

BROWARD COUNTY GREEN PARTY CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE

Dear Candidate for Public Office:

Members of the Green Party and other citizen's groups rely on us to provide voting information. We would like to let people know how you stand on issues important to them in deciding for whom to vote. Please take the time to answer the questions below. While some may not seem relevant to your desired position, one office may be a stepping stone to another in the future and all your answers are important. If you feel particularly uncomfortable with any topic, feel free to skip it, but realize that will be reflected in the posted results which will be on our website, indexed to search engines.

We are not asking for this information in conjunction with any endorsement from the Green Party. This is to be disseminated for informational purposes only.

Following are the 10 Key Values of the Broward County Green Party to which our questions relate.

THE BROWARD COUNTY GREEN PARTY 10 KEY VALUES

1. GRASSROOTS DEMOCRACY

We strongly support sweeping campaign finance reform and oppose the undue influence vested corporate interests enjoy in government at all levels. We support publicly financed campaigns and are in favor of instant run-off voting as the fairest way to run elections. Every citizen of Broward County deserves a say in decisions which affect her/his life. We will work to increase opportunities for public participation at every level of government and hold each of our public representatives accountable to the people who elect them..

2. SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EQUAL OPPORTUNITY

We shall work with like-minded organizations to confront barriers of racism, class exploitation, sexism, homophobia, ageism and disability, which act to deny fair treatment and equal justice in society and under the law. Racially motivated denial of voting rights, racial profiling and environmental racism must be stopped.

3. ECOLOGICAL WISDOM

We support conservation of resources for future generations and will work to protect the habitat for all who share our county. We seek greater participation in and creation of energy and resource conservation and recycling programs in our area. We support adaptive reuse of existing structures rather than the unnecessary destruction, waste and loss of habitat caused by demolition and new construction.

4. NON-VIOLENCE

While recognizing the need for self-defense and the defense of others, we will strive to develop effective alternatives to the current patterns of violence against both human and non-human. We will actively protest the use of violence by government or any others in our communities.

5. DECENTRALIZATION

We support a restructuring of social, political, and economic systems which reinforces our ties to the local community. We oppose the pervasive corporate dominance of art, entertainment, business, media, education, and politics which has usurped vital local expression. We demand accountability from State government agencies and local input into decisions affecting our community.

6. COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT

We strongly support the rights of workers to organize and form unions. We seek a democratic economic system offering meaningful employment, allowing an individual dignity while earning a living wage. Small, community based farms and businesses are essential to the economic and environmental health of South Florida. We will work to support and to encourage investment in community businesses rather than in multi-national corporations.

7. GENDER EQUITY

We have inherited a social system based on male domination of politics and economics. We call for the replacement of cultural ethics of domination and control with more cooperative ways of interacting that respect differences of opinion and gender. We seek to increase women's visibility, roles and leadership in striving for balanced gender representation at all levels of government.

8. RESPECT FOR DIVERSITY

We support the leadership of people traditionally denied leadership roles. We value the cultural, racial, sexual, religious and spiritual diversity that enhances Broward County society. We acknowledge and encourage respect for life forms other than our own.

9. PERSONAL AND GLOBAL RESPONSIBILITY

We will take responsibility for our own actions and be held accountable. We seek to join with people and organizations in South Florida to foster peace, economic justice, and the health of our neighborhoods, towns and planet. We will work to educate the citizens of Broward County to consider the impact of all their actions. Every purchase is a political statement.

10. FUTURE FOCUS AND SUSTAINABILITY

Actions and policies should be motivated by long-term goals. As stewards for future generations of all beings we will constantly strive to improve conditions for all inhabitants of our county. We will work to curtail the urban sprawl that plagues Broward County and will oppose the loss of greenspace which threatens our ecosystem. We support responsible land-use planning and development and seriously question the continual growth that threatens the very fabric of our fragile ecosystem.

Have you read, and do you support the 10 Key Values of the Broward CountyGreen Party? Do you find any objectionable? Why?

The Broward County Green Party's 10 Key Values focus on issues and concerns reflected in our own county. We have tried to narrow our questions down but feel strongly that all the information requested is important. Please respond to the specific questions following each of the 10 key values.

When you have answered the questionnaire, return it to elections2005@browardgreens.org. Please state in the e-mail that you are the one answering the questionnaire. If you prefer, you may print it out, sign it and return it to
Broward County Green Party
PO Box 22415
Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33335

If you have any questions, please leave a message at 1-877-757-3949 or e-mail elections2005@browardgreens.org and we will get back to you. Thank you for your efforts, and good luck on your campaign!

Tina Gwaltney
Cara Campbell
Gary Hecker
Co-Chairs, Broward County Green Party

1. GRASSROOTS DEMOCRACY.

- a) Will you put a cap on individual contributions to your campaign? Do you accept contributions from corporations or political action committees?
- b) Are you familiar with Instant Runoff Voting (see <http://www.fairvote.org/irv/whatis2.htm>) and will you support its use in Broward County?
- c) What will you do to prevent the loss of Broward County citizens' rights under the guise of "homeland security"?
- d) Are you enthusiastic about citizen's initiatives?

2. SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EQUAL OPPORTUNITY

- a) What is your position on affirmative action?
- b) Will you support a Living Wage ordinance for the cities in Broward County?
- c) How will you improve public transportation?
- d) What are your ideas for keeping the affordable housing we currently have? For increasing it?

3. ECOLOGICAL WISDOM

- a) How will you protect existing green space and work to increase green space throughout our county? Will you protect passive park acreage from those who seek to convert it to recreational use? Will you protect agricultural lands?
- b) Do you support plans for the FLL airport expansion? Why? Why not?
- c) Do you agree with the use of tax dollars to support projects which primarily aid private organizations such as developers (sewers, etc.) and businesses (beach widening for hotels)? If so, in what cases?
- d) Will you push for waste reduction by government, corporations, and residents? Do you support a system of rewards for generating less waste?

4. NON-VIOLENCE

- a) How can we better protect victims of domestic violence?
- b) Are you comfortable with the current policies and actions of our local law enforcement agencies?
- c) Do you feel the animals (wild and domestic) of Broward County have enough care, safety and protection?
- d) What is your stance on the death penalty?

5. DECENTRALIZATION

- a) How would you include citizens in decision-making?
- b) Do you agree with corporate sponsorship of public facilities in exchange for advertising?
- c) How effective is the War on Drugs, and how would you proceed in Broward County?

6. COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT

- a) How will you encourage and support small community businesses?
- b) Do you favor financial incentives for large corporations?
- c) Do you believe neighborhoods should have the ability to control the look and density of their areas? How will you facilitate this empowerment?
- d) Do you believe a resident's rights are equal to those of a developer?

e) How do you feel about the loss of small local businesses due to “Big Box Stores”?

7. GENDER EQUITY

a) Will you strive for proportional representation of women in any staff members/appointees?

b) Do you support a woman's right to choose a safe and legal abortion?

c) Do you support an Equal Rights Amendment?

8. RESPECT FOR DIVERSITY

a) Do you think the current differences in immigration policy between Haitians and Cubans are fair?

b) Should each municipality in Broward have laws against discrimination based on sexual orientation?

9. PERSONAL AND GLOBAL RESPONSIBILITY

a) Will your stand on controversial issues be available BEFORE issues are put to a binding vote (e.g. development projects)?

b) Would you support community actions of conscience such as the South Carolina ban on trucking nuclear waste through that state, or stands taken against sweat shop uniforms by the state of Maine?

c) Do you support legal protection for whistle blowers?

10. SUSTAINABILITY AND FUTURE FOCUS

a) There is a projection of 2 million new residents in south Florida in the near future. Do you support carrying capacity restrictions on growth?

b) Is there such a thing as “smart growth”?

c) How will you protect residents (human and non human) from density increases, variances and other capitulation to growth interests?

d) Would you support “down zoning”?

e) Are you in favor of alternatives to underground injection control wells? If so, what? If not, why not?