



GREEN PARTY OF MICHIGAN



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Editor's Note

Two recent Supreme Court decisions were announced at the end of June. The first upheld sections of the Affordable Care Act (Obamacare) so that people can continue to receive health care subsidies. The second proclaimed that same sex marriage is a right supported by the US Constitution. The first decision allowed millions of people who have just acquired health care to keep it.

Poor people of color are among the biggest beneficiaries. Greens have had and continue to have serious criticisms of the law and want it replaced by universal health care which has been offered in House Bill 676.

The Green Party has long supported full civil rights for the LGBTQ community and that struggle too is not over. Discrimination against the community, especially transgendered people, continues and eliminating it legally remains a challenge.

The attack by a racial terrorist in Charleston shows the growing movement of fascism in the United States. Fascism, a counter movement of despair and hopelessness, occurs as a result of the growth and development of our progressive movements for social change.

The movements for social justice in the U.S. are growing. To defeat these movements the powerful will use legal and extra-legal means. To label this man as "pure evil" or "mentally disturbed" avoids the political issue of racial murders and why they occurred. Racial murders are part of a right-wing response to the growth of movements challenging the old order and capitalism. Greece has been in an economic crisis for several years. The crisis was caused by the demands for exorbitant debt repayment plans by the Troika -- European Central Bank (ECB), the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the European Union (EU) -- requiring cuts to social services, cuts to government pensions and wages, as well as reform of labor laws protecting contract workers. After years of implementing these plans, the Greek people and the Greek economy are in even worse shape.

As the country suffered, the people formed a new political party, Syriza, or the Coalition of the Radical Left. Syriza says that austerity does not work for Greece or for any country in the European Union. Now they are in power, elected to stop the plans of austerity. Syriza refused to implement the austerity plans submitted and agreed to by previous Greek governments. The crisis has reached a critical turning point. As we get ready to publish, the Greek banks are closed until July 6; the government has placed strict controls on money movement out of Greece; and Syriza has called for a nation-wide referendum on the Troika's demands of more and more austerity to pay the debt. At the same time that mobilization against the Troika grew, a fascist movement grew also in Greece in response to this mobilization. This fascist movement has been pushed back temporarily by the successful election of Syriza, but it is funded by powerful capitalist forces as in the United States and will continue as long as the crisis is not resolved in the people's favor. Puerto Rico, an internal colony of the United States, has re-entered the news with an analogous "debt" crisis. In a bad sign, the governor has hired Stephen Rhodes, retired Federal judge who presided over the Detroit bankruptcy, as a consultant.

Become a member:
Here

Do you want to be a
candidate?

John Anthony LaPietra,
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Start a local?

Rod Reamer
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Have any questions, com-
ments, or suggestions?

Let us know, here!

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Finally, Jill Stein has formally announced her presidential campaign of 2016 and will likely pursue the Green Party nomination at our national convention in 2016. If you have any comments or questions on the newsletter, please send them to me, Fred Vitale, at freddetroit@gmail.com

CMU Alumni on March to Flint

Members of the Student Environmental Alliance are not waiting around for the world to change--they're pushing for it.

Tomorrow two Central Michigan University alumni, Traven Michaels and Mariah Urueta, will join hundreds in the march to protest the Detroit and Flint water crisis. Michaels and Urueta, both former SEA members, work for the Food and Water Watch of Michigan.

"The Detroit to Flint water justice journey is made up of a core group of journeyers who will walk from Detroit to...

[Read more...](#)



Lansing Water Hearings

On June 3, 2015 about 60 Detroit Water Advocates gathered in Lansing to testify at public hearings called by representatives Stephanie Chang, Shelton Neeley and LaTanya Garret. This hearing begins the work of State and National policies to protect Water as a Human Right.

Here are excerpts from Alice Jennings whose testimony opened the session. You can watch the unedited hearing at <https://vimeo.com/129853822>

[Read more...](#)

Critical Points of Struggle: *Water*

Income-Based Water Affordability Plan in PA

Legislation sponsored by Councilwoman Maria Quiñones-Sánchez to improve water bill collections and institute a new program to protect low-income water customers unanimously passed City Council today. It now heads to Mayor Michael Nutter for signature.

The legislation, Bill 140607, would establish an Income-Based Water Revenue Assistance Program, or IWRAP, to ensure low-income Philadelphians' water bills are affordable in relation to their income. It would also encourage increased collections and water conservation measures.

[Read more...](#)

Important Groups:

People's Water Board
Coalition
&
We the People, Detroit

Crisis of Ongoing Police Violence

Green Party members expressed their profound sympathy and condolences for members of Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church in Charleston, S.C., especially the bereaved families, and for all those affected by the June 17 massacre. Greens share in the nation's sadness, shame, and anger for this recent incident of domestic terrorism and reminder of the persistence of racism.

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The Atrocity in Charleston: 'Let this Trauma Drive the Struggle for Black Liberation'

When nine defenseless people are killed in a church, it's not a "shooting," it's a massacre. When a 21-year-old white male who wears racist hate badges on his jacket walks into a church and murders nine unarmed Black people, I don't call that just a "hate crime" by a lone wolf. It's a terrorist attack by a white supremacist.

Unfortunately, the following description is exactly what happened on June 17 in Charleston, S.C., between 8:00 and 9:00 p.m.

According to witnesses and recent reports, the accused 21-year-old gunman, Dylann Roof, walked in to Emanuel A.M.E. Church around 8:00 p.m. Local police were called around 9:00 p.m. According to witnesses and on the scene survivors, Roof reloaded five times. Eight people died at the scene, including the church's pastor, Rev. Clementa C. Pinckney.

After a 14-hour hunt, Roof was finally arrested in Shelby, N.C., just a few miles west of Charlotte, N.C.,

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Equality:

Tragedy & Solution

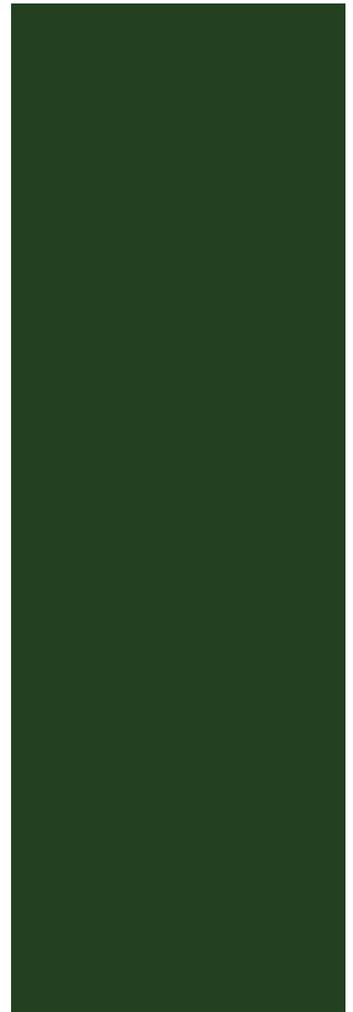
A Q&A with Opal Tometi of 'Black Lives Matter'

One thing that sets the current racial justice movement apart from its predecessors is the intentional centering of voices that have previously been marginalized—even within movement spaces. While the media still primarily pay attention to institutionalized racism when a black heterosexual cisgender man is killed by police, organizers on the ground are looking to grow a movement that ensures liberation across sexual, gender, and class identity.

In my second interview with the creators of Black Lives Matter, I spoke with Opal Tometi, Executive Director of Black Alliance for Just Immigration, about building an inclusive movement, the importance of identity, and how to shift the narrative of justice away from the conviction and jailing of killer cops. The interview has been edited for length and clarity.

Mychal Denzel Smith: Can you take me to the moment you read Alicia Garza's Facebook post that said "Black Lives Matter" and what you felt reading at the time?

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How to Destroy This Nation: American Austerity Politics

“Something is rotten in the state of Michigan. One city neglected to inform its residents that its water supply was laced with cancerous chemicals. Another dissolved its public school district and replaced it with a charter school system, only to witness the for-profit management company it hired flee the scene after determining it couldn’t turn a profit. Numerous cities and school districts in the state are now run by single, state-appointed technocrats, as permitted under an emergency financial manager law pushed through by Rick Snyder, Michigan’s austerity-promoting governor. This legislation not only strips residents of their local voting rights, but gives Snyder’s appointee the power to do just about anything, including dissolving the city itself — all (no matter how disastrous) in the name of “fiscal responsibility.”

If you’re thinking, “Who cares?” since what happens in Michigan stays in Michigan, think again. The state’s aggressive balance-the-books style of governance has

[Read more...](#)



Eduardo García

National News: *Michigan & U.S*

Students Battle Wisconsin Austerity

Protests to oppose gutting all aspects of public education and related austerity continue in Milwaukee and across Wisconsin.

Another series of protest actions took place, including the June 11 “Another Budget Is Possible” protest at the state Capitol sponsored by unions and student and community organizations, including the Wisconsin Bail Out the People Movement.

The Milwaukee Teachers Education...

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Detroit’s Foreclosure Disaster

Public policy in Detroit, the nation’s largest majority Black city, seems structured to create blight and force the current population out of their homes. Sixty-two thousand properties are set for foreclosure, this year, more than half of them occupied. “This could result in the displacement of as many as 100,000 Detroiters, or about one seventh of the city’s population.”

“The truth is that mortgage and tax foreclosures have caused most of the city’s blight over the last 15 years.” Detroit – where 85% of the working class once owned homes – has been suffering a waterless hurricane. Predatory mortgage practices that disproportionately targeted African-American homeowners and inflated mortgages resulted in foreclosure on 25% of all residential buildings in the city between 2005 and 2011. Vacancy escalated and blight blossomed.

While Detroit endures the highest poverty rate of any major U.S. city, where schools have been closed and services cut to the bone, developers have been

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TPP Would Give Multinationals Power to Cripple Environmental Laws

While the country contemplates how the midterm results will impact policies, one thing hasn't changed: the administration and some members of Congress are still pushing for a new trade deal that makes the North American Free Trade Agreement look puny.

This agreement, the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP), includes the U.S. and 11 other Pacific Rim countries comprising 40 percent of global trade. (Negotiating countries include Mexico, Canada, Japan, Vietnam, Australia, Brunei, Singapore, Chile, Malaysia, Peru and New Zealand.) Its provisions could destroy jobs at home, undermine national sovereignty and threaten clean air and water everywhere.

Twenty years ago, NAFTA promised American jobs and economic prosperity

by opening trade with Canada and Mexico. We didn't get the jobs, but we sure did get problems. According to Public Citizen's Economic Policy Institute, NAFTA outsourced jobs from all 50 states. Approximately 46,200 were lost in New York alone. Moreover, the U.S., Canada and Mexico...

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Other News:

International

Syriza: Plunder, Pillage & Prostration

Greece has been in the headlines of the world's financial press for the past five months, as a newly elected leftist party, 'Syriza', which ostensibly opposes so-called 'austerity measures', faces off against the "Troika" (International Monetary Fund, the European Commission and European Central Bank).

Early on, the Syriza leadership, headed by Alexis Tsipras, ...

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Spain's Seismic Elections

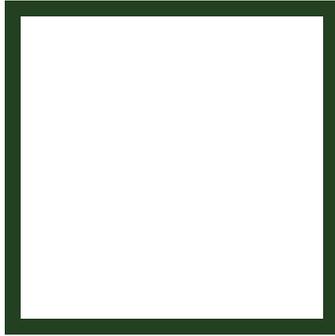
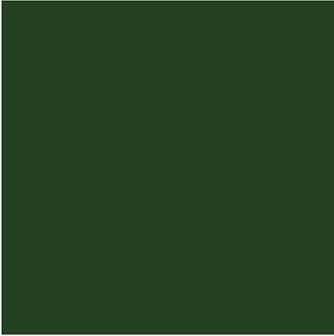
"It's the victory of David over Goliath," said Ada Colau in front of an ecstatic crowd just before midnight on May 24. Colau, the former spokesperson of Spain's anti-eviction movement (PAH) and the country's most visible face of popular outrage against austerity, is likely to be the new mayor of Barcelona.

Spain's local and regional elections have changed the country's...

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Ada Colau, leader and local candidate of the "Barcelona en Comu" party, celebrates her victory after elections in Barcelona, Spain, on May 24, 2015



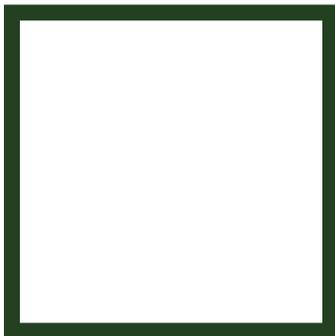
**Green Party
Annual National
Meeting**

July 23-26
St. Louis
Information

GPMI Updates:
Events

Politics 101

September
Detroit
*Stay tuned for
more Information*



Support the Detroit teachers union!
Stop the attack on Steve Conn!

The most recent set of allegations against Steve Conn, newly elected president of the Detroit Federation of Teachers, are politically motivated, as have been all the charges against Steve Conn in his many years as a teacher activist in Detroit. (Detroit Free Press, June 26) Once, he was even fired by the school administration. The firing was later overturned as politically motivated and unjust under pressure from the many DFT members who supported him. Steve got his job back.

Now, the Emergency Manager of DPS and the former leaders of the DFT who are behind the most recent round of spurious charges, agree on fundamentals – the policies of austerity. They both agree that teachers pay and benefits should be reduced, class sizes increased, all to support the failed policies of education reform. “Education reform” is code for eliminating teachers unions and destroying public education in the name of profit. Steve Conn’s “crime” has been his principled opposition to these policies for over 30 years.

Fred Vitale
Detroit Green

GPMI Updates: *News*

DETROIT TO FLINT WATER JUSTICE JOURNEY July 3-10, 2015

Delegation to LANSING

Rally for Clean & Affordable Water
July 10, 10am @ City Hall

Cross-County Speak-Out!
July 5, 7pm @ Baldwin Center

FLINT

HOLLY

GRAND BLANC

CLARKSTON

PONTIAC

BLOOMFIELD HILLS

FERNDALE

HIGHLAND

DETROIT

PARK

Water Ceremony
July 3, 8am @ Memorial to the Underground Railroad
Meet-Up
9:30am @ Central United Methodist Church
Send-Off Rally
10am @ Spirit of Detroit

Cultural Celebration
July 3, 2:30pm @ Nandi's
Town Hall Meeting & Rally to Keep Our
4:00pm @ St. Luke's AME

www.peopleswaterboard.org

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