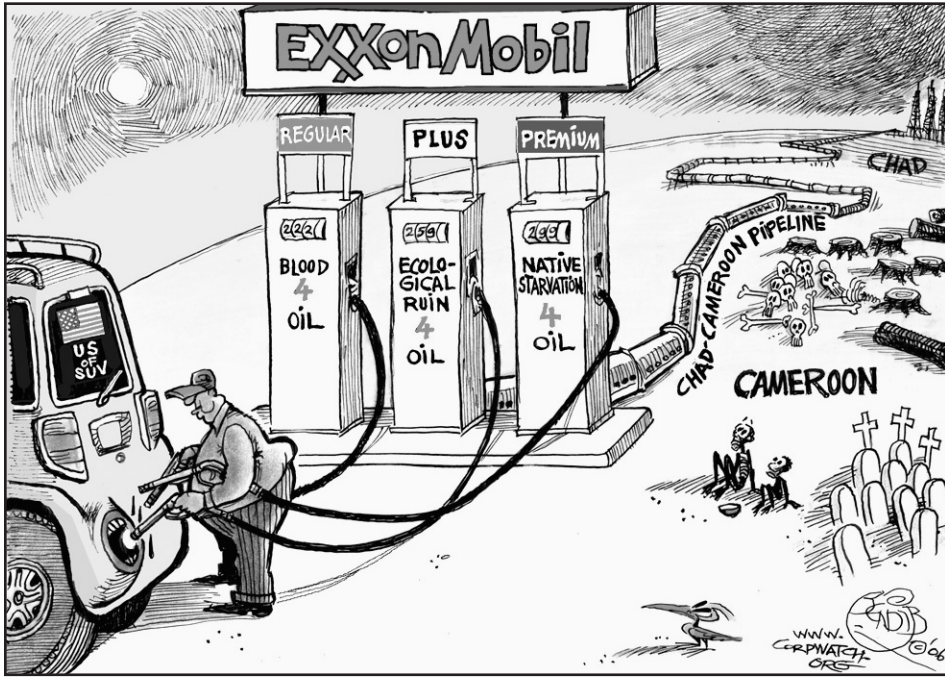


# Top 10 Reasons to Go Green



Cartoon: Khalil Bendib, www.bendib.com

## 1 The Green Party takes no money from corporations.

Every election year, Democratic and Republican candidates receive millions of dollars from corporate contributors. As a result, they use their public office to serve the interests of wealthy, powerful corporations instead of working Americans. The greatest threat to democracy today is from the power of corporations, which control everything from our health care to neighborhood development. The corporations already own two political parties—it's time that We the People have our own party.



Illustration: Mike Flugelock/D.C. Statehood Green Party

## 2 The Green Party strongly opposed President Bush's invasion of Iraq, while Democrats lined up in support.

Greens demand that US troops be brought home safely and immediately, while Democratic leaders like Hillary Clinton urge Bush to send more troops.

In October 2002, a bill passed by Republicans and Democrats transferred war power to the White House, in violation of the US Constitution. While most Democrats fell for the Bush Administration's fraudulent reasons for the invasion, Greens called the war a violation of US and international law. Over 2,000 American service members and tens of thousands of Iraqi civilians have been killed because of the Bush Administration's deceptions. In 2003, the Green Party called for the impeachment of President Bush. Greens have a vision of America based on peace and respect for freedom, law, and human rights, instead of military invasions, aid for dictators, and torture.

**VOTE PEACE—VOTE GREEN**

## What is national health insurance?

Every democratic country except the US guarantees its citizens health care. It's time to make health care a human right for all Americans!

The Green Party calls for National Health Insurance, which would provide coverage for every American, guaranteeing quality health care and medicine regardless of age, income, or prior medical condition. National Health Insurance allows full choice of physician and hospital, and would cost most Americans a lot less than they now pay for private HMO coverage or insurance.

Powerful corporate HMOs, insurance firms, and drug manufacturers contribute hundreds of thousands of dollars to Democrats and Republicans to make sure we don't get National Health Insurance. The 1993 Clinton Plan for health care reform was not a "universal health care" plan—it would have left insurance corporations in control of our health care!

It's time to elect people to public office who support National Health Insurance! For more information, visit [gp.org](http://gp.org) (Green Party) or [pnhp.org](http://pnhp.org) (Physicians for a National Health Plan).

## 3 The Green Party demands an end to the US dependence on oil, coal, and nuclear power.

Instead, it calls for safe and clean alternative energy and conservation to stop global warming from harming future generations.

Democrats and Republicans have both called for increased drilling, and Republicans favor drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. Both parties also favor nuclear power, which Greens call an expensive and severe security risk.

## 4 The Green Party calls for national health insurance.

This means coverage for every American, regardless of income, residence, age, or prior medical condition.

National health insurance will guarantee quality health care for all, with full prescription coverage and choice of physician and hospital—at a fraction of the cost of the current system. Greens note that the US is the only democratic nation without such a health plan. Unfortunately, most Democrats and Republicans prefer to keep health care under the control of insurance companies and HMOs, whose demand for profit has left 45 million Americans without health coverage.

## 5 The Green Party supports living wages for every working American and strong, democratic unions.

The Green Party supports repeal of Taft-Hartley restrictions on workplace organizing, comprehensive workplace safety regulations, benefits, and secure pensions. Democrats and Republicans have repeatedly sided with corporate owners, signing trade agreements (NAFTA, FTAA, etc.) that damage labor rights and the environment, and favoring credit card companies over working people who face debt.

## 6 The Green Party calls for a halt to "War on Drugs" and demands sane drug laws.

The War on Drugs—waged by both Democrats and Republicans—has destroyed the lives of hundreds of thousands of young people, African Americans, Latinos, and poor people, locking them up in prison on minor charges. Greens call drug abuse a health problem, not a crime, and urge immediate decriminalization of marijuana, especially for those who need it for medical purposes.

## 7 The Green Party says that corporations have no right to take people's homes.

Democrats and Republicans have used eminent domain to remove people from their homes in favor of developers and real estate firms that want to build hotels, shopping malls, expensive condos for residents who'll pay higher taxes, and big stores like Wal-Mart. Greens criticized a recent Supreme Court ruling (*Kelo v. New London, 2005*) that increases the power of eminent domain to condemn private homes, while Democrats mostly supported it or remained silent.

## Eminent domain Legalized theft

Originally, "eminent domain" meant the government's limited power to take over your property (your private home or small business) for public purposes, such as a new road or school.

In June 2005, the US Supreme Court issued a new ruling expanding government's power of eminent domain. Under the *Kelo v. City of New London* decision, local and state governments can take your home or small business away from you to give to another private owner or corporation.

Your local or state government may now evict you from your home in order to allow someone else who might provide a higher tax base to move in. Working people face loss of their homes to enable rich people, shopping malls, or sports stadiums to take over their property.

The Green Party calls this legalized theft.

Unfortunately, Republican and Democratic officials accept huge gifts from real estate interests that want to clear out neighborhoods for new development. In the wake of the Supreme Court decision, the choice between voting for a Green (who accept no corporate contributions) and voting for a Democrat or Republican in some races might spell the difference between keeping and losing one's home.

Elected Green officials and Green community activists all over the US have opposed attempts to use eminent domain to evict homeowners, tenants, and small businesses, most recently in Brunswick, Ga., and Brooklyn, N.Y.

## Fixing democracy

Abraham Lincoln called democracy "government of the people, by the people, and for the people."

Millions of Americans no longer bother to vote, because they feel voting is useless and the usual choice of Democrats vs. Republicans has little effect on their lives.

The Green Party calls for important steps to restore the power of the people:

- **Proportional Representation**, to ensure that minority populations as well as majorities get fair representation (More information: [fairvote.org](http://fairvote.org))
- Legislation guaranteeing our **right to vote** in national elections
- **Paper ballot trails** to verify all votes and **open-source software** in all computer voting machines
- **Instant Runoff Voting**, to ensure that election results reflect the will of the majority of voters (More information: [fairvote.org](http://fairvote.org))

## 8 The Green Party helps community leaders run for public office.

The Republican and Democratic Parties have placed too many millionaires and corporate CEOs in public office. It's time to elect working people who will serve working people.

## 9 While Democrats remained silent, Greens challenged vote manipulation in Ohio and New Mexico on Election Day, 2004.

After John Kerry quickly conceded, Greens led the campaign to collect evidence that votes from African Americans and young people were obstructed or altered by Republican officials in Ohio in order to throw the election to Bush, and initiated the recount campaign. More information: [www.votecobb.org](http://www.votecobb.org)

## 10 The Green Party is dedicated to the power of people to control their own lives.

The Green Party won't retreat on privacy rights, women's reproductive rights, gay rights (including same-sex marriage), and other rights and freedoms because of pressure from religious extremists and corporations. Many Democrats have compromised on all these issues, and voted for repressive Republican legislation to limit people's rights.



Green New Paltz, NY mayor Jason West solemnizing same-sex marriages in 2005.

Photo: Susan Zimet

## THE GREEN PARTY

[www.gp.org](http://www.gp.org)

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