

2004 platform, [with changes including Budd's](#)

## II. SOCIAL JUSTICE

[Notes on first section: besides the proposed changes, the editors have dropped a couple of phrases.]

~~Historically,~~ America [historically](#) 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 [and are trained by mass culture to regard themselves first and foremost as consumers.](#) 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 honor the various types of spiritual expression in our diverse society. We firmly support the separation of church and state. [ ,but we also acknowledge the spiritual dimension of life, and we honor the cultivation of various types of spiritual experience in our diverse society.]~~

~~We self-aware human beings, all other pulsing beings, our incredible planet, and the vast unknowable universe are all totally awesome! [Roche]~~

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 the Great School~~

~~(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.~~

~~More than 46 million Americans have no medical insurance coverage. We support the shift in modern medicine to include healing through complementary therapies and engagement with the Great Hospital (Nature). We seek, in short, to facilitate the healthy person 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~~We 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.~~

[We are back to 2004 language for Women's Rights.]

### 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**

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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.

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

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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.

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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.

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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

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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.

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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.

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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.

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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

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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.

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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.

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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**

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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.

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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.

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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.

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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.

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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.

[note: End of 2004 text which has been restored.]

~~2. The Greens must bear witness and publicly campaign against the continuing abuse of women, and must support women and women's groups in those countries where abuse is practiced without penalty. In addition we demand that our government single out women and women's groups for foreign aid to help them gain equality under the law. ——— 1. Liaison among Green parties of the world and our concern for human rights must include women's rights and the protection of children in all countries and cultures. The advance in equality for women in the U.S. and western Europe is well ahead of the old status quo in many parts of the world.~~

## ~~5. International Women's Rights~~

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~~[Note—Rocha edit wiped out here]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. | p. The Green Party supports at~~

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~~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.~~

~~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. **Violence and Oppression**~~

~~4.~~

~~) that will provide for those who nurture the next generation—work that is of incalculable importance to our society. **True Cost Pricing and Tax Fairness** 1. 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~~

~~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. 2. The Green Party supports real reform that will sustain single mothers who cannot care for their children and travel to a minimum wage job. In keeping with the imperative for a safety net for all citizens, we support a universal basic income (known also as a guaranteed income or Citizen Dividend, as described in **True Cost Pricing and Tax Fairness**).~~

~~\_\_\_\_\_ 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. 1. Nationally, women still earn only 70% of men's wages for equal jobs. The Green Party calls for federal and state laws with enforcement requirements to achieve pay equity. Economic Equality~~

~~3.~~

~~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. 3. The US government must not deny support to NGOs that include family planning and abortion in their service to foreign countries that request such service.~~

~~\_\_\_\_\_ 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. offer these services free of charge to women at the poverty level. include contraception and abortion. For women below the poverty level government must offer these services free. be able to legally must in the U.S., and any state government health insurance policies. H Contraception and abortion must be included in all h 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. 2. 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.~~

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~~\_\_\_\_\_ 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. **Reproductive Rights**~~

~~2-~~

~~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.~~

~~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. **Women plaintiffs must [be] protected by the law rather than dismissed or harassed. actively investigate and prosecute sexual harassment complaints. must should The Equal Employment Opportunities Commission d.**~~

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~~We urge renewed efforts and campaigns to ratify the ERA. **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. ass. To pcall for passage of a. We support the equal application of the Constitution to all citizens, and therefore 1-**~~

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

### ~~Social Equality~~

~~Human history is replete with the oppression of, and brutality toward women. The Green Party deplores this system of male domination in all its forms—from inequality, and discrimination to domestic violence, rape, trafficking and forced slavery. Although equality is guaranteed in our Constitution and our laws, it must be constantly safeguarded to prevent the relapse of women to second-class citizens. We are committed to increasing participation of women in politics, government and leadership with the changes that entails. The election of Greens will re-enforce equal rights and opportunity for women and the Green's Women's Caucus is the spearhead to carry out that pledge. 1. **Women's Rights**~~

~~[Notes: Minor changes proposed by Richa are replaced by a major rewrite by Jenefer and Audrey.]~~

## 2. Racial Discrimination

~~The development of the United States has been marked by conflict over questions of race. Our nation was formed only after Native Americans were displaced. The institution of slavery had as its underpinnings the belief in white supremacy, which we as Greens condemn. In slavery's aftermath, people of color have borne the brunt of violence and discrimination. The Green Party unequivocally condemns these evils which continue to be a social problem of paramount significance.~~

~~a. We support efforts to overcome the effects of over 200 years of racial discrimination.~~

~~b. We call for an end to official support for any remaining symbols of slavery and specifically call for the removal of the Confederate battle flag from all government buildings.~~

~~c. People of color in this country have legitimate claims to reparations in the form of monetary compensation for centuries of discrimination. We also uphold the right of the descendants of African slaves to self-determination, as we do for all indigenous peoples.~~

~~d. We condemn the practice of racial profiling by law enforcement agencies, which are guilty of stopping motorists, harassing individuals, or using unwarranted violence against suspects with no other justification than race or ethnic background.~~

~~e. We favor strong measures to combat official racism in the forms of police brutality directed against people of color.~~

~~f. We support effective enforcement of the Voting Rights Act, including language access to voting.~~

~~g. We oppose discriminatory English-only pressure groups. We call for a national language policy that would encourage all citizens to be fluent in at least two languages. [See section **K. Immigration / Emigration** in this chapter].~~

~~h. We strongly support the vigorous enforcement of civil rights laws, the aggressive prosecution of hate crimes, and the strengthening of legal services for the poor.~~

\_\_\_ 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-Indigenous PeoplesEly}**

~~We have great respect for Native American cultures, especially their deference for community and the Earth.~~

~~a. We recognize both the sovereignty of Native American tribal governments and the Federal Government's trust obligation to Native American people. Native American nations are just that—nations—and should be treated in like fashion, with the special circumstance that they are located within the United States.~~

~~b. The federal government is obligated to deal in good faith with Native Americans; honor its treaty obligations; adequately fund programs for the betterment of tribal governments and their people; affirm the religious rights of Native Americans in ceremonies (American Indian Religious Freedom Act); provide funds for innovative economic development initiatives, education and public health programs; and respect land, water and mineral rights within the borders of reservations and traditional lands.~~

~~c. We support efforts to broadly reform the Bureau of Indian Affairs to make this vast agency more responsible and more responsive to tribal governments.~~

~~d. We support the just settlement of the claims of the thousands of Native American uranium miners who have suffered and died from radiation exposure. We condemn the stance of secrecy taken by the Atomic Energy Commission during this era and its subsequent claim of government immunity, taken knowingly and immorally at the expense of Native people. We support the complete clean-up of those mines and tailing piles, which are a profoundly destructive legacy of the Cold War.~~

~~e. Native American land and treaty rights often stand as the front line against government and multinational corporate attempts to plunder energy, mineral, timber, fish, and game resources; pollute water, air, and land in the service of the military; expand economically; and consume natural resources. We support legal, political, and grassroots efforts by, and on behalf of, Native Americans to protect their traditions, rights, livelihoods, and sacred spaces.~~

### **34. 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.

~~43. Indigenous Peoples, including Native Hawaiians~~

[Note, this proposed section replaces the sections on Indigenous Peoples, ~~and Native Hawaiians.~~]

~~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. Throughout our history, we have ignored many treaties with Native Americans.~~

~~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 ~~n~~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.

~~8. The protection and preservation of the rights of Native Hawaiians are equivalent to those of Native Americans and must be given the same respect.~~

## ~~5. Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity~~

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

~~a. The Green Party affirms the rights of all individuals to freely choose intimate partners, regardless of their sex, gender, or sexual orientation.~~

~~b. We support the recognition of equal rights of persons gay, lesbian, bisexual, or transgender to housing, jobs, civil marriage, medical benefits, child custody, and in all areas of life provided to all other citizens.~~

~~c. We support the inclusion of language in state and federal anti-discrimination law that ensures the rights of intersex individuals and prohibits discrimination based on gender identity, characteristics, and expression. We are opposed to intersex genital mutilation.~~

~~d. We support the right of all persons to self-determination with regard to gender identity and sex. We therefore support the right of intersex and transgender individuals to be free from coercion and involuntary assignment of gender or sex. We support access to medical and surgical treatment for assignment or reassignment of gender or sex, based on informed consent.~~

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

~~\_\_54. Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity~~

[Note, this section replaces the 2004 section with the same name.]

\_\_\_\_ 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**

~~We support the full enforcement of the Americans with Disabilities Act to enable all people with disabilities to achieve independence and function at the highest possible level. Government should work to ensure that children with disabilities are provided with the same educational opportunities as those without disabilities.~~

~~The physically and mentally challenged are people who are differently-abled from the majority, but who are nevertheless able to live independently. The mentally ill are people with serious mental problems who often need social support networks. Physically and mentally challenged people have the right to live independently in their communities. The mentally ill also have the right to live independently, circumscribed only by the limitations of their illness. These people are their own best advocates in securing their rights and for living in the social and economic mainstream.~~

~~Current Medicaid policy forces many challenged people to live in costly state-funded institutions. Excluding these people from society alienates them; excluding them from the work force denies them the chance to use their potentials.~~

~~The diminishing funds available to provide care for the growing number of the mentally ill often result in their homelessness, vagrancy and dependence on short-term crisis facilities. Lack of funding also increases the necessity of placing them in long-term, locked facilities.~~

~~The Green Party urges the government to:~~

~~a. Increase rehabilitation funding so that persons with disabilities can pursue education and training to reach their highest potential. The differently-abled should participate fully in the allocation decisions of state rehabilitation departments' funds.~~

~~b. Aggressively implement the Americans with Disabilities Act.~~

~~c. Fund in-home support services to allow the differently-abled to hire personal care attendants while remaining at home.~~

~~d. Allocate adequate funding to support community-based programs that~~

~~provide out-patient medical services, case management services and counseling programs. We should provide a residential setting within the community for those who do not need institutional care but who are unable to live independently.~~

~~e. Make it easier for the chronically mentally ill to apply for and receive Supplemental Security Income.~~

~~f. Mainstream the differently-abled. Increase the training of teachers in regards to the needs of differently-abled students.~~

~~g. Discourage stereotyping of the mentally and physically challenged by the entertainment industry and the media.~~

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

## 65. Rights of the Disabled and Mentally Ill

We support:

1. ~~T~~he 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.

~~3.2. Neglect of the housing needs and care for the mentally ill has resulted in many being homeless; a danger to themselves and possibly to others.~~ The government's obligation to care for the mentally ill is a constant, not just after the person is in a crisis.

4.3. 1 ~~—————~~ We support:

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

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

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

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

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

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

108. Fund publicity programs to increase public sensitivity to the needs of the mentally ill and differently-abled. [John Ely]

## ~~7-6-7.~~ Religious Freedom and Secular Equality

~~[Note, there are two proposed versions of this next paragraph.]~~

~~Version 1.~~ 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.

~~Version 2: The United States Bill of Rights guarantees freedom of religion.~~

We call for:

~~a. Ending discriminatory federal, state, and local laws against particular religious beliefs, and non-belief. The U.S. Constitution states that there shall be no religious test for public office. This requirement should apply to oaths (or affirmations) for holding public office at any level, employment at all government levels, oaths for witnesses in courts, oaths for jury membership, and the oath for citizenship.~~

~~b. Prosecution of hate crimes based on religious affiliation or practice.~~

~~1. Re-affirmation of the first amendment rights, and vigorous prosecution of hate crimes based on religious affiliation or practice.~~

~~e 2. Elimination of displays of religious symbols, monuments, or statements on government buildings, property, websites, money, or documents.~~

~~d 3. Restoration of the Pledge of Allegiance to its pre- 1954 version; by eliminating the politically motivated addition of phrase "under Ggod."~~

~~e 4. Ending faith-based initiatives and charitable choice programs, whereby using public funds, are used to support religious organizations that do not adhere to specified guidelines and standards, including anti-discrimination laws.~~

~~f 5. Ending school vouchers; whereby public money pays for students in religious schools.~~

~~g. Ending governmental use of the doctrines of specific religions to define the nature of family, marriage, and the type and character of personal relationships between consenting adults.~~

~~h 6. Ending Prohibit religiously-based curricula in government-funded public schools.~~

~~i. Ending the use of religion as a justification to deny children necessary medical care or subject them to physical and emotional abuse.~~

~~j. Ending the use of religion by government to define the role and rights of women in our society.~~

~~k 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. Any private organization that practices bigotry against certain religious beliefs and classes of people should not have a Congressional endorsement or access to public property and funds.~~

## **88-7. Child and Youth Rights** [\[note Taylor merges this section with Education\]](#)

~~All human beings have the right to a life that will let them achieve their full potential.~~ 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.a. Youth~~ **Our young** are not the property of their parents or guardians, but are under their care and guidance.

~~2.b. Youth~~ **Our young** have the right to survive by being provided adequate food, shelter and comprehensive health care, including prenatal care for mothers.

~~3.e. Youth~~ **Our young** have the right to be protected from abuse, harmful drugs, violence, environmental hazards, neglect, and exploitation.

~~4.d. Youth~~ **Our young** have the right to develop in a safe and nurturing early environment provided by affordable child care and pre-school preparation.

~~5.e. Youth~~ **Our young** have the right to an education that is stimulating, relevant, engaging, and that fosters their natural desire to learn.

~~6.f.~~ Young people's creative potential should be encouraged to the greatest extent possible.

~~7.g.~~ Young people should have input into the direction and pace of their own education, including input into the operation of their educational institutions.

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

~~9.i.~~ 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.j.~~ 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.](#)

## **98. Veterans' Rights**

[Note, there are two competing proposals on Veterans' Rights. Version 1 is below. At the end of Version 1, Version 2 is presented.]

~~Support for men and women in the armed forces must go far beyond the rhetoric used to discredit the peace movement in the U.S. today. We believe that the ill-advised and illegal actions of the U.S. administration have unnecessarily put our troops in harm's way. We further believe that the dangerous burden of fighting the unnecessary war in Iraq, and the wars that may follow, due to the administration's overly narrow and militaristic response to terrorism is disproportionately borne by families of lesser means. Those who are required to carry out militaristic policies, often with great hardship to themselves, their families, and even the risk of their lives, deserve our respect and our commitment to adequate compensation and benefits.~~

**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:

~~a. Increase the current pay levels, monthly imminent danger pay, and family separation allowances for those risking their lives in combat zones.~~

~~\_\_\_\_\_ 1.b. 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.e. 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.d. Honor all laws concerning time limits on deployments.~~

~~\_\_\_\_\_ 4.e. 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.f. Ensure a smooth transition from active military service life to civilian life by providing counseling, tuition grants, housing, emergency management, job protection, and other support systems.~~

~~\_\_\_\_\_ 6.g. Restore full funding for veterans' health programs.~~

~~h. Request Congress to enact a new GI Bill, similar to the one that began after World War II and ended in 1981, to provide the following benefits:~~

~~Tuition grants for four years of college or other educational opportunities.~~

~~Low interest loans for housing or business start-ups.~~

~~Free medical care for military personnel and their families for ten years following separation from the armed forces—until~~

~~universal health care becomes a reality.~~

~~\_\_\_\_\_ 7.i. Support and respect Conscientious Objector status. **during all phases of the process.** 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.j. 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.~~

~~1. Increase the current pay levels, monthly imminent danger pay, and family separation allowances for military personnel in combat zones.]~~

~~\_\_\_\_\_ . Veteran's Rights inserted below Version 2 on]~~

~~2. Honor legal limits on deployment, allowing rare exceptions, and extend home leave, and rest and relaxation leave for combat military to a minimum of six weeks. \_\_\_\_\_~~

~~3. Ensure that all pre-deployment physicals are complete and that medical follow ups are done routinely on all. \_\_\_\_\_~~

~~4. Independent medical panels must examine and oversee the military policies regarding forced vaccinations and shots. \_\_\_\_\_~~

~~5. Care for the military wounded, sick and injured returning home is required without qualification, for as long as necessary. \_\_\_\_\_~~

## **~~109. 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.~~

~~\_\_\_\_\_ 32. 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.~~

~~\_\_\_\_\_ 43. 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.~~

~~\_\_\_\_\_ 54. 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.

65. 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.

## 10. 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.

~~The Green Party calls on Congress and the courts to reign in constitutional and civil liberties abuses that have become prevalent in the Bush administration and the John Ashcroft Justice Department.~~

## B. Environmental Justice

~~Greens support a holistic approach to justice recognizing that environmental justice, social justice and economic justice depend on and support each other.~~

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. Devoting greater efforts to full enforcement and prosecution of environmental crimes. Government oversight of responsible agencies, and prosecution for their delinquency for non-enforcement of enforcement crimes.~~
- ~~2. Funding environmental crime units for district attorneys in counties with significant pollution problems. Expand legal responsibility of Environmental~~

Protection Agency (EPA) to investigate and penalize industry with slack enforcement of anti-pollution laws.

3. ~~Moratoria~~Imposing a moratorium on siting new toxic chemical or waste facilities in those counties with the highest percentage exposure to hazardous substances.areas with high hazardous waste already deposited.

4. ~~Not forcing workers to choose between a hazardous job or no job at all.~~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. Preventing communities, especially low-income or minority communities, from being coerced by governmental agencies or corporations into siting hazardous materials, or accepting environmentally hazardous practices in order to create jobs. 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.

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### **C. Economic Justice / Social Safety Net**

~~The passage of the 1996 Welfare Act by Congress, and its signing by the President, confronts us with hard choices. Democrats and Republicans seem to be saying we cannot afford to care for children and poor mothers. In ending over fifty years of federal policy guaranteeing cash assistance for poor children, Congress has set in motion a radical experiment that will have a profound impact on the lives of the weakest members of our society. How will state, city and county governments, local communities, businesses, religious institutions—all of us—respond?~~

~~We have a special responsibility to the health and well being of the young. Yet we see the federal safety net being removed and replaced with limited and potentially harsh state welfare programs. How will social services be adequately provided if local resources are already stretched thin?~~

~~We believe our community priorities must first protect the young and helpless. Yet how will state legislatures and agencies, under pressure from more powerful interests, react? We believe local decision-making is important, but we realize, as we learned during the civil rights era, that strict federal standards must guide state actions in providing basic protections. As the richest nation in history, we should not condemn millions of children to a life of poverty, while corporate welfare is increased to historic highs.~~

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~~the 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. It is critical that the public protections of Social Security are not privatized and subjected to increased risk. The bottom 20% of American senior citizens get roughly 80% of their income from Social Security, and without Social Security, nearly 70% of black elderly and 60% of Latino elderly households would be in poverty.

## D. Welfare:

### A Commitment to Ending Poverty

An unjust society is an unsustainable society. When communities are stressed by poverty, violence and despair, our ability to meet the challenges of the post-industrial age are critically impaired. A holistic, future-focused perspective on how we distribute resources in this country would consider the effects of such distribution not just on our present needs, but on the seventh generation to come.

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. All people have a right to food, housing, medical care, jobs that pay a living wage, education, and support in times of hardship. [included above]~~

~~\_\_\_\_\_ 2. Work performed outside the monetary system has inherent social and economic value, and is essential to a healthy, sustainable economy and peaceful communities. Such work includes; voluntary community service; continuing education; participating in government; and the arts.~~

~~\_\_\_\_\_ 13. 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. This program should be funded through the existing welfare budget, reductions in military spending and corporate subsidies, and a fair, progressive income tax.~~

~~\_\_\_\_\_ 4. 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.~~

~~\_\_\_\_\_ 5. We advocate reinvesting a significant portion of the military budget into family support, living wage job development, and work training programs. Publicly funded work training and education programs should have a goal of increasing employment options at finding living wage jobs.~~

~~\_\_\_\_\_ 26. We support public funding for the development of living-wage jobs in community and environmental service. For example, environmental clean-up, recycling, sustainable agriculture and food production, sustainable forest management, repair and maintenance of public facilities, neighborhood-based public safety, aides in schools, libraries and childcare centers, and construction and renovation of energy efficient housing. We oppose enterprise zone giveaways which benefit corporations more than inner-city communities~~

~~\_\_\_\_\_ 7. The accumulation of individual wealth in the U.S. has reached grossly unbalanced proportions. It is clear that we cannot rely on the rich to regulate their profit making excesses for the good of society through "trickle-down economics." 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.~~

~~\_\_\_\_\_ 38. 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.~~

~~\_\_\_\_\_ 49. 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?

[Taylor merges youth with the education section]

~~Access to quality education for all Americans is the difference that will lead to a strong and diverse community. Fundamental changes in our priorities are needed at the national and local levels, within the public and private sectors, in the classroom, and at home to make education our first priority. 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. [Taylor]~~

## ~~1. Education~~

~~Greens support educational diversity. We hold no dogma absolute, continually striving for truth in the realm of ideas. We open ourselves, consciously and intuitively, to truth and beauty in the world of nature. We view learning as a lifelong process to which all people have an equal right.~~

~~Education starts with choice, and within public education we believe in broad choices. Magnet schools, Site-based Management, Schools within Schools, alternative models, and parental involvement are ways in which elementary education can be changed to make a real difference in the lives of our children. Curricula should focus on skills—both basic skills that serve as a solid foundation for higher learning, and exploratory approaches that expand horizons, such as distance learning, interactive education, computer proficiency, perspectives that bring an enriched awareness of nature (biological literacy), intercultural experiences, and languages.~~

~~Greens view learning as a lifelong and life-affirming process. In learning, and openness to learning, we create the foundation of our platform:~~

- ~~a. We advocate creative and noncompetitive education at every age level, and the inclusion of cultural diversity in all curricula. We encourage hands-on approaches that promote a multitude of individual learning styles.~~

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. [Taylor]

~~b. Parental responsibility should be encouraged by supporting parenting, as more families confront economic conditions that demand more time be spent away from home. Parents should be as involved as possible in their children's~~

~~education; values do start with parents. Teaching human sexuality is a parental and school responsibility.~~

—      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 ~~a-~~ curricula that prepare ~~s~~ them equally to enter society with the learning and information necessary to be productive citizens and to participate in a democratic state. [Taylor]

~~e. Student responsibility is a key to developing capabilities.  
Greens hold strongly to the empowerment of individuals.  
Students should recognize their own personal responsibilities  
and strive to achieve their fullest potential as individuals.~~

—      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. [Taylor]

—      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. [Taylor]

~~d. Federal policy on education should act principally to ensure  
equal access to a quality education.~~

~~e. Educational funding formulas at the state level need to be adjusted as  
needed to avoid gross inequalities between districts and schools. Educational  
grants should provide balance to ensure equal educational access for minority,  
deprived, special needs, and exceptional children. In higher education, federal  
college scholarship aid should be increased and offered to any qualified  
student.~~

~~f. Our teachers are underpaid, overworked and rarely supplied with the  
resources necessary to do their work. It is time to stop disinvesting in education,  
and start placing it at the top of our social and economic agenda.~~

~~g. We call for equitable state and national funding for education and the  
creation of schools controlled by parent teacher governing bodies.~~

     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.

[Note-- contradictory amendments proposed here]

     6. We oppose vouchers, or any scheme that will transfer money out of the public school system. ~~That course only leads to a separate and unequal educational system. We also oppose charter schools or the administration of public schools by private, for-profit entities. We oppose~~

~~cha has the second sentence read," if R~~ 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.1. Early learning (pre-kindergarten) programs in all schools.

b.2i. We support Aavailability of after-school programs, including music, art, and dance, in or near the school for for "latekey"all children.

c3.j. We advocate sState funding for day care that includes school children under the age of ten when after-school programs are not available.

~~k. Classroom teachers at the elementary and high school levels should be given professional status and salaries comparable to related professions requiring advanced education, training and responsibility.~~

~~8. Greens oppose:—~~

~~1. Corporeal punishment called "discipline" either at home or at school, used against youth. Violence begets violence and using violence condones it as part of our prevailing culture and passes it from one generation to the next. [Included above].~~

~~d2. We support inclusion r~~Requiring of a non-violent, conflict resolution class in all schools beginning in high school. ~~this course is not an extra—it is basic to the curriculum and may be combined with a social studies class. When a student dispute, during or after class, occurs, a peer mediation should be set up as soon as possible so that students may practice the skill of mediation in conflict resolution.—~~

~~i. Principals are also essential components in effective educational institutions. We encourage state Departments of Education and school boards to deliver more programmatic support and decision-making to the true grassroots level—the classroom teacher and school principal.~~

~~m. Use of computers in the early grades should not supplant the development of basic interpersonal, perceptual, and motor skills as a foundation for learning.~~

~~n. Dispute resolution is an important part of resolving classroom or after-school disputes, and a life skill that all children should learn. We call for the teaching of non-violent conflict resolution at all levels of education.~~

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

—

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

~~However, computer and other technical training must never supplant the academic learning and practice that goes on in the classroom guided by the teacher and shared with the other students. Learning at the K-12 level is a communal enterprise and students learn best when the experience is shared with others.~~

~~—104.e. We recognize the viable alternative of home-based education.~~

~~112. 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.p. We support a host of innovative and critical educational efforts, such as bi-lingual education, continuing education, job retraining, mentoring and apprenticeship programs.~~

~~132. Corporations have no place in our educational institutions. Schools and school teams must be free from the intrusiveness of commercial advertising. 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.~~

~~q. We are deeply concerned about the intervention in our schools of corporations that promote a culture of consumption and waste. Schools should not be vehicles for commercial advertising. Schools must safeguard students' privacy rights and not make private student information available on corporate (or federal government) request.~~

~~134. This is Equally true in higher education. Academic research must not be controlled by corporations or the US military.~~

~~r. Within higher education, we oppose military and corporate control over the priorities and topics of academic research. 145. We support tuition-free post secondary education in a community college, liberal arts college or vocational training academy. Until our society agrees that these levels of education are a public need and serve a public purpose, we advocate a greatly expanded government loan program, including Americorps for 2 years, to leverage the education of our youth and equip them to enter public life as citizens, not consumers.~~

~~Government loans for education s. We support tuition-free post-secondary (collegiate and vocational) public education.~~

~~t. In an economy that demands higher skills and a democracy that depends on an informed, educated electorate, opportunities for universal higher education and life-long learning must be vastly expanded.~~

~~u. Until tuition-free schooling is available to all, student loans should be available to all students attending college, and should be repayable as a proportion of future earnings rather than at a fixed rate.~~

~~v. Individualized training accounts should be made available to students who~~

~~choose to pursue vocational and continuing education.  
w. The Leave No Child Behind Act must be repealed, especially the section that gives the military access to student records.~~

## 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. ~~Artists can create in ways that foster healthy, non-alienating relationships between people and their daily environments, communities, and the Earth. This can include both artists whose themes advocate compassion, nurturance, or cooperation; and artists whose creations unmask the often-obscure connections between various forms of violence, domination, and oppression, or effectively criticize aspects of the very community that supports their artistic activity. The arts can only perform their social function if they are completely free from outside control.~~

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:

\_\_\_\_\_ a1. A publicly funded health care insurance program, administered at the state and local levels.

2\_\_\_\_\_ b. Lifetime benefits for everyone, including: dental, vision, mental health care, hospice, long\_term care, substance abuse treatment and medication coverage.

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

4\_\_\_\_\_ d. Decision\_making in the hands of health providers and their patients.

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

6\_\_\_\_\_ f. Portable health plan benefits.

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

\_\_\_\_\_ 8\_\_\_\_\_ h. Fair and full reimbursement to providers for their services.

~~1. Medicare, which provides health care for over 40 million Americans, is at risk. We would vigorously pursue savings and cuts from abundant waste and fraud, eliminate unnecessary services that benefit providers more than patients, and rein in pharmaceutical industry price-gouging.~~

~~— 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. 2. 70% to 85% of illness in America is due to unmanaged stress. This means that national measures to reduce work hours, promote cyber commuting for work, and increased vacation time for workers will significantly improve the public's health. We advocate access for all, irrelevant of income, to stress management training such as meditation techniques, yoga, tai chi, qigong, and biofeedback.~~

~~— We support:~~

- ~~1 — a. Expand the teaching of public health and preventive treatment in medical schools.~~
- ~~2 — b. Prohibiting snack food and sweets in all public schools.~~
- ~~3 — c. Serving organic food and a proper balance of vegetables, fruits and meat in public school meals.~~
- ~~4 — d. Requiring school nutritionists to plan a healthy, protein rich diet to be served in the school.~~
- ~~5 — e. Inclusion of a nutrition and health course coupled with sex education taught in every high school~~

~~3. A large percentage of illness is diet related; therefore, improving the quality of our nation's food supply and our personal eating habits will lessen the strain on our health care system. We advocate subsidies for organic foods, as well as removing sugar /caffeine snacks from schools. This could save our nation as much as \$700 to \$850 billion of the \$1 trillion annual health costs.~~

~~\_\_3. Health Programs and Medical Treatment~~

- ~~1 — a. We support the availability of holistic health approaches and, the use of complementary and alternative therapies such as herbal medicines, homeopathy and acupuncture.~~
- ~~2 — 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. ~~We also oppose the harassment, prosecution or revocation of license of any health care provider who gives a recommendation or prescription for medicinal marijuana.~~

~~3. \_\_\_\_\_ c. We support informed consent laws to protect consumers of the impact of types of treatment and including different treatments prescribed. eandd attention to family medicine as opposed to increased medical specialization,~~

~~4. \_\_\_\_\_ 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]~~

~~5. \_\_\_\_\_ 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.~~

~~6. \_\_\_\_\_ f. Expand and enlarge public health services for special needs: the mentally ill, the handicapped, and those who are terminally ill.~~

~~7. \_\_\_\_\_ 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. We support the teaching of holistic health approaches and, as appropriate, the use of complementary and alternative therapies such as herbal medicines, homeopathy, acupuncture, and other healing approaches.~~

~~5. We call for wider implementation of hospice care.~~

~~6. We oppose the arrest, harassment or prosecution of anyone involved in any aspect of the production, cultivation, transportation, distribution or consumption of medicinal marijuana. We also oppose the harassment, prosecution or revocation of license of any health care provider who gives a recommendation or prescription for medicinal marijuana.~~

~~7. We support informed consent laws to educate consumers to potential health impact of types of treatment. For truly informed consent, a professional must explain the limitations of his or her professional training, and make the patient aware of what other professionals could offer differently or in addition.~~

~~8. Primary care, through a renewed attention to family medicine as opposed to increased medical specialization, is necessary.~~

~~9. 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]~~

~~10. Medical research must be increased, and alternative therapies actively sought, to combat diseases and eliminate their causes, especially cancer and HIV / AIDS.~~

~~11. We call for competent social and health services for those who have special needs: the mentally ill, the handicapped, and those who are terminally ill.~~

~~12. Public policy needs to move in the direction of a voluntary, community-based mental health system that safeguards human dignity, respects individual autonomy, and protects informed consent. A wide variety of humane, effective, and empowering alternative and complementary approaches should be available for anyone who experiences a psychiatric problem or mental disability.~~

### ~~1. Universal Health Care~~

~~The United States is the only industrialized nation in the world without a national health care system. The current system's high costs and widely recognized failures demand that bold steps be taken. The Green Party supports a universal, comprehensive, national single-payer health insurance program as the only solution to the current disastrous for-profit system.~~

~~Under a universal national single-payer health care system, the administrative waste of private insurance corporations would be redirected to patient care. If the U.S. were to shift to a system of universal coverage and a single-payer plan, as in Canada, the savings in administrative costs would be more than enough to offset the cost. Expenses for businesses currently providing coverage would be reduced. State and local governments would pay less because they would receive reimbursement for services provided to the previously uninsured, and because public programs would cease to be the "dumping ground" for high-risk patients and those rejected by HMOs when they become disabled and unemployed.~~

~~Most importantly, the people of America will gain the peace of mind in knowing that needed health care will always be available to them. No longer will people have to worry about facing financial disaster if they become seriously ill, are laid off their jobs, or are injured in an accident.~~

~~The Green Party supports a universal, comprehensive, national single-payer health plan that will provide the following with no increase in cost:~~

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

~~b. Lifetime benefits for everyone. No one will lose coverage for any reason.~~

~~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. Comprehensive benefits, as good or better than existing plans, including dental, vision, mental health care, hospice, long-term care, substance abuse treatment and medication coverage.~~

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

~~g. Portable health plan benefits.~~

~~h. Primary and preventive care as priorities, including wellness education about diet, nutrition and exercise.~~

~~i. Greatly reduced paperwork for both patients and providers.~~

~~j. Fair and full reimbursement to providers for their services.~~

~~k. Preservation of all health care services currently available.~~

~~l. Cost controls via streamlined administration, national fee schedules, bulk purchases of drugs and medical equipment, and coordination of capital expenditures. Prices of medications must be publicly supervised.~~  
~~m. Hospitals that can afford safe staffing levels for registered nurses.~~  
~~n. Establishment of national, state, and local Health Policy Boards consisting of health consumers and providers to oversee and evaluate the performance of the system, expand access to care, and determine research priorities. All meetings of the boards shall be open to the public.~~  
~~o. 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

~~1~~ ~~—~~ ~~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.

~~2~~ ~~—~~ ~~\_\_\_\_\_~~ ~~b.~~ Give equal access to all affected, including prisoners, to AIDS education, drug treatment, condoms, microbicides and other medications.

~~3~~ ~~—~~ ~~\_\_\_\_\_~~ ~~c.~~ Provide housing and treatment for homeless and poor people with AIDS/HIV.

~~4~~ ~~—~~ ~~\_\_\_\_\_~~ ~~d.~~ Lift the Federal ban on needle exchanges and support needle exchange programs and others that help drug addicts.

~~5~~ ~~—~~ ~~\_\_\_\_\_~~ ~~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.

~~We call for comprehensive, humane, and competent care of all people with AIDS/HIV.~~

~~An all-out campaign must be waged against AIDS and HIV. The AIDS epidemic has not been adequately addressed at the local, state, federal, or international levels. All people in all countries, including those with AIDS/HIV, have a right to medical care, protection from discrimination, and confidentiality.~~

~~Drug corporations have a strong profit motivation to make this disease a manageable one (like diabetes) with guaranteed sales of very expensive drugs, in the billions of dollars every year. Drug companies have not emphasized research that targets a cure. While new drugs have dramatically saved lives, many have side effects so debilitating that the quality of life is poor, if not intolerable during the extended lifetime of the patient. But even these need to be produced generically to stop the devastation resulting from corporate refusal to provide these drugs to the millions dying throughout the world who cannot afford these basic lifesaving drugs. Drug researchers should have a cure for AIDS as their ultimate goal.~~

~~The Green Party calls for:~~

~~a. Increased funding for AIDS education and patient care.~~

- ~~b. Increased funding for comprehensive sex education that includes AIDS education.~~
- ~~c. Increased funding for research focusing on a cure, methods of prevention, and on bolstering the immune system.~~
- ~~d. Improved technology, facilities, laboratories, researchers, staff and personnel to cure AIDS/HIV. A "Manhattan Project" for a cure is required.~~
- ~~e. Complete sharing of information between researchers, funding agencies (including corporations), and the public on AIDS/HIV before awarding the next research grant.~~
- ~~f. More research into better methods of prevention of HIV infection. While we support condom use, better condoms are also required. We support more vaccine research.~~
- ~~g. Equal access to AIDS education, treatment and medications for all affected. Accordingly, funding and accountability should be increased.~~
- ~~h. Allowing all prisoners affected with AIDS/HIV in all countries to have the same access as free citizens to education, treatment, preventive measures (including condom use), and medical care.~~
- ~~i. A uniform international definition of AIDS.~~
- ~~j. Protecting the confidentiality of all people diagnosed with AIDS/HIV or tested for HIV.~~
- ~~k. More careful and timely approval of effective AIDS drugs by the FDA.~~
- ~~l. Production of affordable and available versions of patented medicines in all countries.~~
- ~~m. Targeting the young for age appropriate education about AIDS/HIV and appropriate methods of prevention. We support sex education and the distribution of condoms in schools.~~
- ~~n. Prevention awareness and access to condoms to prevent the spread of AIDS. We condemn HIV related discrimination.~~
- ~~o. Make drug treatment and other programs available for all addicts who seek help.~~
- ~~p. Expand clinical trials for treatments and vaccines.~~
- ~~q. Speed up the FDA drug approval process.~~
- ~~r. Providing housing for homeless and poor people with AIDS/HIV.~~
- ~~s. Providing treatment for homeless people with AIDS/HIV.~~
- ~~t. Support for needle exchange programs and for programs to help drug addicts.~~
- ~~u. No mandatory screening for AIDS/HIV; anonymous screening must be available.~~
  - ~~v. Lifting 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. ~~And as union membership falls, so do the wages of all working people, union and non-union alike. We support efforts to overcome these legal handicaps, especially in the South and Southwest where the laws are most hostile. We also must dedicate ourselves to fighting for a complete overhaul of this country's labor laws.~~

~~1. We support the irreducible right of the working people in a company, without hindrance, to form a union and to bargain collectively with their employer. 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 ~~Furthermore, we support the right of workers, without penalty, to inform other workers on the premises of a union being formed.~~

~~This includes advertising and recruiting. This includes advertising and recruiting.~~

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

~~The 1936 Act has been eroded and diluted over the years by incremental infringements and restrictions, especially by the Taft-Hartley Act of 1947 (which includes the union shop) passed over President Truman's veto. We stand for repeal of the Taft-Hartley Act.~~

—      5. Workers must have the following rights and protections:

~~.It is imperative that employees in a company or business enjoy workplace democracy, which includes the following: 2      a. The right to elect representatives to sit equally with management onto the Board of Directors of the business where they work, and their representatives must will have equal rights with management.~~

~~2      b. to elect their own union officers. The right to fair and democratic elections of their own union officers.~~

~~c. No permanent replacement of striking workers.~~

~~4      d. No forced overtime.~~

~~5      e. to Encourage flexible working schedules to allow managing~~

~~employees can arrange our own time to deal with~~ personal and family concerns  
6 ~~\_\_\_\_\_ f. y or permanent, must~~All workers, temporary ~~I to~~ be paid a living wage, including temporary and permanent workers.

7 ~~\_\_\_\_\_ g. Until we have universal health care, the employer must pay All workers must have health care coverage, at least~~at least half of workers' health insurance.paid by employer, until the passage of universal health care.

8 ~~\_\_\_\_\_ h. All workers must have unemployment insurance, workers' compensation, and access to a jobs search program. when they are unemployed. This security applies to farm workers as well.~~

9 ~~\_\_\_\_\_ i. Require minimum pensions for a~~All workers ~~must have minimum pensions, fully~~ vested and portable, ~~that do not reduce social security benefits.~~

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

11 ~~\_\_\_\_\_ 7. When a N~~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.

12 ~~\_\_\_\_\_ 8. Labor must have~~has 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.

~~We support a law requiring employers who purchase or merge with other companies to honor all existing collective bargaining agreements and contracts.~~

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

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

~~3. We support the enactment of living wage laws that apply to all workers. A major consequence of this law will be the lessening of the ever-widening gap between CEOs' income and workers' pay.~~

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

~~5. We encourage cooperative ownership and management of enterprises whenever a buy-out is possible.~~

~~8. 6. We support day care service offered at every workplace when feasible, or reasonably near by when not feasible at the workplace.~~

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

710. ~~\_\_\_\_\_ 13. Management's un~~hindered right to close its workplace and move to a lower-pay locale must be circumscribed to the degree ~~necessary that it to~~ protects the local workforce and their job security.

11 ~~\_\_\_\_\_ 14. We support the 35-hour work week.~~

~~8. We support the establishment of a reduced hour work week~~

~~and at least one month of vacation per year for all workers. 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.~~

9.

~~12- 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. .~~

~~10. All workers have a right to a safe and humane working environment. A lack of adequate enforcement of Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) laws and/or insufficient standards put many workers at risk.~~

~~We support the following safety policies:~~

~~Protect and enforce OSHA laws. We insist on adequate testing of equipment and funding of enforcement procedures.~~

~~Inform workers of workplace hazards. Employers have a responsibility to protect workers from those hazards.~~

~~Legislate full funding for worker safety programs at both the state and federal levels.~~

~~Insist on agricultural practices that don't endanger farm workers. Put agricultural practices under the jurisdiction of OSHA.~~

~~13- 16. The law on family medical leave for workers must not be circumvented, undermined or in any way reduced in range or time.~~

~~11. We stand firmly opposed to privatization and contracting out of public services. A government that works for us would provide critical goods and services that should not be run for profit.~~

## H. Criminal Justice

~~[Note, Jane Zara rewrote this section, her rewrite wipes out several changes proposed by Riécha.]~~

~~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. The effects of imprisonment are largely negative. Prisoners are increasingly isolated from the communities they came from and are often denied contact with the outside world or the media. Access to educational and legal materials is disappearing. Boredom and hopelessness prevail. The United States has the highest recidivism rate of any industrialized country. Rape is a serious problem in prison. The increasingly widespread privatization of prisons renders some prisoners virtual corporate slaves.~~

~~Law enforcement is placing too much emphasis on drug related and petty street crimes, and not enough on prosecution of corporate, white collar, and environmental crimes. Defrauding someone of their life savings is the same as robbery. Spraying pesticides while workers are in the fields, negligently maintaining dangerous workplaces that result in death or maiming, or dumping toxic substances should be treated the same as other crimes.~~

~~At the same time, we must develop a firm approach to law enforcement that directly addresses violent crime, including trafficking in hard drugs. Violence that creates a climate of further violence must be stopped.~~

~~Police brutality has reached epidemic levels in the United States and we call for effective monitoring of police agencies to eliminate police brutality.~~

~~We support a citizen's right of access to justice. Our system of justice must be made convenient to rich and poor alike, guarding it against big business' attempts to regulate and, in effect, control our civil justice /civil jury system.~~

~~— \_\_\_\_ 1. The Green Party supports: The Green Party proposes the following policies:~~

#### ~~Alternatives to Incarceration~~

~~1 \_\_\_\_ a. Repeal "3 strikes, you're out" law.~~

~~2 \_\_\_\_ b. Repeal Sentencing Guidelines and restore sentencing to the judge's discretion within a boundary that makes the penalty proportional to the crime.~~

~~3 \_\_\_\_ 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.~~

~~4 \_\_\_\_ d. Repeal Pres. Bush's law (Patriot Act) that allows detention of any targeted person suspected of terrorist activity or association, and restore the 4<sup>th</sup> Amendment to the Constitution.~~

~~\_\_\_\_ e. Abolish the death penalty.~~

~~-~~

~~4. Juvenile offenders must not be housed in needlessly restrictive settings. They must never be housed with adults. Their education must continue while in custody. A single judge and a single caseworker should be assigned to oversee each juvenile's placement and progress in the juvenile justice system.~~

~~5. Our parole system is a failure. Reduction of recidivism should be a goal of parole. Parole should be treated as a time of reintegration into the community, not as a continuation of a person's sentence. Parolees need community reentry programs before release. Paroled prisoners should have access to education, drug treatment, psychological treatment, job training, work and housing. Their persons and homes should not be subject to search without reasonable cause. Appropriate services should also be available to the members of a parolee's family, to help them with the changes caused by the parolee's return.~~

~~6. We call for more funding for rape and domestic violence prevention and education programs, and stiffer sentences for people convicted of domestic violence. to less expensive, community-based facilities~~  
1. Any attempt to combat crime must begin with restoration of community. We encourage positive approaches that build hope, responsibility and a sense of belonging. Prisons should be the sentence of last resort, reserved for violent criminals. Those convicted of non-violent offenses should be handled by other programs including halfway houses, electronic monitoring, work furlough, community service and restitution programs. Substance abuse should be addressed as a medical problem requiring treatment, not imprisonment, and a failed drug test should not result in revocation of parole. Incarcerated prisoners of the drug war should be release to the above programs.

~~2. Prisons are presently serving some of the population formerly held in the mental health system. Ninety five percent of those who commit suicide in jail or prison have a diagnosed mental disorder. Mentally ill prisoners need separate psychiatric facilities providing psychological and medical care, rehabilitation, and release to appropriate community mental health facilities.~~

~~3. The aging of our prison population will lead to huge needless expenditures in the next decade. Prisoners too old and those too infirm to be a threat to society should be released~~

~~—~~ 2. Access to Justice; repeal or lessen definition of criminal acts.

1 \_\_\_\_\_ 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..

2 \_\_\_\_\_ b. All non-violent and victimless crime should be classified as misdemeanor.

6 \_\_\_\_\_ c. Legalize growing, harvesting, distributing and marketing of Hemp.

7 \_\_\_\_\_ 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.

8 \_\_\_\_\_ 4. Prisoners must be allowed to vote by absentee ballot and when released, have the right to vote and to run for office.

3—

\_\_\_\_\_ 5. Education in Prison

1 \_\_\_\_\_ 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.

2 \_\_\_\_\_ b. Include in this law a program for educated prisoners to

tutor uneducated prisoners.

4— 6. The Green Party opposes private prisons:

1—                      a. All private prisons must be returned to federal or state ownership and management.

2—                      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.

### **Prison Conditions**

~~7. Private prisons should be illegal. Corrections Corporation of America ranks among the top five performing companies on the New York Stock Exchange during the late 1990's, and operates the sixth largest prison system in the country. These prisons treat people as their product, and provide far worse service than government-run prisons. Profits are derived from understaffing, which severely reduces the acceptable care of inmates.~~

5— 7. Prison management:

1—                      a. All prisoners must have the right to file a complaint for abuse to a civilian complaint review board with sub poena power.

2—                      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.

3—                      c. No prisoner may be kept in solitary confinement for more than 12 hrs. a day.

4—                      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. Prison conditions must be humane and sanitary and should include heat, light, exercise, clothing, nutrition, libraries, possessions, and personal safety. Prisoners are entitled to psychological, drug, and medical treatment, including access to condoms and uninterrupted access to all prescribed medication. Isolation of prisoners from staff and one another should be minimal and only as needed for safety.~~

~~9. Prison officials must institute and enforce policies that discourage racism, sexism, and homophobia in prison. End racially segregated housing.~~

~~10. The First Amendment rights of prisoners must not be revoked. Prisoners have the right to talk to journalists, write letters, publish their own writings, and become legal experts on their own cases.~~

~~11. Encourage all prisoners to have the opportunity to obtain a G.E.D. (high-~~

~~school equivalency diploma) and higher education. Inmates who earn a diploma have a recidivism rate of 10%, compared with 60% for other inmates.~~

~~12. Prisons should be community-based where possible. Where they are not, transportation for visits should be made available and subsidized. Unless the reason for imprisonment indicates otherwise, parents should have access to their children if it is in the interest of the child.~~

~~13. Incarcerated individuals should retain the right to vote by absentee ballot in the district of their domicile, and should retain the right to vote during parole.~~

~~[See section B. Political Participation in chapter I]~~

~~14. We support the reinstatement of voting rights and the right to hold public office to ex-felons who have completed their prison sentence.~~

### Legislation

~~6~~ 8. Police performance in the society.

~~1~~ 1 ~~\_\_\_\_\_ a. Enact strict gun control laws nationwide and R~~ restrict police use of guns and all forms of control weapons.

~~2~~ 2 ~~\_\_\_\_\_ 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.~~

~~3~~ 3 ~~\_\_\_\_\_ c. Police are paid for by citizens taxes. Fines put on police convicted of brutality, does not fall within that tax obligation. are not to be paid by police, not tax payers.~~

~~4~~ 4 ~~\_\_\_\_\_ d. Police found guilty of excessive violence or brutal acts shall not be indemnified and must pay half the compensation awarded to the victims.~~

~~29. We call for legalization of industrial hemp and all its many uses.~~

~~30. We call for an end to the "war on drugs." We support expanded drug counseling and treatment. For example, the possession of small amounts of marijuana. all defendants charged with non-violent crimes. Mental health and social services should be incorporated in the bail agreement. Laws giving prosecutors the power to deny defendants the right to remain free on bail must be repealed.~~

~~21. Stop forfeiture of the property of unconvicted suspects. It is state piracy and denial of due process.~~

~~22. Implement a moratorium on prison construction. The funds saved should be used for alternatives to incarceration.~~

~~23. Compensation for jurors should be increased and child care provided for those serving on a jury. Employers should be encouraged to continue paying an employees' wages while they serve.~~

~~24. Thoughtful, carefully considered gun control laws such as the "Brady Bill" and the waiting period for record search before gun dealers may sell a gun should be supported.~~

~~25. Enact tough DWI (driving while intoxicated) laws.~~

- ~~26. A consistent policy of protection against violence in schools should be developed and enforced.~~
- ~~27. Victims' rights must be guarded and protected. Victim impact statements are a method for achieving full justice, and restitution should be considered in many cases.~~
- ~~28. We call for decriminalization of victimless crimes. must be the right of 15. Establish programs to strengthen self-help and community action through neighborhood centers that provide well-funded legal aid, alternative dispute-resolution practices, mediated restitution, community team policing, and local crisis/assault care shelters.~~
- ~~16. Establish elected or appointed independent civilian review boards with subpoena power to investigate complaints about prison guard and community police behavior.~~
- ~~17. Maximize restrictions on police use of weapons and restraining techniques such as pepper spray, stun belts, and choke holds.~~
- ~~18. Abolish the death penalty.~~
- ~~19. Repeal state "Three Strikes" laws. Restore judicial discretion in sentencing, as opposed to mandatory sentencing.~~
- ~~20. Freedom on bail~~

### 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.
- ~~28-~~ 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.
- ~~29-~~ c. All Nareoties 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.
- ~~30-~~ 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. We call for an end to the so-called "war on drugs."

### **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.

~~(edit above text) No species, especially on the upper end of the food chain, can have unchecked exponential growth without depleting the Earth's carrying capacity—human population expands at the expense of other species and the quality of the environment. [Arthur Gene Hunter]~~

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~~ 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.dcmetroftp.org/newsletters/NL20061201.html#pop>)

~~1. Those living in the more industrialized world must end the habits of waste and over-consumption that place as much more stress on the environment as than does population growth in developing less industrialized (and generally more oppressed) [Recha] nations.~~

~~2. We must remove the political and economic barriers that prevent women around the world from having all the resources necessary to become skilled family planners.~~

~~3. Funds must be allocated for expanded scientific research into safer and more effective birth control techniques and devices. We demand better than adequate health care for women and children—especially prenatal care. [See section D. Foreign HYPERLINK~~

~~"<http://www.gp.org/platform/2004/democracy.html>" \ | "13976" Policy in chapter I and section A. 1. Women's Rights in this chapter]~~

~~4. There must be access to free birth control devices, information counseling, and clinics to all who desire them. We call for implementation of family planning education for both genders in all levels of the state school system. [See section D. Foreign Policy in chapter I and section A. 1. Women's Rights in this chapter]~~

~~5. We must promote new traditions and images of men becoming fully involved in all aspects of the family planning process.~~

~~6. Wealth and religious belief can not be used as an excuse for having more than two children per family or replacement children for individuals. [Arthur Gene Hunter]~~

~~The Green Party of the United States seeks to overcome our denial of a dangerous state of affairs by declaring a policy of zero population growth, starting with a lowering of the rate of increase. Our striving for a "quality of life" for all people depends upon agreement that over crowding has dire consequences for everyone. When environmentalists acknowledge the link between overpopulation and depletion of resources, they will join the population groups to inform and warn the world of what's in store if we do nothing.~~

~~Overpopulation, like environmental degradation, is a national and global problem and must be solved by all nations individually and collectively at home and using the UN forum. Blaming one or the other will solve nothing. The beginning of the solution is recognition, followed by the will to act.~~

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. ~~If our life-support system, Mother Nature, is overwhelmed, the survival of the human species is in question. We owe it to ourselves to address the danger of excessive population growth.~~

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:~~ 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.~~

~~\_\_4. Instead of building a wall, either rescind or change the terms of NAFTA, CAFTA to end the exploitation of labor. New conditions must include the protection of labor and the environment in all trade agreements. This will make it~~

~~possible for the impoverished of Mexico and farther South to sustain themselves within their own country and culture.—~~

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## 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. ~~The Green Party calls for the establishment of accountable citizen initiated and controlled radio and television stations. These citizen managed media networks would be financed by requiring corporations to pay for the right to use our publicly owned air waves. Mechanisms must be established to prevent political manipulation and exploitation of this essential and valuable resource, so that all citizens are adequately informed. 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.

~~2. 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.

~~The Green Party supports:~~

~~1. Citizen controlled and publicly funded newspapers, modeled on the former Los Angeles Municipal News~~

~~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.~~

6 \_\_\_\_ 5. Community ownership of broadcast outlets and public oversight of licensing.

7 \_\_\_\_ 6. Free and equal airtime for political candidates on radio and television networks. [See section A. Political Reform in chapter I]

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

9 \_\_\_\_ 8. The repeal of the Telecommunications Act of 1996.

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

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

12 \_\_\_\_ 11. Limiting the concentration of power that has characterized the telecommunications industry. ~~We need a wide span of programming and information, genuine citizen access, diversity of views, respect for local community interests, news, public affairs and quality children's programming. The FCC should closely monitor applications for license renewals to the public airwaves to ensure that these public interest criteria are met.~~

13 \_\_\_\_ 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.

13. Advertising-free internet communication and other means of communication must be established or, as applicable, remain fully under accountable citizen control. –

## **K. Immigration / Emigration.**

~~We must never forget that we are a nation of immigrants. Our nation is a rich tapestry of nationalities, races, religions, and creeds who have come together to forge a new classless society based on with equality of opportunity, and the 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. The GPUS stands 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.

The GPUS accepts as a goal a world in which persons can freely

~~choose any country in which to live and /or work. While it would be ideal to erase borders between countries, that would be impractical without reciprocity between nations. We seek that the reciprocity this would require as a practical goal. 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. While we recognize that there must be some controls on immigration, if only for the sake of national security, the Green Party would endorse a friendlier (less intimidating) attitude towards immigration in all nations within certain guidelines.~~

~~The Green Party must consider immigration issues from an international standpoint, taking into account international labor and environmental standards, and human rights.~~

~~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. Preferential quotas based on race, class, and ideology should be abandoned for immigration policies that promote fairness, non-discrimination and family reunification. 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 support policies that reflect our constitutional guarantees of freedoms of speech, association, and travel.~~

~~3. Particular attention should be given to those minorities who are political exiles and refugees.~~

~~4. Our relationship with our neighbor to the south, Mexico, needs to be given added attention due to the special historical and cultural relation it has with the southwest portion of the United States. Our border relations and reciprocal economic opportunities should be a central concern of a government that is looking to improved economic, environmental, and social conditions for both peoples.~~

~~2. We believe the following immigration policies are fair. 5. The Green Party calls for permanent border passes to all citizens of Mexico and Canada whose identity can be traced and verified. Work permits for citizens of Mexico and Canada must be easily obtainable, thereby decriminalizing the act of gainful~~

~~employment. This action would help eliminate exploitation of undocumented persons by criminals engaged in human contraband (coyotes) and unethical employers. It would also help ensure that taxes will be paid in each corresponding nation per its laws. These measures will also help temporary residents from Mexico and Canada to secure driving privileges and liability insurance.~~

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, the GPUS supports:

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.

~~6. Labor laws must be adjusted to take into account seasonal foreign workers. Employers must provide full rights to wages and health benefits to immigrant workers who make voluntary~~

~~contributions to pension plans and pay Social Security taxes.~~

~~4. [Alternate proposals are presented here.] In regard to "Guest Worker Programs":~~

~~[Version 1] 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.~~

~~[Version 2] The GPUS does not believe that it is possible to design a temporary worker program that will adequately protect the labor rights of these workers. If workers are needed in particular industries they must get permanent residency.~~

~~5.7. 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). A fair and equitable legalization program will provide equal access to working people of all nationalities, not tied to a specific employer or guest worker program. Programs involving temporary worker status must include the option of permanent residency for immigrants already in the U.S. and protection of migrant worker savings.~~

6.8: 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 ~~uld~~ advocate legislation to ensure that federal funds marked for communities to provide ESL (eEnglish 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.~~9. We oppose the use of racial profiling. We are concerned about reports of illegal raids and traffic stops based on ethnic appearance and not probable cause of a traffic violation. We would further advocate funding or education programs designed to reduce racism and bias against ethnic minorities. [See section A. 2. Racial Discrimination in this chapter]~~

~~10. We advocate adoption of certification standards for translators.~~

8.11. 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.

~~Rents have soared due to real estate speculation. One out of five renters pays more than fifty percent of their income for housing. Fewer than one in ten renters can afford to buy a median priced house in the area where they live. In an era of deregulation, tenants have had few legal protections, and those that exist have begun to erode. Rent control and eviction protection for tenants does not exist in most jurisdictions, and where it does, it is usually inadequate and under attack. Landlords who, in violation of housing code requirements, fail to keep their property in habitable condition are tolerated, or at most given lenient penalties. Housing discrimination~~

remains rampant against people of color, immigrants, disabled, single people, gays and lesbians, and families with children.

It is conservatively estimated that one million people are homeless. Today, homeless people are hounded, threatened, and often can not obtain badly-needed services. Though affordable housing could help alleviate the problem of homelessness, the homeless have needs that go beyond housing.

The twenty-year decline in real wages for workers is also a major contribution to the current crisis in housing availability and affordability. Certain laws have also contributed to the problems of housing supply and cost, and are in some cases consciously used to exclude households with lower incomes from higher income communities.

Areas of local law that should be revisited include: ordinances that prohibit a shift toward co-housing; land use plans that provide excessive amounts of land for industrial and commercial use; and inflexible building codes that prevent alternative (often less expensive) construction approaches that still meet health and safety requirements.

The Green Party recognizes housing as a human right, and will work toward eliminating economic and other forms of discrimination in the construction and use of housing through the following policies:

—      4. Greens advocate:

1           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.

2           cb. Subsidize co-operative ownership of apartment buildings.

3           de. Re-write building codes to increase obligation that developers include affordable units for low-income tenants in their rehabilitated apartment buildings.

4           ed. 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 protection for the elderly and disabled persons. Especially important is protection for the elderly and disabled persons.

5           fe. Strict inspection schedule by inspectors and heavy fines of owners who fail to maintain their buildings.

6           gf. Revise zoning laws to expand area that allows group housing.

7           hg. Build public housing on low and small human scale and allow a tenant to buy his unit.

8           ih. 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.**

**j. 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.** **Renter's Rights**

~~1. Protect tenants with rent control laws, including vacancy control.~~

~~2. Prevent evictions without just cause. Restrict owner move-in evictions of long-term tenants, the elderly, and disabled persons.~~

~~3. Crack down on landlords who refuse to maintain their properties in habitable condition, or who engage in illegal evictions, with hefty fines and, in extreme cases, jail terms or confiscation of their housing~~  
[Reicha]

~~—~~ 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.

~~1~~ \_\_\_\_\_ a. Open homeless shelters in areas near public transportation and close enough to work places for homeless people to get to work.

~~2~~ \_\_\_\_\_ b. Repeal laws that criminalize any facet of homelessness including where they sleep, or that deny citizens the right to help homeless persons.

~~3~~ \_\_\_\_\_ c. Re-affirm and enforce laws that open public buildings for the homeless in freezing weather.

~~4~~ \_\_\_\_\_ d. Open feeding stations that guarantee two meals /day to homeless people.

#### **Increase Affordable Housing Supply**

~~4. Enforce laws against illegal hotel conversions.~~

~~5. Use vacant housing—whether at closed military bases, housing kept off the market by speculators, or landlords delinquent in taxes—to shelter homeless persons.~~

~~6. Build human-scale, low income housing (as does Habitat for Humanity).~~

~~7. Pursue more efficient use of our existing housing supply, such as home-sharing and cooperative conversions of existing dwellings.~~

~~8. Subsidies, trade-offs with developers, and the creative use of city and county zoning ordinances should be used to increase affordable housing.~~

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

[Reicha]

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.

### **Measures to Help Homeless Persons**

~~9. Expand community-based services for homeless persons and make them more readily available. all those who are presently homeless. Keep the others for those who are expected to become homeless, until such time as adequate affordable housing and security of tenure exist for everyone.~~ [Rocha]

~~10. Repeal all laws that criminalize any facet of homelessness or helping homeless persons.~~

~~11. Abolish anti-sleeping laws, especially in areas which don't have adequate open space, shelter and sleeping areas for homeless persons.~~

~~12. Strictly enforce all the laws that are designed to provide for the homeless, such as the laws that require opening National Guard armories to homeless persons during inclement weather.~~

~~13. Allow homeless people to take part in decisions about long and short term solutions to their situation.~~

~~14. Strengthen and increase funding of mental health and drug rehabilitation systems.~~

~~6~~ 8. Enforce fair housing laws against discrimination based on race, sex, familial status (children), marital status, disability, or sexual orientation.

~~7~~  
. Fully fund the Fair Employment and Housing Commission that funds non-profit organizations engaged in fair housing monitoring and enforcement.

### **Strong Fair-Housing Laws**

~~15. Strengthen and enforce fair housing laws against discrimination based on race, sex, familial status (children), marital status, disability, or sexual orientation.~~

~~16. Fully fund the Fair Employment and Housing Commission and provide generous government funding to non-profit organizations engaged in fair housing monitoring and enforcement.~~

~~17. Insist that architectural review boards and planning commissions represent the concerns of citizens, rather than the concerns of economic segments of the community.~~

~~8—~~ 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.

### Reform Zoning and Building Codes

~~18.9.~~ 11. Implement low-impact, site-specific designs that encourage human-scale development and environmentally sensitive planning.  
Promote development that encourages urban density - with green spaces - and that discourages urban sprawl.

~~19. Remove restrictions on converting large, single family homes to multi-family use. Families of today are smaller and there are more single-parent households.~~

~~20. Allow industrial and commercial developers to provide housing instead of parking spaces in new developments, and permit housing development in existing industrial and commercial zones.~~

~~21. Reform zoning, occupancy, and building ordinances so that residential needs can exist in balance with commercial and industrial needs, and so that alternative approaches are encouraged rather than restricted.~~

[Note, this section is being moved from Chapter III in the 2004 program to Chapter II in the 2008 platform.]

### M. Ethical Treatment of Animals

Cruelty to animals is repugnant and criminal 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 creation 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 creation 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 creatures 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.

119. Ban the exploitation of animals in ~~violent~~ entertainment, gambling, and sports.