



## The Georgia Green Party

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Ecological Wisdom • Grassroots Democracy • Social Justice • Peace & Non-Violence  
Decentralization • Community Based Economics • Feminism • Respect for Diversity  
Personal & Global Responsibility • Future Focus on Sustainability

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Green Party Candidate for House District #8:

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Party Chair, Rev. Zack Lyde, 912-265-1275

## Second Georgia Green Announces

*Party leadership mentions possibility for more still*

***Dickson ready to Represent the North East Georgia Mountain Community in State House***

"Clean air, water, food, soil and politics will be the focus of this campaign," said Kerrie Dickson of Hiawassee, who today announced her candidacy for State Representative House District #8, representing Union, Towns, Rabun and the Northwest half of White County. "We don't have an environmental problem. We have a political problem. Unless we get the private money out of our public elections, we'll never get to the root of the crisis before us."

Dickson ran for Labor Commissioner of Georgia in 1998 as the Green Party nominee. Hank Johnson, with the Athens Banner Herald and Daily News editorialized on her campaign that year, saying: "it's not the wishywashy, ambiguous drivel that the major parties put out." He called it "refreshing." Dickson is a long time political and human rights activist, songwriter and musician. She is the mother of five and has raised several other children besides her own over the years. Now a grandmother (expecting her fifth grandchild in June), her concern for their future compels her to declare her candidacy for the state legislature. Ms. Dickson has worked at the state Capitol on the Green Party's priority legislation and is familiar with the process and players. A Georgia resident for twenty years, Ms. Dickson has owned her home in Towns County since 1996 after operating an organic farm in Oglethorpe County for eleven years.

"I'll go to work on the issues my neighbors consider important," said Dickson. "We're fortunate to live in a pristine setting relatively free of corporate pollution. I already work with my community to preserve these Mountains and to develop in a sane ecologically conscience way our community's greatest economic assets - our skills, time and energy and the beauty we share which

attracts the tourists who visit us here. But I'm Green. I know that while we need secure jobs paying livable wages, we can have so much more than just full employment. With a sustainable economic base, we can all know joyfull and fulfilling lives both on and off the job."

At the Party's March 18<sup>th</sup>, 2000 Nominating Convention, the Party nominated Kerrie Dickson (HD-8), Rovene Askren (HD-109) and a third candidate, yet to announce, for local Georgia offices and named most of its delegates to the Green Party Presidential Nominating Convention scheduled for Denver June 24-25, 2000. The Party also directed its state Council to file rules changes to permit the Party to name additional candidates for local office at a seond Convention in May or June.

"Its a mixed blessing to be able to offer Kerrie as our nominee for the State Legislature," said Reverend Zack Lyde, chairman of the Party. "The Eighth District's victory in November will be our loss and leave a vacuum among our leadership. Her work over the past year as our Development Director has built our party across this state which she has travelled extensively networking with environmental justice, human rights and community activists. Her work has driven our growth."

Dickson has until July 11<sup>th</sup> to collect 1,305 valid signatures to obtain ballot access for November's Election. She is asking her campaign supporters to help the Green Party place their Presidential candidate on the ballot, too. Ralph Nader and Stephen Gaskin are both seeking the Party's nomination at their Denver Convention.

A recent Reuters / Zogby Poll found that 5.3% of 1,004 likely voters prefered Nader over Bush, Gore and Buchanan. While starting, barely one month since his announcement, with 8.9% of the self-identified independent vote, Nader is also pulling significant support (and better than the likely Reform nominee) from self-identified Republicans Democrats. Dickson, like Askren, was elected as a delegate to the Denver Convention. Unlike her fellow candidate, Dickson remains undeclared at this point regarding her Party's Presidential nomination. "I admire both Nader and Gaskin, their backgrounds are so different yet they both are committed to building the Green Party and changing the face of politics as we know it. For the moment, I need to focus on building this campaign and obtaining ballot access. We've got both Nader and Gaskin supporters here in the 8<sup>th</sup> District. I need all of their help."

"I'm ready to work with my Party's nominee to bring Green values into public policy making. Whomever we name in June, our Green slate is ready to work for you," said Dickson. "Leave me a message at 800-447-6936. I'll get back with you. Together we can take our government back."