

VOTING BLUE BUT STILL IN THE RED?

IT'S TIME TO VOTE GREEN.



FOR A HEALTHY ECONOMY WITH FULL AND EQUAL OPPORTUNITY FOR ALL

WE CAN ACHIEVE a healthy economy, but it will take the political will of every voter and all of our elected representatives to overcome the money and power of corporate lobbyists. Therefore, we must be committed to counting every vote that is cast, and our elections must be publicly financed, finally freed of special interest money. A major shift in our country's budgeted priorities is urgently needed. Says Green Party Presidential candidate, Cynthia McKinney, "We must not give our most precious political asset – our vote – to candidates who fail to make the public policy commitments that will result in better economic performance, less waste, and real opportunity for our children, workers, and seniors."

A REAL PEACE DIVIDEND

The Pentagon admits to having "lost" \$2.3 trillion. During his administration of the Bush "War on Terror," Paul Bremer "lost" approximately \$9 billion of Iraqi money and can't account for nearly \$20 billion. Under his watch, 363 tons of cash were flown on pallets into Iraq and promptly vanished. In Iraq, the Pentagon can't account for 200,000 rifles and pistols, 250,000 pieces of body armor and helmets, and yet the Congress continues to vote unprecedented Pentagon budgets. Both Democrats and Republicans promise more of the same. As a Congresswoman, McKinney fought Pentagon waste, fraud, and abuse. Cynthia wants to dismantle the military-industrial-prison complex and promote the real foundation of a healthy economy: single-payer health care, Green energy and transportation projects, infrastructure investments, affordable housing, quality K-12 and subsidized higher education eliminating student indebtedness, and investments in Main Street's small businesses.

MONEY FOR PEOPLE, NOT FOR BANKS

The Federal Reserve is a private banking corporation working for the banks rather than the public. Those banks, with the Federal Reserve, create money from thin air by loaning it into existence. The system is unsustainable, because more money is always owed back in principal and interest than was created in the original loans. We are heading into what may be the worst depression in our country's history, one that can be traced directly to the privatization of the creation of money by the Federal Reserve Bank. Except for coins, the entire national money supply is now created by banks in the form of loans; including a half trillion dollars recently issued to bail out the banks who created the current credit crisis. Bank regulation has failed. The power to create money needs to be taken from private hands and restored to Congress. "The full faith and credit of the United States" should be used to fund public works directly, without interest or debt owed to financial middlemen.

A "NEW DEAL" SCALE PROGRAM FOR SUSTAINABLE ENERGY AND TRANSPORTATION

War is not an acceptable energy policy. Cynthia believes we should leave the oil in the soil and promote, instead, solar, wind, geothermal, and other sustainable energy sources. New jobs in the manufacturing, service, and agriculture sectors will result from these investments. New high-speed rail and modernized public transit will not only reduce congestion, but will also result in fewer negative health effects due to poor air quality. A sustainable energy policy that excludes nuclear energy will result in more and better jobs, a healthier economy, a cleaner environment, and a safer world.

RECONSTRUCTED COMMUNITIES, RECONSTRUCTED LIVES

The policies of the Bush Administration and the Congress have devastated our communities and our lives. Hurricane Katrina was a violent, visible convulsion in which government inaction and bad policy resulted in untold loss of life, violation of the rights of residents, and an impoverished population of the internally displaced. Sadly, the experiences of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita survivors are becoming a metaphor for the devastation individual Americans are now experiencing because of specific policy choices made by our elected representatives. Cynthia understands that the role of government must first be to do no harm, and secondly it must protect and serve the people. Cynthia knows that the voters have the power to change the policies and the policy makers so that our government – of, for, and by the people – can once again earn our respect and that of the world.

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SINGLE-PAYER UNIVERSAL HEALTH CARE

Quality health care is a right. Cynthia believes a "Medicare-for-all" system would produce healthier Americans at far less cost. Health care for all would also eliminate disparities by race that continue to exist in our health care delivery system. Doctors prefer single-payer health care; Democratic voters overwhelmingly prefer a single-payer type of health care system. Other countries with a single-payer system perform better on health measures like infant mortality and life expectancy, yet we pay more in the U.S. and get poorer results. Anyone reeling from being told "No" by an insurance company bureaucrat to important treatment understands the need for a total system overhaul. Yet, special interest money going to both major political parties prevents Democratic and Republican leaders from giving the people and the professionals what we need and want. Cynthia says, "When we vote for candidates who are committed to single-payer, we will get single-payer."

MONEY FOR EDUCATION, NOT PRISONS FOR PROFIT

At a time when the U.S. graduates only half of its high school students and our students score consistently lower than children in other parts of the world, the Republican Party has intensified its attack on public education. Not surprisingly, its policy choices also include increasing our number one ranking as an incarceration nation. Not only through the bogus War on Drugs, but also through the Bush War on Terror, our civil liberties have been eroded as attention is turned to foreign nationals inside the United States as well as U.S. citizens. Funding for prisons is skyrocketing while, especially in Republican-led states, cutbacks in education are the norm. Just as bad, U.S. college students often graduate tens of thousands of dollars in debt. This is no way to run an education system. Yet, we allow our policy makers to make these choices for us. Education should be free, motivating, relevant, and quality. We can have quality education for our children and eliminate justice disparities if we vote for candidates whose track record demonstrates such a commitment. If we compromise our values and our votes, we will continue to get what our children get now: politically correct statements from politicians at election time and increases in prison and Pentagon funding at budget time.

FAIR TRADE, NOT CORPORATE GLOBALIZATION

Cynthia has shown real leadership in the fight against corporate globalization. Recognizing that U.S. corporations were destroying jobs in the U.S. and oppressing workers abroad, Cynthia authored legislation to take tax breaks from companies that move their plants overseas, the Corporate Welfare Reduction and Job Preservation Act. She also authored the TRUTH Act that required disclosure of the addresses of U.S. corporate subsidiaries or contract companies operating overseas. Her Corporate Responsibility Act required U.S. corporations operating overseas to abide by U.S. labor and environmental standards. She also authored legislation to shorten the work week. Cynthia believes that NAFTA and other such "free trade" deals should be repealed and that corporations should be publicly accountable and socially responsible.

A GENUINE LIVING WAGE

Cynthia authored a bill to nationally institute a living wage. Cynthia believes that a healthy economy requires that workers be paid a wage adequate to support themselves and their families, a living wage. Had workers' wages kept pace with CEO wages, the minimum wage today, according to United for a Fair Economy, would be \$22.00 an hour. Cynthia also believes that no woman should perform equal work for unequal pay. Now is the time to vote our values and support working families.

A REBUILT MANUFACTURING BASE AND STRONG LOCAL ECONOMIES

A Marshall Plan for America could include a jobs program that invests in green technologies, infrastructure investments, and a green economy. Local production for local consumption is the model to ensure strong local economies. Imagine manufacturing plants in converted abandoned urban big-box buildings – with job preferences for local residents. Imagine "swords into plowshares" type projects where cleaned up, former military bases are turned into community assets for socially useful production. Voting for publicly-debated public policy results nets that. Voting for unmade promises amounts to blind-faith voting.

DEBT RELIEF FOR WORKERS, STUDENTS, HOMEOWNERS, AND OUR COUNTRY

According to former U.S. Comptroller David Walker, the U.S. could not pay all its debt and obligations if they were due today. The Congress continues to fund an illegal, immoral war and a reckless Pentagon that has "lost" \$2.3 trillion. Predatory lending has resulted in the greatest loss of wealth for Black and Latino households while banking CEOs rake in record pay. An unprecedented loss of family homes through foreclosure demands an immediate freeze on foreclosures, renegotiation of predatory loans, usurious interest rates on credit card debt, and a program of occupancy for foreclosed homes, not demolition. Particularly now, neighborhoods must be protected from gentrification. Student loans should also be targeted for renegotiation. Cynthia believes that sustainable pathways toward home ownership should be available to all and community ownership programs that empower the people should be pursued.

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