who we are anyway!

**Main Greens from page 1**  
greater interest in environmental issues than people in more urban states.  
Although demographically Maine Greens are most heavily concentrated in Portland area and tend to be “old and white,” Garrold notes that they are actively reaching out to the numerous poor communities in Maine through POWER and MAIN, two organizations actively working with poor communities in the state.

**Good Luck and Issue Focus**

“We’ve had either a senatorial or gubernatorial candidate run in every race since 1992. We keep ourselves in the mix,” says Garrold, noting that they’ve had some strong candidates including founding member John Rensenbrink, Pat LaMarche and current state representative for Portland, John Eder. This, Garrold notes, has contributed greatly to name and issue recognition.  
Garrold says that the party’s basic growth strategy is simple: “Run for public office and back popular referenda.” Maine Greens were highly visible recently in backing two recent popular referenda about bear baiting and clear cutting and are putting their muscle behind an upcoming water referendum.  
Maine Greens have also cultivated the media and have been included in all the political debates. “We particularly work with the Maine journalists “who are Green but don’t know it yet.” Because of these efforts, Garrold says they have had “good coverage” from the Bangor Daily News, Maine PBS and local radio.  
The Maine Greens are structured on a



“triad” which allows space for members to work in their specialized area of interest. The three groups are: Electoral politics, Education—the Katahdin Center—and Activism. “Because of this structure, there is a place for everyone,” says Garrold.  
The electoral politics branch concentrates on running Greens in

**Betsy Garrold thinks that in Maine, Greens have a good shot at the Governor’s office in the next campaign.**

local and state elections. The Katahdin Center “springs into action during campaigns,” and helps runs the candidate training workshops. The Activist branch champions state, national and international issues and carries the Green voice into those arenas. The Greens maintain an office in Augusta and have a steering committee composed of 12 members. The organization is loosely decentralized, says Garrold, who maintains a leadership style of modified consensus. Sub-committees carry out their work with little micromanagement from the steering committee. The *Green Monitor* newsletter, for example, is run by an independent committee that decides on content and assigns articles to steering committee members and other Maine Greens.

**Bait and Switch: Post-election fallout**

Calling the Dennis Kucinich campaign the “biggest bait and switch operation in American politics,” Garrold says that most Maine Greens who left the party in 2004

went to work for the Kucinich campaign. She estimates that about 50% of those who left have since returned to the Green fold. The rest, Garrold says, stayed with the Democrats and are trying to form a new “progressive caucus” within the Democratic Party, but she believes they are “doomed to fail.”

**The John Eder Campaign**

Maine Greens now boast an incumbent member of the state legislature: John Eder, state representative for the Portland area. “John had a great campaign,” Garrold says, “because he knocks on every door.” Living in a compact, urban area which lends itself to lots of candidate contact with constituents, Eder developed a unique pamphleting technique, says Garrold, “sending a postcard to everyone he talked to.” The Democrats tried to gerrymander him out in his reelection campaign and he still won with 51% of the vote. As an example of Eder’s hands-on approach, the fall issue of *Green Monitors*, features a prominent Eder boxed ad, announcing that he will deliver, on his bicycle *Explore Maine by Bike*, a publication of the Maine Dept of Transportation to any constituent in the Portland area who requests it.  
For the upcoming 2006 campaigns, Garrold says all the Maine candidates would welcome volunteers from over the border to study their successful campaign methodology. New England Greens are also welcome to the Katahdin Center’s candidate schools scheduled for the spring of 2006.

**Financial solvency, gubernatorial candidate immediate goals**

Admitting that the Maine Greens face a “constant struggle for solvency,” Garrold says they have launched two major fundraising efforts. The first is the “dime a day” campaign, to get all 20,000 members to donate ten cents a day (total \$36.50/year). The second effort is the formation of a “crisis team” composed of steering committee members and others, to target major donors.  
Additionally, Maine Greens are working to maintain their ballot status and garner five percent of the vote in the next statewide election. “Governor Baldacci is vulnerable” says Garrold. She can’t see Maine voting in a Republican governor any time soon and since Baldacci is angering a broad spectrum of voters, Maine Greens have identified three possible candidates who “are live wires” says Garrold and therefore she feels “Greens have a good shot at the governor’s office in the next campaign.” Other goals include “getting a colleague for John in the legislature” and lobbying to host the GPUS national convention in 2008.

**“A Green Red Sox Nation”**

Commenting on the budding coalition of New England Greens which held their second regional meeting in Leominster in February, Garrold is enthusiastic about the development which, she quips, was born “after a few beers at the street party during the national convention in Milwaukee last June.” The possibility of sharing resources and experiences among the five New England state Green parties is “a fabulous opportunity,” and would create, in effect, what Garrold calls “A Green Red Sox Nation!”  
For more information on the Maine Greens, visit the websites of the Maine Greens and Representative John Eder:  
**www.mainegreens.org**  
**www.repjohneder.com**

**GREEN-RAINBOW PARTY 2005 CONVENTION REGISTRATION FORM**

Please fill out and return this form by May 20th, 2005 to: The Green-Rainbow Party, P.O. Box 440353, Somerville, MA 02144-0004.

First \_\_\_\_\_ Last \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Occupation\* \_\_\_\_\_ Employer\* \_\_\_\_\_

\*If your total contribution is \$200 or over in a year, law requires us to report this information.

**Convention and meals**

Convention attendance:      \_\_\_Saturday only      \_\_\_Sunday only      \_\_\_Both days

**Meals**    A Continental breakfast will be served on Saturday and Sunday.  
Vegetarian dishes will be available on each day of the Convention.

<b>Adults</b>	<b>Saturday</b>	___Lunch	___Dinner	<b>Sunday</b>	___Lunch	___Vegetarian
<b>Children</b>	<b>Saturday</b>	___Lunch	___Dinner	<b>Sunday</b>	___Lunch	___Vegetarian

**Day Care**    Free day care at convention (ages: 3 months – 12 years)  
Upon request, free day care will also be provided Saturday evening.

___ Saturday (9:00 AM – 6:00 PM)	<b>Number of children</b>	<b>Ages</b>
___ Sunday (9:00 AM – 5:00 PM)	_____	_____

**Shuttle service from Fitchburg train station**

**Saturday**    \_\_\_Morning    \_\_\_Evening                      **Sunday**    \_\_\_Morning    \_\_\_Evening

**Fee**    We are not setting a fee for attendance or for meals for this Convention. We are simply asking for donations because we do not want anyone to be excluded from this Convention because of finances. If you want to make a donation now, please fill in the following information.

Amount enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_    ☐Cash    ☐Check    ☐Money Order    ☐Credit Card\*  
Credit Card Number \_\_\_\_\_    Expiration Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Signature \_\_\_\_\_

\*Billing information must match name and address provided. By giving this donation you acknowledge that as specified by US federal law you are a US citizen or a federally recognized permanent resident. Make payments to the *Green-Rainbow Party Federal Fund*. Amounts over \$100 must be a check, money order or credit card.