



PROGRESSIVE DANE

Rebuilding politics from the grassroots up

Forward!

Progressive Dane is affiliated with the Independent Progressive Politics Network.

P.O. Box 1222, Madison, WI 53701 | 608/257-4985 | office@prodane.org | www.prodane.org

Vol. XIII, No. 7  
July 2005

# Progressive Dane's Agenda for the Year Ahead

By SATYA-RHODES-CONWAY

Promoting local business and economic development, protecting farmland and human services, and backing a sane transportation system are the issues headlining Progressive Dane's policy agenda for Madison and Dane County in the coming year.

This agenda is the result of a three month effort to tap the talents and ideas throughout our organization. A group of electeds and task force members in April came up with a list of 70 potential issues to address in the coming year. A well-attended strategic planning session in May narrowed the list to 14, and the

seven issues listed below were overwhelmingly supported at an equally well-attended June general membership meeting. While this policy agenda focuses the bulk of Progressive Dane's energy, communications and activism on this prioritized set of issues, we'll certainly continue to work on other critical issues in the city and county. Now that the Agenda has been set, the real work begins. It's a very exciting list, but as you know, PD only works if we do! Please get involved with one or more of these issues (particularly if you voted for them!) by contacting the folks listed next to each issue. We need your ideas, energy and excitement!

*The top priorities for Progressive Dane at the county level are:*

## HUMAN SERVICES

Contact SOS Dane, Beth Gross (beth@bethgross.org) or Nick Berigan (berigan@tds.net)

Fight for sufficient funding for the thousands of people who rely on human services in Dane County just to get through their days. This group will work on creating a health care pool for agencies that contract with the county, addressing short-falls in the W-2 program and protecting the human services budget.

(See "Priorities," page 2)

## Progressive Dane Reforms Madison's TIF Policies

By Vicky Selkove

Since receiving an enthusiastic vote of approval at the June General Membership Meeting, PD's Economic Issues Task Force and alders Judy Olson and Mike Verveer have plowed full steam ahead with their proposal to reform the City's Tax Incremental Financing (TIF) policies, introduced publicly the end of June.

The proposal (available online at [www.prodane.org](http://www.prodane.org)):

1) requires the City to establish clear priorities and an annual plan for using TIF funds to end the current first-come, first-served run on Madison's limited TIF funds; 2) stresses public accountability, input and oversight by requiring public meetings be held on proposed TIF projects, creating an Interested Parties Registry to ensure that stakeholders are given adequate notice about updates on TIF projects, and distribution of annual reports on the state of existing TIF districts; 3) requires

(See "TIF" page 3)

## Stop Bus Fare Increases

By Sang Lee

Madison's Transit and Parking Committee (TPC) will be holding a public hearing for a fare increase on Tuesday, July 26, 5:30pm, Room 260 Madison Municipal Building (215 Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd). The public hearing will be on raising fares (as outlined below) beginning August 7th, 2005 through 2006 and creating a plan to raise fares every other year thereafter, among other issues. It is estimated that Madison

will lose over 50,000 riders this year and over 100,000 in 2006 due to the proposed increases. Despite earnest, solid testimony against Metro rushing to a fare increase, TPC has decided to move ahead with the issue. The timeline is immediate and short.

Progressive Dane is launching an action alert campaign against the proposed fare increase. Over 1000 fliers will be distributed bus riders and others to get them to call in

(See "Bus Fares" page 3)

## Forward!

July 2005 • Volume XIII, No. 7

Forward is the local chapter newsletter of  
The New Progressive Party in  
Dane County, Wisconsin.

Progressive Dane is a democratic, membership-run organization with the following committee structure (all meetings are held at the PD office, 1202 Williamson St. in the Social Justice Center, unless otherwise noted):

Steering Committee coordinates major activities, oversees the progress of other committees, and sets the agenda for the general membership meetings. Meetings are open to all PD members.  
Co-chair: Brenda Konkel (345-8720)  
Co-chair: John McNamara (256-8453)  
Next meeting: Wednesday, August 10, 7-9 P.M.

Elections Committee  
Chair: Michael Jacob (245-0894)  
Next meeting: Thursday, July 28, 8:00 p.m.

Newsletter Consortium  
Contact: Chris Babiarz (257-3288)

Outreach Committee  
Contact: Sang Lee (257-4985)

Policy Committee  
Chair: Ron Richardson (256-7144)  
Next meeting: Thursday, July 28, 6:30 p.m.

Arts Policy Task Force  
Contact: Jonathan Zarov (zarov@wisc.edu)

Drug Policy Task Force  
Co-Chair: Stephanie Rearick (steph@stephanierearick.com)  
Next meeting: Monday, August 8, 7:00 p.m.

Education Task Force  
Contact: Kristin Forde (257-4985)

Environmental Task Force  
Chair: Brett Schumacher (238-3441)  
Next meeting: Tuesday, July 26, 7:00 p.m.

Economic Issues Task Force  
Contact: Vicky Selkowe (772-6046)  
Meets: 4th Tuesday of month, 6:30 p.m. Next meeting: Tuesday, July 26, 6:30 p.m.

People First Planning Campaign  
Contact: Ron Richardson (256-7144)

## Priorities (from page 1)

### ENVIRONMENT

Contact Satya Rhodes-Conway (satya\_vadia@yahoo.com, 320-0254) or Ron Richardson (rcathron@execpc.com).

Protect water quality in county lakes and protect farmland by putting in place a facility to deal with manure from county farms. Also set a land use plan showing where quarries can be sited and where they cannot.

### LAND USE

Contact Amy Westra (awestra@awestra.com)

Further protect green space and farmland and prevent urban sprawl through the County Comprehensive Plan and an increase in the County Conservation Fund. This group will work on protecting farm land, preventing suburban sprawl, promoting transfer and purchase of development rights, ensuring adequate green space and buffers between municipalities, carrying out the County's Comprehensive Planning process, and increasing the purchasing power of the County's Conservation Fund.

*The top priorities for Progressive Dane at the city level are:*

### ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Contact the Economic Issues Task Force, Vicky Selkowe (Vsselkowe@aol.com). Next Meeting July 26 - 6:30pm - Social Justice Center, 1202 Williamson St.

Promote local business and economic development through a variety of items including TIF reform, establishing a health care purchasing pool for

businesses in Madison, and focusing economic development initiatives on low-income neighborhoods.

### TRANSPORTATION

Contact the Transportation Task Force, Mike Barrett (mikeb@urbanthoreau.com)

Establish a sane transportation policy by prioritizing pedestrian safety, ensuring safe routes to schools, allowing for skinnier streets, reducing the need for parking, fighting bus fare increases and controlling the need for more and bigger roads.

### CAMPAIGN REFORM

Contact Satya Rhodes-Conway (satya\_vadia@yahoo.com, 320-0254)

Bring clean elections to the city level with campaign finance reform, including publicly funded elections.

### NEIGHBORHOOD PLANNING

Contact Lisa Subeck (lsubeck@woodhillcondos.com)

Enhance neighborhood planning and support by working to create a Westside planning council, a city-supported Office of Neighborhood Support and continuing work on Madison's Comprehensive Plan.

A Note on School Board priorities:

As we were going through this process, the school funding referenda were dominating discussion of school board policy. Now that that's over, we can revisit specific School Board issues. If you're interested in working on this, please contact Brenda Konkel (brendakonkel@yahoo.com).

Progressive Dane Office: 257-4985

E-mail: office@prodane.org

Web Site: http://www.prodane.org/

Submit articles, meeting times and announcements for the August newsletter to Sang Lee (257-4985 or office@prodane.org) by Noon, Tuesday, August 9

Production and Circulation Consortium  
Lynn Alten, Jamie Annear-Feyrer, Mary Anglim, Chris Babiarz, Erik Breilid, John Dupuis, Tom Kozlovsky, Sang Lee, Norm Littlejohn, Jacque Pokorney, Richard Russell, Sanhita SinhaRoy, Ralph Shively, Tona Williams

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Send all correspondence to:

Progressive Dane  
P.O. Box 1222  
Madison, WI 53701



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**Bus Fares** (from page 1)

their opposition and/or testify against the proposal at the public hearing. Please come to the public hearing and make your voice heard on this issue. Contact Robbie Webber at 233-1390 for more information.

Proposed increases:

Adult Cash Fare \$1.75 (currently \$1.50)  
 Adult Tickets \$13.00 (currently \$11)  
 Adult Pass \$47.00 (currently \$39)

Youth Cash \$1 (currently \$.85)  
 Youth Tickets \$8.50 (currently \$6)  
 Youth EZ Rider \$133 (currently \$95)  
 Youth Summer Pass \$30 (currently \$20)  
 Youth Day Tripper \$42 (currently \$25)

Senior Cash \$.85 (currently \$.75)  
 Senior Tickets \$8.50 (currently \$7.50)  
 Senior Day Pass \$3.40 (currently \$3)

**Thank you to all our  
 Summer Garden Party Fund Raiser Sponsors**

Julie Andersen♦Mary Anglim and John Koch♦David Austin and Laura Dresser♦Mary Babula♦Mary and Brad Barham♦Michael and Pamela Barrett♦Patrick Barrett and Anne Mork♦Rich Bogovich♦Dave Carrig♦Carol Carstensen♦Yogesh Chawla and Jodi Vander Molen♦Jackson Clubb♦Bruce Dickie♦Joann and Joe Elder♦Frank and Dolores Empsak♦Chuck Erickson♦Robert Factor♦Billy Feitlinger♦Cathy Frederick♦Lucy Gibson♦Gary Giorgi♦Jay and Sabrina Gold♦Beth Harper♦Mary Lou Herman♦Andrew Hinkel and Shelley Fite♦Michael Jacob♦Pat Kelly♦Rita and Tim Kehl♦Bill and Linda Keys♦Austin King♦Brenda Konkel♦Tom Kozlovsky♦Brian Larson♦Sang Lee and Paul Miller♦David Lehane♦Sharon Lezberg and Brian Yandell♦Dean Loumos♦Jean MacCubbin♦Leslie McAllister♦Kathleen McElroy and David Newby♦John McNamara♦Steve Meiers♦Mary K. Moser♦Brenda Parker♦Stephen Ploeser♦Gary Poulson and Sue Wagner♦Ron and Carla Reynolds♦Satya Rhodes-Conway♦Mondest C. Richards♦Harry Richardson♦Tim Ringwood♦Juscha Robinson♦William Rowe♦Marsha Rummel♦Richard Russell♦Vicky Selkove and Jason Engle♦Linda Shult♦Jeffrey Schiffman♦Michael Simons♦John Stauber and Laura Berger♦Lisa Subeck♦John Thompson♦Barbara Vedder♦Robbie Webber♦Caroline Werner♦Amy Westra and Luke Pacholski♦Johnny Winston Jr.♦Bill and Lynn Whitford♦Cynthia White

**TIF** (from page 1)

developers to articulate the specific community benefits provided by the proposed TIF project (whether it creates living wage jobs, promotes diversity, supports locally-owned businesses, sustains the environment, increases affordable housing, etc...); and 4) clarifies that developers cannot use TIF funds to get out of complying with Inclusionary Zoning affordable housing requirements.

Our proposal has been extremely well-received, with the *Capital Times* (6/27/05) saying it represents "such an important contribution to the local debate" and "protects taxpayers while maintaining the ability of the city to aid in the development of responsible projects." The *Capital Times* went on to say that, "The proposal by Verveer, Olson and other members of Progressive Dane who serve on the City Council offers a framework to ensure that worthy projects get support while unreasonable handouts to developers are avoided."

PD's TIF proposal is being considered along with recommendations for city-wide TIF reform being offered by the city's Board of Estimates, other city committees, and the Mayor. Several committees will

review the various proposals before sending a final package to the full council. PD's proposal has given us a credible and valued place at the table for these discussions.

Task Force members have been busy talking to neighborhood associations, community organizations, and other stakeholders to explain our proposal, gather input, and build support for our reform package.

Check PD's website for more information. There will be numerous opportunities in the next few months for those supporting meaningful, community-focused TIF reform to speak publicly and join the discussion.

In addition to our work on TIF, the Task Force is also hard at work developing a package of proposals that would benefit Madison's small, locally-owned businesses.

Our next meeting is Tuesday, July 26th at 6:30 p.m. at the Social Justice Center. All are welcome. Contact Vicky Selkove for more information at [vsselkove@gmail.com](mailto:vsselkove@gmail.com).

Mark Your Calendars!

Next Meeting

6:30-8:30 p.m., Wed., July 27, 2005

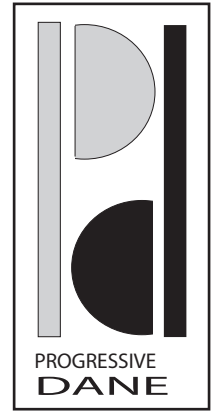
Madison Public Library 201 West Mifflin St.

If you need an interpreter, materials in alternative formats, or other accommodations, please contact the PD office, 257-4985, one week in advance of the meeting.

The Agenda

- 1) Thoughts on term limits at the city level
2) Update on metro fares
3) Update on policy priorities with sign-ups
4) Election Committee report
5) Steering Committee report
6) Quarterly budget report
7) Staff report
8) Update on TIF Policy

Chair: Mary Anglim, 257-4985



If your renewal date is 7/1/05 or earlier, this is your last newsletter. Please renew.

Volunteer Night! Meet great people and help with labeling our newsletter and other easy tasks. Tuesday, August 16, 5:30pm, PD Office, Social Justice Center, 1202 Williamson St. As always, refreshments and snacks are provided.

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Progressive Dane

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To pay via bank draft, please attach a voided check, or the 1st month's check payable to Progressive Dane.

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Mail to: Progressive Dane, P.O. Box 1222, Madison, WI 53701 For more info: (608) 257-4985