



PD to update city platform

At the November General Membership Meeting, Progressive Dane members will consider proposed revisions to our City Platform. We are undertaking this process in anticipation of endorsing candidates for city council next spring.

Some recommendations for platform changes will come from the Elections Committee. The Committee's goal is to have the platform consist more of general statements of principles and less a laundry list of specific issues on which PD members are working. PD members are also welcome to suggest changes to the platform.

To make the process easier, the Steering Committee asks that proposals be submitted in writing to the chair of the November meeting, Jim Powell, in advance. Changes can be sent via email to:

prodane@newparty.org or jamesdpowell@yahoo.com.

If you do not have email, please send your changes to P.O. Box 1222, Madison, WI, 53701.

A common way of making changes is to reproduce the language in the existing platform and then underline proposed new language and/or strike through existing language that you want deleted. That way it is clear exactly what is being changed.

If you have questions about the content of the platform or about the revision process, please call David Austin at 250-0424.

City Platform of Progressive Dane
Revised and Approved by the
Progressive Dane Membership,
December 1998

As members of Progressive Dane, and candidates seeking city office with Progressive Dane support, we dedicate ourselves to these goals and principles:

Tax Justice and Local Sovereignty. We support a system of progressive local taxation based on the ability to pay and sufficient to meet local needs. A local tax system would mitigate the effects of the present system which exacts an unfair toll from ordinary taxpayers, and

unduly constrains local government.

- We seek authority from the state to introduce a progressive local income tax and a progressive scale for property tax.
- We propose an end to corporate property tax exemptions, as well as changes in the property tax status of currently exempt state institutions and non-profit organizations, so that all such property owners able to pay for city services do so.
- We oppose state-imposed caps on local spending.

Better Social Services. We aim to expand and improve local programs of social aid and protection.

- In general, we oppose budget cuts that come at the expense of such programs, and we seek reforms promoting greater community participation in their design and administration.
- In particular, we propose improving and expanding existing provision of job training, child care, assistance to neighborhood organizations, services for people with disabilities, public prevention of domestic violence, public and health education, AIDS prevention and education, services for people with HIV, services for the homeless, services for tenants, alcohol and drug abuse treatment services, medical and legal services for the poor, consumer protection, libraries, and parks, kiosks, and public areas for meetings, assembly and art.

- For the health, safety and comfort of workers and the general public and to give people with breathing disabilities fair access, Progressive Dane supports an ordinance to prohibit smoking in workplaces and public accommodations.

Democratic Economic Development. City policy should promote economic development that benefits the general public in ways that favor family-supporting jobs, equal opportunity, a rising standard of living and worker's rights. Development should also preserve the environment, strengthen neighborhoods, and pursue transit, bicycle and pedestrian-friendly designs.

- We propose that in granting city contracts and support for development projects, the city should favor firms that are locally owned.
- We propose that priority should also go to unionized firms and those paying living wages and providing decent benefits.
- We propose that proven records of environmental soundness and of affirmative action in hiring and promoting women and minorities should serve as further condition on the granting of city contracts and development support.
- We support the appropriate use of condemnation and other means to prevent hoarding of land for speculative purposes.
- We support uniform application of

See "City Platform," page 3

The Leadership Development Committee (formerly the Organizing Committee) is reforming. Contact Kathy Schroeder (242-8368) to help move old and new members to activists and leaders. This is a great way for YOU to get active.

Due to the holidays, the November and December Membership Meetings will be held on the 3rd Wednesdays of the month (Nov. 15 and Dec. 20).



Progressive Dane Notes

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Progressive Dane Notes is the local chapter newsletter of the New Progressive Party of Wisconsin.

Production and Circulation Consortium

Lynn & Lacy Alten, Chris Babiarz, Beth Harper, Jim Powell, Tona Williams.

This month's contributors

Mary Anglim, David Austin, Jim Powell, Cynthia White

Progressive Dane is a democratic, membership-run organization with the following committee structure: (all meetings held at the PD office, 200 N. Blount St., unless otherwise noted.)

Steering Committee meets to review the direction of PD, coordinate major activities, and set the agenda for the general membership meetings. SC meetings are open to all PD members.

Next meeting: Wed., Dec. 6, 7-9 p.m.

Co-chair: Brenda Konkell (251-2412)

Co-chair: Tom Running (241-5575)

Elections Committee recruits PD candidates, trains candidates & campaign managers, and assists campaigns.

Chair: David Austin (250-0424)

Next meeting: Mon., Nov. 20, 6-7 p.m., State St. Bar & Grill, 118 State St.

Policy Committee meets the 2nd Monday of each month with PD-endorsed elected officials to develop plans to meet their (and PD's) legislative goals.

Next meeting: Tues, Nov. 14, call for time & location

Chair: Ron Richardson (256-7144)

Newsletter Consortium produces this document on a monthly basis. You're invited to join our team.

Contact: Chris Babiarz (257-3288)

Students for the New Party is the UW-Madison branch of PD. You don't have to be a student to get involved with our campus-based projects!

Contact: Nolen Johnson (249-3903)

Clean Government Task Force coordinates PD's efforts on local-level campaign finance reform.

Next meeting: Mon., Nov. 20, 7-8:30 p.m., State St. Bar & Grill, 118 State St.

Chair: Michael Jacob (245-0894)

Housing Task Force works to create fair and affordable housing in Dane County.

Next meeting: Mon., Nov. 13, 7 p.m.

Chair: Dean Loumos (332-2095)

Smart Growth Task Force focuses on land use, transportation, growth and sprawl issues.

Next meeting: Wed., Dec. 6, call for location

Contact: Sheila Guilfoyle (244-7534) or Forrest Aguirre (238-1912)

Fundraising Committee plans fun events that raise money for PD.

Chairs: Nolen Johnson (249-3903) and Cynthia White (286-1924)

ProgressiveDaneHotline: 257-4985

Progressive Dane Notes is published nine days before the General Membership Meeting. The deadline for the next issue is Noon, Tuesday, Dec. 5. Submissions should be directed to Chris Babiarz at 257-3288 (babiarz@cae.wisc.edu). Send all correspondence to:

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



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Oursympathies...

Our sympathies to long-time PD member and much longer-term activist Dorothy Schultz, on the death of her son, Vincent. Vince was a dedicated teacher, a labor activist, a devoted family man, and a kind person. Our community can little spare him.

We also remember with fondness Yvonne Cummings, who died in late October. Yvonne and her late husband, Chuck, were members and supporters of Progressive Dane. Their long, rich, and active lives were testimonies to what each of us can accomplish. We are honored that they chose to join us in Progressive Dane.

New Steering Committee elected

Congratulations to the new PD Steering Committee, elected October 25:

- | | |
|------------------|-----------------|
| David Austin | Stephanie |
| Richard-Marie | Rearick |
| Commander | Tom Running |
| Sheila Guilfoyle | Kathy Schroeder |
| Michael Jacob | Jim Schwall |
| Brenda Konkell | Megan Walsh |

Additional congratulations to Brenda Konkell and Tom Running, who were elected PD co-chairs by the Steering Committee on Nov. 1.

Many thanks to the 1999-2000 Steering Committee members: Mary Anglim, Sheila Crowley, Beth Harper, Michael Jacob, Brenda Konkell, Tom Running, Kathy Schroeder, Jose Sentmanat, and Betty Volquardsen.

Thanks also to those who served as co-chairs in 2000: David Austin, Beth Harper, and Brenda Konkell.

The gala event of the season!

Preparations are now underway for the Second Annual SnoBall Gala, to be held on Friday, December 15, from 5 to 8 p.m. at the Cardinal Bar.

The SnoBall, PD's principal fund-raising event of the year, is also the acknowledged highlight of what is traditionally a glittering Progressive social season.

Four outstanding PD volunteers will be honored at the Gala for their contributions to our collective efforts at promoting progressive ideas and policies. (There's still time for you to



AMadisonfilmevent!

"BreadandRoses"

AfilmbyKenLoach, basedontheLosAngeles

JanitorsforJusticeCampaign
Friday, Dec. 1, 7:30p.m.

OpheumTheatre,
216StateSt.

Ticketsare
\$3each.



Sponsorsinclude
the

SchoolofWorkers
(UWExtension),theWisconsin
StateAFL-CIO,theWisconsin

FederationofTeachers,theSouth
CentralFederationofLabor;

andmanyothers!

nominate an outstanding volunteer or two; send nominations to the PD office or prodane@newparty.org .)

Free food, a cash bar, stimulating conversation, and much camaraderie are among the attractions sure to draw a lively crowd to this outstanding event.

Much work remains to be done in preparation for this exciting evening. The Fundraising Committee desperately needs more volunteers to help in this important effort. All those interested should contact committee co-chairperson Cynthia White (286-1924, or cewhite_12@yahoo.com).

CITY PLATFORM (from page 1)

minimum financial feasibility criteria for funding Tax Incremental Financing districts.

- We consider Tax Incremental Financing to be a city subsidy, which is to be used only in cases of demonstrable benefit to the city which is unlikely to otherwise occur.
- We propose that Tax Incremental Financing projects be required to bring measurable economic benefits to the Madison community, such as a certain number of living wage jobs (long term presence, not construction of the building) per amount of TIF, or certain number of affordable housing units per amount of TIF. Failure to produce these results requires the developer to repay the subsidy (with interest).

Sustainable Land Use.

- We seek expanded use of city powers in containing urban sprawl and preserving the local environment.
- We propose changes in city policy to discourage urban sprawl and to encourage appropriate development in the city's urban service areas.
- We support Dane County's green space plan and efforts to coordinate city policy with its goals, as well as aggressive implementation of measures for preserving shoreline and expanding public park land.
- We seek to strengthen enforcement of laws regulating commercial, agricultural and residential pollution, and a reinstatement of local powers to reduce pesticide pollution.
- We seek city support and staffing for neighborhood planning.

Public Transportation. We seek efficient public transportation accessible to all.

- We propose exploring such mass transit options as light rail, commuter rail, and intercity rail as part of a regional transportation plan.
- We support expanding bus service, holding fares at affordable levels, subsidizing the use of public transit by the elderly and people with disabilities, requiring employers to provide incentives for non-auto transportation.
- We oppose increased surcharges for paratransit services, especially door-to-door service.
- We support the creation of a parking stall or impervious surface fee to generate increased revenue for non-automobile based forms of transportation.

Affordable Housing and Tenants' Rights. We aim to ensure decent affordable housing to all.

- We support the development of new affordable and accessible scattered site housing, including the construction of new city housing.
- We support progressive incentives to developers who maintain a substantial proportion of developments as affordable housing.
- We seek to extend the Fair Share rule to city housing and otherwise to coordinate city housing policy with that of other levels of government.
- We oppose displacing anyone from current traditional housing or transient shelter while working to make available long-term housing to people without homes of their own.
- We support flexible zoning policies in order to promote affordable housing alternatives, including co-ownership and cooperative housing arrangements throughout the city.
- We support improved enforcement of tenant rights, including the dedication of police officers to enforce fines and penalties of Chapter 32 of the Madison Ordinances. We support licensing of

property owners and management companies renting three or more residential units so that repeat violators of housing regulations lose their licenses to rent residential units.

- We support changes in the Equal Opportunities Ordinance to ban discrimination against tenants based solely on minimum-income standards or use of government assistance.

Rights of City Employees.

- We uphold the rights of city employees to join unions and to enjoy protection from discrimination as defined by city statute.
- We generally oppose the privatization or contracting out of services provided by city employees.
- We seek better enforcement of provisions against discrimination and sexual harassment in the public workplace, the full introduction of comparable worth, and the extension of family benefits to all domestic partnerships.
- We oppose pre-employment drug testing of prospective city employees. We oppose drug testing of current city employees without probable cause.

Democracy.

- We propose public financing of municipal elections and low limits on individual and PAC contributions to local campaigns.
- We support the establishment of mandatory filing of campaign finance reports to the city in electronic format, and the creation of an electronic database system for recording all contributions made to candidates for any city office. Public terminals should be made available free of charge to candidates lacking access to a computer.
- We support making all computerized campaign finance records fully and immediately accessible to the public through the internet and through designated terminals at the city-county building and Madison Public Library branches.
- We support strengthening the city ethics code.
- We want council review of mayoral appointments to city commissions and boards where allowed by state law.
- We favor extending local voting rights to non-citizens.
- We favor a charter ordinance change to enable city council appointments of city council members to committees to be done by the council president rather than the mayor. This would give council members more independence and control.
- We support the city requiring the annual registration of lobbyists who speak before any city committee or commission to disclose their client as well as how much they are being paid.
- We propose that the city adopt a resolution calling for state enabling legislation to allow local governments to use proportional representation electoral systems for multi-seat bodies and instant runoff voting for single-seat offices.

Living Wage.

- We seek at a minimum a living wage and health benefits for all people whose salary is paid with public money.
- We support provisions requiring businesses receiving tax subsidies to pay their employees a living wage plus health insurance.
- We support the establishment of record-keeping procedures which will require all companies contracting with the city of Madison to report the wages that will be paid to all workers they hire as part of the contracted work, including the compensation paid to managers and executives.

Civil Rights.

- We support strong citizen oversight of the police.
- We support strong enforcement of all sections of the Equal Opportunities Ordinance.
- We support de-criminalization of loitering.

