



Re-elect
BEN MANSKI
Co-Chair, Green Party of the United States

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"TOP CHOICE"

An Introduction

The Green Party of the United States has grown tremendously over the past two years. I've been honored to have been allowed to play some part in that growth.

The Green Party has grown in numbers and also in diversity. Our party is becoming a true big-tent opposition party, and the Greens now include the voices of many of the excluded. Our challenge is to become both more inclusive and united; I'm dedicated to overcoming that challenge.

The Green Party of the United States needs a Steering Committee that can work through internal disagreements, help to resolve them, and succeed in moving our party forward. I have made it a point of leadership in my first term of service to be accessible and responsive, and to foster conciliation in place of conflict. I have also taken leadership in initiating new projects such as the Coordinated Campaign Committee, Peace Action Committee, Merchandise Committee, and National Annual Meeting Committee, thus providing structure and space for important work to be done and for new leaders to come forward. I have always strived to be honest and open, and I hope that I have earned your trust as someone who is committed to accountability in leadership.

In my first term, I have worked hard for our party. I have taken risks. I have served you to the best of my abilities, character, and means. I hope to continue to serve, and I hope you will support my reelection as a top choice.

About Myself

I was born in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania on July 16, 1974. Several years later, my family moved to Jerusalem, Israel, where my sister and I spent our early childhood. In 1982, Ariel Sharon led the Israeli invasion of Lebanon, and my parents decided to return to the United States. We moved to the opposite of Israel, Wisconsin. Wisconsin is now my home.

My sister and I are strongly influenced by family traditions of political struggle, especially by the lifelong civil rights activism of our mother's mother and by the participation of our father's family in the Jewish resistance movements of the 1930s and 1940s. I am very proud of my family, almost all them educators, and especially of my younger sister, working today in Haifa, Israel, for the Mossawa Center for Civil Rights.

I've worked many jobs since the beginning of high school, including food service, taxi-cab, telemarketing, canvassing, and several political organizing positions. I have a BA degree in Sociology, with a focus in Rural Sociology, from the UW-Madison. Although it is true that I am enrolled in the University of Wisconsin Law School right now, I hope that you notice that I have not exactly dropped from the face of the planet.

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from the front page

I volunteered on my first political campaign at age 11. I was very active with the Democratic Party until 1992. I joined the Greens in 1989. My membership in the Democrats waned with their support of the Persian Gulf War; the presidential nomination of Bill Clinton was the final blow. I became active in high school with the student movement, leading several walkouts for student rights and against police harassment. Over the past two decades I have never stopped organizing, using every tool in the movement toolbox - direct action,

My Work for the Green Party of the United States

I have a solid record of accomplishment.

~ My proudest accomplishment: The creation of the Coordinated Campaign Committee, the national party's elections committee, and service as that committee's first Co-Chair.



Revvng up the crowd at a Wisconsin rally (Nov 5, 2000)

~ I traveled to Arkansas, California, Connecticut, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Massachusetts, Michigan, Missouri, Pennsylvania, and Washington D.C. in two years on party business as Co-Chair. In several weeks I head to North and South Dakota to help them get their state parties off the ground.

~ I worked to meet significant challenges, some of them unexpected, including the hiring of our first staff, resolving the Campus Greens crisis, recruiting large donors for the party, and mediating disputes among individuals.

community organizing, electoral campaigns, you name it - to further progress toward democracy. I have especially invested in supporting the growth of the Green Party.

I have become a proud Wisconsinite, finding deep inspiration in this state's beauty and its progressive traditions. We gave the country Muir, Leopold, Groppi, and the LaFollettes, as well as the Progressive Party, NOW, USSA, AFSCME, among many others, and we don't let anyone forget it. I look forward to welcoming the national party to Wisconsin in 2004!

~ I took on and followed through on many administrative tasks for the Steering Committee, such as notetaking, facilitation, and agenda-drafting for both our conference calls and in-person

meetings; I've been a consistent and steady member of the SC.

~ At different times I have served as a member of the Accreditation, Diversity, Annual National Meeting, Media, Merchandise, and

Peace Action com-

mittees. I also have represented the party within United for Peace and Justice, the 9/11 Emergency National Network, and in the April 20th United We March for Peace and Justice mobilization.

~ I was an active delegate, introducing proposals for affiliation with the Independent Progressive Politics Network, the Call for Global Green Solidarity in Opposition to the War, among others. I also authored the text of the "Green Response to the State of Union," and organized, just two weeks after September 11th, the "Green Party: A Democratic Response to the Crisis" conference in Washington D.C..

My Life as a Green

- ~ **Joined** the Greens in 1989 in high school.
- ~ **Member** of the Pacific Party in Oregon and of the Wisconsin Green Party; also was a longtime member of the New Party and the Labor Party.
- ~ **Helped to found** the Four Lakes Green Party of Dane County and revive the Wisconsin Green Party in 1996.
- ~ **Candidate** for the Dane County Board of Supervisors in 1996, receiving 49.8% of the vote.
- ~ **Observer** at the 1996 Middleburg, Virginia, meeting that founded the ASGP, and at the 1999 Hiawasse meeting as well.
- ~ **Staunch advocate** for unity in the form of the "Boston Proposal" at the G/GPUSA's 2001 St. Louis and Carbondale meetings.
- ~ **Nader 2000 Campaign Manager** in Indiana, Illinois, and Wisconsin.
- ~ First **National Director** of the Campus Greens.

Broader Contributions

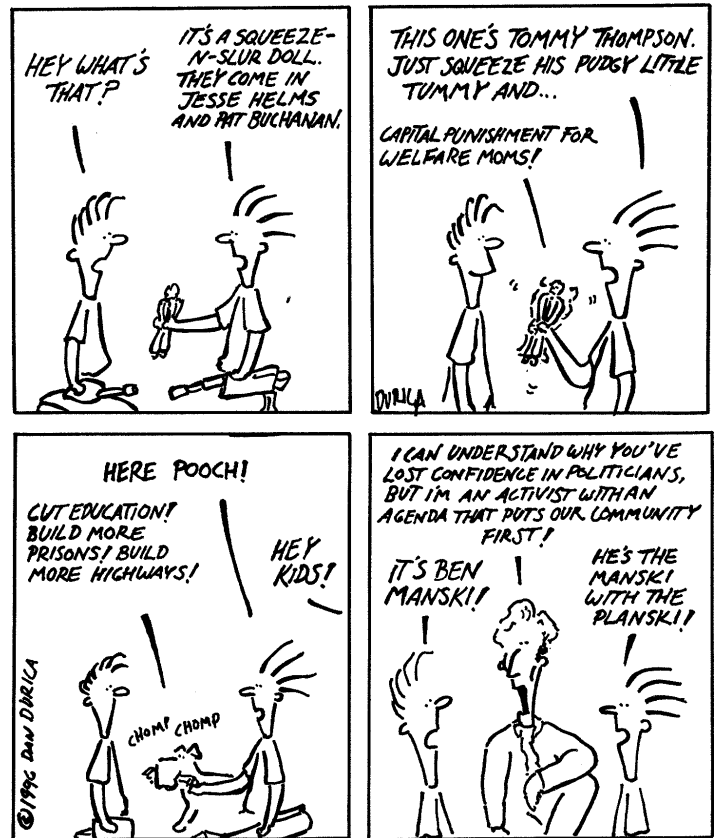
- * **Organizing Director**, *Progressive Dane*, 2001-02
- * **Statewide Canvass Director**, *Wisconsin's Environmental Decade*, 1994-1996
- * **Organizing Director**, *Democracy Unlimited of Wisconsin Cooperative*, 1995-96
- * **Canvass Field Manager**, *Greenpeace*, 1994
- * **Nader 2000 & Campus Greens** (see above)

Leadership roles in:

- * *Earth First!* (1992-1998)
- * *U.S. Out Now*, *Madison Area Peace Coalition*, *Madison Peace Cooperative* (1990-current)
- * *180/Movement for Democracy and Education*, *Center for Campus Organizing*, *Associated Students of Madison*, *SEAC*, *Books not Bombs*, *Progressive Student Network*, *Students for Choice*, and *Civil Rights Defense Coalition*.

Publications & Authorship

Green & Growing: 2004 in Perspective, primary author, May, 2003.
Paragovernment Against Democracy: The State-Sponsored Partisan Primary in American Law, currently unpublished, May, 2003.
Green Response to the State of the Union, speech writer, January, 2003. www.GP.org
LaFollette for Young, *Houdini for Doyle*, *The Capital Times*, www.madison.com
A People's Party for Dane County, Wisconsin, *Orion Afield*, December, 2001.



We ran this cartoon in *The Onion*; from my County Board race in 1996.

- * *IPPN*, *PCUN Boycott Committee*, *Tyson Boycott Committee*, *Free Burma Coalition*, *Cambodia Campaign*, *Amnesty International*.

Proud member:

- * *Teaching Assistants Association (TAA/AFT)*
- * *Industrial Workers of the World (Madison GMB)*

Arrest Record:

Unlike some politicians, I am not hiding my arrest record. Instead, I am running on my record of five arrests, no convictions (*Bull Run Watershed, OR*; *Exxon Mining, WI*; *Democratic Convention, Chicago*; *Tommy Thompson, WI*; *Sweatshops, WI*).

In the Hands of Youth: The Growing Struggle for Campus Democracy, *Campus Incorporated*, edited by Geoffrey White, Prometheus Books, 2000.

Education in Crisis, 180/Movement for Democracy and Education, August, 1999. www.corporations.org/democracy

97 Hours of Struggle, *Z Magazine*, May 1998

Wisconsin Awakens, *New Internationalist*, October 1997

Wisconsin Forever, Exxon Never!, *Earth First! Journal*, Autumnal Equinox, 1997

Midwest Headwaters Journal, editor, 1995-1997, volumes 5-8

Democracy Unlimited Post Dispatch, editor, 1996-1997, volumes 1-2.



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Focus for Next Term

I look to the Coordinating Committee for guidance as to your priorities for my next term of office. Following are some of the areas I am inclined to focus on:

1. Provide continuity and leadership in increasing the overall productivity and responsiveness of the Steering Committee itself.
2. Improve internal communications for the Coordinating Committee, other committees, and party members at large.
3. Facilitate development of initiatives and leadership from the Coordinating Committee, other committees, and affiliated parties and caucuses.
4. Guarantee a smooth transition to a new staff structure and new staff.
5. Continue to work to enable the party to exercise leadership in the peace movement.
6. Provide a steady hand and cool head through the upcoming 2004 elections.
7. Raise the additional money necessary to ensure funding for electoral, field, and diversity work
8. Help bring our party's media operations to the next level.
9. Use my own personal ties to open more doors with non-Greens in the farm, labor, and student movements.
10. Make the 2004 Convention in Milwaukee a major and successful event in the growth of the national party.