

# Presidential Candidate Questionnaire

[Approved May 1 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

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## 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)?***

Yes. FEC Candidate ID: P80004930, Committee ID: C00440289  
POWER TO THE PEOPLE COMMITTEE - CYNTHIA MCKINNEY FOR PRESIDENT

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

First joined the Georgia Green Party December 2003,  
Most recently enrolled in the California Green Party, October 2007.

***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?***

I am already on the California Peace and Freedom Party's Presidential Preference Primary ballot, and open to fusion with the Reconstruction Party wherever they may earn a ballot line and am exploring opportunities for similar alliances with other progressive minded parties around the country.

***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?***

My campaign for the Green Party nomination has been a full time endeavor since at least early October.

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

Our campaign anticipates my making various appearances in 25 states, plus the District of Columbia by the end of 2007. We anticipate continuing to touch Greens in every state of the nation leading up to the Nominating Convention in Chicago, next July.

***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?***

As I have been writing to the state Parties in my effort to qualify for the Green Party nominating process:

I am entering this process because I believe a successful Green Party campaign can do the following:

--Institutionalize the Green Party as a meaningful, effective, and permanent part of the United States' political landscape;

--Popularize and grow the Green Party as an electoral/social vehicle to unite people across socio-economic lines that are often used to divide;

--Recognize and publicize the internationalization of problems facing average households across our nation;

--Inject radical common sense solutions into our national political debate; and

--Positively affect public policy to improve our quality of life with justice for all.

I accept and endorse the Green Party's Ten Key Values. The Green Party has a platform that our country and our planet needs--from justice and peace at home and abroad, to bringing about universal access to health care; from enacting living wages and addressing climate change, to defending and expanding our civil rights, civil liberties, and more.

Democracy will only be served if the voice of all people can be heard. A Green Party Presidential campaign in 2008 can help make that happen.

I firmly believe that the crisis facing our country today is such that we now have to do some things we've never done before in order to have some things we've never had before. I stand with you, ready to help bring that about.

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

So far, I have been campaigning with down slate candidates, participating in joint fundraisers to benefit those candidates and the state Party ballot access efforts, doing media work with local Greens, doing targeted outreach to allies whom I am inviting to join us in the Green Party. Our campaign anticipates soon naming state campaign leadership who will be asked to work to bring campaign supporters into the Party. And our webpage is designed to automate the referral of campaign supporters directly to our state and local campaign leadership to facilitate that process.

***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?***

My campaign is committed to placing my name on fifty-one ballot lines. We are soliciting volunteers for that purpose. We already sent funds to Illinois and did joint fundraising in Arizona to support ballot access work there and given the success of the fundraising efforts which we are now putting in place, we hope to be able to invest required staff and monetary resources in those states facing the most draconian ballot access barriers in the country and the world.

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

Yes.

***What is the nature of your current base of support?***

Having served six terms in the U.S. Congress, often out front as a voice for peace and justice and in opposition to illegal and immoral foreign policy positions taken by our government, I have built a database of thousands of supporters from across the nation and around the world who have reached out to me with their support. My Congressional campaigns have raised millions of dollars from thousands of contributors. I am publicly identified as a leader and spokesperson in the movements for election integrity, fiscal accountability, peace, justice, environmental sustainability, the Right-of-return for survivors of Katrina and Rita; and against war as an instrument of public policy, against the abuses of rogue police officers who kill and maim those they are charged with protecting.

***How would you describe your fundraising ability?***

We are building a staff of fundraisers to support this campaign. My past campaigns have raised and spent millions of dollars.

***Will you agree not to accept contributions from corporations?***

Of course! Such contributions are prohibited by Federal law.

***What campaign finance policies will your campaign follow?***

Our campaign's first hires were for our FEC Compliance Team. We intend to comply fully with the limits imposed by the Federal Campaign Finance laws.

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

I have been a candidate three times for the Georgia General Assembly (in 1986, 1988 and 1990), winning election to the 40th District, representing Fulton County Georgia in 1988 and 1990. I have been a candidate eight times for the U.S. Congress, winning election to the 11th Congressional District of Georgia in 1992 and 1994, and to the redistricted 4th Congressional District in 1996, 1998, 2000 and 2004 (in an historic comeback). Also ran unsuccessfully in 2002 and 2006 for the 4th Congressional seat.

<http://www.cynthiaforcongress.com/>

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

Yes, two terms in the Georgia General Assembly and six terms in the U.S. Congress.

<http://archives.allthingscynthiamckinney.com/mckinney.house.gov/>

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

My campaign will be built on the belief that our government must be of the people, by the people and for the people. I will reach out to those people whose voices are historically silenced in government, providing a platform for issues not commonly addressed by people in high places of government.

## 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***

I sponsored the Voter Choice Act in the U.S. Congress, which would have provided for the use of ranked choice voting in Congressional elections. I cosponsored an early version of the Holt bill to restore auditability to Federal elections. I fought to defend and reauthorize the Voting Rights Act. I have long been a supporter of publicly financed elections. I have advocated same-day voter registration. I voted in opposition to requiring photo ID for voting in federal elections and voted for Motor Voter which made registering to vote easier for disfranchised communities in the south.

***Living Wage***

I Authored a living wage bill in the 109th Congress.

***Death Penalty***

In 1994, I voted to replace the death penalty with life imprisonment in the Federal Criminal Statutes. In 1995 I voted in opposition to making federal death penalty appeals more difficult. In 1996, I voted to maintain the right of habeus corpus in Death Penalty Appeals. In 2001, I voted to support a moratorium on the death penalty; and for funding for DNA testing; as well as to require DNA testing prior to any federal executions.

***Drug Policy***

In 1999, I voted to oppose prohibiting needle exchange and medical marijuana in the District of Columbia. In September 2001, (in the early days following the 9-11- 2001 attacks) I voted in opposition to military border patrols to battle drugs & terrorism.

***Single-Payer Universal Health Care***

In Congress, I was a cosponsor of every bill to create a national system for universal access to health care under a single payer model.

***Women's Health / Reproductive Rights***

In 1999, I voted NO on barring the interstate transportation of minors to get an abortion. I supported funding contraception and UN family planning. I voted NO to oppose banning partial-birth abortions. In 2001, I voted NO on banning Family Planning funding in US aid abroad and NO on a new federal crime for harming a fetus while committing other crimes. In 2005, I voted NO on restricting interstate transport of minors to get abortions.

***Stem Cell Research***

In May 2005 I voted to support human embryonic stem cell research.

## ***Global Warming***

The situation is now quite clear. The United States can no longer hide its truculence under the mask of weather fluctuations or unclear science, Islands are disappearing; indigenous ways of life are threatened; indeed the world as we know it is at risk if the United States continues to do nothing. Therefore, a drastic cut in emissions is necessary. This can be accomplished by using the tax code to incentivize behavior. From retrofitting buildings, demanding new standards for all new construction, utilizing existing technologies and developing new ones, to subsidizing infrastructure rehabilitation, energy generation, and mass transit, not only can the United States reverse its deadly inaction, but it can become a world-class leader. The United States could declare itself carbon and nuclear free. It has not. The urgency of the situation has been made clear by many popular articles and films. The next step is to create the political will to change course by launching thousands of campaigns across the country that make policy change a key message.

## ***Energy Policy***

In 2000, I voted to begin implementation of the Kyoto Protocol. In 2001, I voted to support raising CAFE standards; and to provide incentives for alternative fuels, as well as in support of regulating wholesale electricity & gas prices. I have consistently opposed oil exploration in the Alaska National Wildlife Refuge, and in 2001 supported permanently preserving Alaska's ANWR. In 2005, I voted no on authorizing construction of new oil refineries. In 2006, I supported a continued moratorium on offshore drilling for oil; and voted in opposition to scheduling the permitting of new oil refineries. I worked to secure funding for cleanup of Department of Energy facilities and did groundbreaking work for atomic workers--especially those working at Oak Ridge whose own Senators and Representatives refused to help them.

## ***Immigration Policy***

In 1998, I voted NO on issuing more immigrant visas for skilled workers. In 2001, I voted YES on extending Immigrant Residency rules. In 2006 I voted NO on building a fence along the Mexican border.

## ***Civil Rights***

I have supported Federal funding and contracting preferences (in Georgia and in Congress) for women and minority owned businesses. I supported passage of the Violence Against Women Act. I supported the Equal Rights Amendment. I have long advocated for reparations for the descendants of enslaved Africans. I opposed efforts to end Affirmative Action in college admissions. I opposed efforts to ban gay adoptions in Washington DC. I opposed the Patriot Act and its re-authorization.

## ***Economic Corporate Globalization***

I authored the No Tax Breaks for Runaway Plants bill in Congress that would take tax breaks away from corporations that moved their plants overseas. I authored the TRUTH Act, which required disclosure of the whereabouts of subsidiaries of US corporations operating overseas because addresses were often hidden to prevent access by observers. I authored the Corporate Responsibility Act to force US corporations operating overseas to abide by US environmental and labor standards.

## ***Trade Policy***

In 1998, I voted no on giving the Clinton Administration 'Fast Track' authority for trade agreements. In 1999, I voted to oppose Most Favored Nation status for China; and to condition trade with China on an improved human rights record. In 2000, I voted yes to support U.S. withdrawal from the World Trade Organization. In 2005, I voted in opposition to implementing Central America Free Trade Agreement.

## ***Foreign Policy and Peace in general***

In 1999, I voted yes on a measure to prohibit an invasion of Kosovo. I consistently supported (with my votes and my co-sponsorship) the closing of the School of the Americas in Ft. Benning Georgia.

### ***Middle East Policy, including Iraq, Iran, and Israel***

In 2006, I voted no on declaring Iraq part of War on Terror with no exit date. I consistently opposed every regular and supplemental appropriation meant to fund the Wars in Afghanistan and Iraq. I have participated in International War Crimes Tribunals (in Brussels, Spain and Malaysia) designed to bring to justice the Bush-Cheney administration. I was targeted by AIPAC and others for my opposition to the Israeli occupation of and genocidal policies toward Palestine.

***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.***

My service in the Congress gave me a clear understanding of how our system works -- or doesn't work -- for average, ordinary Americans whose values our policies purport to represent. Clearly, that is far from the case today. I believe the people deserve a seat at the table of public policy-making and I view the Green Party as our most promising vehicle for creating such an advocate for the interests of ordinary people in this nation.

### **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***

Twelve years in Congress, including service as the Ranking Minority Member of the Human Rights Subcommittee, House Committee on International Relations, plus service on the House Armed Services Committee.

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

Twelve years in Congress

#### ***Domestic Policy Issues***

Being black in the United States and twelve years in Congress, four years in state government.

### **Additional Information and References**

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

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

Hugh Esco, a founding officer, Georgia Green Party, Delegate to Green National Committee  
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***Please include a c.v.***

Born in Atlanta, Georgia on March 17, Cynthia McKinney is the daughter of retired nurse, Leola McKinney and one of Atlanta's first Black law enforcement officers, former Georgia State Representative Billy McKinney.

Having strong academic achievement in Atlanta as a child, Cynthia went on to attend and study at the most prestigious academic institutions in the United States. She earned a B.A. in International Relations from the University of Southern California, a Masters of Art in Law and Diplomacy from the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy, and her mother keeps hoping that this is the year she will complete her Ph.D. Cynthia's debut into public office came in 1988 when she was elected to the Georgia State Legislature. In 1992, Cynthia made history when she became the first African American woman to represent Georgia in the United States House of Representatives.

#### THE BACKBONE OF GEORGIA

Because of her strong values, the people have confidence in her, making Cynthia a force to be reckoned with in Georgia politics today.

While in Congress, from 1993 - 2003, Cynthia worked hard for the people of Georgia, as she became known as the voice for the voiceless. She provided a seat at the table for people long left out of Georgia's political and economic mainstream. She supported candidates representing the people who had been politically marginalized. The result was more hope and more representation at the local level for black people and people of low wealth throughout the rural black belt of Georgia.

Cynthia successfully landed an "Enterprise Community" designation for her rural constituents and provided true empowerment for them through funding that continues today.

After a redistricting battle that went all the way to the Supreme Court, Cynthia was forced out of the district that first elected her to Congress. She has not, however, broken ties with her first constituents. She brought hundreds of millions of dollars back to her constituents and fought so that underrepresented communities could finally have sensitive representation at all levels of government. Her pioneering work on behalf of black farmers led to the United States Department of Agriculture admitting that it had, indeed, discriminated against black farmers for decades.

Until last election cycle, Cynthia represented the Eastern suburbs of Atlanta, including the City of Stone Mountain, made famous in Martin Luther King's I Have a Dream speech.

From Community Oriented Police to sound barriers along the interstate, from clean fuel public buses to constituent services, communities today are still benefiting from Cynthia's Congressional work. Her work in Congress continues her tradition of taking tough stands and fighting the good fight for justice and opportunity that she began during her tenure in the Georgia Legislature. Shortly after her election to the Georgia State House, she joined with other civil rights leaders and filed a lawsuit that led to an increased number of black judges in Georgia, including in DeKalb County. She filed a lawsuit against Georgia's infamous second primary, instituted for the purpose of black disfranchisement. Later, she was a victim of the state's open primary, enacted for the same purpose.

In 1990 she led the effort on the House Reapportionment Committee that created new State Assembly and Congressional districts across Georgia, including DeKalb County. Cynthia's willingness to stand with courage and conviction has resulted in increased opportunity that benefits us all today.

In 1991, Cynthia spoke on the floor of the Georgia House of Representatives against George Bush's bombing of Baghdad. Her colleagues walked out on her, prompting local and national press to compare her to former State Senator Julian Bond, a recent National Chairman of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), who was denied his seat in the Georgia State Senate because of his stand against the Vietnam War.

Because of her antiwar stance, Cynthia was approached by women civic leaders and asked to run for Congress. In 1992, the Year of the Woman, she did and we all won.

## A PROVEN LEADER

During her tenure in the U.S. Congress, Cynthia McKinney became a household name in Georgia and in many states across America, as well as in many countries around the globe. Cynthia easily won recognition as an outspoken leader for human rights, an ardent advocate for peace, and a determined worker for justice.

Cynthia succeeded Colorado's Pat Schroeder and California's Ron Dellums on the House Armed Services Committee, with both of them supporting her nomination to that Committee. As a member of the House Armed Services Committee, Cynthia passed legislation to extend health benefits for Vietnam War veterans still suffering the health effects from exposure to the defoliant Agent Orange.

As reports now surface that our soldiers are returning from Iraq and testing positive for depleted uranium, it is important to note that Cynthia McKinney sponsored legislation to end the use of all depleted uranium weapons until their health effects are known. McKinney reintroduced this bill in the 109th Congress. Cynthia continues to vote against record Bush Administration Pentagon budgets and challenged the Pentagon to explain how it "lost" over \$2.3 trillion in un-trackable transactions. She continues to decry the Pentagon's sweetheart deals with Halliburton, the Carlyle Group, and DynCorp and its successor companies.

Cynthia speaks out against the loss of our fundamental freedoms during Bush Administration prosecution of the War on Terrorism and reminds Committee members of the well-known and documented abuses during the COINTELPRO era.

Cynthia helped Department of Defense and Department of Energy workers who suffered exposure to nuclear material and she also spoke out for families that lived around these sites. Cynthia worked with the Chair of the Veterans Affairs Committee to strengthen money in the budget for homeless veterans and to protect the Atlanta Regional Veterans Affairs Hospital located in the 4th District. Many overlooked veterans were able to get their medals because of the work Cynthia did this to make sure that all veterans were recognized for the sacrifices they made.

Cynthia also served on the House International Relations Committee for 10 years where she was the highest-ranking Democrat on the Human Rights Subcommittee. Cynthia made the time to help those in need who had a human rights claim. Cynthia felt that it was important that US policy reflect a deep respect for human rights. So she worked tirelessly on legislation to stop conventional weapons transfers to governments that are undemocratic or fail to respect human rights. Her legislation to end the mining of coltan in eastern Democratic Republic of Congo was mentioned in a United Nations special report. Almost single-handedly, she forced the United Nations to convene an independent commission on the Rwanda genocide and the role of the US and the UN in failing to stop Africa's most horrific genocide.

Cynthia hosted the first delegation of Afro-Latinos from Central and South America and worked with the World Bank and the U.S. State Department to recognize Afro-Latinos. She stood with Aborigines against Australian mining companies; and with the U'wa people of Colombia in their fight to save their sacred land from oil rigs. She stood with poor Georgia farmers, black and white, against South African mining companies operating in the US. During her tenure on the House International Relations Committee, Cynthia recognized others who championed peace and nominated President Joaquim Chissano, President of Mozambique, for the Nobel Peace Prize and he made it to the final group. In her final Congressional act, she nominated Juan Carreras for the same honor, for his work to bring peace to Democratic Republic of Congo and the Great Lakes region of Africa. Today, Cynthia continues to work with Carreras to bring justice to the dead in one of Africa's most horrific moments.

Cynthia had also begun to focus on COINTELPRO and Hip Hop empowerment. Cynthia held three Hip Hop Powershops featuring Kevin Powell, Afeni Shakur, Li'l Zane, and media executives.

She also held two COINTELPRO hearings: one on US Political Prisoners, the other on the murder of Dr.

Martin Luther King, Jr. Cynthia used her positions of influence on both the House Armed Services Committee and the House International Relations Committee to apply international human rights standards to US conduct at home and abroad.

#### CYNTHIA STANDS WITH COURAGE

Cynthia was tapped by the Congressional Black Caucus to lead its effort on the Durban World Conference Against Racism. With her leadership, the Congressional Black Caucus spoke on this United Nations effort and at this important event, never once compromising on the rights of all peoples to come together and express their pain and suffering and ways to end it. Cynthia was unwilling to be silenced in the face of injustice.

Despite all her efforts on behalf of the poor and dispossessed, in Africa, Asia, Latin America, and in the United States, Cynthia learned from news reports that AIPAC, The American Israel Public Affairs Committee, had targeted her for defeat. Cynthia never lost her courage and refused to compromise her strong American values. However, when Cynthia McKinney became one of the first Members of Congress to demand a thorough investigation into the events of September 11, 2001 and responsibly asked the question, "What did the Administration know and when did it know it about the events of September 11th?" she was vilified and targeted by Georgia and national Republicans. As a result of her thought-provoking question, an estimated 40,000 Republicans voted in the Democratic Primary to oust Cynthia. It is called "crossover" voting and her supporters filed a lawsuit against this practice so that no voice of the people like Cynthia's would ever be silenced again in such an unfair electoral practice.

Currently, Mississippi Democrats have an active lawsuit against Mississippi's open primary statute. Georgians will look at this lawsuit with much interest to revive their own if it is successful.

Cynthia was invited to Mumbai, India to speak at the World Social Forum. She has spoken all over the United States and in Germany, France, Italy, Jamaica, Malaysia and many places all over the world because she is nationally and internationally recognized for her tireless voice on behalf of justice in the United States. We need her voice again in service to the people of the United States.

Cynthia McKinney is an independent thinker. Cynthia is seeking the Presidential nomination of the Green Party of the United States and you can count on her because she is not beholden to any special interests -- just the people.