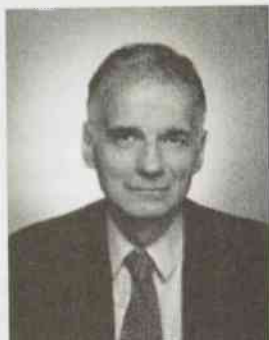


The Issues

by
April Bethea

According to a survey sponsored by MTV's "Choose or Lose" campaign and the Kaiser Family Foundation, America's youth have strong opinions on many of the issues addressed in the upcoming presidential election. The survey states that education reform, tougher gun control laws, health care reform, abortion and the expansion of civil rights laws are among the chief concerns of young adults aged 18-24.

Many Americans have become familiar with the viewpoints of democratic and republican candidates Al Gore and George W. Bush on televised debates. However, because of the bipartisan structure of the debates, many are not aware of the platforms of Green Party candidate Ralph Nader and Reform Party candidate Patrick Buchanan.



RALPH NADER

Green Party

Running mate: Winona LaDuke

Background: Ran for president in 1996, consumer advocate and founder of Public Interest Research Group, Center for Women's Policy Studies.

Economy: Increase minimum wage to \$10 by 2003.

Education: Opposes school vouchers, supports raises in teacher pay and equipping all schools with equal resources, supports development of civic curriculum where students would learn in terms of understanding the reality around them.

Health Care: Create a universal health care system, transform health care into a non-profit system, favors price controls on drugs using taxpayer dollars.

Gun Control: Advocates trigger locks on handguns, supports strict licensing of gun owners.

Civil Rights: Believes federal governments should maintain commitment to affirmative action, opposes judicial rulings against affirmative action in higher education, supports American Civil Liberties Union stance to end racial profiling.

Abortion: Believes government should not intervene with a woman's right to choose.



AL GORE

Democratic party

Running mate: Joseph Lieberman

Background: Vice President of the United States 1993-present, U.S. Congress 1977-1993.

Economy: Cut taxes by \$500 billion over 10 years, target tax credits primarily to low and middle-income taxpayers, increase minimum wage by \$1 over two years.

Education: Opposes school vouchers, supports school accountability standards, supports exit-exams for high school students, raise teacher pay, make higher education affordable through \$10,000 annual tuition tax-credit.

Health Care: Strengthen Social Security and Medicare with budget surplus, expand accessibility to health care to working families, children and senior citizens; provide Prescription Drug Benefit to senior citizens, extend life of Medicare trust fund to at least 2030.

Gun Control: Require state-controlled licensing, increase penalties for gun-related crimes, require child-safety locks on all new handguns, raise minimum age to possess handgun from 18 to 21.

Civil Rights: Will urge congressional passage of Hate Crimes Prevention Act, supports affirmative action as it stands today, will nominate Supreme Court justices who will defend civil rights laws.

Abortion: Supports a woman's right to choose, opposes partial-birth abortion ban unless exemptions are made to protect health of mother.