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Guest Editorial

Bernie Sanders' defeats in the East Coast primaries have triggered a flurry of conversation about what the 25 to 35% of Sanders supporters who've told pollsters they will not vote for Hillary Clinton will do instead. Socialist Alternative, led by Seattle City Council member Kshama Sawant, and others have called for Sanders to found an independent left party for the 99% and run as an independent, or to appeal to Jill Stein and the Green Party to join their ticket, despite his oft repeated promise to endorse the Democrats' nominee.

With little time left to get a new party on the ballot in most states, I looked into Green Party ballot access in the 50 states and spoke to Georgia Green Party activist and Black Agenda Report Managing Editor Bruce Dixon.

Ann Garrison: Bruce Dixon, the Green Party now appears on the ballot in 21 states including California and the District of Columbia, and there are ballot access drives underway in many of the others including Georgia. Can you tell us about the federal court victory you just won there?

Bruce Dixon: We won a victory in the 11th Circuit Court of Appeals here in Georgia. The case has been around for, I think, eight years now and we got it reconsidered, and the court lowered the barrier of the number of signatures in Georgia from 50,000 signatures, or 1% of turnout in the last statewide election, down to 7500 signatures. The 50,000 signatures [requirement] was intended to be a barrier to keep third parties, originally back in the 1940s Democrats and Communists, off the ballot in the South. The rule was lifted briefly for Strom Thurmond when the Dix...

Full Interview...

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Learn more about being a Green candidate
John Anthony LaPietra,
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Start a local?
Tom Mair
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Have any questions, comments, or suggestions?
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Flint Committee Wraps Up Hearings Without Calling Governor or EMs

The legislative committee looking into the Flint water crisis is done with hearings and is going to work on a set of recommendations. The hearings wrapped up without appearances by Gov. Rick Snyder, senior aides, or former emergency managers.

Democratic State Rep. Jeff Irwin says they should have been called to testify.

“I think for this committee to have credibility, we needed to hear from the governor, we needed to hear from the emergency managers, we needed to hear from the people who were central to this crisis, and we haven’t,” Irwin said.

Read more...

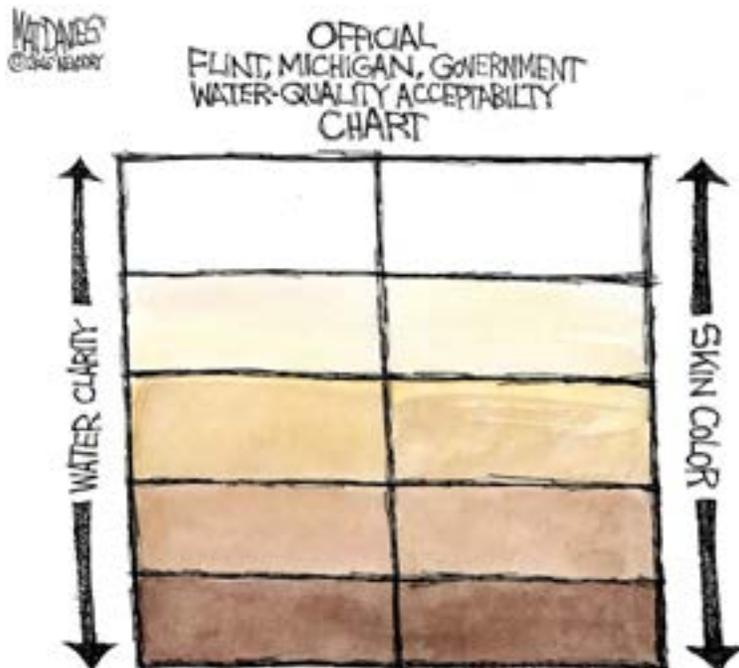
Thinking for Ourselves: Distorted Story

We are beginning the third year of the crisis in Flint. In spite of thousands of news articles, visits by politicians, apologies, and claims of relentless positive action, little has changed in the daily lives of the people. Water is still unsafe. Filters, touted as a cure all, have been operating for so long many are approaching fatigue. They require constant flushing. Many need to be replaced. Every day most people still organize their lives around water safety. They cannot simply turn on their tap to brush teeth, bathe, cook or wash. This week volunteers from Detroit will again go to Flint to deliver bottles of water, talk with residences, and explore how to advance political pressure to mobilize a will to act.

Meanwhile Governor Snyder continues his public relations stunts. Making a show of drinking filtered Flint water, he quickly departed for Europe. He didn’t take his water with him. And while crisis experts are making his name synonymous with ineptness and disaster, he and the powers that support him are scrambling to protect emergency managers.

Read more...

Critical Point of Struggle: Water



Misuse of Debt Relief Funds in Flint

Tom Stephens & my coworker Denzel drew my attention to [this article](#). It’s significant.

In a nutshell, it shows apparent misuse of a debt relief program - administrative consent order, or ACO - to fund the Karengondi Water Authority. Here’s the kicker, the consent order required Flint to switch to Flint River water. The details, most essential graphs, are below. Tom or others please chime in with correct...

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Flint Activists Deliver Lawmakers Letters Demanding Resolution To Water Crisis

Activists delivered 5,400 letters to lawmakers Thursday from Michigan residents insisting the state provide adequate and immediate funding to bring the Flint water crisis to an end once and for all.

Lawmakers from 44 districts received a portion of the letters, according to Flint Rising, the group that organized the letter delivery...

[Read more...](#)

Flint Water Rates Could Double Without Changes To System, State Treasurer Says

Water rates could double within five years unless changes are made to the water system already charging the highest rates in the nation, state Treasurer Nick Khouri said Friday.

Khouri presented the initial findings of a study of Flint's water rates Friday, May 13, to the Flint Water Interagency Coordinating Committee, which showed large rate increases are likely for city residents unless changes are made.

Khouri said leaders will need to find ways to reduce operating costs, find low- to no-cost financing for infrastructure upgrades and find a cost-effective source of water moving forward to curb the cost increases.

[Read more...](#)

Critical Point of Struggle: Water



Washington Post

FBI Opens Investigation Into Detroit's Blight Removal Program

The FBI is digging into the city's blight removal program, The Detroit News confirmed today.

Since October, the Detroit Land Bank — which oversees the city's blight removal efforts — has come under increased scrutiny, as those like reporter Charlie LeDuff have questioned the organization's bidding practices and the the ever-increasing prices for demolitions since Mayor Mike Duggan came into office. (Under Mayor Dave Bing, it cost an average of \$10,000 to dem...

[Read more...](#)

Free Camp Will Give Flint Kids A Break From Water Crisis

LA Charter School Report

UTLA released a really important study yesterday, in an attempt to push back on the Broad Plan to expand charter schools. A write up from the LA Times is below.

The study, commissioned an independent municipal finance firm, analyzed the economic impact of charter schools on the finances of Los Angeles Unified School District. The report finds that LAUSD loses \$4,957 for each student leaving the district for charter schools. This loss comes from LAUSD's inability to adjust expenses in proportion to the loss of student enrollment revenue, as well as additional costs created by oversight responsibilities and increases in the population of special needs students, who are disproportionately underserved by charter schools.

[Read more...](#)

Critical Point of Struggle: *Education*

DPS Kept Millions Intended For Pensions

Detroit Public Schools district received up to \$30 million in U.S. Department of Education reimbursements for some employee pensions but didn't send the money to a state pension fund.

As first reported by the Free Press last week, a report from retired federal judge Steven Rhodes...

[Read more...](#)

How Detroit's Teacher 'Sickout' Cast A Spotlight On Unsafe School Conditions

On the week that most of Detroit's 97 public schools shut down over mass teacher "sickouts", Wytrice Harris stood inside Fellowship Chapel church on the city's west side, channeling the exasperation of her daughter Imani in an open letter.

"Everyone's so worried about how I'm losing ...

[Read more...](#)

Big Donors Have Been Big Players In Fight Over Detroit Public Schools Turnaround

As Michigan's largest school district faces a financial crisis, some of the state's wealthiest campaign donors are entrenched in the fight over how to resolve it.

Through press releases, lobbyists, well-timed personal phone calls and perhaps even a slice of pizza, donors who've combined to give millions in campaign contributions over the last 10 years are working to influence the future of education in Detroit.

The role of donors and groups they fund has been so impactful in the ongoing Detroit Public Schools (DPS) debate that one lawmaker involved in the negotiations alleged this week that it was "the only factor" in a recent House vote. And some are even raising concerns about who's being given the chance to sway lawmakers on the matter. They note that the lead GOP senator on DPS and the mayor of Detroit requested but weren't...

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The Green Party Recognizes Two Candidates for the Green Nomination: Stein and Kreml

The Green Party of the United States formally recognizes two candidates for the 2016 Green presidential nomination, in accordance with party rules: Jill Stein and William Kreml. Both candidates have fulfilled all the requirements for official recognition, qualifying their campaigns for access to party resources.

The nominee will be chosen at the 2016 Green Party Presidential Nomination Convention in Houston, Texas, August 4-7, 2016 (<http://www.gp.org/pnc-2016>). The nomination will take place on Saturday, August 6.

[Read more,,,](#)



News: *Election*

Democratic Party in Maine Advances Amendment to Eliminate Superdelegates

Diane Russell, a state representative from Portland, Maine, has a plan to end the influence of superdelegates in her state. And after a 6-1 vote in favor by the party's rules committee Friday afternoon, it's one step closer to becoming reality.

"The superdelegate system is ridiculous," Russell told US Uncut in a phone interview.

Superdelegates are the Democratic Party officials, lobbyists, and party leaders who have an outsized influence in who becomes the Democratic presidential nominee, as their 713 combined votes represent roughly 15 percent of the total delegates. While pledged delegates are awarded proportionally based on how a candidate performs in a state's primary or caucus, superdelegates are not obligated to vote with their state's preference.

[Read more...](#)



Bernie Sanders “Please Do Not Moan to me About Hillary Clinton’s Problems”

Sen. Bernie Sanders rejects the premise set up by MSNBC’s Andrea Mitchell about his continued presence in the Democratic race negatively impacting Clinton in the general election, saying he is on equal footing with Donald Trump and Hillary Clinton and can still win.

“Oh, really? Andrea, in every state that we have won, in 19 states, we have had to take on the entire Democratic establishment. We have had to take on senators and governors and mayors and members of Congress, so please do not moan to me about Hillary Clinton’s problems,” Sanders said.

“I don’t think I was moaning about Hillary Clinton’s problems,” Mitchell responded.

“I know it’s a steep climb. ... We still have the possibility of coming in with the majority of pledged delegates,” Sanders added.

[Read more...](#)

Safe States, Inside-Outside, and Other Liberal Illusions

Bernie Sanders is on his way to an endorsement of Hillary Clinton, the candidate of War, Wall Street, and Wal-Mart. Sanders ran as a New Deal Democrat, but he will soon be campaigning for a plain old corporate New Democrat.

To keep his troops engaged through this transition, Sanders will stage a few rules and platform fights at the convention. But rule changes are irrelevant to the real party power structure of candidate organizations and their corporate investors. Any platform planks won will be irrelevant as well. No corporate Democrat will feel bound by them.

[Read more...](#)

News: Election

About that Post-Bernie Movement

Now that it’s almost inevitable Hillary Clinton will win the Democratic nomination, the talk is turning to what will come out of Bernie Sanders’ campaign after the Democratic National Convention.

Enthusiasm is growing for a post-Sanders movement. Khwaja Khusro Tariq writes “if one accepts that Hillary is the most likely Democratic nominee for president does that mean we pack it up and go home? No. We signed up for a political revolution, not just this campaign.”

Even Noam Chomsky is optimistic: Mr. Sanders has “mobilized a large number of young people who are saying, ‘Look, we’re not going to consent anymore.’ If that turns into a continuing, organized, mobilized force, that could change the country—maybe not for this election, but in the longer term.”

The post-nomination Sanders movement will face its first test — or opportunity, if you prefer — in September. Will Mr. Sanders and his supporters demand a place for the Green Party nominee in the fall presidential debates?

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Information

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2016 State
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Convention

July 30 - 31
Lansing
Information

Green Party of
the United States

Go to 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.