

# GreenGram

The Official Newsletter of the Green Party of New Jersey Volume 9 • Issue 6 • Dec 2005

## A Letter from Matt Thieke

Dear Greens,

It's been a week since the election, and I want to thank everyone who helped my campaign.

With a campaign budget of about \$2,500, no advertising on radio or in newspapers, as well as no chance to debate with Corzine and Forrester, we got over 12,000 votes and came in 5th out of 10. That means we spent less than 25 cents per vote received! Corzine and Forrester combined spent about \$35 per vote! (\$70 Million)

By comparison, Hector Castillo came in 3rd, but had over \$700,000 to spend. And he only got a little more than 27,000 votes.

And the Libertarians spent over \$40,000, and still just barely beat us with 16,000 votes!!

Plus, the two of them got to debate twice on TV, once with Corzine and Forrester. So, I really beat the pants of 'em...(nyah, nyah, na nyah, nyah) ;-)

I want to give big thanks to Liz Arnone for being my treasurer. But she did way more than handle the checks and file reports. She distributed signs and brochures, held a house party, wrote letters to the editor, and got me to speak at her town's library. Thanks, Liz!

Thanks to Gregory Lane for hosting and creating my website! And to Stu Kautsch for adding my links to gpnj.org, while still running his own race for Assembly!

My name wouldn't have been on the ballot without the help of about 2 dozen Greens who collected signatures. Thanks to you all, especially the Monmouth Greens who brought in over 400 signatures at the deadline to put us over the top!

Big personal thanks to my friend and sweetheart, Georgette Macbeth. She backed me 100%, helped collect signatures, was my photographer, did research, and gave advice.

Thanks to Doris Pulone of Burlington County, who handed out hundreds of brochures and dozens of lawn signs!

Thanks to Norm Zboray and the Rutgers Greens for organizing the speaking event on campus (and to all the Greens who showed up that night)!!

Thanks to Raven Ahmed of Atlantic county for hosting the plant sale, and distributing brochures!

Thanks to the other Green candidates that I got to campaign alongside: Mike Spector in Parsippany, Brian Unger and Ann Napolitano in Monmouth, Rich Giovanoni in Camden, Chuck Woodrow in Gloucester, Stu Kautsch and the Bergen Greens in Rutherford.

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# Thieke

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I got to campaign in 14 counties. The 7 that I didn't get to were Sussex, Warren, Salem, Cape May, (all the most rural and furthest away), Somerset, Essex, and Union.

By the way, our 12,000 votes equaled 0.5% of the vote.

The counties we did best in (not all votes counted yet, though) were:

Monmouth, 1.1%

Sussex, 1.1%

Gloucester, 1.0%

Ocean, 0.8%

Hunterdon, 0.7%

The bottom 5 were:

Bergen, 0.33%

Passaic, 0.3%

Essex, 0.27%

Union, 0.27%

Hudson, 0.25%

Note that I only campaigned once each in Bergen, Passaic and Hudson. I didn't get to Essex and Union.

Lastly, I tried to dedicate this campaign to my 2 kids, my parents, and to Earl Gray.

Thanks to everyone who contributed time and/or money!!



## GPNJ to Host GPUS Campaign School

GPNJ is proud to be the host of a Campaign School run by the Green Party of the United States ("GPUS") on the weekend of March 3-4, 2006. The school will be held at the Labor Education Center in New Brunswick, and will include tracks on candidacy, campaign financing, media relations, and more. There will be a \$25 fee for the weekend.

Details will be posted on the state party's web site - [www.GPNJ.org](http://www.GPNJ.org) - under the "Calendar" feature. These will, of course, include directions to the site.

If you are interested either in attending the school or helping to organize and run it, contact Jane Hunter at [janemhunter@worldnet.att.net](mailto:janemhunter@worldnet.att.net).

## Fifth District Assembly Campaign

Rich Giovanoni and Mark Heacock both got over 3300 votes in the 5th District Assembly race, or 5.3% each. They did some door-to-door campaigning and distributed nine thousand flyers, and both were on the Comcast Newsmaker segments.

The main lesson learned from this race was that ballot position is VERY important. While both candidates are better known and did most of their campaigning in Camden County, they received over 8.5% in the four Gloucester County towns in the district. While this may be partly attributable to their appearance at a candidates forum in Westville, where they were well received, it is more probably due to the ballot.

In Gloucester County, the Greens had Chuck Woodrow as a Freeholder candidate, and therefore

# The Ten Key Values of the Greens

- Ecological Wisdom
- Social Justice
- Grassroots Democracy
- Nonviolence
- Decentralization
- Community-Based Economics
- Feminism
- Respect for Diversity
- Personal and Global Responsibility
- Future Focus/Sustainability



*Our long-time Mercer County member Steve Welzer wrote a cogent opinion piece on Instant Runoff Voting which was featured by the Asbury Park Press a week after the last election. We reprint it here in its entirety.*  
Asbury Park Press 11/15/05

## OPINION

### TOPIC OF THE DAY:

### Third-party influence

### Runoff system produces majority

In the 12th District Assembly race, the Republican team (Jennifer Beck and Declan O'Scanlon) defeated the Democratic team (Michael Panter and Robert Morgan) by a very slim margin, less than 1,500 votes.

Meanwhile, Green Party candidate Ann Napolitano received 2,303 votes and her running mate, Judith Stanton, received 2,044 votes. Arguably, had the Green candidates not been in the race, the outcome would have been reversed, with the Democratic incumbents returning to the Assembly.

Since 2000, when Ralph Nader was labeled a "spoiler" for "taking votes away" from Al Gore and thus influencing the presidential election, the Green Party has been urging the Democrats to help advocate for a solution to the "spoiler" problem. In San Francisco, to cite one example, Greens and Democrats were successful in passing legislation for Instant Runoff Voting. This is a system where voters can rank their choices.

If we had it in place for the last election, someone could have ranked Napolitano No. 1 and Panter No. 2. In a first round of counting, if Napolitano had the fewest votes, her ballots would be reallocated according to her second-place choices. So the majority of ballots listing Napolitano as choice No. 1 probably would have gone to Panter in the second round of counting. As a result, Panter would have gained enough additional votes to win. Due to the presence of third-party candidates in the race, Beck and O'Scanlon won without achieving a majority of votes. With Instant Runoff Voting, where votes are reallocated round-by-round during the counting, all winning candidates do achieve majorities in the end.

The Green Party is not going away. It has a distinct message - for ecology and renewal of community - that resonates with more and more voters. Our electoral system

## Fifth District

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had the entire third column, with Matt Thieke at the top. There was no county-wide candidate in Camden County, so they were relegated to the 4th column with the Libertarian candidate (who got 1.7%).

This won't happen again.

We must make every effort to run as full a slate as possible in the future in order to have a better ballot line.

We must also pressure county election clerks to open the ballot positioning draw to all parties running a slate of candidates.

The Greens must also start their campaigns earlier. We saw in the 13th that trying to get on the ballot in the last two or three weeks can result in failure, and in the 5th we learned that having a campaign fund of more than \$500 (along with those Freeholder candidates) would be a good thing.

We start now for 2007.

## Opinion

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could be opened up to accommodate "more voices and more choices," as Ralph Nader said. Everyone could benefit, even the major parties, if reforms like Instant Runoff Voting were adopted.

—Steve Welzer, East Windsor

## Full rights denied

New Jersey chose to suffer with the domestic partnership benefits bill signed into law in 2004.

The suffering was extracted through the Legislature at the behest of Democrats, with substantial support from Republicans. Was there another path ignored by Trenton for political expedience along with slavish adherence to the Democratic Party by some activist gays and lesbians? Yes.

Former Green Party Assemblyman Matthew Ahearn had introduced Assembly Bill 3762 with my encouragement to establish civil unions in 2003.

Ahearn lost his 2003 election due to excessive campaign spending by the Democratic Party in his district to extract punishment for his change of party affiliation. Part of this punishment penalized New Jersey with the loss of a respected legislator. In early 2004, the Legislature and the governorship, occupied by a gay, albeit closeted, governor, were controlled by Democrats. Ahearn's civil union bill could have been passed, solving what are now apparent problems.

Continued obstacles remain in the path of full rights for gays, lesbians and bisexuals. Until we enjoy full rights, gays and lesbians will not share in the franchise of citizenship afforded to other state residents.

— George DeCarlo, Berkeley Heights  
The writer is vice chairman  
of the New Jersey Green Party.

*Appeared in 11/29/2005 Newark Star-Ledger*



## Monmouth 2005 Campaigns Make a Big Dent

In Monmouth County, GPNJ 12th District candidates Ann Napolitano and Judith Stanton received over 4300 votes - 3.4% of the total. This was a remarkable result in that the four old party candidates were separated by less than 1300 votes. (All totals in this article are election night - i.e., without absentee ballots.)

Similarly, in District 13, Greg Orr and Mike Hall got about 4000 votes - about 3.5% - in a race featuring both old parties which was relatively close.

Powering the GPNJ in Monmouth County was the Freeholder candidacy of Brian Unger, who received over 18,000 votes. This was over 5% in a two-seat election, meaning that Brian got a nod from 10% of the voters. Since his vote total was far more than the separation among GOP and Dem winners and losers, it continued to be mentioned in the press for a couple of weeks after the election. Brian ran a strong campaign, receiving the endorsement of the Asbury Park Press. Thousands of leaflets were distributed by campaign volunteers - many from Rutgers University's Campus Greens chapter. Brian's detailed proposals for the county drew a lot of attention in the press and at public meetings.

It should also be noted that Matt Thieke, our gubernatorial candidate, received 2000 votes in Monmouth County, clearly illustrating the effect of a column of active candidates.

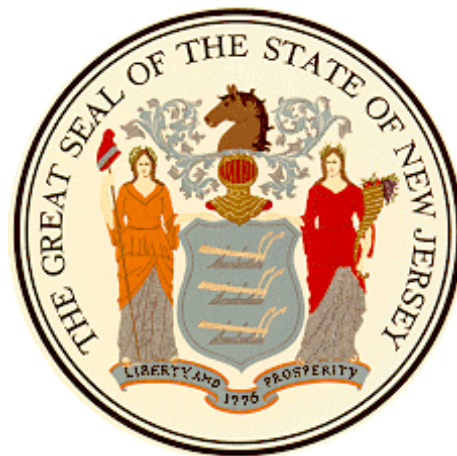
## GPNJ 2006 Convention

As we go to press, the 10th Annual Convention has been scheduled for February 4, 2006. Hold this Saturday open on your calendar.

The convention will be at the Unitarian Universalist Church in Lincroft ñ off exit 109 on the Garden State Parkway.

There is a snow date for April 8 in case of inclement weather.

Details will be posted on the web site ([www.GPNJ.org](http://www.GPNJ.org)), and a special GreenGram email will be sent around New Year's Day with proposed bylaws changes, directions, and agenda as well as instructions vis-a-vis the snow date.



## Two Other Fall Races

Chuck Woodrow ran for Gloucester County Freeholder, and received 2549 votes, or 1.2% of the vote. This was a 3-seat race, so Chuck was mentioned on well over 3% of the ballots cast. Again, note the synergy between this and the total in Gloucester County for Matt Thieke (825 votes) and the Assembly candidates from District 5 (see above). There are New Jerseyans who are voting a straight ticket when they get the opportunity.

Michael Spector of the Morris County Greens became the first Green candidate in Parsippany by running for Mayor. Michael got 199 votes (1.35%) in a four-way race in which the winner was decided by 48 votes and in which there was a recount and a lot of press attention.



## Bergen 2005 Campaigns

by *Stu Kautsch*

For the second year in a row, the Bergen County Green Party ran two candidates for Rutherford Borough Council: Gary Novosielski and Natalie Kochmar. Emphasis was placed on open government and independence from big-money interests, as well as rational planning for future generations of borough residents. With the help of volunteers, more than 3000 flyers were distributed as well as hundreds of pens and sunflower seed packets. The candidates appeared in articles in three local newspapers and also campaigned from the Bergen Greens' table at the Rutherford Labor Day Street Fair. The pair took 6% of the vote in a very close race - Dems 49%, GOP 45%. A large banner in the front yard of a volunteer helped bring the total in one boro district to over 8%.

For the first time, GPNJ ran a State Assembly candidate in the 36th District, which covers south Bergen (including Rutherford), the city of Passaic, and Nutley. Stewart Kautsch's campaign distributed over 4000 flyers - half in Rutherford - and ran a detailed web site. Newspaper coverage was limited, but better than expected. Election Day total was 967 votes - 1.2% of the total in a two-seat race - but was 2% in Rutherford and even higher in a couple of boro districts. (The later, official, count was around 800 due to 200 votes - or 75% - "disappearing" in the city of Passaic. Hmmm.) The vote total was short of Stu's goal of 1000, but about double that usually garnered by independents in this district. Several neighborhoods in towns surrounding Rutherford received their first-ever Green Party campaign flyers, so the "calling card" function of the campaign was at least partially achieved.

Topping the Bergen column was Irwin Nack for Freeholder, who received 3500 votes. His total in Rutherford - almost 2% in a two-seat race - showed the value of having a column of Greens on the ballot. The column effect is one that the party hopes to duplicate many times during the rest of this decade.

### Why Affiliate with the Green Party?

1. Greens don't accept money from corporations and limit the amount individuals can give. Individual citizen support is the foundation of GPNJ.
2. If you agree with what we are trying to do, then changing your party affiliation is more important than voting. It's a paradigm switch. When you vote, your vote disappears right after the election. Party affiliation is lasting and cumulative.
3. As more voters register with the Green Party, we and the issues we raise will be taken more seriously by the media and other political parties. The state board of elections puts out a report each year of how many are registered with each party for all to see. It's like a continuous vote or snapshot of public opinion. Party affiliation is the closest thing we have to proportional representation in the United States.
4. As a practical matter, this can give Green Party activists lists of people who can help get us on the ballot by signing candidate petitions.
5. Another practical matter: As the number of registered Greens grow, it should become easier to recruit candidates.  
To get directions on affiliating with the GPNJ, visit our web site at [www.GPNJ.org](http://www.GPNJ.org) and click on "Register as a Green".

**About the GreenGram** The GreenGram is circulated bi-monthly in an effort to keep all GPNJ members informed about recent matters and upcoming events. Members are encouraged to provide brief submissions of news items or opinions, as well as event announcements. Deadline for February 2006 issue is January 20, except for convention articles. First priority will be for county reports. Email submissions to [skautsch@mindspring.com](mailto:skautsch@mindspring.com). Stu Kautsch is the editor, Sally Jane Gellert of SAGE Editorial Services ([SageEdit@aol.com](mailto:SageEdit@aol.com)) is the designer. Please submit material to [skautsch@mindspring.com](mailto:skautsch@mindspring.com).