



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

For further information, contact

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Wednesday, April 25th, 2001

Georgia Green Party Announces 2001 Convention

Green Party is not going away, says Lyde, and is likely to field more candidates this year and next, than in any previous cycle

ATHENS -- The Georgia Green Party this week announced its 2001 Annual Convention for May 19th at the Presbyterian Student Center in Athens Georgia. In this the seventh Convention held by the Georgia Green Party since its founding in 1996, the Party will elect half of its governing Council, consider changes to its Platform and By-laws and consider endorsements in this year's non-partisan races, plus early nominations for the 2002 General Election. "We anticipate fielding more candidates for public office in the 2002 cycle, than ever before," said Reverend Zack Lyde, co-chair of the Party and its nominee for the State Assembly, House District #173, in the last election. "For those Democrats who would demean our participation by labeling us spoilers, we can only say: 'We are not going away; and these elections are spoiled by their undemocratic nature, not by our participation.'"

Party officers anticipate more Green Delegates from more counties across Georgia to participate in this year's annual event, than at any Convention to date. "We welcome our new affiliates in Clarke and Newton Counties, accepted just last week, and anticipate doubling our local affiliates again by this next Convention," continued Lyde, "Given the pace of local organizing spurred by the Nader and Gates campaigns in 2000, we have made an auspicious start on building the 159 county infrastructure necessary to qualify for primaries, once we achieve major political party status under the Georgia Election Code. In fact, Green organizers are now travelling the state, encouraging and assisting the formation of new county and campus locals across Georgia."

The Convention will be preceded by an 8:30 am Seminar on *Proportional Representation and Reapportionment*. A catered meal is offered to those who pre-register. A panel discussion is planned. And Stephen Gaskin has accepted an invitation to offer a key-note address after lunch.

Last year, Gaskin, of Tennessee, sought the nomination of the Green Party as its candidate for President of the United States. Although he lost the nomination at the Denver Presidential Nominating Convention in June 2000 to the Party's eventual standard bearer, Ralph Nader, Gaskin's early organizing in Georgia won him the support of half the Party's Delegation to the Denver Convention. A coin toss among the odd numbered Georgia Delegation resulted in Gaskin winning a majority of the state's vote in Denver and the distinction of winning the only state not awarded to Mr. Nader.

Of the nearly dozen and a half potential candidates who have so far expressed interest in seeking the Party's support in the 02' election cycle, as many as five are expected to seek either an endorsement for municipal races in 2001 or an early nomination for next year's races when they attend this year's May 19th, 2001 Georgia Green Party Convention. If all these candidates win their party's support, it would match the Party's previous record of five candidates in a two year cycle, with over thirteen months still to go until qualifying begins.

Green Party Locals and Activists are meeting around the state to consider proposed changes to the Party's Platform, which can only be amended at the Party's Annual Conventions. Topics already under consideration in various locals across Georgia, include making police violence a federal criminal offense, decriminalizing marijuana possession, calling for strengthened laws to protect children from domestic violence in divorce and custody proceedings, ending the Georgia Lottery, repealing Georgia's Right-To-Work statute and other issues of concern to Party activists.

Green Party locals across Georgia are deliberating on these and other issues and face an April 28th deadline for filing proposals for inclusion in the agenda for the Athens Convention. The final agenda will be posted at the Convention web site, <http://www.greens.org/georgia/NC-2001.htm>, where a proposed agenda is already available, along with by-laws amendments recommended by the Party's Coordinating Council for Convention consideration.

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Georgia Green Party Nominating Convention 2001

Saturday, May 19th, 2001, 11:00 am to 7:00 pm

Presbyterian Student Center, 1250 South Lumpkin Street; Athens Georgia
Local Host Committee Lisa Hoferkamp (706-355-8226), Nicole Jackel (706-316 9873)

<http://www.greens.org/georgia/NC-2001.htm>

Dancing and music planned for Saturday evening. Please join us.