

# Howie Hawkins for 4th District Councilor



## COMMUNITY SERVICE:

- ◆ *Prompt Response to Constituent Calls*
- ◆ *Regular Hours at the South Salina Street Office*
- ◆ *Neighborhood Assemblies—Regular Meetings to Discuss Issues and Organize to Realize Community Goals*

## POSITIVE CHANGE:

- ◆ *Fully Funded Public Schools*
- ◆ *Crime Prevention through Youth Jobs & Recreation*
- ◆ *A Stronger Living Wage Law*
- ◆ *A Community Hiring Hall to Increase Jobs for Inner City Residents*
- ◆ *A Municipal Bank to Create Community-Owned Businesses*
- ◆ *Neighborhood Grocery Stores*
- ◆ *Municipal Broadband (Cable TV, Internet, Phone) for More Channels and Better Technology at Lower Rates*
- ◆ *Public Power for Affordable, Green Energy*

## A Community Activist for the 4th District

Howie Hawkins has lived on South Side since moving to Syracuse in 1991. He was a supporter of the now much-missed South Side Newsstand. As a board member of the South Side Coalition, he is active in its community grocery store project.

Howie was the Green Party candidate for Mayor of Syracuse in 2005 in a campaign that succeeded in putting the issue of public power – a city-owned power utility – on the city’s agenda.

A former Marine, he helped organize opposition to the Vietnam War and was a leader in the anti-apartheid movement against U.S. corporate investments in South Africa.

After attending Dartmouth College in the early 1970s, Howie worked in construction and helped organize a workers cooperative that specialized in energy efficiency and solar and wind installations.

Howie moved to Syracuse to develop cooperatives for CommonWorks, a federation of cooperatives working for an economy that is cooperatively owned, democratically controlled, and ecologically sustainable.

Howie currently unloads trucks at UPS, where he is a member of Teamsters Local 317 and active in Teamsters for a Democratic Union, the national Teamster rank-and-file reform caucus, as well as US Labor Against the War.

Howie’s articles on politics, economics, and environmental issues have appeared in *Against the Current*, *Green Politics*, *International Socialist Review*, *New Politics*, *Peace and Democracy News*, *Z Magazine*, and other publications. He is the editor of the 2006 book, *Independent Politics: The Green Party Strategy Debate*.



**Howie Hawkins**  
**Green Party candidate for 4th District Councilor**  
**Election Day: November 3, 2009**



### What They Say About Howie Hawkins

*The Green Party’s agenda seems to hold more water every time Howie Hawkins gets a platform.*

— Post-Standard Editorial on 2005 mayoral campaign (9/29/05)

*Howie Hawkins is the most unwavering progressive I think I’ve met in New York State.*

— Ralph Nader (Post-Standard, 10/8/04)

*Hawkins is far and away the best candidate in this three-way race. As is his custom, Hawkins has shaped his campaign around a promise to provide a voice for the voiceless. He is a tireless activist for empowering the traditionally disenfranchised. He promises to be a councilor who “represents the community instead of the power structure.”*

— Post-Standard Editorial endorsing Howie Hawkins for 4th District Councilor in 2001 (10/30/01)

For more information:  
[www.howiehawkins.org](http://www.howiehawkins.org)

### Volunteer

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Yard Sign     | <input type="checkbox"/> Fundraising          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Phone calling | <input type="checkbox"/> Host a house meeting |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Leafletting   | <input type="checkbox"/> Donation             |

Name:  
 Address:  
 City/State/Zip  
 Phone:  
 Email:

Make check payable to: Hawkins for Council  
 P.O. Box 562, Syracuse NY 13205  
 474-7055, [www.howiehawkins.org](http://www.howiehawkins.org)

# Howie Hawkins for 4th District Councilor



**COMMUNITY SERVICE and POSITIVE CHANGE**

[www.howiehawkins.org](http://www.howiehawkins.org)



## **COMMUNITY SERVICE**

### **Prompt Response to Constituent Calls**

If elected as 4th District Councilor, Howie Hawkins pledges to respond to constituent calls within 24 hours to find out what the concern is and see what he can do to help. Whether it is a pothole, a drug house down the street, the promised bike lane that didn't happen, a problem with codes or DPW, or a pending vote before the Common Council, the first responsibility of a District Councilor is to be responsive to the district's residents and their concerns.

### **Office Hours in the Neighborhood**

If elected, Howie Hawkins will keep his campaign office at 2617 South Salina Street open and schedule regular office hours where district residents can come in and talk to their District Councilor about neighborhood or citywide issues and concerns.

### **Neighborhood Assemblies**

If elected, Howie Hawkins will organize regular meetings in each of the eight or so neighborhoods of the 4th District where neighborhood residents can discuss issues and organize to realize community goals.

## **CRIME PREVENTION**

### **Youth Jobs and Recreation**

Open and staff schools and parks nights, weekends, and summers.

### **Stop the "War on Drugs" and Mass Incarceration**

Redirect the money the city spends on enforcing drug laws into harm reduction and prevention efforts. Treat drug abuse as a health problem, not a criminal problem.

## **TAX REFORM**

### **TO FUND THE CITY & THE SCHOOLS**

The poorest 20% pay 14% of their income in sales and property taxes while the wealthiest 20% pay only 7% in New York State (Fiscal Policy Inst., 2003).

### **Fully Funded Public Schools**

Commit to a regular annual increase in the city contribution to the school budget. Fight for a fair statewide school funding formula.

### **City Income and Commuter Tax**

A progressively graduated city income tax, including a tax on the 40,000+ commuters.

### **Land Value Taxation**

Cut the property tax, make it progressive, and stimulate inner-city development by taxing land values more and improvements to homes and businesses less.

## **FAIR ELECTIONS**

### **Instant Runoff Voting**

For single seats like Mayor and District Councilor.

### **Proportional Representation**

For Common Council, so that every party gets representation in proportion to their support among the voters.

### **Public Campaign Financing**

City elections should not be for sale.

## **LIVING WAGE JOBS TO END POVERTY**

Syracuse has the 3rd highest poverty rate – and the highest black poverty rate – of the 100 largest US cities. (US Census, 2005)

### **A Stronger Living Wage Law**

Enforce the existing Living Wage Ordinance. Expand it to cover all workers with the the city and its contractors. Seek to cover all workers in the city through a citywide minimum wage, as Santa Fe, New Mexico has done.

### **Employment Goals for City Residents**

People of color and city residents do not get their fair share of jobs with the city and city contractors. Attach to the new Living Wage Ordinance minority and city resident hiring goals for all jobs with the city and city contractors and a Community Hiring Hall to help reach those goals.

### **Community Hiring Hall**

Require city departments and contractors to hire qualified workers from a Community Hiring Hall if they cannot meet minority and city resident employment goals. The Community Hiring Hall will provide job counseling, placement, training, and support services to city residents seeking jobs.

### **Green Jobs**

Build a partnership among unions, community organizations, contractors, manufacturers, and the city to provide a skilled workforce for the growing green economy through a Green Tech Training Center and Green Job Corps at the Community Hiring Hall, especially for at-risk youth and ex-offenders.

## **COMMUNITY ENTERPRISE**

### **A Municipal Bank for Community-Owned Enterprises**

Create a Municipal Development Bank to help plan, finance, develop, and advise community-owned enterprises: worker and consumer cooperatives, resident owner-operated businesses, and corporations where voting shares are restricted to city residents (like the Green Bay Packers).

### **Neighborhood Grocery Stores**

For years, the city has tried to bring a grocery store to Downtown. Meanwhile, the South Side lost its last grocery store this year. The Municipal Bank should prioritize the development of cooperative grocery stores in the neighborhoods.

### **Municipal Broadband (Cable TV, Internet, Phone)**

US cities with municipal ownership of their broadband utilities pay 30% less for cable TV, internet, and phone. Time Warner's cable franchise is up for renewal. Now is the time to municipalize our broadband utility for public control, lower rates, better technology, and wider choice of cable channels.

### **Public Power**

Syracusans pay four times more for electricity to National Grid than the people in Solvay and Skaneateles pay to their city-owned power companies. Replace National Grid with a public power utility to cut energy costs, restore responsive customer service, and build clean, renewable energy sources.

### **Urban Renewal, Not Urban Removal**

Development should raise up low- and moderate-income residents, not force them out of their own neighborhoods through rising rents and property values. Protect existing residents through **Inclusionary Zoning** and **Community Benefit Agreements** that require developers to include affordable housing units in their projects and through **Community Land Trusts** that enable neighborhoods as a whole to benefit from rising land values.