



Critical Point of Struggle : Education

Here are some pieces on education. For Greens, education is connected to both social justice and grassroots democracy. The children of the human race are the future of the human race and formal education in our world is an important component of childhood life. The difference in formal 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. The classism and racism of modern U.S. society is astonishing.

At the same time the 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. Thus, through the need for community unity, 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

Detroit Public School's New Emergency Manager

Gov. Rick Snyder picked Flint's emergency manager Tuesday to be the next leader of Detroit Public Schools, a move that sparked criticism from people who believe the district should be returned to local control. Darnell Earley, 63, said he plans to spend his first 90 days reviewing operations and will hone in on improving academic achievement. He is the fourth governor-appointed emergency manager for DPS in six years. Snyder said another emergency manager wasn't his preferred option, but that he saw it as necessary, given the district's financial and academic challenges. DPS has a \$169.5-million deficit.

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Detroiters Resisting Emergency Management

The Governor's recent appointment of yet another Emergency Manager for Detroit Public Schools (DPS), hours before the elected school board would have voted to end outside rule, is such a morally outrageous assault on the citizens and children of Detroit as to compel an outcry. D-REM hereby condemns this ongoing exploitation of Detroit's school children. We point out that there have been no positive outcomes whatsoever as a result of the imposition of Emergency Managers by Governor Snyder. On the contrary, EM policies, implemented by one "new" set of "educational reformers" after another, have undermined the entire public...

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Privatization of Detroit Public Schools

In December, a new 31-member "grassroots" organization was announced called the Coalition for the Future of Detroit Schoolchildren. Proclaiming itself "not an initiative from the state or from the city, but from the people," the group includes General Motors executives, a former emergency manager of the Detroit Public Schools, business groups like New Detroit and the Chamber of Commerce, together with substantial representation from the unions. The mandate of the coalition is purportedly to develop ideas to revitalize Detroit schools, overhaul the city's educational system and complete the "rebirth" of the city supposedly.

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Who is Behind the California Charter Schools?

Who is the California Charter Schools Association? Founded by nativist Steve Poizner. Revenues of over \$2.23-Million. Walmart fortune heir Carrie Walton Penner on their Board of Directors. Director Jed Wallace stuffing his pockets with over \$.335-Million in "compensation" which is no strain on the CCSA budget, since the Waltons and their friends provided CCSA with more than \$2.2 million in revenues last year. With those dark secrets and massive revenues to protect, it's no wonder they are attacking sitting school board members. The article also includes a graphic showing where the money goes .

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Response to Garden City School Superintendent

Garden City Public Schools Superintendent, Michelle Cline, recently told her staff she did not want the District to become the first predominately white one to end the fiscal year in a financial deficit. She was correct in her assessment that all the Michigan school districts that have fallen into takeover mode are predominately African American. She made a mistake, however, in assuming that the Black districts that have been taken over by the state deserved it. Currently in Michigan, there are 55 predominately white districts in deficit. When the districts are mostly white, they are given 2, 3, 4, or more chances to...

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Water is a Human Right

Here are some pieces on the water crisis. Water has been a key issue and focus for Michigan Greens for our fourteen years of existence. Water nourishes all four key pillars of the Green Party - ecological wisdom, grassroots democracy, social justice and nonviolence.

Detroit greens were founding members of the Peoples Water Board Coalition 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, and others.

-The Editor

Detroit Water Dept. Continues to Deny Reality Regarding Rates

Detroit People's Water Board and other local groups will call on the Detroit Water and Sewerage Department (DWSD) to realize families will continue to be deprived of water unless rates match a family's ability to pay. DWSD will hold a series of public hearings including one this afternoon, Wednesday, February 25 at 2:00 p.m. in the 5th Floor Board Room 735 Randolph. The People's Water Board and others who fought to keep water flowing to Detroit families have a simple message: Detroit families can't pay what they don't have, and many Detroiters are still struggling to make ends meet even with the Mayor's payment plan.

"Hundreds of Detroit families as well as DWSD would be better served if the Mayor would acknowledge how hard it is for low income people to adhere to the payment plan," said Tawana Petty of the Detroit People's Water Board "The Water Affordability Plan, drafted by Michigan Welfare Rights and approved by the City Council in 2006 addresses the reality low income families are facing. We need Mayor Duggan the Water Department to do the same."

It's been well documented that Detroit's water rates have risen 119% over the past decade even as the city continues to have double-digit unemployment and is one of the most impoverished major cities in the nation. Stagnant wages and home foreclosures have been nationwide concern and hit few places harder than Detroit.

"The Water Affordability plan shifts the paradigm for families with low income and puts their basic needs foremost," said Priscilla Dziubek of the Detroit People's Water Board. "Water and revenue to sustain the water system will both flow if we realize water is a right. People can't function on the most basic level without it nor can they be productive members of the society. The failure to address affordability creates unnecessary crises for a city whose residents have enough challenges as is."

The water department has attempted to evade the affordability issue by funding nonprofits that claim to be addressing this problem by providing "assistance" to people after they fall into shut off status. This inadequate model is not sustainable, does not provide any long-term solutions, and leaves people vulnerable to repeated shut offs. "Assistance" is not affordability. The Detroit Peoples Water Board demands real solutions to the problems of water, human rights and poverty.

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Detroiters Resisting Emergency Management

United Nations human rights officials expressed serious concerns about Detroit hiring a demolition contractor in the spring of 2014, to shut water service off from 3000 families per week. This controversy made international headlines, and entered the city's Chapter 9 bankruptcy court case. The reasons for this crisis of water and human rights in Detroit, and its relationship to the bankruptcy, illustrate Detroit's history and the regional dynamics of our metropolitan area. In brief, the abuse and exploitation of Detroit's resources and people, by the dominant reserve, corporate power structure, was dramatically...

Read more...

Flint Water Advisory Committee

The city is forming a water advisory committee, asking the group to provide information on Flint's efforts to "maintain a safe water supply and to improve quality." Mayor Duggan said today, Feb. 17, that about 40 business owners, elected officials and members of various community organizations have been asked to serve on the committee. Walling said he and emergency manager Jerry Ambrose agreed to form the committee and said the group could expand beyond the initial individuals and groups that have been asked to participate. Among them are City Council President Josh Freeman, the Concerned Pastors for...

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Campus Greens

Where Your Tuition Dollars Really Go

One day in 2013, I sat down in a Starbucks in the Foogy Bottom neighborhood of Washington with Hugh Moren, then a junior at the nearby George Washington University. I asked him how much money he was borrowing to go to college. "Eighty-two thousand dollars," he said. "By the time I graduate, a hundred ten." The number shocked me, but not as much as the way it didn't shock him. Hugh Moren was born in Warwick, R.I., and like generations of smart young people raised in the country's decaying industrial towns, he spent his adolescence plotting to leave. He wanted to study international relations and get a degree with a...

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Taxes

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.

Read more...



Foreclosure Crisis

Over 80,000 tax foreclosures in Detroit were published last November in the Detroit Legal News by the Wayne County treasurer. (62,000 Detroit properties eligible for tax foreclosure at the start of 2015, as well as the 18,563 'reverter' properties that were sold at tax foreclosure auctions since 2012 but are being taken back by the county because they are behind on taxes again (owners have until May to pay).

-(<https://detroit.whydowntweownthis.com/>).

Judge turns a deaf ear to pleas from homeowners in Detroit.

Several organizations are devoted to helping people. They include:

- Detroit Eviction Defense
- Moratorium Now! Coalition
- Michigan Welfare Rights Organization
- United Community Housing Coalition

-The Editor

GPMI Updates

Upcoming State Meeting

Coral Gables Restaurant 2838 East Grand River Avenue

Saturday, March 15

9 am - 4 pm

Business and Votes

Sunday March 16

9 am - noon

Future Planning

All Green Party members are encouraged to attend.

Saturday — Coffee and registration at 9 am. Meeting starts at 10 am.

Agenda includes: officer elections, discussion on the state of the people,

the environment, social movements and the perspectives of the

Sunday — 9 am start. Future planning on decisions of Saturday.

More information: www.migreenparty.org

Green Party e-newsletter

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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.