



Green Party of Pima County (GPPC) January 2018 Report to AZGP; submitted by Mike Cease, GPPC Chairperson

The annual elections meeting of the County Committee (Precinct Captains) took place on Sunday afternoon, January 7<sup>th</sup> and the first 7 officer positions of the GPPC's 2018 Steering Committee were elected. (Excerpted from the about page of [www.pimagreens.org](http://www.pimagreens.org)):

**GPPC Steering Committee/County Committee Officers:**

**Chairperson:** Mike Cease

**1st Vice-Chairperson:** Lena Rothman

**2nd Vice-Chairperson:** Beryl Baker

**Treasurer:** Chuck Irvin

**Secretary:** Matt Smith

**At-Large Representatives:**

**Outreach Representative – Minority:** Eduardo Quintana

**Outreach Representative – Gender:** Bonnie Oliver

**GPPC Representatives:** Najima Rainey; Vacant

**State Committee persons:** *representing the GPPC at the AZGP state meetings*

Mike Cease (GPPC Chairperson)

Lena Rothman (GPPC 1st Vice Chairperson)

Beryl Baker (GPPC 2nd Vice Chairperson)

Please note that the last 2 officer positions are elected by the membership at large. 1<sup>st</sup> GPPC Representative Najima Rainey was elected to a 1-year term in August 2017. The 2<sup>nd</sup> GPPC Representative will be elected to a 1-year term at our February 6<sup>th</sup> General Meeting.

Linda Robles, leader of the Environmental Justice Task Force (EJTF), spoke at the GPPC's December 5<sup>th</sup> General Program meeting. She spoke about the TCE and 1,4 Dioxane contamination of Tucson's groundwater aquifer, concentrated on the Southside by corporate criminal industry practices, and enabled by environmentally racist public policy. This has claimed generations of victims over the decades since the 1940's and 1950's and will continue to claim many more until we are successful in gaining justice for the victims.

School of the Americas Watch sponsored a Border Encuentro series of workshop and protest events in Tucson, Eloy and Nogales during the weekend of November 10, 11 and 12<sup>th</sup>. GPPC participants included Eduardo Quintana, Mike Cease, Lena Rothman, Sal Amador, Tom Racey, Mary DeCamp and Matt Smith.



(November 10, 2017 –Protest in Elloy, AZ – Mike Cease and Eduardo Quintana – Photo by Haryaksha Knauer)

Mike Cease (GRN) received 5,721 votes (7.03 %) in the Ward 6 City Council race against incumbent Steve Kozachik (DEM) and Mariano Rodriguez (REP) in the November 7<sup>th</sup> General Election. While the “Cease for City Council - A Green New Deal for Tucson” campaign committee did not attain its 51% goal, we were proud to run on core social justice issues representing the Green Party’s platform of Eco-Socialism:

- **A Green New Deal for Tucson:** thousands of fair wage, sustainable energy jobs retrofitting hundreds of thousands of homes and businesses with energy conservation, solar energy and water harvesting.
- **\$15 NOW:** adopt a city-wide minimum wage of \$15/hour now, similar to Seattle, WA and Flagstaff, AZ.
- **Sanctuary City:** adopt a strong and substantive Sanctuary Cities ordinance joining dozens of cities nationwide in solidarity making Tucson a safe community for immigrant families.
- **Stop Environmental Racism:** Justice for all the generational victims of TCE and 1,4 Dioxane contamination of Tucson’s groundwater aquifer.
- **Divest Now! – No Dakota Access Pipeline (DAPL):** support Native American rights and withdraw \$50 million in City of Tucson investment holdings in Wells Fargo Bank.

The campaign committee raised approximately \$ 2,300 and about \$ 1,400 was expended on social media ad boosts of the campaign’s Facebook page social justice key issues postings. For example, the video of Summer Aguilera of the Tucson Water Protectors with the candidate, Mike Cease, in front of the Wells Fargo Bank had over 18,000 views after post boosting. Water is Life!