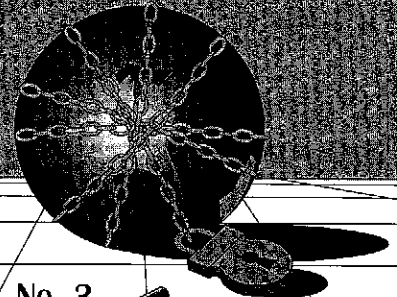


# GROUND SWELL

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## TED GWARTNEY SPOKE AT HEARTLAND CONFERENCE

Ted Gwartney was among the speakers at the national conference on urban "sprawl" and "smart growth" April 26, 2000 at the Radisson Hotel in Chicago. Among Gwartney's "hats" is one as an at-large member of the Board of Directors of Common Ground-USA. Most Georgists know him best for his work as the Assessor in Southfield, Mich., and as the Assessments Commissioner in British Columbia, Canada. His prepared speech is reprinted with permission in this GroundSwell issue.

Host of the conference which was entitled "Where We Live" was the Heartland Institute. Cosponsors were the Henry Hazlitt Foundation, the Heritage Foundation, and Political Economy Research Center (PERC). Presenters and Responders covered topics in eight sessions.

Dr. Robert Bruegmann, School of Architecture professor at the University of Illinois-Chicago spoke on "What is Sprawl" in Session 1. Responding to him was Chicago Metropolitan Planning Council president Mary Sue Barrett.

Session 2 featured Dr. Richard Stroup, Economics professor at Montana State University, who spoke on "What is Smart Growth?". His Respondent was Dr. Charles Rubin, an associate professor of Political Science at Duquesne University.

Dr. Ron Utt, research fellow at The Heritage Foundation, addressed "A Citizens Guide to Smart Growth" in Session 3. Responding to him was Jane S. Shaw, a senior associate at Political Economy Research Center.

Session 4 on "Lessons from Portland" featured John Charles, environmental policy director at the Cascade Institute, Portland, OR. His respondent was Dr. Steve Hayward, senior policy fellow at the Pacific Research Institute, San Francisco.

"Housing Issues" was the topic addressed by Dr. Arthur Lyons, Executive Director of the Center for Economic Policy Analysis, Chicago. The responder was Dr. Don Coursey of the University of Chicago's Graduate School of Public Policy Studies.

Speaker Dr. Sam Staley, Deputy Director of the Reason Public Policy Institute, Los Angeles, addressed "Free-Market Strategies." Responding was Ted Gwartney, former city assessor of Southfield, Mich. and Hartford, Conn., former deputy county assessor of Sacramento, Calif.,

and former assessment commissioner and CEO of the British Columbia Assessment Authority.

"Transportation Issues" were addressed by Dr. Joseph Schwieterman, director of DePaul University's Chaddick Institute for Metropolitan Development. International public policy consultant Wendell Cox responded.

The final presenter in Session 8 was at dinner, with Dr. Edwin Mills from Northwestern University's School of Business speaking on "Land Use and Liberty."

Videotapers Scott and Sue Walton of the Better Cities Committee of Illinois chapter of Common Ground-USA report that Ted Gwartney did an excellent job fielding (continued on page 13)

## HELLER GUBNERATORIAL CANDIDACY OFFICIALLY ANNOUNCED

At the state capital on March 31, Meta Heller of Olympia, Washington, officially announced her Washington state Gubernatorial campaign. In her remarks, she expressed irritation with present Gov. Locke's responses to the impending threat of Initiative 695 last fall and finally the materialized threat itself. She said very few people in the government, much less the public, knew the account designations of Motor Vehicle Excise Tax funds. Perhaps people voted for I-695 because they wanted a tax break but, as it turned out, the Transportation Dept. took the greatest hit with the demise of the MVET. Heller's own funding idea is a miles-driven/vehicles-weight tax to fund all transportation (roads, bridges, ferries, transit systems). The key is a computer tied into global positioning that can be read for miles driven.

Heller also faulted current Gov. Locke for not appointing a Citizens Task Force for Tax Reform last fall to show that someone was in charge of trying to help all of the people in case I-695 passed. When I-695 did pass, the whole imbalanced public revenue mess was dumped on reluctant legislators.

Heller is running as a Democrat against incumbent Gov. Locke who is a Democrat. Heller is the founder of the Thurston County Green Economics Roundtable. She had previously on January 15 filed the required basic forms with the PDC. That filing prompted an item in the Seattle Times "Inside Politics" Jan. 20 column.