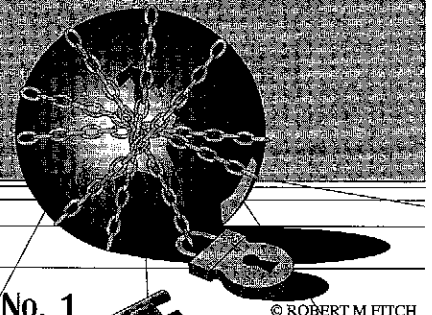


GROUND SWELL

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HARTZOK ACCEPTS GREEN PARTY NOMINATION FOR THE 9TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Alanna Hartzok, Scotland, PA held press conferences Jan. 29, 2001 at the Dream Restaurant in Hollidaysburg and at the Franklin County Courthouse in Chambersburg, both of which are in the 9th congressional District, to announce her acceptance of the Green Party of Pennsylvania nomination. She also addressed statewide media at the Capitol Rotunda in Harrisburg that afternoon.

Hartzok, state coordinator of the Pennsylvania Fair Tax Coalition, was designated Jan. 14 by the party's Coordinating Committee as its choice in the anticipated congressional special election to replace Rep. Bud Shuster who announced he would resign Jan. 31. The Green Party is the only statutory minor party in Pennsylvania, so it is the only party other than the Republican and Democratic parties that can nominate a candidate for a special election.

In her announcement speech, Hartzok said: "The Green Party will run a proactive campaign, an issues-oriented campaign and an effective campaign." She highlighted some of the major issues she intends to address in her campaign, including the growing gap between the rich and the poor, the state of the environment in Pennsylvania, tax reform and revitalization of the rural economy.

"I am deeply concerned about the growing wealth gap in District 9 and throughout our state and country. As of 1998: The top 1% of the population holds 38% of the wealth; the bottom 90% holds 29% of the wealth. All together the top 10% of the population holds 71% of the wealth. The wealth gap is so extreme that even some of the very wealthy people are alarmed and have formed Citizens for Responsible Wealth and other organizations to address this problem. We need to unite for a fair economy. And we need to find a way to solve this problem that goes beyond the old inefficient bureaucratic approaches of the past.

"In my work as a mental health counselor I am keenly aware of the high level of stress that is building up in people due to conditions in the workplace and the lack of economic and job security. Most of us are only three months or less away from total bankruptcy if we should lose our job and not find a new one in time.

"I am sad to tell you that the Gold and Green 2000 Report of the Institute for Southern Studies ranks Pennsylvania at 10th from the bottom among all 50 states surveyed on the environment. No other state's environmental score has dropped as dramatically in the past six years. We simply must improve Pennsylvania's environmental record.

"I know without a doubt that both the wealth gap and our environmental problems can be solved. Now emerging are the guidelines for the Next Economy and they are neither right nor left but up in front. The policies of the Next Economy affirm individual freedom and the many benefits of the market economy and also can strengthen and support the provisioning of basic needs for good education, health care, and a safe and clean environment.

"One of the major reasons I have decided to accept the Green Party nomination as candidate for Congress for District Nine is to bring to the fore progressive and practical new taxation and economic policy directives. "My second career is that of tax reform educator and advocate. Taxation policy is extremely important. The power of taxation is quite literally the power to create or destroy. A new and promising direction is emerging in the field of tax reform policy. We call this approach the "green tax shift."

"Green taxes tax bads, not goods. They shift taxes off of work and onto waste. With a green tax system, you pay for what you take, not what you make. Green taxes shift taxes off
(continued on page 10)