

Statements and Biographical Information from Candidates Seeking the Green Party's Nomination for President in 2004

*From the Presidential Campaign Support Committee of the Green Party of the United States
<http://www.gp.org/convention>*

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Peter Miguel Camejo

Peter Miguel Camejo is a first generation Venezuelan-American. He is the Chairperson of an investment firm, Progressive Asset Management Inc. that started 17 years ago with one office and now has financial consultants in 17 States focusing on socially responsible investing.

Mr. Camejo created the Eco-Logical Trust for Merrill Lynch a five-year unit trust that became the second best financially performing trust at Merrill Lynch.

Mr. Camejo's firm was the first to finance low-income housing under the 1986 tax credit program in California. He served for three years (1999-2002) as a Trustee for Contra Costa Counties Pension fund. During that period Contra Costa County was ranked among the best financially performing pension funds in California. It is the only pension fund in California that automatically votes its shares for social justice and in defense of the environment and has introduced environmental screens on its portfolios to maximize financial return.

In October of 1993 Mr. Camejo was awarded the Socially Responsible Investing (SRI) person of the year at the SRI in the Rockies conference. The present corporate crisis in America was predicted and is explained in a book by Mr. Camejo written in 2000 and published by New Society Publishers called "The SRI Advantage."

Mr. Camejo founded and serves on the board of the Council for Responsible Public Investments a not for profit advising elected officials and pensions. The Lt. Governor of Hawaii has appointed

Mr. Camejo to serve as an advisor to the Hawaii Capital Stewardship Forum.

Mr. Camejo served for five years on the Board of Earth Share the federation of over 40 major environmental organizations. He unified the major people of color environmental groups into the Environmental Justice Fund. Through a firm he initiate he brought organic farming to Central America turning Nicaragua into the world's largest producer of Organic Sesame.

Mr. Camejo has been a political activist his whole life. He marched with Martin Luther King in Selma Alabama, opposed the war in Vietnam and has worked to help political prisoners in Latin America. He is fluent in Spanish and has worked to help Latinos win their rights his whole life. Although born to a wealthy Venezuelan family Mr. Camejo worked for minimum wage in the garment industry in NY to help organize underpaid Latino workers. In Texas he worked to help La Raza Unida Party in the 1970s and helped to demand rights for undocumented Latino workers.

Peter Camejo ran as the Green Party candidate for governor and got 5.3% of the vote in the 2002 elections, beating the Republican Party in the inner Bay Area—San Francisco, Oakland, Berkeley, and Emeryville. In the “Green Belt” from Santa Cruz to Oregon, and from San Francisco to the Nevada border, Camejo got 10 percent of the vote. In the 2004 Presidential Primaries, he ran as a favorite son and got 75% of the Green vote in California, totaling nearly 30,000 votes.

David Cobb

As someone who is actively campaigning to earn the Green Party's nomination for President, I want to begin by acknowledging that the unelected and illegitimate current occupant of the White House is a problem. In fact, he is a big problem. But he is not THE problem. The real problem is the social, political, and economic system that is literally destroying the planet, driving the engine of empire on behalf of transnational corporations, and creating an unjust, oppressive and unsustainable world with the plunder.

The social, political, and economic system is the problem, and I am proud that the Green Party stands ready and willing to challenge it!

I propose that we run a strong, aggressive and smart presidential campaign that focuses on building the party. Such a campaign will be a genuine cooperative partnership between the campaign and local and state Green Parties. My specific goals:

- ! Increase Green membership and participation
- ! Maintain existing Green ballot lines
- ! Help Greens get elected at the local level
- ! Create new local and state chapters
- ! Strengthen existing local and state:

1) Greens don't just run in elections. We are citizen activists working on issues like a living wage, universal health care, a clean environment, publicly funded elections and ending the illegal and illegitimate war of occupation in Iraq (and Afghanistan and Columbia and it's a long and sordid list, isn't it?)

2) The Green Party is not going away. We are getting larger, stronger and better organized with every election cycle. The untold story is that there are 205 elected Greens across the nation.

3) Greens will continue to exercise our sacred right to participate in the electoral process. If the establishment political parties think our participation is “spoiling” elections, then they should work to adopt Instant Runoff Voting. (Instant Runoff Voting allows voters to rank order all candidates.) This system is in use across the globe, and is used in this country to select Baseball’s Most Valuable Player, the Heisman Trophy winner, and the Academy Award winners. If this voting system is good enough for sports and movies, surely it is good enough to be used when electing politicians!

4) Green candidates are WINNERS. We've won approximately 25% of the elections we have participated in over the past few years, and we have an impressive re-election track record to boot, proving that we can govern once we attain office.

5) There are sharp and unavoidable distinctions between Green candidates and so-called “progressive” Democratic politicians. There are lots of Democrats who call themselves progressives because they support abortion rights, while they also receive their funding from corporations and kowtow to real estate interests. This is half-assed progressivism and Greens are willing say so. Gavin “I'm progressive too!” Newsom is a prime example.

There are countless examples of “progressive” Democratic officeholders who have supported a Walmart development, a publicly funded stadium or convention center, NAFTA, WTO and IMF policies, or eviction of tenants to make way for an upscale condo development. (Al Gore spouted rhetoric against sprawl while supporting funding for projects that he knew would make it worse.)

Democratic politicians, including “progressives” cannot and will not wean themselves from corporate money. They will never challenge the legal doctrine of “corporate personhood” (which is the illegitimate doctrine that allows corporations to claim constitutional rights in order to overturn democratically enacted laws).

6) Greens know that there is a fundamental distinction between Democratic politicians and Democratic Party voters. We regard progressive voters as our best friends, and as future Green Party voters, registrants and activists.

7) Virtually every significant progressive gain in American history was originally proposed by an alternative “third” party: the abolition of slavery, women's right to vote, the 40 hour work week, unemployment insurance, worker's compensation laws, the minimum wage, pure food and drug laws, the abolition of child labor. In fact, the very foundation of what we today would consider the bare minimum for a just and compassionate society was championed by third parties. And the reality is that it only takes 10-15% of the vote in any national election to force the establishment parties to take new ideas seriously. So if we want universal health care, a living wage, and publicly funded elections, and an end to pre-emptive war as our foreign policy, we must be willing to vote for candidates who will fight for those issues.

And a closing thought on the Democratic Party’s presidential hopefuls: Howard Dean has taken a few mildly good positions – and we know he'll retreat from them if he gets nominated, just as Clinton did in 1992.

Dennis Kucinich, Al Sharpton, & Carol Moseley-Braun are much closer to the Green Party in their positions, but they cannot and will not win the nomination. Sadly, each one will ultimately endorse whoever receives the nomination, in effect abandoning their principles. (We can be sure that Kucinich, like Jerry Brown in 1992, won't even get a chance to speak in prime-time at the Democratic Convention, and that he will have zero influence on the Democratic platform).

I know that some Greens have joined Kucinich's campaign. Some have even joined Dean's. I respect their decision, even though I disagree with it. As someone who worked hard on Jesse Jackson’s campaigns in 1984 and 1988 and Jerry Brown’s campaign in 1992, here is my conclusion: The Democratic Party primary is the place where genuine progressive politics goes to die. G

David Cobb (707) 269-0984 is seeking the Green Party nomination for President in 2004 (votecobb.org). He served as the General Counsel for the Green Party of the United States until declaring his candidacy and was the Green Party of Texas (GPTX) candidate for Attorney General in 2002

Paul Glover

"While Greens resist corporate and consumer destruction of the planet and society, our message is primarily confident and affirmative. Greens can govern to rebuild America's cities, such that neighborhoods become energy-efficient; productive of food and fuel; respectful of water; safe and fun to live in. We can restore regional agriculture, rural economies, habitat. As candidate I'll campaign most aggressively in states where polls show no potential Green impact, to deflate public perception of a Green threat. I'm founder of Ithaca HOURS local currency, Ithaca Health Fund, Citizen Planners of Los Angeles, more. Founder, Los Angeles Greens 1984."

Paul Glover of New York State is the prime founder of Ithaca HOURS (a local currency), the Ithaca Health Fund, the Whole Ithaca Stock Exchange, the Ithaca Trolley Authority, and Citizen Planners of Los Angeles, among other groups.

Glover is author of the Web sites for Hometown Money and Ithaca Power (fuel system), as well as publisher of Ithaca Community News. He is employed by the Ithaca Health Fund. He was declared "Ithaca's Hero" by the Ithaca Times Readers' Polls of 1995 and 2000, and its "Best Mayoral Candidate" 2003. He received an award from the Tompkins County Human Rights Commission in 1996 and received a Cornell Civic Leaders Fellowship in 2001.

During 1978, Glover walked across the United States, entirely on foot, from Boston to San Diego. He is 56 years old and holds degrees in Marketing and in City Management.

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Kent Mesplay

Campaign Goals:

- Achieve the nomination of my party as the presidential candidate
- Obtain admission to the presidential debates in the Fall
- Press for: Instant Run-Off Voting (I.R.V.), Health Care Reform, Equitable payment for the Iraq War (by petroleum companies), Bring the troops home, Recognition of Global Climate Change as a serious problem, Promote National Energy Independence based upon Renewable Energy, Regional security (energy, food, water, transportation), Indigenous Rights

Long Term Goals:

- Universal ballot access for the Green Party
- Remove personhood rights (and excuses) from corporations
- Blue collar time for white collar crime
- Development of community-based communities (jobs, agriculture, housing, energy)
- Promote simpler living and a slower pace of life as an overlooked option
- Separation of powers: remove the stranglehold of banking and business upon gov't
- Transform the military toward peace-keeping operations, to peacefully assist mass migrations of people driven by drought.
- Teach that economic desperation fuels anti-US sentiment and terrorism

Biography: Born at Madang, Papua New Guinea, July 19, 1962. Parents Lutheran Missionaries.

Home schooled three years (Australian corres-pondence). Lived in Rain Forest.

Boarding school two years, then Colorado for Middle School and Ninth Grade.

San Diego for High School (father became Psychol-ogist). Straight A's. Valedictorian.

Harvey Mudd College, Claremont, CA, B.S. Engineering

Northwestern University, Evanston and Chicago, IL, M.S., Ph.D. Biomedical Engineering

Unemployed for an eternity. Volunteered at Veterans Affairs Medical Ctr, Long Beach.

Various papers and articles, specialty in artificial limbs (prostheses), cybernetics

Taught High School Math, Grossmont Union H.S. District, 2 years.

Air Quality Inspector II, San Diego Air Pollution Control District, 3 years.

Currently employed by County of San Diego (APCD); member SEIU Local 2028.

Politically: Appointed Treasurer of Green Party County Council, San Diego, 1996

Co-chair of Communication Committee (SDGPCC): press conference for Nader, '96

Founding member of San Diego Citizen's Action, 1996

Member of various environmental organizations and causes.

Statement of Principles:

I uphold, in common with other Greens (registered or not), the following perspectives:

Recognition that intentional, conscious human behaviour with concern for long term consequences is essential to solving our problems of justice, employment, health and relationship to natural environments.

Awareness that, as consumers, we vote every day with our money. Personal choices matter, such as moving toward a meat-free diet and utilizing energy efficient transportation.

Optimism that there is yet room, even in this post-9/11 political climate of near-paranoia and excessive government intrusion, to organize and act politically for the advancement of humanity and the preservation of other earth inhabitants.

Insistence that the democratic process is not well served by institutionalized bribery and corruption. We need meaningful campaign finance reform and consistent access to debates.

Concern that security issues are not addressed by our naïve president: we are not more secure against the threat of terrorism. Terrorism is more than a military problem. Our centralized control of water, food and energy renders us susceptible to disasters: natural or man-made.

A belief that the corporate bottom line is not the bottom line: our planetary life support system is. Globalization that strips families and governments of autonomy, despoils natural resources and landscapes and exploits and indebts the disenfranchised, including indigenous people, is not a form of advancement.

We are running out of time to mitigate the effects of global climate change. G

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Carol Miller

I am running for Presidential delegates to make sure that, at our convention in June, we commit to a strong campaign for President in 2004.

One of my key issues is fighting to end the U.S. addiction to a war and weapons of mass destruction economy. I am using the campaign to educate the public to what this addiction costs in human terms at home and around the world.

I have been a GP New Mexico candidate for Congress two times, in 1997 coming within 18% of winning an election to Congress. I have held and still hold local, state, and national GP offices. I joined the Green Party to be a part of a global movement for universal health care, economic justice, fair trade, human rights and all of the values of the Green movement.

In my work life, I am a nationally recognized expert on community health and economics. I have been honored by my peers with numerous state and national awards and held Presidential appointments in both the Reagan and Clinton administrations to work on health care issues, including working at the White House on Hillary Clinton's Health Care Task Force.

In 2002, in advance of the illegal invasion of Iraq, I founded a new organization PeaceEconomy to frame the issues of war and peace in terms of international and local economics. PeaceEconomy shows working people exactly how a war economy steals their health, their chances for good schools and a living wage by transferring the wealth they create into the pockets of corrupt defense contractors and their political cronies.

I am a Los Alamos down-winder and watchdog of the nuclear and biological weapons complex. My research links weapons of mass destruction to health problems in communities surrounding US WMD facilities. I am an organic gardener who was chosen to be part of a long-term study of Los Alamos fallout on the food crops grown by the organic farmers of northern New Mexico. [Would you like your broccoli with or without plutonium?] G

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Lorna Salzman

The future of our planet lies in the hands of several hundred elected representatives in the US Congress, most beholden to corporate interests whose objectives clash with the preservation of our natural environment as well as with social and economic justice. The decisions and policies the American government regarding the environment have reverberations across the globe, not just the US. What happens in Washington DC will decide the fate of the earth. The Green Party must become the uncompromising voice for all of nature and the survival of the planet.

With few exceptions there is no consistent and persistent voice for the environment in Washington, DC. Nor has there ever been one commensurate with the need. While a handful of congressmen occasionally vote properly, the record of both major parties is

overall a dismal one. The earth can no longer tolerate the abuse being heaped on it. A drastic change in environmental policies is needed, and soon. Only the election of Green Party candidates can initiate this change.

No leadership has been shown, for example, on global warming. The “progressive” voices on this simply support the Kyoto agreement which virtually all credible scientists say is totally inadequate; to mitigate the catastrophic impact of climate change a minimum of 50% reduction in fossil fuel burning is required over the next two to three decades. The Green Party must demand this, starting with the imposition of carbon taxes - taxes on fossil fuels based on their carbon content. Such taxes would drastically reduce gasoline consumption and get people out of their SUVs and into public transportation.

What our country does or does not do regarding the environment will have an enormous impact on other countries. What right do we have to implore less developed countries to preserve their wildlife when we are ready to sacrifice our own wildlife habitat for the benefit of unaccountable corporations? How can we ask them to support our anti-terrorist policies but refuse to accept responsibility for global environmental problems? How can we refuse to meet specific time and target goals for reducing fossil fuel emissions on grounds that poor and less developed countries have to do the same? And what gives us the right to export genetically modified corn to starving nations? Are we saying: Eat this or starve?

This country has the temerity to demand unswerving allegiance from its allies in its struggle against terrorism, yet refuses to fulfill its own responsibilities. It has not signed the Convention to End All Discrimination Against Women, has suspended aid to those countries who would not exempt American citizens from prosecution in the International Criminal Court, and refuses to sign the Kyoto, Biosafety and Biodiversity treaties. The US retreat from these global responsibilities has made it a rogue nation, one feared and hated, not respected and admired. This must be changed.

Here at home, our government has turned its back on the poor, the sick and the homeless without compassion; while it courts fundamentalist religions, hard-line military adventurists and neo-conservative so-called “free market” proponents to suck wealth upwards from the poor and middle class into the pockets of the wealthy and the investment community. This trend must be reversed. The first step must be adoption of a universal single payer health care system funded through the income tax. The second step is to drastically increase taxes on the wealthy and on corporations, who should be taxed at the rate prevalent in the 1950s, about 50%, while reducing the tax burden of the poor.

The fate of the earth lies in the hands of the rich and powerful in the US, whose citizens consume a quarter of the earth's resources, and which has devoted itself to supporting powerful unaccountable undemocratic agreements such as NAFTA and the GATT agreement being implemented by the WTO. These agreements were written at the behest of transnational corporations having allegiance to no one and nothing but their own profit. These policies and agreements can only be undone – and alternative policies and development models developed – if the US Congress wills it. I would devote my energy to reversing the policies and programs that are literally destroying not only the earth but our children's future. For starters we should dismantle the WTO and NAFTA, and drastically reform the structure and objectives of the World Bank and the IMF. My vision is an aggressive defense of the earth, its natural resources, its wildlife and its ecosystems, without compromise. I defy the major party candidates to make this commitment. G

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