



# ILLINOIS GREEN PARTY

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## ILGP Federal Candidate Questionnaire

Please return this questionnaire to chair@ilgp.org or fax to 866-666-9540.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Laurel Lambert Schmidt \_\_\_\_\_

Complete Address \_\_\_\_\_ 203 Parkview Road, Riverside, IL 60546 \_\_\_\_\_

Phone(s) and Email \_\_\_\_\_ 708..447.9577 weekdays, 773.991.8751cell, llambertschmidt@ilgp.org \_\_\_\_\_

Office you wish to seek: \_\_\_\_\_ Representative to the US Congress from the IL 3<sup>rd</sup> District \_\_\_\_\_

Do you meet all of the legal qualifications for this office? X yes  no

What primary ballot (if any) did you pull in the last general primary? \_\_\_\_\_ Green \_\_\_\_\_

Why do you wish to hold this position? I'd like to be the first Green in Congress where I will work and be a voice for peace, people and planet over short term profits. The two party system and its control by corporate cash is destroying us. The entire system needs to be revamped. Let's do it in Congress as well as every public institution in this country.

Why do you feel you are qualified to run?

I feel I have idealism, intelligence, honesty and commitment sufficient to the challenges of the campaign and office.

What is the most important issue you feel needs to be addressed? A call to dismantle the war machine that is propelled by the need to control resources and put resources into building a humane, green economy

How many hours per week can you contribute to campaigning? \_ 10-20 as a start....

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

Will you agree not to accept contributions from corporations or corporate PACs? X Yes

How would you describe your current base of support? Small with the potential to grow. They include my son, friends in Near West Citizens and the West Side Greens plus some new contacts in the community whom I hope will work with me. I intend to convince folks that when money equals speech, only the rich get a voice in the process.

Please describe any volunteer experience you have with the Green Party.

I ran for Congress in the 3<sup>rd</sup> in 2010 plus I assisted Jerry Pohlen in his run for Congress in this District last time as well as both Kevin O'Connor and Rita Maniotis in their runs for IL State representative.

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

Here is a partial list of my volunteer, employment and community efforts:

- Served as co-director of Peace Justice and Environment Project '07 to '09 and was re-appointed in Sept '11. Through PJEP, I facilitate 14 web based state network hubs.
- Co-founder and Chair of the Near West Citizens for Peace and Justice
- Co-founder of the Illinois Coalition for Justice Peace and the Environment (ICJPE) in '06, serve on its Coordinating Committee, co-chair its Outreach Committee and was co-chair of its Resource Committee, '07-'11.
- Extensive volunteer experience with my church, Third Unitarian Church of Chicago including 10 years as Social Action chair, three years on the board and one year as church president. I currently sit on the TUC Forum committee.
- Was trustee of my neighborhood's Hollywood Citizens Association, and was a Girl Scout leader for six years.
- I served on our high school's Patrons' Council, was a PTA officer for about five years and served on various principal's and superintendent's committees.
- I have worked as an insurance underwriter, Sunday school director, and administrative assistant.

Have you ever worked for a political campaign? Please describe.

Besides my own run for Congress,

Yes, for Goldwater in 64, with a big transition to McCarthy in 68, Kerry in 04 and Kevin O'Connor in 08. I have also volunteered on committees to pass various school tax referenda.

Have you previously run for and/or held a public elected office? Please describe.

I ran for US Congress in the 3<sup>rd</sup> District of IL in 2010 at which time I received 10,000 votes or 6% of the total cast which might allow the Greens a recognized party status in this area.

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

I do not live in the 3<sup>rd</sup> District having been redistricted out by four blocks. However, as a long term resident who saw Dan Lipinski take office when he was not a resident, I think I can run as someone with roots and commitment to the 3<sup>rd</sup>.

Please briefly describe your position on the following issues:

#### Campaign Finance and Election Reform

I favor expansion of enfranchisement to all American residents including non citizens and decry the efforts of the right wing to shrink the electorate. I favor public financing of all campaigns and an end to electronic voting abuses.

#### Energy Policy

I favor giving incentives and tax credits to those who use develop and invest in renewable energy sources. I oppose the building of new nuclear energy reactors and favor the gradual bringing off line of all existing reactors. I oppose subsidizing the expansion of oil, coal and hydro fracturing.

#### Environmental Policy

I favor conservation of the natural resources with pro environment oversight of all contracts for logging, mining and energy extraction on Federal land. I'd like to see an end to national agricultural policy that favors agri-giants such as Monsanto. I'd like to see a tightening and restriction of the use of chemical pesticides and fertilizers. Of course I favor strengthening of the Clean Water and Air Acts and oppose the dismantling of the EPA. On current issues, I oppose construction of the tar Sands pipeline and urge a severe limitation the use of hydro fracturing in natural gas extraction.

#### Jobs Policy

I'd like to see a WPA type jobs program favoring a heavy investment in infrastructure as well as "green" jobs and employment in the arts rather than using government money for war contractors and the banks.

#### Drug Policy

I favor decriminalization and licensing of all drugs and treatment counseling for addicts. I favor legalization, regulation and taxation of cannabis for medical and recreational use.

### Gun Policy

I favor an assault weapons ban and the licensing and restriction of hand gun use. I think the Federal government should not interfere in the right of individual communities to regulate or ban hand gun use. I do not favor easing of policies to allow concealed hand guns in bars or national parks. However, in the former case, states rights can take precedence.

### Health Care

For the present, I favor converting and expanding the Health Care Act to include a vigorous “public option” and the gradual conversion to “Medicare for all.” I also favor an end to the drug policies that prevent the government from encouraging competition to keep drug prices low.

### Immigration Policy

I favor a general amnesty for all non-criminal workers regardless of their legal status. I'd like to see an end to ICE raids and the giant detention centers where families are broken up.

### Fiscal and Monetary Policy

I support a financial transactions tax as well as restoration of a progressive income tax. I support strict legislation to regulate banks and insurance companies and creation of an amnesty program for foreclosures. I favor debt restructuring to ease the burden of overvalued mortgages and suspension of student loans for those who cannot afford them. I favor a spending policy to get the economy moving through programs of infrastructure improvements in energy, transportation and education coupled with a huge decrease in spending for military.

### Civil Liberties and National Security

I favor civil liberties for all – including those suspected of crimes and those accused of “terrorism.” I oppose racial profiling. I also believe in the strict separation of church and state,

### Foreign Policy, including Globalization and Trade

I would like to see a de-emphasis on NATO instead working to revive the United Nations and world courts so that disputes may be settled by diplomacy and that humanitarian aid may be given as needed. I favor the creation of a Department of Peace.

I favor the immediate cessation of all military aid to Israel and ask that the US exert its considerable pressure on that country to end its siege of Gaza, restore civil rights to Palestinians who live within Israel and work to end the settlements in the West Bank. I favor an immediate withdrawal of all US troops and contractors from Iraq. I favor a de-escalation in Afghanistan with humanitarian aid replacing military while we turn our efforts to negotiating with the Taliban and repairing all we have destroyed. I also favor diplomatic efforts and international pressure in our communications with Iran so as to prevent their development of a nuclear weapon.

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

Equal Marriage Rights for Same-Sex Couples     Support     Oppose     Other

Criminalization of Abortion     Support     Oppose     Other

I favor full reproductive rights for women including our freedom to obtain an abortion without losing our rights to any medical care or insurance coverage.

Please provide any additional information which you feel might be pertinent.