

# Presidential Candidate Questionnaire

[Draft version 2.4 – April 7 2007]

Thank you for your interest in the Green Party. This questionnaire has been designed to give registered Greens and Green Party members an opportunity to learn about the contenders for the 2008 Green Party Presidential Nomination. We hope that it will also give you an opportunity to flesh out some of your campaign plans and your positions on issues that are of particular interest to Greens. Return of this questionnaire is part of the process for being considered formally recognized by the party as a candidate for the Green Party nomination. Responses will be made available to Green Party members, possibly by being linked in their entirety from gp.org. Thank you for your time and attention to this questionnaire.

## Contact Information

Title \_\_\_\_\_ First **Ralph** \_\_\_\_\_ M. \_\_\_\_\_ Last **Nader**

### **C/o Draft Nader Committee**

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**Prepared and extensively researched solely by the Draft Nader Committee.**

**Ralph Nader is not responsible for its contents.**

**We will update the contact information with Ralph Nader's campaign contact information if and when he declares his candidacy**

## General Campaign Information

Do you meet all of the legal qualifications for the office of President of the United States (Will you be 35 or older as of Election Day; are you a natural-born U.S. citizen; have you been a U.S. resident for 14 years?)

Yes

Is your candidacy currently on file with the Federal Elections Commission (FEC)?

No as of Dec. 31, 2007.

Are you a Green Party member? If so, where, and for how long have you been a member?

No. Lifelong independent. Never enrolled in any party.

Are you a member of any other political party?

No.

Do you intend to seek the support and/or ballot lines of any other parties?

**Not the Democratic or Republican parties. Possibly other independent parties in addition to the Green Party line in some states where fusion is possible. Such cross-endorsements would maximize the chances of passing the 5 percent threshold for public financing for the 2012 presidential election.**

What time commitment can you put toward campaigning? How many hours a week can you spend now? If your hours are now limited, will you have the ability to expand your hourly commitment every week?

**As in 2000 and 2004 will campaign plenty of time.**

Are you able and willing to travel, now and throughout the campaign?

**Yes.**

Please briefly describe what motivates you to seek the Green Party nomination for President of the United States. What qualifies you to serve as President? How are you qualified to represent the Green party?

**Motivation:**

- **Set the policy agenda around the key Green policy goals, including ending the war, single-payer health care, conversion to renewable energy to address global warming, fair elections, ending corporate domination of politics and economics.**
- **Build the Green Party as a credible progressive alternative to the corporate rulers and their two political parties, the Democrats and Republicans.**

**Qualifications:**

- **50 years as public citizen.**
- **Instrumental in the passage of many progressive reforms at the federal level and in many states, including the National Traffic and Motor Vehicle Safety Act, the Freedom of Information Act, the Clean Water Act, the Clean Air Act, the Community Reinvestment Act, and the acts creating the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), the Environmental Protection Agency, the Consumer Product Safety Commission, and the National Cooperative Bank.**
- **Instrumental in the organization of scores of citizen action groups with lobbying and litigation capacities dealing with consumer rights, energy, environment, union democracy, investigative reporting, corporate crime, women's rights, racial discrimination, poverty, fair trade, corporate welfare, cooperatives, and watch dogging the legislatures and government agencies.**
- **Able to bring the campaign into mainstream media and general public awareness, as evidenced by his many writings (see [votenader.org](http://votenader.org) for columns) and regular appearances on network and cable news programs before, during, and after previous presidential campaigns.**
- **Experienced running all-out presidential campaigns in 2000 and 2004.**

**Representing the Green Party:**

**Ralph Nader was the Green Party candidate for President in 1996 and 2000.**

**Among the achievements of the 2000 Nader campaign:**

- **450 new local Green chapters**
- **Ballot lines for the Nader/LaDuke Green Party ticket in 44 states**
- **Qualified Green Party ballot lines for future elections in 22 states**
- **Supported and campaigned with state and local candidates**
- **Campaigned for the Green Party in every state, the only presidential candidate to campaign in every state in 2000**
- **Helped the party grow from an association of state parties to a national party that was recognized as such by the Federal Election Commission**
- **Recruited and shared lists of tens of thousands of volunteers with state Green parties**
- **Helped start 900 Campus Green chapters on college campuses**
- **Won the largest vote for an independent progressive candidacy in 75 years.**

**After the 2000 campaign through 2003, Ralph Nader:**

- **Wrote the book, *Crashing the Party*, touting the Green Party and its platform**

- Spoke at 45 Green Party fundraisers in 31 states, traveling to them at his own expense, raising more money than anyone for the Green Party at the national party, state and local levels
- Sent representatives to the Global Greens Conference in Canberra in 2001; the Hiawassee, GA meeting in 2000; the Santa Barbara, CA meeting in 2001; and the D.C. meeting in 2003; Ralph Nader attended the Philadelphia, PA national Green Party meeting in 2002.
- Met with dozens of Green leaders around the world when as they visited D.C.
- Went to Europe in 2002 for the 3rd annual Congress of European Greens in Germany, and visited the French and Swedish Greens before their elections.

From 2005 until the present, Ralph Nader has:

- Campaigned, raised funds, and/or appeared/assisted with Green candidates, including Kevin Zeese, MD; Howie Hawkins, NY; Carl Romanelli, PA, and Todd Chretien, CA for US Senate; Peter Miguel Camejo, CA, and Clifford Thornton, CT, for Governor, CA; Donna Jo Warren for Lt. Governor, CA; Forrest Hill for Secretary of State, CA; Alice Green, Albany, NY; Tony Gronowicz, New York City, and Jason West, New Paltz, NY for Mayor; Gloria Mattered for Brooklyn Borough President; Jerry Kann, Queens, NY and Maria Allwine and Bill Barry, Baltimore, MD, for City Council; Sally Soriano for Seattle School Board; and Green Party slates for statewide office in CA and CT.
- Spoke at educational and issue events and actions with Green speakers in Buffalo, Syracuse, Albany, and Glens Falls, NY; Washington, DC; and Seattle, WA.
- Worked with DC Statehood Greens to stop corporate welfare for the Washington Nationals' baseball stadium and to protect public space and property, including public libraries.
- Initiated with New College "Greening the Political System" in San Francisco in December 2006 with featured speakers Matt Gonzalez, former Green San Francisco County Supervisor; Ross Mirkarimi, current Green San Francisco County Supervisor; and Gail McLaughlin, Green Mayor of Richmond, CA.
- Spoke at the Green Party national meeting in Reading PA in July 2007 and raised \$4900 for the Green Party at the meeting.

In what ways would you be able and willing to help build the Green Party through your campaign?

**Bring the Green Party policy proposals, many of which already have majority support among Americans, into the mainstream media and before the broad public.**

**Recruit and share the lists of volunteers for the Nader campaign with the Green Party in each state.**

**Help the Green Party revive and embody the American third party tradition of leading the way toward abolition, suffrage, and workers' rights in earlier generations and expanding democracy to contain corporate power and militarism in our generation.**

**Support and campaign with Green Party candidates for local, state, and federal office.**

**Train volunteers in organizing and fundraising to help the Green Party improve and expand its pool of experience campaigners.**

Numerous state parties will need assistance with signature collection to become ballot-qualified. What resources can you bring to bear to assist with the ballot drive effort? How high a priority will you make of securing and retaining state party ballot lines?

**Work with volunteers and paid petitioners in states that need assistance for ballot access, as the Nader/LaDuke campaign did in 2000 to get on the ballot in 44 states.**

**Follow through on pending lawsuits against the Democratic National Committee et al. for illegal harassment, intimidation, and sabotage of 2004 ballot access drives in order to establish stronger legal rights to ballot access for third parties and independents.**

**Ballot access has the highest priority so the campaign can give as many Americans as possible the opportunity to vote for the Green alternative.**

Are you committed to the Ten Key Values of the Green Party?

Yes.

What is the nature of your current base of support?

**Ralph Nader's decades of high profile advocacy for consumer and worker rights and environmental protection enables him**

to draw support from a broad public across the political spectrum. Nader has very high name recognition with the American public and they know that Ralph Nader stands up for justice for the little guys.

Nader's broad base of support was demonstrated in the 2000 presidential campaign. Nader was arguably the most preferred candidate in the 2000 presidential election and might have won if the election had been conducted under a majority preference system instead of the Electoral College plurality system. An analysis of the National Election Study exit poll data by Harvard political scientist Barry Burden shows that only 9% of the people who thought Nader was the best candidate actually voted for him. If people had not voted strategically for their lesser evil or stayed home because the polls showed he would not win, Nader would have had over 30 million votes instead of 2.9 million, making it close three-way race. See Barry C. Burden, "Minor Parties and Strategic Voting in Recent U.S. Presidential Elections," [www.people.fas.harvard.edu/~burden/esfinal.pdf](http://www.people.fas.harvard.edu/~burden/esfinal.pdf).

Public opinion polls show that the majority of Americans support the key Green Party policy goals, including withdrawing from Iraq, single-payer health care, conversion to renewable energy to address global warming, and reducing corporate power over government. A Nader candidacy has the capacity to inform the general public of their agreement with the Green Party platform positions.

The Draft Nader Committee is organizing Nader supporters into state Draft Nader Committees, whose members in each state elect a state coordinator who participates in national conference calls to coordinate the effort nationally. This volunteer structure will fold into the Nader campaign if and when he declares and provide a structure through which volunteers can bring their needs and concerns to the campaign.

How would you describe your fundraising ability?

**Strong. The 2000 Nader/LaDuke campaign raised \$8 million.**

Will you agree not to accept contributions from corporations?

**Yes.**

What campaign finance policies will your campaign follow?

**Accept contributions from individuals only. Meet all Federal Election Commission requirements.**

Have you previously run for public elected office? If so, for what and when? (If possible, please provide web references.)

**1992 – President in New Hampshire primary as an independent write-in candidate standing in for “None of the Above”**

**1996 – President, Green Party**

**2000 – President, Green Party**

**2004 – President, Independent**

Have you ever held an elected office? If so, what and when? (If possible, please provide web references.)

**No.**

Are there any other particulars of your campaign structure or strategy that you would like people to know?

**There is no campaign by Ralph Nader as of December 31, 2007.**

## Positions on Issues

Briefly state your position on the following issues and the reasons for your position:

Election Reform, including Instant Runoff Voting and Public Financing

**Ralph Nader supports Instant Runoff Voting and Public Financing.**

**He also calls for these electoral reforms:**

- **DC Statehood**

- Fair ballot access through reasonable federal standards for all federal candidates
- Verified voting – end paperless electronic voting and require a voter verified paper ballot trail for random audits and independent recounts to ensure accurate vote counts
- Debates open to all ballot qualified candidates
- Proportional representation for legislative bodies

For more discussion, see “Electoral Reform” under the Issues tab at [votener.org](http://votener.org).

## Living Wage

Ralph Nader supports a living wage of at least \$10 an hour for all workers.

“Had the federal minimum wage been indexed since 1968, it would be about \$8.00 per hour instead of the present \$5.15 an hour. Congress has maintained a policy, now automatic, of keeping the salaries and benefits of its members ahead of inflation.

“This condition afflicting 45 million hard-working Americans, who are working for low wages for corporations like Wal-Mart and McDonalds, must be changed. They have unmet consumer needs that transform into higher consumer demand in the marketplace. These workers deserve a fair return for their work, which their employers have not paid them. Their employers instead have received a free windfall of hundreds of billions of dollars all these years while they raised their prices.”

v Ralph Nader, “Time to Get Serious About a Living Wage,” June 4, 2004

For more information, search “living wage” at [votener.org](http://votener.org).

Ralph Nader also supports a Workers’ Bill of Rights and a repeal of the Taft-Hartley Act in order to enhance workers’ rights to organize unions and secure decent wages, good pensions and health care benefits, privacy rights, and employment security. See “Workers Rights” under the Issues tab at [votener.org](http://votener.org).

## Death Penalty

Ralph Nader opposes the death penalty.

Among the “ten reasons why there is no place in the Democratic Party for people who hold to their principles and progressive programs,” Nader said in 2004: “Kerry supported the Clinton crime bills, including the expansion of the federal death penalty in 1996 legislation.” ([votener.org/why\\_ralph/index.php?cid=108](http://votener.org/why_ralph/index.php?cid=108).)

## Drug Policy

“The drug war has failed – we spend nearly \$50 billion annually on the drug war and problems related to drug abuse continue to worsen. We need to acknowledge that drug abuse is a health problem with social and economic consequences. Therefore, the solutions are – public health, social services and economic development and tender supportive time with addicts in our depersonalized society. Law enforcement should be at the edges of drug control not at the center. It is time to bring some illegal drugs within the law by regulating, taxing and controlling them. Ending the drug war will dramatically reduce street crime, violence and homicides related to underground drug dealing.”

v Ralph Nader, “An End to the War on Drugs — Responsible & Rehabilitation Focused Drug Policy,” Oct. 2004

For more, see:

- Nader’s interview with Drug War Chronicle originally published at [stopthedrugwar.org](http://stopthedrugwar.org) and also available at [votener.org](http://votener.org).
- “Marijuana is a Medicine” at [votener.org](http://votener.org).
- “Nader Urges Bush to Grant Clemency for Non-Violent Drug Offenders” at [votener.org](http://votener.org).

## Single-Payer Universal Health Care

Ralph Nader “supports a single-payer health care plan that replaces for-profit, investor-owned health care and removes the private health insurance industry (full Medicare for all).... [He] favors replacing our fragmented, market-based system with a single-payer health plan - where the government finances health care, but keeps the delivery of health care to private non-profits, and allows free choice of doctors and hospitals for patients.”

Ralph Nader advocates consumer oversight of a national health insurance program:

“Any system, even one animated by service and our non-profit structures, requires oversight by the consumers-requiring inserts in communications (paper or electronic) from health care vendors and the single-payer agency, inviting consumers to

join and voluntarily contribute minimum membership dues. The Nader Campaign proposes that a federally-chartered non-profit membership organization be created through a Congressional charter to serve as a national patient watchdog (with state chapters) to keep this large part of our economy on its toes. Patients would be able to sign up at their local doctor's office, hospital, or clinic. This organization—call it the Consumer Health Vigilance Association—would have full-time advocates overseeing relevant governmental agencies, Congress, and the private health sector. Empowered with all the rights that corporations wield—advocacy, lobbying, litigation, research, and alliance-development with other citizen groups—this modest organization would be chartered so as to ensure that public policies affecting the provision, quality, and cost of health services reflect fairly the needs and concerns of consumers and continue to be informed by their organized voices.”

For more, see “Health Care for All” under the Issues tab at [votenader.org](http://votenader.org) .

## Women's Health / Reproductive Rights

Ralph Nader endorses the full eleven-point agenda for economic, social and political rights of women put forward by the National Organization for Women, which includes the following section on Reproductive Rights:

“NOW affirms that these are issues of life and death for women, not mere matters of choice. NOW supports access to safe and legal abortion, to effective birth control, to reproductive health and education. We oppose attempts to restrict these rights through legislation, regulation (like the gag rule) or Constitutional amendment.

“NOW supports the right of women to have children, including appropriate pre-natal care and quality child care. We oppose government efforts to limit or discourage childbearing, such as family caps and involuntary sterilization.”

See “Equal Rights for Women” under the Issues tab at [votenader.org](http://votenader.org).

## Stem Cell Research

Ralph Nader supports stem cell research.

Through two organizations Nader created, the Center for the Study of Responsive Law in 1968 and the Consumer Project on Technology in 1995, he has contributed to efforts to insure stem cell research advances developed with public money are made available to the public and not held back by corporate or university patent holders.

For more information on public access to stem cell technologies, see the web page of the Consumer Project on Technology at [cptech.org](http://cptech.org).

## Global Warming

Ralph Nader believes “it is time to break our addiction to fossil fuels. The evidence of global warming is mounting. We threaten the global environment with our continued use of fossil fuels. Not only is this an ecological threat, it is a tremendous economic threat, facing all of humanity. Global warming will bankrupt the re-insurance industry, spread infectious tropical diseases, cause massive ecological disruption, and increase severe and unpredictable weather—all of which will significantly impact commerce, agriculture, and communities across America and throughout the world.”

v Ralph Nader, “Global Climate Change Requires Us to Break Our Addiction to Fossil Fuels” at [votenader.org](http://votenader.org).

## Energy Policy

Ralph Nader favors rapid expansion of energy efficient technologies and practices.

Ralph Nader supports “a new clean energy policy that no longer subsidizes entrenched oil, nuclear, electric, and coal mining interests—an energy policy that is efficient, sustainable, and environmentally friendly. We need to invest in a diversified energy policy—including renewable energy like wind and other forms of solar power, more efficient automobiles, homes and businesses—that breaks our addiction to oil, coal, and atomic power.”

v Ralph Nader, “Global Climate Change Requires Us to Break Our Addiction to Fossil Fuels” at [votenader.org](http://votenader.org).

## Immigration Policy

“Immigration is a challenging issue that must be addressed in a more cohesive way.... We need to address economic justice in the United States and the world and recognize the basic human rights of all people.”

“The long term solution to immigration is reducing the rich poor divide between the United States and other nations by peacefully supporting democratic movements.” [Not dictators, oligarchies, and trade agreements that drive impoverished people out of their countries.]

“Immigrant workers, even if they are undocumented, should be given all the fair-labor standards and all the rights and benefits of American workers. In addition they should be allowed to get a drivers license in order to reduce hazards on the

highway and allow them to function in our culture, e.g. get to work, get their children to school.”

“Regarding amnesty... I like the idea of giving workers and children equal rights – they are working, they are having their taxes withheld, they are performing a valuable service for their employers and customers, even though they are illegally here it is humane. There is no alternative except allowing crueler exploitation, poverty, disease and their consequences for the general public.”

Ralph Nader has also stated that exploiting immigrant workers puts a downward pressure on US labor wages and standards. A \$10 minimum wage would open many of these jobs to unemployed American workers. As for the H1B visas, the US should stop the “brain draining” of highly skilled people in the Third World who are desperately need to develop their own economies.

v See Ralph Nader ,“Immigration,” under the Issues tab at [votenader.org](http://votenader.org).

## Civil Rights

Ralph Nader supports restoring the funding and staffing cut by the Clinton and Bush administrations to the Civil Rights Division at the Justice Department and to the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission in order to vigorously enforce anti-discrimination laws.

Ralph Nader “supports the restoration of civil liberties, repeal of the Patriot Act, and an end to secret detentions, arrests without charges, no access to attorneys and the use of secret ‘evidence,’ military tribunals for civilians, non-combatant status and the shredding of ‘probable cause’ determinations.”

Ralph Nader calls for a “civil rights movement for workers. Under current law, a worker's freedom is subordinated to employer property rights.... The civil rights movement for workers should seek a Bill of Rights for Workers, including the right to organize a union and the right to earn a living wage for all full-time workers.”

See also at [votenader.org](http://votenader.org):

### Affirmative Action

### Civil Liberties and Constitutional Rights

### Civil Rights of Muslim and Arab Americans

### Consumer Justice

### Equal Rights for Asian Americans

### Equal Rights for Gays and Lesbians

### Equal Rights for Women

### Labor Day: A Call for Rights for Working People

### Nader Reiterates Need to Heed Lessons of Native Peoples

### Reform of the Criminal Injustice System

### Tort Deform

## Economic Corporate Globalization

Ralph Nader was present at the creation of the movement against corporate globalization and created Global Trade Watch, which provided activists with the information they needed to challenge corporate-managed trade agreements and to mobilize global justice demonstrations, including the “Battle in Seattle” in 1999. Nader has written extensively on the subject, including in *The Case Against Free Trade: GATT, NAFTA and the Globalization of Corporate Power* (An Earth Island Press Book).

## Trade Policy

“NAFTA and the WTO makes commercial trade supreme over environmental, labor, and consumer standards and need to be replaced with open agreements that pull-up rather than pull down these standards. These forms of secret autocratic governance and their detailed rules are corporate-managed trade that puts short-term corporate profits as the priority. While global trade is a fact of life, trade policies must be open, democratic and not strip-mine environmental, social and labor standards. These latter standards should have their own international pull up treaties.”

v Ralph Nader, “Fair Trade that Protects the Environment, Labor Rights and Consumer Needs” at [votenader.org](http://votenader.org).

## Foreign Policy and Peace in general

Raph Nader has summed up his foreign policy by saying “the United States should be the world’s humanitarian superpower.”

“Our foreign policy must redefine the elements of global security, peace, arms control, an end to nuclear weapons and expand the many assets of our country to launch, with other nations, major initiatives against global infections diseases (such as AIDS, malaria, tuberculosis and virulent flu epidemics) which have and are coming to our country in increasingly

drug resistant strains. Other low cost-high yield (compared to massive costs of redundant weapons) that extend the best of our country abroad include public health measures for drinking water safety abroad, tobacco control, stemming soil erosion, deforestation and misuse of chemicals, international labor standards, stimulating democratic institutions, agrarian cooperatives and demonstrating appropriate technologies dealing with agriculture, transportation, housing and efficient, renewable energy.”

v Ralph Nader, “Peace,” under the Issues tab at [votenader.org](http://votenader.org).

Middle East Policy, including Iraq, Iran, and Israel

**Iraq:**

Ralph Nader supports the rapid and responsible withdrawal of U.S. military forces, civilian military contractors, and U.S. corporate interests from Iraq.

Ralph Nader has put a major focus of his time and energy into the Stop the War Campaign of Democracy Rising, which provides grassroots antiwar activists across the country with fact sheets, information, and tools they need to be effective. See [DemocracyRising.org](http://DemocracyRising.org)

**Iran:**

Ralph Nader believes the US must stop saber rattling and take up Iran’s serious proposal in 2003 to negotiate all outstanding issues between the US and Iran. See Ralph Nader, “The Imperial Presidency,” Oct. 23, 2007, [CommonDreams.org](http://CommonDreams.org)

**Israel:**

Ralph Nader spoke out vigorously against Israel’s 2006 invasion of Lebanon and US support for it. See “Nader to Bush on the Crisis in Lebanon,” August 15, 2007 at <http://democracyrising.us/content/view/541/151/>.

“...the greatest move toward national security in our country and in the so-called effort against terrorism would be to solve the Palestinian-Israeli conflict. The majority of both people would like a two-state solution. There are extremists in Israel that would like to continue to dominate the West Bank and harass Gaza and block an exit of the people there for traveling and for export of goods. So it's just -- it's now a steady state, destruction every day of innocent people....

“This is an eminently resolvable conflict. There's a lot of former Israeli military and intelligence people who know how to do it, people in the Knesset who know what needs to be done. But as long as the US basically says to whoever is in charge, “You can do whatever you want over there, and we'll still pump \$3 - \$4 billion and cluster bomb weapons, etc.,” there's not going to be a resolution. As long as there's no resolution, there's going to be an inflammation increasing all over the Islamic world, and our national security will be compromised.”

v Ralph Nader on Conservative Democrats, Corporate Power and the Middle East, Democracy Now, Nov. 8, 2007, [http://www.democracynow.org/2006/11/8/ralph\\_nader\\_on\\_conservative\\_democrats\\_corporate](http://www.democracynow.org/2006/11/8/ralph_nader_on_conservative_democrats_corporate).

Please briefly describe your opinion of the current two-party system, the Green Party's current role within that system and any future changes you would like to see in that system and the Green Party's political role.

The two-party system has been designed by the two corporate-financed parties to ensure corporate rule through the monopolization of public offices by their two parties.

Both corporate parties focus on wedge issues like abortion, God, guns, and gays in order to exaggerate their differences, create the illusion of fundamental choices, and obscure their “bipartisan consensus.”

The bipartisan consensus is an imperial foreign and military policy to make the world safe for global corporations, domestic priorities that favor big corporate interests over workers and their communities, growing restrictions on the people’s constitutional rights, and a perilous failure to protect and restore the environment.

The Green Party’s role is to provide a people’s alternative to corporate rule through either current major party. Many of the planks in the Green Party platform have majority support, according to opinion polls. But the institutional and legal barriers that undergird the two-party system and undermine fair elections must also be changed if the Green Party is to realize its potential support among American voters.

The Green Party must therefore champion election reforms to create a multiparty system of elections that is fair for all parties and candidates, including:

- DC Statehood
- Fair ballot access through reasonable federal standards for all federal candidates

- Verified voting – end paperless electronic voting and require a voter verified paper ballot trail for random audits and independent recounts to ensure accurate vote counts
- Public campaign financing for public elections
- Debates open to all ballot qualified candidates
- Instant runoff voting for executive offices
- Proportional representation for legislative bodies

## Background on Issues

For each of the following, please provide any relevant background or experience regarding, and what you feel is your level of comfort in speaking to, the following general issues:

### Foreign Policy and Peace

“Ralph Nader, the long-time consumer activist and former presidential candidate who has been working against the Iraq invasion and occupation since before the war began, ... has tirelessly worked to end the Iraq occupation and throughout his career has been an advocate for less spending on the military and more spending on the necessities of the people. Nader has also been a long-term advocate for impeachment of President Bush and Vice President Cheney for their deceptions and manipulations that led to the Iraq invasion.”

v Kevin Zeese, Director of Democracy Rising, on 2008 peace candidates at [www.americanchronicle.com/articles/viewArticle.asp?articleID=44226](http://www.americanchronicle.com/articles/viewArticle.asp?articleID=44226)

### Environmental Issues, including Global Warming and Energy Policy

Ralph Nader has focused on environmental issues since he opposed DDT spraying on the Princeton University campus as an undergraduate student. By 1965 he had begun working with leading labor union reform activists such as Tony Mazzochi of the Oil, Chemical, and Atomic Workers Union and reformers in the United Mineworkers Union on health and safety issues. This work led to proposals that we today call the Precautionary Principle: do not produce or use chemicals and technologies that are not proven to be safe; prevent pollution in the first place, don't try to “control” it after it is produced. It also developed the concept that protecting workers at the point of production was the first line of defense in protecting consumers against the health and environmental effects of toxic pollution.

Nader's work on the health effects of radiation led to annual national conferences on the dangers of radiation and nuclear power starting in 1970, which spawned the Critical Mass Energy Project, which continues to this day as an indispensable source of information for anti-nuclear and renewable energy activists in the US and around the world. These conferences, organizations, and campaigns not only helped build the US antinuclear/safe energy movement of the 1970s, out of which many of today's US Green Party activists come, it had a global impact on the environmental movement and the formation of Green parties. One of the participants in those conferences was Petra Kelly, who would go on to be a key founder of the German Greens, which inspired the formation of Green parties around the world.

“Three months after the death of Grace [Petra's half-sister, from childhood cancer] in 1970, Petra had attended a meeting in Washington held by Ralph Nader, a well-known consumer rights activist, where the links between radiation and cancer had been the main topic of debate. This Petra remembers as the starting-point of her anti-nuclear politics.... in 1974...Petra also attended Nader's first major national anti-nuclear meeting – Critical Mass '74.”

v Sara Parkins, *The Life and Death of Petra Kelly* (1994)

### Domestic Policy Issues

Ralph Nader has spent 45 years in Washington educating, organizing, lobbying, and litigated on domestic policy issues, including consumer rights, constitutional rights, freedom of information, union democracy, investigative reporting, corporate crime, women's' rights, racial discrimination, poverty, fair trade, corporate welfare, cooperatives, corporate abuse of eminent domain laws, and economic justice.

## Additional Information and References

Provide any other information you feel the party should be aware of.

Ralph Nader has advocated for third parties and fair ballot access since the beginning of his career. In his first law publication article, Nader wrote:

"In state after state there is a practical monopoly of the ballot by the Democratic and Republican parties. The perpetuation of this monopoly is insured by laws which subject the entry of new or minority party slates to the ballot to almost impossible burdens, and by judicial interpretations of these laws which ignore their prejudicial effect on small

parties....”

“It must be made clear that reference is not being made to political success, but rather to ballot access. Political success is impeded by deeper political patterns such as the election system of ‘plurality-take-all’....”

“In its Model Election Law, the American Civil Liberties Union urged that minor parties be required to accumulate signatures equivalent to only one-tenth of one percent of the total vote cast in the preceding gubernatorial election, with a maximum limit of 10,000 signatures....”

“[Third parties’] importance, as any history text will attest, has been far greater than their size. Herman Singer, editor of the Socialist Call, spoke of history when he stated that minor parties have, by and large, contributed to American political life by submitting criticism, offering suggestions and challenging the values of existing parties, thus contributing toward the expansion of political discussion.”

v Ralph Nader and Theodore Jacobs, “Do Third Parties Have a Chance?” Harvard Law Record, October 9, 1958, [http://www.votener.org/why\\_ralph/index.php?cid=144](http://www.votener.org/why_ralph/index.php?cid=144)

Please provide a list of 3 references, including one Green Party official (at any level of the party).

**Howie Hawkins, National Committee member, New York**

**Donna Jo Warren, two-time Green Party candidate for Lt. Governor, California; Initiative Coordinator, Families to Amend California’s Three Strikes**

**Cat Woods, National Committee member, California**

Please include a c.v.

**Ralph Nader is a consumer advocate, lawyer, and author.**

**He was born in Winsted, Connecticut on February 27, 1934.**

**In 1955 Ralph Nader received an AB magna cum laude from Princeton University (majored in Far Eastern Studies and Economics at The Woodrow Wilson School), and in 1958 he received a LLB with distinction from Harvard University Law School.**

**In 1958 he volunteered to serve in the Army Reserve at Fort Dix in New Jersey.**

**His career began as a lawyer in Hartford, Connecticut in 1959 and from 1961-63 he lectured on history and government at the University of Hartford.**

**He also worked as part-time journalist during this period, including interviews with Fidel Castro in Cuba just after revolution in 1959 and Salvadore Allende in Chile in 1963 before Allende became president.**

**Ralph Nader also began working on auto safety issues, publishing “The Safe Car You Can’t Buy” in The Nation in 1959 and helping to form Illinois Citizens for Auto Safety in 1961.**

**In 1965-66 he received the Nieman Fellows award and was named one of ten Outstanding Young Men of Year by the U.S. Junior Chamber of Commerce in 1967. Between 1967-68 he returned to Princeton as a lecturer, and he continues to speak at colleges and universities across the United States.**

**In 1963, Nader moved to Washington DC to become a full-time consumer advocate.**

**In his career as consumer advocate Nader has been instrumental in the passing of the following legislation:**

**National Motor Vehicle and Highway Traffic Safety Act (1965)**

**Clean Water Act (1968)**

**Clean Air Act (1970)**

**Co-Op Bank Bill (1978)**

**Law establishing Environmental Protection Agency (1970)**

**Consumer Product Safety Act**

**Foreign Corrupt Practices Act**

**Mine Health and Safety Act**

**Whistleblower Protection Act**

**Medical Devices safety**

**Nuclear power safety**

**Mobile home safety**

**Consumer credit disclosure law**

**Pension protection law**  
**Funeral home cost disclosure law**  
**Tire safety & grading disclosure law**  
**Wholesome Meat Act**  
**Natural Gas Pipeline Safety Act**  
**Federal Coal Mine Health and Safety Act**  
**Wholesome Poultry Product Act**  
**Occupational Safety and Health Act (OSHA) 1970**  
**Safe Water Drinking Act**  
**Freedom of Information Act**

**Nader also pioneered the concept of citizens organizations with litigation and lobbying capacities. He has founded or sponsored scores of them, including:**

**American Antitrust Institute**  
**Appleseed Foundation**  
**Arizona Center for Law in the Public Interest**  
**Aviation Consumer Action Project**  
**Buyers Up**  
**Capitol Hill News Service**  
**Center for Concerned Engineering**  
**Center for Auto Safety**  
**Center for Insurance Research**  
**Center for Justice and Democracy**  
**Center for Science in the Public Interest**  
**Center for the Study of Responsive Law - 1969**  
**Center for Women Policy Studies**  
**Citizen Action Group**  
**Citizen Advocacy Center**  
**Citizen Utility Boards**  
**Citizen Works**  
**Clean Water Action Project**  
**Clearinghouse for Professional Responsibility**  
**Congress Project**  
**Congress Watch**  
**Congressional Accountability Project**  
**Connecticut Citizen Action Group**  
**Consumer Project on Technology**  
**Corporate Accountability Research Group**  
**Critical Mass Energy Project**  
**Democracy Rising**  
**Disability Rights Center**  
**Equal Justice Foundation**  
**Essential Information**  
**FANS (Fight to Advance the Nation's Sports)**  
**Fisherman's Clear Water Action Group**  
**Foundation for Taxpayers and Consumer Rights**  
**Freedom of Information Clearinghouse**  
**Global Trade Watch**  
**Government Purchasing Project**  
**Health Research Group**  
**Litigation Group**  
**Multinational Monitor**  
**National Citizen's Coalition for Nursing Home Reform**  
**National Coalition for Universities in the Public Interest**  
**National Insurance Consumer Organization**  
**Ohio Public Interest Action Group**  
**Organization for Competitive Markets**  
**Professional Drivers (PROD) (truck safety)**  
**Professionals for Auto Safety**  
**Public Citizen**  
**Pension Rights Center**  
**Princeton Project 55**  
**Public Citizen's Visitor's Center**  
**Public Interest Research Groups (PIRGs)**

**Resource Consumption Alliance (conserve trees)**  
**Retired Professionals Action Group**  
**Shafeek Nader Trust for the Community Interest**  
**Tax Reform Research Group**  
**Telecommunications Research and Action Center**  
**Trial Lawyers for Public Justice**

**Prepared and extensively researched solely by the Draft Nader Committee.**

**Ralph Nader is not responsible for its contents.**