

The Green Party's Ten Key Values

1. Grassroots Democracy: Every human being deserves a say in the decisions that affect their lives and not be subject to the will of another. Therefore, we will work to increase public participation at every level of government and to ensure that our public representatives are fully accountable to the people who elect them. We will also work to create new types of political organizations which expand the process of participatory democracy by directly including citizens in the decision-making process.

2. Social Justice & Equal Opportunity: All persons should have the rights and opportunity to benefit equally from the resources afforded us by society and the environment. We must consciously confront in ourselves, our organizations, and society at large, barriers such as racism and class oppression, sexism and homophobia, ageism and disability, which act to deny fair treatment and equal justice under the law.

3. Ecological Wisdom: Human societies must operate with the understanding that we are part of nature, not separate from nature. We must maintain an ecological balance and live within the ecological and resource limits of our communities and our planet. We support a sustainable society which utilizes resources in such a way that future generations will benefit and not suffer from the practices of our generation. To this end we must practice agriculture which replenishes the soil; move to an energy efficient economy; and live in ways that respect the integrity of natural systems.

4. Non-Violence: It is essential that we develop effective alternatives to society's current patterns of violence. We will work to demilitarize, and eliminate weapons of mass destruction, without being naive about the intentions of other governments. We recognize the need for self-defense and the defense of others who are in helpless situations. We promote non-violent methods to oppose practices and policies with which we disagree, and will guide our actions toward lasting personal, community and global peace.

5. Decentralization: Centralization of wealth and power contributes to social and economic injustice, environmental destruction, and militarization. Therefore, we support a restructuring of social, political and economic institutions away from a system which is controlled by and mostly benefits the powerful few, to a democratic, less bureaucratic system. Decision-making should, as much as possible, remain at the individual and local level, while assuring that civil rights are protected for all citizens.

6. Community-Based Economics & Economic Justice: We recognize it is essential to create a vibrant and sustainable economic system, one that can create jobs and provide a decent standard of living for all people while maintaining a healthy ecological balance. A successful economic system will offer meaningful work with dignity, while paying a "living wage" which reflects the real value of a person's work. Local communities must look to economic development that assures protection of the environment and workers' rights; broad citizen participation in planning; and enhancement of our "quality of life." We support independently owned and operated companies which are socially responsible, as well as co-operatives and public enterprises that distribute resources and control to more people through democratic participation.

7. Feminism & Gender Equity: We have inherited a social system based on male domination of politics and economics. We call for the replacement of the cultural ethics of domination and control with more cooperative ways of interacting that respect differences of opinion and gender. Human values such as equity between the sexes, interpersonal responsibility, and honesty must be developed with moral conscience. We should remember that the process that determines our decisions and actions is just as important as achieving the outcome we want.

8. Respect for Diversity: We believe it is important to value cultural, ethnic, racial, sexual, religious and spiritual diversity, and to promote the development of respectful relationships across these lines. We believe that the many diverse elements of society should be reflected in our organizations and decision-making bodies, and we support the leadership of people who have been traditionally closed out of leadership roles. We acknowledge and encourage respect for other life forms than our own and the preservation of biodiversity.

9. Personal & Global Responsibility: We encourage individuals to act to improve their personal well-being and, at the same time, to enhance ecological balance and social harmony. We seek to join with people and organizations around the world to foster peace, economic justice, and the health of the planet.

10. Future Focus & Sustainability: Our actions and policies should be motivated by long-term goals. We seek to protect valuable natural resources, safely disposing of or "unmaking" all waste we create, while developing a sustainable economics that does not depend on continual expansion for survival. We must counterbalance the drive for short-term profits by assuring that economic development, new technologies, and fiscal policies are responsible to future generations who will inherit the results of our actions.

Ellis Boal for Congress 1st District



Vote Green Tuesday, November 2!

- * Pro-choice
- * Pro-single-payer
- * Pro-labor
- * Pro-environment
- * No to Kennecott mining at Eagle Rock
- * Support the troops, bring them home – save lives and money
- * No aid to Israel without a peace deal

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Outsider candidates add complexity to race to replace Stupak



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Glenn Wilson (L)
challenges from the right;
Ellis Boal (R) from the left.

The enormous 1st Congressional District has been represented since 1994 by Bart Stupak, an unusual pro-life, pro-gun Democrat who decided to retire from Congress after being attacked by both Democrats and Republicans for his role in the development of federal health care reform.

Now that Stupak's seat is open, Republicans are eager to win it back, Democrats are struggling to hang on to it, and candidates from outside these parties are trying to get voters to rethink the fundamentals of how government operates and what principles should guide government actions.

The Republican primary featured one of the closest races in state history. Surgeon Dan Benishek, with some support from Republicans in Washington DC, beat term-limited State Sen. Jason Allen, who was seen as the favorite of the state Republican Party, by just 15 votes. The Democrats settled on Gary McDowell, a term limited State Rep. from the UP town of Rudyard who shares some key positions with Stupak. The other Democratic contenders dropped from the race before the primary.

Glenn Wilson, owner of a telecom business in the small Northeastern Lower Peninsula town of Rose City, is running as an independent with a platform that doesn't look very different than Benishek's — top issues for both candidates include job creation, fiscal responsibility, lower taxes, secure borders and opposing recent federal health care reform.

"Dr. Benishek supports the right of all citizens to run for public office," said Benishek Press Secretary Trent Benishek. "However, he questions the wisdom of splitting the conservative vote, thereby allowing another Lansing liberal to get elected to Congress."

"In the end, Dr. Benishek is confident that the voters of the 1st District will support his call for less spending, less

taxes, and less government regulation by casting their ballots for him on election day."

Wilson campaign manager Rich Carlson, one of the founders of the Northern Michigan Liberty Alliance, a coalition of Tea Party groups from across Northern Michigan, said that he is not sure that those who favor smaller government will pick Benishek.

Carlson said the vibrant Tea Party organizations located in District 1 are pursuing diverse strategies of engagement in this election and many have become delegates to the Republican Convention, where they hope to steer the party platform toward Tea Party values of smaller government and free enterprise.

To Carlson, however, both parties are so corrupted by money from Political Action Committees, that he thinks it is important to step outside the party system and back someone who is completely independent, and he said that people around Northern Michigan seem receptive to this idea.

"Republicans campaign as Tea Party people and then they govern as Democrat Lite," he said. "In terms of growth in government if Democrats are driving us into a tree at 80 miles per hour, Republicans are driving us into a tree at 40 miles an hour. Unless the Republicans start losing some elections they are never going to get the message."

Like Benishek, Wilson has a campaign tour bus which he is using to tour the district and meet with voters.

Though it was reported that he planned to spend up to two million dollars of his own money on this campaign, Wilson told Michigan Messenger that the FEC has disapproved of his plan to use his stock in his company as collateral for a private loan that he would use to fund his campaign. As a result Wilson will now rely on contributions that he collects while campaigning.

The Green Party candidate in Dist. 1, Charlevoix labor attorney **Ellis Boal**, has some specific pro-environment and anti-war policy ideas that could potentially draw Democratic voters or others that are focused on these issues. **Boal** is also the only pro-choice candidate in the race and the only to support repeal of the recent federal health care reform in favor of a single payer "Medicare for all" system.

Boal said that he opposes plans by Kennecott Eagle minerals to develop a nickel sulfide mine on public land west of Marquette and near Lake Superior. If elected to Congress, **Boal** said he would explore legislation that would

ban sulfide mining from coastal areas until it can be demonstrated that such mines can operate safely.

Boal says that he stands unequivocally against the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan and supports an end to US aid to Israel.

Israel receives \$2-3 billion a year in direct aid, most of it military, and no accounting is required as to how the funds are used, **Boal** said.

"Israel is not a part of NATO. I'm not aware of any mutual defense treaty that the U.S. has with Israel. Israel doesn't have borders, Israel ran the Palestinians out in 1948. Israel is the largest recipient of US aid. A lot of the weapons used by Israel against Palestinians are U.S.-made. The U.S. isn't getting anything out this. If it wanted to play a neutral role that would be a lot better. In the meantime the U.S. should end support of Israel. Israel can take care of itself."

Boal said his strategy for communicating with voters involves making himself available for interviews and entering into any debates. He also said he plans to retool his website of the next few weeks to include more information on federal issues.

"I can't travel all over the state and knock on every door," he said. "I have other things in my life. Campaigning is not my full time occupation."

Some analysts say that a Green candidacy in Dist. 1 could help the Republicans if it drew voters away from the Democrat in a close race. "If that's what they think," said **Boal**, "it doesn't interest me."

"My intention is to put out Green ideas, Green programs and get people thinking about these ideas. That is the most useful thing that I am doing. Trying to raise and implement these long term visions and goals in the minds of the people is more important than what happens in one election in one district."

Bill Ballenger, former Republican state senator and editor of Inside Michigan Politics said that he doesn't think **Boal** will be as big a negative for the Democrats as Wilson may be for the Republicans.

"Obviously candidates from the left tend to hurt Democrats," said political commentator and journalist Jack Lessenberry. "But in recent years, since Ralph Nader inadvertently caused George W. Bush to win Florida in 2000, support for independent candidates has dwindled considerably."

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