

II. SOCIAL JUSTICE

Historically, America led the world in establishing a society with democratic values such as equal opportunity and protection from discrimination.

Today, however, our country is among the most extreme examples of industrialized nations that have a widening gap between the wealthy and the rest of its citizenry - the working poor, the struggling middle class, and those who increasingly cannot make ends meet.

Our public schools, from kindergarten through college, are forced to cut back countless programs and services. Fees for community colleges are up sharply, and many public universities must turn away qualified students. More than 46 million Americans have no medical insurance coverage and many more lack adequate coverage. The crisis in publicly subsidized housing is intensifying, while publicly funded "corporate welfare" continues unabated. Our tax code favors the wealthy. Our criminal justice system assigns long prison terms to hundreds of thousands of perpetrators of victimless crimes, such as selling marijuana. Our civil liberties of privacy and free speech are impaired by the excesses of the USA PATRIOT Act and kindred new laws that use a national tragedy (the attacks on September 11, 2001) as an excuse to impose ubiquitous surveillance and control over citizens. In addition, discrimination based on gender, ethnicity, or race continues to sap the potential of our society and to violate personal dignity.

Feelings of isolation and helplessness are common in America today. Children are increasingly shaped by an "electronic childhood" with little direct experience of nature and free play. Our families are scattered, our popular culture is crassly manipulated by the profit motives of increasingly concentrated media conglomerates, and our sense of community is a pale shadow of what earlier generations of Americans knew.

The Green Party strongly believes that the quality of life is determined not only by material aspects that can be measured and counted but also by elements that cannot be quantified. We firmly support the separation of church and state.

We believe that artistic expression and a thriving structure of art institutions are key to community well-being. We believe that a deep and broad embrace of nonviolence is the only effective way to stop cycles of violence, from the home to the streets to the international level. We advocate a diverse system of education that would introduce children early to the wonders of Nature, and would cultivate the wisdom of eco-education, eco-economics, eco-politics, and eco-culture. We seek to protect our children from the corrosive effects of mass culture that trains them to regard themselves first and foremost as consumers.

We support the shift in modern medicine to include healing through complementary therapies to facilitate the healthy unfolding of the person within the unfolding story of the family, community, bioregion, state, nation, and Earth community.

A. Civil Rights and Equal Rights

The foundation of any democratic society is the guarantee that each member of society has equal rights. Respect for our constitutionally protected rights is our best defense against discrimination and the abuse of power. Also, we recognize an intimate connection between our rights as individuals and our responsibilities to our neighbors and the planet. The Green Party shall strive to secure universal and effective recognition and observance of the principles and spirit expressed in the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights as an international standard that all nations must meet.

One of our key values is respect for diversity. We are committed to establishing relationships that honor diversity; that support the self-definition and self-determination of all people; and that consciously confront the barriers of racism, sexism, homophobia, class oppression, ageism, and transphobia, and the many ways our culture separates us from working together. We support affirmative action to remedy discrimination, to protect constitutional rights and to provide equal opportunity under the law.

1. Women's Rights

Since the beginning of what we call civilization, when men's dominance over women was firmly established until the present day, our history has been marred with oppression of and brutality to women. The Green Party deplors this system of male domination, known as *patriarchy*, in all its forms, both subtle and overt - from oppression, inequality, and discrimination to domestic violence, rape, trafficking and forced slavery. The change the world is crying for cannot occur unless women's voices are heard. Democracy cannot work without equality for women that provides equal participation and representation. It took an extraordinary and ongoing fight over 72 years for Women to win the right to vote. However, the Equal Rights Amendment has still not been ratified.

We believe that equality should be a given, and that all Greens must work toward that end. We are committed to increasing participation of women in politics, government and leadership so they can change laws, make decisions, and create policy solutions that affect and will improve women's lives, and we are building our party so that Greens can be elected to office to do this. In July 2002 the Women's Caucus of the Green Party of the United States was founded to carry out the Party's commitment to women.

We also support, and call on others to support, the many existing and ongoing efforts for women:

Social Equality

- a. We support the equal application of the Constitution to all citizens, and therefore call for passage of the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA). We urge accelerated

ratification by three or more of the remaining 15 states that are required to pass ERA into law and into the Constitution. We urge renewed efforts and campaigns to ratify the ERA. We support House Resolution 98, using the precedent of a three-state strategy for ratification.

b. We call for equal representation of women in Congress instead of the current 13%.

c. The Green Party calls for U.S. passage of CEDAW, the Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women, which was adopted in 1979 by the U.N. General Assembly and ratified by 173 countries. The U.S. is one of the very few countries, and the only industrialized nation, that have not ratified it.

d. The Equal Employment Opportunities Commission should actively investigate and prosecute sexual harassment complaints. Women who file complaints must not be persecuted and should be protected under federal and state law. We must enshrine in law the basic principle that women have the same rights as men, and promote gender equality and fairness in the work force to ensure that women receive equal pay for jobs of equal worth.

e. We support the inclusion of an equal number of women and men in peace talks and negotiations, not only because these efforts directly affect their lives and those of their husbands, children and families, but also because when women are involved, the negotiations are more successful.

Reproductive Rights

f. Women's rights must be protected and expanded to guarantee each woman's right as a full participant in society, free from sexual harassment, job discrimination or interference in the intensely personal choice about whether to have a child.

g. Women's right to control their bodies is non-negotiable. It is essential that the option of a safe, legal abortion remains available. The "morning- after" pill must be affordable and easily accessible without a prescription, together with a government-

sponsored public relations campaign to educate women about this form of contraception. Clinics must be accessible and must offer advice on contraception and the means for contraception; consultation about abortion and the performance of abortions, and; abortion regardless of age or marital status.

h. We endorse women's right to use contraception and, when they choose, to have an abortion. This right cannot be limited to women's age or marital status. Contraception and abortion must be included in all health insurance policies in the U.S., and any state government must be able to legally offer these services free of charge to women at the poverty level. Public health agencies operating abroad should be allowed to offer family planning, contraception, and abortion in all countries that ask for those services. We oppose our government's habit of cutting family planning funds when those funds go to agencies in foreign countries that give out contraceptive devices, offer advice on abortion, and perform abortions.

i. We encourage women and men to prevent unwanted pregnancies. It is the inalienable right and duty of every woman to learn about her body and to be aware of the phases of her menstrual cycle, and it is the duty for every man to be aware of the functions and health of his and his partner's bodies. This information is necessary for self determination, to make informed decisions, and to prevent unintended consequences. Unplanned conception takes control away from individuals and makes them subject to external controls. The "morning-after" pill and option of a safe and legal abortion need to remain available.

Economic Equality

j. Since, nationally, women still earn only 70% of men's wages for equal jobs, the Green Party calls for the introduction and passage of federal and state laws to achieve pay equity, and funding for the enforcement of such laws.

k. Single mothers are the largest and most severely impoverished group in the United States, which explains why 25% of the children in our country live below the poverty line. Welfare reform has forced mothers to abandon their children to travel to minimum wage jobs. With the extreme pay inequity, single mothers cannot afford child care, nurture their children, and move out of poverty.

l. The Green Party supports real reforms to end poverty and return dignity and

opportunity to all mothers. We call for implementing innovative programs that work with the particular and special needs of motherhood. We also support other programs such as a universal basic income (known also as a guaranteed income or Citizen Dividend, as described in [True Cost Pricing and Tax Fairness](#)) that will provide for those who nurture the next generation - work that is of incalculable importance to our society.

Violence and Oppression

m. Language is often used as a weapon by those with power, and women have traditionally borne the brunt of inflicted injuries. Freedom of speech is vital to democracy. However, we believe that this freedom should not be used to perpetuate oppression and abuse.

n. Rape, domestic violence and other violence to women are increasing nationwide. We must address the root cause of all violence even as we specifically address violence to women. We cannot allow this to continue and call for increased funding for programs to address it.

o. The Green Party has zero tolerance for the illegal international trafficking in humans. Of the millions of humans trafficked worldwide, the large majority are women and children who are bought and sold as slaves and forced to labor against their will primarily in prostitution, but also in agriculture, sweat shops, domestic service and in other forms of servitude. According to Human Rights Watch, in all cases coercive tactics - including deception, fraud, intimidation, isolation, threat and use of physical force, or debt bondage - are used to control women. Figures from 2003 show 50,000 victims, both women and children, were trafficked to the U.S.

p. The Green Party supports all efforts to eradicate this extreme abuse of human rights, including but not limited to enforcement of existing laws and passage of tough new ones, punishing traffickers, aiding victims, increasing public awareness, reforming immigration laws, supporting existing programs and creating new ones.

q. We support the State Department's annual Trafficking in Persons Report as an important document to begin to combat this abuse. We support and urge enforcement of the Victims of Trafficking and Violence Protection Act (HR 3244)

signed into law on October 28, 2000. This Act authorizes funding for the prevention of trade in human beings and for protecting victims. It gives the State Department a historic opportunity to create an office with the exclusive responsibility of ending traffic in humans and protecting the victims of this world-wide trade. We urge committed political support to achieve the cooperation of all different levels of government.

2. Racial Discrimination

The development of the United States has been marked by conflict over race. The growth and expansion of the United States depended on displacement or extermination of Native Americans and importation of slaves from Africa. White supremacy was our history from the beginning. Today, we still struggle to overcome and compensate for past suppression of our non-white minorities.

1. We support reparations to people of color. One form of reparation could be a guarantee that all children of color who graduate from high school, will be fully funded for 4 years of college. Another form could be monetary compensation. The actual choice of reparation should be decided by the people to whom we owe it.

2. We condemn all symbols and practices of racial discrimination wherever they occur. Examples are Confederate flags on government buildings and police profiling of minorities.

3. We demand enforcement of the Voting Rights Act, including language access for voting.

4. We call for a national language policy that offers all citizens the chance to learn at least two languages.

5. We demand enforcement of laws against hate crimes and all laws - local, state and federal that protect minorities and guaranteed equality under the law to all citizens.

3. Justice for Native Hawaiians: Kanaka Maoli

Since illegal annexation in 1898, the Federal and State governments have cheated and neglected the native Hawaiian people. In 1993, the U.S. Congress passed, and President Clinton signed into law, the "Apology Bill" (U.S. Public Law 103-150). This admission of crime states in part, "the native Hawaiians have never lost their inherent sovereignty nor their national home base."

The Green Party demands justice for *kanaka maoli*. We support the following:

- a. Protecting sacred and culturally significant sites.
- b. Efforts to nurture native Hawaiian culture.

- c. Kanaka maoli leadership and guardianship in protecting gathering rights, and lobbying the legislature to safeguard these rights without interference.
- d. Return of, or fair compensation for, ceded lands.
- e. Immediate distribution of Hawaiian Homelands, with government funds allocated for the necessary infrastructure.
- f. Prohibition of future sale or diminishment of the Ceded Land Trust.
- g. A call for open dialogue among all residents of Hawai'i on the sovereignty option of full independence.
- h. Hawaiian sovereignty in a form that is fair to both native Hawaiians and other residents of Hawai'i.
- i. We acknowledge and actively endorse the inherent and absolute right of indigenous nations to self-determination, and thereby call upon the U.S. government to reverse its opposition to enactment of the proposed United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples in its entirety.

4. Indigenous Peoples

1. All treaties signed by the United States government have the same legal status as our Constitution and to circumvent or deny the provisions of a treaty is a federal crime.

2. The Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) should stand alone and separate from the Department of the Interior. The BIA should have authority to settle claims for health injuries suffered by Native Americans in uranium mines or other extractive industries. No agency of the federal government may be immune to claims for harm done to Native Americans while working in these industries.

3. Tribal governments of Native Americans are sovereign nations within their boundaries and no arm of the US government can deny them the practice of their rights, the preservation of their traditions and the protection of their sacred spaces.

4. Years of denial and confining Native Americans on Reservations has left them impoverished and without the resources and infrastructure necessary to sustain themselves and prosper. In particular, land, water mineral and other resource rights have been curtailed or denied.

5. The health and education of Native Americans has been ignored and they have been cheated of millions of dollars owed to them; thus preventing them from providing for themselves and from sharing in the economy of the United States.

6. We support clean up of left over mines and tailing piles spread throughout Native American lands, a vast destructive legacy of the Cold War era still to be paid for.

7. Native American land and treaty rights often stand as the front line against government and multinational corporate attempts to plunder energy, mineral, water, timber, fish, and game resources. These rights must be recognized.

5. Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity

In keeping with the Green values of diversity and social justice, we support full legal and political equality for all persons, regardless of sex, gender or sexual orientation.

1. We affirm the right of all individuals to choose intimate partners regardless of sex, gender, or sexual orientation.

2. We support equal rights of all persons, regardless of sexual orientation, to housing, jobs, civil marriage, medical benefits, child custody, and in all areas of activity enjoyed by all citizens.

3. We support language in state and federal anti-discrimination law that secures the rights of intersex individuals and prohibits discrimination based on gender identity. We are opposed to intersex genital mutilation.

4. All persons have the right to determine their gender identity and sex and their choice may not be over-ridden by police authority. We support access to medical and surgical treatment for reassignment of gender or sex.

5. We support legislation against all forms of hate crimes directed against people who identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, queer, transgender and intersex.

6. Rights of the Disabled and Mentally Ill

We support:

1. The full implementation and enforcement of the Americans with Disabilities Act.

2. Increase of rehabilitation funding for education and training for work of the disabled; and allowing them, when feasible, to live at home rather than in state-funded institutions.

3. The government's obligation to care for the mentally ill is a constant, not just after the person is in a crisis.

4. Mainstreaming the differently-abled and allow them to participate in the allocation of state rehabilitation funds.

5. Funding in-home support services that include hiring personal attendants.

6. Funding of community-based programs that offer out-patient medical services, case management services and counseling.

7. Provide residential living for those who do not need institutional care but cannot live independently.

8. Reduce the paperwork and facilitate applications for Supplemental Security Income for chronically mentally ill.

9. Increase teacher training in special education courses for the needs of differently-abled students.

10. Fund publicity programs to increase public sensitivity to the needs of the mentally ill and differently-abled.

7. . Religious Freedom and Secular Equality

We affirm the right of each individual to the exercise of conscience and religion, while maintaining the constitutionally mandated separation of government and religion. We believe that federal, state, and local governments must remain neutral regarding religion.

We call for:

1. Re-affirmation of the first amendment rights, and vigorous prosecution of hate crimes based on religious affiliation or practice.
2. Elimination of displays of religious symbols, monuments, or statements on government buildings, property, websites, money, or documents.
3. Restoration of the Pledge of Allegiance to its pre- 1954 version by eliminating the phrase "under god."
4. Ending faith-based initiatives and charitable choice programs, using public funds.
5. Ending school vouchers.
6. Prohibit religiously-based curricula in government-funded public schools.
7. Revocation of the Congressional charter of the Boy Scouts of America until it eliminates its practices against gays and those holding certain religious beliefs.

8. Child and Youth Rights

Young people (those under the age of eighteen) are one of the least protected classes of human beings, yet they represent our future. We must ensure they have an upbringing that allows them to take their place as functioning, productive, and self-actualized members of their community.

1. Our young are not the property of their parents or guardians, but are under their care and guidance.
2. Our young have the right to survive by being provided adequate food, shelter and comprehensive health care, including prenatal care for mothers.
3. Our young have the right to be protected from abuse, harmful drugs, violence, environmental hazards, neglect, and exploitation.
4. Our young have the right to develop in a safe and nurturing early environment provided by affordable child care and pre-school preparation.
5. Our young have the right to an education that is stimulating, relevant, engaging, and that fosters their natural desire to learn.
6. Young people's creative potential should be encouraged to the greatest extent possible.
7. Young people should have input into the direction and pace of their

own education, including input into the operation of their educational institutions.

8. Young people should be provided with education regarding their own and others' sexuality at the earliest appropriate time.

9. Young people should be provided the opportunity to express themselves in their own media, including television, radio, films and the Internet. Young people should also be given skills in analyzing commercial media.

10. Young people should be kept free from coercive advertising at their educational institutions.

11. We recognize that children are entitled to the full respect due any human being, and that corporal punishment of children, either at home or at school, constitutes violence against children. Such violence, whatever its desired ends, has been amply demonstrated to have no positive effect on children. It is perpetuated from generation to generation and conditions children to accept violence as a means of dealing with conflict when they are adults. We are opposed to the corporal punishment of children and will support educational programs and laws at the state and national level to end this practice.

9. Veterans' Rights

Military veterans deserve the same rights to needed medical and other care and support granted to everyone else. The best way for us to support those presently in the military or who may decide to join is to work like hell to assure that our military does nothing except 1) protect our national borders against violent invasion, and 2) participate beyond our borders only in actions fully and freely approved by the United Nations.

We recommend the following actions:

1. Ensure that all pre-deployment physicals are completed and carried out within the standard allotted time period and that medical follow-ups are routinely done on all soldiers.

2.. Establish a panel of independent medical doctors to examine and oversee the policies of the military regarding forced vaccinations and shots, often with experimental drugs.

3.. Honor all laws concerning time limits on deployments.

4.. Provide better care for the wounded, sick, and injured soldiers returning home. The Pentagon must take all steps necessary to fully diagnose and treat both physical and mental health conditions resulting from service in all combat zones.

5.. Ensure a smooth transition from active military life to civilian life by providing counseling, tuition grants, housing, emergency management, job protection, and other support systems.

6.. Restore full funding for veterans' health programs.

7.. Support and respect Conscientious Objector status. We fully support the right of individuals in the military service to modify or completely separate from military involvement because of conscientious objection. We call upon all military entities and officers to support a transparent and democratic conscientious objection process free of harassment, imprisonment, or deployment to war zones for those pursuing the conscientious objection

process.

8.. Recognized, independent veteran organizations must have access to military personnel to ensure they are being informed of their rights. This is especially true for those who are hospitalized due to service related injuries or illnesses.

10. Consumer Protection

1. Consumer advocacy agencies must have the same access to legislators and regulatory agencies as corporate lobbyists have.

2. We support the creation of independent consumer advocacy agencies in order to protect the interests of consumers against corporate lobbyists who have too often successfully argued before regulatory agencies against consumer rights.

3. Legal monopolies and regulated industries including electric, gas, water, and telephone utilities, must be legally responsive to information requests from local public counsel offices that protect the consumer.

4. Consumers have a legal right to be informed about the origin and ingredients of a product. The full social, environmental, and economic effects of production of all products should be readily and freely available to all potential consumers. "Truth in advertising" must declare what is recycled; what is organic and what is natural.

5. We defend class action rights against manufacturers of unsafe products and practices, and call for restrictions on secrecy agreements that conceal information about public health, labor conditions and environmental safety.

6. The "Whistle blower" is the public's best protection against fraud, misuse and waste. We support stronger laws to protect the whistle-blower against demotion, job-loss and other forms of retaliation.

11. War on Terrorism

See also section [D. Foreign Policy](#) and [E. Domestic Security](#) in chapter I.

The so-called *war on terrorism* must not become an assault on the civil liberties that are enshrined in our Constitution. The price of freedom is not the loss of liberty. Constitutionally protected rights - fought for by American patriots - are rights the Green Party patriotically holds in the highest regard. Greens demand that the Justice Department cease and desist its wholesale rollback of constitutional protections and its daily dismantling of legal safeguards.

The use of Homeland Defense monies to spy on citizens exercising First Amendment rights is particularly onerous, as are "sneak and peek" provisions of the U.S.A.P.A.T.R.I.O.T. Act that allows surveillance of libraries, readers, the Internet, and computer users. Basic rights ensuring individual privacy are under attack. The U.S. government's use of high tech tools, including intrusive monitoring, data mining and analysis to identify and disrupt citizen activists, should be seen as an attack on fundamental rights of an engaged, active

citizenry.

B. Environmental Justice

Low-income citizens and minorities suffer disproportionately from environmental hazards in the workplace, at home, and in their communities. Inadequate laws, lax enforcement of existing environmental regulations, and weak penalties for infractions undermine environmental protection.

Therefore, the Green Party advocates:

1. Government oversight of responsible agencies, and prosecution for their delinquency for non-enforcement of enforcement crimes.
2. Expand legal responsibility of Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to investigate and penalize industry with slack enforcement of anti-pollution laws.
3. Moratoria on siting new toxic chemical or waste facilities in areas with high hazardous waste already deposited.
4. Legal provision for alternatives to hazardous work places and prevent promises of jobs to bribe a community to agree to hazardous practices or pollution.
5. Storage of hazardous materials or practices must be preceded by public hearings, conducted in the language of those community members who will be directly affected.
6. Preceding the siting of hazardous materials or practices with public hearings, conducted in the language of those community members who will be directly affected.

C. Economic Justice / Social Safety Net

The passage of the 1996 Welfare Reform Act under President Clinton, left the safety net in tatters, and weakened it further by reducing or de-funding the remaining portions. City and State governments have attempted to remedy the loss and protect poor families and the unemployed, but not sufficiently to bring them back under the protection of the social contract.

1. The Green Party opposes any privatization of Social Security whatsoever. We oppose raising the retirement age above 65 years.
2. All people have a right to food, housing, medical care, education, and living-wage work. Federally funded entitlement programs to underpin these rights must be restored. Exploiting labor by paying wages below a living-wage standard violates a worker's rights.
3. We support public funding of living wage jobs in community and environmental service such as environmental clean up, recycling, sustainable agriculture and forest management, repair and maintenance of public facilities, aids in schools, libraries and childcare centers, and construction and renovation

of energy efficient housing.

4. Reduce the work week to 35 hours. In addition, we recognize that work performed outside the monetary value of commodity exchange in the marketplace is equally, socially useful, beneficial and productive work. Such work includes child and elderly care, homemaking, voluntary community service, advocacy work in the political arena, and in the arts.

5. The widening gap between wealth of the top 5% and the rest of the population contradicts economic democracy and undermines political democracy. We call for ending corporate subsidies, tax loop holes, bailouts and other privileges that sustain the imbalance in wealth distribution.

D. Welfare:

A Commitment to Ending Poverty

It is time for a radical shift in our attitude toward support for families, children, the poor and the disabled. Such support must not be given grudgingly; it is the right of those presently in need and an investment in our future. We must take an uncompromising position that the care and nurture of children, elders and the disabled are essential to a healthy, peaceful, and sustainable society. We should recognize that the work of their caregivers is of social and economic value, and reward it accordingly. Ensuring that children and their caregivers have access to an adequate, secure standard of living should form the cornerstone of our economic priorities. Only then can we hope to build our future on a foundation of healthy, educated children who are raised in an atmosphere of love and security.

1. Work performed outside the monetary system has inherent social and economic value, and is essential to a healthy, sustainable economy and peaceful communities.

2. We call for restoration of a federally funded entitlement program to support children, families, the unemployed, elderly and disabled, with no time limit on benefits.

3. We call for a graduated supplemental income, or negative income tax, that would maintain all individual adult incomes above the poverty level, regardless of employment or marital status.

4. We advocate reinvesting a significant portion of the military budget into family support, living-wage job development, and work training programs.

5. We support public funding for the development of living-wage jobs in community and environmental service. We oppose enterprise zone give-aways which benefit corporations more than inner-city communities

6. We must take aggressive steps to restore a fair distribution of income. We support tax incentives for businesses that apply fair employee wage

distribution standards, and income tax policies that restrict the accumulation of excessive individual wealth.

7. Forcing welfare recipients to accept jobs that pay wages below a living wage drives wages down and exploits workers for private profit at public expense. We reject workfare as being a form of indentured servitude.

8. Corporations receiving public subsidies must provide jobs that pay a living wage, observe basic workers' rights, and agree to affirmative action policies.

E. Education and the Arts

1. Education

The failing report card of American education is troubling for almost every American. Who fails to see the connection between our investment in education and our success as a people? Who believes there is no relation between personal achievement and a quality education—an education that teaches creative and critical thinking skills and a respect for lifelong learning?

A democratic government depends on educated citizens. An ignorant public cannot carry the responsibility of government of, by and for the people. Therefore Public education is the backbone of democracy and must be equally available to all Americans from Kindergarten through high school.

1. Education is the function of our schools and Teachers are the essential instrument of education. Teaching is a vocation and a profession and must receive the respect and salary equivalent to related service professions. To qualify to teach should require a B.A. or B.S. degree plus a year of teaching practice and theory course work from an accredited liberal arts college.

2. We recognize that there is no fixed, single mode of teaching in different social settings. At the same time all students have the right to curricula that prepare them equally to enter society with the learning and information necessary to be productive citizens and to participate in a democratic state.

3. We support learning as lifelong engagement and we believe adult education should be available to all who seek it on a schedule that fits into the standard work week.

4. Public education is the responsibility of state governments. The federal role in education is to set standards that assures a level playing field for all citizens regardless of which state they live in. However, the Federal Act titled "No Child Left Behind" punishes where it should assist and hinders its own declared purpose. It should be repealed or greatly redesigned.

5. In keeping with equal access to equal education, funding formulas must distribute equally to assure the same standards for teacher-per-student ratio, supplies, equipment and resources, including visual arts, music, and athletic programs.

6. We oppose vouchers, or any scheme that will transfer money out of the public school system. We also oppose charter schools unless set up with adequate public interest safeguards or the administration of public schools by private, for-profit entities.

7. We support:

- a.. Early learning (pre-kindergarten) programs in all schools.
- b.. Availability of after-school programs, including music, art, and dance, in or near the school for all children.
- c. State funding for day care that includes school children under the age of ten when after-school programs are not available.
- d. Requiring a non-violent, conflict resolution class in all schools beginning in high school.

8. We encourage state Departments of Education and school boards to include teachers, instructors and teacher assistants when drawing up the curriculum of the schools.

9. In today's high-tech world, all students from 9th grade on, must have exposure, training and practice on the computer.

10. We recognize the viable alternative of home-based education.

11. We support bi-lingual education and advocate the teaching of 2 languages in all schools: teach grammar, syntax and writing of the native language and teach grammar, syntax and reading of another language.

12. Corporations have no place in our educational institutions. Schools must safeguard students' privacy rights and withhold private student information from corporate interests. In addition, Section 9528 (Armed Forces Recruiter Access to Students and Student Recruiting Information) must be repealed.

13. This is equally true in higher education. Academic research must not be controlled by corporations or the US military.

14. We support tuition-free post secondary education in a community college, liberal arts college or vocational training academy. Government loans for education should be repayable as a proportion of future earnings rather than at a fixed rate.

2. The Arts

Freedom of artistic expression is a fundamental right and a key element in empowering communities, and in moving us toward sustainability and respect for diversity.

The Green Party supports:

a. Alternative, community-based systems treating neither the artwork nor the artist as a commodity.

b. Eliminating all laws that seek to restrict or censor artistic expression, including the withholding of government funds for political or moral content.

c. Increased funding for the arts appropriate to their essential social role at local, state and federal levels of government.

d. Community-funded programs employing local artists to enrich their communities through public art programs, including public performances, exhibitions, murals on public buildings, design or re-design of parks and public areas, storytelling and poetry reading, and publication.

e. The establishment of non-profit public forums for local artists to display their talents and creations. Research, public dialogue, and trial experiments to develop alternative systems for the valuation and exchange of artworks and for the financial support of artists. Some examples include community subscriber

support groups, artwork rental busts, cooperative support systems among artists, legal or financial incentives to donate to the arts or to donate artworks to public museums.

f. Responsible choices of non-toxic, renewable, or recyclable materials. Funding sources not connected with social injustice or environmental destruction.

g. Education programs in the community that will energize the creativity of every community member from the youngest to the oldest, including neglected groups such as teenagers, senior citizens, prisoners, immigrants, and drug addicts. These programs would provide materials and access to interested, qualified arts educators for every member of the community who demonstrates an interest.

h. Funding and staffing to incorporate arts education into every school curriculum. We encourage local artists and the community to contribute time, experience, and resources to these efforts.

i. Diversity in arts education in the schools including age-specific hands-on activities and appreciative theoretical approaches, exposure to the arts of various cultures and stylistic traditions, and experiences with a variety of media, techniques and contents.

j. The integration of the arts and artistic teaching methods into other areas of the curriculum to promote a holistic perspective.

F. Health Care

Health care is a human right, not a privilege.

The Green Party supports a wide range of health care services, not just traditional medicine that too often emphasizes high-tech intervention and surgical techniques.

The United States must respect the measures other nations take to ensure public health, and must not use medication, medical equipment, and other medical necessities, or threats of withholding them, as leverage for political reasons or as extortion for the sake of commercial profit. We oppose any embargo or economic sanction that would cause the suffering or death of civilians.

The Green Party's principle aim is the introduction of Universal Single-Payer Health Care for everyone living in the United States. While in pursuit of that public obligation, we support expanded preventive health care by public health care clinics and support for both traditional medical/surgical care and alternative medicine.

1. Single-payer health care will include the following services:

a. A publicly funded health care insurance program, administered at the state and local levels.

b. Lifetime benefits for everyone, including: dental, vision, mental

health care, hospice, long_term care, substance abuse treatment and medication coverage.

c. Freedom to choose the type of health care provider, with a wide range of health care choices.

d. Decision_making in the hands of health providers and their patients.

e. Participation of all licensed and /or certified health providers, subject to standards of practice in their field.

f. Portable health plan benefits.

g. Primary and preventive care as priorities, including education about diet, nutrition and exercise.

h. Fair and full reimbursement to providers for their services.

2. Preventive Care.

70% to 80% of illness in America is due to negligence, overwork, lack of free time and lack of physical exercise and lack of healthy food. We support a huge change in life style in society at large, and at the workplace. The present mode puts quality living and healthy living out of reach for all but wealthy people. Health care insurance premiums are too high for most people and Medicare, serving over 40 million Americans, covers fewer and fewer health needs each year. Consequently, care for illness or disease is delayed until it reaches a critical stage and the expense of treatment doubles or triples.

We support:

a. Expand the teaching of public health and preventive treatment in medical schools.

b. Prohibiting snack food and sweets in all public schools.

c. Serving organic food and a proper balance of vegetables, fruits and meat in public school meals.

d. Requiring school nutritionists to plan a healthy, protein rich diet to be served in the school.

e. Inclusion of a nutrition and health course coupled with sex education taught in every high school

3. Health Programs and Medical Treatment

a. We support the availability of holistic health approaches and, the use of complementary and alternative therapies such as herbal medicines, homeopathy and acupuncture.

b. We oppose the arrest, harassment, prosecution or revocation of license of anyone involved in any aspect of the production, cultivation, transportation, distribution or consumption of medicinal marijuana.

c. We support informed consent laws to protect consumers of the impact of types of treatment and including different treatments prescribed. and attention to family medicine as opposed to increased medical specialization,

d. We unequivocally support a woman's right to reproductive

choice, no matter her marital status or age, and that contraception and safe, legal abortion procedures be available on demand and be included in all health insurance coverage in the U.S., as well as free of charge in any state where a woman falls below the poverty level. [See section A.1. Women's Rights in this chapter]

e. Increase medical research and alternative therapies actively to combat diseases and eliminate their causes, especially cancer and HIV / AIDS and other blood born diseases such as Hepatitis C.

f. Expand and enlarge public health services for special needs: the mentally ill, the handicapped, and those who are terminally ill.

g. Establishment of a National Health Trust Fund that would channel all current Federal payments for health care programs directly into the Fund, in addition to employees' health premium payments.

4. AIDS / HIV

a. We support a comprehensive campaign against AIDS and HIV, and other bloodborne diseases such as Hepatitis C. International agencies, especially the United Nations must install medical care and protection programs in all countries suffering from the AIDS epidemic. All prescription drugs and medicines for AIDS victims must be generically available and subsidized by the governments where they are dispersed.

b. Give equal access to all affected, including prisoners, to AIDS education, drug treatment, condoms, microbicides and other medications.

c. Provide housing and treatment for homeless and poor people with AIDS / HIV.

d. Lift the Federal ban on needle exchanges and support needle exchange programs and others that help drug addicts.

e. No mandatory screening for AIDS / HIV; anonymous screening must be available. Lift the ban prohibiting HIV positive people from entering the U.S. as visitors or as immigrants.

G. Labor

The ever-widening gap between rich and poor is destructive of democracy and creates an uneven playing field for economic opportunity. Public welfare that depends on hand-outs from the corporate rich reduces democracy by that same amount. Every citizen must have the leverage necessary to become a productive member of the economy and the society in which we live.

1. We re-affirm the legal right of all workers to organize, to form a union and to bargain collectively without hindrance. This right was guaranteed under The Fair Labor Standards Act of 1936.

2. To re-enforce that Act, we support Employee Free Choice Act (EFCA) which guarantees the right to form a union by the card-check method.

3. All workers have the right to inform others or be informed about a

union being organized where they work This includes advertising and recruiting.

4. We demand the repeal of the Taft-Hartley Act which promotes open shop..

5. Workers must have the following rights and protections:
a. To elect representatives to the Board of Directors of the business where they work, and their representatives must have equal rights with management..

b. To elect their own union officers.

c. No permanent replacement of striking workers.

d. No forced overtime.

e. Flexible working schedules to allow managing personal and family concerns

f. To be paid a living wage, including temporary and permanent workers.

g. Until we have universal health care, the employer must pay at least half of workers' health insurance.

h. All workers must have unemployment insurance, workers' compensation, and access to a jobs search program.

i. All workers must have minimum pensions, vested and portable.

6. Mediation must be the first available solution to labor - management disputes with an agreed-upon time limit.

7. When a new union is formed, the union members must have the right to submit a first contract to binding arbitration at the request of the union.

8. Labor must have the first right to buy out a company that is for sale or is going bankrupt, or being outsourced to another state or another country.

9. Labor has the right to stock ownership and oversight of the investment of its own funds in the company where it works.

10. When a company purchases or merges with another company, it must honor all existing collective bargaining agreements and contracts.

11. Agricultural and other excluded workers must be covered by federal labor laws, except where existing state laws offer more protection.

12. We encourage and support government subsidizing of cooperative ownership and management of enterprises whenever a buy-out is possible.

13 Management's right to close its workplace and move to a lower-pay locale must be circumscribed to the degree necessary to protect the local workforce and their job security.

14. We support the 35-hour work week.

15. Occupational safety and enforcement (OSHA) is the law and must be enforced. This law protects workers against dangerous equipment, chemicals, polluted air, fertilizers and other workplace hazards indoors and outdoors. .

16. The law on family medical leave for workers must not be circumvented, undermined or in any way reduced in range or time.

H. Criminal Justice

Our criminal justice system fails to deliver justice. It offers more retribution and punishment than rehabilitation and leverage to return to society to be a productive citizen. Our prisons hold more than 2 million people, often for

sentences totally disproportionate to the offense. Minorities and the poor are over-represented in the prison population and white collar criminals are given light sentences by comparison.

1. The Green Party supports:
 - a. Repeal “3 strikes, you’re out” law.
 - b. Repeal Sentencing Guidelines and restore sentencing to the judge’s discretion within a boundary that makes the penalty proportional to the crime.
 - c. Expand Parole to prisoners who have served half their sentence and who have a good record in the prison system. prisoners on parole must be allowed to vote.
 - d. Repeal Pres. Bush’s law (Patriot Act) that allows detention of any targeted person suspected of terrorist activity or association, and restore the 4th Amendment to the Constitution.
 - e. Abolish the death penalty.
2. Access to Justice; repeal or lessen definition of criminal acts.
 - a. All detained, accused or arrested persons must be told the charge at time of arrest and must have access to a lawyer when arraigned..
 - b. All non-violent and victimless crime should be classified as misdemeanor.
 - c. Legalize growing, harvesting, distributing and marketing of Hemp.
3. First Amendment rights of prisoners must not be revoked. Freedom to speak to journalists, to write letters to people outside the prison and to study legal procedures from law books in the prison library.
4. Prisoners must be allowed to vote by absentee ballot and when released, have the right to vote and to run for office.
5. Education in Prison
 - a. Enact a law that requires all prisons to offer high school (GED) classes, College courses and technical training to all prisoners. Guarantee all prisoners the right to use the prison library and to order magazines, journals or books.
 - b. Include in this law a program for educated prisoners to tutor uneducated prisoners.
6. The Green Party opposes private prisons:
 - a. All private prisons must be returned to federal or state ownership and management.
 - b. No contracting out of any police services. Maximum security prisons must be owned and managed by the Federal government and their intense severity reduced.
7. Prison management:
 - a. All prisoners must have the right to file a complaint for abuse to a civilian complaint review board with subpoena power.
 - b. Warden or guard abuse of prisoners and violation of their rights is a serious offense. Offending officers must be suspended without pay and fired when found guilty by the civilian complaint review board.
 - c. No prisoner may be kept in solitary confinement for more than 12

hrs. a day.

d. Prison household services such as preparing food, cleaning, laundry, gardening, and repair of fixtures must be performed by the prison inmates under direction of prison institution employees. Only medical and other professional services (e.g. electricians) may be contracted out.

8. Police performance in the society.

a. Restrict police use of guns and all forms of control weapons.

b. Restraining weapons and methods such as pepper spray, taser guns, stun belts, gas, choke holds and tight hand cuffs are greatly over-used.. States must pass legislation that reduce and restrict police possession and use of such methods of control.

c. Fines on police convicted of brutality are to be paid by police, not tax payers.

d. Police found guilty of excessive violence or brutal acts shall not be indemnified and must pay half the compensation awarded to the victims.

9. Drug Policy

a. The “war on drugs” has failed in its purpose for 60 yrs. US security officers are often complicit in the drug market. Funding the drug war must be ended immediately by the US Congress.

b. Cannabis /Hemp, is to be legalized, regulated and controlled like cigarettes and alcohol. Until this happens we advocate that medical marijuana be made a prescription drug that doctors may prescribe to their patients.

c. Heroin and Cocaine, Ecstasy and Methamphetamine, are to be medicalized and come under the supervision of medical personnel. All other illegal drugs are to be decriminalized. We advocate future debate and true and honest medicinal study.

d. Taxes derived from the sale of Cannabis /Hemp will go to communities that have been ravished by the drug war as reparations to rebuild infrastructure such as; public education, health care and addiction treatment programs.

I. Population

Humans have a unique responsibility for stewardship of the Earth. We have a global responsibility to change the existing patterns of production and consumption, especially in our own nation, to insure that the Earth’s carrying capacity is not depleted. Creating a sustainable relationship with nature while meeting essential needs of humans on this planet will effectively address the challenge of "overpopulation" of our own species.

Limiting the discussion to population numbers and birthrates diverts attention from over-consumption in the industrial world and historic patterns of exploitation of developing countries. Consumption-oriented lifestyles that have evolved in the industrial world have resulted in a minority of people consuming a majority of resources. This is as significant a threat to the Earth’s carrying capacity as the high birth rates in low-consumption countries.

Current global demographics demonstrate that economic well-being promotes low birthrates. Any discussion of population must also be a discussion of women throughout the world. There is documented evidence that the economic and

social status of women is a primary factor in birthrates - when women have control over their lives, birthrates decrease. Also, a major barrier to the improvement of women's reproductive health is a lack of shared responsibility between men and women in family planning. A combination of male attitudes and cultural traditions have resulted in most men being under-educated and uninvolved in the planning of their families.

Globally, human population is increasing while food production has leveled off. When population increases faster than the economy grows, the disparity between rich and poor also increases. Higher human consumption rates and populations increase the pressure on the environment in every ecological problem area. (See **Schwartzman, P. and Schwartzman, D., 2007, Is the world overpopulated? Green Horizon Quarterly, Winter 10-13, link at: <http://www.dcmetrosftp.org/newsletters/NL20061201.html#pop>**)

Global warming, extinction of species, water scarcity, natural resource depletion, massive deforestation and, in general the pollution of the air, land and water around the world sound an alarm that we are fouling our own nest.

World population is currently estimated at more than 6 billion people and projected to grow to 9 billion by 2050. The U.S. population is projected to grow from 300 million to 420 million by 2050. The question that confronts us is: is this level of population growth sustainable? GPUS says no.

Overpopulation, like environmental degradation, is a national and global problem and must be solved by all nations individually and collectively at home and by international cooperation.

We call for:

1. Repeal of the Global Gag Rule imposed by the Bush administration to prevent the distribution of family planning assistance to clinics that provide abortion services;
2. Full funding for the U.N. Population Fund (UNFPA), from which the Bush administration has withheld family planning funds since 2002;
3. Full funding for HIV /AIDS programs that promote safe sex, as well as abstinence.

J. Free Speech and Media Reform

Free speech and free press are constitutionally and politically guaranteed rights. Democracy requires a wide variety of opinions and information, which is not currently provided by corporate controlled media outlets. Citizen controlled and publicly funded newspapers, modeled on the former Los Angeles Municipal News, should be established everywhere. Advertising-free internet communication and other means of communication must be established or, as applicable, remain fully under accountable citizen control.

The Green Party supports:

1. Returning ownership and control of the electromagnetic spectrum to the public. We urge the public to *reclaim the public airwaves*. The privatization of the broadcast airwaves - one of our most important taxpayer assets - has caused serious deformations of our politics and culture.

The problem is that private broadcasters control what the public owns. In return for free licenses to use taxpayer property, broadcasters give us a steady stream of increasingly coarse, redundant, superficial programming, and exclusively decide who says what on our public airwaves.

2. Market-priced leasing of any for-profit use of the electromagnetic spectrum.

3. Reasonable restriction on media consolidation, using a public interest standard.

4. Restoring of full public funding of the National Public Broadcasting System to provide in-depth coverage of issues and the widest possible range of viewpoints.

5. Community ownership of broadcast outlets and public oversight of licensing.

6. Free and equal airtime for political candidates on radio and television networks. [See section A. [Political Reform](#) in chapter I]

7. Taxing advertising wherever it occurs to fund democratic media in those outlets, which include all means of electronic communication, newspapers, magazines, billboards, signs, etc.

8. The repeal of the Telecommunications Act of 1996.

9. The prohibition of commercial advertising in public places such as schools, parks, and governmental buildings.

10. Developing community radio, particularly those rule-making petitions before the FCC that allow for a new service of small, locally-owned FM stations.

11. Limiting the concentration of power that has characterized the telecommunications industry.

12. Opposing censorship in the arts, media (including the World Wide Web and Internet), and press. We encourage individual and social responsibility by artists, creative media, writers and all citizens.

K. Immigration / Emigration.

Our nation is a rich tapestry of nationalities, races, religions, and creeds with equality of opportunity, individual freedoms, and inalienable rights protected by our Constitution.

Immigration and particularly the large number of undocumented immigrants in the U.S. have become a hot political issue. Laws to oppress immigrants are constantly being proposed at the national, state, and local levels. In opposition millions of immigrants and supporters of immigrants rights have been marching in the streets.

If it were economically possible to provide for their families many immigrants would choose to remain in their native countries. We stand

firmly for social justice for all those living in this country regardless of their immigration status. In doing so we must consider immigration issues from an international standpoint, taking into account international labor and environmental standards and human rights.

We accept as a goal a world in which persons can freely choose any country in which to live and/or work. We seek the reciprocity this would require and recognize that countries have a right to know the identity of persons seeking to enter and to limit for security reasons who may enter.

The U.S. needs a complete overhaul of its immigration laws. Our current situation has created extreme social injustice. Millions of people are living and working in the U.S. with no legal status, making them subject to extreme exploitation and abuse. Immigration raids are terrorizing the immigrant community. Families are being broken up. Employer abuses of undocumented immigrants are rampant. Here are the principals we feel should be included in a just immigration reform.

1. Undocumented immigrants should be granted a legal status which includes the chance to become U.S. citizens with minimal processing fees and credit for all payments into the Social Security System which have been placed in "Suspense Files".

2. We believe the following immigration policies are fair.

- a. In relation to all countries with which "free trade" agreements are in effect, any citizen of those countries whose identity can be traced and verified should be entitled to a border pass to come and go from the U.S. as this person desires (subject to limited public safety concerns). Work permits for these persons must be easily obtainable. This applies particularly to our neighbors, Canada and Mexico.

- b. All persons fleeing political, racial, religious, or other types of persecution must be welcomed and given permanent resident status. The history of arbitrary denial of political asylum claims must be ended. Particular attention should be given to those minorities who are political exiles and refugees and those whose lives would be at risk if asylum is not granted.

- c. Family reunification must be a priority in accepting applications for permanent residency. The years of waiting that families are currently put through must be ended.

- d. Permanent residency should not be denied based on political views, racial or national origin, religious beliefs, sexual orientation, disability, or any other arbitrary basis.

- e. There are many countries in the world where the economic policies and military actions of the U.S. government or U.S. based corporations have caused extreme hardships. The peoples of these countries deserve special consideration if they wish to come to the U.S. to escape intolerable conditions created by our government or U.S. corporations.

3. Recognizing that a just reform of immigration policy may take some time, We support:

- a. Measures to allow undocumented immigrants to obtain drivers licenses if they can prove their identity and pass the required tests.

- b. Measures to give legal status to undocumented immigrants who

graduate from high school in the U.S. to allow them to attend public or private colleges and universities on an equal basis with other high school graduates.

c. Reduce wait lists and make the system work more efficiently.

Current numeric caps on immigrant visas must be increased. The current system of quotas and preferences has to be thoroughly and realistically reformed.

Current backlogs must be brought up to date as soon as possible. Wait times for processing and resolving immigration benefit applications should be reduced to no more than six months. Pre- 1996 screening criteria for legal permanent residency and citizenship applications should be restored.

4. Guest worker programs are required when workers wish to work in the US but do not want to be forced to give up their citizenship in their home countries, workers who sincerely are not seeking a path to US citizenship. Such programs must adequately protect the labor rights of these workers.

5. We advocate an end to employer sanctions, which have been shown to hurt not only undocumented workers but also U.S.-born workers (especially those of color).

6. Greens oppose "English-only" legislation. When interaction with the government is limited to the English speaking, persons are put at additional risk of exploitation. Particularly, the language rights of peoples who were in this land before it became American soil must be recognized. We advocate legislation to ensure that federal funds marked for communities to provide ESL (English as a second language) training, and health and social support services to immigrants actually go to them. When funds are spent in other areas, immigrants are being deprived of benefits that they earn as productive workers in their communities.

7. Courts, social service agencies, and all government agencies dealing with immigrants must provide trained and certified translators.

8. We oppose those who seek to divide us for political gain by raising ethnic and racial hatreds, and by blaming immigrants for social and economic problems.

9. We demand an immediate end to policies designed to force undocumented border crossers into areas where environmental conditions mean dramatically increased risk of permanent injury or death, and mean greater degradation of fragile environments, and the cutting off of corridors needed by wildlife for migration within their habitat. For these reasons we specifically oppose the walling off of both traditional urban crossing areas and of wilderness areas.

10. We demand recognition of sovereignty in determining the independent status of their members by indigenous nations whose people would otherwise be separated by the border demarcations of more recent nations.

L. Housing and Homelessness

1. Shelter, like food, health care and education, is a social necessity that a democratic society is obliged to secure for all its citizens.

2. In recent years, the cost of housing, to rent or purchase, has

outdistanced the income of a large percentage of the population. While the real estate business, building owners and developers have thrived on rising prices, many workers and fixed-income people, whose income has been diminished or static, have lost their homes and their place in the economy.

3. We support government policies that redress years of special benefits to developers and property owners and no benefits to citizens and small business. A level playing field is necessary for all to share in the society, the economy and to have equal access to their government. A lack of legal protection has allowed the eviction of 1,000s of tenants while the gap between the rich and the rest of society goes wider and wider.

4. Greens advocate:
- a. Rent control over rise in rents including opposing vacancy decontrol.
 - b. Oppose laws which pass on landlord's costs such as building improvements, costs and fuel surcharges unless landlords prove they are not making a profit.
 - c. Subsidize co-operative ownership of apartment buildings.
 - d. Re-write building codes to increase obligation that developers include affordable units for low-income tenants in their rehabilitated apartment buildings.
 - e. States write laws that require creation of Tenants Advocacy Office that protects tenants from eviction when landlord wants to upgrade and raise price of their holdings. Especially important is protection for the elderly and disabled persons.
 - f. Strict inspection schedule by inspectors and heavy fines or confiscation of their buildings on owners who fail to maintain their buildings.
 - g. Revise zoning laws to expand areas that allow group housing.
 - h. Build public housing on low and small human scale and allow a tenant to buy his unit.
 - i. Enact State laws on inclusionary zoning that requires developers to include units for low income tenants.
 - j. Oppose tax abatements for landlords who maintain vacant property.
 - k. Oppose subsidies and tax abatements for landlords who do not provide at least 20% affordable rentals in new construction. Affordable means that rents do not exceed 25% of income for persons with income below \$50,000.

5. Measures to Help Homeless Persons
- At the bottom of the pile are the homeless - around one million. Many homeless people have low-wage jobs but can't afford to pay rent and are forced to live in shelters or on the street.
- a. Open homeless shelters in areas near public transportation and close enough to work places for homeless people to get to work.
 - b. Repeal laws that criminalize any facet of homelessness including where they sleep, or that deny citizens the right to help homeless persons.
 - c. Re-affirm and enforce laws that open public buildings for the homeless in freezing weather.
 - d. Open feeding stations that guarantee two meals /day to homeless people.

6. Greatly expand community land trusts, such that they become available to anyone who chooses that type of home ownership.

7. We support government assistance to borrowers caught in the recent sub-prime lending crisis whereby they can keep their homes while paying down their loans.

8. Enforce fair housing laws against discrimination based on race, sex, familial status (children), marital status, disability, or sexual orientation.

9. Fully fund the Fair Employment and Housing Commission that funds non-profit organizations engaged in fair housing monitoring and enforcement.

10. All commercial, industrial, and residential buildings must be designed and built according to a green building code, both in design and in materials used.

11. Implement low-impact, site-specific designs that encourage human-scale development and promote development that encourages urban density - with green spaces - and that discourages urban sprawl.

M. Ethical Treatment of Animals

Cruelty to animals is unnecessary and immoral. The mark of a humane and civilized society lies in how we treat the least protected among us. To extend rights to other sentient living beings is our responsibility and a mark of our place among all of nature. We call for an intelligent, compassionate approach to the treatment of all animals.

We reject the belief that our species is the center of the world, and that other life forms exist only for our use and enjoyment. Our species does not have the right to exploit and inflict violence on other animals simply because we have the desire and power to do so. Our ethic upholds not only the value of biological diversity and the integrity and continuity of species, but also the value of individual lives and the interest of individual animals.

The Green Party advocates humane treatment of animals with the following policies:

1. Redirect the funds that are disbursed annually by the National Institutes of Health away from animal experiments and more towards direct health care, preventive medicine, and biomedical research using non-animal procedures such as clinical, epidemiological, and cell culture research. Any federal testing programs proposing animals tests must undergo a vigorous audit to assess their relevance and identify applicable non-animal testing strategies.

2. Phase-out the use of animals for consumer product testing, tobacco and alcohol testing, psychological testing, classroom demonstrations and dissections, weapons development and other military programs.

3. Mandate clear labeling of products to tell whether or not they have been tested on animals and if they contain any animal products or by-products.

4. Establish procedures to develop greater public scrutiny of all animal research. These should include the welfare of laboratory animals, including those currently excluded under the Animal Welfare Act, and a halt to wasteful public funding of unnecessary research such as duplicative experiments.

5. End the abuse of animals, including farm animals, and strengthen our enforcement of existing laws This should include amending the Humane Slaughter Act to cover all animals slaughtered for agricultural purposes, including religious (ritual) slaughter practices.

6. Ban the use of goods produced from exotic or endangered animals.

7. Prohibit large scale commercial breeding facilities, such as "puppy mills," because of the massive suffering, overpopulation, and ill health such facilities produce.

8. Subsidize spay and neuter clinics to combat the ever-worsening pet overpopulation problem that results in the killing of millions of animals every year. Where unwanted companion animals are being killed in shelters, we advocate mandatory spay and neuter laws.

9. Ban the practice of "pound seizure" whereby shelters are permitted or required to surrender impounded animals to laboratories upon request. Prohibit Class B dealers from selling animals from random sources to research facilities.

10. Ban canned hunts. This should include prohibiting the importation of indigenous and non-native animals and the sale of animals from zoos and other commercial "entertainment" industries for the purpose of canned hunts.

11. Ban the exploitation of animals in entertainment, gambling, and sports.