



# PD in 2000: A year in review

## Part one: Issues and elections

By BETH HARPER

The year 2000 marked the launching of Progressive Dane's second signature issue, our Clean Government Campaign, as well as our first foray into national politics. Nevertheless, it was a set of hard-fought County Board and School Board elections that kept PD busy at the beginning of the year. We endorsed nine candidates for County Board, and Bill Keys for School Board. Seven of our ten candidates won their races in April, including Keys. Incumbent Regina Rhyme—the lone African-American on the Board—won a victory for fair housing when she defeated landlord Duane Steinhauer in District 13. Al Matano squeaked by with a 13-vote margin of victory in District 11. In the campus area, Echnaton Vedder and Tom Powell (Districts 8 and 5, respectively) both took home 2-to-1 margins of victory over Democratic candidates with much more funding. Incumbents John Hendrick (District 6) and Brett Hulsey (District 19) were unopposed.

Our losses came in districts in which we had not been active previously. Our first candidate outside of Madison, Perry Andrews, lost a challenge to District 21 incumbent Dave Wiganowsky in the February primary. Other losses occurred in Madison's District 10 and 20, where candidates Chuck Erickson and Forrest Aguirre lost to liberal incumbents. This was the first time PD had run a candidate in the 20th District, and only the second time PD had a 10th District candidate. Though we lost those races, they helped

us expand our base and visibility.

Once again, spring election season proved that we can win without big money from PAC's, and that we could not have done it without the support of our members!

In June, PD voted to make Clean Government its new signature issue. PD's new Clean Government Task Force went right to work, and the victories quickly piled up. Alder Jean MacCubbin (District 11) introduced a resolution allocating funding for a system whereby city candidates can voluntarily file their campaign finance reports electronically. The resolution passed, and by mid-July the system was up and running, thanks especially to the efforts of PD member Michael Jacob, who developed the program. PD Alder Kent Palmer (District 15) was the first City Council member to report. Dane County followed Madison's lead as PD volunteers worked with County Clerk Joe Parisi to implement an electronic campaign finance filing system at the county level. These actions are significant because, according to Jacob, "this critical information moves from being available to being accessible." The information can be viewed at <http://www.co.dane.wi.us/coclerk/cchome.htm>.

A third major victory for the Clean Government agenda was passage of an ordinance requiring lobbyist registration so voters can know if hired guns are influencing City Council members. Special thanks to Mike Verveer (District

See "Year in review," page 3

# Elections breakdown

By MICHAEL JACOB AND DAVID AUSTIN

Progressive Dane had the most to lose heading into the 2001 city council elections. Remember the glory of April 1999, when we went 8 for 8 and newspaper headlines read "Voters embrace Progressive Dane?" We entered this year's election season with 8 seats held by alders we endorsed in 1999 and who have served us well in the PD caucus. We thought that many of these incumbents would be challenged. In addition, we had to prepare for the retirement of two of these incumbents, PD stalwarts Jose Sentmanat and Barbara Vedder. But things brightened considerably once the filing deadline for the spring elections passed.

## COMMON COUNCIL

### Current PD districts:

Five PD alders are running for re-election unopposed. They sought and received an early endorsement from PD. Congratulations to Mike Verveer (Dist 4), Judy Olson (6), Jean MacCubbin (11), Matt Sloan (13) and Kent Palmer (15) for working hard enough in your districts to ward off any would-be challengers.

In District 2 there is a four-way primary to fill the seat being vacated by Vedder. PD Co-Chair Brenda Konkell, PD member Rex Loehe, Democrat party official Bob Gibbons and newcomer Joe Eastman will face off in a primary on Feb 20. The top two finishers will move on to

See "Elections breakdown," page 3

# Vote for chocolate with instant runoff voting

Learn how to vote using instant runoff voting (IRV) at this month's PD meeting. FairVote Wisconsin member (and PD member) Brian Pruksa will lead a workshop demonstrating how to fill out an IRV ballot and how IRV ballots are counted. instant runoff voting is gaining support as a more democratic alternative to our current winner-take-all/plurality voting system. The candidates will be various kinds of chocolate, so make sure to come and sample the candidates.

For more information, take a look at these web sites:

<http://www.fairvote.org>, <http://www.instantrunoff.com>, and <http://www.instantrunoff.org>

## Progressive Dane Notes

January 2001 • Volume IX, No. 1

*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, Sheila Guilfoyle, Tona Williams.

### This month's contributors

David Austin, Beth Harper, Michael Jacob, Jim Powell, Brian Pruka, 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., Feb. 14, 7-9 p.m.

**Co-chair:** Brenda Konkel (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)

**Policy Committee** meets the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of each month with PD-endorsed elected officials.

**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!

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

**Chair:** Michael Jacob (245-0894)

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

**Chair:** Dean Loumos (332-2095)

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

**Next meeting:** Wed., Jan. 3

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

**Fundraising Committee** plans fun events that raise money for PD.

**Chairs:** Cynthia White (286-1924)

**Leadership Development Committee** encourages and assists members in finding their level of active participation in PD.

**ProgressiveDaneHotline: 257-4985**

*Progressive Dane Notes* is published nine days before the General Membership Meeting. The deadline for the next issue is Noon, Tuesday, Feb. 13. Submissions should be directed to Beth Harper at 238-8147 (harper@danenet.wicp.org).

Send all correspondence to:



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

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## The PD wish list.

These are some things we need to help us do our work: D Quality display board(s) and table for Farmers' Market tabling D Megaphone for rallies D Letter size file folders D Letter size copier/printer paper (white or colored) D Floor lamp or torchiere for meeting room D Money to buy the above! D If you can help out, please contact Jim Powell at 257-4985 or [prodane@newparty.org](mailto:prodane@newparty.org).

## Steering Committee Nomination and Election.

At the January 24 membership meeting PD will elect a female member (as specified in our bylaws) to fill Megan Walsh's position on the Steering Committee. Additional nominations will be accepted before the vote is taken.

## Grassroots organizing and the Nader Campaign:

join PD and the WI Greens as we take the next step

On Saturday, January 20, active volunteers from last year's Nader/LaDuke campaign will meet to share our ideas and visions and, more importantly, to turn them into plans for action. We are excited about building on the momentum that we now have. We hope to see you there!

Location: Union South (at UW-Madison, the corner of Randall and Dayton). See "Today in the Union" to find the room.

For more information, call PD at 257-4985.

**BY CYNTHIA WHITE AND JIM POWELL**

## Thank you to everyone who helped sponsor our annual Snowball!

We raised over \$1400 from this event. Thanks also to the Robbys for providing the terrific live music - if only all music were that lively. And thanks again to the following volunteers who were recognized this year:

**Lynn Alten (and Lacy):** Lynn helps Jim Powell organize the mailing labels, brings snacks for the volunteers doing the mailings, and helps oversee the actual mailings. Lynn's dog Lacy is a stalwart Volunteer Night volunteer also.

**Mary Anglim:** Mary served as the ED treasurer from 1995 to 2000 and as a Steering Committee member from 1997 to 2000. She's helped us with the technical details of finance, handled our campaign finance reports, and generally kept us in line fiscally. She's always willing to volunteer and fill in gaps where needed.

**Ben Fischer:** Without Ben's interest and expertise, there would be no redesigned ED website. He continues to handle the technical maintenance of the page.

**Beth Harper:** Beth served as ED co-chair during 2000, and takes care of ED's myriad of organizational details. She was involved with our "prototype" signature issue - an impervious surface fee & increased funding for local transportation alternatives.

**Steve Meiers:** Steve did a lot of "grunt work" for the Clean Government task force. He put a tremendous amount of effort into making the Coalition for Clean Government a success for the November 7th Campaign Finance Referendum, in particular pulling together the ad for the referendum.

**Carl Silverman:** Carl was a mainstay of the the Policy Committee, the Clean Government campaign, and the Fundraising Committee, in particular making phone calls. And he calls himself retired!

**Jason Socha:** Jason has done a great deal of work on the Clean Government website.

**Cynthia White:** Cynthia has served as ED's fundraising "rock," co-chairing the Fundraising Committee and quietly stepping in whenever needed to ensure the success of our fundraisers (and numerous other projects).

**Tona Williams:** Tona is ED's "artist in residence," doing newsletter layout, creating beautiful invitations and programmes, and designing and updating our website.

**Dawn Zins:** Dawn puts in many hours behind the scenes doing data entry and thank you notes, and helping to update membership lists.

**Neighborhood Tutoring Project:** For over four years, volunteers with the Tutoring Project helped kids in the Darbo-Worthington neighborhood four nights a week, working with kids on math, reading and other homework. Thanks to all the tutors who helped with the project, and special thanks to coordinators Ron Richardson, Nick Berigan, Cynthia White and Steve Meiers.

Additional thanks to Nolen Johnson for his phenomenal work on the Fundraising Committee.

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## Year in Review (from page one)

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4) for four years of work on the issue.

November saw the resounding victory of our campaign finance reform advisory referendum. The Coalition for Clean Government, started by PD Clean Government Task Force members and backed by PD and the Democratic Party of Dane County, among other groups, signed up more than 60 locally elected officials of all stripes to urge their constituents to vote "yes" on the question: "Do you support legislation to reform the state campaign finance system that would limit campaign spending and contributions and require full and prompt disclosure of election-related activities?" 94% of Dane County voters supported the measure.

PD continues to put pressure on groups and candidates who break state campaign finance laws. In March, the District Attorney finally filed charges against a front group set up by the Madison Area Apartment Association during Madison's 1999 City Council Elections, months after PD brought a complaint against the group. The group, Citizens for Reasonable Government, was eventually fined \$500. PD filed another complaint in August alleging a number of conduit violations and the failure of Supervisor Gail Rutkowski to file at all in the spring County Board races. The DA acted on the Rutkowski complaint, but did not take action on any of the other complaints. Rutkowski was fined \$100 plus court costs (totaling \$212), which PD blasted as "a weak slap that candidates would take to mean they can get away with non-disclosure and factor in fines as a 'cost of doing business.'" As with all of our issues, there is still much work to be done to promote a more effective system of democratic representation.

Tenants and their advocates scored a major victory in the summer, with the passage of a "right to know" ordinance requiring landlords to divulge information as to why an applicant is denied tenancy, if the applicant requests the information. Much of the credit for this ordinance, which went into effect in November, goes to PD members Tom Powell (Supervisor, District 5) and Stuart Levitan, who guided this legislation with skill and tenacity.

In late summer, PD's electoral focus shifted to the presidential race. PD endorsed Green Party candidates Ralph Nader and Winona LaDuke for president and vice president. This was not a step PD took lightly. However, we viewed the campaign as a tremendous opportunity to build both PD and the progressive third-party movement around the state and nation. PD helped Wisconsin Greens welcome Ralph Nader to Madison for two fall visits, each of which drew over 1,000 people. PD's largest contribution to the campaign, however, was organizing a door-to-door voter identification canvas in October, as well as a city-wide literature drop the weekend before the election. Over 450 volunteers helped with these activities, picking up valuable skills and learning more about PD along the way. PD volunteers Stephanie Rearick, Dean Loumous, Brenda Konkkel, Michael Jacob, Phyllis Hasbrouck, and Nick Berigan all deserve special recognition for coordinating these efforts. On Nov. 7, Nader/LaDuke garnered over 13,000 votes in Dane County, or 5.6% of the presidential vote.

A future newsletter will feature part two of this update: organizational growth. Mike O'Brien, Jim Powell, David Austin, Michael Jacob, and Cynthia White contributed to this report.

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## Elections Breakdown (from page one)

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the April general election.

District 5 (one of two campus districts) pits PD member Jessy Tolkan against college Republican Andy Nathan for the seat being vacated by Sentmanat.

In District 20, Gary Poulson is running unopposed. Gary decided to not seek re-endorsement from PD, but has indicated interest in continuing to work with us on issues of mutual concern.

### Other races where PD may endorse:

In District 8 (the other campus district), incumbent Mike Staude faces a strong challenge from PD member and student activist Todd Jarrell.

Two seats were vacated by conservative alders. Paul Skidmore is the only one to register for the seat held by Sue Hamblin; Paul Van Rooy is the only candidate running in District 18, currently held by Roberta Keisow.

### In other areas, several moderates and conservatives are also running unopposed:

Incumbents Linda Bellman (1), Warren Oncken (3), Cindy Thomas (7), Ken Golden (10), Tim Bruer (14), Santiago Rosas (17), and Steve Holtzman (19) have no opponents.

### Two conservatives face challengers:

Incumbents Dorothy Borchardt (12) and Judy Compton (16) face nominal competition.

### The bottom line:

PD is in excellent shape to significantly strengthen our position on the Common Council. Five of our alders get free rides; we stand an excellent chance of keeping Districts 2 and 5 in the hands of PD-endorsed officials; we have an excellent chance of picking up the other campus seat; and we will have a progressive friend outside the caucus in Gary Poulson. In addition, the new candidates running unopposed in districts 9 and 18 are said to be considerably more progressive than the current office-holders. Whether or not they are endorsed by PD, the Council will be decidedly more friendly to our policy initiatives.

Finally, Poulson and Sloan are said to be actively campaigning for Council President and Pro Tem respectively, the top positions of power on the City Council.

## SCHOOL BOARD

### Three seats are up for election in 2001.

Seat 4 is held by moderate-conservative Ray Allen. Seat 5 is held by moderate-liberal Ruth Robarts. Both are running unopposed.

Seat 3 is open, being vacated by PD-endorsed Joanne Elder. Running for her seat are Shwaw Vang and Teresa Tellez-Giron. We will probably interview both of these candidates for endorsement.

## ENDORSEMENTS:

Candidates in Districts 2, 5, 8, 9 and 18 and the open school board seat will be invited to interview for PD's endorsement on January 22 and January 23 (if necessary).

We have lots of work to do in Districts 2, 5, and 8, and possibly in other districts. Call Michael Jacob (245-0894) or David Austin (250-0424) to get involved or to find out more about the endorsement process.

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**MARK YOUR CALENDARS!**

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**Next Meeting**

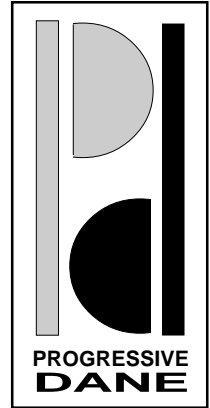
7 o'clock p.m.  
January 24, 2000

Madison Public Library  
201 W. Mifflin St.  
.....

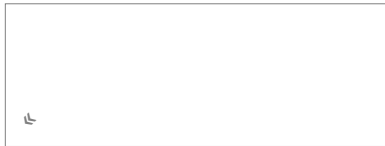
**The Agenda**

- Spring election endorsements
- Educational: instant runoff voting - Brian Pruksa
- City Council Report - Alder Mike Verveer
- Nader coalition update
- Steering Committee election

Chair: Kathy Schroeder, 242-8368



*If your renewal date is 1/1/01 or earlier, this is your last newsletter. Please renew.*



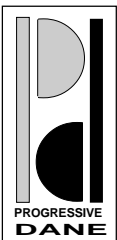
**Volunteer Night**  
 Help with vital yet easy tasks (labeling newsletters, writing thank-you cards, etc.).  
 Chat with Progressive Dane members.  
 Refreshments provided.  
 Monday, Feb. 19, 5:30-7 p.m.  
 200 N. Blount St.

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 \_\_\_\_ Please renew my membership in Progressive Dane and the New Progressive Party.



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