

# Local Democracy Convention

*The Community Power Road to Democracy*



Thursday, Sept. 28 through Sunday, Oct. 1st, 2006

Madison, Wisconsin, USA

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

*Keynote: Juan Barreto, Mayor of Caracas, Venezuela*

International Presenters:

- Sérgio Gregório Baierle, Workers Party, Brazil
- Daniel Chavez, Transnational Institute, Uruguay/Netherlands
- Jude Esquerro, Institute for Popular Democracy, Philippines
- Gábor Scheiring, Protect the Future, Hungary
- Hilary Wainwright, Red Pepper, UK

US Presenters:

- Professor Gar Alperovitz
- Barbara Alvarado\*
- Patrick Barrett, Liberty Tree
- Alder Brian Benford, Madison
- Pabitra Benjamin, Liberty Tree
- Phyllis Bennis, Institute for Policy Studies\*
- David Cobb, Liberty Tree
- Brent Denzin, Midwest Environmental Advocates
- Karen Dolan, Cities for Peace
- Council Pres. Austin King, Madison
- Alder Brenda Konkel, Madison
- Josh Lerner, Planners Network

... US continued...

- Paul Malischke, Fair Elections Wisconsin
- Ben Manski, Liberty Tree
- Dr. Jane Anne Morris
- Bertell Ollman, International Endowment for Democracy\*
- Evan Paul, America Speaks
- Reverend Edward Pinkney
- Malik Rahim, Common Ground, New Orleans\*
- Satya Rhodes-Conway, New Cities Project
- Juscha Robinson, Liberty Tree
- Marsha Rummel, President, Marquette Neighborhood Association
- Kaitlin Sopoci-Belknap, Liberty Tree
- Charlene Spretnak, Green Institute\*
- Norm Stockwell, WORT 89.9 FM
- Carl Williams, Liberty Tree
- Alfonso Zepeda-Capistran, LUCHA

*and the songs of David Rovics!*

*Asterisked (\*) presenters yet to be confirmed*

**The US President** says he's the decider. Congress and the Federal courts seem generally to agree. US military forces occupy Iraq and Afghanistan, among other countries. A national police state keeps watch on tens of millions of Americans. As the Federal government consolidates power further and further away from the people of the United States, now is a moment that evermore, to borrow from Thomas Paine, tries our souls.

**Across the United States**, and around the world, the verdict is coming in: People are choosing local democracy over global oligarchy. The local alternative is becoming a movement:

*Did you know that . . .*

- ♦ Voters in 40 Vermont towns and 24 Wisconsin municipalities have put their communities on record for immediate withdrawal from Iraq? And that the war and presidential impeachment will be on the ballot nationwide come November?
- ♦ The people of Humboldt County, California, as well as several Pennsylvania townships, have ruled corporate personhood unconstitutional?
- ♦ The people of Venezuela have established direct economic aid programs for a growing number of major US cities?
- ♦ The "Participatory Budgeting" process developed in Brazil is now on the agenda for community organizers across the US?
- ♦ Voting rights advocates nationwide have succeeded in implementing Instant Runoff Voting, public financing of elections, and non-US-citizen voting rights in local elections?
- ♦ US cities, large and small, have reinvested in public power, community cable, wireless, and cooperative development?
- ♦ Local democracy initiatives have taken root across the globe, offering models for democratization here in the US?

Local Governments as Social Change Agents ~ Public Power, Wireless, and Cable ~ Poverty & Racism: Barriers to Participation ~ Local Election Reform ~ Cities for Peace, Ecology, and Progress ~ Participatory Democracy, Participatory Budgeting ~ Neighborhoods and Neighborhood Associations ~ Financing of Local Governments ~ Local Parties, Coalitions, and Movements ~ Home Rule and Preemption ~ Local Communities for Immigrant Rights ~ Direct Legislation and the Citizen Initiative ~ Community and Cooperative Economic Development ~ The Local Regulatory State ~ Community Rights vs. Corporate Rights ~ Sister Cities for Democracy ~ States Rights & Home Rule: Local Control vs. Preemption ~ The Global and the Local: Globalization from Below ~ Local Democracy: Strategy 101 ~ The Law of Local Democracy ~ Uniting for Democracy: Schools, Colleges, and Communities ~ and more!

**This Autumn**, Sept. 28 through Oct. 1, gather with organizers and activists in beautiful Madison to share and learn from these and other important democratic successes. Network with others working on common issues. Strategize together about building the democracy movement in this country, from the grassroots, up.

**Register Now:** [www.LibertyTreeFDR.org](http://www.LibertyTreeFDR.org) or 608 257 1606