

A Green Party Introduction

The party of sustainability, justice, peace and democracy -- the Green Party of the United States -- will hold its 2008 National Nominating Convention in Chicago from July 10 to 13.

The Convention will mark U.S. Green growth over the last decade, and look to accelerate the already increasingly important Green presence in U.S. politics for the 21st century.

Founded in 2001 as a national party, after spending the 1990s building on the local and state level, today over 225 Greens currently hold elected office across the nation and approximately 300,000 voters are registered Green. Many thousands more identify themselves as Green in states that don't have party membership by voter registration. Greens are organized in all 50 states, as well as the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico, and the number of state Green parties affiliated with the national party stands at 45, more than double the number in 2001.

Internationally, U.S. Greens are part of a global movement of Green Parties in almost 90 countries, reflecting a shared commitment to heal our planet, that transcends national identities and political boundaries.

Around the globe, Greens have been elected to thousands of seats in local government, while on national levels Greens hold more than 250 seats in 18 European nations and another 49 in Australia, Brazil, México and New Zealand, as well as 39 seats in the 624-member European Parliament. The Green Party of the United States participates as a member of the *Federacion de Partidos Verdes de las Americas*, and globally as a charter member of the Global Greens. In May 2008, the Green Party of the United States participated in the Second Global Green Congress, held in São Paolo, Brazil, where delegates approved a Global Green action plan on climate change.

In 2004, U.S. Greens made national news in Ohio by leading the effort to secure an accurate recount of the presidential vote there. In 2006, Illinois Greens achieved ballot status after the Democratic Governor spent \$800,000 in taxpayer' money trying to keep Greens off the state ballot. The Green Party supports electoral reforms like Proportional Representation, Instant-Run Off Voting, fair ballot and debate access, and the public financing of elections. Greens are working hard for the realization of fair elections and the power of "We the People" in the U.S.

Ten Key Values

- 1. GRASSROOTS DEMOCRACY.** New types of political organizations will expand the process of participatory democracy by directly including citizens in the decision-making process.
- 2. SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EQUAL OPPORTUNITY.** All persons should have the rights and opportunity to benefit equally from the resources afforded us by society and the environment.
- 3. ECOLOGICAL WISDOM.** A sustainable society utilizing resources will insure that future generations will benefit and avoid dire consequences from wasteful resource management.
- 4. NON-VIOLENCE.** Without being naive about the intentions of other governments, we will work to demilitarize and eliminate weapons of mass destruction. National security is more reliant on diplomacy and good stewardship.
- 5. DECENTRALIZATION.** Restructuring of social, political and economic institutions is required to fix a system which is mired in bureaucracy, and controlled by a powerful few.
- 6. COMMUNITY-BASED ECONOMICS AND ECONOMIC JUSTICE.** A vibrant and sustainable economic system is rooted in independently-owned small businesses. Government must do more to assist socially and economically responsible businesses.
- 7. FEMINISM AND GENDER EQUITY.** Respecting differences of opinion and gender strengthen our country and communities.
- 8. RESPECT FOR DIVERSITY.** High value must be placed on cultural, ethnic, racial, sexual, religious and spiritual diversity.
- 9. PERSONAL AND GLOBAL RESPONSIBILITY.** Individuals should be encouraged to improve their personal well-being and join with people and organizations around the world to foster peace, economic justice, and the health of the planet.
- 10. FUTURE FOCUS AND SUSTAINABILITY.** Short-term profits should not damage long-term economic development and new technologies. Fiscal policies must be held to account for implications to future generations.

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Useful Green Party weblinks

Green Party Homepage: <http://www.gp.org>

Green Platform, <http://www.gp.org/platform.shtml>

2008 Green National Convention: <http://www.greenparty2008.org>

Video of GP Presidential Candidates: <http://www.gp.org/2008-elections/presidential-videos.php>

Links to Green Presidential Candidates' web sites:

<http://www.gp.org/committees/pcsc/index.shtml>

Green candidate database for 2008 and other campaign information:

<http://www.gp.org/elections.shtml>

Green Party News Center <http://www.gp.org/newscenter.shtml>

Green Party Speakers Bureau <http://www.gp.org/speakers>

Green Party ballot access page <http://www.gp.org/2008-elections>