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## Editor's Note

This is already the best year for the Green Party since 2000 for influence and coverage!

The Stein-Baraka campaign is drawing lots of good attention. The Green Party and the campaign are working very hard to take advantage of the opportunities arising.

Please see: [www.gp.org](http://www.gp.org) and [www.jill2016.com](http://www.jill2016.com)

We here in Michigan are also very active. Our delegation to the national convention attended six workshops on growing the Stein-Baraka campaign and all of our candidates' campaigns.

Green Party of Michigan Candidates for the November 8 election

U.S. Congress

1st District	Ellis Boal
2nd District	Matthew A. Brady
4th District	Jordan Salvi
5th District	Harley Mikkelson
8th District	Maria Green
9th District	John V. McDermott

Become a member:  
Here

2016 Green Party  
Presidential  
Nominee  
**Jill Stein**

Start a local?  
Tom Mair  
[traversegreen@  
yahoo.com](mailto:traversegreen@yahoo.com)

Have any  
questions,  
comments, or  
suggestions?  
Let us know, here!

[migreenparty.org](http://migreenparty.org)  
313-815-2025  
PO Box 504,  
Warren, MI  
48090

Full Editor's Note

## Flint Water Crisis: Federal State of Emergency Expires, but the Public Health Disaster is Far from Over

On January 16, President Barack Obama declared a federal state of emergency in the Michigan city of Flint, to deal with a water crisis which saw tens of thousands of people potentially exposed to dangerous levels of lead in their public water supply.

Over the seven months since, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (Fema) has reportedly provided more than 20 million litres of bottled water and some 50,000 water filters to residents of the troubled city, for which the federal government split the costs 75-25 with the state.

The federal emergency declaration was originally set to expire in April, until Michigan's Republican Governor Rick Snyder begged for an extension. This Sunday, 14 August, it will finally lapse for good.

[Read more...](#)

**Kids Speak to  
Detroit Water  
Shutoffs**

# Critical Point of Struggle: *Water*

## Flint Water and Strategic-Structural Racism

The testimony is newsworthy in that it provides the most comprehensive analysis to date of 1) the decision to approve Flint's participation in the KWA pipeline and 2) the financially driven decision to use the Flint River as an interim source of drinking water.

Important conclusions are:

1 The decision to approve the KWA pipeline was driven by politics, not economics, and was made without consideration of how the financially distressed city would pay for a) the \$85 million construction project or b) the estimated \$60 million needed to upgrade its Water Treatment Plant (WTP). KWA, the Emergency Managers, DEQ and Treasury were all complicit in this process.

2 In order to finance KWA construction, KWA, Treasury, DEQ and the Emergency Managers worked to manipulate bond finance rules and manufacture an Administrative Consent Order (ACO) that committed Flint to use the Flint River as an interim drinking water source and created a loophole permitting Flint to sell \$85 million in new bonds for KWA pipeline construction.

3 Treasury, DEQ and the Emergency Managers made no similar efforts to ensure Flint's ability to finance KWA required upgrades to the WTP. Estimates of necessary WTP improvements ranged from \$25 million to \$69 million. In the end, the Emergency Manager spent only \$8 million in upgrades before starting to use the Flint River as the full-time source of drinking water. These funds were "self-financed" out of money previously paid to DWSD for clean drinking water. Flint could not afford both to buy safe water from DWSD and finance needed KWA improvements to the WTP.

4 Treasury contrived the end of Flint's Emergency Management in April 2015 to avoid continued responsibility for the growing public health crisis. If the \$12 million necessary to pay for clean DWSD drinking water had been put back on the books, Flint's debt in April 2015 would have been larger than when the financial emergency was first declared in 2011.

5 The end of Emergency Management did not end Flint's legal obligation to continue using the Flint River. The Emergency Loan Agreement entered into with the State to finance Flint's continued \$8 million deficit, prohibited Flint from unilaterally returning to DWSD for drinking water, ending its participation in KWA or reducing water rates without State approval.

This testimony centers the analysis of the Flint Water Crisis in the context of Strategic-Structural Racism and argues that the Flint tragedy should serve as a morality play about the dangers of structural racism and fiscal austerity, just as the Tuskegee experiments forever shame medical science.

Full Testimony

## Detroit Public Schools Owed Millions In Unpaid Rent, From Another School District

The EAA has released emails that appear to show the state and DPS agreeing to revise payments from the EAA. You can read those emails here.

Yesterday, the governor's office said this debt debate is "really an issue for the EAA and MDE to be responding to," while the Michigan Department of Education declined to comment and referred questions to the Treasury Department.

Meanwhile, on Tuesday, a Treasury spokesperson confirmed the \$14.8 million in payments owed by the EAA to DPS:

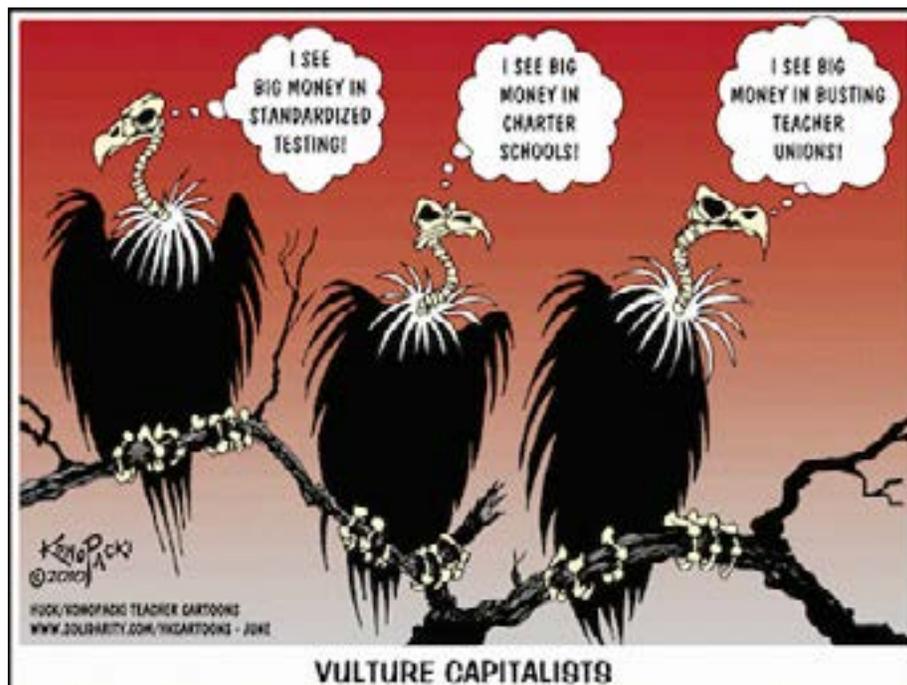
"As far as we know these are the correct numbers. Seeing as this is an issue between EAA and DPS, they are in the best position to provide the most up to date information about amounts and where they are in the process of resolving this issue."

Detroit Public Schools has still not responded to repeated requests for comment.

TUESDAY: The Detroit Public School district is owed millions in unpaid rent from the Education Achievement Authority.

[Read more...](#)

## Critical Point of Struggle: *Education*



## Detroit Public Schools Launches Goal For Little Free Libraries At Every School

Detroit is already home to many Little Free Libraries all over the city. Now, in an attempt to increase literacy among Detroit kids, a bold goal of placing a Little Free Library at every Detroit school has been launched.

Alycia Meriweather, the new interim superintendent of Detroit Public Schools Community District, announced a campaign to provide free books to kids through the Detroit Schools Little Library Project, a collaboration with the Detroit Public Schools Foundation, Detroit Little Libraries grassroots campaign, and the national Little Free Library organization.

[Read more...](#)

## Detroit Public Schools Split Raises Risk Of Default On State-Aid Debt

Michigan's plan to bail out the troubled Detroit public schools is putting debt backed by state aid at risk of falling into default if the bonds aren't refinanced by mid-October.

Ratings have been slashed twice by S&P Global Ratings since late June on the district's debt by a total of six levels to junk. Michigan's restructuring of the district's finances diverts state payments on about \$370 million of bonds sold in 2011 and 2012 to a newly created school district that doesn't have any responsibility for the old debt. The state still lacks a plan to refinance the bonds, and S&P said absent a plan, it would likely consider this a distressed exchange that would merit being labeled as a default.

"S&P was in its rights to downgrade," said Tamara Lowin, director of research at Rye Brook, N.Y.-based Belle Haven Investments, which oversees \$5.3 billion of municipal debt and doesn't own any district debt. "There was debt outstanding for which the revenue stream has disappeared. That is in itself alarming."

[Read more...](#)

## How to Save a City Through a Website

Before talking to Tiffani Bell, most of what I knew about the Detroit of the 21st century was blinkered by my location and class: It revolved around the city's bankruptcy, the Obama-approved auto bailout, and the occasional conversation with friends wondering whether moving there would be the most financially responsible decision that we could make. After all, Detroit is "the new Brooklyn," and, according to one headline, "a millennial paradise."

That's not the Detroit that Tiffani turned her focus to when she started the Detroit Water Project — now known as The Human Utility — in July 2014.

Tiffani found out that thousands of the city's residents were going to lose their access to one of the most basic human rights and necessities: water. While recent college grads were moving in and taking advantage of the city's comparatively low cost of living, thousands of the city's native residents were unable to pay their water utility bill. And if the city didn't get its money, it was simply going to turn the water off.

As a passionate student of computer science and former Code for America fellow in Atlanta, work...

[Read more...](#)

## Rev. Pinkney's Appeal Denied

On July 26 the Michigan Court of Appeals rejected the appeal of political prisoner Rev. Edward Pinkney. Convicted in Berrien County, Michigan, the community activist has already served over 19 months for supposedly altering dates on a recall petition against then Benton Harbor mayor James Hightower. His sentence of 2.5 to 10 years in prison has him currently locked up in the remote Marquette Branch Prison, almost 500 miles from his family and friends.

The Court of Appeals heard oral arguments from Rev. Pinkney's attorney on May 11. Amicus briefs were also filed by the National Lawyers Guild and the American Civil Liberties Union, which was given leave to also argue before the court. Four issues were raised on appeal.

[Read more...](#)



### News: Michigan

#### Fire At Michigan Power Plant Extinguished After More Than 12 Hours

Thick black smoke rose to the sky and snaked across the horizon above a DTE Energy power plant in St. Clair County's East China Thursday night.

DTE officials say a "generation unit" caught fire about 8 p.m. Fire crews worked through the night containing the fire that was finally completely extinguished by about 9 a.m. Friday.

"There are no injuries and no threat to the community," DTE said in a statement issued Friday. "Everyone is safe. DTE teams successfully invoked emergency procedures and shut down all generating units at the site while working with first responders to successfully control the situation."

[Read more...](#)

## Jill Stein Selects Human Rights Activist Ajamu Baraka as VP Running Mate

Green Party presumptive Presidential nominee Jill Stein has offered her vice-presidential bid to international human rights scholar and activist Ajamu Baraka.

“I am honored and excited to announce that my running mate in the 2016 presidential election will be Ajamu Baraka, activist, writer, intellectual and organizer with a powerful voice, vision, and lifelong commitment to building true political revolution,” Stein announced.

[Read more...](#)

## Green Party Gains Ballot Access in Six More States

Voters will have a chance to cast their ballot for Green Party presumptive Presidential nominee Jill Stein, as well as several local- and state-level Green Party candidates, in six more states as of today. Green Party ballot-access signature drives in Kansas, Pennsylvania, Nebraska, New Jersey, Vermont, and Missouri easily surpassed, and in most cases more than doubled, the required number of signatures to secure a ballot line.

[Read more...](#)

## Cornel West: Why I Endorse Green Party’s Jill Stein Over “Neoliberal Disaster” Hillary Clinton

AMY GOODMAN: You are endorsing Dr. Jill Stein. You were a surrogate for Bernie Sanders. You spoke all over the country for him.

CORNEL WEST: Yes, yes, yes.

AMY GOODMAN: What made you decide to support the Green Party presidential candidate as opposed to Hillary Clinton?

CORNEL WEST: Well, I’ve never been tied to one party or one candidate or even one institution. And that’s true even with one church as a Christian. I’m committed to truth and justice. And Brother Bernie, no doubt, was the standard-bearer for truth and justice during the primary at a national level, at a highly visible level. Once he endorsed Hillary Clinton, who, for me, is a neoliberal disaster, it was clear—

[Full Interview](#)

## News: Election

### Wrap-up of the 2016 Green National Convention

At approximately 3:30 p.m. CT on Aug. 6 during the Green Party’s 2016 national convention, Greens chose Jill Stein and running mate Ajamu Baraka to be the party’s presidential and vice-presidential nominees.

Dr. Stein was nominated after receiving a majority of votes in the first round of voting. She received 239.5 out of 293 total votes (81.7%) cast by Green delegates from across the U.S.

The convention took place in Houston, Texas, on the campus of the University of Texas. Dozens of Green candidates from Texas and other states were among the party leaders, delegates, and observers.

Along with the nomination, highlights of the convention included speeches by Julian Assange (via live feed from the Ecuadorian Embassy in London), YahNé Ndgo, and Dr. Cornel West on Saturday and events welcoming former supporters of Bernie Sanders.

[Read more...](#)

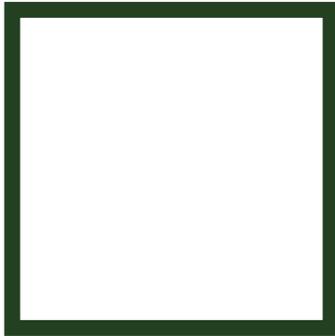
## Don’t Throw Away Your Vote by Voting Trump OR Hillary

I see it all the time in my Facebook newsfeed when my politically active leftist friends make posts about why they won’t vote for Hillary Clinton. The most common reaction from liberals is: “DO YOU WANT DONALD TRUMP TO WIN?!?”

The same can be said about my friends on the right, many of whom will be supporting Gary Johnson in the presidential election. Their posts are filled with Trump supporters making the case that a vote for Johnson is indeed a vote for Hillary Clinton. It’s a strange state of cognitive dissonance when a vote for one candidate is actually not a vote for that person, but rather, a vote for someone else.

[Read more...](#)





**Visit the MI  
Greens Table**

Saturday,  
September 10  
**Dally in the Alley**

**GPMI Updates:**  
*Events*

**Metro Detroit  
Greens Meeting**

September 1  
7 pm  
**4190 Kensington,  
Detroit 48224**

**The Real  
Difference**

**Click Here!**

**Green Party of  
the United States**

Go to [gp.org](http://gp.org) to see who is running for office in 2016. Also, check out the new national logo and t-shirts in the store.

Editor: Fred Vitale

Layout and Design: Jaime Rowland

All articles represent the opinions of the authors and not of the Green Party of Michigan. These are expressed in official press releases and statements

only.