

# Media Talking Points

A rough list of useful talking points for Greens who speak to reporters during (and before and after) the Green Party's 2004 National Convention in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Use freely, add local issues, mention specific ideas, make these talking points personal.

From the Media Committee of the Green Party of the United States

## **Vision Statement:**

Greens around the world share a vision of a peaceful future in which all people live in a safe and clean environment; have access to healthcare, education, housing, food and jobs; and participate actively and regularly in government. Through an engaged citizenry, safeguarded by equal protection under the law, another world is possible.

## **The Green Party is...**

### **The Party of the Future:**

- America needs an independent, non-corporate political party now more than ever.
- Greens are building a lasting, people-powered, solution-oriented electoral force in the United States that accepts no corporate funding and is beholden to no corporate interests.

### **The Fastest Growing Political Party in the World:**

- In the US, Greens have won 44% of elections to date this year; the party has grown by 30% since 2000; Greens hold more than 200 elected offices across the country.
- The European Greens made history this year as the first and only European Union wide political party. Greens Parties are now organized in more than 100 countries, on every continent, to build our vision of a better world.

### **The Party of Solutions:**

Greens are **winning on the issues** that improve people's lives:

- **Standing up for human rights:** Green Mayor Jason West received international acclaim for performing same-sex marriages for 25 couples in New Paltz New York.
- **Promoting peace:** Greens marched in anti-war demonstrations across the US, joining millions across the planet in protesting the Bush Administration's war on Iraq. Green elected officials successfully passed 25 resolutions against the war on Iraq
- **Protecting freedom**  
Greens officeholders passed 22 government resolutions against the US Patriot Act.

- **Reinvigorating politics**  
Green San Francisco Board of Supervisors President Matt Gonzales attracted national attention with his near-win in the runoff election for Mayor. Green candidate for California Governor, Peter Miguel Camejo, raised the level of debate in five statewide and one nationally televised debate.
- **Protecting health**  
Maine State House member John Eder passed "an act to protect children from cancer causing chemicals," which was signed into law by the Governor
- **Bringing democracy to the ballot box**  
with instant run off voting initiatives, ballot access for third parties, and challenging unverifiable electronic voting schemes.
- Increasing **minimum wages**; restoring neighborhood **open spaces**; converting city buildings and bus fleets to **renewable energy sources**

ADD TO THIS LIST OTHER GREAT THINGS GREENS HAVE ACCOMPLISHED OR ARE ACCOMPLISHING NOW!

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## **The Green Party Call to Action**

### **ADDRESS GLOBAL CLIMATE CHANGE**

- End fossil fuel addiction
- Convert to safe, clean energy (solar, wind, fuel cells)
- Restore and strengthen the Kyoto Accord

### **MAKE HEALTH CARE A RIGHT**

- Implement single-payer national health insurance: guaranteed quality health care for everyone
- Protect public health (e.g., ending toxic and nuclear waste dumping; closing incinerators)
- Address the dangers of genetic modification, toxic chemicals and other public health threats
- Protect women's right to choose

### **SUPPORT WORKING PEOPLE**

- Living wages
- Support union organizing and democratic workplaces
- Repeal Taft-Hartley restrictions on organizing
- Strengthen the social safety net
- Enact fair, progressive tax plans instead of handouts for corporations
- Ensure global democracy instead of global corporate power (NAFTA, FTAA, IMF, World Bank)

- Enact public works projects
- Maintain public ownership of water and other necessities instead of privatization
- Support for local business and local economies instead of big business and Wall Street
- Support homeowners, renters, and the homeless instead of big landlord and real estate interests
- Support family farms instead of agriconglomerates

## **BRING DEMOCRACY & JUSTICE TO THE UNITED STATES**

- Enact election reforms: instant run-off voting, proportional representation, cumulative voting, clean election programs, public financing of elections
- Guarantee that everyone's vote is counted: verifiable paper records of votes, no more voter disenfranchisement
- Repeal the USA Patriot Act
- Ensure adherence to the US Constitution: uphold freedoms, human rights, equality, and privacy
- Abolish the Electoral College
- Change the legal status of corporations: human rights are for humans
- Broaden voter participation and ballot access; problem solving at the community level
- Hold elected officials accountable

## **PROMOTE NONVIOLENCE**

- Lead the opposition to the invasion and occupation of Iraq
- Ensure adherence to international law: Geneva conventions; the UN Charter; treaties
- Promote negotiation and nonviolent resolution in trouble spots like Israel-Palestine
- Promote a national peace economy: transfer military funding to social needs, defund outer-space missile defense schemes
- Demand an end the War on Drugs

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The Green Party of the United States

<http://www.gp.org>

FORWARD 2004! Green National Convention

<http://www.gp.org/convention/process.html>

Green Party Platform

<http://www.gp.org/platform.html>