

Agitate

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Supplement

THIRD PARTY CANDIDATES

There are options for the disgruntled voter. This supplement offers a brief description of three of the top third party candidates in the 2008 race, Chuck Baldwin of the Constitution Party, Bob Barr of the Libertarian Party, Cynthia McKinney of the Green Party and Independent Ralph Nader. There may be other candidates on your state ballot, so be sure to check and do your research. The four above were chosen because they have the most ballot access to electoral votes, and they represent both ends of the political continuum, conservative and liberal.

Dr. Chuck Baldwin Constitution Party

Dr. Baldwin is a radio talk show host and minister of the Crossroad Baptist Church. He is the author of *Subjects Seldom Spoken On*, *This is the Life, Let's Look at Legalism* and *The Freedom Documents*.

The Constitution Party interprets the Constitution from a strict constructionist perspective. They believe that the principles of the constitution should be followed as written. They are, therefore interested in states rights and minimalist government on domestic and foreign matters.

The Baldwin platform reflects these principles. Baldwin states that he would push for non-interference in foreign issues. He would end the Iraq War and occupation and promises that, true to the Constitution, he would never send troops to war without a declaration from Congress. He is opposed to NAFTA, CAFTA and FTAA and would end funding for the United Nations.

The Baldwin campaign is also against all foreign ownership of US resources or institutions. They are against off-shoring and support a self sufficient national economy.

Illegal immigration is a major platform for the Constitution Party. They would use the military, removed from foreign entanglements, to patrol and secure the border. Baldwin supports the construction of the security fence along the Mexican border. On his website, Dr. Baldwin states explicitly that he would pardon Ignacio Ramos and Jose Compean, two Border Patrol agents accused of shooting a drug smuggler along the Mexican border.



This issue should not be perceived as an endorsement of any political candidate. It is not the purpose of this publication to endorse any politician. Descriptions for McKinney and Nader are longer than those for Baldwin and Barr. This should not be confused with tacit approval of their positions. This is, instead, a reflection of platform. The Constitution and Libertarian parties propose a less active government, whereas the Greens and Nader believe in a more activist philosophy. It stands to reason, then, that the platforms for the latter candidates would be longer. Also, it is not the purpose of this issue to submit any of the candidates to critical analysis. The Journal of a Mad Sociologist, and Agitate Magazine strongly encourage the most acute analysis of each and every candidate.

Constitutionally protected liberties are also crucial to the Constitution Party. Baldwin is against the National Security Act and both versions of the Patriot Act. He opposes the Real ID Act. Freedom of speech, religion and the right to bare arms are centerpieces of the this party platform.

Issues, like education, that are not mentioned in the Constitution are, according to Baldwin, the responsibility of the states. Education is a case in point. Baldwin would disband the Department of Education in favor of state control of public schools.

Baldwin also opposes abortion. According to his website, unborn children are without exception "people" with rights.

The Baldwin Campaign has been endorsed by former Republican presidential candidate Ron Paul.

Bob Barr Libertarian Party

The free market economy is the centerpiece for the Libertarian Party and for its candidate, Bob Barr. On the campaign website Barr suggests that there should be a strict "wall of separation between government and the economy." President Barr would transfer entitlements like Social Security and Medicare into private accounts. He would continue the 1996 Welfare reforms. He would also bring the free market back to the energy industry by ending all subsidies to energy corporations, but also end all barriers to energy development including opening ANWR to drilling.

In all matters, "the answer is less government." He would eliminate all mandatory health coverage. The ability of the



government to spy on its citizens would be limited under a Barr presidency. All restrictions for gun ownership for law abiding Americans would be lifted. The 16th Amendment would be repealed, ending the federal income tax.

Barr, like Baldwin, would eliminate the Department of Education. Further, he would eliminate all federal grants to education, eliminate all federal regulations of education and offer tax credits for those who wish to home school or send their children to private schools.

With regard to foreign affairs, Barr believes in free trade, but not military intervention. He would bring home all soldiers stationed abroad. This includes soldiers in Iraq, without timetables. Returning vets would have greater access to improved health care.

Cynthia McKinney
Green Party

Cynthia McKinney is an educator and former US congresswoman from Georgia. Her platform offers a number of reforms at the federal level, primarily with regard to voting. Election reform is high on the list, including publicly financed elections and eliminating the private ownership of voting machines.



The McKinney campaign focuses on economic injustice and increased opportunity for the poor. A McKinney White House would invest in poor communities to equalize access to education, housing, and justice. The government would guarantee gainful employment to all who want it.

"No family should remain mired below the poverty level when the head of household works in a full time job." She would institute a living wage. The government would establish and encourage jobs programs to rebuild failing infrastructure and a green rebuilding program.

A McKinney administration would pursue a universal, single payer health care plan, subsidized higher education, affordable childcare and affordable housing. The Taft Hartley Act would be repealed to allow greater union participation. The White House would vigorously pursue an ethic of equal pay for equal work.

Cynthia McKinney calls for the repeal of the Patriot Act, the Secret Evidence Act and the Military Commission Act. She would end the occupation of Iraq and bring home all American soldiers stationed abroad. A McKinney cabinet would include a Department of Peace. Even the war on drugs would come to an end. All political prisoners would be freed and all Americans who were spied on would be given restitution.

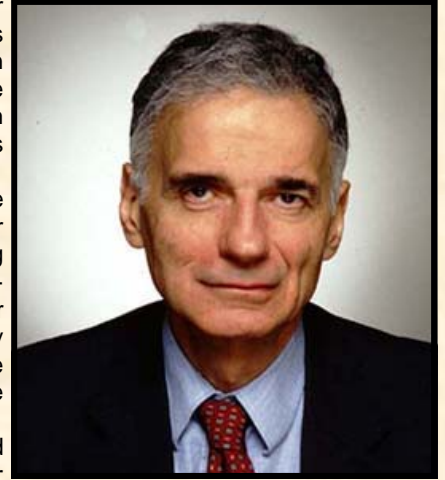
NAFTA, CAFTA and the Caribbean and Peruvian FTA's would be repealed. Cynthia McKinney wants amnesty for all illegal immigrants with a path to documentation for all undocumented people in the United States.

The Bush tax cuts would be repealed and a number of economic reforms would be instituted. For instance, McKinney calls for nationalizing the Federal Reserve.

The McKinney platform includes a number of radical ideas regarding prison reform, environmentalism, reparations to black communities and more. McKinney and the Greens are also committed to full reproductive rights to women including pre and post natal care and family planning access to contraception, the morning after pill and abortion.

Ralph Nader
Independent

Activist and consumer advocate Ralph Nader is probably the most well known third party candidate on the ticket. His platform is much too long to elaborate in this publication.



Economic and corporate reforms are centerpieces for the Nader campaign, including the end of corporate interference in government. A Nader White House would vigorously crack down on corporate crime and end corporate "personhood."

A Nader budget would include taxes on wealth rather than income. Negative corporate behavior would be subject to taxation, such as securities speculation and carbon pollution. Ralph Nader is an advocate of the FAIR tax program.

Renewable energy and conservation are important Nader trademarks. The Nader campaign calls for an end to all oil, coal and nuclear subsidies. Instead, greater investment should be put into making homes, cars and businesses more energy efficient. Wind and solar energy takes precedence over wasteful and questionable ethanol development.

Nader supports increased democratic participation. He has endorsed the National Initiative for Democracy and the NOW Agenda. He would repeal the Patriot Act and restore due process rights. He endorses the Audience Network Act which would establish public access to one hour a day of prime time and drive time airing on television and radio. He is also an advocate of Citizen Utility Boards so communities can hire professional consumer advocates to work in their interests.

A Nader White House would work to repeal the Taft Hartley Act to encourage union participation. A worker's bill of rights and increased retirement security would be pursued. This bill of rights would apply to all workers, legal or illegal. He would push to raise the minimum wage to \$8 an hour and then to \$10 an hour in two years.

To fight illegal immigration, however, Nader would focus on employers who bring in such immigrants. Also, democratic trade policies should be put into place to ensure that everyone benefits. Trade policies would focus on international environmental protection, and social and labor standards.

Nader has a seven point plan to end poverty. Foremost on the list is truly progressive taxation and an end of subsidies to corporations and wasteful military industrial spending. The F-22 fighter, the V-22 Osprey and the Virginia Class submarine would be axed. The Nader white house would focus on job creation, equal pay for women and living wages. Affordable child care and an improved social safety net round out the seven point plan.

He is also an advocate of electoral reform. His big push is for instant run off voting and a place for all serious candidates in the national debates. Nader believes that Washington DC should be recognized as a state and given the same electoral rights. Interestingly, Nader also supports lowering the voting age to sixteen.

Ralph Nader opposes standardized testing and vouchers. He believes that schools should emphasize democracy and citizenship. As president, he would fully fund Head Start, establish Universal Pre-School and in school nutrition programs. His administration would also focus on fixing the shattered education infrastructure.

Among his many platform stances is a single payer national health insurance, withdrawal from Iraq within six months, the legalization of marijuana and an end to tort reform.

