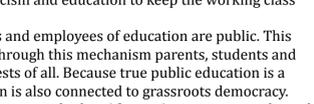
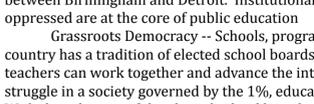




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### Critical Points of Struggle : Education

For Greens, education is connected to both social justice and grassroots democracy: Social Justice -- The children of the human race are the future of the human race and public education is an important component of childhood life. The difference in public education for poor and working-class children compared to upper middle class and rich children in southeast Michigan can be measured by the several thousand dollar difference in per pupil spending between Birmingham and Detroit. Institutional racism and education to keep the working class oppressed are at the core of public education

Grassroots Democracy -- Schools, programs and employees of education are public. This country has a tradition of elected school boards. Through this mechanism parents, students and teachers can work together and advance the interests of all. Because true public education is a struggle in a society governed by the 1%, education is also connected to grassroots democracy. With the sabotage of the elected school board in Detroit and other African-American cities through emergency managers, grassroots democracy is denied and the results are feared but expected. Much that is public is made private, much of it is destroyed and all of it is abused for profit.

– The Editor

#### Public Education's Future Being Sold to Corporate America

On Friday, a member of the Coalition for the Future of Detroit School Children policy subcommittee, Simone Lightfoot, announced her resignation. Lightfoot, an Ann Arbor Board of Education trustee, did so, she said, because it became clear to her that the Snyder administration would never accept the policy recommendations coming from their group, which had been called together to objectively assess the state of education in Detroit and help plot a path forward that would work for the benefit of the City's children. "Rather than convening this outstanding group of vastly experienced education and policy leaders to cooperate and help shape...

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#### EAA Protesters Shut Down EMU Board of Regents Meeting

Eastern Michigan University's quarterly Board of Regents meeting was shut down for the second time in a row after about a dozen protesters of the Education Achievement Authority rang out with chants of "Black Lives Matter" and "The EAA is killing us." Educators, students and other concerned demonstrators also protested the previous EMU Board of Regents meeting in December 2014. The EAA is a state school system started by Gov. Rick Snyder in 2011 that takes over schools whose performance is in the bottom 5 percent in the state and that are not improving or are under an emergency manager.

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#### Detroit Federation of Teachers President, Steve Conn on Detroit Schools

My mantra is to stand for the people and young people of the city. 30 years I did in the classrooms in Detroit and what the government's got on the table is not working for Detroit. They need music, supply, music, heart and jim, in every school, every young person deserves that, teacher pay that will attract the teachers, social workers, and school psychologists in our school, given the nature of the economic and social crisis in Michigan and in Detroit especially. We need all the support staff, supported and the teachers above all supported and given the resources and the support. And the ending of the bullying...

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#### Detroit Group Upset with Snyder's School Reform Move

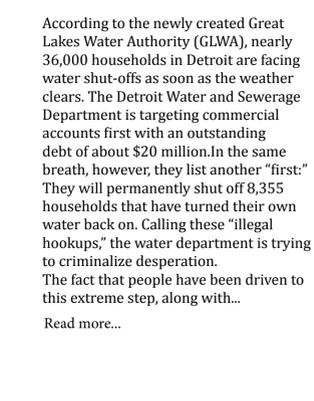
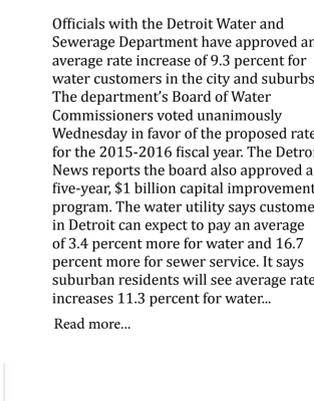
Two leaders of a Detroit coalition preparing to give Gov. Rick Snyder recommendations for improving the city's public schools are upset with Snyder's abrupt decision to take control of a state agency charged with turning around academically failing schools. Snyder issued an executive order Thursday moving the School Reform Office from the Department of Education — which he does not oversee — to the Department of Technology, Management and Budget, restructuring directly under his control. Tonya Allen, co-chair of the Coalition for the Future of Detroit Schoolchildren,

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#### To the Editor on behalf of elected Detroit School Board members

Yesterday, some of the DPS Board members and I attended the meeting of the Coalition for the Future of Detroit Children meeting. We were not allowed inside and security was called to remove us. The Detroit police were called to remove us. It is quite ironic that a group of citizens can hold a meeting to make recommendations about Detroit Public Schools and lock out the elected school board members who were voted in by the people of the city of Detroit. We, as elected board members have been under emergency managers for the past five years. we, with no authority, are held to the Open Meetings Act. We can't meet

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### Water is a Human Right

Water is necessary for life. The political issue of water has been a main focus of Michigan Greens for our fourteen years of existence. The political issue of water touches all four key pillars of the Green Party – ecological wisdom, grassroots democracy, social justice and nonviolence. Water as a human right; water as a part of the commons; water as a sustainable, renewable resource; the water wars already engaged.

Detroit Greens were founding members of the Peoples Water Board Coalition (PWBC) in Detroit and have been engaged in its work since then. Besides the Detroit Greens the Coalition includes the Sierra Club, Food and Water Watch, Michigan Welfare Rights Organization, We the People, Detroiters Resisting Emergency Management, East Michigan Environmental Action Council, among others.

–The Editor

#### Detroit Businesses Face Water Shut Offs

The city's water department this week plans to step up enforcement of overdue business accounts to collect tens of millions in lost revenue, but it won't shut off residential water until a proven safety net is in place. Although there are 26,000 residential accounts with outstanding balances, officials said they will target commercial accounts first. The Detroit Water and Sewerage Department is seeking compliance from 2,044 delinquent commercial accounts to avoid shut-offs. Those customers owe DWSD about \$20 million, said Bill Nowling, spokesman for a new regional water authority set to go into effect in July.

Read more...

#### Flint Residents Left with Undrinkable Water

Less than an hour's drive from one of Earth's great fresh water sources, some people in Flint are searching for a drop worth drinking.

Since the financially struggling city broke away from the Detroit water system last year, residents have been unhappy with the smell, taste and appearance of water from the city's river as they await the completion of a pipe to Lake Huron. They also have raised health concerns, reporting rashes, hair loss and other problems. A General Motors plant stopped using the water, saying it was rusting its parts.

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#### Detroit Water Board Ok's Rate Hikes for City

Officials with the Detroit Water and Sewerage Department have approved an average rate increase of 9.3 percent for water customers in the city and suburbs. The department's Board of Water Commissioners voted unanimously Wednesday in favor of the proposed rates for the 2015-2016 fiscal year. The Detroit News reports the board also approved a five-year, \$1 billion capital improvement program. The water utility says customers in Detroit can expect to pay an average of 3.4 percent more for sewer and 16.7 percent more for sewer service. It says suburban residents will see average rate increases 11.3 percent for water...

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#### Detroit Water Payments Should Be Income Based

According to the newly created Great Lakes Water Authority (GLWA), nearly 36,000 households in Detroit are facing water shut-offs as soon as the weather clears. The Detroit Water and Sewerage Department is targeting commercial accounts first with an outstanding debt of about \$20 million. In the same breath, however, they list another "first:" They will permanently shut off 8,355 households that have turned their own water back on. Calling these "illegal hookups," the water department is trying to criminalize desperation. The fact that people have been driven to this extreme step, along with...

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### D-REM ALERT/D-REM ALERT/D-REM ALERT/D-REM ALERT/D-REM ALERT/D-REM

#### Duggan's latest assistance plan

### SPEND \$5.2 MILLION TO INFLICT MISERY!

- 36,000 homes targeted for water shut-offs
- 8,000 citizens considered "thieves" by DWSD, will have valve boxes removed from their property
- DWSD will campaign to convince area church ministers to support the water shut-offs, though they are gross violations of human rights, recently condemned by the United Nations
- DWSD's goal: "to teach people how to be responsible and pay their bills" by imposing this ruthless, punitive program. What arrogance and disrespect for the people!

#### We can resist this barbaric water shut-off plan!

- Call the Mayor's office 313-224-3400! Express your outrage!
- Demand that the water bills be based on family income and ability to pay! Demand a moratorium on shut-offs!
- Join others to resist this catastrophe in our city. See contact information below.
- Tell your minister to oppose this plan that will inflict misery on thousands, especially the children, ailing and elders, while generating conditions that threaten everyone's health and well-being.



### Michigan News

#### Michigan Greens Renew Call to Decommission Pipeline Through Mackinac Straits

In recognition of World Water Day on March 22, the Green Party of Michigan (GPMI) renewed its opposition to Enbridge's Line 5 fossil-fuel pipeline through the Straits of Mackinac.

At the urging of Chris Wahmhoff, the party's 2014 US Senate candidate, Greens approved a call to decommission the 60-year-old pipeline at a state membership meeting March 14-15 in East Lansing.

GPMI Vice Chair Art Myatt explained the case for decommissioning Line 5 -- and against suggestions of repairing or replacing it, much less expanding its capacity -- in an entry on the party's blog.

Read more...

#### Protest on Graymont Limestone Mine

Beginning on Friday, March 27 at 9:00am, everyone who cares about the future ecological health of the UP is invited to join us in protest against the proposed Graymont mine near Rexton, Michigan and other concerns like the Enbridge pipeline that is in disrepair under the Mackinac Bridge, and the proposed Eagle mine road (County Road 595) that would cut through a fragile ecosystem near Marquette, Michigan. It is time for us to stand up and speak loudly about these serious issues that are impacting our communities now and in the future. We will meet at the rest stop on the UP side of the bridge at 9am each day for three consecutive

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#### Vote No To Higher Sales Taxes

The Green Party of Michigan (GPMI) has taken a unanimous stand urging Michigan citizens to vote NO on Tuesday, May 5 and reject a Constitutional amendment which would raise state sales and use taxes from 6% to 7%. The amendment is part of a plan passed by the Legislature at the last minute in December's lame-duck session that would also shift transportation funding and delete higher education from eligibility for school-aid funds in favor of job-training programs. But GPMI Vice Chair Art Myatt of Pleasant Ridge notes the amendment itself is the only thing the Legislature couldn't easily change later if the people vote yes.

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### International News

#### Call for a Halt on an Endless War

Green Party leaders said that provocation and aggressive posturing by the U.S. against Iran, Venezuela, and Russia should be understood as dangerous attempts to assert U.S. political and economic hegemony abroad while maintaining a domestic wartime economy. Many Greens are participating in "Spring Rising," March 18-21, four days of anti-war and pro-peace events in Washington, D.C., that will mark the twelve-year point since the 2003 U.S. invasion of Iraq. Greens said that a military confrontation between the U.S. and any one of these countries could trigger a wider, more destructive, and possibly global conflict.

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### GPMI Updates

#### Metro Detroit Greens Forum

Phoenix Cafe, 24918 John R, in Hazel Park Each month Metro Detroit Greens meet to discuss and act on important fronts of struggle including: water, education, racism, foreclosures and other key issues of southeast Michigan. All are welcome. The Phoenix Cafe is just off of I-696 and John R (near the intersection of John R and Ten Mile). 7 pm - 8:30 pm — third Thursday each month April 16, May 21, and June 18 For topics for each meeting see our Events on Facebook at Green Party of Michigan.

#### Green Party National Meeting

We have a great opportunity to help Missouri get on the ballot in 2016. Missouri is one of the key states for ballot access. We will be setting up petitioning times at key locations, including a Sunday afternoon session for those that want to stay over Sunday night. St. Louis in July is where our work will get stronger. We need you there. We have a special price for early-bird registrations. The first 50 people to register before April 15 will pay \$90. After April 15 or 50 paid registrations the price will be \$125. We also have a "Friends and Family" discount - \$75 per person for non-delegates after one

#### Notes from the Membership Secretary

Hello Michigan Greens,

Exciting things are happening. The State meeting in March was both exciting and productive. New members were added, new officers are hitting the ground running and work is being done. A revamped By-Laws committee is working to clarify and simplify our By-Laws. We have a pair of local liaisons that have split the state geographically and are working to re-animate or create new locals across the state. A myriad of ideas were supported to wake up the party and make things happen. Bottom line, there are lots of opportunities for Greens young and old to get involved with and make a difference. A few things need to be sorted and facilitated for some of them so watch the website for changes, information and new opportunities. I am excited by the enthusiasm I have seen and look forward to serving another year as Membership Secretary. I want to get an idea of who are current members are. I would love to set up a web based survey to help us figure out who we are now. Sent me your input and questions. What do we need to know about ourselves to move forward, what would we like to know about each other to strengthen the party, and what are the things we are just curious about? Send your ideas to me at plr567@att.net and I will get the survey together by April 15. Other areas to share your thoughts, what information would be useful to have in a LocalsHandbook? Who wants to work on developing a training seminar for activism basics? A seminar for recruiting new members in your local? Who wants to help develop guideline and skills sets as to what it takes to run for local office? There are lots of fun things to get started on. Don't be bashful, step up and see what happens. We need some fun slogans and such to go on Green Party of Michigan T-shirts and mugs and who knows what. We can be meaningful as well as fun. Let's get some notice!

Also, I want to send a reminder to all your new officers and National Reps, if you haven't sent me a picture and a brief statement for the website, GET ON IT (You know who are)! I think this will be an exciting year and will position us to be strong and effective for the next election cycle. One of the biggest things that pulled me to the Greens was seeing how even when people disagreed or had strongly opposing views, everyone was willing to listen, incorporate new elements where possible and keep on working for the things that are important. That view has only been reinforced for me, so thank you all for being Green!

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