

GREEN PARTY OF MICHIGAN



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Green Party Candidate for 2016 Presidential Race

Everyone is growing tired of bearing witness to the stalemate that is the current two party system in the United States. Dr. Jill Stein is clearly one of these people as she declares in front of the viewers of C-Span that she plans to form an exploratory committee to find a potential Green Party nominee for the upcoming Presidential election. She says that "momentum is growing against abusive high stakes testing that forces poor kids down the deadly school to prison pipeline. The fight is building against predatory mass incarceration. Hard-working immigrants are standing up for a humane path to citizenship, not simply a 3-year deferral of deportation. Frontline and Indigenous communities are leading the resistance to toxic fossil fuels that threaten to disrupt civilization as we know it in our lifetime." She believes that allowing a third party into the system will enable the people to take charge and accomplish the feats that are truly important.

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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. "The importance of bills to be triggered by passage should depend on how much you trust the Legislature, and any future Legislatures, to actually work for policies you approve."

Read more...



Detroit After Bankruptcy

As explained by Wikipedia, "Ausnahmezustand" translates as "state of emergency" or "exception". The German noun "Sinn" (pronounced like the great People's historian Howard "Zinn") means "mind" or "sense". Between the executive's Zen declaration of the emergency, and the profound confusion and social crisis of authority in the public mind/Sinn, arising out of Detroit's 21st century travails, what's the shape of Detroit's future? Mercifully departed Detroit emergency manager Orr coined his witty, opaque phrase "the Zen of emergency management" on June 10, 2013, at the single statutorily required public meeting he held under the terms of Michigan Governor Rick Snyder's Public Act 436. He almost playfully alluded to the evisceration of democracy in local government, where he acknowledges that more than 650,000 mostly African American working class city residents suffer from poor city services and quality of life.

Read more...



How to Get Out of Tax Foreclosure

In this short and relatable video, you will learn a few tricks about how to make the act of getting out of tax foreclosure less daunting and impossible. There are new tax cap laws and ways to extend payment plans, etc. that many people are unaware of. This video aims to inform people going through this stressful time about all of their options and provide step by step instructions on how to fill use these resources, as well as where to go to receive help.

Read more...

Generation Waking Up

Rich Samartino is proud to announce that I and a group of young people in Detroit will be facilitating a 'Generation Waking Up' gathering at St. Charles Church, 1491 Baldwin Street, Detroit on February 15th from 1:15-5:15pm. This event is aimed at people ages 18 through 30 to "engage in visionary organizing for a more just and sustainable Detroit." Please email the organizer Lola Gibson-Berg at lolakgb@gmail.com if you plan on attending or would like more information. Please share widely as we'd like to have as many young people in and around Detroit there as possible!

For more information...

Metro Greens Meeting February 19th

We are starting up our monthly Metro Green Meetings in 2015 -- third Thursday of each month.

The next one is:

February 19th

Phoenix Café, 24918 John R in Hazel Park

7:00 pm -8:30 pm.

Network and light snacks at 6:45 and the meeting will start promptly at 7 pm.

The Phoenix Café is just off of I-696 and John R (near the intersection of John R and Ten Mile).

Discussion:

1. Key Pillar -- Social Justice -- February is Black History Month -- How can Michigan Greens support the Black Lives Matter movement? Open dialogue among Green Party members and supporters
2. Key Pillar -- Grassroots Democracy -- The proposed tax amendment, Green Party opposition and what we can do about it together
3. Updates on other issues including the upcoming State Membership Meeting in Lansing March 14th and 15th.
4. Upcoming forum dates:

March 19th

April 16th

May 21th

June 18th

Metro Greens Meeting February 19th

The next State Meeting of the Green Party of Michigan will be in East Lansing at the Coral Gables

restaurant, 2838 East Grand River Avenue, East Lansing, MI 48823, (517) 337-1311

The dates are Saturday March 14, from 9:00 AM til 4:00 PM and Sunday March 15, from 9:00 AM til Noon.

Lunch at restaurant for \$5/person.

Looking forward to seeing a lot of you at the State Membership Meeting. This is an opportunity to make some initial decisions that can place us in the best possible position for winning some seats in 2016. I think we know what are the characteristics of elections we could possibly win or at least get a showing significantly above our 2%.

We also have some good plans at increasing the ties among our members as well as increasing our numbers.

It would be possible to include, at least in an online version of the SMM packet, useful links and pieces to help educate SMM members on the struggle against predatory mine operations. It may help to have information available on the struggle against predatory mine operations in the UP; the health issues around the Kalamazoo spill; the Great Lakes Water Authority and southeast Michigan; anti-fracking efforts, etc. Recommendations for targeted elections or campaigns would be of value too.

Any opinions presented in this newsletter are not necessarily those of the Green Party. They are simply events that we believe to be educational. Any patrons are welcome to submit articles or other content to the Green Party of Michigan website for potential publication. Thank you.