

What is the Green Party?

We are an association of people who have come together for common political goals, and to help advocates of those goals get elected to government. But as a movement-based party, we don't just show up at election time. We are in the fight for social progress all year round. We are also part of an international movement of Green parties around the world.

What has the Green Party done?

There are many Greens who hold elective office around the nation today, primarily at the local or municipal level. In Illinois, we have elected officeholders to city government, community college, park district and library boards. We have members serving on other government bodies as appointees or volunteers. We have run very competitive races for state and even statewide office.

However, the Green Party's influence is not limited to electoral action alone. We are involved in the peace movement, the environmental movement, the movement for single-payer health care, pro-labor and pro-education causes, the struggles to overcome racism and sexism, the struggles for ballot integrity, criminal justice reform – and much more. Greens were in the forefront of struggles like the fight for marriage equality and legalization of cannabis years before they became politically “feasible” – and we helped those causes succeed.

It is not easy to break up the two-party stranglehold on government. There is no guaranteed road map for success. But the Green Party gives the people one of the best opportunities to ultimately win the struggle.

How is the Green Party different?

We understand why many people don't want anything to do with politics: Our political system has become so corrupt and sickening that it turns off most voters. But that is due to the behavior of the two corporate parties. The Green Party is different. We are distinguished by **three unique characteristics:**

First, the Green Party is based on values and principles, not politicians with more "image" and money than substance. We are united by our Ten Key Values:

Ecological Wisdom, Social Justice, Grassroots Democracy, Nonviolence, Decentralization, Community-Based Economics, Feminism and Gender Equality, Respect for Diversity, Personal and Global Responsibility, Future Focus and Sustainability

Second, the Green Party and its candidates reject corporate funding and influence. We are a grassroots party, led by rank and file members, not elite political families and wealthy donors.

By their very nature, corporations do whatever will maximize profits in the short term, even if that means wrecking the environment, destroying jobs and communities, profiteering from war,

or otherwise causing social harm. Big banks and corporations have come to control government more than government controls them. We need to wage a struggle to take government away from the control of the wealthy and bring it under the control of all the people. This must include a struggle for economic, as well as political, democracy.

Third, the Green Party is a movement-based party. When you vote Green, you're not voting for “just another politician.” You're voting for the causes you believe in. Because we are involved in various movements for social progress, our platform and campaigns reflect the agendas of those movements, not the agenda of the ruling elite. These movements already know how to solve most of the problems afflicting society. What they lack is the political power to enact those solutions. We aim to change that.

Nothing will ever change for the better if the majority of working-class folks stay on the sidelines and leave politics to the same old corrupt politicians and parties. If people leave politics to the powerful few, the powerful few will continue to dominate. If the people are ever to gain control of their own government, **good people like you have to step up and become part of the solution.**

Most Americans already agree that we need an effective third party to break up the Democrat-Republican stranglehold on our political system. If everyone who reads this and agrees with it were to get involved, it wouldn't take long for the Green Party to become that party. **Please join our efforts and help us make this a reality.**

Where does the Green Party stand on major issues?

The Green Party consistently stands up for the interests of working people, the poor and under-served, and the environment.

Here are just a few examples:

We recognize that the climate crisis and destruction of our ecosystem is a 911 emergency. That's why the Green Party originated the Green New Deal, a proposed WWII-scale national mobilization to halt climate change and create 20 million jobs by transitioning to 100% clean renewable energy by 2030, investing in public transit, sustainable (regenerative) agriculture, conservation and restoration of critical infrastructure, including ecosystems.

We call for a publicly funded health care system, to provide comprehensive quality care for all. We demand free higher education and an end to student debt. We also answer the question of how to pay for these things – cut the military budget, tax wealth, not poverty, tax the polluters, and enact monetary reform.

We have consistently opposed all U.S. wars for empire without compromise, including the illegal occupations, illegal sanctions, drone strikes and other acts of war in the Middle East and Africa.

In Illinois, we fight for a graduated tax system to adequately fund our schools, honor public pension obligations and meet pressing social needs. We fight against pay-to-play, patronage hiring and other political corruption that has plagued Illinois for decades.

How YOU can get involved!

Run for local office! This is a great way to gain experience and help us build the party. The party can help you get started.

Support Green Party candidates! Our party and candidates do NOT accept corporate money. We are building a party based on people power, not big political donors buying political results. You can help by donating when you can, volunteering for a campaign, attending events, and spreading the word among friends, neighbors and co-workers.

Help Green Party candidates get on the ballot! Illinois has some of the most restrictive ballot access laws in the country, designed to maintain a two-party monopoly. We must gather many more signatures from voters just to appear on the ballot. You can help by supporting fair ballot access laws and circulating petitions to give voters a choice.

Join a local chapter! Unlike the corporate parties, the Green Party is a democratic, membership-based organization. You can become a member of the Illinois Green Party, get involved in a local or chapter and get involved in its decision-making. You can find chapter contact and membership information at ilgp.org. If you're not online or prefer to have information mailed to you, you can also contact us at:

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ILLINOIS GREEN PARTY

Do You Want:

Serious action on climate change?

Quality education – and free higher education – for all?

Quality health care for all?

Economic security for all?

An end to U.S. wars?

Civil liberties?

Government that works for you?

You will never get them from the Democratic or Republican parties.

You need to:

VOTE GREEN.