

I have made the commitment to run as a candidate for governor of Maine in 2010 and have made this decision based on a number of factors. I value our party tremendously, as it is the only currently viable alternative to the corporate parties. I have been asked by some folks to run as an independent, but declined. While independents may get elected in various races throughout the country, it is very difficult to make their campaigns and their victories, if they do win, a part of a movement. And a movement is what we need in this country. The Greens have a political infrastructure and any Green victory contributes not only to the strengthening of the party, but also to the strengthening of the national – and international – political movement to advance our Ten Key Values in civil society.

I can contribute to the dialogue in our state, as we transition into a very difficult period of reduced resources and the necessary reduced expectations. The Green Party platform, and my own values, are particularly suited to guiding a state through this type of period. I seek to create a new definition of growth and progress, where such terms are not defined by how many WalMarts are in a region, but rather by how much the people in that region support and patronize their own locally owned businesses. I seek to transform the definition of economic development from providing incentives to multi-national corporations to create high priced vacation lots, to providing incentives to Maine, or at least U.S.-based, companies that provide jobs, and job training, in clean industries, including green infrastructure, filmmaking, boatbuilding and specialized tourism. I seek to halt the plantation mentality, whereby Maine becomes the recipient of that which other states reject, such as out of state waste, and inappropriately-sited water mining, industrial wind farms and LNG facilities.

I am very interested in restructuring our tax code to provide incentives to appropriate businesses to locate in Maine, and look to those of you who are more knowledgeable than me in this area.

It is time we take back the power in our state. It is time we put the brakes on the voracious appetites of Nestle/Poland Spring, Plum Creek, First Wind, TransCanada, and the like. Even the smallest town is powerful when the people organize, and towns have shown this to be true in recent struggles. I believe in local control and decentralization, unlike the current administration, which forced the legislature to pass a school consolidation bill that was not discussed in even one public meeting in the state.

What we need from a governor is not a series of statist power grabs, but rather a grand vision of how every town and city in this state can come together to meet all of the challenges that are on the horizon over the next decade. That coming together, however, must not be dictated from Augusta. Rather, it must be the result of every town, township and city in this state taking direction from its own populace about how to meet such challenges. Every town is different and every solution will be different.

Core values – the Ten Key Values – are the foundation of programmatic initiatives. I intend to make this campaign a vehicle for developing those initiatives that can bring the Ten Key Values to life. To that end, we will be

creating a number of groups of people who are knowledgeable in various fields of policy to research and brainstorm, with their work culminating in a policy conference to be held in 2009, the Maine Green Independent Party's 25th year.

While many issues will be raised in the course of a campaign, I have a particular interest in conversion and mass transit. When seeking peace we must not only try to influence our decision makers to leave Iraq, not invade Iran, and work through diplomacy rather than offensive attacks. We need to look at the business of war in this country, and present alternatives, because the business of war employs a lot of people - and that is a discussion about conversion. We have workers in this state who are experienced, talented workers, who work in the war industry. I have no doubt that if leadership in this state pushed for conversion of the production of implements of war to the production of implements of mass transit, of clean energy and of infrastructural renewal, that those workers would respond positively.

In summary, we need to look at the economic situation in our state in a holistic way. We need to determine what we want our state to be, what we value and how we can protect what we value. We can't just wait for businesses to approach us in an unplanned, random manner. We need to decide what businesses we want here and then go out and get them. We also need to look at what we have here and determine how it fits into our vision.

Again, I value all of you as colleagues, supporters and friends and look forward to a vibrant, visionary campaign.

Best, Lynne