

Green Party nominates slate for statewide office In Connecticut

Beware these people. They are professional paid agitators. Don't give them the time of day.

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The Green Party candidate for governor on Saturday called for an end to the drug war, voicing support for the legalization of marijuana.

Cliff Thornton, a retired businessman, told about 50 delegates at the Greater New Haven Labor Council that the war on drugs was "designed to be waged, but never to be won."

Thornton is a founder of Efficacy, a drug-reform group that calls the government's anti-drug campaign ineffective. Money spent to fight drugs would be better used to rebuild public works and fight social problems, he said. "I decided to run for office because I can no longer support candidates with progressive rhetoric who never talk about the dinosaur in the room, which is the war on drugs," Thornton said.

The Green Party nominated candidates for statewide office on Saturday. They include anti-nuclear energy activist Nancy Burton for attorney general, Mike DeRosa for secretary of the state, David Bue for treasurer and Ralph A. Ferrucci for U.S. senator.

DeRosa announced Saturday that the party has joined the American Civil Liberties Union to sue the state over campaign financial reform legislation that he said blocked ballot access for third parties.

"Clean elections are more than limiting the amount of money that flows into campaigns," he said. "Campaigns are about issues, and ideas."

The Connecticut Green Party has 15 state chapters, and about a dozen candidates holding office in cities and towns.

Ralph A. Ferrucci, a Green Party activist who once ran against John DeStefano for mayor of New Haven, announced his candidacy to challenge U.S. Sen. Joe Lieberman. He criticized the billions of dollars spent on the Iraq war and the lives lost in the war. "We could have funded a health care system that would cover all Americans. We're one of the only industrialized nations in the world that does not do this," he said. Ferrucci said that as an independent truck driver, he has not been able to afford health insurance for years.

"Most of the other candidates are millionaires," he said. "I know what the working men and women in this country go through everyday, because I am one of them."