



ILLINOIS GREEN PARTY

213 S. Wheaton Ave., Wheaton, IL 60187 773-809-4547 info@ilgp.org www.ilgp.org

ILGP Federal Candidate Questionnaire

Please return this questionnaire to chair@ilgp.org or secretary@ilgp.org

Name: **Aaron Zachary Goldberg**

Complete Address: **28496 Wagon Trail Road
Lakemoor, IL 60051**

Phone(s) and Email: **815-861-5110 azgoldb7@neiu.edu**

Office you wish to seek: **US House of Representatives, IL 10th Congressional District**

Are you a member of the ILGP? Yes No

Do you support each of the Ten Key Values—Ecological Wisdom, Social Justice, Grassroots Democracy, Nonviolence, Decentralization, Community-Based Economics, Feminism, Respect for Diversity, Personal and Global Responsibility, and Future Focus? Yes No

If you answered "No" please elaborate.

Do you meet all of the legal qualifications for this office? Yes No

What primary ballot (if any) did you pull in the last general primary? **Democrat**

Why do you wish to hold this office?

Because our future as a planet looks bleak. Because we don't have the time to sit around wait for someone else to take charge and do something about it. But maybe the most important reason is because I joined a revolution about a year and a half ago, and we made a promise to show up. Because its now or never. Our climate is sitting at a tipping point, and don't believe me, believe Stephen Hawking. We have to act NOW to reverse course, and we NEED people in charge with experience in STEM fields who have a VESTED interest in our planets future. Because climate change isn't far off in the distance anymore. Because what's our plan to deal with 500 million climate refugees 30 years from now?

Why do you feel you are qualified to run?

Many of the issues currently unaddressed in our government require a good understanding of STEM to be able to fully grasp. Understanding Healthcare requires you understand the practice itself in terms of the roles of doctors, nurses, etc. in addition to understanding the human body itself and beyond that in a more general sense, biologic processes and the way they affected us on a cellular level. Understanding the way the environment affects our bodies and the way we think is the most important piece of knowledge to have when considering environmental issues. Understanding bulk data in our world today has become a massively important skill in fixing problems with criminal justice, equality of all kinds, public health, public transit, environmental protection, etc. Most important out of STEM though, is understanding physics. New battery technology, nuclear power, solar panels, Hyperloop, self driving cars, deep space mining (you want to see destabilization? When the first country brings a rare metal rich asteroid into Earth's orbit to mine, you'll see destabilization. This could likely happen for the first time in 2036), the entire future of energy. But maybe even more important is the way CRSPR/Cas9 is going to change the world forever and we need to stay out in front of new technologies of that sophistication. However, that STEM base must also be contrasted with basic human dignity. As a government of the people our first role is to protect human rights, and in America, that extends to human dignity. We need politicians to propose "ambitious" policies like ending inequality in upbringing by ensuring all people have access to high quality nutritious foods, which could have been accomplished the



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most recent increase in defense spending. Or ending housing insecurity and homelessness with "pie-in-sky" dreams of affordable housing and offering public housing options. Speaking out against the war profit centers, which waste taxpayer dollars funding "defense contractors" which are illegal according to the U.N. International Convention against the Recruitment, Use, Financing and Training of Mercenaries or against cluster bomb sales which feed anti-America propaganda because they are also illegal according to the U.N. Convention on Cluster Munitions. It requires that you speak out for all the people who are affected by your government.

So, what qualifies me? I'll be receiving a Bachelor's degree in Earth Science with a minor in Physics so I know science, and I know how to make indifferent assessments of information. I also know people, and the real problems that real people have in their every day lives. I know how to use the government a tool to help fix the real problems people have in their every day lives. But what really matters is that I stand at an interesting crossroads in history. I have roots in German and in Jewish heritage, and so there's a poem that has brought me to the brink of tears many times in its message and must sum up better than anything else why I feel a calling to step up and do something.

"First they came for the Communists
And I did not speak out
Because I was not a Communist
Then they came for the Socialists
And I did not speak out
Because I was not a Socialist
Then they came for the trade unionists
And I did not speak out
Because I was not a trade unionist
Then they came for the Jews
And I did not speak out
Because I was not a Jew
Then they came for me
And there was no one left
To speak out for me."

And so I refuse NOT to speak out. Because I can give voice to the weak and powerless who have no one speaking for them.

What is the most important issue you feel needs to be addressed?

The only group to ever directly finance a terrorist attack on the United States is based in Saudi Arabia and is funded by the Saudi Arabian government through the Petrodollar. US dollars being paid to Saudi Arabia for natural resources, approved by the US government, which then are used to finance terror groups or used instead to purchase weapons, sales which are approved by the US government, for those very terror groups. His name was Osama bin Laden, and instead of taking down the terror network that gave him power in Saudi Arabia, we set out destabilizing every country in the region.

Which leads me to my biggest issue. MONEY! MONEY! MONEY! Defense Companies are the second biggest donors to political campaigns. They sell weapons to Saudi Arabia. That is essentially Saudi Arabia giving money directly to political parties that have been keeping them the dominant regional power for decades. We all agree money corrupts, so lets get it out of our politics once and for all.

How many hours per week can you contribute to campaigning? Minimum 30 hours per week until December, Starting in December I would like to up that to 72 hours per week

Does your partner/family support your run for office? Yes No

Will you agree not to accept contributions from corporations or corporate PACs? Yes No



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Will you agree to share your donor and volunteer information with the ILGP? Yes No

How would you describe your current base of support?
My current base of support is limited to friends and family.

Please describe any volunteer experience you have with the Green Party.
I have not previously volunteered with the Green Party.

Please briefly describe any other relevant experience you have had, including employment, working on other political campaigns, or other volunteer efforts:

I have worked as a warehouse supervisor in charge of about 40 employees as well as one of year of experience in ROTC which I would amount to my leadership experience. I volunteered with the Bernie Sanders campaign doing canvassing, phone banking, knocking on doors, and engaging on social media.

Currently I am President and Treasurer for the Earth Science Club at my college NEIU.

If you have worked for a political campaign, please describe your experience.
I have never been employed with a political campaign.

Have you previously run for and/or held a public elected office? If so, please describe.
I have never run for or held public office.

Please provide any other general information you feel may be appropriate.

As far as actually being elected is concerned, I already have a place to live in the D.C. Area. As far as getting security clearances is concerned, my Grandfather was in the Air Force, 30 years, and in the CIA, 15 years, and my Father was in the Air Force, 13 years, and both of them had Top Secret security clearances.

Please briefly describe your position on the following issues:

Campaign Finance and/or Election Reform

When the Democratic National Convention is sponsored by Comcast, you know there's an issue. No more corporate money. Lower donation caps on the richest people being able to contribute to political parties. No more political money laundering. The HRC campaign showed it all to us in plain view. The top 1% gave donations to all the state parties, the national party, and to her; hundreds of thousands of dollars from a single person. They showed us again, 50 million dollars on a House race. Public financing, where the government provides a certain amount of public funds to national parties and will match a certain amount of donated funds from individuals. This is the only way to make elections actually accessible to the citizenry.

As for elections, we must move to a multi-party system which will force the building of coalition governments so our government can actually be productive. One of two changes must occur. Either we move to a system similar to parliament where individuals vote for a party, which then is allocated seats and chooses members in its own primary; or where primaries are open to all, and the most popular candidates, regardless of party affiliation, are chosen to run again in a general election. Due to the issues with gerrymandering, for federal elections I would push for the first, therefore allowing under represented groups who get split or isolated to receive more representation and taking away any potential for political bias in drawing districts.



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Energy Policy

Our energy grid needs to be completely restructured. As it stands now, our grid has almost zero energy storage capacity. Public works can be used to build and maintain local renewable energy projects like hydroelectric reservoirs (and other natural, green energy storage techniques), solar farms, wind farms, and new hydroelectric farms. Our nuclear energy sector needs to be dismantled. It was a promising technology but it has proved costlier and riskier than other energy methods in maintenance and storage of nuclear waste. Even now we see the beginning of solar panels with batteries being cheaper than our traditional energy infrastructure. The future is in local energy projects, and giving local governments the ability to innovate new energy systems that meet the needs and constraints of differing communities.

Climate Change and other Environmental Policy

Lead pipes, CO2 emissions, Methane emissions, vaccines, cigarettes, sonar, WiFi, leaded gasoline, antibiotics. All were pushed on the public without fully knowing the effects. Some killed whales, some is heating the planet, some (as far as we know) are harmless. Regardless, we cannot allow new technologies that have potentially wide ranging environmental impacts to be used without question. We risk destroying our fresh water systems with antibiotics. Our oceans with garbage, so much so that entire islands have formed out of our garbage. Leaded gasoline and lead pipes have ravaged communities across the country causing crime and permanent damage to human brains. Micro particles from vehicle exhaust cause asthma and other respiratory diseases. Our environment affects our health in a profound way and this is why we always need to think about the future and the governments role in protecting people from pollutants and from big companies that want to pollute.

As far as climate change is concerned, it is too late to stop. We must come to the understand that the best we can deal with this crisis going forward is to try and lessen the impact on our population and prevent further damage from being caused. Our planet will eventually sequester carbon back into carbon sinks and restore balance to our environment. The most important thing to do now is reduce as much as possible the amount of carbon emissions we are dumping into our environment so our climate system can return itself to equilibrium. Coasts across the country will be flooded. Islands across the world will be flooded. Millions will be displaced here in the US, millions more in the America's and hundreds of millions worldwide. It has already begun. Island nations have already begun plans to move or evacuate. Fresh water resources are becoming more and more scarce. The flood gates of climate refugees are waiting to burst in just a few years time and there needs to be a plan on to deal with it before another refugee crisis occurs.

Going forward, our strategy must be to reduce dependence on fossil fuels with a myriad of green and renewable energy options, but also to look globally. America must look to the future and begin exporting new green technology. If not we will fall behind the clear global trend away from old energy technologies. We must end construction of oil pipelines that only keep us dependent on old world energy methods and prevent change due the cost commitment we make to them, usually with public money in some respect.

Economic Policy

One issue with having healthcare as a right and providing public college education tuition free, is what to do with the people under mountains of debt because of the now public systems. Education debt loaded by the federal government can be forgiven through quantitative easing. The government must also provide a program for paying off healthcare debts. The healthcare debt industry could be brought to an end by the US government buying off all medical debt at debt market rate and again forgiving it through quantitative easing (This was done by Jon Oliver on Last



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Week Tonight after he smeared Jill Stein for saying our government could do this). This would serve as a long needed bailout of the poor and middle class in America.

America needs to increase the velocity of money moving through our economy with the establishment of a \$15 national minimum wage. This would cause the price of many goods and services to go up. However, in combination with reductions to healthcare costs, reductions in food costs, reduction in transit costs, reduction in energy costs, and reductions in housing costs, there would be an increase in the disposable income of the average American. It is true that some jobs will be lost in the raising of a minimum wage, again though, many of these jobs are very close to being lost to automation as it is and many are already in the process of being automated. This is why the only way to save the working class and poor in America is with a new jobs program that will employ, long term, the people most affected by new trends in technology.

Large corporations have successfully managed to reduce the amount of taxes they pay while they having increasing profits. Our big businesses now favor stock dividends over employee wage increases. Corporations also manage to hide their profits overseas and are allowed to bring these massive quantities of money into the country paying significantly reduced US taxes, something a US citizen is not allowed to do, but a US corporation is.

Bailout the poor and middle class by giving America a Green New Deal, helping first and foremost to provide relief to the most undeserved communities in the country. Bringing green energy projects to reduce energy costs. Bringing new money for infrastructure projects, building new water systems, roads, and bridges. Building new pathways for the tech industry to use rural hubs as new sources of innovation by revamping the nations internet infrastructure.

There needs to be regulations put on the financial industry to replace the New Deal banking regulations which kept our economy from collapse for over 50 years.

Crimes and Criminal Justice (including drug policy and gun violence)

Legalize, Regulate, Tax. All drugs should be legal. The best way to treat addiction is to make sure that addicts do not die from the drugs they take and to provide them with rehabilitative services, and mental health services. People who become addicts tend to have underlying mental health conditions they do not know about or have diagnosed mental health conditions. Strict enforcement of bans has not worked in America. Even in the Philippines where suspected drug users are executed without trial, drug use persists. The war on drugs is a war to give money to the prison industrial complex and to oppress minorities, which was admitted by staff on the Nixon administration.

Universal background checks, which does not mean the establishment of a national gun data base, but all state governments should be willing to commit to sharing information and keeping track of gun sales in the same way we do with cars. Guns don't kill people, people kill people. Europe is evidence of this in the number of knife and vehicle attacks. We need to treat the systemic problems that lead to violence. LEAD CAUSES VIOLENCE AND DECREASED INTELLIGENCE AND IS EVERYWHERE IN COMMUNITIES PRONE TO VIOLENCE. There is no safe amount of lead to have in the human body. Cleaning up toxins and otherwise dangerous chemicals in the environment is the single most important policy for ending violence. While trace chemicals may not affect fully grown humans in a profound way, trace chemicals CAN affect BABY humans in a profound way, altering their brain structure, composition, and function for their entire lives. But no issue can be solved through changing one variable. Legalizing drugs is disastrous for the illegal drug trade which tends to support gangs and promotes violence. When entire communities are offered nothing but wages below the standard of living, they often turn to organized crime to find a better life. A \$15 minimum wage would further destroy crime by offering people a way to earn a good living. On top



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of that, higher wages would increase the overall wealth of impoverished communities, creating demand for new businesses and a new market for investment in impoverished areas. New money attracts new business brings new jobs forges better futures.

Police need to better understand their role as servants and protectors of the community. Police are too quick to use force, and do not always look to deescalate conflicts, or think about the potential that someone could be having a mental health crisis. Police, now more than ever, need to be militarized. Militarized in the way our military is trained to handle dangerous situations involving weapons. In the way our military has been trained and has learned to work with communities in Iraq and Afghanistan. In the intensity and frequency of training and retraining our military undergoes. Being a police officer means you often show up for work on the worst day of a person's life, and that is a difficult job to do day in and day out. But the job of police is to keep every situation as safe as possible for everyone, and escalating violence is never the safest option. It is absolutely necessary in some cases, but retreat and wait should always be a viable option. Where does it say a police officer's job is to resolve situations quickly? One big problem with a lot of police is patience. It has been proven that the longer any police interaction continues, the less likely it will be to turn out violent.

Health Care

Healthcare is a right and the issue needs to be approached from the perspective that there is no compromise that allows people to go without healthcare. More people on healthcare means more jobs. Letting people get sick endangers public health. Covering everyone under one financial umbrella means collective bargaining for better prices. From an economic standpoint the issue is already resolved, it's better for the economy, it's better for the poor, for the middle class, and for the rich.

The real debate is in what healthcare should be provided and what limits should be put on it. This is the discussion about death panels and what treatments can be considered to increase quality of life. This is the most complex issue in the healthcare debate and there should be federal and state by state based commission of doctors established to set treatment guidelines, and evaluate individual cases quickly, similar to the existing insurance infrastructure and the method of decision making on treatment of patients in Europe. However, unlike a for profit business, the goal of this institution should be to always favor Americans health over cost of care. We spend the most in the world on healthcare, we deserve the best quality of life and healthcare outcomes from those services.

Public health is also a big part of healthcare. We need to structure our society in a way that promotes good health. Our healthcare industry is too focused on giving out medications for profits and less so on how to help people maintain good health so they do not need medical intervention. The cost of healthy food should not be higher than the price junk food. Instead of subsidizing big agribusiness, we need to focus on developing a national infrastructure with the capability of connecting small farmers with businesses around the country and giving them a transportation network to distribute farm to table goods anywhere within hours. One of the best ways to reduce healthcare costs is by promoting healthy diet and healthy lifestyle so people are healthier in general and do not need to rely on the healthcare system as heavily.

Immigration Policy

We must be accepting of immigrants and refugees or else America runs the risk of having a declining population. Immigrants and refugees always bring more jobs to communities due to the



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need to service more people, they do not take them away. Bringing in immigrants has always been America's number one tool for advancement, Innovation through Diversity.

Amnesty is a tool that simply makes good financial sense. Many people came here seeking and escape from some far away horror, likely the reason immigrant communities have lower crime rates. Some of course were forced to come here against their will or because they were children and had no choice. These people are overwhelmingly upstanding citizens who pay taxes or are abused and their employers pay them in a way that avoids taxes. Many of these people are migrant agricultural workers, and we have no good policy in place for allowing migrant workers to easily come and go for seasonal work US workers aren't doing for a number of reasons beyond "they don't want to".

Border enforcement needs to prioritize ending human smuggling through the use of drone technology on the border with Mexico. We also need to realize that all the focus on Mexico is the least of our immigration issues, and is more about human rights abuses. The bigger issue is the US visa service which allows people to overstay or forces people to continually leave the country and come back. And in the way undocumented communities, or suspected undocumented communities, are targeted by law enforcement or taken advantage of due to a lack of them knowing the rights they still have as people in America.

Fiscal and Monetary Policy

Corporate subsidies need to come to an end. The government needs to be given back bargaining power, in a system free of corruption (which is why it made sense we took that power away). High ranking government officials are paid too much in addition to the benefits they receive and for the wealth they already have. We dump money into big pharma research so they can spend their money on advertising instead. The Pentagon reports billions of dollars missing every year. The big banks receive subsidies from the federal government while making billions in profits, same as the big oil companies. Not to mention how big fossil fuel companies dump clean up on the government because we do not force them to have closing plans and set aside money for after they go out of business. We need to bring back New Deal banking regulations that held the US economy stable for over 50 years.

Social security cannot be privatized. Unfortunately it will be impossible for many people to save the money needed from them to retire comfortably as most would hope. Social welfare programs and community service programs for the elderly and for retirees need to be expanded. These people built America, regardless of the cost to us, these people need to be taken care of.

Civil Liberties, including Domestic Surveillance and Privacy, Police Violence

Its time to end the national security state. We know the intelligence community has been actively attempting to monitor all American's communications. Having known people from the US national security establishment, this due to boundless patriotism and an endless desire to keep America safe. However, while imperative that our intelligence community develop and keep secure the means to do this and be given permission and extreme lead way in the granting of permission of surveillance, it cannot be done on its current scale.

Civil liberties are incredibly simple. Sexuality and Gender are spectrum behaviors and therefore it is nonsensical to try and limit rights based on either of these categories. Men and women can never be limited in the right to choose the fate of their body. Whether that be in the sense of suicide, assisted suicide or the umbrella of abortion rights. The federal government has been overall to slow on providing protections for peoples rights as long as it has been a thing. On the issues of native rights and US territorial rights, our government is behind. Minority groups need to be protected, and part of the problem is that, many times, they do not have the ability or means to be a voice for themselves, leaving it the duty of those with the ability to do so on their behalf.



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Foreign and Military Policy, including Globalization and Trade

Our position on many countries and issues needs to be reworked. Our global military presence does not need to necessarily be reined in, but refocused on rebuilding the communities we have ravaged. The US military is the face of the US around the world. They need to be seen as bring help, not as bringing death. We began a war on terror almost 20 years ago now, and the end is not in sight. We have been in this conflict long enough to see ourselves become the villains. We moved into areas of the world that have been at war since the beginning of human civilization and think we can end their war by starting another one. The best way to enact peace around the world is bringing education and economic prosperity to poor regions. Instead of funding rebellions, fund education projects and community building projects, and not with money, with materials. When oppressive governments come to take things away from their citizenry, then the citizenry will turn on the government with overwhelming support. If we and push for commitment worldwide to end the proliferation of weapons, then more power will put into the hands of people to resist oppressive governments.

Our military needs to take back production of its own weapons and technology from private industry. The military industrial complex has become to power and influential in politics, and from a moral standpoint, no one should profit off the sale of military equipment, especially when it goes to countries like Saudi Arabia. Our military also needs to expand or re-distribute personnel into a new branch dedicated solely to cyber-warfare. We must end the use of contracting firms like Blackwater. We must end the rampant use of drones in the middle east where all men who appear to be of fighting age are considered combatants when killed by drone strikes.

Soldiers are constantly put in harms way for no reason and then treated horribly at home. Every single one of our soldiers should be given the option to have reproductive material preserved just in case. We must spare no expense and more importantly, spare no treatment avenue, for our soldiers. Many times soldiers suffer from PTSD or other TBI's and are given dangerous drugs as treatment that often come with a high occurrence of suicide, fueling the epidemic of suicide in our soldiers after they return. Soldiers should be given more options including the option of medical cannabis which has been shown in recent studies to be the safest and one of the most potentially helpful drugs in treating TBI and PTSD, not to even begin to detail the massive list of diseases the plant has been a miracle for.

Globalization is the inevitable future of our society whether we like it or not. The goal of globalization is to expand markets to service more and more people, if guided properly, with the goal of lifting people up to our level so we can trade on a level playing field. We need to be weary of trade deals which undermine our sovereignty and allow big businesses to move money around the world freely or allow outsourcing and redistribution of job markets. Global trade is and has always been a good thing, the problem is when it becomes a contest of who can pay workers the least to complete a task.

Please provide short answers, and any elaboration you think is needed, on these issues:

Equal Rights and Opportunities for All, Regardless of Race,
Sex, Religion, Sexual Orientation or Gender Identity Support Oppose Other
All humans start as "female", then later SOME develop chromosomes which make them "male", so if a gender was superior it should be women; but there is a spectrum between male and female making that notion pointless. Sexuality and gender are spectrum behaviors. There's more genetic variation between dogs of the same litter than of people from different "races". All of these are constructs which have been used to divide and oppress. The only point they have now is to remind us the pointlessness of dividing among these arbitrary lines. Religion, a social construct just as these other issues, deserves the same effort in terms of its protection so long as it is not being used as a tool to discriminate along any of these lines.

Legal Right to Choose Abortion Support Oppose Other
Women, and as an extension of this, all people have the right to choose what happens to their own bodies. It could be an abortion, saying no to life support, or asking for a physician assisted suicide.

Eliminate federal funding for Planned Parenthood Support Oppose Other
It should be a crime to cut funding to a program that encourages good health outcomes for new families and and for children. It is important that everyone has access to all the services Planned Parenthood provides (cancer and other screenings, STD/STI treatment, contraceptive services) especially in poor and undeserved areas.

Trans-Pacific Partnership Support Oppose Other

The TPP infringes on US sovereignty. It allows local environmental and worker protections, as well as state and federal protections to be subverted by an international court of appointed officials from countries we know have corrupted governments.

Federal Death Penalty Support Oppose Other

If we kill killers why not rape rapists? Its because we hold ourselves to a higher standard and taking a life never justifies taking more lives.

Other comments you wish to make:

In filling out this form, I attempted to keep my answers thematic, to try and demonstrate my overarching stances on issues not particular details of those issues. Also in further discussion, many of these issues can be broken down further and are, for the most part, all interconnected.