



# The Prairie Greens of East Central Illinois

Winter 2007  
www.prairiegreens.org

## 2008 PRIMARY CANDIDATES

On November 5th, three candidates for Champaign County Board filed to be nominated at the February 5th Green Party primary. Joe Futrelle, activist and research coordinator at the National Center for Supercomputing Applications, is running for a second time in the 8th district. The incumbent is not seeking reelection. Kostas Yfantis, educational computing specialist, and Walter Pituc, undergraduate history student, are running for two seats in the 7th district. There are no Republicans running in the primary.

There are also candidates running for countywide office in Coles County. Todd Reardon and Michael Snow are running for States Attorney and Coroner, respectively.

The Green Party will hold its first statewide presidential primary this year. Four Green presidential candidates successfully petitioned to get placed on our primary. These candidates are:

**Jared Ball** - Associate Professor at Morgan State University and Hip-Hop Activist from Washington DC.

**Howie Hawkins** - Long time activist and recent New York Senatorial candidate. Hawkins is a stand-in for Ralph Nader, who has not announced. Votes for Hawkins are considered to be for Nader.

**Cynthia McKinney** - Six term former Georgia congresswoman, now residing in California.

**Kent Mesplay** - Air quality inspector from California. Candidate for the Green presidential nomination in 2004.

All voters in Illinois will have an opportunity to help select the 2008 Green presidential candidate. Election judges should offer your choice of Green, Republican, and Democratic ballots. If you are not offered a ballot, request one. If they will not provide you with a ballot, ask to speak with the County Clerk's office and notify info@prairiegreens.org.

## 2008 CALL FOR MORE CANDIDATES

With established party status throughout the state, the Green Party can slate candidates in races where no Green ran in the primary. For Champaign County, this means any office except for County Board Districts 8 and 9 in Champaign County. The precinct committee meets after the primary and decides which candidates to slate in vacant races.

All State House and State Senate candidates will be unopposed

after the primary. All Champaign County board elections will be uncontested after the primary, except for Districts 7 and 8 where Green candidates are running.

If you are interested, please attend a Prairie Greens meeting or contact info@prairiegreens.org.

Our previous candidates are a great resource for making your decision to run and general electoral advice. Feel free to

contact them:

Joe Futrelle -  
futrelle@prairiegreens.org  
Kostas Yfantis -  
kostasyfantis@gmail.com  
Tom Abram -  
tabram@gmail.com

The next page includes local positions where a Green candidate can be slated after the primary.

*The Prairie Greens meet the first and third Mondays of every month at 7:30pm. The first Monday is a membership meeting in the Urbana-Champaign Independent Media Center, located in the downtown Urbana post office at 202 S. Broadway. Use the Elm St. entrance and walk straight into the first room. The third Monday is a Green Tea discussion at the Urbana Free Library auditorium. New attendees are welcome and encouraged.*

## POSITIONS UP FOR ELECTION IN 2008

15th Congressional District

53rd State Senate District

State House Districts

103,104,105,110

Countywide Elected Offices

Auditor, Circuit Clerk, Coroner,

Recorder, States Attorney

County Board Districts

1,2,3,4,5,6,9

## BECOME A GREEN PRECINCT COMMITTEEPERSON

Seven Greens filed to be precinct committeepeople in Champaign County:

Amber DiMascio - Cunningham 9

Joe Futrelle - Cunningham 10

Mark Mallon - Cunningham 2

Tracy Nectoux - City of Champaign 35

Walter Pituc - City of Champaign 8

Kostas Yfantis - City of Champaign 15

If you want to help slate candidates after the primary and grow the party in your neighborhood, you can be appointed as a committee person in vacant precincts. Come to a meeting or send an email to [info@prairiegreens.org](mailto:info@prairiegreens.org).

More information about precinct committee people can be found in our previous newsletter: <http://www.prairiegreens.com/newsletter>

## INSTANT RUNOFF VOTING REFERENDUM IN URBANA

The Prairie Greens supported efforts to place a binding referendum on the ballot that would bring instant runoff voting to municipal elections in Urbana.

Al Klein, First Vice Chair of the Champaign County Democrats, filed an objection to the petitions. The objection was heard by an electoral board composed of Democratic Mayor Laurel Prussing, Democratic City Clerk Phyl-

lis Clark, and Democratic City Council Alderman Dennis Roberts. The board ruled to remove the referendum from the ballot.

The objection against a Green supported referendum by a high ranking Democratic official was heard by three top ranking Democratic officials. The process is not impartial on its face and speaks to the desperate need for electoral reform. IRV would bring more

voices into the process and combat the monopolization of one party. The Green Party supports IRV and other electoral reforms, such as proportional representation and lowered signature requirements for ballot access.

The effort to bring IRV to Urbana will continue, in some form, with the support of the Prairie Greens.

## UPCOMING GREEN TEAS

Every third Monday of the month at 7:30 pm, the Prairie Greens sponsor a Green Tea discussion at the Urbana Free Library auditorium. Each month is a different topic led by a guest or member. Upcoming Green Teas include:

January 21st - Instant Runoff Voting, with Durl Kruse of Citizens for Instant Runoff Voting

February 18th - Poverty and Human Rights in Our Libraries, with John Gehner of the Hunger, Homelessness, and Poverty Task

Force of the American Library Association

If you'd like to lead a Green Tea, or have a suggestion, please contact [info@prairiegreens.org](mailto:info@prairiegreens.org)

**■** *The Green Party accepts absolutely no corporate contributions. Our support comes from individuals. As a newly established party our need is greater than ever. Please consider supporting the Green Party today by contributing to our ongoing efforts. Our work does not stop in November, we are in this for the long haul. Give now to help the party dedicated to social justice, ecological wisdom, non-violence, and real democracy. Please send all checks and money orders to:*

*Prairie Greens*

*PO Box 623*

*Urbana, IL 61801*