



*People First In the First State
It's About Time!*

Greens Rally For Attorney General Candidate Vivian Houghton

Houghton challenges two party system by putting people first!

Wilmington - - Green Party of Delaware member Vivian Houghton, a Wilmington family and bankruptcy attorney, will announce her candidacy for the office of Delaware Attorney General at press conferences in all three counties on April 29th. Houghton is challenging two-time Republican incumbent M. Jane Brady and Democrat Carl Schnee.

Houghton, 59, is a long time political strategist in Delaware who managed ten successful electoral campaigns within the Democratic Party prior to growing disaffected with the party in the early 1990s. Houghton's analysis of the two-party system's inadequacies culminated in her decision in 2000 to join the Green Party. Houghton believes that the Democratic and Republican parties, dominated by financial contributions from special interest groups, have squandered their capacity to fight for social/economic justice, environmental sanity and democratic reform. The Green Party refuses all corporate contributions and strongly limits the amount an individual can contribute.

Houghton says, "I decided to run against Jane Brady because Delaware needs an Attorney General who will put ordinary people's needs first. Brady's time in office has been characterized by the pursuit of criminal justice plans that have forced the state into a submissive relationship with corporate power. As a result, the criminal justice system fails, among other things, to eradicate racial inequity in sentencing, adequately penalize large polluters like Indian River and Edgemoor power plants and Motiva, and prosecute for-profit health insurance companies that restrict patient care. Delaware needs an Attorney General who isn't afraid to be aggressive in bringing civil and criminal suites against companies that break the law."

Houghton further distinguishes herself from her opponents by supporting a clear-cut, people-first criminal justice agenda. A native Delawarean and an ex-public defender who has run her own law practice for over twenty years, Houghton knows the state and its legal system inside and out. Additionally, she possesses the personal strength to take tough stands on controversial issues when necessary. "Voters never agree with a candidate on 100% of the issues and so it's unrealistic to seek that kind of unanimity," Houghton says. "What people want most of all these days from candidates is someone willing to talk about what's real without first scurrying to the nearest pollster to find out what people supposedly want to hear. Frustrated voters want a straightforward response to the issues, not endless spin."

Houghton is the only candidate committed to ending the death penalty, repealing mandatory sentencing laws, increasing treatment for drug abusers as an alternative to long prison terms, and revoking corporate charters when companies violate the law. Once elected, Houghton plans to immediately investigate (a) the legal ramifications of local government's dumping of raw sewage into Wilmington's rivers and (b) the legality of the kind of "industrial profiling" that results in high concentrations of toxic waste sites and landfills in Delaware's African-American and low-income neighborhoods. During her campaign, Houghton will also emphasize domestic partner benefits for all municipal and State employees, living wage and comparable worth legislation, and aggressive scrutiny of the state's for-profit insurance industry to make sure that customers receive proper mental health coverage and general health care regardless of age, economic situation or race. Although there are three candidates running in this race, there are only two choices. If Schnee or Brady win, Delaware will continue to suffer the same social, economic, and environmental injustices it has endured for too long. It's about time for the First State to have an Attorney General who puts people first," says campaign coordinator Robert Bohm.

The Green Party of Delaware emerged as a growing political force during the 2000 Presidential election by mobilizing citizens who sought, in presidential candidate Ralph Nader and running mate Winona LaDuke, an alternative to politics as usual. During that same election season, Green Party candidate Craig Schumaker ran against New Castle County Executive Tom Gordon and received 23,299 votes. Since then, the party has grown in membership, involvement in local concerns and citizens' groups, enabling

us to run a full-out attorney general campaign that will mark this race as a turning point in Delaware politics.

On April 29th, in keeping with Delaware political tradition, Houghton will officially announce her candidacy with events in all three counties on the same day. She will begin with a 9:00 AM press conference in Sussex County at Our Place Restaurant & Garden Patio, 37 Baltimore Avenue, Rehoboth Beach, DE. She will then travel to Kent County to speak at Jonathan's Landing Golf Club Clubhouse, 1309 Pondersoa Drive, Magnolia from 12:00 - 2:00 PM. Houghton will complete her swing through the state with an announcement party in New Castle County at the Delaware Association of Police, 2201 Lancaster Avenue, Wilmington, starting at 5:30 PM.

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