

## BALTIMORE COUNTY GREEN PARTY

### **MEDIA RELEASE**

For Immediate Release

Sunday, January 5, 2003

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### **MARYLAND GREEN PARTY RETAINS PARTY STATUS THROUGH 2006.**

TOWSON, MD –

The Maryland Board of Elections (BOE) certified that the Maryland Green Party had submitted enough valid petition signatures in order to remain a political party in the state. On December 12, 2002, the Maryland BOE certified that the Maryland Green Party had submitted 11,264 valid signatures—1,264 more than the 10,000 required by law. The petitions were gathered by an all-volunteer effort of Green Party members throughout the state.

In addition to allowing Maryland voters to affiliate with the Green Party, and candidates to run as Greens, completion of this petition drive guarantees a ballot line for the Green Party's 2004 Presidential and Vice-Presidential candidates in Maryland.

"This is an important step for the Green Party. We are committed to running candidates in local and statewide elections in Maryland, and this shows that we are here to stay," stated Isaac Opalinsky, one of the co-chairs of the Maryland Green Party.

"We have already proven ourselves to be a major force in a number of Maryland elections, and it is going to get hard for the two major parties to stay in control. The 2002 election results demonstrate that voters are eager to consider the alternatives," said co-chair Patricia Cruz.

In Baltimore County, the Green Party ran its first candidate in 2002, when Rick Kunkel received 5,464 votes in the new 42<sup>nd</sup> district—a district with 170 registered Green voters.

### **MORE INFORMATION**

The Baltimore County Green Party

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